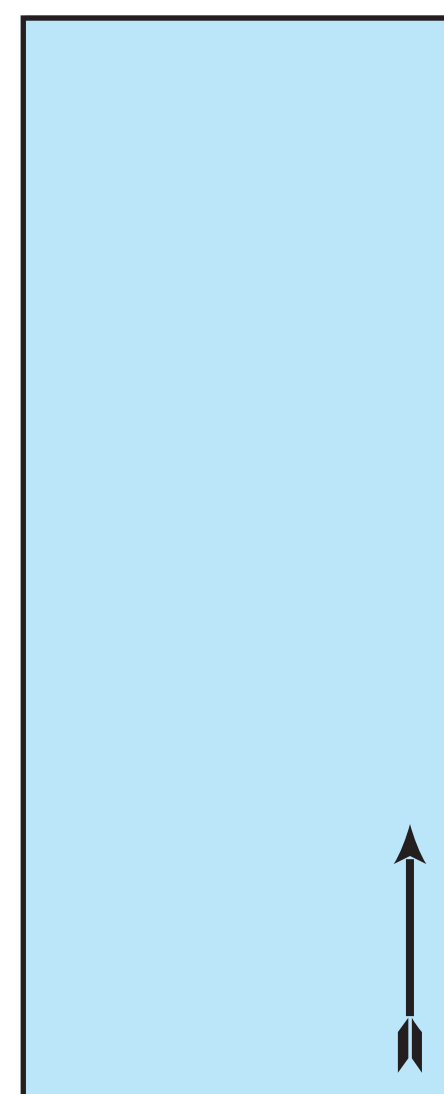
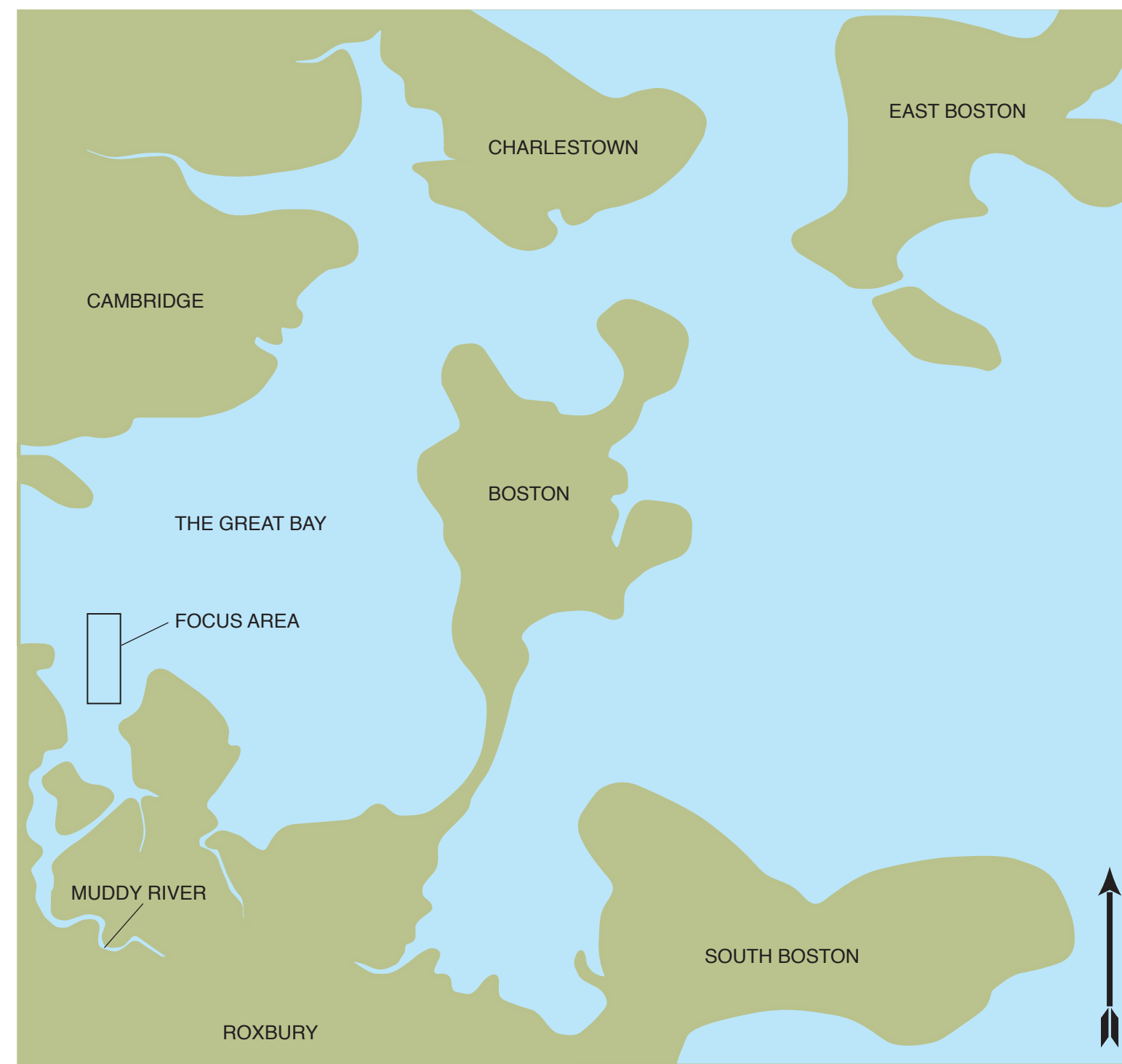


