

Improvements to Garvey Playground, Community Meeting 03, Minutes

Date & Time: April 24, 2018 at 6:30pm
Location: Leahy Holloran Community Center, 1st floor.
1 Worrell St, Dorchester, MA 02122
Prepared by: Eden Dutcher, GroundView

<u>Attendee</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Lauren Bryant	Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)
Marchelle Jacques-Yarde	Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)
Eden Dutcher	GroundView (GV)
Wilson Martin	GroundView (GV)
Mia H Feng	GroundView (GV)
Approximately 25 Community Members	

Lauren Bryant began the community meeting by giving a project overview and introducing the project team.

Project Schedule

- Community Meeting 01 – May 3, 2017
 - Listening & Sharing Ideas for Improvement
- Community Meeting 02 – June 14, 2017
 - Presentation of Design Alternatives
- Community Meeting 03 – April 24, 2018
 - Presentation of Refined Design
- Construction Documentation – Spring/Summer 2018
- Park Construction to begin – Late Summer/Fall 2018
- Anticipated Park Opening – 2019

Estimated Construction Budget

- \$4,150,000

Park and Recreation Goals

- Preserve and Protect Existing Trees
- Expand Usable Park Area
- Improve Universal Access
- Enhance Park Visibility
- Improve Access to Parks
- Design Flexible, Multi-functional Park Spaces

Update on adjacent Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

- DCR will not be partnering with BPRD to improve the open space adjacent to Garvey. Park improvements will only be within BPRD's property line.

Eden Dutcher continued by presenting:

Recap of Community Meeting 01

- Context
- Site Analysis
- Public Comment from
 - Survey and 5/3 Community Meeting

Recap of Community Meeting 02

- Project Goals
 - Maintain Existing Programs
 - Improve Facilities
 - Explore Additional Components
 - Create a Multifaceted Playground that Feels like one Park
- Concept Design Alternatives
 - The Magnet, The Expanse, The Loop
- Public Comment from
 - Survey and 6/14 Community Meeting

Eden Dutcher and Wilson Martin presented the following:

Refined Plan

- The Refined Plan includes elements from all three concept alternatives: the shade structure set within an expanded accessible entrance at north end of Neponset Ave, as shown in The Magnet concept, the overall program layout of The Expanse and the accessible loop path connecting program elements throughout as shown in The Loop concept.
- Plan includes:
 - Multipurpose Artificial Turf Field
 - Striped for Baseball Field, Flag Football Field (120 YD), Lacrosse
 - Soccer and Softball (permit)
 - Ball Field Plaza, Backstop, Player Seating, Spectator Seating
 - Basketball Court
 - Soccer Court overlay
 - Street Hockey Court
 - Play Areas
 - Pre-School, School Age, Adult Fitness
 - Small Off-Leash Dog Area
 - Accessible Circulation
 - New Entrances, Loop Path, Walkways
 - Cooling Stations
 - Trees
 - Lighting
 - Field, Park, Courts?
 - Site Furnishings
 - Seating (Various types), Bike Racks, Bottle Filling Station, Trash & Dog Waste Station

Tour of Park

- Detail plans and images of key features around the park

Play Areas

- Five Elements of Play
 - Social, Physical, Sensory, Cognitive, Communication

Athletic Facilities

- Multipurpose Artificial Turf Field
 - 75,794 SF
 - Baseball - Distance from home base to:
 - Left field 287'
 - Left Center 287'
 - Center field 325'
 - Right field 320'
 - Right Center 388'
 - Backstop 30'
 - Seating for first base and third base
 - Flag Football 120 YD
 - Lacrosse 42,066 SF
 - Permanent Field Lighting
- Street Hockey Court
 - 100' by 60'
 - Single sided fiber glass dasher board system
- Basketball Court
 - 94' by 50'
 - Dedicated seating area
 - Optional youth soccer court
- Fitness
 - Loop Path: 1465' / 0.28 mile
 - Adult Fitness Station: 2 locations

Tree Canopy

- Refined plan includes tree plantings throughout the park, adding to the existing trees.

Rain Gardens

- Rain gardens are strategically placed at low points throughout the park to capture water in rain events to temporarily store water for slow release to the storm water system. Rain Gardens will be designed to not hold standing water. A Boston mentoring program may be involved to help maintain the rain garden plantings.

Proposed Park Views

- Neponset Entry
- Shade Structure
- Field House Terrace
- Play Area
- Play Structure
- Stadium Seating

General Questions/Comments throughout the meeting:

- Softball
 - Can the field be lined for softball?
 - Can the SE corner of the field be used for softball?
 - Can another program be displaced, like the play area, to make room to accommodate softball?
 - Do I need a permit to play softball on the field with a small group of girls?
 - MJ-Y – Yes, if it is an organized sport, permits are required.
 - There is a field shortage for softball in the immediate community. Girls are currently practicing the community center gym.
 - LB will plan to set-up a meeting with folks that are interested meeting to discuss options for softball with BPRD Permitting and the project team.

- Abutting Property Owners
 - Currently, properties abutting Garvey on the north are getting flooded when it rains. Will the new park design stop the flooding?
 - Most of the adjacent watershed will be captured within the field. A low spot will remain along the existing property line. Engineering has yet to be completed to understand the scope of improvement in that area.
 - Will there be a new fence along the property line? Or additional screen with plants?
 - A new fence is not in the current design. A fence and additional screening can be considered.
 - LB will plan to organize a meeting with the northern abutters once technical drawings advance.

- Athletic Facility
 - If this is going to be a State of the Art facility, can we have an electronic scoreboard and improve the field house?
 - LB – we can look at including the scoreboard as an add alternate in the bidding process. If the budget does not allow, this is an item that can be fund-raised for by the community. Also, the Field House is on the Capitol Projects list for future improvement. It is not part of the park improvement scope.

- Lighting
 - Do we really need lighting for the field?
 - LB – Yes, to fully utilize the synthetic turf field and demand for permitted play, field lighting will be included.
 - Do some areas of the City have their own window for when lights are allowed? Could our community request the field cannot be lit beyond a certain hour?
 - LB – lights are controlled by Recreation and Permitting. They can verify hours of lighting.

- General
 - Not sure it's a good idea to have a chalkboard - might encourage writing or graffiti elsewhere in the park.
 - How big is the Off-Leash Dog Area? Is it big enough for a dog-run?
 - It is 3000 SF and the amount of space that was able to be accommodated in consideration of other park programs.

Project website for updates (including meeting minutes & presentations):

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