

JUNE 16, 2020

Boston Parks and Recreation



Improvements to
MALCOLM X PARK

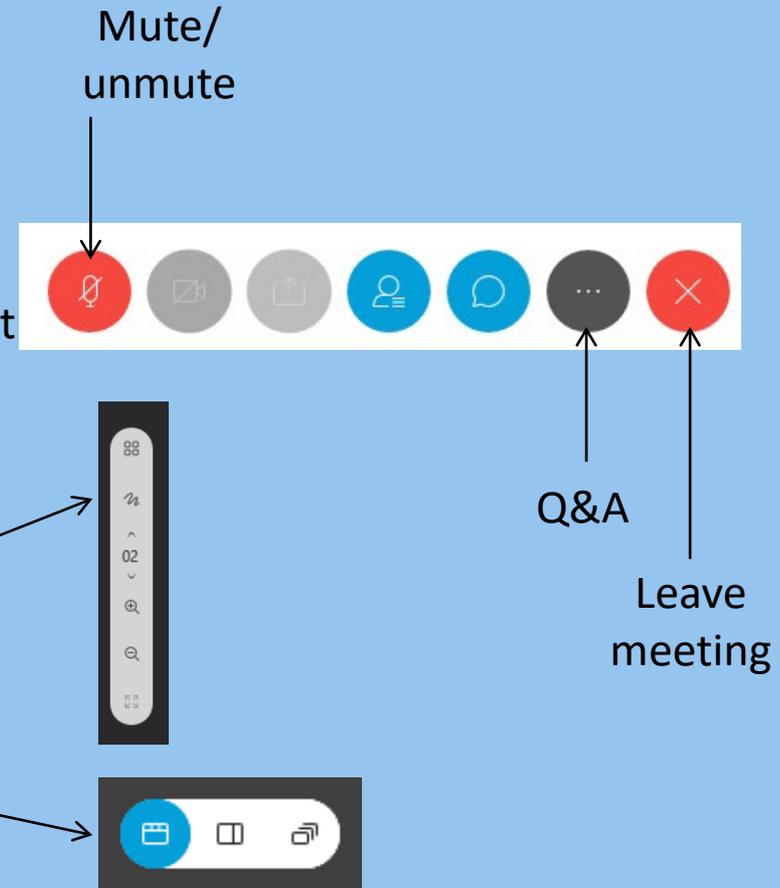
Welcome to the Virtual Community Meeting for Malcolm X Park. Our meeting will begin at 6:00 PM.





Intro to WEBEX

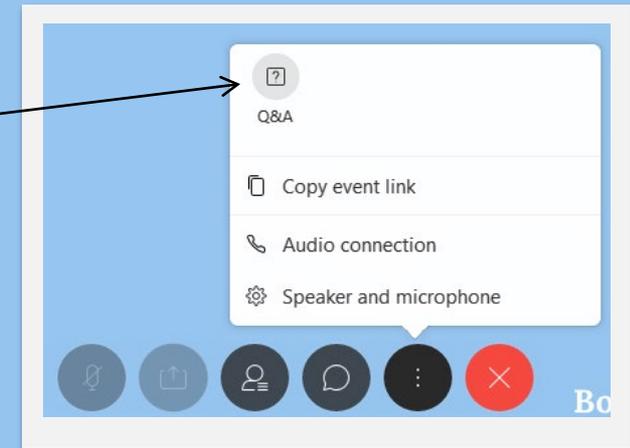
- **The Audience is muted**
 - Audience members are muted by default
- **Views, Panels, and Menu**
 - The menu at the bottom allows you to mute/unmute your voice, open the participants and chat panels, and leave the event.
 - The panels on the left side allow you to zoom in/out on the presentation, and change your view to full screen
 - Use the Video Strip View on the upper right-hand corner, it will allow you to see all presenters and panels easily.





Intro to WEBEX

- **You can ask questions in WebEx**
 1. Find the “Q&A” button on the bottom.
 2. Type your question in the text box.
- **You can raise your hand in WebEx**
 1. Find the megaphone icon at the bottom of the panelist view. Click to open the menu.
 2. Click the “Raise Hand” button to raise your hand. A hand will appear next to your name.
 - TIP: To lower your hand, click the hand button again.





