

September 13, 2017

Mayor Curtatone  
City of Somerville  
93 Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Mayor Curtatone and Board of Aldermen,

In the Union Square Neighborhood Plan, it is recommended that the site at 35 Charlestown Street be acquired to “create a community park. . . large enough for a variety of playing fields.” While the site is currently owned by the MBTA for use as a storage yard during Green Line extension construction, the Neighborhood Plan sets out a plan to purchase this site from the MBTA. **We are writing to request that the City of Somerville develop a plan for the acquisition, design, and construction of a park on the Charlestown Street.**

Union Square needs the Charlestown Street park space, and now is the time to make it a reality. This park would:

- Provide much needed playing fields for use by Somerville residents and youth sports
- Provide public green space to an area of Somerville that is desperately short on parks
- Bring over an acre of land back into public ownership
- Make for a welcoming entry point to Union Square as one arrives via the Green Line
- Further SomerVision’s goal of adding 125 acres of open space to Somerville.

In the Neighborhood Plan, the acquisition of 35 Charlestown Street is planned for with funds from the City, Community Preservation Act fund, municipal bonds, and grants. It is scheduled to happen between 2016 and 2021.

We request that the City begin aggressively planning for this park. Whether this means talking to US2, negotiating for a fair price from the MBTA, applying for grants, etc., it needs to start now. We cannot let this great idea remain a distant future possibility that moves further from our grasp. Great parks come from great planning.

Sincerely,

Renée Scott, Co-founder  
On behalf of Green & Open Somerville

Rob Buchanan, Chairperson  
On behalf of Union Square Neighbors

CC:  
Somerville Planning Board  
Greg Karczewski, Union Square Station Associates

Image: Charlestown Street Park, Union Square Neighborhood Plan (p. 213)



Image: US2 Civic & Open Space Concept Plan (May 2, 2017)

