

Bay Village Neighborhood Park – Community Briefing

03/19/24

Boston Parks & Recreation Dept. held a Zoom meeting for a Community Design Briefing for Improvements to Bay Village Neighborhood Park. The design team shared an updated design concept for the park based on feedback from the community and Boston Parks and Recreation, highlighting changes that have been made since the last community meeting in October 2021, and recorded the following feedback.

Design Team: Copley Wolff Design Group - Michael MacNulty (Landscape Designer), Sean Sanger (Principal Landscape Architect), James Heroux (Principal Landscape Architect)
Boston Parks and Recreation: Priyanka Vankina (Project Manager), Thamara Pierre-Louis (Outreach Coordinator), Stacia Sheputa (Director of Communications), Kwanna Wise (Director of Community Engagement), David Musselman (Director of the Municipal Energy Unit)

Barry Doyle

- Requested clarification of the project's timeline.
 - Priyanka noted that due to this being a public project, there are many specific processes the project must follow. Due to the variability in these processes, it's difficult to give a definitive timeline at this point in time.
- Followed up by noting the community's enthusiasm for the project, and they're excited to see it become a reality.

Sarah Herlihy

- Wanted to ensure that the new gas-to-electric LED streetlights will match the existing replaced lights in Bay Village Neighborhood, both aesthetically and in terms of light output.
 - Priyanka and Stacia acknowledged the feedback, and the project team will ensure that this is the case.
- Requested clarification on the source of the project's funding.
 - Priyanka responded saying that the project will be funded primarily through BPRD funding.

Kendra Mar

- Voiced concern about the smoother, ADA accessible materials could attract skateboarders. Several other residents echoed this concern in the chat.
 - Sean responded saying that skateboarders shouldn't be an issue in this park due to the lack of features that lend themselves to performing tricks while skating, specifically citing the example of the low granite curbs not being attractive for skaters.

Carol Carlson

- Asked if there would be landscape irrigation in the park, noting that there is at the nearby Elliot Norton Park.
 - Priyanka confirmed that Boston Parks and Recreation does not irrigate public parks except for sports fields and noted that hose irrigation would be provided.

- Sean also noted that the fact that the community is so active in this garden would likely lead to many complications with an in-ground automatic irrigation system.

Aoife (and Dominic) Austin

- Echoed Kendra's concerns about skaters in the park, noted that they would be deterred if the existing granite cobbles at the edge of the plaza remained.
 - Priyanka noted that replacing the cobble edging also would help make the park more ADA accessible, which Aoife agreed with.
- Asked about transplanting the existing plants before construction starts, as the majority of the plants in the park were provided by the community.
 - Priyanka responded saying that Boston Parks and Recreation Department will set up a day shortly before construction begins for the community to dig out any plants the community would like to keep or transplant into the new park. Priyanka and the Copley Wolff team plan to attend this event as well.
 - It was also noted that the transplanted plants are not guaranteed to survive after being relocated.

Ian Johnson

- Requested more detail on the plant selection for the park.
 - Michael explained the detailed inventory of Bay Village Neighborhood Park's plants which James Heroux conducted in 2021. The park's redesigned plant palette will largely draw inspiration from this inventory.
 - Sean followed up, expressing a desire for the project team to discuss the current planting of the park in-depth with the community, which the community responded positively to.

Hannah Sacchini

- Was curious if the site's regrading would be the most challenging part of the project.
 - Sean explained many more of the challenges associated with the project, specifically naming the regrading and the fountain refurbishment as the two most significant aspects of the project.

Daniel Krulewitch

- Asked about the granite cobble edgers on the edge of the park plaza, noting that they are currently great skater deterrent and that he would hate to see them thrown out.
 - Michael noted that the new curbing should make accessing the garden easier for community volunteers.
 - Sean added that the cobbles will be re-used at the irrigation box in the new design.

Meeting Chat Log:

00:27:01 **Ruth Knopf:** Projected completion?

00:27:12 **Sarah Herlihy:** Neighborhood approved 212 Stuart lighting (gas to led transition) in terms of light output - please confirm same here.

00:27:25 **Kendra Mar:** Will the new material in the park attract skateboarders? Seems the smooth material would be enticing for them.

00:27:37 **Carol Carlson:** As a volunteer on the parks subcommittee, I'd like to see a simple irrigation system in the park. Is this possible?

00:28:49 **Sarah Herlihy:** Is this in capital budget since Browne fund has no more funds to contribute to this?

00:30:28 **Daniel Krulewitch:** If you can not give us an estimate in terms of timeline it's probably worth noting these things tend to be measured in years not months.

00:31:46 **Aoife Austin:** As volunteers for the park, we would like to see the existing granite cobblestone edges remain as they are as they deter skateboarders..

00:33:02 **Daniel Krulewitch:** ditto Aoife's comment about granite paving stones

00:33:24 **Sarah Herlihy:** I suspect ADA issue with cobblestones

00:33:33 **Kendra Mar:** Thanks

00:35:44 **Susan Buta:** Its very important to have drip irrigation which is more ecological than water spraying. and, there's already water in the park

00:35:57 **Aoife Austin:** Can't we share irrigation from the same source as the fountain?

00:36:01 **Daniel Krulewitch:** there is going to be an easily accessible water source as there is now?

00:36:05 **Sarah Herlihy:** Is there at least a dedicated water source that can be secured with a hose (similar to Melrose/Church) park?

00:38:53 **Hannah Sacchini:** Not sure if this is appropriate for here& but what does budget look like?

00:39:22 **Aoife Austin:** When is the next design meeting?

00:40:15 **Ian Johnson:** What criteria are being used for plant selection? Thinking about maintenance, pest control, perennials vs. annuals, etc.

00:42:39 **Ian Johnson:** Appreciate the answer. What's the possibility of saving and reusing existing planting materials?

00:43:03 **Aoife Austin:** Can we relocate some of the current plants back into the new garden? Dominic is asking!

00:44:05 **Priyanka Vankina:** Priyanka.Vankina@boston.gov

00:44:32 **Priyanka Vankina:** boston.gov/bay-village-park

00:44:57 **Hannah Sacchini:** Is regrading the most significant/most complex piece of the scope?

00:47:43 **Daniel Krulewitch:** are we definitively preserving the existing granite pavers

00:47:53 **Daniel Krulewitch:** that are used as the edge of garden?

00:49:11 **Daniel Krulewitch:** if they are preserved somewhere I would be happy!

00:49:16 **Daniel Krulewitch:** thank

*Note: Timestamps correlate to when in the presentation the chat message was posted.