Intro to

WEBEX

- **If you're having audio issues and you can't hear us:**
 1. To receive a call back, provide your phone number when you join the event, or
 2. Call the number below and enter the access code.
 - 617-315-0704
 - Access code: 712 312 220
- If you experience technical issues while joining a web event, call WebEx Technical Support at 1-866-229-3239
- **The video will be posted on the project website about 48 hours after the event**

boston.gov/Malcolm-x-park



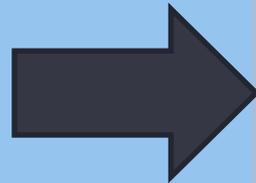
Intro to **WEBEX**

Let's test out the polling feature
How did you hear about this meeting?

- E-mail
- City Website
- Social Media
- Postcard Mailing
- Friend or Neighbor
- Signs Posted in the Park
- Other

How to participate in the poll:

1. The poll information will pop up in the right-hand panel.
2. You will have a couple of minutes to respond, while the presentation continues.



AGENDA

1

WELCOME AND WEBEX BASICS

2

PANEL INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT TEAM

3

PROJECT OVERVIEW

4

PARK & PROJECT DESCRIPTION

5

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6

OPEN DISCUSSION

PANEL INTRODUCTION & PROJECT TEAM



Lauren Bryant
Boston Parks Project
Manager



Chief Lori Nelson
Chief Resilience Officer,
City of Boston



Gene Bolinger
Principal,
Weston & Sampson



Kim Janey
City Council President,
District 7 Councilor



Christine Brandao
Community Outreach
Coordinator, City of Boston



Zoe Davis
Climate Ready Boston
Coordinator



Mike Easler
Project Landscape Architect,
Weston & Sampson



Elise Bluell
