

Analysis

Analysis Summary

For the purposes of the Action Plan, the team looked at the park through four lenses: history, communities, connections, and ecologies. Below are the summary observations that resulted from this work.

HISTORY

- The history of the land predates the park; Boston, including Franklin Park, is the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe. The area was once a key for farming, trade, and settlement by immigrant communities.
- Franklin Park's design originated at a moment in time when there was new civic commitment to large-scale open space.
- Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the park was tied to the characteristics of the site, as well as its regional landscape context. He prioritized giving visitors both an expansive and intimate experience of a range of landscape expressions.
- Incremental changes have eroded the original design and split the park into pieces, but the powerful natural features that led the city to select the site for its first large park remain, ready to be re-revealed.
- For the park to meet its time, the diversity of its surrounding communities must be recognized.

COMMUNITIES

- Franklin Park is the center of the 21st century Boston; its neighbors are some of the most demographically, culturally, and socioeconomically diverse residents of the city.
- The park has inspired and been the beneficiary of community stewardship over the past 75 years — a commitment that should be recognized and embraced.
- A symbiotic relationship between the park and its neighbors is dependent on a certain level of commitment from the city to support this needed and deserved resource.
- All parks, but in particular Franklin Park, is a critical public health resource and needs to be invested in as such.
- The park is in service of the everyday user; basic amenities that provide comfort and shelter must be distributed equitably.

CONNECTIONS

- The park operates both as a neighborhood and city-wide resource; it is important that people are made aware of it and what it offers.
- Disinvestment in the park and the way the city has grown over time, with dense neighborhoods and high traffic on surrounding streets, mean that the edge of the park and its entrances often feel unsafe and are hard to navigate.
- Vehicular circulation splits the park in two and undermines pedestrians' ability to navigate the full park safely.
- Duplicate paths, various paving materials, and a lack of signage makes the park confusing to navigate, and limits or discourages exploration.
- The need to regulate movement and access has resulted in a set of unwelcoming interventions that further divide the park, detract from the character of the landscape, and make visitors feel unwelcome.

LAND

- Franklin Park is a designed landscape. It is equally important to understand the land from an ecosystems perspective as it is to understand the design intentions that created the experience of those environments; its character must be reinstated and protected.
- At 500+ acres, the park has local and regional impacts and serves as a critical resource for climate change mitigation, habitat, and ecosystem services.
- Its eight different habitat typologies and important heritage trees make up an unusually diverse landscape and park experience within the city. Deferred maintenance is threatening the health and longevity of these ecological systems.
- Significant commitment and multi-partner stewardship is needed to care for the park today and to plan for the future; the city must provide adequate resources (staff & funding) to manage a park of this size and importance.

To understand a park, you have to understand its

History

01 | Park Evolution & Identity

One of America's Great Large Parks

Franklin Park was conceived in response to a moment of change and perceived crisis in the design of American cities — the moment of rapid development of urban park systems in the latter half of the nineteenth century. In Boston, this system was authored by Frederick Law Olmsted, arguably the country's greatest landscape architect. His design for the Emerald Necklace, with Franklin Park as its jewel, is known around the world.

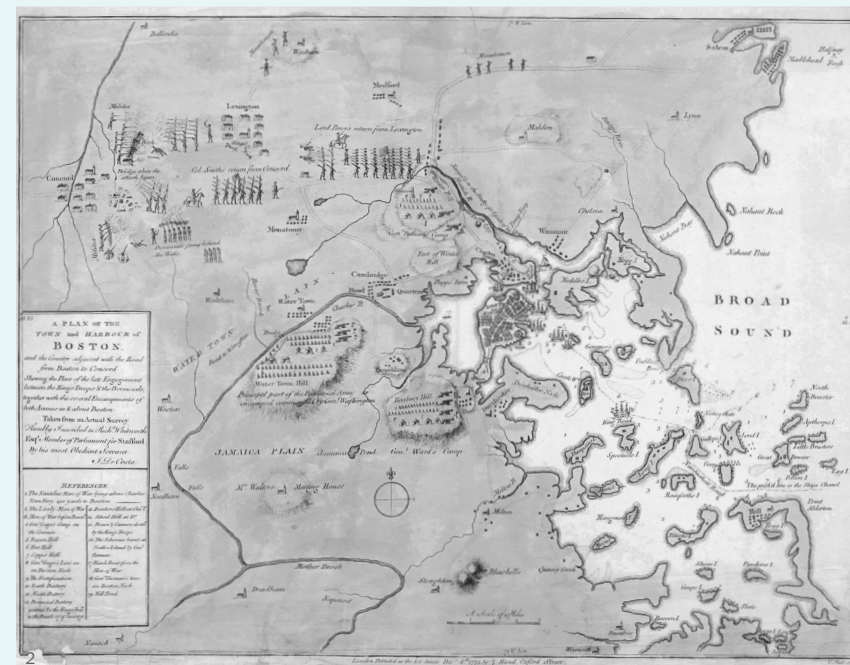
Franklin Park itself was conceived of as a common ground - a place where all were welcome to enjoy the benefits of recreation and refreshment, to experience nature within the city. Olmsted's design powerfully engaged the site's dramatic topography and amplified characteristics native to the New England landscape. The themes addressed in the design - the cultural significance of sites, the right of access to shared open space, and the benefits to public health of such - are still relevant today. While much has changed, the power of this landscape remains and continues to provide a stage for communities to make their own.

The Early Landscape

Massachusetts Tribe, Farmers, & Immigrants

The history of Franklin Park starts with the history of the land. Many have left their mark on the place we now call Franklin Park. It is a rich, complicated, and ever-evolving narrative that's much larger than the park itself. It includes stories of geologic formation, Native Peoples and colonial settlement, urban development and public health, design and community advocacy, and so much more.

Boston, the homelands of the Massachusetts Tribe, was situated at the end of the Shawmut Peninsula, with the only land-based route to the city being south through Roxbury. The town's strategic location and natural resources, which had long been used for regional trade and agricultural purposes, made this small town a key site for farming and movement of goods in the Colonial era. By the 1800s, immigrant communities established themselves in and around the soon-to-be park before the city's annexation of that land in 1881.



The Massachusetts Tribe

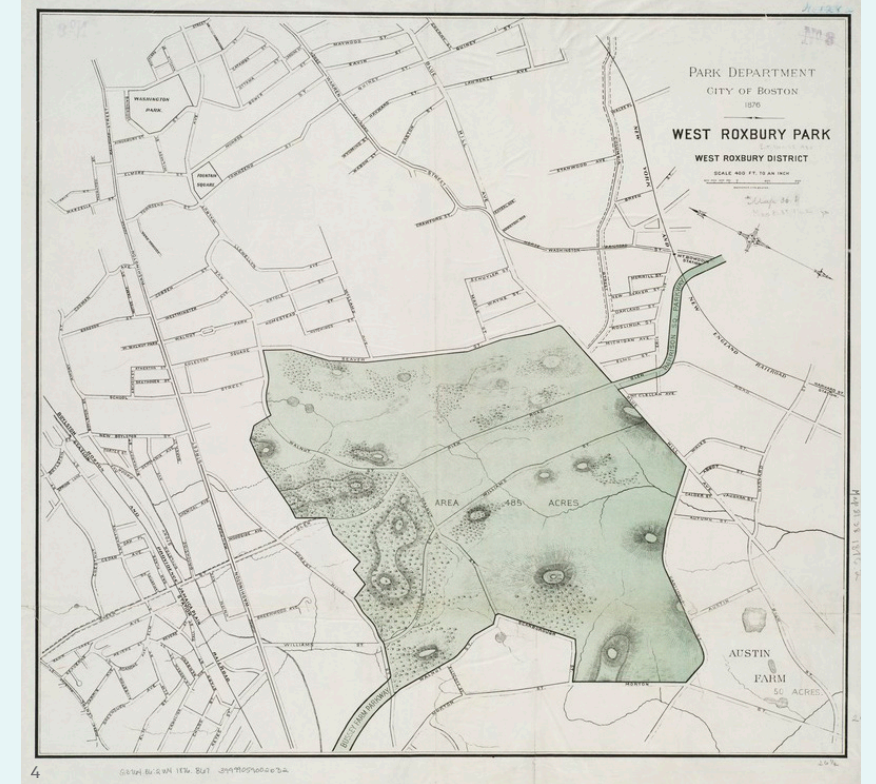
The land we now call Boston, including Franklin Park, is the homeland of the Massachusetts Tribe. The original English colony and present-day Commonwealth derive the name "Massachusetts" from this tribe. But despite this provenance, the Colonial era precipitated a mass genocide of Indigenous peoples largely through the Plague and violent conflict. By the time the Mayflower landed, 90% of the Tribe had died, clearing the way for 17th century colonial land seizure. Nevertheless, to this day and into the future, the Massachusetts Tribe continues to maintain a connection to this land.



Boston in the Colonial Era

In 1630, John Winthrop led a group of English Puritans to initiate the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Roxbury was one of the six towns established, as a rural outpost of Boston. At this time, and for the next 200 years, the town also included West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. The natural resources of Roxbury made it attractive to new settlers: farmable land, as it had been long used by the Massachusetts Tribe, water for power, and timber and stone for building.

Over the 17th and 18th centuries, Roxbury grew into a site for farming and industry, including mills and tanneries. During the 19th century, Roxbury became home to a wide range of immigrants, including Irish, German, Scandinavian, Italian, Latvian, Jewish, and Maritime Canadian communities, who further grew the local economy.



Acquiring Parkland

As industry, trade, and local populations expanded, Boston eventually incorporated Roxbury in 1868. In 1875, the Park Act was passed, enabling the city to obtain land for the West Roxbury Park (the initial name for Franklin Park). At the time, the area was mostly comprised of small farms with little urban development. Despite opposition from landowners, in 1881, the city acquired enough land for park construction.



Gathering Place for All

A New Idea for a Changing City

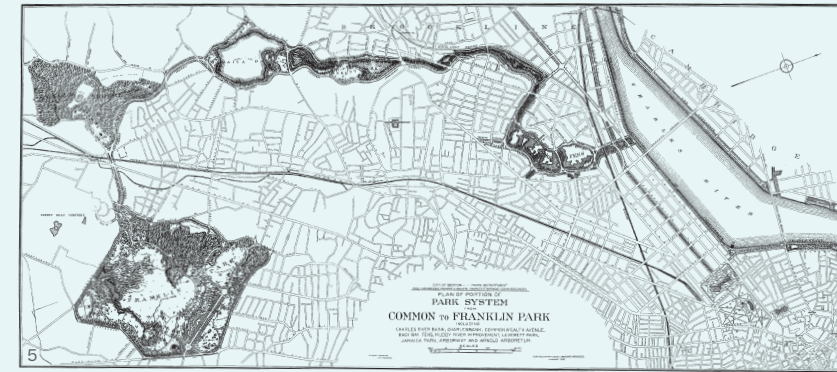
In the mid-19th century, influenced by scenes from England and France and the civilized living their large urban parks represented, American cities began to pursue significant open space systems of their own. Burgeoning urban populations and increased global travel, advancements in approaches to agriculture and urban development, and growing interests in natural science and technology all had profound effects on attitudes about healthy urban environments and conservation ideals.

“What is the special purpose of a large park in distinction from the purposes that may be served by such smaller grounds as Boston is provided with?”*
Over 100 years ago, Franklin Park was conceived of as the jewel of Boston’s Emerald Necklace. Today, it is still Boston’s largest park by far, serving some of the city’s most dense and diverse neighborhoods.



A Growing City

In industrializing societies across America, including Boston, rapid city expansion was fueled by large-scale immigration and migration of the working classes from rural areas. Dense living and working environments led to significant public health challenges. Improvements came as cities implemented innovations in sanitation and drainage infrastructure. Still, residential squares within the city provided little green space and were often gated with limited entry. Expanded public transportation lines provided access to public parks — an escape for growing urban populations.



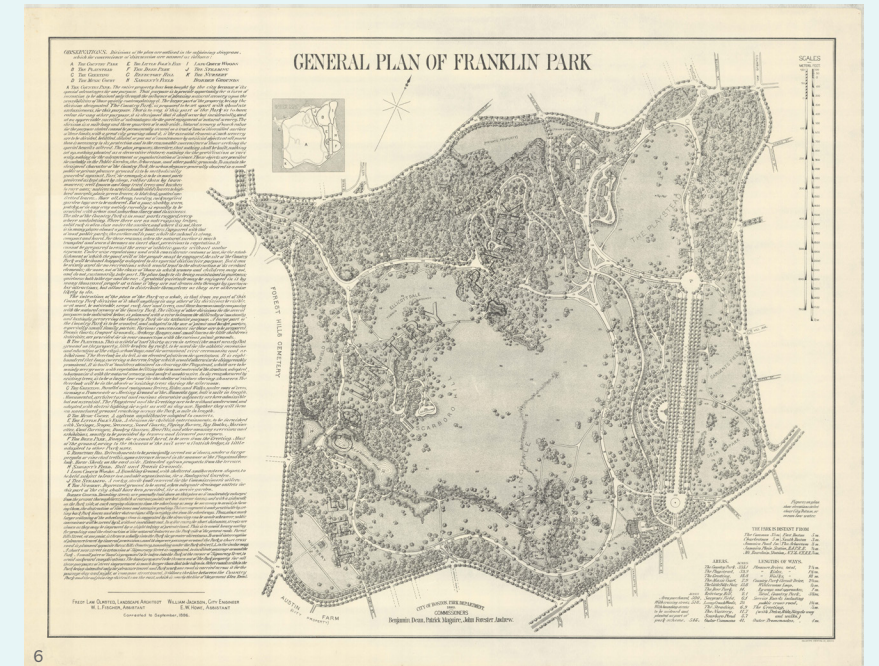
Developing a System

With the construction of New York’s Central Park and Brooklyn’s Prospect Park complete, Olmsted expanded his thinking about the role of landscapes in cities beyond what parks could provide independently. He considered how open space could function as a linked system, with canopied streets as extensions of park carriageways and residential communities. His lecture on “Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns” anticipated the future growth of urban centers, like Boston, and the need for park systems to support public health and well-being. The Emerald Necklace, a 1,100-acre park system spanning across the city, was designed by Olmsted in 1894, with Franklin Park at its center.



More Than A Breathing Place

Spearheaded by active Bostonians on both sides of the political divide, the city engaged Frederick Law Olmsted to select a site for a large public park. Chosen for qualities ‘complementary to the town’ and with a design developed in contrast to other public spaces available within the confines of the city at the time, the park was intended to provide public access to nature and its restorative benefits — for the purpose of “delighting in nature and one’s common humanity.”*

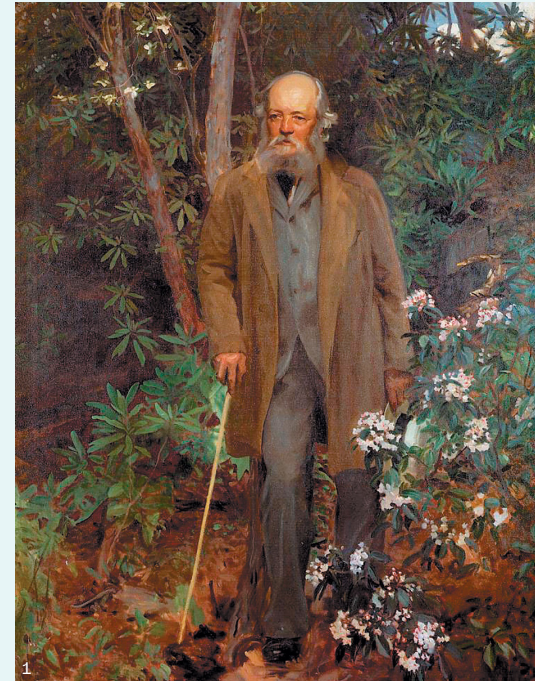


*Frederick Law Olmsted, Notes on Franklin Park

Designed for the Everyday

The General Plan of Franklin Park

Olmsted's design philosophy was rooted in the belief that open space could positively impact a community's physical and mental health. In Franklin Park, the goal of recuperative time outdoors was embodied in a purposeful design, composed with an ideal based in art and native landscape composition. The cumulative impact of the park was only fully experienced through a developed familiarity with the place, a relationship with nature.



An Unwavering Commitment

Olmsted believed deeply that providing designed scenery complementary to the natural context put visitors' minds at ease and improved both their mental and physical health. His work at Franklin Park allowed built elements to fade into the background (reducing visual complexity), fit program to the land, and facilitated comfortable, fluid movement, resulting in a design that functioned without singular spectacle and shaped experience without a formula.



“...the benefits of a park to the people of a city, of all classes and conditions, come chiefly in a gradual way,...such benefits are neither experienced nor are the conditions on which they depend apt to be dwelt upon by an occasional observer.”*

Franklin Park was designed for Boston's communities to develop a relationship with nature, and with each other in nature. The recuperative and community-building roles that Franklin Park plays remain vital today.



THE 1896 GENERAL PLAN OUTLINED

Putting into practice design ideas and philosophies tested in parks prior, Frederick Law Olmsted took to composing a plan for an immersive public park, centered on an expansive experience of the New England landscape and the direct civic engagement of communities with one another. Olmsted's aspirations for Franklin Park's design were positioned between those of other large urban parks of its time and his developing ideals around larger reservation lands, like national parks and the nearby Blue Hills.

The General Plan of Franklin Park divided the space into two parts. The main park, or Country Park, emphasized “receptive” recreation — the enjoyment of scenery — by providing visitors with a serene and expansive experience. The Ante Park carefully tucked “exertive recreation”, including group activities, athletic grounds, and venues for music and entertainment into the topography.*

The Ante Park

- A** The Greeting - The main entry to the park was designed with a tree-lined promenade that accommodated pedestrian, carriage, and bicycle circulation, with areas for designated individual programs. It was never fully implemented.
- B** Long Crouch Woods - Named after the Colonial name for Seaver Street, Long Crouch included a zoological display and would later become home to the Bear Dens.
- C** The Playstead - This flat, open field was designed for recreation and education for children, as well as civic ceremonies and other activities that would gather large crowds.
- D** The Overlook - The elevated platform set into the hillside was built of boulders obtained from clearing the Playstead. The only building Olmsted designed during his career resided here and housed park security, and lockers and restrooms for park visitors.
- E** Refectory Hill - Located near the main entry, The Refectory site included one of the few buildings within the park, serving refreshments to visitors outdoors, and featuring a public reading room.

Park's Facilities

- F** The Steading - Never fully constructed, this rocky knoll was intended to house park offices within the woods.
- G** The Nursery - Originally a nursery used to cultivate plants for the park, today the City's maintenance yard occupies this space.

The Country Park

- H** The Wilderness - Referred to as “the rocky wilderness land” in early records, this area was intended to serve in contrast to the open, picturesque character associated with the rest of the country park.*
- I** Schoolmaster Hill - Its name refers to William and Ralph Waldo Emerson, who lived in a nearby house while teaching at a school in Roxbury in the early 1800s. The hillside featured rough terracing with a boulder overlook and an arbor for small, shaded gatherings.
- J** Ellicottdale - Named after a nearby homestead, this small, open meadow was intended for temporary lawn games, like tennis and croquet.
- K** Scarboro Hill - A winding path leads visitors to the top of the hillside with a resting place halfway up where a Dairy was located to provide necessities for picnics.
- L** Scarboro Pond - The pond was added to Olmsted's revised plan in 1896, following public requests for a waterway in the park.

Circulation

- Glen Road** - The park was divided by a road intended for through-traffic running from Forrest Hills Street to Blue Hill Avenue.
- Park Loops** - The primary way to experience the park was through walking or riding on the Circuit Loop around the Country Park or the smaller loop around the Playstead.
- M** The Valley Gates - This marked where the two parks meet, as well as the convergence of the two primary circulation loops.

