



The Carlton Street Footbridge, built in 1894, is located in Riverway Park, one of six parks in Brookline's Emerald Necklace. The footbridge served as primary entrance to Riverway from the residential section of Brookline's Longwood neighborhood until its closure over 25 years ago due to a lack of maintenance funds. This simple, ironwork structure is listed on the State and National Registers as part of the Emerald Necklace park system.

In May 2002, an article to provide funds for demolition of the footbridge was reviewed at a Brookline Town Meeting. At that Meeting, the Town voted to delay funding preliminary plans for restoration, relocation, or removal until fiscal year 2004. Because the Town's Demolition Delay Law only applies to habitable structures, it cannot be applied to the proposed demolition of the bridge. The MHC determined that demolition of the bridge would constitute an "adverse effect" on the Olmstead Park system. Proponents of restoring the footbridge are seeking funds to develop preliminary plans for reconstruction and repair.

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