



## Ringer Park Phase 1 Improvements

### Community Meeting #1 – Zoom

June 27, 2023

Parks held the first of three community design meetings over Zoom to discuss Phase 1 of Ringer Park improvements. The scope of Phase 1 was established through the comprehensive plan process, which was completed in 2021. The key elements from the comprehensive plan were presented, and the proposed scope for Phase 1 was shared, which includes addressing paving and accessibilities on park paths, the addition of a dog run, renovation of entrances and perimeter work, and addressing the health and condition of trees. This meeting was held to hear from the community whether this scope is appropriate for Phase 1, and if there are any additional or alternative elements that we should consider.

### Feedback

Each comment noted below is a comment from one community member. Responses from BPRD or the design team in *italics*.

1. Councilor Breadon: delighted and excited to be near implementation.
2. Representative Honan: Very excited about the project. There is an additional \$30k in state budget for play equipment and \$35k for tree work. Thoughts on the park: enormous amount of dead wood in trees, big rodent issue, an urban wild, so much activity (courts), dog walkers, West End kids.
3. BPRD will be posting the Ringer Park comprehensive plan on the project website in the next week or two.
4. Lived near the park since 1981. Thank you for this project, it is long awaited. BPRD maintenance vehicles do access Gordon Street area on concrete path and the concrete paths have cracked/broken. Why would you propose lights on courts? Worked with former commissioner to keep lights off and in fact remove. What kind of activities will the lighting promote? How was dog park design be determined? Where is the master plan? Can we consider rain gardens?  
*Can make clear pathways intended for maintenance with thickened edges and steel reinforcing. Can position trash receptacles appropriately in easy to reach locations. Lights on courts-this will be addressed in a later phase. Community requests for a dog park came up early in comprehensive plan. Terminology is now comprehensive plan not master plan. There is additional funding for green infrastructure, so we'll be looking into that.*
5. Love the idea of the dog park, think it is so necessary. Is community gardening possible?  
*BPRD has a hard time managing community gardens and look to community groups to help manage. We can look at that if it is something the community really supports.*
6. Very happy to hear about the dog park. I am an abutter on Imrie Road and interested in fencing replacement.  
*We are assessing the fencing-condition, material, and location respect to property line. Fence repairs can be difficult because of trees growing in them occasionally, and budget limitations, but we can definitely take this into consideration.*
7. Are we putting a fence around the little league field? Don't think the fence is needed? Are we replacing the emergency call box? Are we installing a drinking fountain? Maintenance of this park needs to be better.  
*We are not renovating the little league field and wouldn't be adding fence. We may remove some fence to support dog park use. We can look into the call box. We can look into adding a*

*drinking fountain.*

8. Solar lights from Imrie to Allson Street don't put out enough light and only stay on 15-20 minutes. Can they be repaired or trees be pruned? Drainage from courts has eroded gathering space circle. Would you consider artificial turf in that circle?  
*Treatment of that space may happen in a later phase, although we will look into safety issues. Artificial turf is not being promoted by BPRD.*
9. Love the dog park and think it will serve the community well (for dog owners and field users). Removing some field fencing makes sense. There is a drainage issue between the field and school-floods.  
*We will look into the drainage.*
10. Assume broken lights will be fixed. Will lighting only be added on path on Gordon Street? Want more lighting in plan. Will there be new greenery? Park isn't getting proper maintenance.  
*Include lights on pathways that feel there are a security issue. Horticultural landscaping not in the plan, potentially rain gardens could be added. BPRD's maintenance capacity limits what landscaping can be added. Tree work will be focus. BPRD maintenance covers routine maintenance i.e. litter pick up, trash barrel emptying, graffiti removal, lawn mowing.*
11. Represent group of 30 people who play basketball at courts. What is proposed for courts? Would like a drinking fountain added at the courts.  
*Lighting not in phase 1 project. Comprehensive plan recommended resurfacing and lighting upgrades, but no work is proposed in phase 1.*
12. Has BPRD spoken with West End House about these improvements? Are we adding trash cans? Maintenance needs to be better.  
*B spoke with the Andrea Howard recently. We can add trash cans.*
13. Circle at Imrie Road entrance. Last time park was renovated was 1988. Vikings have destroyed the grass in the circle. Are the Vikings permitted in the park? Who would maintain the dog park?  
*Not sure a permit has been issued. Intensive use of any area may require new thinking. For dog parks, BPRD looks to partner with community groups who use the park. Previously required a 501c3 organized to be formed.*
14. Be willing to help with weeding gardens if that is limiting adding landscaping. There is a benefit of woodland path staying a dirt path-people with joint issues.
15. See people walking down the woodland path at night all the time. Should add lighting. Would like to see a sharps collection receptacle in the park. Add water, trash cans and light. Think of public safety first. Do need to repair emergency call box, but people keep pushing button-maybe it was turned off.
16. Years ago participated in park cleanup. Felt woodland had to be raked to prevent fires. For many years there was a homeless camp in the woodlands. Having a sharps box makes sense.  
*We can add a sharps container.*
17. Could a meeting be in person, because many neighbors don't use Zoom?  
*We can consider a future in person meeting.*
18. What is the plan for the gathering space? Seating, picnic tables? There aren't many spaces like that in Allston. Allston Street entrance is a big school bus stop location-seating near that entrance would be helpful.  
*Phase 1 scope is entrances and pathway and not discrete areas, but can look at adding seating.*
19. Photo from 1985 stolen and burned car droven over edge of ledge by West End House. Friends removed a lot of trash at the time.

