

WATERTOWN PRESS

Friday, June 20, 2008

Koutoujian: Turnpike approves Armenian Heritage Park plans for Rose Kennedy Greenway

Rep. Peter Koutoujian and the Armenian Heritage Foundation (AHF) announced that plans to develop a park on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway have been formally approved by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority Board. The park proposal presented by the AHF will now proceed with final design and construction. The public process and approval is the result of an eight year campaign to design a park to commemorate immigrant groups who migrated to the Boston area as well as acknowledge those ancestors who sought refuge from the Armenian Genocide.

“As a member of the Armenian-American community, I am truly honored to be a part of this historic endeavor,” said State Representative Peter Koutoujian, who was the original proponent of the park. “My grandparents came to America from Armenia in search of a better life. This park will serve as a beautiful dedication to their experience and the experiences of all immigrants who helped to make the city of Boston - - and our nation great.”

“For eight years, we have worked to make this moment a reality. This park would not have been possible without the support of the Armenian-American community, the residents of the North End, and the leadership of Governor Deval Patrick,” said James Kalustian of the Armenian Heritage Foundation. “Thanks to years of hard work and commitment from our community, this park and its significance was realized and fully supported by the Patrick Administration.”

The Armenian Heritage Park, a gift to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth from Massachusetts Armenian-Americans, is for all to enjoy. The Park is consistent with key themes of the Greenway: to acknowledge the history of Boston as a port of entry for immigrants worldwide, and to celebrate those who have migrated to Massachusetts shores and contributed to the richness of American life and culture. The Park includes lawns, fountains, shade trees and benches to engage and delight children and adults.

[Armenian Heritage Park](#) will be constructed at no expense to the taxpayer, and cared for and maintained in perpetuity.