

## McCONNELL PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE - JUNE 2021



Thank you for your continued interest in the McConnell Park construction project! Please expect a construction update monthly during construction. This first update is quite lengthy as a follow up to many of the issues raised during the June 1 Office Hours.

### **RATS**

The Contractor has placed bait boxes around the site and will continue to monitor the boxes to determine whether additional bait is needed.

### **ACCESS TO MALIBU BEACH**

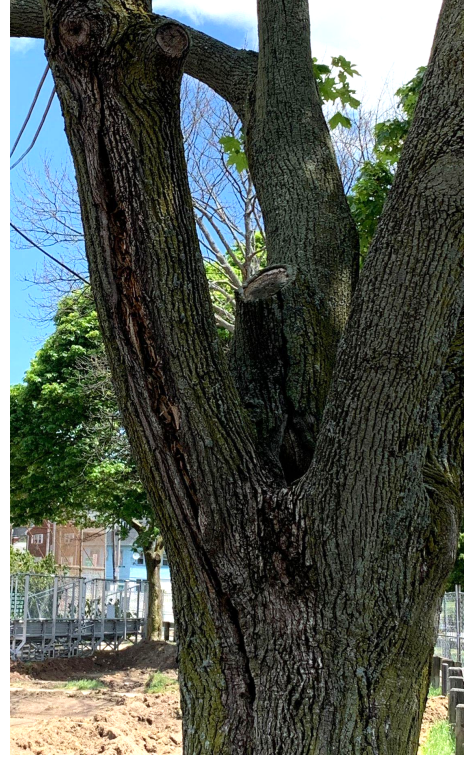
- Fence has been adjusted to allow access to the informal stone steps at the end of Southview.
- Fence has also been pulled back to separate some pedestrian access alongside the access to the DYC, especially where the potholes (to be filled) are located.
- Fence has been placed behind the drinking fountains and foot washing stations along the Harborwalk.

### **TREES:**

- There are 3 additional trees that are recommended for removal. The proposed removals have been reviewed with the City Arborist, who is concerned about the long term viability of these trees.
  - 2 are along Southview Street on the slope. Both are showing significant hollowing and rotting, and are structurally weak. The concern is that they will fall, destabilize the slope, and possibly cause Southview Street to be undermined. They will be replaced by several trees to stabilize the slope and provide shade. The design team is currently working on the plan for replacement.



- One additional tree along the Harborwalk was discovered to have significant carpenter ant damage, wounds that are not healing, an unbalanced canopy, and no central leader. When this tree fails, it will damage newly installed material, and will not be able to be adequately removed. By removing the tree during the capital construction project, we can plan for the next generation of canopy now. Stay tuned for the replacement plan.
- In 2020, the City discovered Emerald Ash Borer in some Ash trees (*Fraxinus spp.*). EAB is a major threat to the urban canopy, but the threat can be slowed through injection treatments. Many of the trees at the top of the park slope between Denny and Bayside are ashes. As part of this capital improvement project, we will immediately begin injections for pre-treatment to protect these trees, which do not appear to be affected by EAB at the moment. The injection treatment will continue for the next few years as we continue to monitor the canopy citywide.



**DESIGN CHANGES:**

- Amphitheater seating: Removed seating from the grassy area. The area will be a gently sloping lawn.
- Shade is needed in the plaza, and we will be adding trees to the plaza area. The design team is working on a sketch revising the area which will be shared in future updates.

**SOFTBALL FIELDS IN DORCHESTER:**

Dorchester has 6 softball facilities in the following locations:

- Walsh Playground (2)
- McConnell Park (1)
- Doherty/Gibson (1)
- Roberts Playground (1)
- Hemenway Playground (1)

Dorchester Park also has a skinned infield with a very short outfield.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING:**

Pat Fandel at the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services has requested that neighborhood parking issues be directed to 311 (or [www.boston.gov/311](http://www.boston.gov/311)). This will allow him to document need for relief and coordinate with BTM.

The Video Link to the June 1, 2021 Office Hours is live: <https://youtu.be/BZBVdGECFhw>

Registration emails for the June 1, 2021 Office Hours were not recorded so please send your contact info to [cathy.baker-eclipse@boston.gov](mailto:cathy.baker-eclipse@boston.gov) if you wish to be added to the project mailing list for future updates. If you received this update directly from Cathy, you are already on the mailing list!

Project Website:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/improvements-mcconnell-playground>

Please reach out with any additional questions. [cathy.baker-eclipse@boston.gov](mailto:cathy.baker-eclipse@boston.gov) or 617-961-3058.