20. Bus stop at Allston Street, half the kids go to the West End House-stop should really be near the West End House.
21. Would the woodland path be paved? Concern about paving woods.  
*We need to make it accessible. Can look at edge detailing or other materials. Stonedust is technically accessible if maintained, which can be the difficulty. Want to improve the park so if you are mobility impaired you can access the park.*
22. Woodland path is worth keeping as natural as possible. Remember conversations about not lighting the path due to wildlife. Could the baseball field be reconfigured to be multiuse?  
*Hoping BPS planning can help inform field and play area program.*
23. Are there any benches planned in this scope?  
*We will be studying this.*

Summary of Zoom Chat During the Meeting

- 00:34:47 Happy for this meeting about Ringer park. Long awaited!
- 00:35:36 Reacted to "Happy for this meeti..." with 👍
- 00:50:21 So far, I see lighting only along Gordon St.
- 00:50:48 That is the perfect place for the dog park.
- 00:50:50 Reacted to "So far, I see lighti..." with 👍
- 00:50:51 Can you elaborate on what Woodland exercise is?
- 00:50:56 Reacted to "That is the perfect ..." with ❤️
- 00:51:24 For lighting, the Solar lights already don't work. not enough light for some of them, and the ones that do get light only stay on about 20 minutes.
- 00:51:46 Really happy to see how the 2020-2021 plan informed these recommendations — all of this sounds fantastic and will greatly improve the park
- 00:52:18 Agreed, the solar lights aren't very functional.
- 00:52:23 Woodland exercise is like an outdoor gym equipment stations. Pullups bars ets
- 00:59:16 Once the dog park is created and fenced in, will the fencing come down in the ball park to discourage folks from letting their dogs run free in their as well? We would love to use the field for recreation and maybe even baseball without the deteriorating condition of the field
- 00:59:38 Reacted to "Once the dog park is..." with 👍
- 01:00:07 Reacted to "Agreed, the solar li..." with 👍
- 01:03:10 It was touched upon lightly in the presentation, but I wanted to bring up the importance of stormwater management and runoff. There's severe ponding after rain/precipitation events and it'd be really beneficial to address drainage, grading, and stormwater BMPs.
- 01:08:33 Reacted to "For lighting, the So..." with 👍
- 01:09:46 Additional Water bubblers is a great idea .. I have seen bubblers for dogs as well .. which would be terrific too.
- 01:10:04 Reacted to "Additional Water bub..." with 👍
- 01:10:06 Reacted to "Additional Water bub..." with 👍
- 01:11:23 When designing the dog park, is there an intention to have designated areas for small and large dogs? I know this is the case in many dog parks (Peters Park, etc), and would be great.

- 01:11:31 If water bubblers are added, could they be of the type used in Montreal that can stay on all year?
- 01:11:53 Reacted to "If water bubblers ar..." with ❤️
- 01:17:09 The area by the Big Green Frog may be a nice area for perennial flowering shrubs
- 01:34:01 Whether people like it or not, many people walk through that wooded area at night. If we are going to create new lighting options in the park, I believe that it makes sense to create greater visibility in a very dark space.
- 01:34:17 Reacted to "Whether people like ..." with 👍
- 01:35:03 Reacted to "Whether people like ..." with 👍
- 01:35:08 contact me to get together a gardening group?
- 01:36:21 Thank you for supporting a sharps receptacle
- 01:36:42 Sharps container was a really good suggestion
- 01:37:40 Sign up for Councilor Breadon's bi-weekly news letter - email Liz.Breadon@Boston.com
- 01:38:25 Liz Breadon's newsletters are quite informative and wide-ranging. Excellent.
- 01:38:33 Reacted to "Liz Breadon's newsle..." with 👍
- 01:39:08 yes an excellent resource - Thanks Counselor!
- 01:42:20 Would stone dust be a possibility for the urban wild/woodlands walkway rather than asphalt?
- 01:44:58 Sorry, I missed if there will be any benches in the park.
- 01:45:01 leave unpaved
- 01:45:45 Really appreciate the emphasis on accessibility for our neighbors with mobility challenges or strollers
- 01:47:17 I think there have been no permits and games there because of the damage to the field.
- 01:47:37 It has been hard to organize and utilize the ball park currently due to the fact that so many dogs are utilizing the field ..
- 01:47:44 I think you are correct
- 01:47:48 Right
- 01:48:03 I think the dog park will help solve that issue for so many reasons
- 01:48:43 Benches would be great
- 01:48:58 Great discussion ... Thank you to B and the Parks/Rec team!! .. and to the community ;)
- 01:49:48 Thanks Liz!!!
- 01:51:19 Thank you very much !
- 01:51:56 Thanks