

The MMOC lacked a quorum to meet on October 9, 2024. In lieu of a meeting, MMOC Administrator Matt Eddy distributed the following Notes, which were not formally approved by MMOC vote:

- Ryan Woods is leaving his position as commissioner for Boston Parks and Recreation Department later this month. Kay Mathew is sending a letter on behalf of the entire MMOC thanking Ryan for his many years of support and service to the Muddy River Parks. Liza Meyer will serve as interim commissioner until a permanent successor is appointed.
- Work appears to be on track for final acceptance of most of Phase 2 to the non-federal sponsors in early November. Replacement shrubs have been planted in various Work Areas, and fencing is coming down near Leverett Pond. Gates at Work Area 10 (adjacent to ENC's Shattuck Visitor Center and stretching up to Agassiz Rd Bridge) are now open to park visitors, although the fences themselves were still up as of yesterday. The only areas not yet handed over are Work Area 6 (lower Riverway @ FRCS) and the Phragmites removal area near Work Area 12. These last areas will probably receive final acceptance in November 2025.
- Charter has removed overtopped filter socks from areas near the Carlton St. Footbridge. It's not clear how the slopes will be stabilized for the time it takes for grass to become established there. Supplementary shrub planting has also taken place in beds adjacent to the footbridge.
- Contractors were observed providing landscape service on the Brookline side of Riverway Park. It appears some large patches of knotweed were removed, although the process of removal was unclear. Is there any wisdom from Brookline that can be shared when considering the knotweed on the Boston side?
- DCR has largely completed repair of six stormwater outfalls – four along Riverway Park (Boston side) and three in the Back Bay Fens. Headwalls of broken rock will serve to dissipate kinetic energy of stormwater before it enters the river. One member of the Landscape Maintenance Subcommittee noted that the rocks seem too small to resist a heavy storm and will probably wash away; Matt has sent an email to Tom Valton at DCR noting this. Areas up the slope from the new outfalls will be seeded with grass.
- The appearance of the watershed at Charlesgate varies substantially. When Matt last visited, the MWI watergoat at Ipswich St. appeared totally clear, but the more downstream sections were choked with duckweed and floating trash. Matt reached out to Patrice Kish at DCR, who reported that DCR generally performs a clean-out of the Charlesgate area in November, once the leaves have fallen.

- Progress towards replacement of the Evans Way Bridge continues. There was a simultaneous meeting hosted by Boston Parks to update the public on the state of planning for the bridge.
- Regarding Phase 1, A&M Home Services continues to provide landscaping work for the flat areas and the top five feet of embankment. There was some evidence of mowing and aerating, but it wasn't clear that these efforts are improving turf health. The LMSC recommended to Tom Timmons that A&M reduce mowing frequency to 2x per year.
- Construction fences on the downstream side of Brookline Ave are still in place. The LMSC continues active conversations with Boston Parks about how to manage that area once the fences come down. While Boston Parks has ruled out permanent fencing, it's possible that individual trees will be supplied with protective fences.
- Invasive plant growth below the top five feet of embankment is significant. Problematic species include Phragmites (estimated to be twice as much as last year), staghorn sumac, purple loosestrife, nuisance trees such as Ailanthus and mulberry, and a variety of aggressive vines. Tom is beginning to work with SWCA – a consultant – to develop a more comprehensive approach to invasives treatment near the water's edge. A site walk is anticipated.
- Big thanks to Jack Schleifer and a gathering of volunteers for cutting back invasive vines – your work saved a number of Project shrubs, and it makes a big visual difference!
- I invite reps from our other subcommittees and member organizations to send out word of their own to the full MMOC.