Landscape Designer,
Weston & Sampson



Farah Dakkak
Landscape Designer,
Weston & Sampson



Samuel Hurtado
Office of Councilor Janey

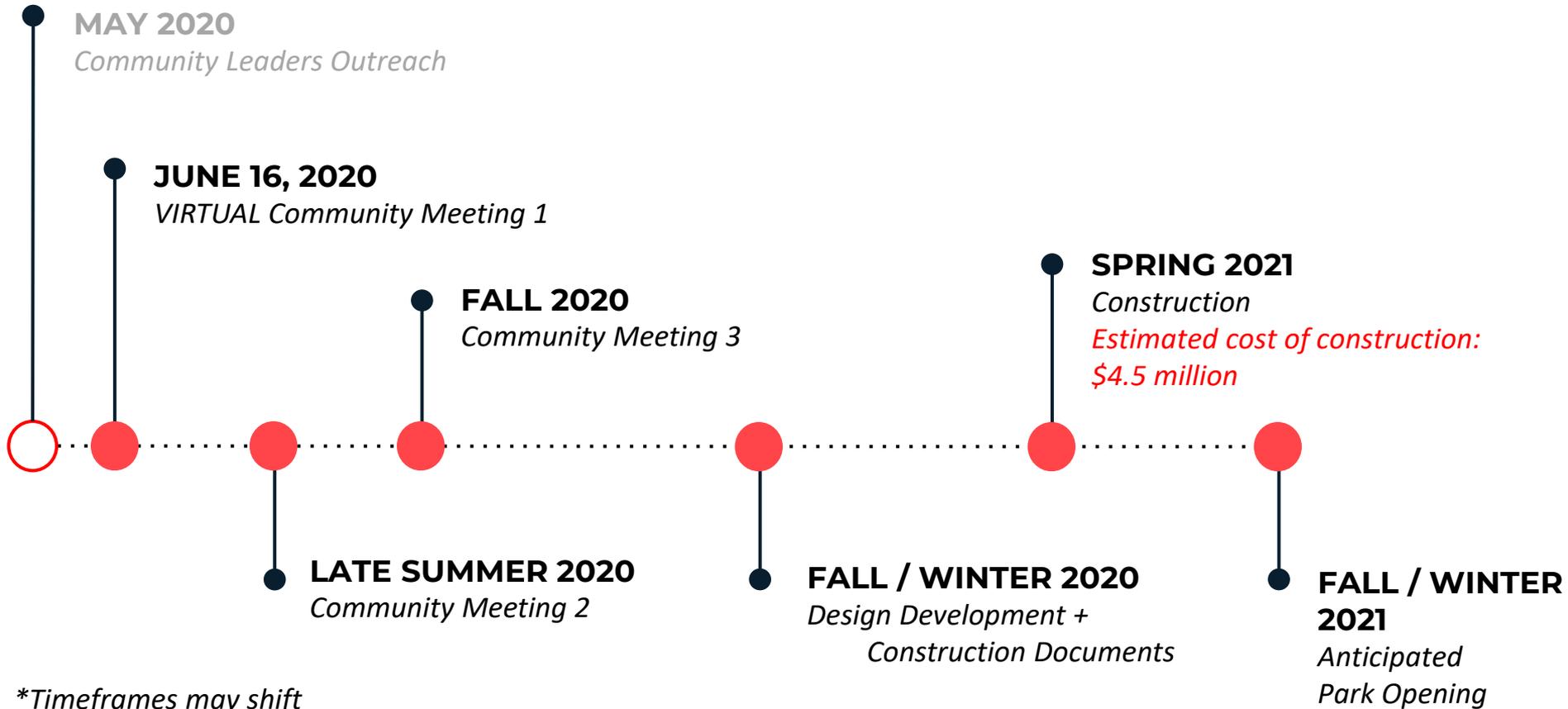


Jessica Thomas
ONS Liaison - Roxbury

PROJECT OVERVIEW



TENTATIVE PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING



**Timeframes may shift
due to COVID-19*



CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

- **Expanding walkable access to parks**
- **Addressing equity**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Health**
- **Housing and community building**



PARK & RECREATION GOALS

- Accessible and available to all
- Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses
- Meaningful and inclusive community engagement
- Adaptive and resilient landscapes
- Promote connections



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT GOALS

- **Adaptive and resilient landscapes**
- **Manage stormwater and mitigate heat**
- **Green infrastructure and other natural systems**
- **Prepared and connected communities**





INITIAL THOUGHTS & GOALS

- Update playground and increase play value
- Increase site-wide accessibility and seating options
- Upgrade courts and court amenities
- Upgrade and unify park entrances
- Provide community gathering spaces
- Maintain existing mature tree canopy
- Address safety concerns (as best we can)
- Strengthen community connection to the park
- Develop meaningful community engagement design process



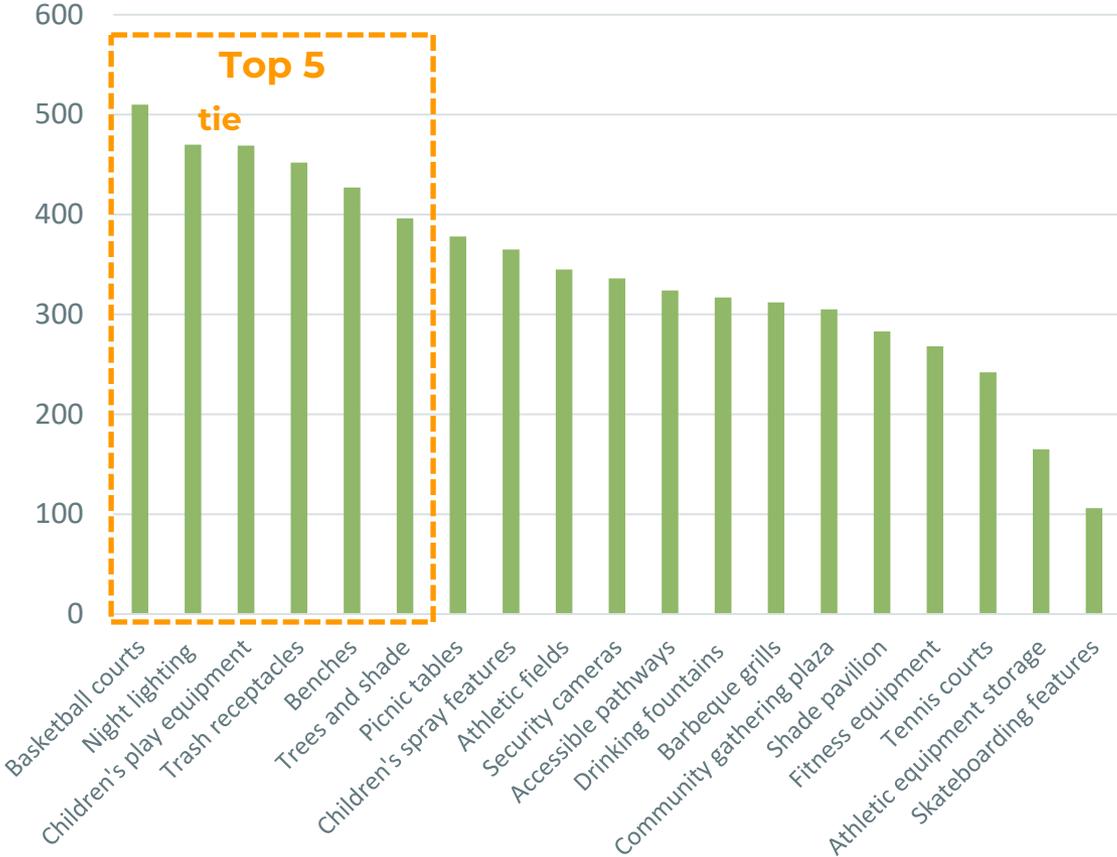
INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS – KEY THEMES