*Frederick Law Olmsted, Notes on Franklin Park

Uniquely Boston

A City of Hills

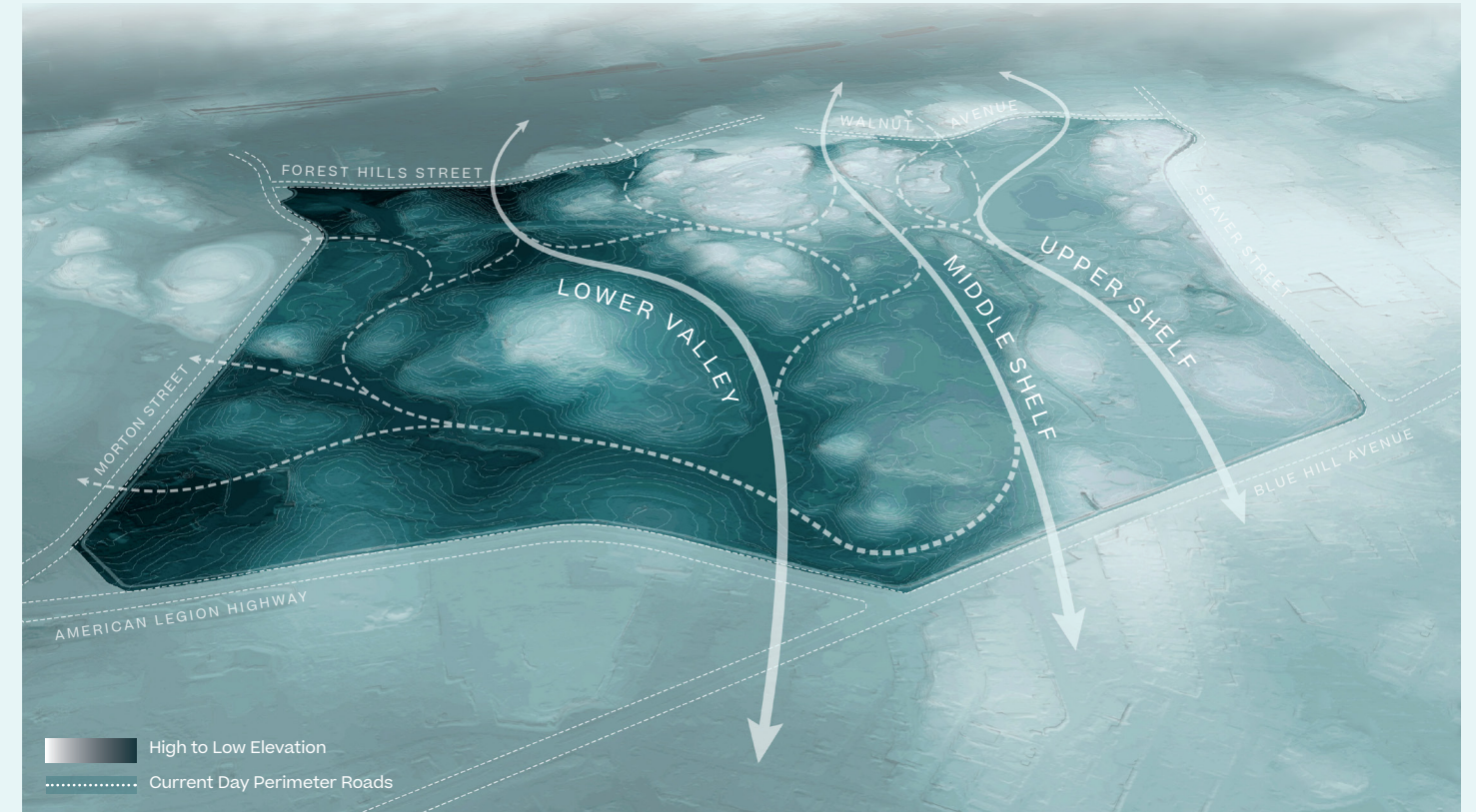
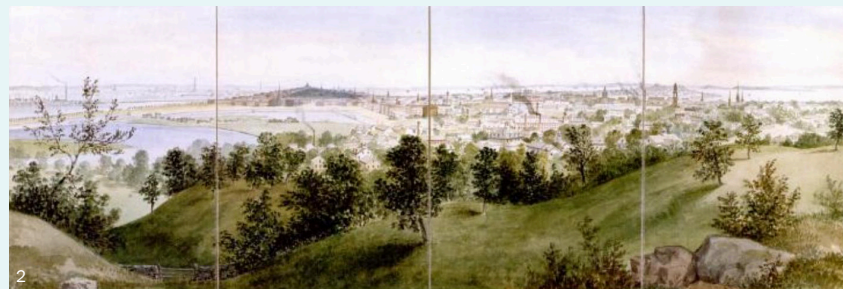
Olmsted selected the site for Franklin Park in part because of its powerful topography. The park's boundaries intersect a drumlin field, created by glacial sediment deposited over 570 million years ago. The knobby hills and valleys iconic to Boston's landscape are a result of this same process. Within the park, two topographic shelves to the east and a large valley to the west are stitched together by a series of glacial cuts. This extraordinary topography, its open rolling pastures and rocky outcrops, have become synonymous with the park's identity.

The hilly glacial formations – or drumlins – found in the park are the result of a geologic process that shaped the land in and around Boston millions of years ago. Olmsted structured the park's design around this unique topography. The site's rocky outcrops remain an iconic feature of the park today.



Iconic Boston

Boston's hills and islands are represented in countless early maps and artistic depictions. Whether it be the Boston Harbor, illustrating fortifications and navigation routes, or the backdrop to scenes of a developing city, the topography quickly became a recognizable feature of the area.

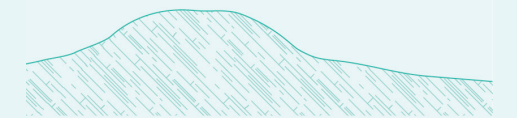


Glacial erratics, or large rocks previously deposited by glaciers, can be found throughout the park today.

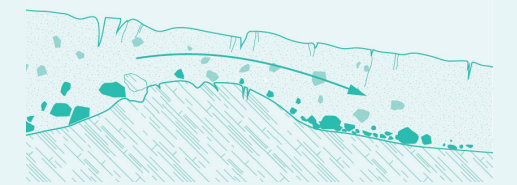
A Logic Revealed

Looking at the park through the lens of elevation and topography is almost like examining an x-ray, providing a glance into what lies beneath the surface: the upper shelf formed the Ante Park, the middle shelf followed Glen Road, and the lower valley connected The Wilderness to the meadow (today's golf course) through a sweeping bend across the Country Park.

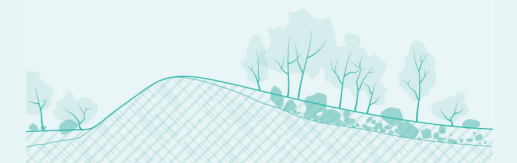
How is a drumlin hill formed?



The core of the site's drumlins is composed of bedrock.



Melting glaciers moved over bedrock, depositing glacial till, rock, and sand to form a gentle slope. This movement and carving also created deep 'cuts' between hills, separating them from one another.



A Place to Escape

The New England Landscape Amplified

The park's design was founded on the specific conditions of the site, revealing or intensifying its quintessentially New England scenery. Masses of second growth woods, punctuated by rocky ledges and large boulders and rolling lowland pastures were threaded with paths to allow visitors to experience these contrasts. The plan's careful composition was more than a sum of its parts, evoking qualities of "breadth, distance, depth, intricacy, atmosphere, mystery, grandeur, and sublimity."^{*}

The park's design elevated the original site characteristics, ordering and intensifying the experience of shady woodlands and open meadows. While the bones of the design remain, key spatial relationships have been lost as programs shifted and maintenance regimes evolved. It is critical to clarify, and in some cases, re-establish these key relationships.



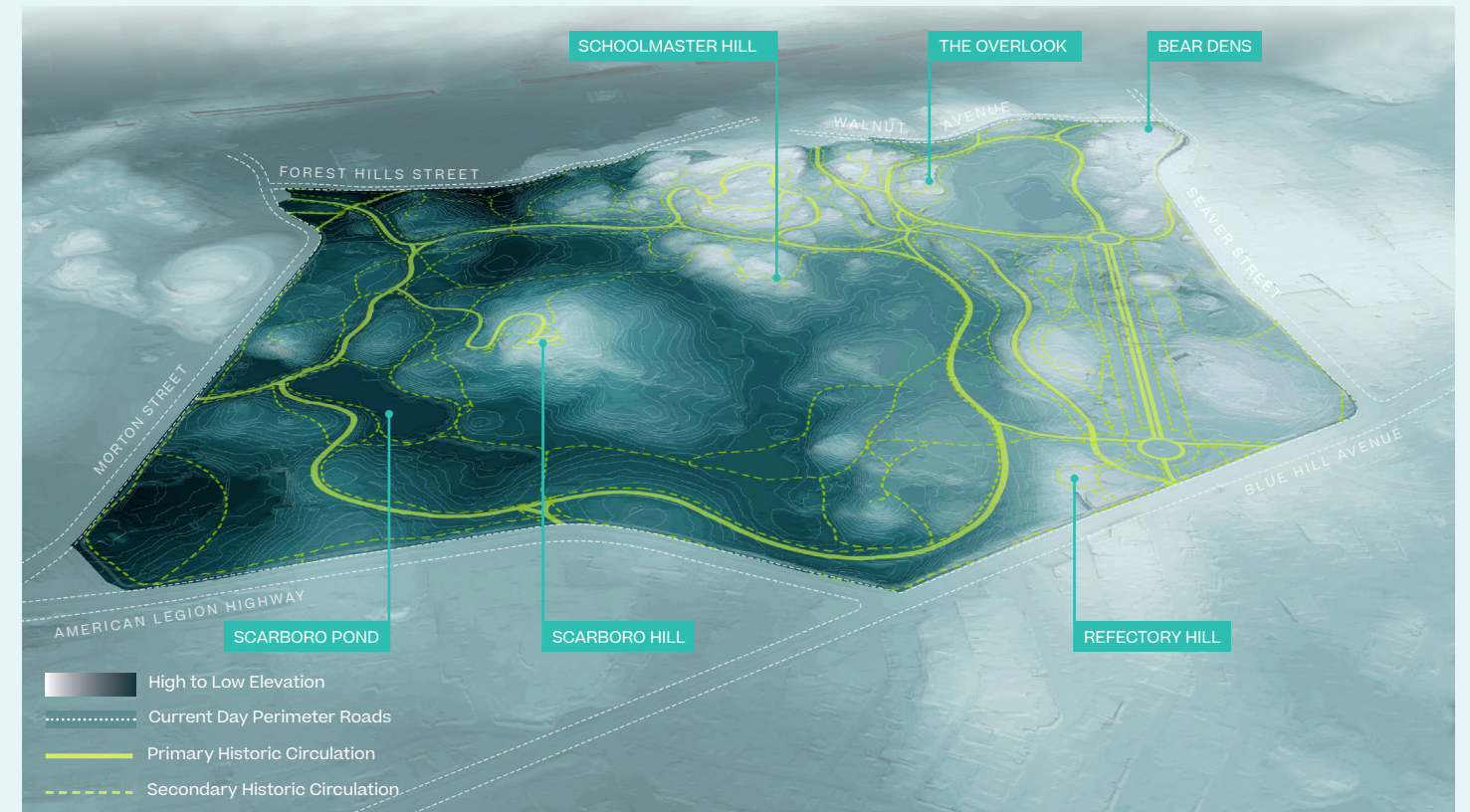
Woodlands
Meadow

Woodlands and Meadows

If the site's topography set the stage, the woodlands took the lead role, establishing seclusion from the city and setting the park experience apart. This significant landscape feature provided visual depth and contrast through the dynamic play of light and shadow.

Large open grasslands hosted both active and passive programs. The central meadow was most significant. Offering long views over a rolling expanse, it was intended for quiet gatherings at many scales.

Notions of the benefits of spending time in nature were at the forefront of the design, recognizing its positive impacts on mental and physical health over 100 years ago.



Movement

Circulation was built without significant alteration to the land. Rather, "every turn was suggested by natural circumstances."^{*} Primary loops fit closely to the topography, carefully tracing paths where the foot of hills and the upper edge of valleys met. Secondary spurs cut across grade at gentle slopes, sending visitors to a series of outlooks at higher elevations around the park. Though these served as pauses for orientation and prospect, the park's scenery was intended to be enjoyed through constant and easy movement.

^{*}Frederick Law Olmsted, Notes on Franklin Park

Views

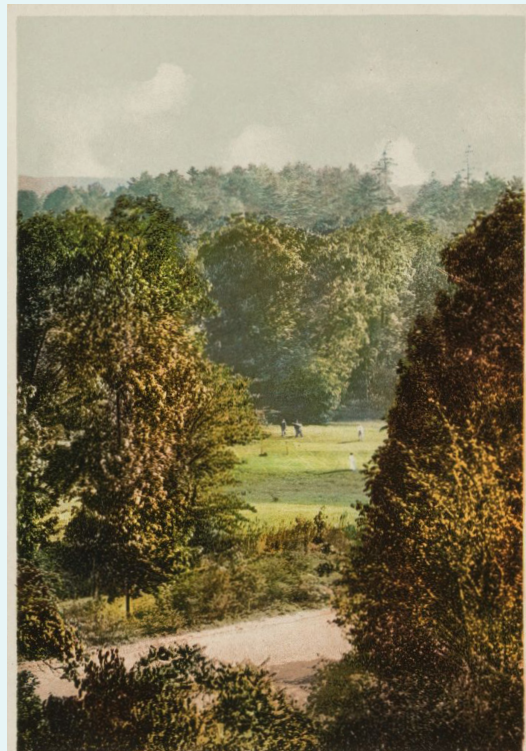
Rural vistas within and beyond the park were essential to its purpose - “an illusion of unlimited space’ and ‘unbroken countryside” within the confines of a growing city. The site’s dense woodland - existing and created - played an important role in shaping these landscape scenes, promoting a sense of seclusion from the city and framing open spaces within the park.*

A long view across the Playstead provided a broad prospect through the Country Park and beyond to the Blue Hills of Milton; looking west, a distant wooded horizon was formed by the Forest Hills Cemetery and the Arnold Arboretum. Both views afforded to the site were uninterrupted by the city around it, demonstrating the relationship of the park to its larger landscape context and enhancing its experiential qualities.



Materials & Built Elements

Olmsted took a strict attitude towards built elements in the park, establishing that materials and construction methods should not express wealth or elegance. All park architecture, walls, bridges, furnishings, and steps deferred to the power of picturesque scenery, and felt as if they had emerged from the landscape itself. Puddingstone mined from a quarry near Schoolmaster Hill was used to construct almost every built feature in the design, deepening the connection between park and place. With the exception of Forest Hills Entrance Bridge and Scarboro Pond Carriage Bridge, which were made of Cape Ann granite to match others in the Emerald Necklace, the remaining built elements in the park were all puddingstone construction.



10134. VIEW IN FRANKLIN PARK, BOSTON, MASS.



The Unmaking of a Plan

Changes to the Park Over Time

By the early 1900s, the major park circulation had been constructed, including establishing Glen Road between the Country Park and Ante Park. Program areas easily accessed by primary circulation routes, including the Playstead and Ellicottdale, were built and immediately put into use. Beyond these initial elements, the rest of the park's design was not constructed. Decreased funding and changes in municipal leadership started a chain of decision-making that slowly unravelled the park's coherence, the results of which are still evident today.

Beyond its initial construction, the park was never fully realized as intended. The emergence of different programmatic priorities produced a range of new ideas, interventions, and ownership in the park, ultimately impacting the collective experience today.



Park Intentions

The original plan was never fully completed as designed, resulting in immediate trade-offs that compromised park experience in order to address immediate needs.

- Country Park
- Ante Park
- Park Admin & Maintenance Areas
- Water Bodies
- Deviations from the Olmsted Plan
- Roads & Paths
- Buildings & Structures



A Early Introductions

The Greeting, a primary component of the original plan intended for strolling and programmed activities like concerts, play areas for children, and other exhibits, was never fully constructed. In 1912, the zoo, free and open to the public, was established with a design that respected the layout and orientation of The Greeting. At its peak, the original zoo drew millions of visitors to the park annually.



B&C Changes in the Center

While the golf course was used for informal play early on, the official turnover of that acreage in the 1930s represented a significant shift in the park's purpose. Transforming such a large space into a single use meant most visitors could not experience the expansive and immersive park scenery as intended. Roads originally meant for carriages were widened for cars. The realignment and expansion of Circuit Drive introduced vehicles through the Country Park, creating a new division in the park's organization and character.



D&E New Neighbors

The next two decades brought further additions to the park with the construction of White Stadium (1944-49) and Shattuck Hospital (1949), shifting both acreage and ownership, and once again shrinking the park experience. Park staff struggled to maintain order as automobile intrusion became pervasive throughout the park and safety issues increased. A decline in public funding led to deferred maintenance and decline.

Changing Communities & Cultures

The Park and its Neighbors Evolve Together

A park's design is one element of what shapes its character and identity, but its social, political, and demographic context have an equal role to play. The city and the park's surrounding neighborhoods have witnessed many changes throughout its 100+ year history, influencing how the park is used and by whom. These changes are both physical (evolving program) and cultural, as the community makes the park its own.

The neighborhoods around the park have and still represent a convergence of richly diverse cultures, but the city's disinvestment in these communities left the park in a state of neglect. Local activists and organizations, fed up with the lack of maintenance, funding, and crime, banded together and took action, reclaiming the park as their own.



Boston Migration

From 1820-1880, Irish and Jewish communities surrounded the Park, with Germans, Scandinavians, Italians, Latvians, and a substantial enclave of Maritime Canadians settling there as well. Boston annexed Roxbury in 1868, and by 1875, 500 acres of farmland were selected as the site for Franklin Park.

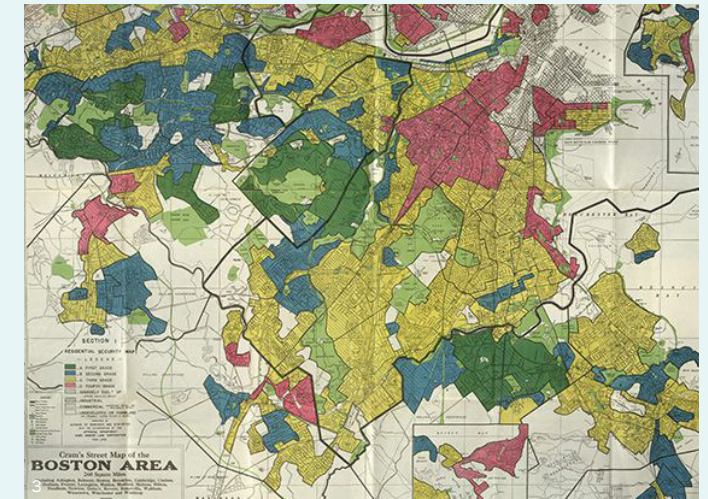
African Americans living in Beacon Hill and the South End and new Caribbean immigrants from West India, Jamaica, and Barbados, moved to areas around the park beginning in the 1930s. Continuing until after WWII, Roxbury was transformed into one of the Northeast's most prominent Black communities. By the 50s and 60s, community organizations formed to support the increasing Spanish-speaking population from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.



Reclaiming the Park

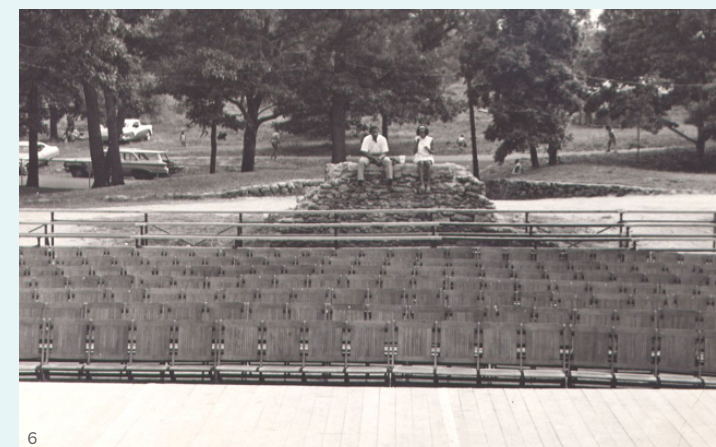
By the 1970s, demographic shifts due to gentrification, redlining, white flight, and blockbusting further established Roxbury as a predominantly Black neighborhood. Since then, Dominican and Cape Verdean communities have grown to be some of the largest immigrant groups around the park, with Haitian communities living in nearby Mattapan.

As the park's neighborhoods became further established, the city's upkeep and investment in the park declined. What was once a symbol of public health and a shared resource, became a center of dangerous activity and a dumping ground. Local activists and organizations, like the Franklin Park Coalition, Elma Lewis, and the Franklin Park Golfers Association took action into their own hands, initiating clean-ups, programming and fundraising. Their work drew attention to the park, as it hosted important community events, like concerts, festivals, the Elma Lewis Playhouse, and Black Panther Rallies.



The Franklin Park Coalition

The Coalition was founded in 1978 by a small group of community members who watched the park degrade after a decade of funding and staffing cuts were made to parks across the city. This instrumental group brought attention to years of neglect, advocating for funding from city leaders and recruiting volunteers to restore and build awareness of the park. The organization continues to play an active role in the park today.



Until Today

An attitude of relative municipal disinvestment in the park continued until recently, causing deterioration of built features and ruins, decline of its woodlands, among other ecologies, and erosion of key spatial relationships. Significant investment is needed to repair a disjointed park experience, and re-reveal the powerful natural features of the site and the park's design.