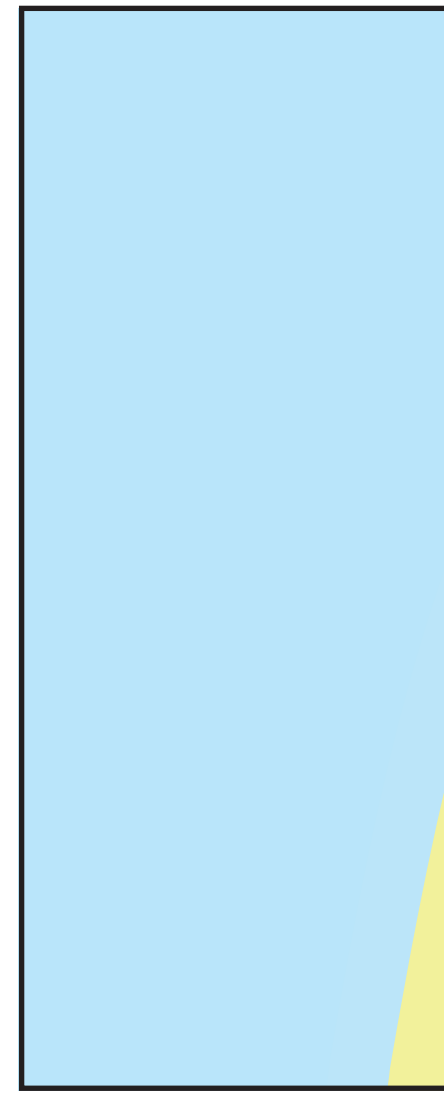
A HISTORICAL COMPARISON OF BOSTON & CHARLES GATE PARK

BOSTON & CHARLES GATE PARK: 1630



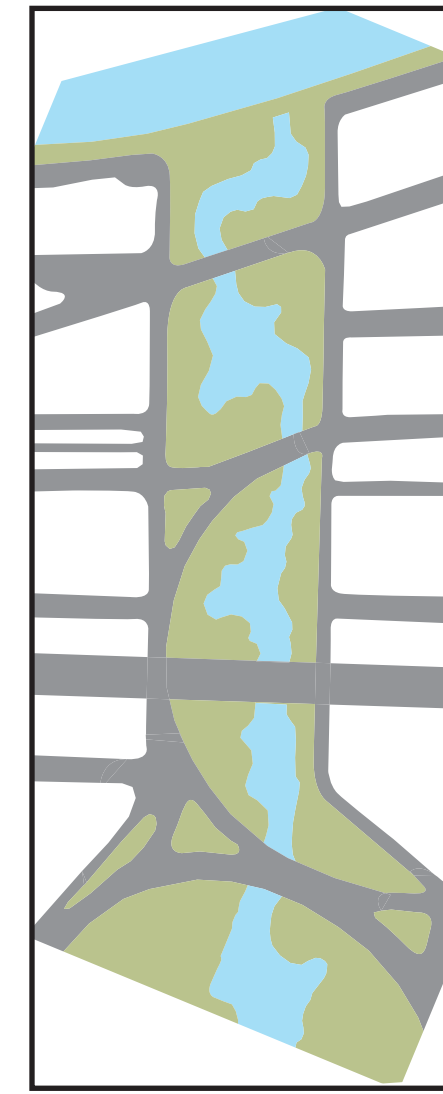
APPROXIMATELY TWELVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO, THE RETREATING LAURENTIDE GLACIER SCULPTED THE TOPOGRAPHY OF BOSTON AND ITS SURROUNDINGS. THE WEIGHT OF THE MASSIVE ICE SHEET COMPRESSED THE THE ENTIRE AREA INTO A LOW-LAYING BASIN. CONSEQUENTLY, THE SITE WAS DOMINATED BY TIDAL MARSHLAND, RIVERS, STREAMS, AND INLETS. BY 1630, MUCH OF THESE ELEMENTS WERE STILL PRESENT IN THE LANDSCAPE. THE AREA NOW KNOWN AS CHARLES GATE PARK WAS UNDER WATER.

BOSTON & CHARLES GATE PARK: 1775



BY 1775, A NOTABLE TRANSFORMATION HAD TAKEN PLACE; THE ONCE SCULPTURAL AND CURVILINEAR SHORELINES WERE BEGINNING TO LOOK MORE JAGGED AND REGIMENTED. IN ADDITION, MANY OF THE SMALLER STREAMS AND INLETS WERE DISAPPEARING. THESE CHANGES CORRELATE DIRECTLY TO AN INCREASE IN HUMAN USE OF THE SITE. SHOWN IN YELLOW, IS WHAT IS LEFT OF THE DIMINISHING MARSHES. ALTHOUGH THE FOCUS AREA IS STILL UNDER WATER, THE LAND AROUND IT IS BEGINNING TO SWELL.

