



ONE YEAR AFTER LAUNCH, EMERALD NETWORK CELEBRATES PROGRESS; BRINGS ON NEW LOCAL PARTNERS

Boston, MA - (Sept. 10, 2016) – A year after launching the [Emerald Network](#), a vision for a seamless 200-mile greenway system in the Boston region, LivableStreets Alliance announced today that it has selected six local “Greenway Partners” to advance progress on specific links within the network (See full list of partners below).

The announcement was made at the organization's signature Tour de Streets event. “Most of these projects have already gained traction with support from community groups, coalitions, and policy makers. Through the Greenway Partner Program we hope to provide additional support and help move these important links from idea to implementation” said Stacy Thompson, Executive Director of LivableStreets.

Partners include the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the City of Boston’s Green Links Program who have been working on one proposed link, the Roxbury Fens Connector, a link that would connect two immensely popular regional destinations, the Southwest Corridor path and the Emerald Necklace.

“The Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s mission includes advocacy for green and open spaces throughout the city and making connections between paths is particularly important to us,” said Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. “By collaborating with the Emerald Network initiative at LivableStreets, park groups, community volunteers and other grassroots organizations we can repair the broken connections and provide more access to the parks for everyone.”

Dedicated community leaders have been working on the Roxbury Fens Connector for nearly two decades. By bringing resources as well as technical assistance and public support to grassroots efforts, the Emerald Network aims to accelerate progress on important links like this one and others throughout the Network.

Over the past year, the Emerald Network has steadily made progress by building a strong coalition of local groups and successfully working with city and state transportation agencies to have the Emerald Network included in official plans. In addition to the completion of the Greenough Greenway in Watertown, Connect Historic Boston is well under construction and an Arboretum Gateway Path in Roslindale is being designed. The Greenway Partner links will be the next wave of projects in this growing initiative.

From urban parks to neighborhood destinations like schools, grocery stores and transit hubs, each of the proposed greenway projects seeks to connect people via safe greenway access to resources they have been cut off from or aren’t even aware existed.

For instance, in Hyde Park, the Fairmount commuter rail station remains inaccessible through most streets in the area and is disconnected from a large neighborhood shopping area just north of it. A proposed greenway link would allow people arriving at the station to easily shop for daily necessities on their way home.

Improving safety is also a key goal. While the American Legion Highway runs through several parks, facilities for people walking and biking are virtually non-existent and vehicles are often traveling at high speeds. Adding a greenway would vastly improve access to the parks for people walking and biking through the area. A recent fatality on Morton Street just steps away from the American Legion Highway highlights the need for improved pedestrian connections in the area.

With growing support from communities across Metro Boston, the Emerald Network believes its goal of building a 200 mile greenway system by 2030 is achievable.

“There will never be a one-size fits all option for designing these greenways, and that’s a good thing,” said Nidhi Gulati, Program Manager for the Emerald Network. “The Greenway Partners program is designed to ensure that each link becomes a community destination in itself, in addition to being a critical piece of a larger network that will ultimately make up the Emerald Network”.

For more information on The Emerald Network, LivableStreets Alliance, and Tour de Streets, please visit www.LivableStreets.info

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2016 Greenway Partners ([link to map](#))

1. Watertown Greenway to Charles River Connector (Watertown)
2. Roxbury Fens Connector (Roxbury/Fenway)
3. American Legion corridor (Mattapan,JP, Roslindale, Hyde Park)
4. Fairmount to Riverwood Greenway (Hyde Park)
5. Hammond Street Greenway (Brookline)
6. Arboretum Gateway Path (Roslindale)

[The Emerald Network](#) is a vision for a 200-mile seamless network of shared-use paths across the Metro Boston area. Building on the 19th century greenway legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, this initiative will advance the construction of missing links to complete a greenway network that will increase mobility, promote active recreation and improve climate change resiliency – leading to a 21st century linear park system that will enhance our competitiveness in the global economy. www.emeraldnetwork.info

[LivableStreets Alliance](#) is a non-profit organization enabling people to think differently and demand a transportation system that balances transit, walking, and biking with automobiles. LivableStreets Alliance promotes safe, convenient, and affordable transportation in metro Boston making our community more connected and more livable for everyone. For more information visit: www.livablestreets.info

[Tour de Streets](#) is an annual fun, family-friendly bike ride, walk and BBQ that benefits the LivableStreets Alliance taking place in on September 10th at North Point Park. The event includes a 10-mile urban bike route, a 4-mile family-friendly route, and a walk along the Charles. Tour de Streets started in 2010 as a memorial ride for Bob Zeeb, an avid cyclist who tragically died as the result of a bicycle crash. For more information visit www.livablestreets.info/tourdestreets