Survey opened in early
March

654 Responses as of 3 PM
Monday, June 15th

Offered in English,
Spanish, Haitian Creole,
and Somali

Most Desired Park Amenities



INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS – KEY THEMES



36% of respondents visit the park weekly

30% visit daily or multiple times a week



**Most beloved features or uses include:
special events, walking / running, commuting,
people-watching, sitting on a bench, playing basketball,
playing at the playground, bringing visitors, picnicking**



53% arrive on foot

62% by car

12% by bicycle



**65% enter the park from MLK
Boulevard and/or Walnut and
Washington Street**

INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS – KEY THEMES

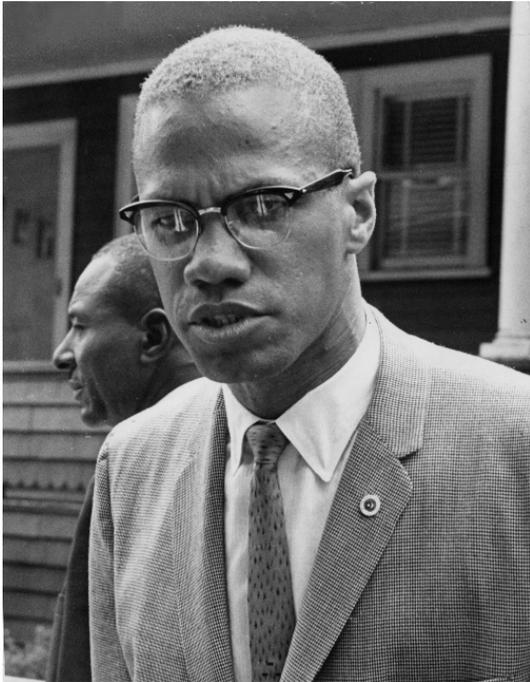


Image source: The Boston Globe



92% of respondents are familiar with Malcolm X's connection to the park

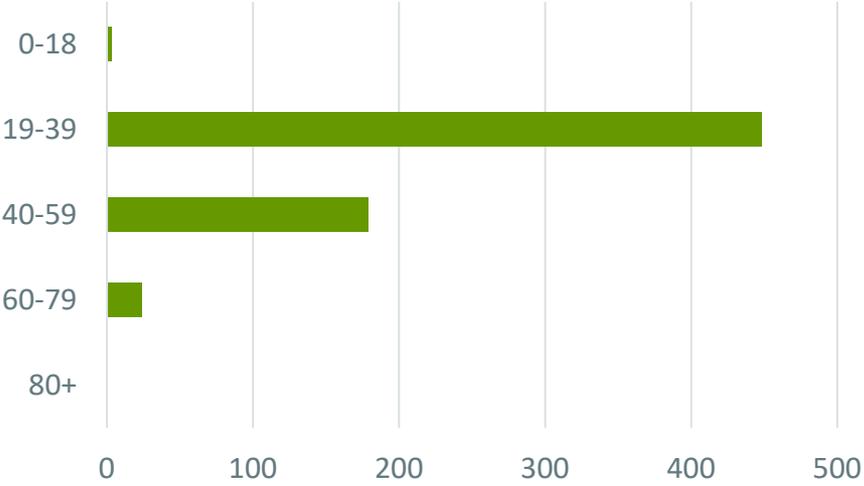
90% are interested in seeing increased recognition of him in the park