To understand a park, you have to understand its

Communities

02 | People & Program

At Heart, A Neighborhood Park

Great parks are resilient, able to meet the changing needs of their communities. Understanding community perspectives is central to addressing future programming, activation, stewardship, and health and wellness. Franklin Park has been a well-used and beloved resource since its construction, but significant investment is needed if it is to meet the contemporary needs of its communities. Despite its size and central location, the park is still “off the radar”, with many associating Franklin Park only with the Zoo. Others pass through the park without fully experiencing the place. With busy lives, even neighbors in close proximity sometimes remain unaware of its offerings. Encouraging and welcoming all will continue to build life-time park users and important advocates and partners.

Between Many Communities

The Park's Neighbors

Nestled among many different neighborhoods, Franklin Park is surrounded by communities with a range of demographic patterns. Across multiple data points, the western side of Franklin Park continuously displays a different pattern than the north and east sides, which are more similar demographically, home to higher percentages of communities of color, households with children, and with generally lower income. Despite this divide, Franklin Park's open spaces and programs welcome neighbors from all areas.

The park's amenities and programs draw visitors from across the region, but perhaps its most important role is as a neighborhood park for the surrounding communities. The community described its ability to welcome people of all backgrounds and identities. But, access to certain amenities within the park are more proximate for some than others.

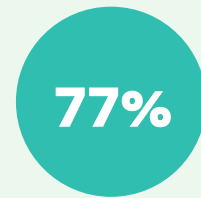
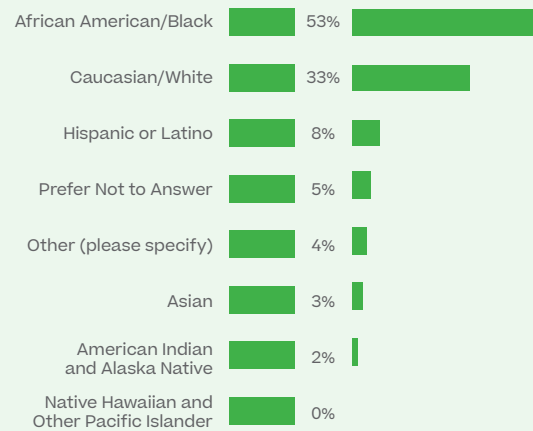
Community Memory

"Franklin Park has been an urban respite for Black and Latino families when we weren't welcomed at other city parks. Any improvements, should engage people from Black and Latino communities to ensure the traditions and needs of our communities are continued to be met."

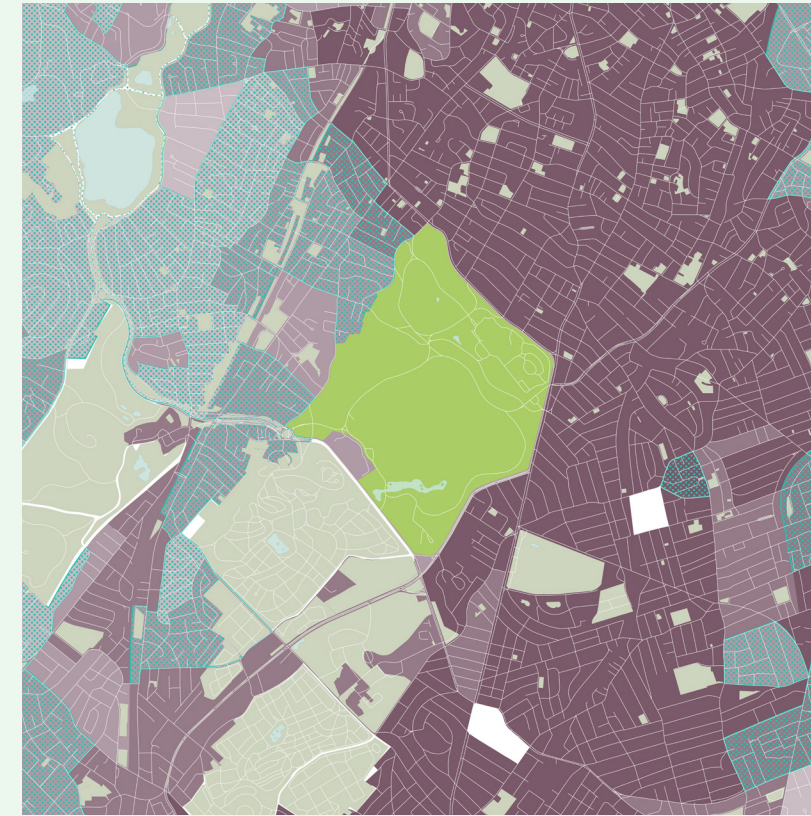
-Action Plan Survey Respondent

Survey Respondents

Over half of the Action Plan Survey participants identify as African American or Black.



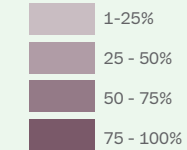
77% of Action Plan survey respondents live in a neighborhood that touches Franklin Park



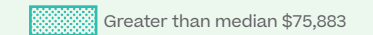
Race and income are inverted on either side of Franklin Park

72% of the surrounding residents are persons of color, with the most communities of color living to the North and East of the park. In contrast, the West has a higher concentration of households with above median income.

Race excluding "white alone" ACS 2017



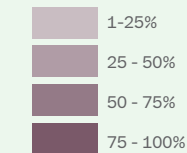
Median household income, 12 months ACS 2017



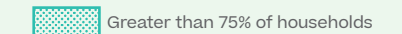
More renters live on the North and East sides of Franklin Park

Over 75% of housing units along much of the North and East edges are renter occupied. In these areas, rapid growth can create challenges related to displacement and inequity. On the lower East edge, there is also a concentration households with limited English.

Renter occupied housing units ACS 2017



Households with limited English speaking status ACS 2017



Supporting Healthier Communities

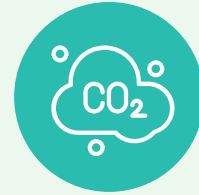
Public Health Around Franklin Park

Health disparities across most categories mirror the historical inequities brought about by generations of institutional racism, structural barriers, and discriminatory policies. Health clinics surrounding the park expressed that if investments in Franklin Park increase gentrification-related displacement of existing neighborhoods, this will significantly damage public health outcomes. Franklin Park can provide a location for programming and partnerships that address health disparities and the top factors contributing to healthy communities.

Parks have long been understood to be contributors to community health. With increased traffic, urban density, and a prevalence of stress and addiction in daily lives, we see this need perhaps more than ever. For the communities around the park and the broader city, there are many opportunities to increase health-related programming and partnerships.

What is the relationship between public health and parks?

Parks have a big role to play in advancing public health for those who live near or visit them. Trees sequester carbon, reduce the impacts of air pollution and asthma, and provide shade during the summer to reduce the effects of heat islands. Being outdoors and in nature reinforces positive mental health and brings people together to create a stronger sense of community.



Residents in the five neighborhoods around Franklin Park listed either **outdoor air pollution from vehicles** or **outdoor noise pollution from vehicles** as the top environmental health concern at home.

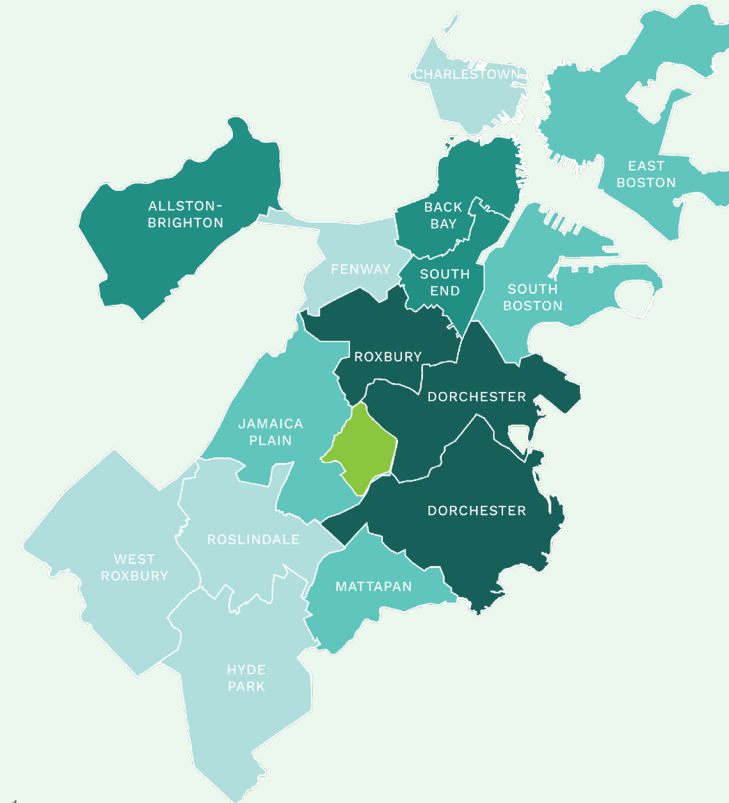


When surveyed by the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston residents rated **environmental quality as their 5th most important concern.**

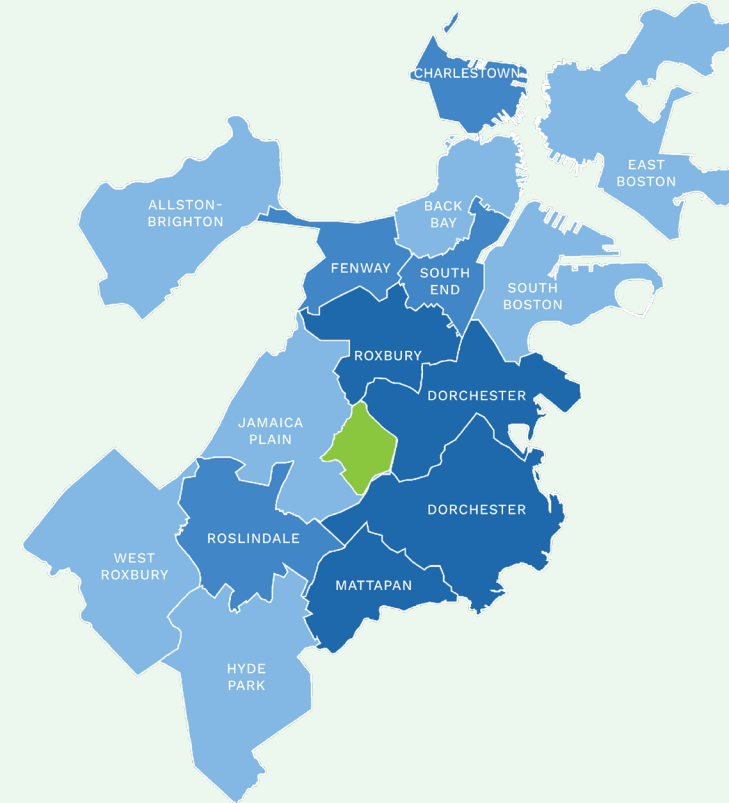


Residents in the five neighborhoods around Franklin Park listed either **affordable housing** or **access to health care** as the most important factor that defines a “healthy community.” Green space was not ranked in the top factors.

Source: Boston CHNA Community Survey 2019.



1

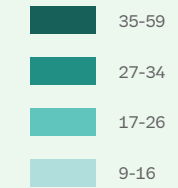


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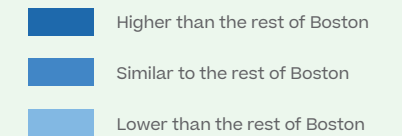
Health Outcomes

The neighborhoods around Franklin Park see some of the highest chronic disease hospitalization, overcrowding, mold hazards/violations, and asthma emergency department visits among 5-17 year-olds. Additionally, relief from environmental concerns (noise, fumes, and heat) is also needed in the neighborhoods surrounding the park. These health outcomes existed before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mold Hazard/Violations by Neighborhood, 2012-2016



Asthma Emergency Department Visits among 5-17 Year Olds by Neighborhood, 2014-2015

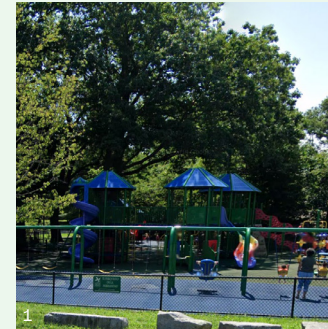


Programs and Opportunities

Existing health-related activities in the park include walking groups, line dancing, tennis and occasional nature-education cross-programming with the Appalachian Mountain Club for youth. There are opportunities to work with clinics to provide support for health-related programming, including trauma management and youth “greencorps” jobs on park stewardship and safety.

Many Parks in One Places in the Park

Within Franklin Park itself, there are a variety of places, each with its own character and landmarks. In addition, there are other entities and stakeholders that have a place within the park.



1 El Parquesito Play Area



2 The Bear Dens



3 White Stadium



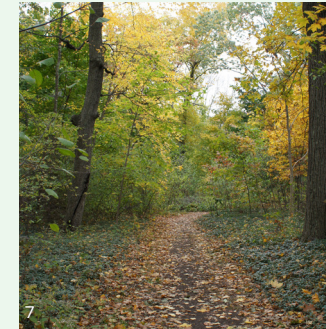
4 Tiffany Moore Play Area



5 The Overlook Ruins



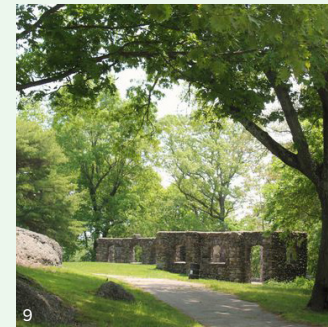
6 The Playstead



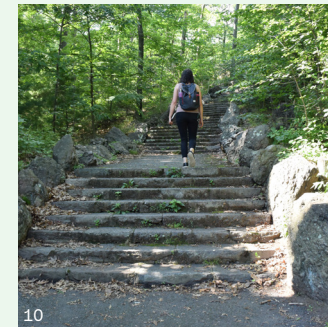
7 The Wilderness



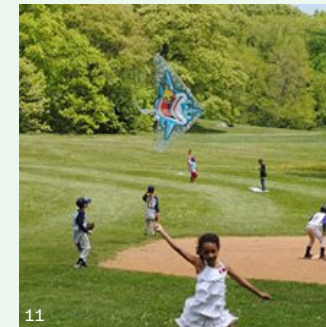
8 The Franklin Park Zoo



9 Schoolmaster Hill



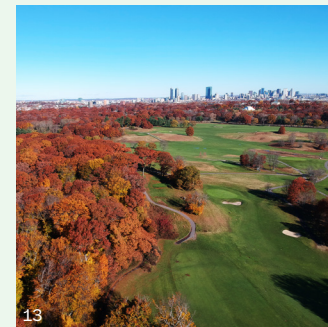
10 99 Steps



11 Ellicottdale



12 Refectory Hill



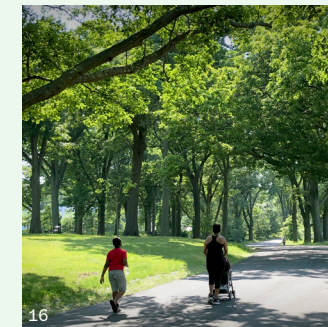
13 William J. Devine Golf Course



14 Shattuck Picnic Grove



15 Scarborough Hill



16 The Circuit Loop



17 Shattuck Hospital



18 American Legion Play Area



19 Scarborough Pond



20 Maintenance Yard

Provide Shelter & Refreshment

The Role of Park Architecture Past & Present

The buildings that emerged out of the original plan and were constructed within the first 30 years of the park's history. Park structures were carefully sited and built of puddingstone harvested from the park to maintain a quiet and natural character that did not detract from the landscape, while providing comforts to visitors, like lockers, bathrooms, refreshments, and shade.

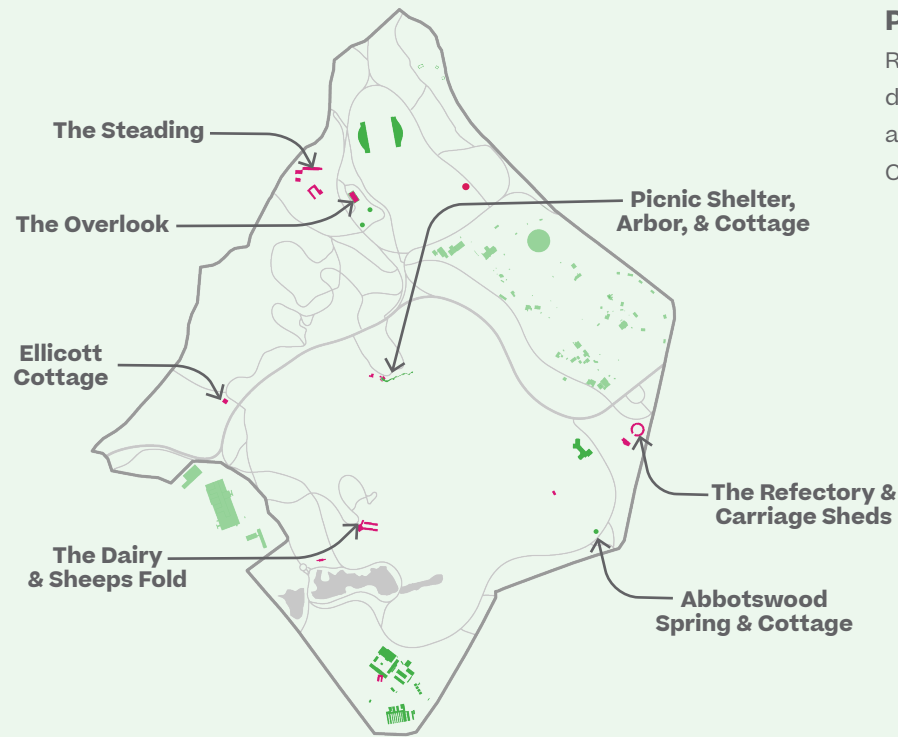
The design of early built elements in the park was discrete in character. Location was carefully considered, both in how they were fitted to the site and in their distribution, providing refreshment and comfort to visitors throughout. Today, the vast majority of these buildings and the resources they provided - food, water, restrooms, and shade - do not exist in the park.



Park Amenities

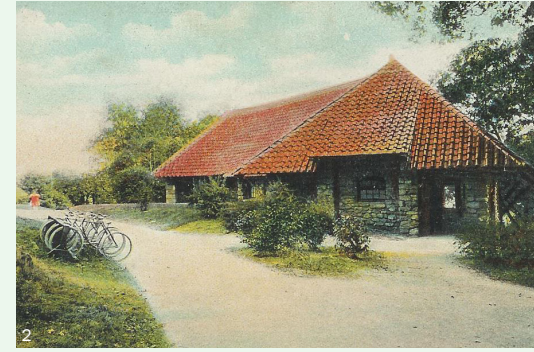
Resources that were intended to be repeatedly distributed throughout the park for easy access are primarily concentrated in the Golf Course Clubhouse today.

- Restrooms
- Food & Drink
- Water Fountain
- Seating & Overlook
- Administrative Offices
- Learning
- Equipment Rental



Park Architecture & Structures

- Existing Park Architecture & Structures
- Former Park Architecture & Structures (includes items intended, but never constructed)



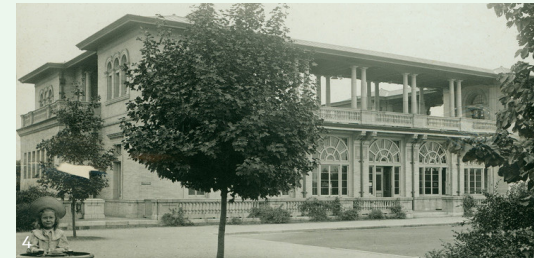
The Golf Course Clubhouse

The original Golf Course Clubhouse was built in 1911 and was subsequently destroyed in WWII by artillery practice. The second clubhouse was built in 1949 and burned down suspiciously in 1975. The clubhouse operated within the burned out shell of the building until the current clubhouse was built anew in 1998. Today, it provides an event rental space, a cafe, golf and other equipment rental, and offices for the golf course. It houses the only public restroom within the entire park.



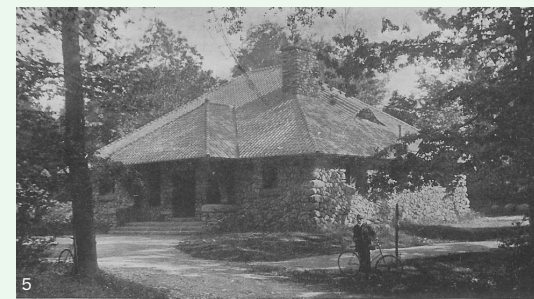
The Overlook Shelter

The Overlook Shelter, constructed on and of puddingstone overlooking the Playstead, was the only building Olmsted ever designed in his career. Serving as a base for park police, it also provided lockers, equipment storage and rentals, and restrooms at the basement level which could be accessed from the Playstead. A promenade with seating provided a viewing area for activities occurring on the fields below.



The Refectory

The Refectory was conceived by Olmsted as a place where, "refreshments [would] be served... under a large pergola or vine-clad trellis..." It was open between 1896-1906, after which it became a branch of the Public Library and eventually closed due to maintenance issues in 1976.