BOSTON & CHARLES GATE PARK: 1900



THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CORRESPONDS WITH A DRAMATIC CHANGE IN THE ENTIRE AREA. ALL OF THE MARSHES HAVE BEEN ERADICATED AND REPLACED WITH LANDFILL. THERE IS A 300% INCREASE IN LANDMASS, WHICH CORRELATES TO A 300% DECREASE IN WATER BODIES. THE GREAT BAY HAS DISAPPEARED, AND THE MOUTH OF THE CHARLES RIVER IS APPROXIMATELY THREE AND A HALF MILES NORTHEAST OF ITS 1630'S LOCATION. OLMSTED'S DESIGN OF THE PARK IS SHOWN ON THE LEFT.

BOSTON & CHARLES GATE PARK: 2012



WHEN COMPARED TO THE IMAGE FROM THE 1630'S, THE SITE IS UNRECOGNIZABLE. THE AREAS IN RED REPRESENT LANDFILL, AND THE STREET GRID SHOWS HOW THE BACK BAY HAS BEEN BUILT OVER A ONCE THRIVING AND HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM. THE SITE IS NOW DOMINATED BY ROADWAYS AND BUILT STRUCTURES. THE BING SATELLITE IMAGE ON THE LEFT SHOWS THE PARK TODAY. THE PARK IS NOW ROUGHLY 90% LANDFILL, AND 10% WATER; ROADWAYS CONMPRISE 40% OF THE SITE.