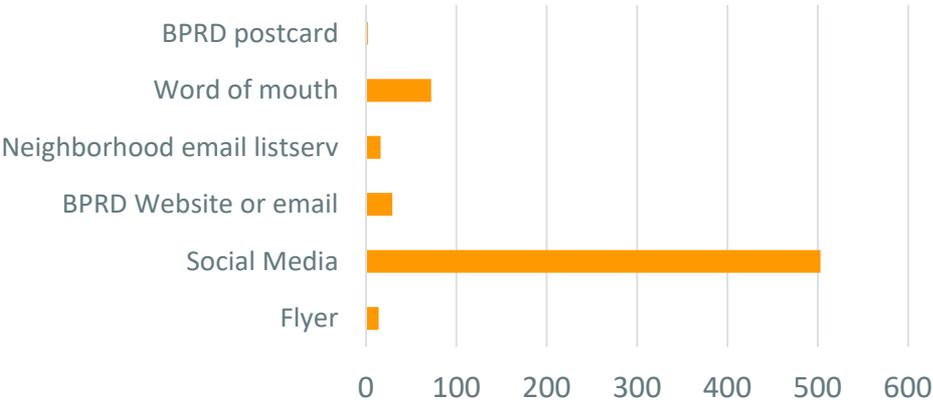
73% are interested in an on-site workshop if possible.

INITIAL ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS – KEY THEMES

Age of Respondents



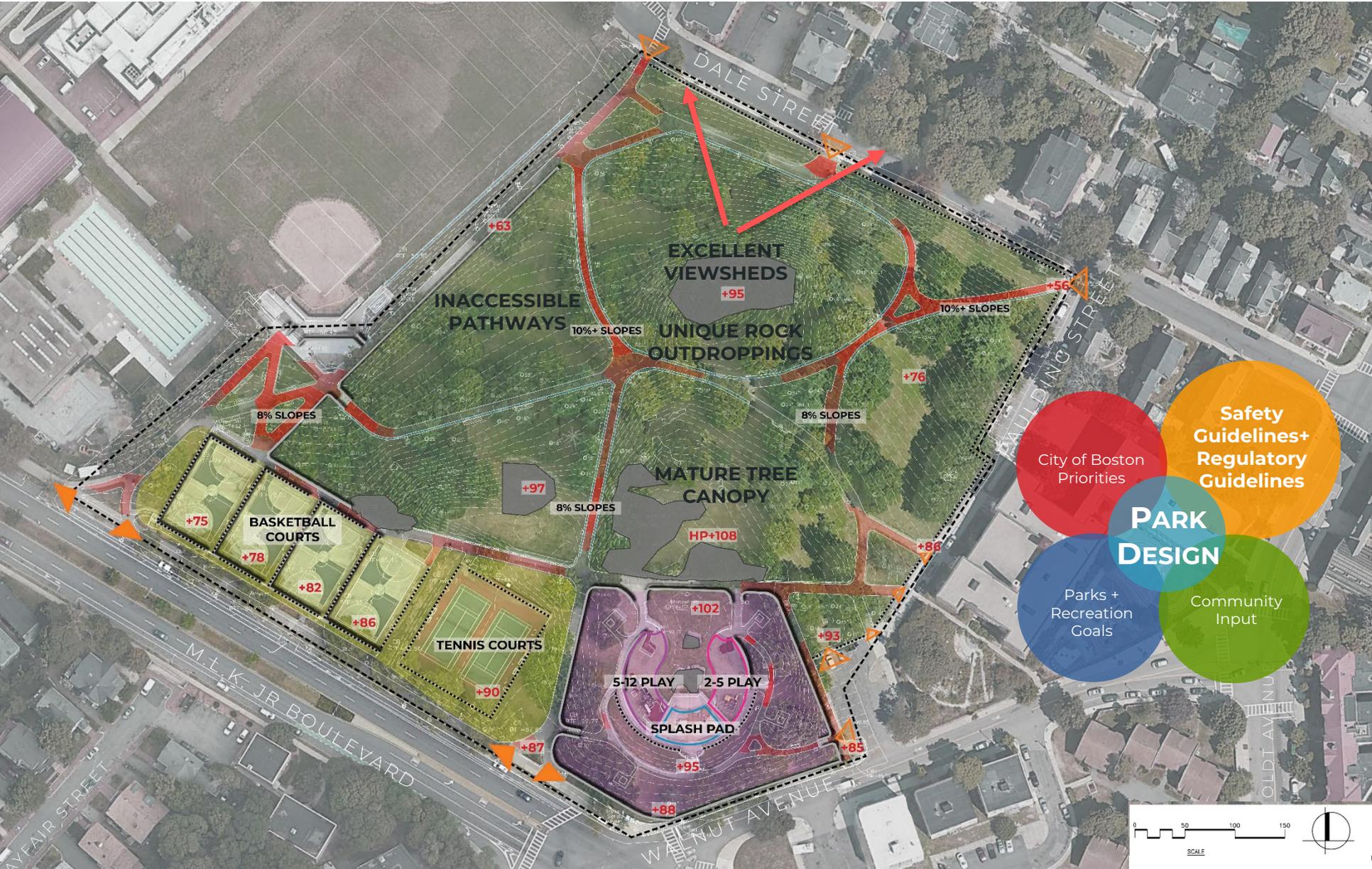
How did you find out about this Survey?