Cottages

Cottages, including the one on Schoolmaster Hill, were located near programmed and activity areas. Often multi-use, they served as small offices and meeting places, offered food and free hot water, and provided equipment rentals for lawn sports and changing rooms. In 1930, the Schoolmaster Hill Cottage succumbed to fire.



Springs

Drinking fountains, the 'utilitarian equipment of the place', were distributed throughout to provide a source of water to park visitors. They also provided neighbors with running water, which many of them did not have in their homes. The Abbotswood Spring, was referred to as the 'Healing Spring' and was believed to have restorative qualities.



A Call to Action

Community Stewards

The work of local activists and organizations that dedicated their time and energy has left a long-lasting impact on the park. Witnessing disinvestment in their communities in the 1960s and 70s, these individuals and groups, among others, self-organized to maintain facilities, develop programming, and engage youth in paid training programs. Their legacy of stewardship and action has influenced generations of community-building and inspired the events that continue to activate the park today.

In response to disinvestment in the park, people in the surrounding communities self-organized to ensure that local residents were still served. These individuals and the organizations and partnerships they formed were instrumental in the advocacy, stewardship, and action that brought the park out of a state of neglect, and many are still active today.



Augusta Bailey & The Roxbury Beautification Project
 Founded in 1960s as a community garden movement, Augusta Bailey formed the Roxbury Beautification Project. The group advocated for a Roxbury heritage trail connecting Franklin Park to destinations throughout the neighborhood.



Elma Lewis & The Playhouse in the Park
 Elma Lewis was an artist, educator, and bridge leadership activist. In the 1950s, she founded the Elma Lewis School for Fine and Performing Arts, dedicated to teaching thousands of local African-American children and adults creative arts and cultural history. She was instrumental in reintroducing programming into the park for all ages through her 'Playhouse in the Park', which combined educational, cultural, and vocational initiatives.

Richard Heath
 With a small group of fellow community members, including Elma Lewis, Richard Heath formed the park's first constituency group, the Franklin Park Coalition, in 1975. After watching the park degrade due to a lack of funding, he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over many years to hire work crews to take care of the park. His focus on looking for answers through the coalition transformed the park. Today, any park regular is likely to run into him on a nice afternoon – camera in hand.



Boston Zoological Society
 For over a decade, the Boston Zoological Society (1970) supported upkeep of the park's entrances and woodlands around the zoo, while the state continued to provide funding for the facility.



The Neighborhood Arts Council & Summerthing
 Modeled after the Elma Lewis Playhouse in the Park, the Summerthing concert series was initiated by The Neighborhood Arts Council. Focused on bringing art, theater, and music into Boston's neighborhoods, this organization brought programming to Franklin Park beginning in 1968.

Paul Washington & The Boston Pro-Am Golf Association
 The club was founded in 1953 by Black pro-golfer Paul Washington. The inclusion of Black golfers in Franklin Park was also reflected in the visitors to the park itself in the mid-1960s.

Bob McCoy & The Franklin Park Golfers Association
 A primarily Black golfers organization was founded in 1967 to maintain the defunded golf course. In 1982, they teamed up with Bob McCoy, the highest-ranking African-American ever in the City of Boston government, to leverage funding to revive the golf course. It officially reopened on July 31, 1989.

Proximity Determines Use

Accessing Key Sites

While many sides of Franklin Park are technically accessible on foot, almost two thirds of survey respondents stated they entered through Blue Hill Avenue — the majority of which arrived by car. There is an opportunity for improvements along the edges and better connections across the park.

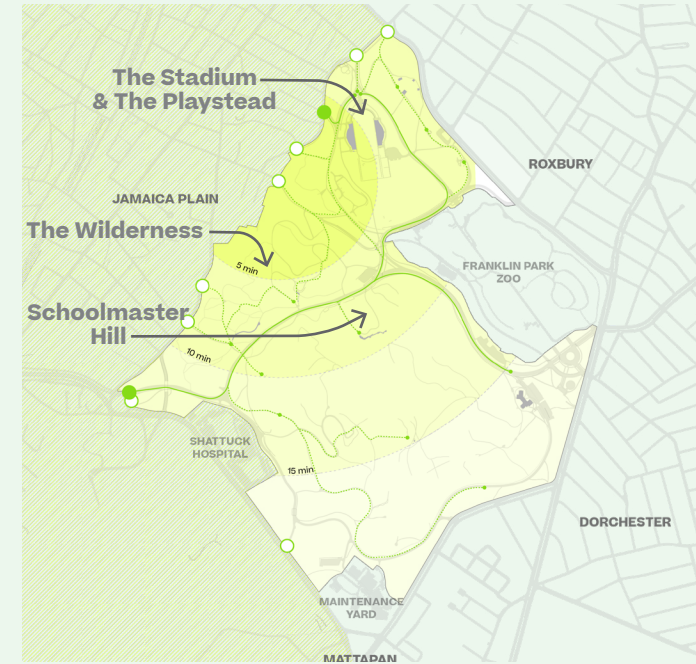
Neighbors entering on the West and North are within a close walk to secluded natural areas and active playspaces and sports fields. East arrival puts visitors in close proximity to special attractions, but lacks an easy route to a quiet walk in the woods. Equal access to the Circuit Loop makes it a popular destination and a place for neighbors to come together.



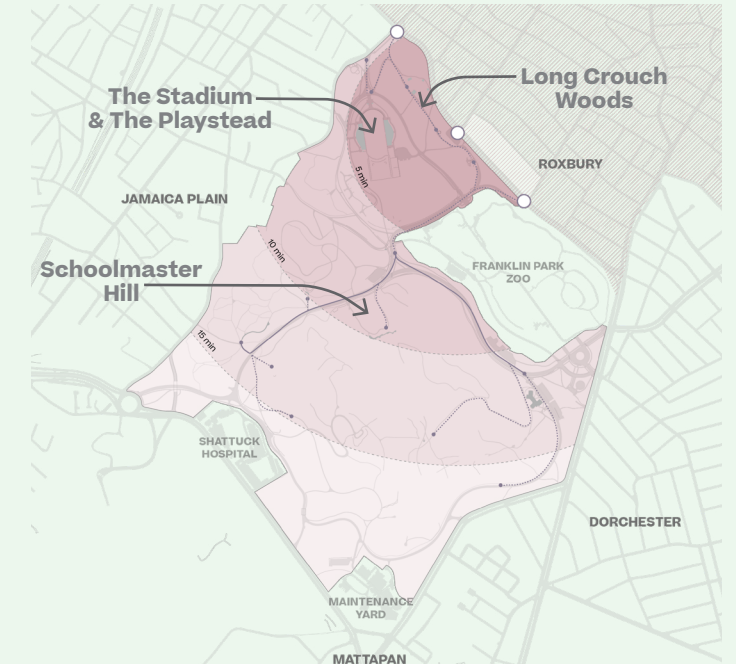
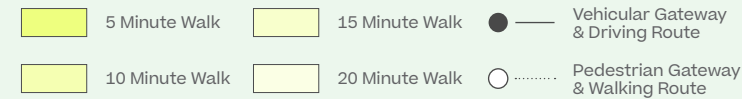
70% of survey respondents said that the thing they appreciate most about Franklin Park is the **proximity to where they live**. This was the 3rd overall.



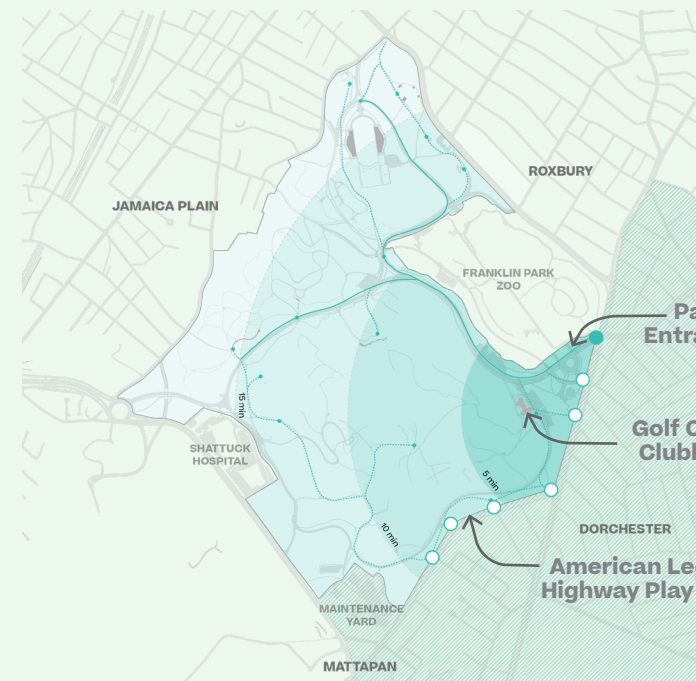
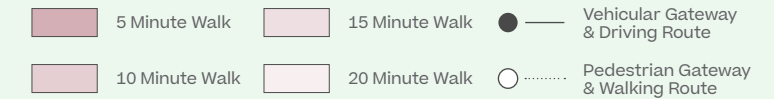
35% of survey respondents who live close to the park **visit at least weekly**



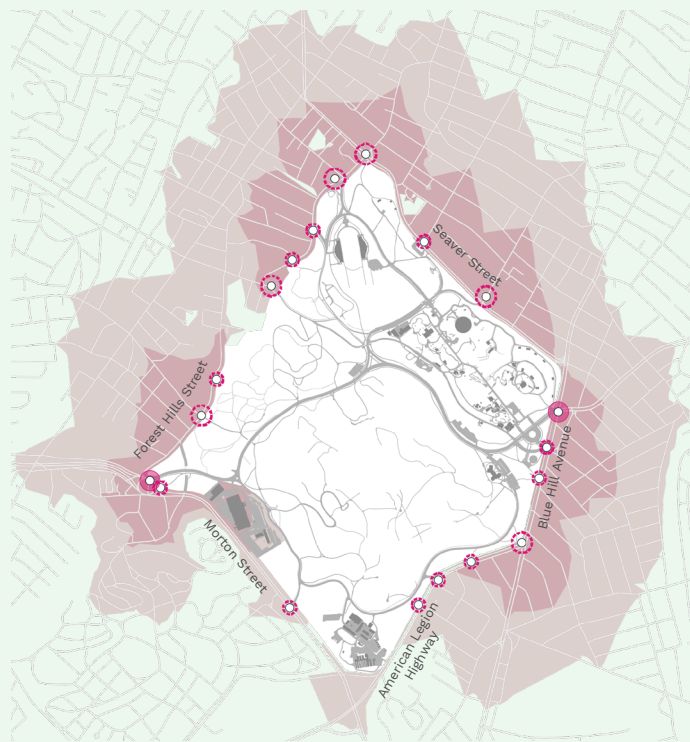
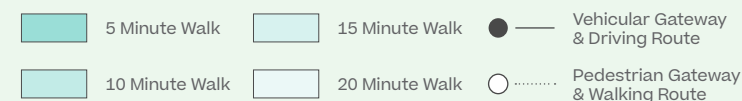
Arriving from the West



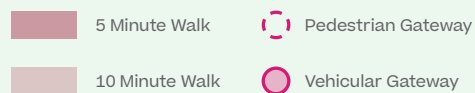
Arriving from the North



Arriving from the East & South



Walking to the Park



Walk Times to Park Destinations

Distance mapping to primary park destinations and points of interests from each edge helps to interpret why some neighbors use certain parts of the park more than others.

From the West

Visitors approaching from the West are primarily neighbors, as there is no through-traffic on this edge. They have the fastest escape to a secluded experience in nature.

From the North

The North edge only has two main entries, but both are an easy and fast route to The Playstead and the Stadium. Entering from the North also brings you to Long Crouch Woods and the edge of the Wilderness.

From the East & South

The main entrance to the park is along the East edge, but access to quieter walking trails is limited. The main Circuit Loop Path is a popular destination. Direct access into the park from the south is blocked by the maintenance yard, and presents an opportunity to make better connections for the Mattapan community.

Distributed Assets

Park Resources

Not only does Franklin Park touch various neighborhoods and communities, but it also encompasses other entities including the Golf Course, the Zoo, Shattuck Hospital, and the maintenance yard. The remaining parkland includes miles of trails and roadways, nine recreation fields and courts, and approximately one thousand parking spaces. The mapping inventory of Franklin Park illuminated the spatial organization and relationships of all of the park's amenities and will highlight opportunities for future investments.

The array of programming and experiences to be had at Franklin Park is unparalleled, yet some activities are closer and more convenient depending on where you enter the park. Survey responses showed a clear pattern that proximity to park entrances and amenities had a strong impact on what spaces different neighborhoods use the most.

Park Breakdown by Acres



Park Space - 289 Acres

- 220 acres of wooded area
- 19 acres of mown lawn
- 7.5 acres of water bodies



Franklin Park Zoo*

72 acres



Shattuck Hospital*

12 acres



Golf Course*

107 acres



White Stadium*

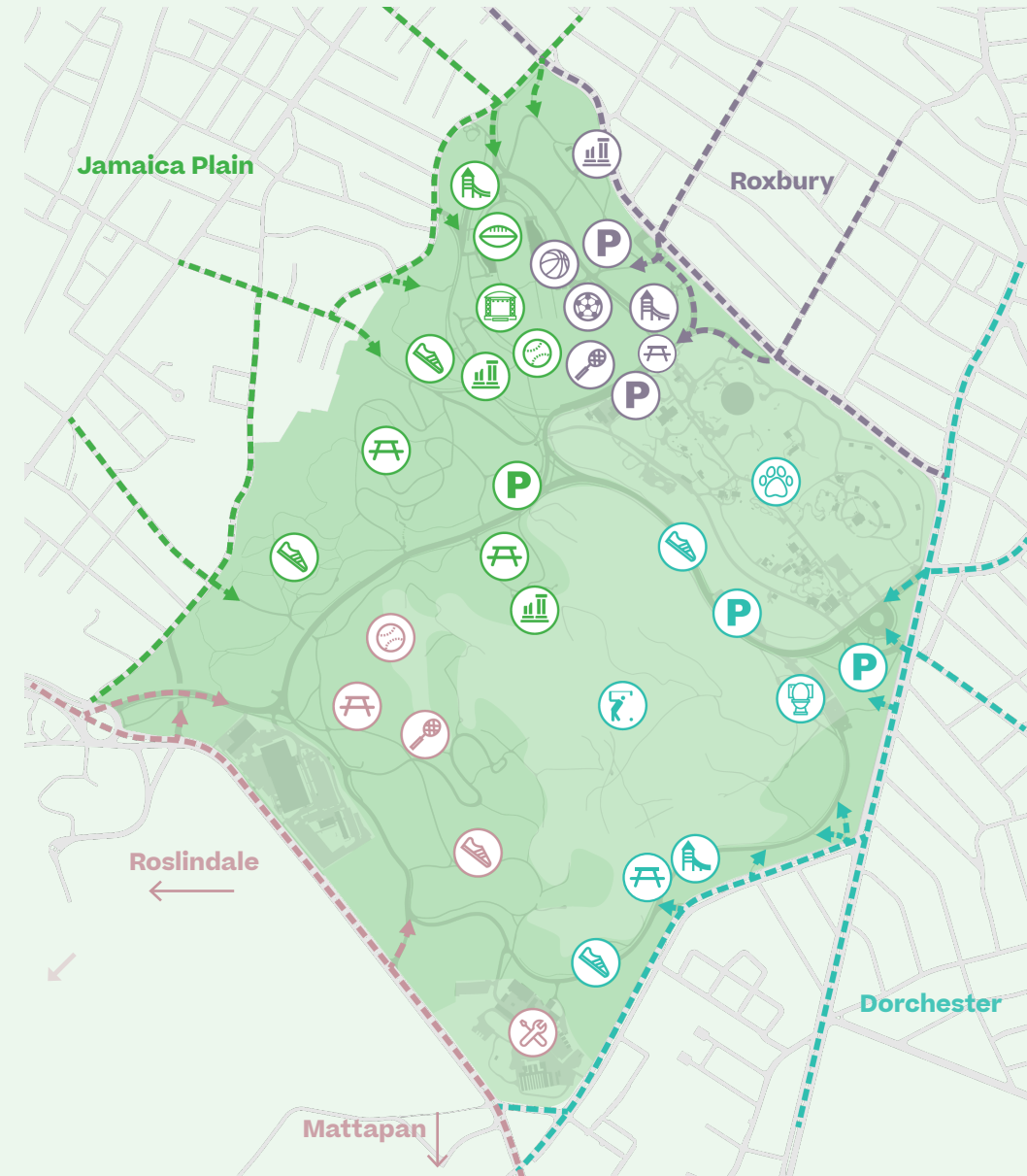
8.5 acres



Maintenance Yard*

17 acres

*Outside the scope of the Action Plan



Amenities

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|---|--|------------------------------|
| 3 | | Baseball & Softball Fields | 1 | | Stages |
| 2 | | Basketball Courts | 3 | | Structures (including ruins) |
| 1 | | Multi-Purpose Fields | 4 | | Tennis Courts |
| 5 | | Picnic Areas | | | |
| 3 | | Playgrounds | | | |
| 1 | | Public Restrooms | | | |
| 1 | | Golf Course | | | |
| 1 | | Zoo | | | |
| 1 | | Maintenance yard | | | |

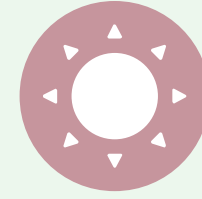
Access

- | | | |
|---------------|--|---|
| 2.6 miles | | Limited Access Road (pedestrian & service vehicles) |
| ~1,000 spaces | | Parking |
| 2.55 miles | | Public Vehicular Road |
| 11.5 miles | | Trails/Sidewalks |

A Slow Fall & Winter

Seasonality of Existing Programs

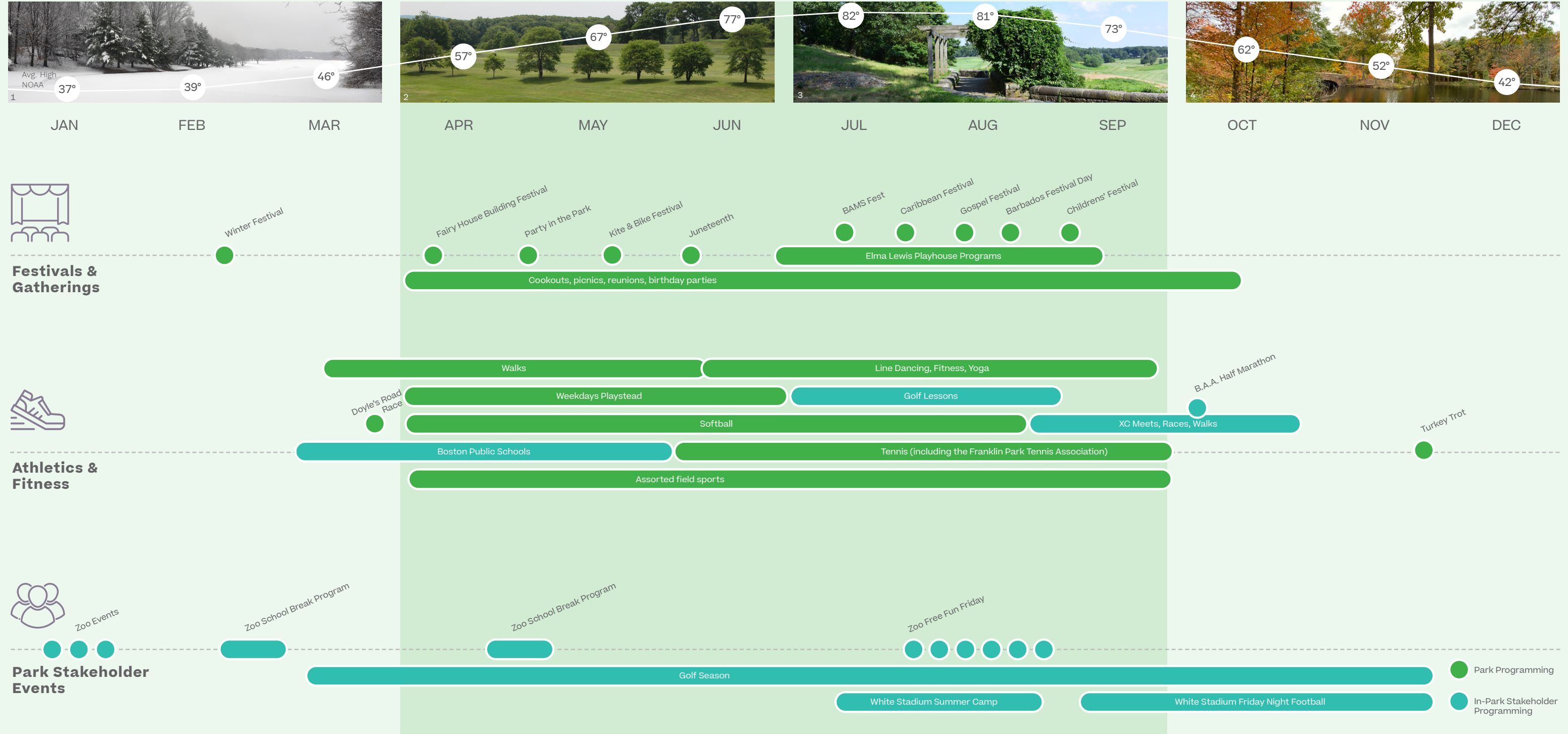
The 2019 park reservations and events, including those organized by park stakeholders like the Franklin Park Coalition, show a concentration of programming in the spring and summer months and more limited park activation in the fall and winter. Other stakeholders including White Stadium, the Golf Course, and the Zoo provide parallel programming that impacts the use of the park and has a similar seasonal pattern.



