Improvements to
RYAN PLAYGROUND
IN CHARLESTOWN
Community Meeting No. 2
December 16, 2021
Boston Parks and Recreation
ZOOM TIPS
Here is how you can participate during the question and answer part of the presentation.

**DURING THE PRESENTATION:**
- **VIA WEB:** Turn video on/off.

**DURING THE Q&A:**
- **JOINING VIA PHONE?** Use *9 to raise hand to ask for audio/video permission to ask questions or provide comments.
- **VIA WEB:** Chat to ask questions/comments or provide responses to poll questions
- **Raise hand to ask for audio/video permission to ask questions or provide comments.**

To use these non-verbal options click on participants (bottom of screen); these options will pop up in side bar.
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PROJECT TEAM AND PROJECT GOALS
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Outreach Coordinator
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PROJECT SCHEDULE

FALL 2022
Phase 1 Construction Begins

JAN 2022
Ryan Playground Community Meeting 3 – Schematic Design Proposed

DEC 2021
Ryan Playground Community Meeting 2 – Design Concepts

SPRING 2022
Permitting

OCT 2021
Sullivan Square Open Space Meeting – Ryan Playground, Hood Green, and Rutherford Avenue Joint meeting for Programming

NOV 2021
Sullivan Square Open Space Meeting – Possible follow-up Joint Meeting for Programming

SEPT 2021
Ryan Playground Community Meeting 1 – Site Analysis
EXISTING SITE (WITH PROPOSED EXTENSION)
EXISTING SITE ANALYSIS
WHAT WE HEARD AT MEETING NO. 1
SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

112 SURVEY RESPONSES

How often do you visit?
- Never: 1%
- Daily: 1%
- Multiple times a week: 7%
- A few times a year: 23%
- Monthly: 10%
- Once a year: 43%
- Once a week: 20%
- 58% visit at least once a week

How do you get to the park?
- 60% by foot
- 26% by car
- 10% by bike
- 1% by MBTA

What do you typically do at Ryan Playground?
- Walk: 60%
- Playground: 52%
- Waterfront: 48%
- Baseball: 46%
- Exercise: 26%
- Street: 25%
- Hockey: 24%
- Other field sports: 19%
- Other picnic: 12%

Popular write in responses:
- Play/walk with dog
- Watch sports

When addressing rising water elevations and flooding...
- 40% want a method that increases areas for picnicking, seating, and passive viewing
- 23% want a method that looks similar to what is there now - a boardwalk on top of a seawall
- 31% want a method that provides opportunity to physically interact with the water, such as steps or platforms
SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

112 SURVEY RESPONSES

Top 10 most desired park amenities

1. Sports Fields
2. Water Access
3. Children's play equipment
4. Lighting/Safety
5. Walking Paths
6. Seating Tables Shaded Area
7. Sports Courts
8. Noise Buffering
9. Tree Planting Shade
10. Accessibility to & within Park

What changes to the park would encourage you to use it more?

- Improved Sports Facilities: 72%
- Improved access to the waterfront: 59%
- Improved play equipment: 53%
- Safer place to visit at night: 53%
- Increased variety of activities or programs: 40%
- Places to quietly enjoy being outside: 35%
- Other: 24%
- Increased parking: 22%

What do you love about Ryan Playground?

- Proximity
- Space
- Views
- Nice
- Large
- Waterfront
- Like
- Kids
- Hockey
- River
- View
- Close
- Base
- Young
- Great
- Youth
- Charlestown

How would you describe your level of comfort or safety at Ryan Playground?

- Excellent: 12%
- Positive: 43%
- Fair: 43%
- Poor: 2%
COMMUNITY COMMENTS

PLAYGROUND
“The current playground is underused because it is outdated and on the periphery of the park, making it difficult for parents to see their kids.”

CONNECTIVITY
“Connectivity to the park is critical to its future use and success.”

ACTIVE RECREATION
“Field space is very limited in Charlestown and having dedicated baseball-only fields doesn’t make sense. The improvement should put a turf field that can be used for multiple sports.”

DOG PARK
“There are many dog parks in Charlestown, but none are fenced in which gives the dogs an extra measure of protection and keeps the public undisturbed.”

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT RYAN PLAYGROUND
“Waterfront open space, the playground, proximity to my home and mature trees.”
PROGRAMMING CONSIDERATIONS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Synthetic Turf Fields</th>
<th>Natural Turf Fields</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher initial cost – more expensive to build, repair, and replace</td>
<td>Lower initial cost – cheaper to construct and replace/re-sod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More playing time – can support higher intensity of use and can extend the playing hours and season</td>
<td>Limited playing time – weather and field recovery time can limit access and recommended use hours are 350-600 hours per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less intensive maintenance program</td>
<td>More intensive maintenance program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer injuries due to even playing surface and consistent G-max performance</td>
<td>Increased chance of injury due to natural inconsistencies in playing surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Impacts: potential heat hazards</td>
<td>Environmental impacts: high water use when irrigated, fertilizer, and pesticides [Note: it is not standard practice for BPRD to irrigate, or use fertilizer or pesticides]</td>
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RYAN PLAYGROUND DESIGN CONCEPTS
CONCEPT A - PLAN

- Defining quality: expansive views of the Mystic
- Amenities: multipurpose field, larger playground, open lawn, sweeping views, adult fitness
- Type of waterfront experience: hard and soft edge, views from multiple elevations
- Existing Trees: 71
- Existing Trees to Remain: 26
- New Trees Added: 65
- Hockey rink relocated
- Existing building remains
CONCEPT B - PLAN

• Defining quality: elevated waterfront only
• Amenities: multipurpose field, larger playground, intimate spaces for gathering, adult fitness, basketball court, dog run
• Type of waterfront experience: hard edge, cantilever decks and stairs for passive viewing
• Existing Trees: 71
• Existing Trees to Remain: 29
• New Trees Added: 126
• Hockey rink remains in place
• New building
CONCEPT B - SECTIONS

SECTION A

SECTION B
CONCEPT C - PLAN

- Defining quality: soft edge, increased recreation
- Amenities: multipurpose field, 4 fields can be used simultaneously, splash pad, pickleball court, adult fitness, outdoor game tables
- Type of waterfront experience: soft edge, urban wild
- Existing Trees: 71
- Existing Trees to Remain: 5
- New Trees Added: 82
- Hockey rink relocated
- Existing building remains with additional storage area
RYAN PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PROPOSALS AT A GLANCE

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PRECEDENT IMAGES - WATERFRONT

SOFT EDGES

HARD EDGES
PRECEDENT IMAGES - PLAYGROUND STYLES
PRECEDENT IMAGES – SENSORY PLAY

TRADITIONAL

SPLASH PADS

NATURE INSPIRED

SOUND, SIGHT, TOUCH
LISTENING & DISCUSSION

Help us build great parks.
Let us know what matters to you.
THANK YOU!

Next Meeting: January / February 2022

Your voice matters! Take our survey:
[QR Code]

Keep up to date by checking our Project Page:
boston.gov/ryan-charlestown

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