



COPLEY SQUARE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE AUGUST, 2023

Thank you for your patience and continued interest in this project.

Copley Square Park is an important cultural center of our city, and we understand that having the entire park closed for the duration of construction is difficult for many. We appreciate your patience during our renovation, and look forward to our reopening in 2024, with a completed park that is beautiful, safe and accessible.

Our project is scheduled to occur over 16 months, with completion in Fall 2024. This means that the Marathon will not occur in this park next year, but we look forward to welcoming this event back at Copley in 2025.

Our contractor is WES Construction Corp, and we are happy to be working with them on this important, complex project. They were agile and responsive installing The Embrace in the Boston Common recently, and they have constructed other successful projects for Boston Parks in the past.

CONSTRUCTION TO DATE:

- Site fences have gone up around the perimeter of the park!
- Tree protection has been installed
- Our friends at the Boston Public Library are allowing us to install a camera on their roof this week (7/31), so we can see time-lapse footage of the construction, and for security purposes.
- Pavement is being removed; stone and brick pavers will be reused in future projects, and are either being taken directly to those projects, or stored at the Franklin Park Maintenance Yard for storage. Many of the larger bluestone pavers are chipped and cracked, and are not reusable, sadly.
- Benches are in the process of being removed - we are taking some to live at the Maintenance Yard, for use when Friends of the Public Garden need to repair similar benches, as spare parts.

Work that you can anticipate seeing in the coming weeks:

- Light poles within the park will be coming down the week of 8/7
- Excavation to install drainage piping will begin towards the end of August

SITE PHOTO, 7/31/2023



Pavement being removed: Granite blocks ready to go to the Maintenance yard, for future reuse.

SITE PHOTO, 8/3/2023



Screening has been installed on the fences to trap dust, and straw wattles prevent any silt-laden runoff from leaving the site.

SITE PHOTO, 8/3/2023



The Tortoise and the Hare are still on site. The conservator will visit next week to assess how to carefully detach and move it off site, along with John Singleton Copley, the Kahlil Gibran memorial, and the stone plaque to Daniel Ahearn. (The Marathon Monument will be protected on site until our project receives signoff from MBTA to work in that area of the site.)

TREE UPDATE:

The design team, Parks, and the consulting arborist all met with the contractor to discuss initial tree protection around our trees to remain. During a site walk at the start of demolition, the design team and Boston Parks confirmed those trees that are scheduled for removal, and made sure that all those to remain will have both trunk protection as well as fencing surrounding their critical root zones. We will determine whether initial pruning work needs to occur, to make sure there are few conflicts between the canopy and construction machinery. During the project, we will prune for future tree health (removal of dead limbs, encouraging direction of growth, etc.).

TRINITY UPDATE:

Trinity Church is a helpful neighbor during this challenging project, and they are attending our weekly site meetings, for the most up-to-date information regarding construction and schedules. The church is “open for business” during this project.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:

For employment opportunities, call WES Construction Corp. at (781) 294-1080

OTHER ITEMS:

Please use 311 to document non-emergency issues relating to park use, and 911 for emergency situations relating to public safety. Construction questions and concerns can be directed to B Chatfield, Project Manager (abigail.chatfield@boston.gov)

Project Website: boston.gov/copley-improvements