86% of users visit in the summer. Many respondents cited limited programming for not visiting year-round.



The **afternoon is the most popular time** to visit the park, followed by the morning, and lastly the evening.



Festivals & Gatherings



Athletics & Fitness



Park Stakeholder Events

- Park Programming
- In-Park Stakeholder Programming

Active Edges

Programs, Events, & Intensity of Use

The Boston Parks Department accepts reservations for requests ranging from events to athletics to cookouts in Franklin Park. The reservations are one way to look at park use and show how different areas within the park attract the most visitors and create pulses of activity. Overall land area and amenities inform, but do not directly relate to the most active areas. There is a concentration of activities along the western edge as well as the north and east. Along the southern boundary, the hospital and parks maintenance yard limit public access and use.

The variety of programs on the western side of the park spans the broadest range of offerings, from solo hikes and cross-country meets to youth play spaces. In contrast, the narrower band of park on the eastern edge offers a more focused set of activities, tied to families, play, and the zoo. The Action Plan is a chance to explore bringing the experience of nature more directly east as well as improve connections across the park.

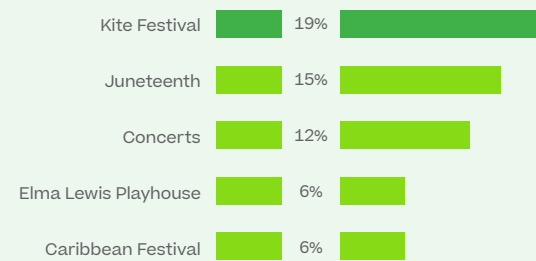
Community Memory

"Every memory there is important. When we had no car, the park was our fun. We created games, ran track and had family barbeques. The kite festival was always huge for us growing up!."

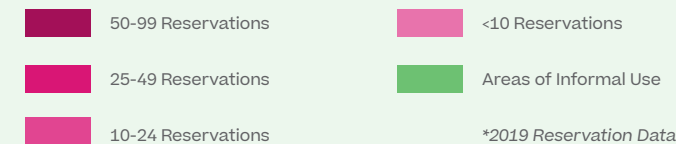
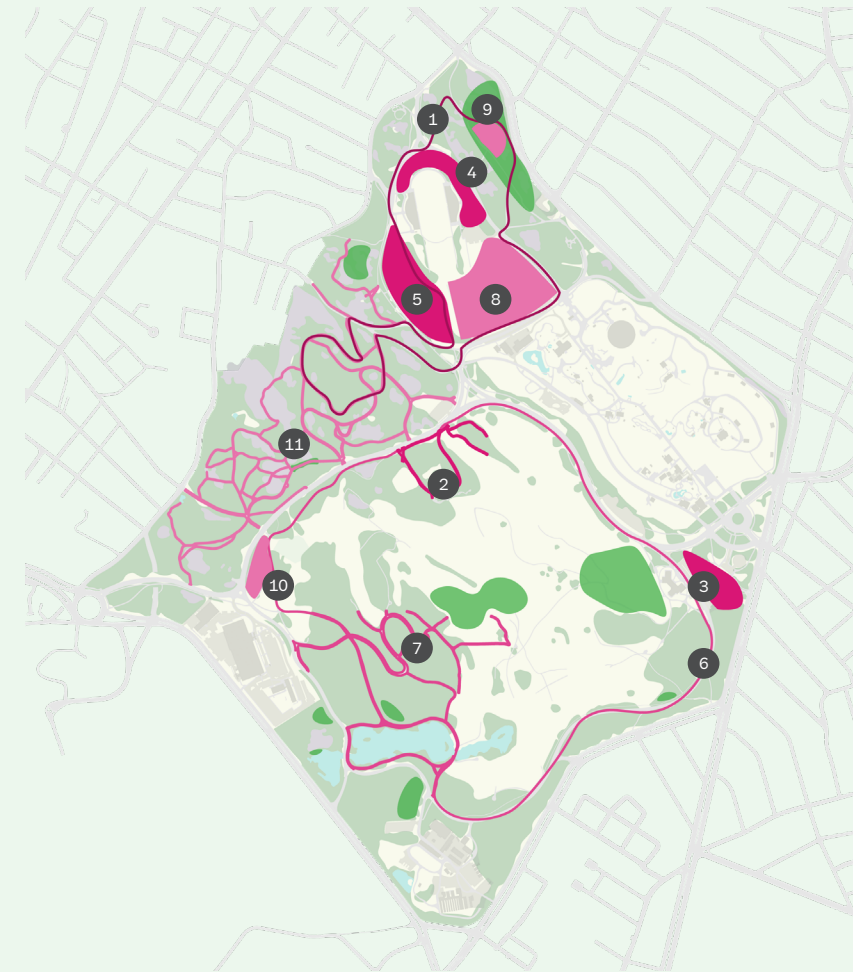
-Action Plan Survey Respondent

Top Festivals and Events

The top 5 special events or festivals survey respondents said they attend:



RESERVATIONS: EVENTS, OPEN SPACE, & TRAILS



Distributed Events

The trails and less structured green spaces offer areas for people to engage in infrequent or seasonal park-wide events and festivals, athletic competitions, and larger gatherings of family and friends. These happen alongside more unstructured uses including bird watching, exploring, and cross country skiing.

Green Spaces and Trails

The park reservations show that 20% of the events occur here with 44% of stated attendees. The Cross Country Course sees seasonal use in September and October while the other places have more use year-round.

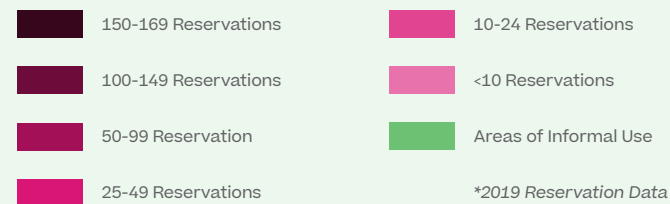
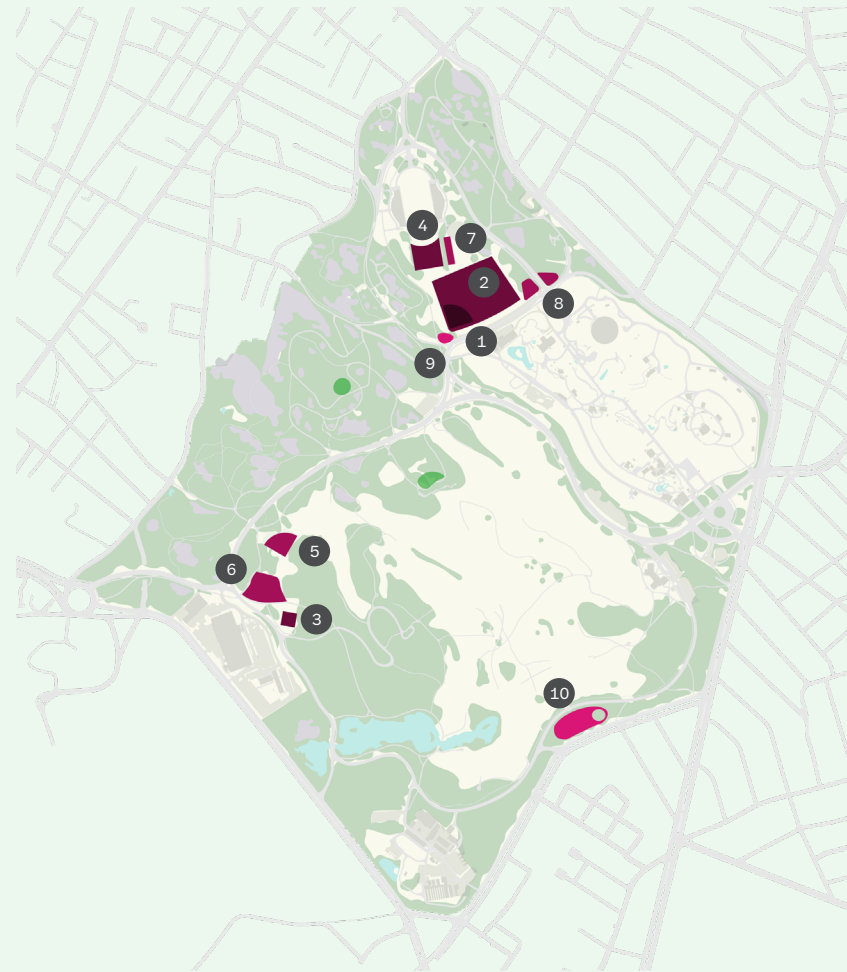
- 1 Cross Country Course
- 2 Schoolmaster Hill
- 3 Refectory Hill
- 4 Adj. White Stadium
- 5 The Overlook
- 6 Circuit Loop
- 7 Scarboro Hill and Paths
- 8 Playstead
- 9 Bear Cage Hill
- 10 Ellicott Dale
- 11 The Wilderness

Park Places: White Stadium

The George Robert White Schoolboy Stadium was built in 1945 and was named for a local philanthropist. It is owned and operated by Boston Public Schools and has hosted hundreds of high school sporting events. White Stadium hosted Black Panther rallies and big concerts in the 1970s and partnered with the Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts to host a 1974 soul concert with big names like Sly and the Family Stone.



RESERVATIONS: FIELDS, COURTS, & PICNIC AREAS



Concentrated Activity

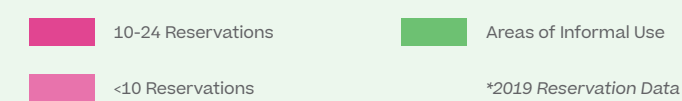
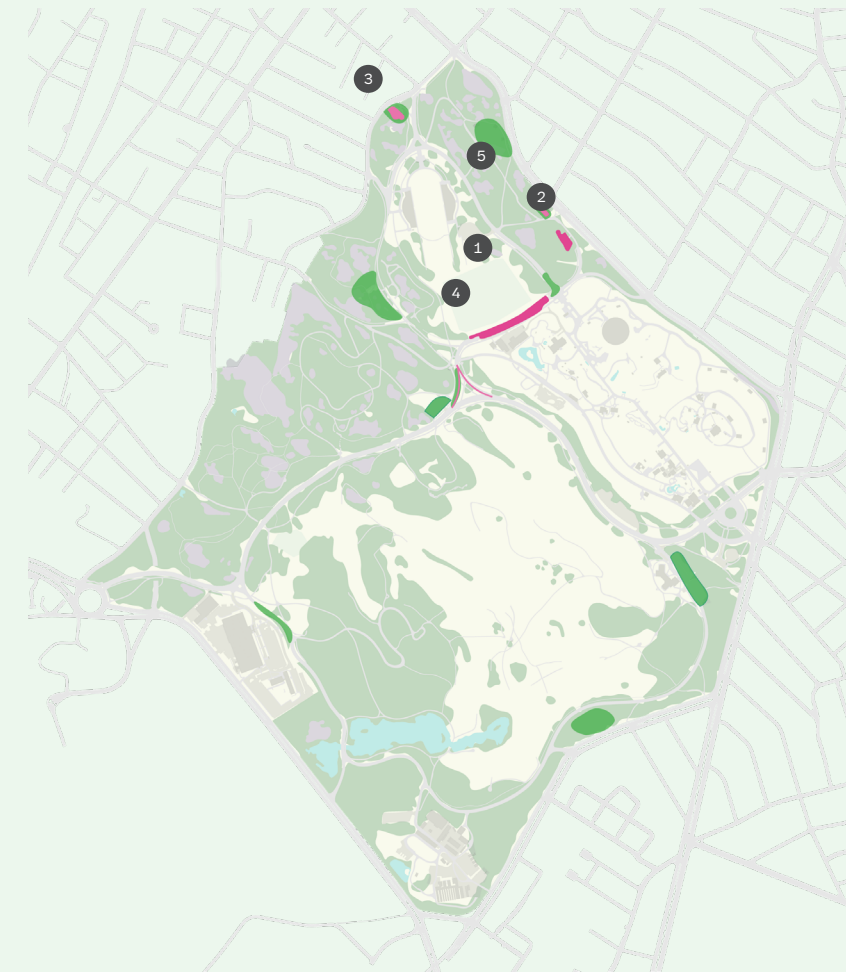
Some of the smallest areas in the park receive the most intense and consistent number of reservations. The events that occur here range from youth and adult sports to family barbecues, reunions, and birthday parties.

Sports and Picnic Spots

The park reservations show that 76% of the events occur here with 50% of stated attendees. There are more events during the spring and summer. There is more softball use in the spring while tennis reservations peak in August.

- 1 Softball
- 2 Softball / Cricket Playstead
- 3 Shattuck Tennis
- 4 Playstead Athletic Field
- 5 Softball Ellicottdale
- 6 Shattuck Picnic Area
- 7 Playstead Tennis
- 8 Playstead Picnic Area
- 9 Valley Gates Picnic / Parking
- 10 American Legion Picnic Area

RESERVATIONS: PARKING LOTS & PLAYGROUNDS



Pockets of Informal Use

Some of the locations that saw the fewest event reservations in 2019 are supplemented by other spaces that provide similar activities. For example, the Wilderness and the Bear Cages can be places for play and exploration. Additionally, parking lots and roadways provide space for other uses like car cleaning or tailgating.

Playgrounds and Parking Lots

The park reservations show that <4% of the events occur here with 8% of stated attendees. The parking lots see the most reservations in May and June when they are reserved for park-wide festivals.

- 1 Playstead Parking (White Stadium)
- 2 Tiffany Moore Playground
- 3 El Parquesito de la Hermanidad
- 4 Jewish War Veteran Memorial Drive
- 5 Seaver Street Parking

Park Places: Elma Lewis Playhouse

The Elma Lewis School of Fine and Performing Arts erected the Playhouse stage to create an outdoor venue for students to perform for visitors. The Elma Lewis Playhouse continues to host events for children and adults throughout the summer months.



Park Places: Schoolmaster Hill

Schoolmaster Hill marks the location where Ralph Waldo Emerson lived for two years while a school teacher in nearby Roxbury before the park was constructed. A plaque with a segment of one of his poems commemorates his time there. Today, spaces like this, the parking lots and other unprogrammed spaces become places for informal gathering and self-guided adventures.



Community Activities

Feedback on Current & Future Use

People's experiences in Franklin Park have changed over time in response to evolving community needs and amenities the park offers. To understand how people use the park today, questions about park experiences, memories, and favorite activities were posed in the community survey, public workshops, and other forms of engagement. The responses captured a range of past, present, and aspirational uses of the park.

While exercise is the top activity people typically enjoy in Franklin Park, users also consistently attend special events or festivals. These two patterns - the everyday visitor and infrequent user - were also reflected in other outreach. Better communication and more everyday activities for all seasons were requested, along with more events and event spaces.

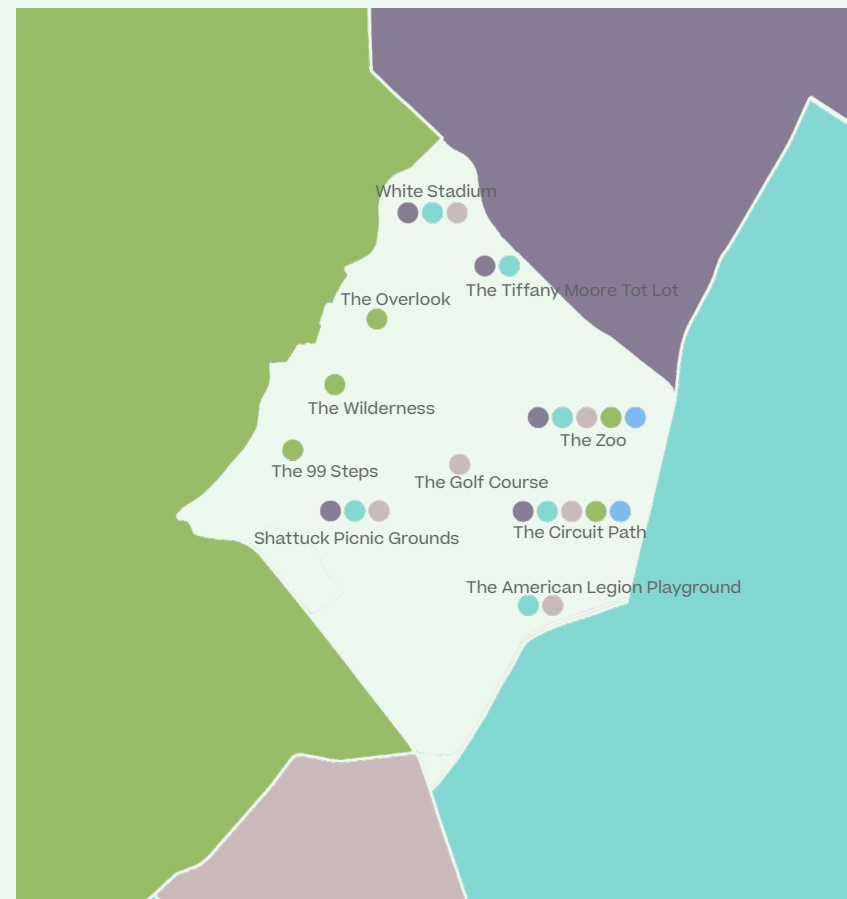
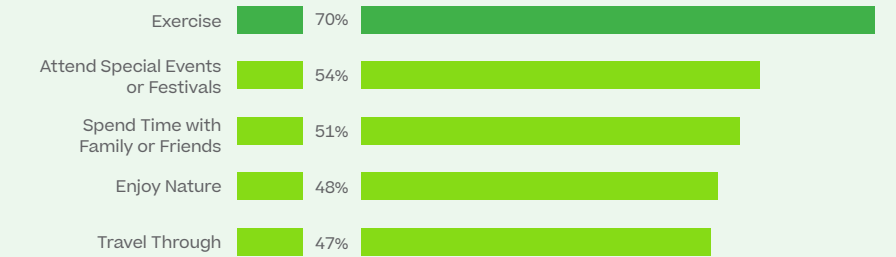


55% of survey respondents want Franklin Park to continue to be a **magnet for diverse groups, a meeting ground for neighbors, and a unifying destination for area residents and visitors.**



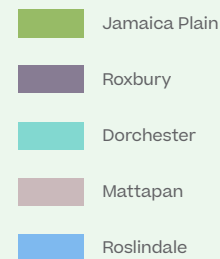
Current Park Uses

Exercise is the top activity that people usually do in Franklin Park. The only other activity that is consistently in the top 5 across demographics is attending special events or festivals.



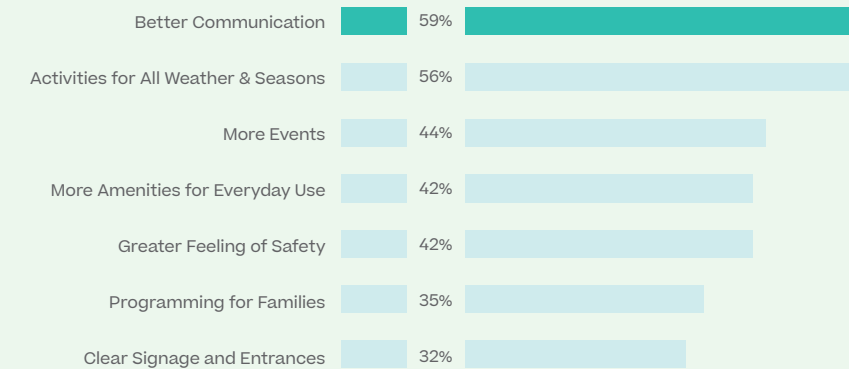
Neighborhood Favorites

People from all neighborhoods often visit the Zoo and Circuit Path, while Jamaica Plain residents are the primary visitors of the western edge of the Park, including the Wilderness. When asked which places they typically visit in the park, more than 30% of survey respondents from each surrounding neighborhood said they visit these locations.

