

Greetings Friends,

The PMAC meeting last Wednesday presented some very interesting news from DCR Harbor Area (one of three DCR Areas statewide) Director Karl Pastore. At the risk of getting some of the details wrong, here's what I heard.

He said that the budget will be an issue for awhile, but it could be worse. For example, the SW Corridor Park staff is not being cut – for now anyway.

Next we talked about the grass. Several people questioned what the loss of the mowing contract will mean next year. Karl and Tom Yovicsin (park manager Holly Richardson's boss - he reports to Karl) maintained that the grass will get cut from May through July. Karl went on to say that DCR swimming pools and ball parks will all remain open.

Karl also said that while our 4.7 mile corridor park has had its own Dept. of Corrections crew, going forward, that crew will be shared with other parks in the Harbor Area.

Around this time, Franco Campanello announced that Shaws and Boston Cares will both provide volunteer crews, and Karl expressed hope that others will also volunteer.

Then the topic turned to the 20th Anniversary of the corridor. Karl said that the corridor needs attention – and I more or less quote – ***2010 will be the best time in many years to ask the DCR for help on anything and everything that needs to be done.*** He said that the DCR already plans many SW Corridor Park projects this year because of the anniversary, including:

- Repairing and improving the bike path
- Building new playgrounds
- Replacing signs from one end of the park to the other
- Upgrading lighting systems for brightness and energy efficiency
- Repairing granite sit-stones [have you seen the masonry at Jackson Square!]
- Printing an events flier listing whatever events we pull together for the year, including at least 3 Ranger Walks, biking tours of the corridor, Rep Foxes' Corridor Tour sponsored by Discover Roxbury, the Wake Up the Earth celebration May 1st, the NEU panel, etc.
- And Governor Dukakis (& others) will speak at the anniversary celebration on May 1st!

Karl asked for ideas, saying he wants to put more events on the calendar they are printing up. I handed out the rough draft of the second page of this document. There was a buzz in the room as the meeting drew to a close – **we have a unique window of opportunity with the DCR as our partner in 2010!**

Please get involved today:

- organize an event on the corridor
- organizing events on May 1st
- with publicity
- or find your own way to make a difference

Contact Director Karl Pastore – 617-727-5290, x503, Karl.Pastore@state.ma.us, myself, or anyone else on the SW Corridor Park Conservancy organizing committee – franco@swcpc.org and rebecca@swcpc.org.

In any case, mark your calendar to attend anniversary events on May 1st!

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SW Corridor Park 20th Anniversary Celebration

May 1, 2010

ON MAY 1st

Bandstand and Tables (likely at Titus Sparrow Park)

Michael Dukakis and others (the DCR has requested the presence of Gov. Patrick) will offer brief remarks about stopping I-95 and public participation in creating an award-winning 4.7 mile urban park.



Wake Up the Earth Festival

The Wake-Up the Earth Festival began in 1979 when a group of local neighbors and activist banded together to stop the Interstate 95 expansion into Jamaica Plain. The festival began as, and still is, a celebration of what can be accomplished when people of all traditions, cultures, ages, and beliefs come together. The annual Wake Up the Earth Festival (WUTE) takes place each year on the **first Saturday in May** and is currently attended by 7,000- 10,000 individuals of all ages and features 4 stages including the music and dance performances, Popular Theatre, the Youth Stage, and Story Telling for All Ages. In addition to performances, WUTE features over 50 craft, non-profit, and food vendors; recent festivals have also included an enchanted puppet forest, side shows, live bands, dancers, acoustic performers and a giant pageant. A great many individuals, local artists, community groups, and schools join forces every year to create this unique community collaboration.

Urban AdvenTours

Emerald Necklace and Fall Foliage Bike Tour

Discover Frederick Law Olmsted's famous system of parks on this bicycle tour of the historic Emerald Necklace. From the shaded boulevard on Commonwealth Avenue to the popular shores of Jamaica Pond to the winding paths of the Arnold Arboretum, up the Southwest Corridor Park. Come enjoy a route that's a favorite among locals to see the green side of Boston.

Discover Roxbury

Battling Bulldozers and Building Community, Part I

Learn about some of the development issues shaping Roxbury on a walk with Representative Gloria L. Fox along the SW Corridor Park. This insightful walk will weave together the past and present through the unique perspective of Rep. Fox, who was an active participant in the battle against the construction of I-95 and the Inner Belt through Roxbury.

BEFORE MAY 1st

NEU Panel Lecture: SW Corridor – Past, Present, and Future

The panel will explore the significance of the diverse South End, Roxbury, and Jamaica Plain communities organizing to stop I-95 and design the SW Corridor Park. Then they will discuss current issues, and envision the future of our urban corridor.