PARK DESCRIPTION & PROJECT SCOPE



SITE ANALYSIS



CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT SITE CONSIDERATIONS

Opportunities for improvement

- **Compact soil**
- **Impervious surfaces**
- **Drainage of stormwater**
- **Mature tree canopy**



KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONES

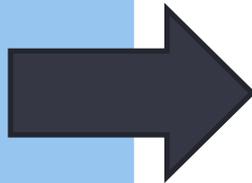
- Playground
- Active Recreation
- Passive Recreation
- Entrances



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

What is most important to you at Malcolm X Park:

- *Children's playground and splash pad*
- *Active recreation and facilities (basketball and tennis courts)*
- *Passive recreation and amenities (open lawns, trees, shade, puddingstone outcroppings, benches, walkability)*
- *Relationship to Malcolm X and the greater Roxbury community*





**KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE –
PLAYGROUND & SPLASH PAD**

KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – PLAYGROUND

- Too much unused space
- Unused natural rock outcropping
- Lack of shade in entire area
- Lack of access from nearby streets
- Lack of ADA access
- Lighting upgrades needed to create safe and comfortable evening setting
- Missed connections to school and streets



PLAYGROUND EXAMPLES



NATURE PLAY EXAMPLES



SPLASH PAD EXAMPLES



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

*What is most important at the playground
(choose all that apply):*

- *2-12 year old play space*
- *Splash pad/water play*
- *More seating and more shade for caregivers*
- *Better access from park adjacencies*
- *Diverse, colorful, and imaginative play features*
- *Community involvement*
(legacy pieces: eg. ceramic tiles, murals)





KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE - ACTIVE RECREATION

KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – ACTIVE RECREATION

BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURTS:

- **No ADA access to courts**
- **Disconnect between individual court terraces**
- **Poor court conditions and dilapidated sports lighting**
- **Need for safe watching/gathering spaces near courts**
- **Need for access to tennis courts from MLK Jr. Boulevard**
- **Lack of shade for spectators in the area**



BASKETBALL AND TENNIS COURT EXAMPLES

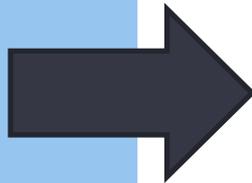


POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

What improvements would you like to see at the basketball/tennis courts area?