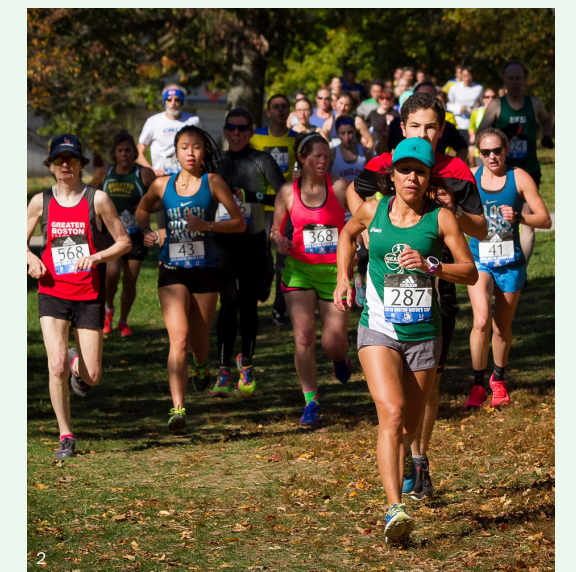


Encouragement to Visit or Spend More Time in the Park

Raising awareness of the park's offerings paired with more opportunities for people to visit the park daily and year-round would encourage visitors to come and spend more time in Franklin Park.



Answers prioritized by more than 25% of Action Plan Survey respondents.



Supporting Activity & Use

Infrastructure & Utilities

There are four main utility dense areas: White Stadium, the Maintenance Yard, the Golf Course, and the main entrance at Peabody Circle. Electrical infrastructure runs along major roadways and walking trails around the golf course and stadium. The wilderness does not contain any infrastructure. Water lines are located near buildings, like the Stadium, Zoo, Clubhouse, and Circuit Drive, and sewer is available in Ellicottdale and the Playstead.

With major events, festivals, and plays, there is a need for utilities and services to support programming as well as meet the essential needs of visitors. Today, a lack of infrastructure – lighting, water fountains, bathrooms, and electrical jacks, among others – deters individuals and organizations from using the park, and places extra stress on maintenance staff.

What needs the most help?

Pathways & Circulation

45% of stairs, ramps, & roads are in poor condition.



Pathways in The Wilderness

Furnishings

26.5% of benches, tables, bollards, & bins are in poor condition.



Old picnic area on Hagborne Hill

Utilities

13.8% of sewage, lights, power, restrooms & fountains are in poor condition.



Temporary restroom at Ellicottdale

#1

Bathrooms were the top investment prioritized by survey respondents (63% overall), and was consistently the top across demographics.



Park Utilities



Water/Sewer Utilities

Existing water infrastructure is located adjacent to existing buildings, White Stadium, in the zoo, at the golf course clubhouse, and along Circuit Drive. There is also an extensive irrigation system that serves the golf course.

Sewer infrastructure appears to be available in Ellicottdale and The Playstead. There is only one location with permanent bathrooms (Golf Course Clubhouse) and existing temporary toilets were observed in Ellicottdale indicating a possible need for rest room facilities.

Electric Utilities

Electric infrastructure covers the major roadways and walking trails around the golf course and White Stadium; there is no electric infrastructure within the Wilderness.

Better electric service to the Playstead, and lighting in the Wilderness and Shattuck tennis courts could enable more use of these spaces during the evenings and create safe spaces for people to enjoy nature and participate in recreation.

Inconsistent & Limiting Safety & Lighting

Lighting should enhance a sense of security by allowing pedestrians to easily perceive their immediate surroundings. The perception of safety is highly dependent on uniformity, clear viewsheds, reduced glare, quality and color of the light, and visual hierarchy to support wayfinding. Lighting challenges in the park today include varying light fixtures with different color temperatures, a lack of uniformity and hierarchy, overgrown vegetation and dark areas, broken fixtures, and glare.

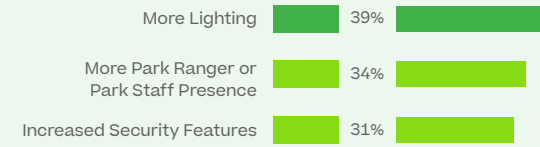
Lighting in the park is inconsistent or absent in key areas, like entries, parking, and main pedestrian paths, contributing to perceptions that visiting or travelling through the park in the evening is unsafe. Improving the quality, distribution, and uniformity of lighting can guide use and circulation, and enhance a sense of safety in the park.

#5

A **greater feeling of safety** was ranked fifth at 42% for what would encourage survey respondents to visit and spend more time in the park.

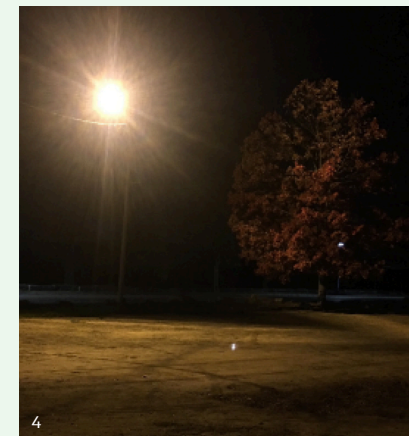
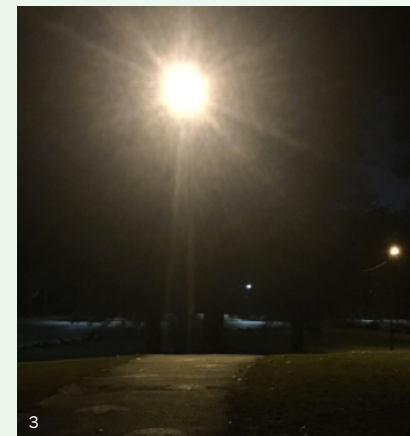
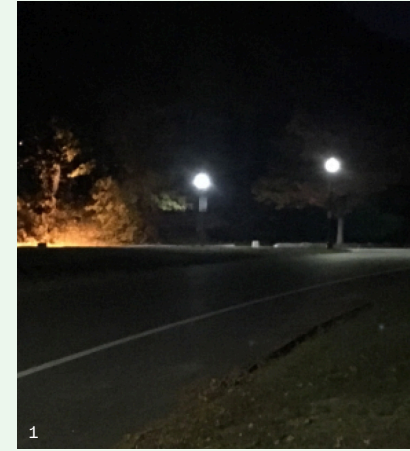
Top Park Improvements

The following were listed in the top 10 park improvements:



Light Fixtures

- Parking and Roadway Lighting - Inside Park
- Parking and Roadway Lighting - Outside Park
- Pathway Lighting
- Service and Stadium Lighting



Circuit Drive

The street lighting on Circuit Drive is not consistent. In some areas, the poles are spaced more than 200 feet apart. Large stretches of darkness, contrasted by small pockets of bright light create challenging conditions for drivers and increase the possibility of car accidents. The pedestrian path does not have concentrated light at all, making bus stops and walking to parking lots in the evening feel uncomfortable.

Pathways & Parking

The majority of areas around walkways adjacent to Circuit Drive are completely dark, increasing the sense of insecurity and discouraging pedestrian use at night. Areas at the park's main entrance, including the bus stop and parking lots at Peabody Circle are unlit, which creates a significant sense of unease at an important threshold where visitors should feel welcomed.

The Playstead

Six different combinations of fixtures and poles with varying color temperatures are in use around the Playstead. This variety makes it difficult to achieve a unified aesthetic in the park. The combination of different solutions creates a visual discomfort that fatigues visitors' eyes and decreases their sense of safety. Popular areas such as the Seaver St. playground and Overlook ruins are surrounded by overgrown vegetation that blocks lighting.

To understand a park, you have to understand its

Connections

03 | Access & Movement

Assets Become Barriers

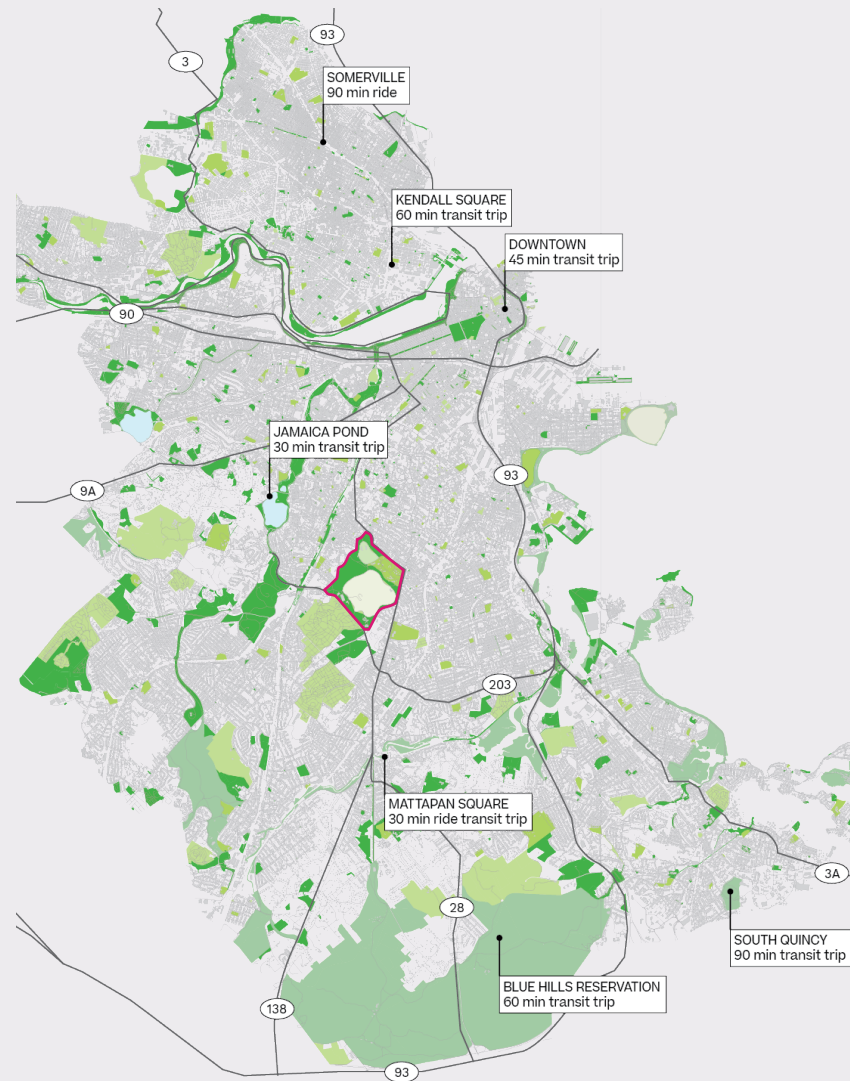
Olmsted's original design for Franklin Park relied on a strong enclosure of perimeter walls, vegetation, and topography to fashion an internalized scenic escape from the crowded conditions of the 19th-century city. As communities continued to grow and cars took precedence, busy roads and difficult crossings developed, further separating the park from its neighbors. In the park, Circuit Drive became a significant divider, clear pedestrian circulation eroded, and control of park acreage diversified. These conditions combined to limit the free flow of movement. Better connections to the neighborhoods and city-wide transit systems, clearer and better connected in-park circulation and consistent signage would do a lot to reconnect with the park with its neighbors, welcome visitors from near and far, and restore the park's coherence.

Regional Asset, Neighborhood Park

The City's Largest Open Space

As Boston's largest open space and the final link of The Emerald Necklace, Franklin Park draws visitors from the neighborhood, the city, and the region. At 500+ acres, it's scale makes it a particularly important open space resource for the communities to its east, who lack access to larger parks and natural areas within their neighborhoods.

The park must first and foremost serve its surrounding neighborhoods, but the opportunity exists to welcome regional communities and visitors to connect with a landscape unlike anywhere else in the city.



Regional Transit Connections

Franklin Park is accessible to many communities within a 90-minute transit ride.

Regional Open Space Network (left)

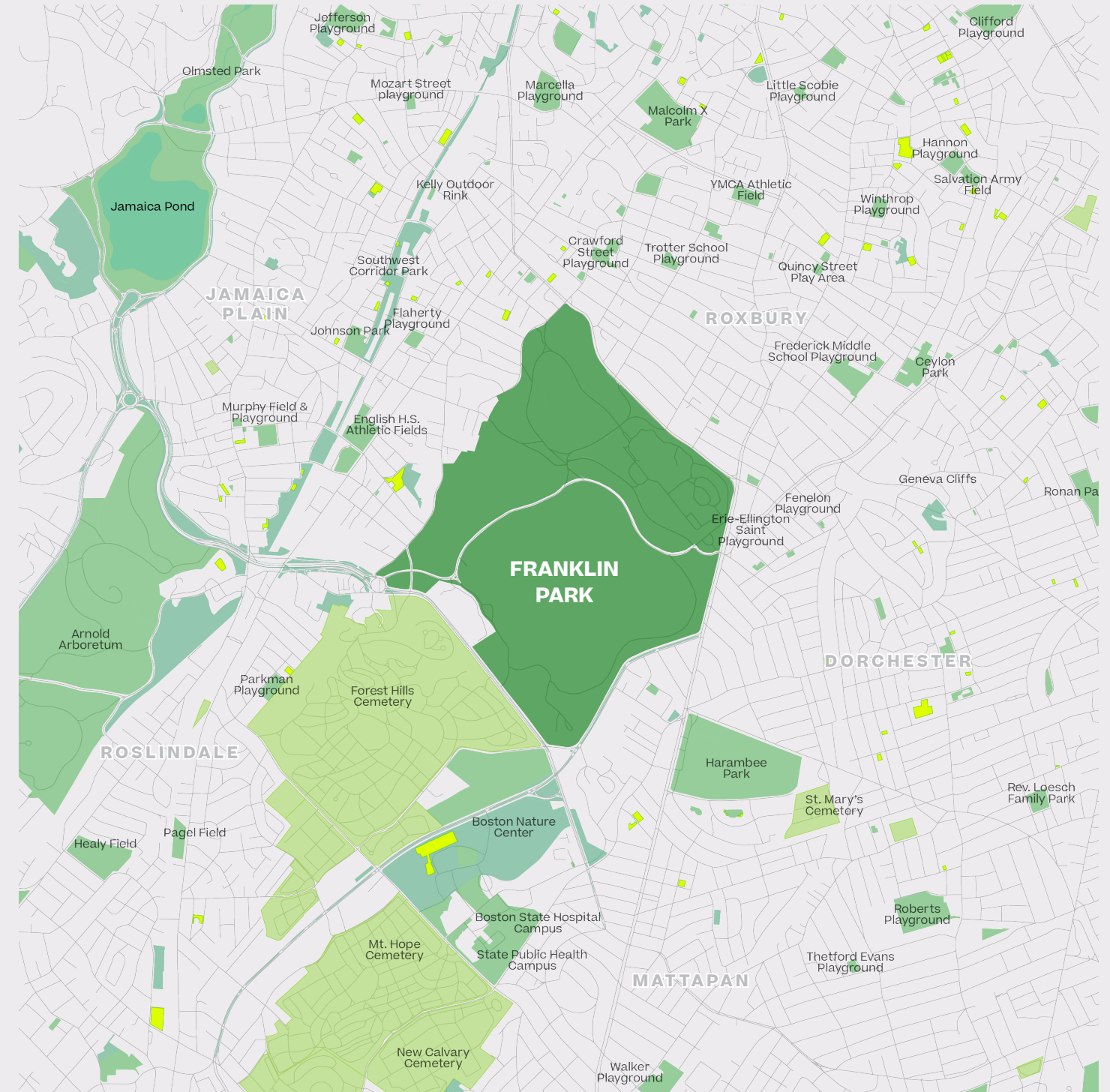
- Parks, Playgrounds, Gardens
- Cemeteries
- Community Amenities and Recreation
- Nature Reserves
- Golf Courses

Open Space Connections

Franklin Park is surrounded by a diverse array of neighborhood open spaces. It is also integral to a larger open space network extending to the Charles River (via the Emerald Necklace) and Downtown Boston (via the Southwest Corridor).

Surrounding Open Space Network (right)

- Franklin Park
- Parks and Playgrounds
- Parkways and Urban Wilds
- Cemeteries
- Community Gardens



Under the Radar

Inconsistent Messaging Limits Awareness

The areas around Franklin Park are well-served by mass transit connections to Downtown. Five nearby Orange Line and Commuter Rail Stations are located within a moderate walking distance from the park, but lack adequate signage or wayfinding to guide visitors to park entrances. Local bus routes serve the park, especially at the main entrance along Blue Hill Avenue, but most bus stops are in poor condition and are located along busy roads with few crosswalks.

Whether arriving from nearby transit or searching online, the park's identity is unclear and often focused on the Franklin Park Zoo. As a city-wide resource, communicating the park's presence and full range of offerings is critical to welcoming new users.



Public Transit Access

On a map, the Park appears to be a short walk from many modes of transit but nearby stations lack signage identifying routes to the park. As a result, connections from the Orange Line and Commuter Rail are underutilized.

Transit Lines

- MBTA Red Line
- MBTA Orange Line
- Commuter Rail
- Bus Routes
- Key Bus Routes



Forest Hills Station

Popular Online Searches

Search terms are primarily related to the zoo and the park in general, with the highest quantity of searches occurring in summer months on mobile devices.

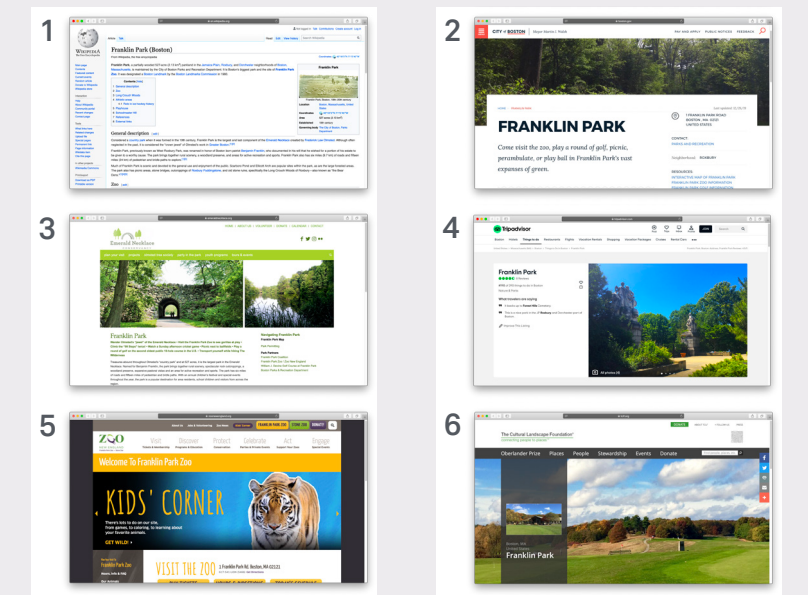
- █ Franklin Park
- █ Franklin Park Zoo
- █ Directions / Address / Map
- █ Events & Athletics
- █ Nearby Businesses
- █ Crime & Safety

Google Maps locate the zoo, golf course, stadium, and hospital within the park, but do not highlight 'Franklin Park' as the place that contains these destinations. The label for the Park is not as strong as those for the individual pieces within it.

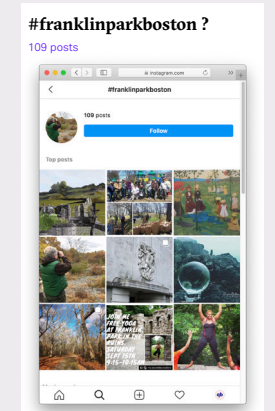
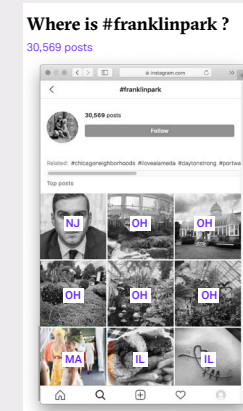


Top Search Results for 'Franklin Park'

The variety of web pages related to Franklin Park means increased opportunity for conflicting details about the park online leaving it unclear who is the 'keeper' of this information.



#FranklinPark on social media produces parks across the country, while #franklinparkboston reveals more accurate location results.



