



February 26, 2018

Dan Driscoll
Department of Conservation and Recreation

Re: Draw 7 Park Comments

Dear Dan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draw 7 Park Redesign in Someville. We would like to commend the DCR and consultants for a thorough analysis and design process that takes into account the many site constraints and opportunities.

Before we comment on specifics of this site, we would like to reiterate Draw 7 Park's role as an important waterfront space along the Mystic River. This regional park serves everyone in the commonwealth and should provide a space for people to walk, bike, fish, relax and enjoy nature, ultimately meeting the **highest standards of both conservation and recreation**. This is particularly critical as many of the waterfront open spaces have been given to recreational or institutional uses (Dilboy, Riverbend Park). **And while we understand that a portion of the site is planned for an athletic field, it's imperative that the remainder of the site increase ecological and passive recreational value.**

We are supportive of and advocate for a **robust living shoreline** along the edge of the park to restore nature systems (to counterbalance the artificial turf and mitigate against storm surges. Further, we would like to see more specifics on how the tree canopy will be expanded and diversified with this design as well to see a design that minimizes hardscape.

We are supportive of and advocate for interventions that can address as many of the flooding impacts attributed to **climate change** as possible.

The **design of the turf fields should prioritize the health of people and the environment**. Artificial turf fields built with crumb rubber fill are known to leach toxic levels of heavy metals that pose a significant risk to aquatic life in nearby surface waters after rain events. If the design included this type of artificial turf, we strongly advocate for the implementation of stormwater BMPs designed to mitigate the effects of heavy metal contamination that would endanger fish and other aquatic species. Given that rubber fill will also contribute to the heat island effect, the best alternative would be to use an organic infill such as GreenPlay, PureFill, Envirofill or Geofill, which consists of 90% crushed coconut husks and 10% cork and was recently installed at Simmons College's Daly Field on the Charles River.

Given the many goals of the site we think **it's imprudent and not technically feasible to accommodate a fee-generating concert venue for thousands of people.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Amber Christoffersen
Greenway Director
Mystic River Watershed Association