



Community Meeting Notes

Meeting Number: 3
Project: BBF Pathways
Date: February 16, 2023
Attending: Lauren Bryant (BPRD)
Christine Brandao (BPRD)
Mike Doucette (KZLA)
Kyle Zick (KZLA),
30-35 public community members

1. Capacity issue for the trash barrels, will these be addressed in this project?
Trash receptacles will be addressed with this project.

2. Will there be tree removals?

We don't know for sure but will be transparent on this. Waiting on the site survey for more confidence.

3. Path from the courts to the Rose Garden shouldn't cut up the lawn panels.

Great comments don't want to cut up lawn panels unnecessarily.

4. How will lighting be determined for scope and how will the fixture be chose?

The light fixture depends on where they are located. The pathway lights are owned by Boston Street Lighting and we'll use their standard fixture.

5. When you select path materials; analyze soils etc. before selecting the materials. Down the hill from the gardens, floods all the time, sink holes.

All listed conditions will be thought through in determining the material, we are waiting for the site survey.

6. Path, good idea to look at desire lines and base design off that. Desire lines won't change.

Seating concerns, in the grove section of the gardens. Lawn area near the Rose Garden used by people to sit and spread-out blankets. No tables in the victory garden. Benches on the back side of the park – east of the VG. Small benches to deter people sleeping overnight. Worry about how the bench will be abused. Don't want a sleeping spot to develop.

7. Comments from the Olmsted bicentennial conference – straight path in an Olmsted landscape is unusual. Not in favor of off the shelf components, i.e., water fountain, should be more specific to historic site. Path around VG need to solve the drainage areas. Brick pavement?

Maintenance and truck use, trimming trees, reconstructing path, maybe parks use smaller trucks

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because of this park stature? Bridges, arch version may lend itself to the grade changes. Rustic arched bridge, Roxbury puddingstone, may help with the design.

We are looking at custom furnishings like the bench in place at Jamaica Pond. The decision to use custom or off the shelf is based on maintenance requirements. Paving materials need to consider aesthetics, function, and accessibility.

8. Picnic table and benches in gardens, drug use at night – not a good idea. Shorter benches could work but may attract bad use.
9. The stonedust path along the Fenway, is this part of the project in the scope? Flooded and in poor shape during rainstorms.

Both agencies are looking at how to team up to try and work on the park as a whole, but nothing definitive.

10. Would there be any lighting along path near the river in the VG?
Boston Police in discussions with all parks projects to review safety issues.
11. Consider multi-directional bike use on Agassiz Road. May be in noncompliance if its directional.
Bike Parking provided and signage available in the park?

Yes, there are proposed locations for bike racks. We can collaborate with Boston Transportation Department (BTD) on friendly use language on signs. Agassiz Road could be transformed as a part of the Muddy River Project. Will pass this along to DCR.

12. Stakeholder details are great. Wetland resources slide, talk more on what has to be reviewed and what point we will be working with them? How influential are they?
Conservation Commission (100', 25', FEMA flood zone), Chapter 91, Army Corps possibly, MEPA in general, Boston Landmarks Commission review
13. Conservation Commission feedback on pathway/roadway for maintenance along the VG path along the river, permeability, pavements, etc?
Stormwater management in general, permeable pavements don't work well with high water table. Other ways to capture, treat that water. Civil engineer will help dive in when site survey is available.
14. March 22 – Fenway Civic Meeting

We will look to reschedule March pathway community meeting.



15. Will the site survey be posted when available?

After we receive it from the surveyor and review it we can post it.

16. Should the MMOC weigh in on this project?

We have spoken with many of the individual agencies on the MMOC. Asking questions about the Army Corps project to make sure we don't conflict with any construction.

A project briefing would be welcome at a MMOC meeting, would love to see this project.

17. Survey be posted available?

a. After review we can post it.

18. Present at a MMOC meeting, would love to see this project.

Chat

00:31:46 Lauren.bryant@boston.gov

00:31:54 Boston.gov/fens-pathways

00:37:44 can someone tell me what the boston trust office is?