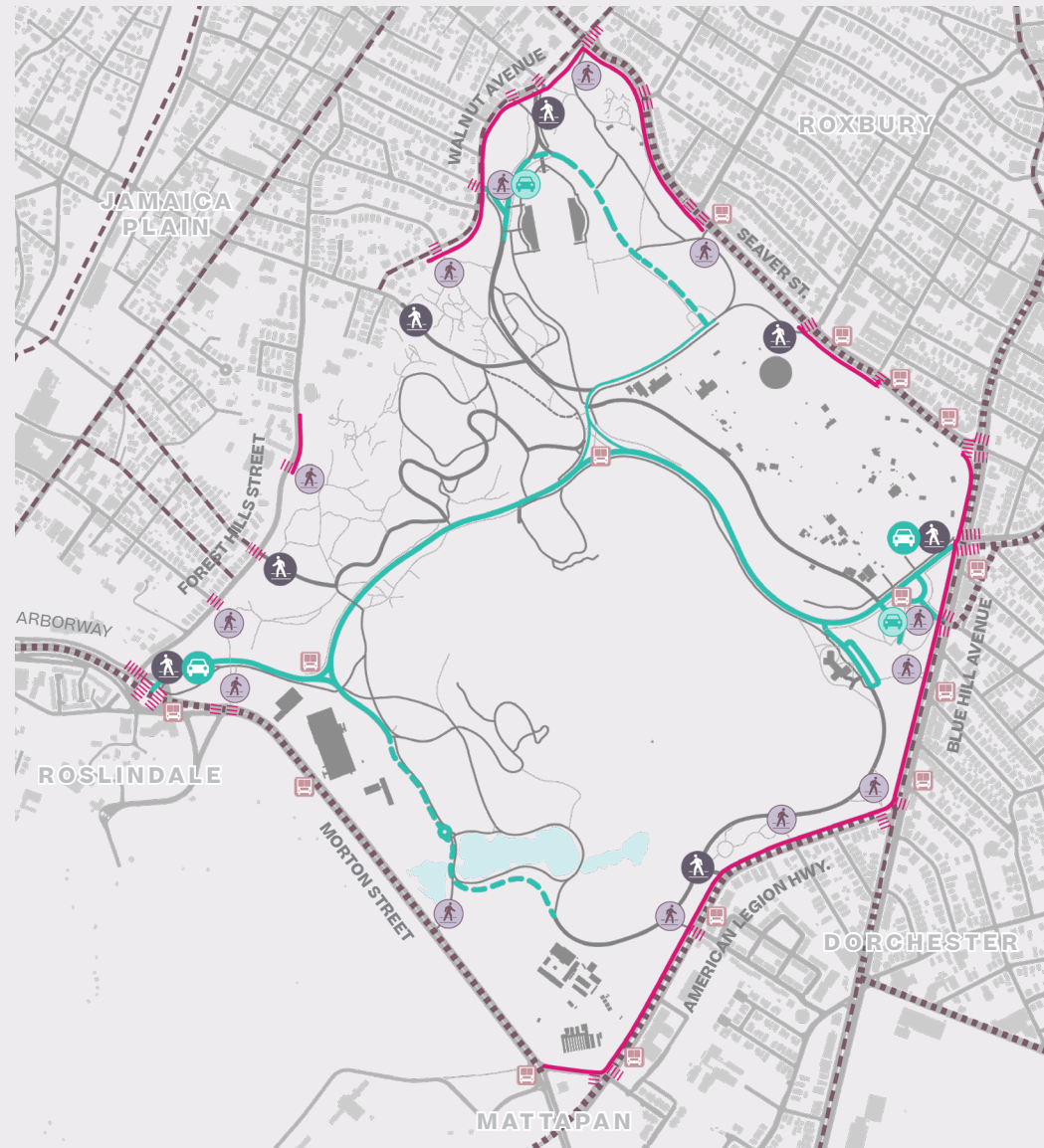
Barriers to Entry

Unequal Access & Deferred Maintenance

Discourage Use

Edges can be welcoming frames for park life or barriers that hinder access. An examination of edges, beginning with the physical perimeter and extending into the park and surrounding neighborhoods, reveals where better access and visibility can welcome all users.

Elements originally intended to create a welcome separation between park and city now create barriers to access. Busy traffic intensifies this divide. Future work should address barriers at the edges to improve pedestrian and bicycle access from the adjacent neighborhoods.



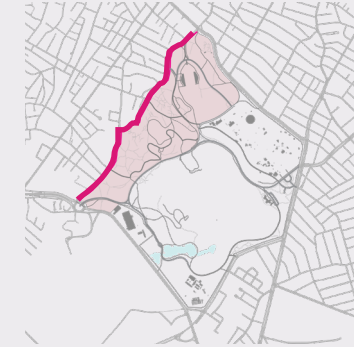
Inconsistent Edge

Stretches of the park perimeter along Seaver Street, Forest Hills Street, and Morton Street lack paved sidewalks, which create unsafe pedestrian conditions along busy roads.

Crosswalks, Entries, and Edges

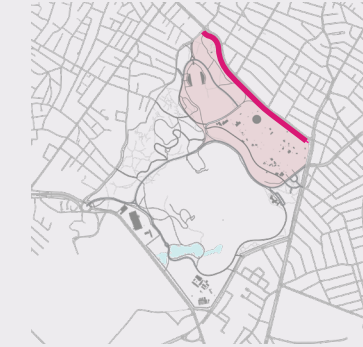
- Vehicle Access
- - - Restricted Vehicle Access
- Paved Perimeter Sidewalk
- ||||| Crosswalk
- Primary Pedestrian Entrance
- Secondary Pedestrian Entrance
- Primary Vehicle Entrance
- Secondary Vehicle Entrance
- Bus Stop

Forest Hills Street and Walnut Avenue



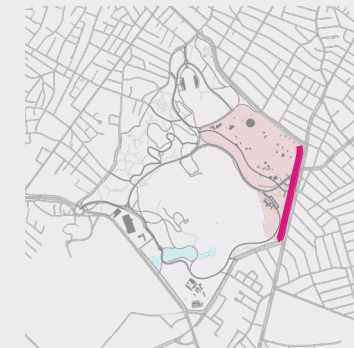
- **NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS:** Jamaica Plain
- **ENTRANCES:** 7
- **CROSSWALKS:** 8
- **NEARBY PARK SPACES:** Playstead, Wilderness

Seaver St.



- **NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS:** Roxbury
- **ENTRANCES:** 3
- **CROSSWALKS:** 7
- **NEARBY PARK SPACES:** Long Crouch Woods, Playstead, Zoo

Blue Hill Avenue



- **NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS:** Dorchester
- **ENTRANCES:** 3
- **CROSSWALKS:** 6
- **NEARBY PARK SPACES:** Zoo, Golf Course, Circuit Loop

American Legion Highway



- **NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS:** Dorchester, Mattapan
- **ENTRANCES:** 4
- **CROSSWALKS:** 6
- **NEARBY PARK SPACES:** Golf Course, Playgrounds, Scarborough Pond, Circuit Loop

Arborway and Morton Street



- **NEARBY NEIGHBORHOODS:** Roslindale, Jamaica Plain
- **ENTRANCES:** 3
- **CROSSWALKS:** 5
- **NEARBY PARK SPACES:** Scarborough Pond and Hill, Shattuck Picnic Area, The Wilderness, Circuit Loop



43% of survey respondents said they typically arrive by walking or running, while 17% said they typically arrive by bicycle.

Quiet Streets, Multiple Entries

Forest Hills Street & Walnut Avenue

Abundant entrances serve the Jamaica Plain community, opening onto a diverse range of spaces with active and passive uses, including the Playstead and White Stadium, El Parquesito Playground, Glen Road, and The Wilderness. MBTA Orange Line connections including Stony Brook, Green Street, and Forest Hills Stations are all within a 15-minute walk, but lack posted information about the Park or how to reach it.

Pedestrian access from Jamaica Plain is easy - but only if you know where you are going. Posted signage along walking and biking routes from the Orange Line and enhanced wayfinding in The Wilderness can improve access for new users as well.



34% of survey respondents said they access the park from Forest Hills Street and 21% said Walnut Ave., making this the second most-used edge

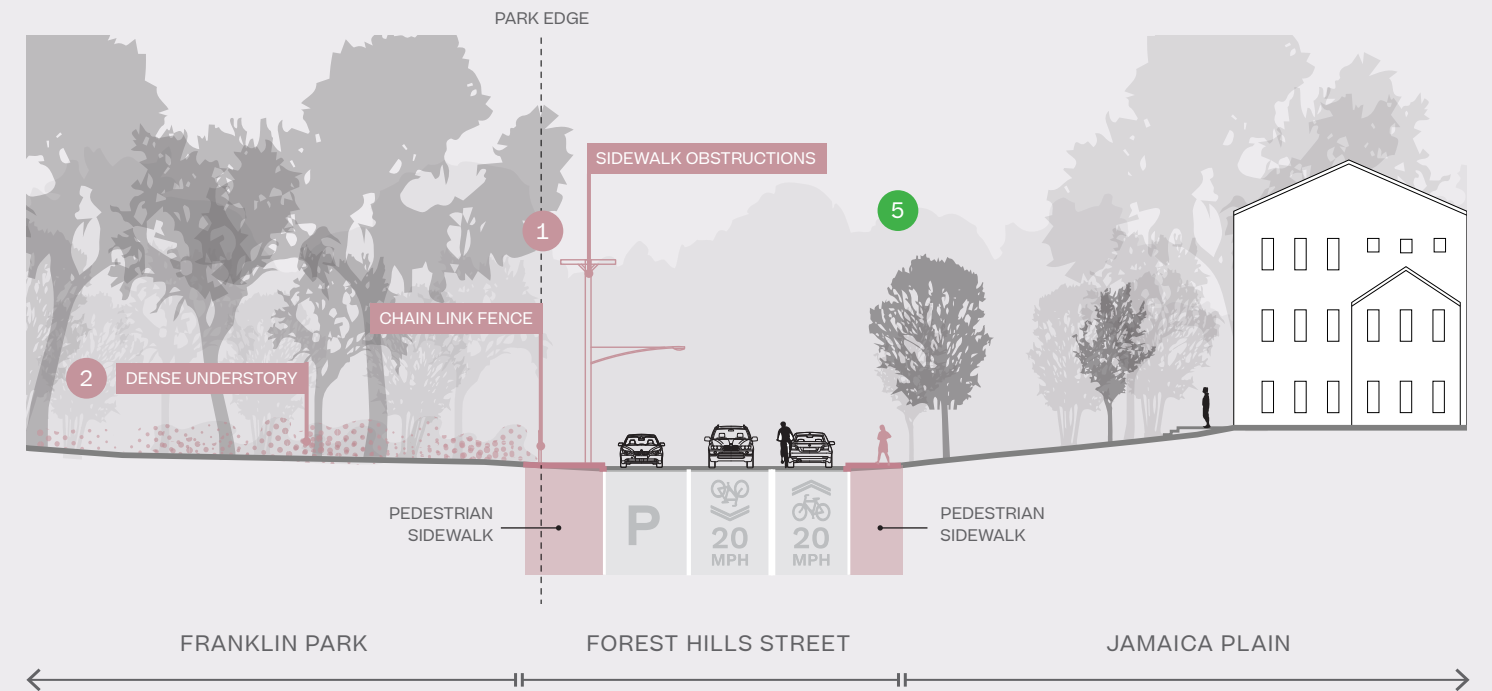


Only park edge not continuously bound by roads

Community Memory

“My son’s fourth birthday party was at the Williams Street entrance to the park. We picniced, made snowmen, explored the small ‘river’. It was magic. The tunnel to the park from Williams Street entrance is like Narnia in the snow. I loved pulling a sled through it with my kids and walking into our neighborhood winter wonderland.”

- Action Plan Survey Respondent

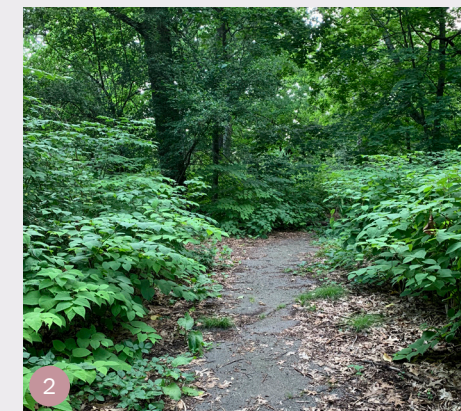
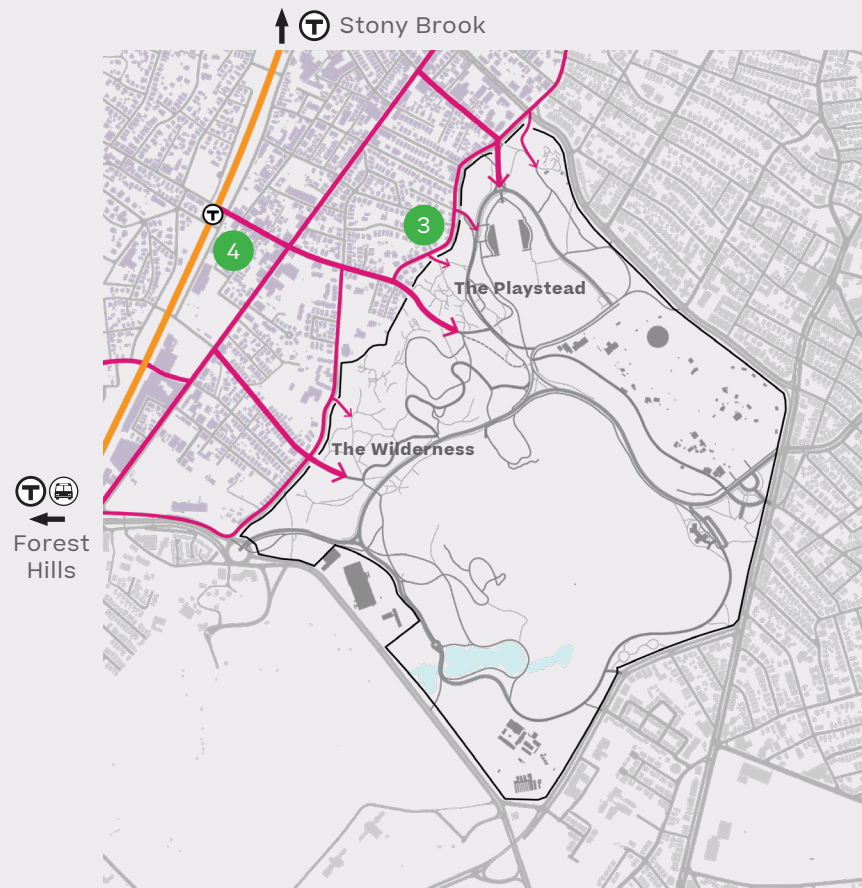


What are the barriers?

- 1 Difficult Passage**
Fence, walls, and light/utility poles leave little room for pedestrians on perimeter walkways. Forest Hills Street has long stretches of unpaved sidewalk and chain link fencing. There is no pedestrian walkway along the park perimeter between Forest Hills Street and Walnut Ave.
- 2 Dense and Disorienting Arrival**
Arriving into the Wilderness can be disorienting for new visitors. A dense woodland understory with thickets of invasive Glossy Buckthorn and Japanese Knotweed inhibit views into the park, making it difficult to find your way.

Where are the connections?

- 3 Multiple Entrances**
Many entry points bring users to a range of active and passive use spaces.
- 4 Transit Access**
Forest Hills (to the east), Green Street, and Stony Brook (to the North) MBTA stops are within a 15-minute walk of the park.
- 5 Continuous Canopy**
Mature canopy trees extend the character of the park 'Wilderness', unifying park and neighborhood.

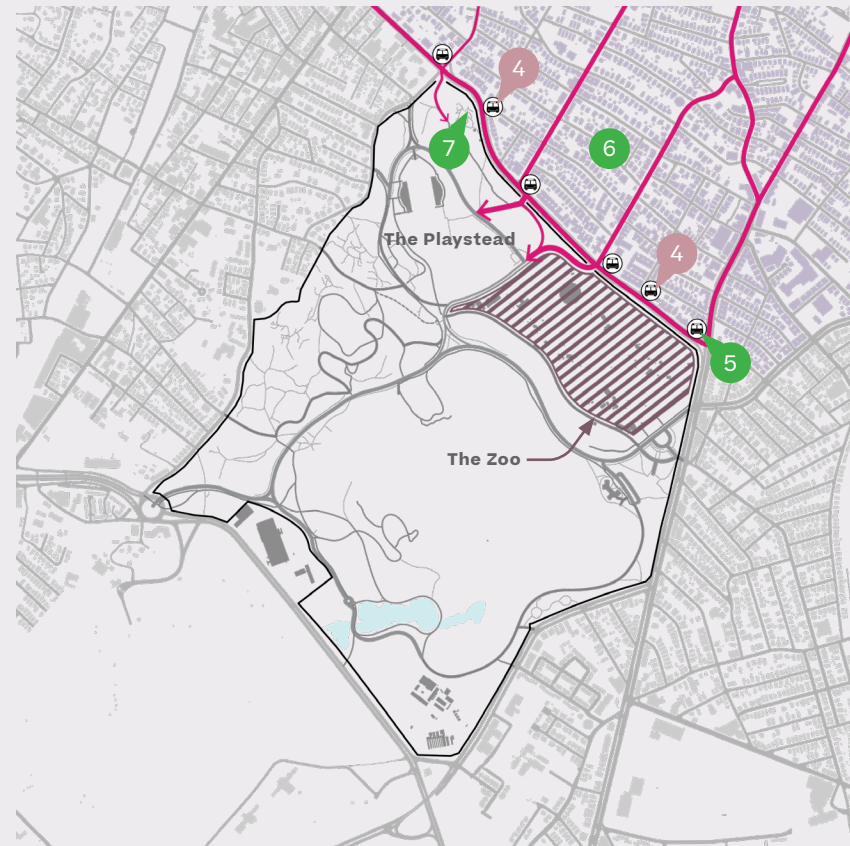


Dangerous Crossing, Difficult Entry

Seaver Street

Very few entrances along Seaver Street serve the Roxbury community. The adjacent neighborhood is one of the densest residential districts surrounding the Park, but busy traffic, rock ledges, and fences separate the community from the most actively-programmed areas of the park.

Although access is available between Humboldt and Elm Hill Avenues, the Park's densest residential edge is also challenged with the most difficult access. Ensuring safe crossings and improving entries into the park can welcome many more Roxbury neighbors. The Zoo and Park can also project a more unified identity at the street as a beacon to welcome visitors arriving from near and far.



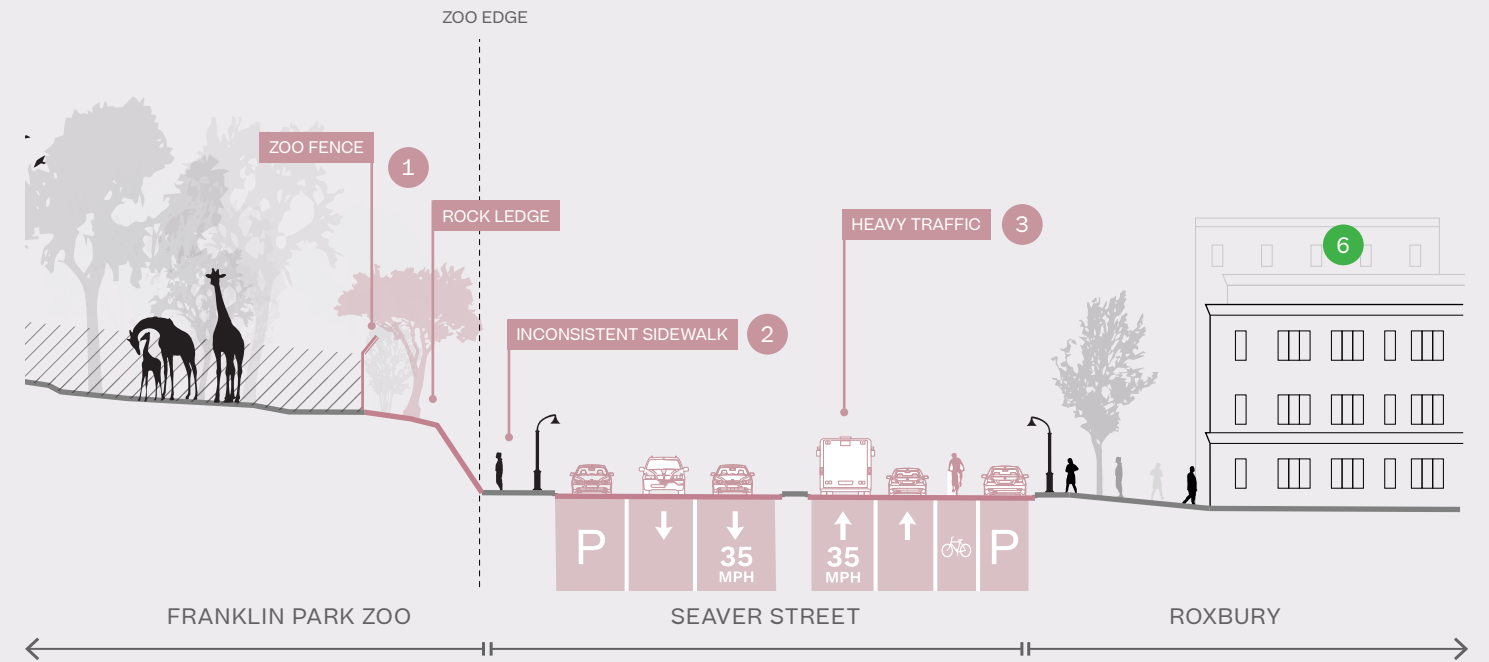
27% of survey respondents said they typically access the park from Seaver St.



