

Landscape and Horticulture

Strengths

Open space

City and river views

Variety of shaded and sunny areas within the park

Weaknesses

Maintenance: Tree maintenance is poor; park doesn't look loved-for; river banks are overgrown and wild; soil is depleted and turf is tired; no source of water for horticultural care and maintenance

Park design: Too few defined spaces off of the pathways; any presence of chain link fencing; there is a need for more benches, particularly off of the pathways; too much asphalt inside of park

Noise from Storrow Drive

Opportunities

Art and design: There are ample opportunities for more water features (fountains, etc.), which would better connect the land to the water; art installations—wind chimes and other environmentally-responsive art—would enhance the sensory experience for park users

Landforms: Plantings, burms, and other landforms could mitigate Storrow Drive's negative effects on the park; landforms would create a more interesting landscape and topography

Maintenance: Soil and turf would benefit from wholesale revitalization, and more porous surfaces should be considered for pathways and staging areas; river should be explored as a functional source of water for the landscape

Plantings: The iconic willow trees should be restored, and more seasonally-varied plantings should be integrated into the park; landscaping should better complement and enhance structures; “outdoor rooms,” defined by plantings and structures, would create opportunities for more intimate and quiet experiences in the park

Educational opportunities to learn about the river’s ecology and park’s environment should be initiated

Better lighting to increase safety and usage