

Date	April 13, 2023	Meeting Date	April 12, 2023
Project Name	Ceylon Park	Meeting Time	6.00 - 7.30 pm
Project No.	28226.00	Location	Conference Call (Zoom)
		Recorded by	Amy Linne
		Purpose	Design Meeting 1

Design Team Attendance

Boston Parks and Recreation Department: Amy Linne, Alize Cabral, Shanna Dixon

Sasaki: Zach Chrisco, Trey Sasser, Garrett Craig-Lucas, Kira Sargent, Sophie Bellemare

Meeting Notes

The purpose of this meeting was to present the initial findings for Ceylon Park to the public and solicit feedback. The meeting format was a Zoom presentation of the project overview, site analysis, and followed by break out discussion.

Summary of Discussion

The second half of the meeting consisted of discussion. Comments have been compiled below.

- Turf Field Renovation
 - The soccer field is an important asset to the community.
 - The turf field is utilized by both youth and adult groups.
 - The turf field is used for both formal and informal sports play.
 - The field is formally used for Physical Education classes, recess, league play, and tournaments.
 - Several community members expressed its need to be prioritized.
 - One community member noted that the turf field serves 60 students in their middle school/high school soccer program, with hopes to grow that number to 80 students, and host approximately 25 games on the field per season.
 - Dissatisfaction with the condition of the field, and that it urgently needs to be repaired.
 - The turf field condition is dangerous, with goal structures not being secure and other metal pieces breaking through the turf that made the play surface very dangerous.
 - A community member reported that folks ride bikes, scooters, and other transportation instruments not the field that deteriorates its condition.
 - Several community members suggested fencing in the field to preserve its condition.
 - There are field upkeep/maintenance concerns to keep the field in good condition once the turf renovation is complete.
 - Several community members noted significant environmental and health safety concerns over turf grass installation.
 - Several community members noted the turf is important to extend seasonal use of the park, the grass previously was expensive and difficult to maintain, and previously the natural turf grass condition resulted in several injuries.

- Safety
 - Several community members expressed safety concerns in the park.
 - Lighting needs to be added to the park and is a main priority.
 - A community member described loud music and inappropriate activities occurring in the later hours within the park.
 - Several community members expressed that safety is a priority.
 - Several community members suggested the involvement of BPD and cameras as ways to improve safety.
 - A community member noted referees have left scheduled games due to safety concerns.
 - A community member noted harassment of his female players due to lack of fencing.
 - Reports of people hiding on the overgrown slope.
- Debris/ Trash
 - Community members noted dissatisfaction at trash/debris being littered across the turf field and on the steep slope.
 - Trash is considered a key concern.
- Portable Restroom
 - The portable restroom does not fully meet the needs of the park.
 - A community member noted that some community members urinate along the fence line.
 - Previously a portable restroom was in place by the upper basketball court with a lock, but it was repeatedly broken into.
 - Programming for youth sports groups are in need of a restroom in order for the program to take place at the park.
- Seating
 - Several community members noted that spectator seating options were inadequate.
 - A community member noted that spectators have to sit on the wall, which is undesirable, or stand along the sideline.
- Playground
 - The upper playground is a main priority.
 - The upper playground is outdated.
 - Wood-chip surface needs to be replaced.
 - The playground has little seating.
- Community Engagement
 - Strong desire for design meetings to be held in-person at the park.
 - There were several questions about the park's design meeting timeline, construction timeline, and access to the park during construction.
 - Materials related to the project should be made accessible and disturbed widely.
 - Many community members expressed the desire for consideration of community involvement and feedback in the design process.
- Key Takeaways
 - Many community members expressed the desire for consideration of community involvement and feedback in the design process, with design meeting dates and surveys being widely distributed in accessible formats.
 - Community members frequently utilize the turf field both in informal play and formal/league play.
 - Safety is a large concern for community members.
 - The turf field and upper playground are priority areas.
 - Increased maintenance and overall care of the park would help improve the park experience.

- General Comments
 - A community member described the park as a gem and oasis.
 - Several community members arrive at the park via foot.
 - Several community members expressed positive feelings about the park's history of soccer and basketball.
 - A community member noted the park was used by both residents and schools.
 - A community member noted that in previous design sessions for Ceylon Park, bleachers embedded in the slope were planned but not constructed.
 - A grassy play area would be great for yoga and other wellness activities.
 - Many community members expressed excitement for the park and turf field renovation.
 - The park is utilized heavily on the weekends, and throughout the summer.
 - There is a desire for the park to be more inviting and host more community activities.
 - Several community members noted a concern about parking for the turf field usage and impacts during construction.
 - The park is used for walking.
 - The park is used by senior citizen groups.
 - There should be a more direct path between Roxbury Prep and the park.
 - The basketball court is in fair condition but needs improved benches and trash receptacles.