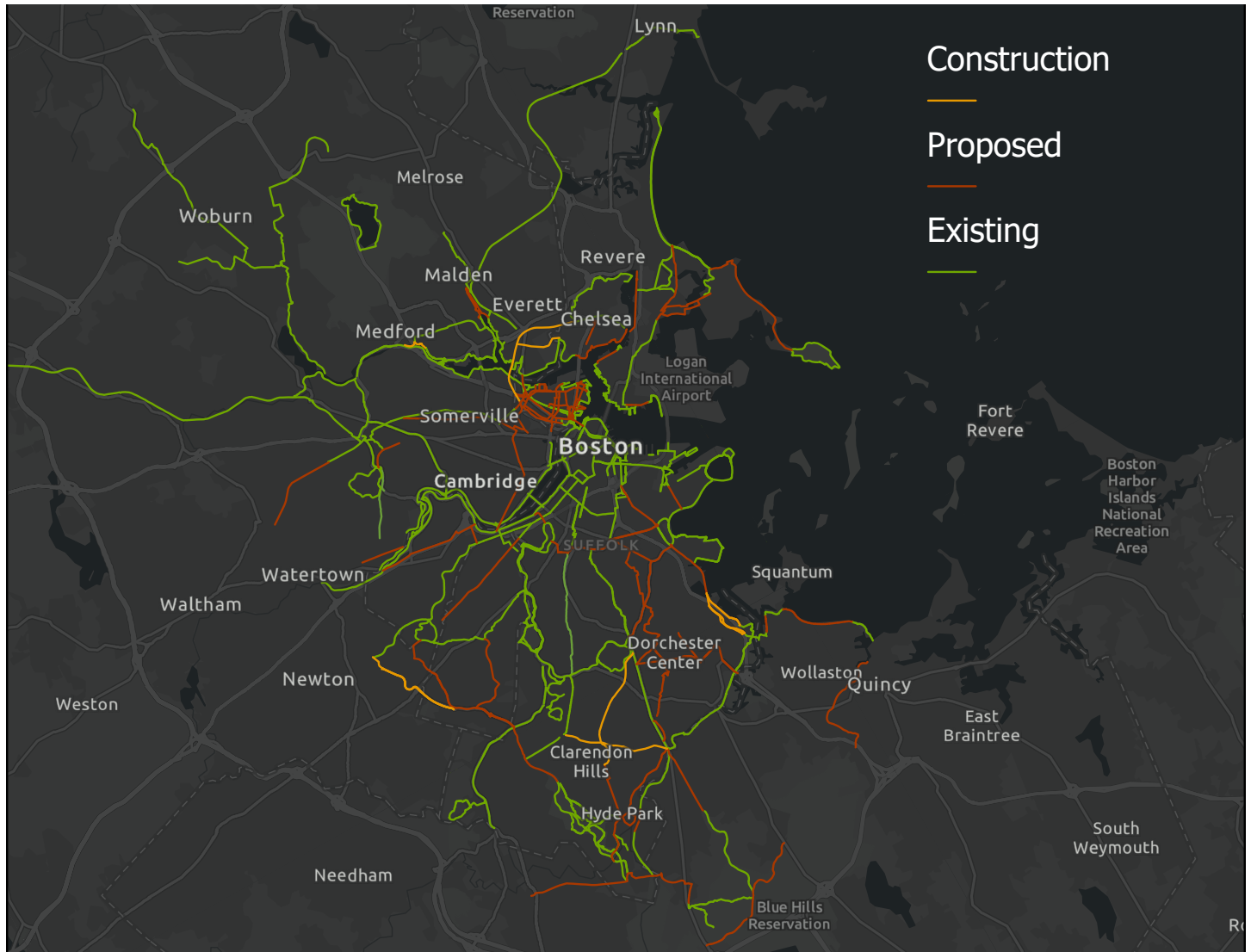
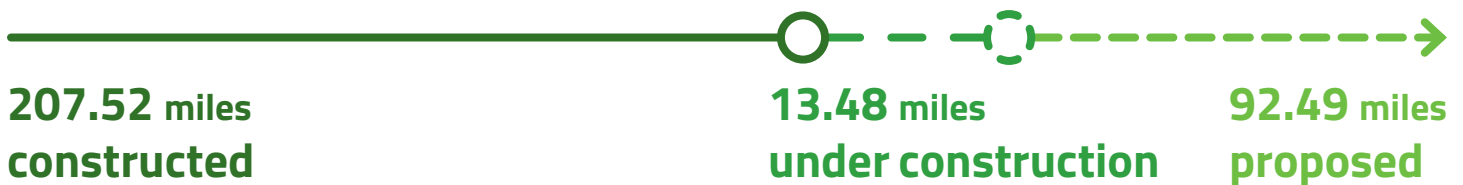


