



## Ringer Park – Phase 1

### Community Meeting #2 – In-person

19 September 2023, 6:00 pm

24 persons in attendance, Jackson/Mann Community Center

Based on community requests, Boston Parks & Recreation Dept. held an in-person meeting for the second Community Design Meeting for Phase 1 of Improvements to Ringer Park. We shared some design concepts for entrances, pavement treatments, project scope, and dog park designs, and recorded the following feedback.

### Feedback

#### General:

- Designs should indicate areas for benches and new trees at Meeting 3
- Little league field is not used/permitted.
- Rosie, Direction of Community Center: there is no permitting on the ballfield since it is used by dogs. Cannot have children in this space. Active recreation on natural turf/dogs do not mix.
- People will still use the ballfield for dogs if fencing is not removed.
- Ballfield not in phase 1 as BPS plans for school undetermined currently.
- Would like to have more amenities for seniors.
- The playground is one of the worst in the neighborhood, please consider the kids in phase 1.
- The tennis courts are gross. Family would use the ballfield but it's also gross.
- Can the gathering space change? The Vikings have ruined the grass & they are not permitted. The space used to be used by kids for playing (i.e., volleyball). Maybe no more grass?
- Can the pathways around the gathering space change?
- Drainage issues need to be dealt with by gathering space.
- Please clarify where trees will be planted. And what they will be.
- Community Center & Parks want to support whatever school could get built in BPS property and to support visitors of all ages & abilities.
- Please remove any obstacles to sledding. Child broke an arm hitting fence.
- Rats are a real problem in this park and trash pick-up is one of the reasons why. Are we talking about more trash cans and appropriate types of trash cans for this park? Funding for maintenance should also be considered and should be lined up ahead of time. *(Parks response: This project will be adding trash cans and increasing the ability of the Maintenance teams to get to those cans. Funding is harder to do, as that is connected to property tax and is much less flexible to make changes.)*
- Will \$1.25 million be enough for this project? What happens if the bids come back high? How will we know what elements get cut from the project if funding falls short? *(Parks*

*response: Parks experience is that bids are coming back very high, so we are trying our best to be conservative here. Add alternates are used to reduce costs, and these are usually minor project elements; we won't put 'a few entrances' on the add alternate list, or a larger scope item.)*

- Funding is available from many sources; you just need to go find it. Kaboom is an organization that will fund playground renovation, sports teams will fund the field renovation, dog food companies will fund the renovation of dog park, etc. You just need to take the time to get the funding.

#### Dog Park:

- Sewer and/or water lines are in the mound. *(Parks response: Parks will research the record drawings.)*
- Tree of heaven tree is a nice tree.
- This is a popular park use area for picnics, socializing, etc. Don't want to lose it to dogs. Can't the dog area go to Gordon Street or near the gathering space off Imrie.
- Don't think it's fair to have such a limited space for dogs. Dogs need to run.
- Griggs Place residents (3) do not want dog park here.
- I am dismayed by the proposed location for the dog park. There are no ball games happening in the little league field, and it's being used as a dog run exclusively. Why can't this continue? *(Parks response: Parks doesn't want to encourage use of our athletic fields as dog spaces, and we will remove portions of the fence at the ballfield so it's no longer fully enclosed, reducing its appeal for a dog run.)*
- We want a dog park, just not in that location. Consider the Gordon Street entrance.
- Suggest the dog park be located at the Imrie entrance. 90% of the time the tennis courts are being used, 60-70% of the time the basketball courts are being used. Really important is management of the grass and soil management. *(Parks response: Parks will be doing some drainage work and regrading especially by the Imrie entrance to reduce the erosion that is occurring here.)*
- Will the dog area scare off people with disabilities or children? Please consider them when deciding on location.
- There have been fights on ballfield when people want to use ballfield and dog owners won't leave space. Also fights between big/small dog owners.
- Live on Griggs Place and the echo there is loud and more intense than in other areas of the park. Having dogs there will be really bad. Either the Gordon entrance or the Imrie entrance would make much more sense.

#### Woodland:

- The ground needs to be soft for dogs as a lot of dog walkers use the area.
- Some preference for stabilized stonedust paths in woodland.
- Soil management of social trails needs to be addressed.
- Can leaf litter be removed from woodland path?

- Be careful of creating impervious surfaces in the wooded area because we shouldn't cause flooding in the adjacent property.

#### Pathways & entrances:

- Bollards on Allston Street (Greylock) tend to go missing. They get placed in the grass by Boys & Girls club as their mowers don't fit.
- Imrie Street entrance: It would be nice for police to be able to drive through all entrances/have as much access as possible.
- Curb is an issue at Allston Street (Greylock) entrance for those with disabilities.
- Support for accessibility for all people in this park, and we should pave with materials that will provide this.

#### Amenities:

- More trash cans.
- Need to deal with the trash on the hill in woods.
- If the entrances are upgraded to look nice, but the trash is still in the woods, what's the point?
- Need more places to sit.
- Adding signage to the fitness trail is a good idea, so people know it's there and usable.
- Can we add rain gardens? Rain gardens are VERY MUCH supported here.
- Parks should check and make sure that we aren't installing something like fencing at the base of the sledding hill.

#### Other park issues not considered in phase 1:

- This playground is one of the worst in the neighborhood, I have young kids and we almost never come here for that reason. It's unfair to put this off and renovate it later. There is a lack of focus on kids during this process. *(Parks response: Parks requests any suggestions to improve outreach to kids and young families. B notes that the next meeting will be over Zoom, which can allow families at dinner to listen and contribute, which isn't ideal but better than in-person at night.)*
- Disappointed that the tennis courts and basketball aren't being renovated - these courts are disgusting and in poor repair. My kids and I try to play here but can't. How is it determined what we fix and what we put off? *(Parks response: Parks has a limited budget for this project, and we can improve accessibility as the big piece of Phase 1, and later phases will address program areas such as courts and playground. We are waiting on BPS to determine what school group will use the new building and are hopeful we'll have this decision by the time we are ready for Phase 2.)*
- The gathering place was destroyed by the Vikings.



- Team should review the park perimeter sidewalk for dangerous conditions that need repair (*Parks response: The project can't spend too much funding on complete sidewalk renovation, as we need funds to improve inside the park.*)