00:39:38 Thank you for the question. The Boston Trust Office is the group in the City of Boston that coordinates all of the different Trusts. White Fund, Brown Fund, Franklin Park Trust, etc.

00:52:06 Should the Agassiz Road bike path be bi-directional?

00:53:09 Thank you for the question on Agassiz. This roadway is also owned by DCR. They are currently looking at the design of what the roadway will look like after the construction along the Muddy River. I am happy to pass along this question to them.

00:53:26 One of the best-known historic photos of the Back Bay Fens is a man sitting on a bench!

00:53:48 Hello all - will public bathroom access be addressed during this process as well?

00:53:56 Thank you.

00:54:21 Restrooms are not part of this project.

00:55:49 I couldn't locate the trash receptacles on the furnishings slide but would ask whether they would be upgraded and whether there will be any added recycling stations?

00:56:48 Sorry, you are right, they were not on that slide. Let me see if we can grab a picture quickly to share.

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00:56:59 Do you know when that issue will finally be addressed? It is a very important issue for gardeners many of whom do not have access to a home bathroom that is close by. Clearly this would be important for park visitors as well.

00:57:22 In terms of recycling, Boston Parks is working to roll out recycling in our parks. I am not sure where we are in that process now, I will try to get an update for our next meeting.

00:57:50 thank you.

00:57:58 Circling back to designs for the places to rest, want to plug seating that includes shade, if not present via placement in proximity to trees to make seating comfortable even on the hottest of days and hard scape pads that make it easy to have a stroller/ wheelchair/ walker or mobility device in close proximity to seating

00:58:49 Lots of high end design options, <https://images.app.goo.gl/1aKNVgd8KmtGx9oM9>

00:58:56 Thank you, I really appreciate the comment about seating and access to shade, especially to add space for companion seating and areas for wheelchairs strollers, etc.

00:59:10 Would it be possible to have convertible picnic tables that could be locked up if there are issues of misuse? Late night unintended use of picnic tables in the Fenway Victory Gardens is why the tables we had were removed.

01:01:09 As a standard Boston Parks does not have removeable furniture unless there is a maintenance agreement with a group or surrounding building who is responsible for that removal. Unfortunately, Boston Parks does not have the ability to manage that work.

01:07:51 The picnic tables could be in a permanent place. There are some designs that flip into different shapes for locking and/or to make them inaccessible. If you do install some tables, it would be good to have an inaccessible pathway to them so that all visitors could enjoy them.

01:13:35 We have been in need of recycling receptacles. All parks should have recycling bins.

01:22:50 It seems like Evans Way Bridge path desires will have people heading for Kilmarnock and for Jersey toward the Boylston St commerce (and beyond to Brookline ave, as well as Fenway Park). I don't know whether y'all have ways to predict this.

01:25:14 gardeners, park visitors, and those who are just passing through the Fenway Victory Gardens often need a seat to rest along the sidewalk that runs from Boylston to Park Drive. Perhaps seating on the Park Drive section makes more sense as there is plenty of shade there and it is very visible to the street, which would allow for late night monitoring.

01:25:39 Be careful about brick in terms of accessibility.

01:30:21 In case there is any doubt, yes please remove the yew bushes at the Memorial!

kzla

01:34:40 Agreed! And I think wayfinding opportunities and clear directionality about whom can operate where and what is an appropriate speed whether you're walking, biking, etc.... Go a long way!

01:34:42 There is a plan for Agassiz road on file with DCR

01:35:05 Thanks, we hadn't seen it yet, I will check in with my contacts.

01:35:22 Great project. I'm particularly interested in the lighting. As it stands now, when walking from the MFA as it starts to get dark there is only one lit pathway. The one that I use towards Jersey St is not lit and when Evans Way bridge is restored that will need lighting too.

01:37:59 No thank you! This looks great though and glad to hear everyone feels heard

01:38:16 Nothing to add, just that we are also working with DCR to understand their plans for Agassiz.

01:38:56 thanks so much, this is really exciting

01:38:59 Thank you, all!

01:39:02 thank you

01:39:02 Thank you!

01:39:04 well the survey be posted on the web site?