(choose all that apply):

- *More spectator seating*
- *Better access between courts*
- *Lighting improvements*
- *Tournament and event support infrastructure*
(eg. Scoreboards, bleacher seating)
- *Equipment storage*
- *Community programming*
- *Multi-sport court striping (volleyball, pickleball, futsal)*



KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – PASSIVE RECREATION



KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – PASSIVE RECREATION

Pros:

- **Unique Puddingstone retaining walls and outcroppings**
- **Mature and varied tree canopy**
- **Excellent viewsheds due to varied topography**

Cons:

- **Lack of accessible pathways connecting to various park features and amenities**
- **Overly engineered drainage system is under-performing**
- **Lighting upgrades needed to create safe and comfortable setting**



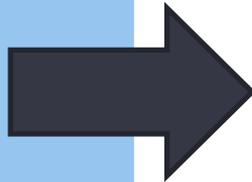
PASSIVE RECREATION SPACE EXAMPLES



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

What improvements are most needed at the passive recreation area: (choose all that apply)

- Formalized overlook areas to provide access to views
- Improved landscaping (lawns and trees)
- Meandering paths for strolling (ADA accessible pathways)
- User-friendly / accessible benches and seating
- Night lighting and emergency call boxes/lights
- Trash receptacles



KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – ENTRANCES



KEY IMPROVEMENT ZONE – ENTRANCES

- **Most entrances not ADA accessible**
- **Entrances lack visibility and a compelling sense of arrival**
- **Few announce the park from a distance**
- **Lack of access to playground from street level- MLK and Walnut**



PARK ENTRANCE EXAMPLES



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

Question 1:
MALCOLM X PARK IS...
(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)



*THE HEART OF THE
COMMUNITY*

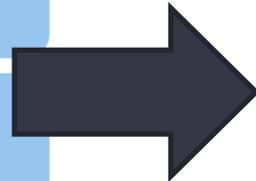
MY KID'S PLAYGROUND

*PART OF MY DAILY
ROUTINE*

*WHERE I GO TO PLAY
BASKETBALL, TENNIS,
BASEBALL, SOCCER*

*THE COMMUNITY'S EVENT
SPACE*

*MY FAVORITE PARK IN
BOSTON*



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

Question 2

MALCOLM X PARK SHOULD BE...

(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)

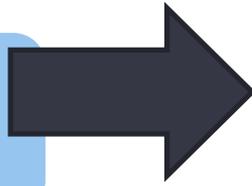


*A SPACE TO OFFER DAILY
OUTDOOR ESCAPE AND
RELAXATION*

*A FAMILY AND AGE FRIENDLY
PARK FOR RESIDENTS AND
VISITORS*

*A FLEXIBLE PUBLIC SPACE TO
HOST COMMUNITY
GATHERINGS*

*A CELEBRATED BEACON FOR
THE PEOPLE OF ROXBURY AND
THE SURROUNDING
NEIGHBORHOOD*



POLL QUESTIONS – SUBMIT YOUR RESPONSE NOW!

Question 3

MALCOLM X PARK IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE...

(CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY)



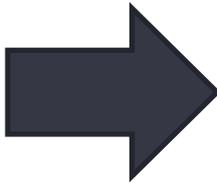
IMPROVED SEATING
(EG. BENCHES, CAFÉ TABLES, TEAM BENCHES, BLEACHERS)

RECOGNITION OF MALCOLM X

AMENITIES TO SUPPORT A VARIETY OF USES (EG. BIKE RACKS, SHADE SHELTERS, FITNESS EQUIPMENT, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TRASH RECEPTACLES)

BETTER LIGHTING

MORE SHADE AND NATURAL LANDSCAPE FEATURES



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THANK YOU!

We will be scheduling a second community meeting in the coming months to share design ideas. Please email Lauren Bryant to make sure she has your contact information for sending out upcoming meeting and project information.

For questions contact Lauren Bryant, Project Manager
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
617-961-3019, Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

If you haven't already, please share your voice using the online survey:

boston.gov/malcolm-x-park

For questions contact Lauren Bryant,
Project Manager
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
617-961-3019, Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov

A blurred photograph of a public meeting or open discussion in a room with a whiteboard and a presenter. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The scene shows a group of people seated in a room, facing a whiteboard. A person is standing at the front of the room, possibly presenting. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.

Let us know what matters to you.

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