



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

MICHELLE WU

May 20, 2024

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an Order authorizing the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, to acquire by an eminent domain taking a parcel at 0 Dale Street in Hyde Park adjacent to the Sherrin Woods urban wild, as permanently protected parkland to be managed in coordination with Sherrin Woods, and to use Community Preservation Fund monies appropriated to the Parks and Recreation Department to award damages as determined by the Commission.

In addition, this Order authorizes the Parks and Recreation Commission to grant to the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation a perpetual conservation restriction in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 12 (a), which requires such a restriction for lands acquired with monies derived by the Community Preservation Act.

This parcel adjacent to Sherrin Woods is undeveloped, contributes to the scenic beauty of and provides added public access to the Sherrin Woods urban wild. In addition, the parcel provides natural resource protection to the wetland resources found at Sherrin Woods, creates a unique city block of green open space to help compensate for the extremely limited open space in this part of the Hyde Park and Roslindale neighborhoods, and provides a place of respite during high heat events. This acquisition provides a public good of profound significance to this City that justifies the serious responsibility involved in the taking of private property with just compensation.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City may acquire this property expeditiously and expend Community Preservation Fund monies for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

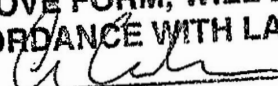


CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER TO AUTHORIZE THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION TO TAKE BY EMINENT DOMAIN FOR PARK AND COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PURPOSES, AND TO GRANT A CONSERVATION RESTRICTION ON A PARCEL IN HYDE PARK ADJACENT TO SHERRIN WOODS.

ORDERED: That the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, for the community preservation purposes of providing a park, passive recreation, natural resource conservation, and added public access to the urban wild known as Sherrin Woods, be, and hereby is, authorized to take by eminent domain in accordance with G.L. Chapter 79, Chapter 185 of the Acts of 1875, and G.L. Chapter 44 B, Section 5 (e) the fee simple interest, inclusive of trees and structures standing upon and affixed thereto, of a parcel of land at Unnumbered (aka "0") Dale Street in the Hyde Park District, consisting of 44,137 square feet more or less (1.013± acres) of open land identified in the records of the Assessing Department as Parcel 1808198000, and formerly the property of the former Boston and Providence Railroad Corporation further bounded and described according to a plan of survey made by Harry R. Feldman, Inc., Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors, Joseph L. Calabro, Jr., Registered Land Surveyor No. 15998, dated January 18, 1993 and recorded at Suffolk County Registry of Deeds Plan Book 24453, Page 302, and to enter into all contracts, agreements, or documents and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to effect said taking. In accordance with G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 5 (e), the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston for the community preservation purposes cited above, using Community Preservation Fund monies appropriated to the Open Space Acquisition Fund of the Parks and Recreation Department by votes of the City Council on March 31, 2021, April 12, 2022, April 12, 2023, and May 1, 2024 is hereby authorized to expend said Community Preservation Fund monies for the purpose of paying any damages determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission for which the City of Boston may be liable by reason of this taking for community preservation purposes.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, be, and hereby is, authorized to grant a perpetual conservation restriction in said parcel of land to the Southwest Boston Community Development Corporation in accordance with G.L. Chapter 44B, Section 12 (a) and G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31 through 33, and to enter into all agreements and documents and to execute any and all instruments as may be necessary to affect said perpetual conservation restriction.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL** *Kmw*