



City of Boston
Mayor Kim Janey



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Greenway Conservancy breaks ground at North Meadow on The Greenway

July 14, 2021 – Boston, MA – The [Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy](https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/) today announced the upcoming construction of North Meadow on The Greenway, the newest park space in Boston's contemporary public park formerly known as Parcel 2, in a public groundbreaking ceremony.

The groundbreaking included a short speaking program featuring Conservancy and [Greenway Business Improvement District](https://www.greenwaybid.org/) (BID) leadership, Acting Commonwealth of Massachusetts Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler, and elected officials representing The Greenway including Mayor Kim Janey, State Representative Aaron Michlewitz, State Senator Joe Boncore, and City Councilor Lydia Edwards.

"The value of urban open space has never been more evident and we are grateful to the many stakeholders that partnered to create North Meadow on The Greenway," said Greenway Conservancy Executive Director Chris Cook. "Today, we continue to grow this park and build on its legacy of connecting neighborhoods."

Located between Boston's West End, Bulfinch Triangle, and North End and bordered by North Washington Street, Anthony "Rip" Valenti Way, and Beverly Street, North Meadow on The Greenway is a site of constant reinvention. Originally open water within the Charles River estuary, this location was dammed to become Mill Pond and then filled in as a part of the Bulfinch Triangle development in the 19th century. In the 20th century, this site was overshadowed by the elevated highway Interstate 93. As part of the "Big Dig", the highway was submerged, allowing the Rose Kennedy Greenway, the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston, to be built. North Meadow on The Greenway's design will include historical signage in partnership with the Massachusetts Historical Commission to celebrate the unique history of this new park space.

"Creating green, open spaces is vital to ensuring residents' physical and mental health and wellbeing. I am proud to be a part of the celebration of The Greenway expanding our city's green space, and creating new public parks where families can relax and children can play," said Mayor Janey. "I look forward to the North Meadow on The Greenway to be a place for residents and visitors alike to enjoy for years to come, and I want to thank the Greenway Conservancy for their continued partnership with the City of Boston."

As the northern terminus of the park, North Meadow is both a gateway to The Greenway and a pocket of open space for residents and visitors to the surrounding neighborhoods in the West End and North End. Reflecting a commitment to making thoughtful enhancements along the



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entirety of The Greenway, Greenway BID members provided and leveraged enhancement funds to make this project and placemaking improvement possible.

Acting Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler praised the transformation of this unused state-owned public land to a public park, “In October of 2015, Governor Charlie Baker announced his administration’s initiative for developing unused or underutilized state properties, the Real Estate Asset Leveraging Strategy, to put sites to better use, to benefit communities, drive economic growth, and create more public space. And using this state-owned site for a public park is in keeping with the Governor’s goal to leverage underutilized real estate and in keeping with the complete vision for The Greenway that was first dreamt up more than 30 years ago.”

In planning and design, the community prioritized maximizing nature, creating a place of serenity, and showcasing the site’s history. Serving as a tribute to the Charles River’s estuarine ecology, the park’s native meadow plantings and unique boardwalk create a sense of enclosure and tranquility. North Meadow on The Greenway is a neighborhood park, inviting you to relax and unwind with the backdrop of downtown Boston.

“Whether from people or pollinators, the North Meadow on The Greenway will be buzzing with activity,” said Rick Dimino, President & CEO of A Better City on behalf of the Greenway BID. “The members of the Greenway BID remain committed to creating dynamic, accessible, and vibrant experiences for workers, residents, and visitors alike to gather and enjoy while exploring the entire length of The Greenway.”

North Meadow on The Greenway is a collaboration with the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Greenway BID, and the Greenway Conservancy. The BPDA facilitated a majority of funding for North Meadow on The Greenway through mitigation agreements from a variety of development projects in downtown Boston. The remainder of the project’s budget will be contributed by MassDOT, the Greenway BID, and the Greenway Conservancy; the park is anticipated to open in Fall 2021.

[About The Greenway and the Greenway Conservancy](#)

The Greenway is the contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. The Greenway welcomes millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park’s annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

[About the Boston Planning & Development Agency](#)

The Boston Planning & Development Agency plans and guides inclusive growth in our city—creating opportunities for everyone to live, work and connect. Through our future-focused,



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city-wide lens, we engage communities, implement new solutions, partner for greater impact and track progress.

About the Massachusetts Department of Transportation

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) consists of four divisions: Rail and Transit, Registry of Motor Vehicles, Aeronautics and Highway. MassDOT's mission is to deliver excellent customer service to people traveling in the Commonwealth by providing transportation infrastructure which is safe, reliable, robust and resilient. MassDOT works to provide a transportation system which can strengthen the state's economy and improve the quality of life for all.

About the Greenway Business Improvement District

The Greenway BID is designed to contribute \$1.5 million each year to support the maintenance, horticulture costs, and future enhancements of The Greenway. Properties that meet certain criteria within the BID boundaries pay a special assessment as part of their property taxes to support improvements that benefit property owners and the public alike. BID members also have opportunities to vote on enhancements, supplemental support along the entirety of The Greenway to create a more engaging and activated public realm. The Greenway BID plays an essential role in supporting an appealing, accessible, and vibrant experience in the BID district for all that visit The Greenway to gather, relax, unwind, and explore.

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