

PRESS ADVISORY

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**Charles River Esplanade Designated as a Boston Landmark**

Boston, MA  
July 9, 2009

On Wednesday, July 8, 2009, the Boston City Council approved designation of the Charles River Esplanade as a Boston Landmark. This approval followed a unanimous vote in favor of designation by the Boston Landmarks Commission and Mayor Menino's approval of the designation last week. City Council approval was the last step in making the designation official.

In November 2007, eight-hundred and fifty residents of Boston, an unprecedented number, signed a petition to designate the Esplanade as a Boston Landmark. The Boston Preservation Alliance and Beacon Hill resident Linda Cox took the lead on advocacy for the petition, which was also endorsed by the Esplanade Association, the Beacon Hill Civic Association and the Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay. The petition has been actively supported by State Representative Marty Walz and City Council President Michael Ross.

"The designation will ensure preservation of the most important historic features of the parkland while allowing for necessary maintenance and improvements," said Sarah D. Kelly, executive director of the Boston Preservation Alliance.

Concern for the historic park mounted after the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced in 2007 that it was considering rerouting traffic onto the Esplanade in order to repair the Storrow Drive tunnel. While DCR later postponed its plans, petitioners moved forward with the petition in an effort to ensure the park's long-term protection.

"This is a big step forward for the Esplanade. It will now enjoy the same status and the same level of protection as other beloved parks in Boston," commented Linda Cox.

A designated Boston Landmark is a property (or a district comprised of multiple properties) with historic, social, cultural, architectural, or aesthetic significance to the City and the Commonwealth, the New England region, or the nation. The Public Garden, the Common, the Emerald Necklace, Franklin Park and the Back Bay Fens are also designated Boston Landmarks.

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