## END OF YEAR REPORT

December 2023



The Emerald Network continues to unite the Boston Metro region through greenways and on-road connections.



*"Constructed" projects are those that have been completed. "Under construction" includes projects that have received funding for shovels in the ground or projects that have completed some phases in a multi-phased design project. "Proposed" miles are greenways that have not yet received construction funding. This includes projects that are in concept design, feasibility studies, or articulated in comprehensive plans.*

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



In many ways 2023 was a pivotal year for the Emerald Network. Two years ago we made the strategic choice to focus less on smaller, easier to advance projects, and double down on critical Network “links”. These links - Dorchester (Dot) Greenway, Columbia Road, and the Charles River Area/I-90 project posed a number of intersecting challenges, including a lack of staffing, funding for the projects, and overlapping multi-jurisdictional responsibilities. While these projects did not have literal ground breakings, we did have critical breakthroughs, which we dive into in more detail below.

We also stepped back to deeply and closely assess the Emerald Network as a whole. This work has included countless hours of reviewing literally every inch of the Network to understand our progress. This has allowed us to understand how much the Network has grown and evolved since the launch of the program in 2015.

Lastly, we invested in our people “Network.” This happened both through coordination with other greenway advocates

and by working closely with government partners to support grant applications, advance projects, and lead public engagement efforts.

This year called for flexibility, listening, and the formation of new partnerships. While the “how” varied often, the Emerald Network was still able to progress towards the goal of building a 250+ mile seamless greenway system in Metro Boston.





*Agnes from Bike to Sea getting wild on the Northern Strand Trail*



*Abby served as community partner for Ali Sant's Harvard Extension School course on advocacy.*

## Progress (in miles!)

When we launched the Emerald Network in 2015, the original system map included 100 miles of already completed greenways (example: Southwest Corridor), 30 miles of projects that were in some active phase of planning or construction (ex. Arboretum Gateway Path) and 70 miles of envisioned greenways (ex: Dot Greenway). Between 2015 - 2020 we largely focused efforts on advancing projects most ready for implementation. During this time we also learned through deeper community engagement that we needed to add links and new connections to the original map.

As of 2023, the full map includes more than 200 miles of existing greenways **(+107 miles since 2015!)**, 13.5 miles of projects in active construction and another 92.49 in the planning and/or vision process.

This shift in overall Network mileage both reflects real, on the ground progress toward building the Network, but also a more detailed, connected vision map that includes more miles to greenways to better reflect community needs.





*The Emerald Network team planted flowers with Fields Corner Main Streets as part of Mayor Wu's Love You Block event in the Spring.*

## Snapshot: By the Numbers

- **4** priority projects: Columbia Road, Dot Greenway, Southwest Corridor, Charles River Area Projects (incl. Allston Multitmodal Project/I-90)
- **12** additional projects
- Collaborations with **4** academic institutions
- Official Participation in **12** task forces + advisory boards
- **681** surveys completed for the Southwest Corridor Park Action Plan
- **3** full time staff + **1** summer intern
- Wrote **15** support letters for various projects
- Held **3** Greenways Super Group meet ups
- Won **1** MassTrails grant for the Dot Greenway
- Won **2** contract to lead community engagement on critical greenway projects