Roxbury residents ranked car emissions and noise pollution as their top environmental health concern, followed by dangerous traffic. Source: Boston Public Health Commission



21 - 25% of people living in Lower Roxbury speak another Indo-European language as a first language



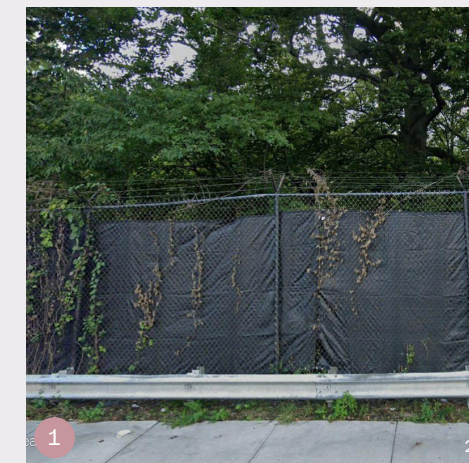
What are the barriers?

- 1 Rock Ledge and Zoo Fence**
Rock ledges create an impassable barrier and block views into the park. The Zoo fence projects an exclusive and uninviting image of the Park to the neighborhood and street.
- 2 Inconsistent Sidewalk**
The sidewalk is interrupted with many obstructions and is precariously narrow From Humboldt Avenue to Elm Hill Avenue. Variations in material and width create safety and universal access challenges.

- 3 Heavy Traffic**
Four lanes of vehicular traffic and two lanes of parking create a noisy barrier of constantly-moving traffic.
- 4 Dead-End Crosswalks**
Crosswalks at Harold Street and Maple Street lead to southbound bus stops, but a ledge and barbed-wire fence create unwelcoming edges.

Where are the connections?

- 5 High-Frequency Bus Routes**
Many bus stops provide frequent service along the edge.
- 6 Dense Residential Neighborhood**
Roxbury is the densest neighborhood adjacent to the Park. Adapting or minimizing barriers along Seaver Street will enhance access for many users.
- 7 Overlook Potential**
High points provide neighborhood and city views from inside the park.



Vibrant Edge, Main Arrival

Blue Hill Avenue

The main entrance at Peabody Circle connects visitors arriving in car and on foot to The Franklin Park Zoo, The William Devine Golf Course, and the pedestrian Circuit Loop. Blue Hill Avenue is a historic main street and lively commercial corridor, but the broad street, busy traffic, and lack of crossings create a strong divide between Dorchester residents and the Park.

The park's main entrance is separated from a vibrant street edge and local businesses by wide roads and busy traffic. Inside, parking and confusing traffic patterns divide gathering spaces at the Zoo and Golf Course entries. Prioritizing pedestrians and bikes, and clarifying circulation can better connect the street's social life with the park.



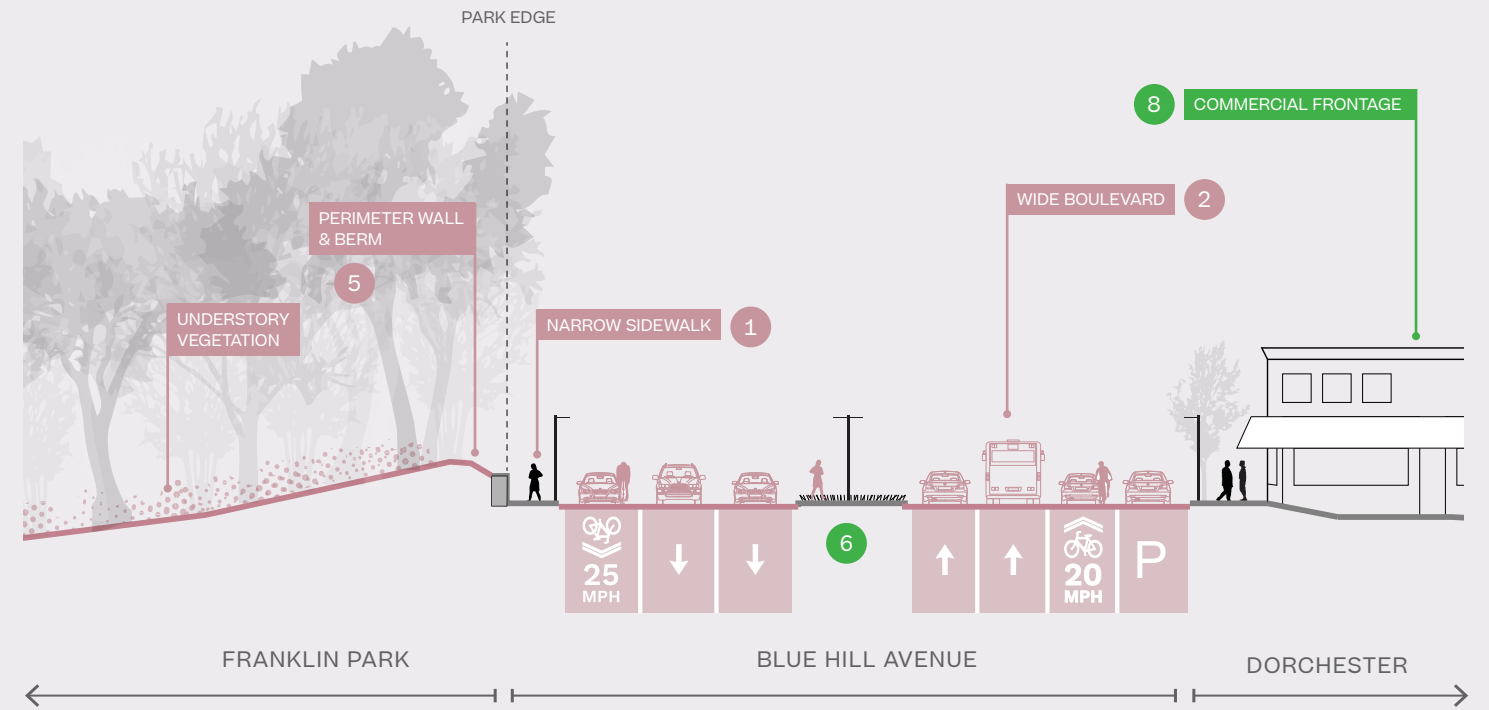
62% of survey respondents said they typically access the park from Blue Hill Avenue, making it the most-used entrance.



Franklin Field North and South neighborhoods have the highest number of children living adjacent to the park



Blue Hill Avenue has the most frequent local bus service of any park edge



What are the barriers?

- 1 Narrow Passage**
Narrow sidewalk along both edges creates uneasy pedestrian experience.
- 2 Wide Boulevard, Few Crossings**
Six lanes of traffic and one lane of parking create the widest vehicular right of way adjacent to the Park.
- 3 Vehicular Arrival Priority**
Peabody Circle is dominated by roads and parking, making an uncomfortable environment for pedestrians and bikes.
- 4 Entrance Ruin**
The former Refectory service entrance is neglected and unsafe.
- 5 Low Visibility**
Berm, stonewall, dense vegetation and a steep drop into the park combine to inhibit views into the Park.
- 6 Wide Median**
A wide median can accommodate a crossing refuge island.
- 7 Main Entrance**
Peabody Circle is a well-scaled entrance for a large park. Clarifying and prioritizing pedestrian and bike circulation will heighten a sense of arrival into the Park's immersive environment.
- 8 Commercial Frontage**
The Park's only commercial edge is an opportunity to engage local businesses.

Where are the connections?



Welcoming Edge, Limited Crossings

American Legion Highway

Multiple entrances along American Legion Highway serve families, many with young children. Like Blue Hill Avenue, American Legion Highway is busy with traffic and difficult to cross, but the park spaces beyond are well-used and welcome visitors with views of the park and neighborhood alike.

Shady canopy trees and long views beckon visitors, but crossing American Legion Highway is difficult and dangerous. Improving crossings can welcome more schoolchildren, families, and walkers to nearby playgrounds and the Circuit Loop.



26% of survey respondents said they typically access the park from American Legion Highway



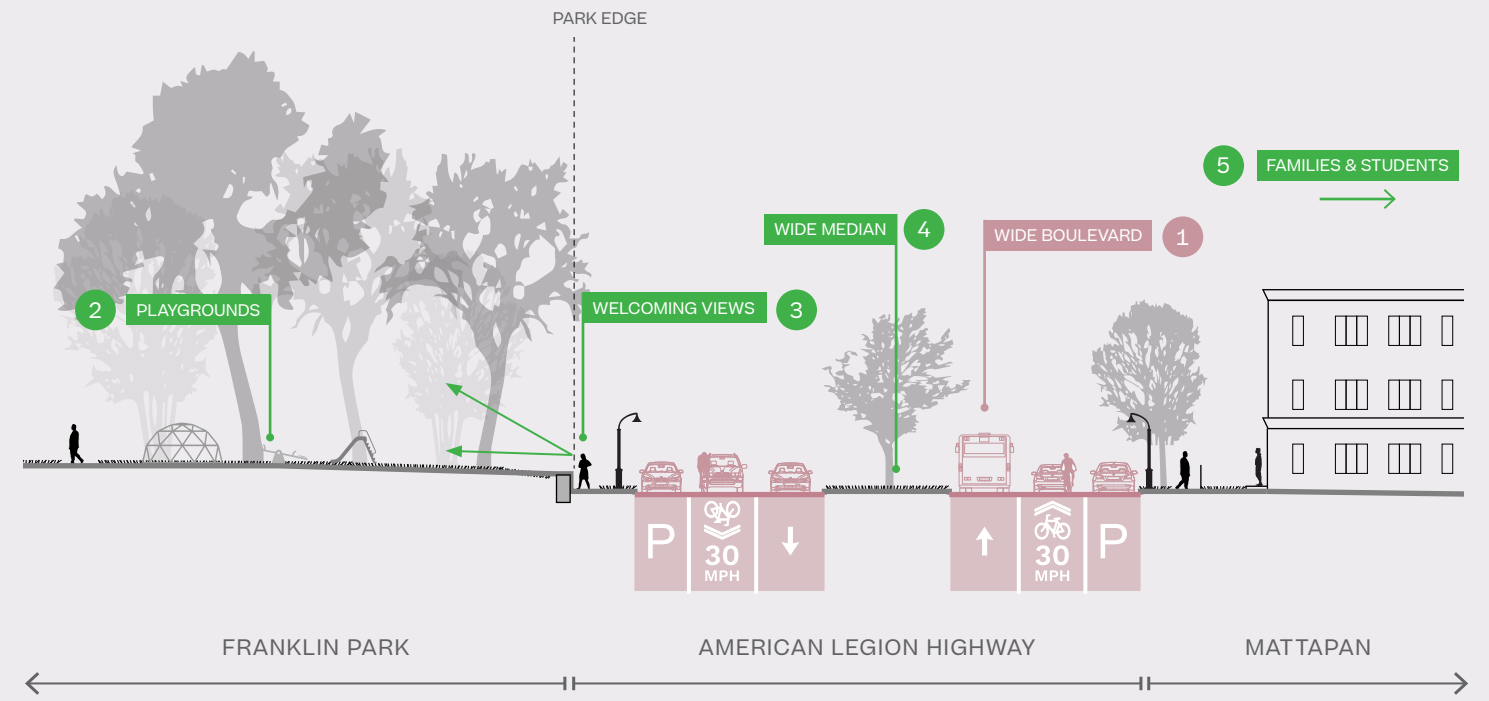
81 - 90% of people living in Franklin Field South speak Spanish as a first language.



Community Memory

Our Brooke Mattapan scholars have enjoyed countless afternoons in the American Legion playspace. "Why don't we come here all the time?" I wish the path that allows our kids to access that park was cleaned up more consistently, acting as a welcome to kids that love wide, open spaces.

- Action Plan Survey Respondent

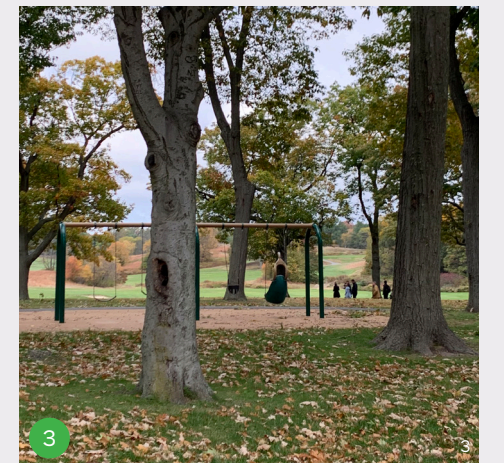
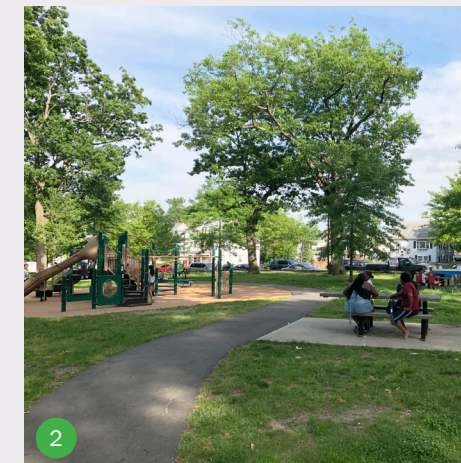
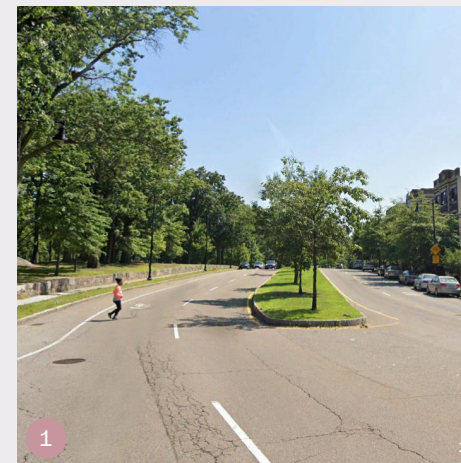


What are the barriers?

- 1 Wide Boulevard, Few Crossings**
High-traffic boulevards make crossing from the neighborhood difficult.

Where are the connections?

- 2 Community Amenities**
Playgrounds and picnic tables are located near neighborhoods with many families with young children.
- 3 Welcoming Views**
Low boundary wall, high canopy, and good visibility of park life invite visitors in, while providing important separation from the busy street.
- 4 Wide Median**
Wide medians with shade from street trees offers the opportunity to create crossing refuge islands for pedestrians.
- 5 Families & Students**
Several schools are located across the street and the Franklin Field South neighborhood has the largest number of families with children.



Uninviting, Limited Entry Morton Street

The Casey Overpass removal and public realm improvements around Forest Hills Station greatly enhanced bicycle and pedestrian connections from Jamaica Plain and Roslindale to the Park's westernmost entrance. The remaining frontage along Morton Street, however, is almost completely inaccessible to pedestrians due to a lack of sidewalks and crosswalks. Overgrown thickets and fences make Morton St. feel like the back side of the park.

This overgrown and inaccessible edge feels overlooked, but the Forest Hills entrance is an untapped opportunity to connect pedestrians and cyclists to the Wilderness, Circuit Drive, and the renovated pathways at Scarboro Pond.



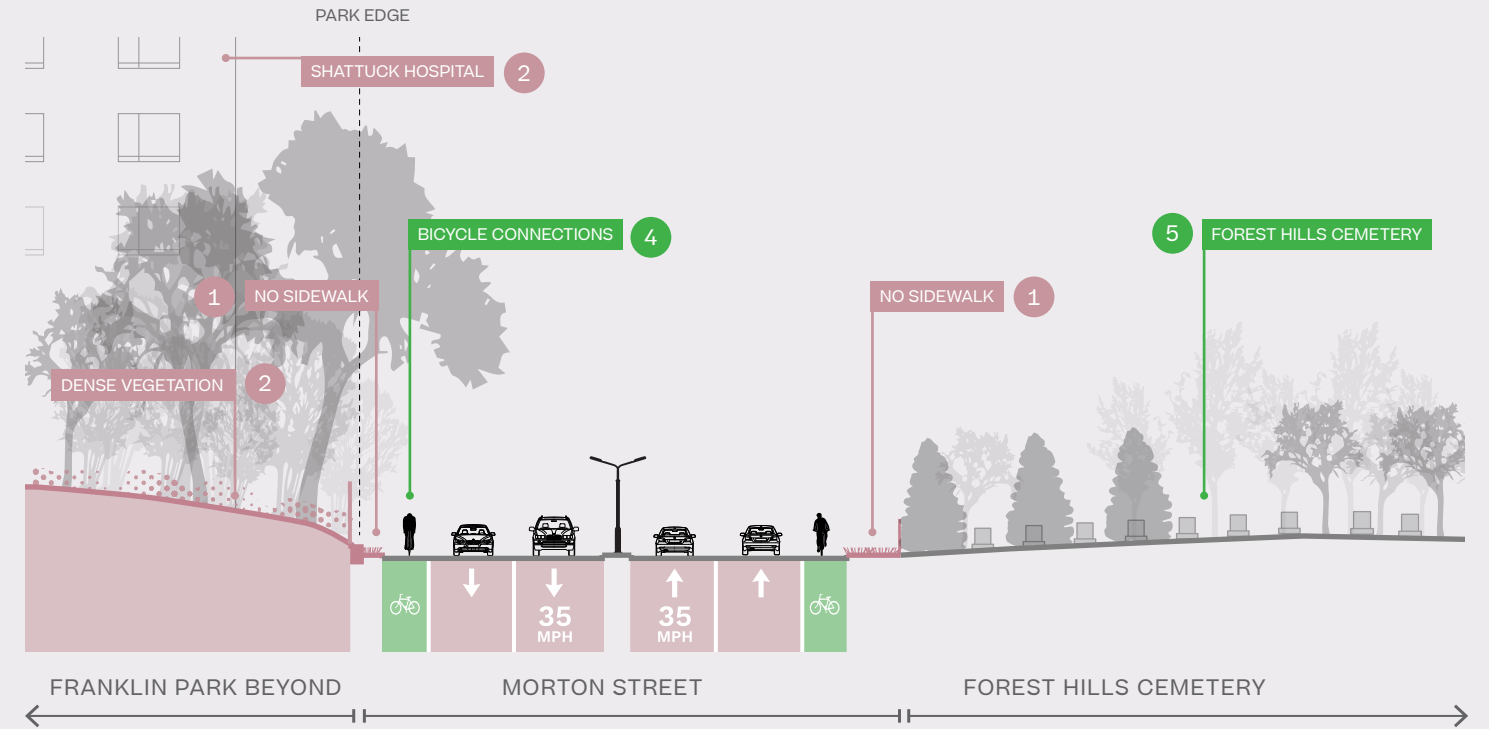
23% of survey respondents said they access the park from Morton Street and 17% said Arborway, making this the least-used edge



Community Aspirations

"My dream is for Franklin Park to be a tranquil place to walk where my family can access nature via walking paths and safe biking paths. I want to feel safe biking to and from the park via Forest Hills, and for the park to connect on both sides to safe bike infrastructure so that I can commute through the park every day."

- Action Plan Survey Respondent



What are the barriers?

- 1 **Limited Pedestrian Access**
The perimeter sidewalk ends at Shattuck Hospital and cemetery adjacency limits access. The southeastern entrance on Morton Street is large in scale, but there aren't any sidewalks for pedestrians and bikes to access it.

- 2 **Dense Back Edge**
The Shattuck Hospital, Maintenance Yard, fences, and dense vegetation create a thick edge inhibiting views and access. From the outside, this edge does not project a welcoming or unified identity.
- 3 **Southern Separation**
A lack of pedestrian connections inhibit access from Mattapan.

Where are the connections?

- 4 **New Pathways**
Recent updates to bicycle and pedestrian paths improved connections from Forest Hills Station.
- 5 **Open Space Adjacency**
Nearby open spaces including the Forest Hills Cemetery, Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary, and Arnold Arboretum offer opportunities for new partnerships and connections.



A Connector Divides Traffic Splits the Park

Vehicular traffic not only rings the Park's outer edges, it also bisects the interior. Circuit Drive and dispersed parking facilitates vehicular and service access for a significant portion of users and programs, but its adaptation as a thru-street came at the cost of pedestrian and bike safety. Important moments of orientation and arrival, such as the Valley Gates and Peabody Circle, are now a complicated system of paths, drives, and parking.

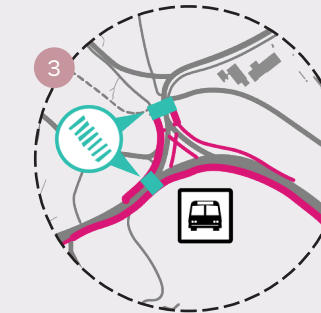
Circuit Drive's fast and noisy traffic create a divisive internal edge, interrupting both physical connections and the experience of being immersed in the park. Confusing intersections at Peabody Circle and the Valley Gates leave pedestrians and cyclists vulnerable and unsafe. Improving pedestrian connections across and along the road will enhance visitor arrival circulation and safety.



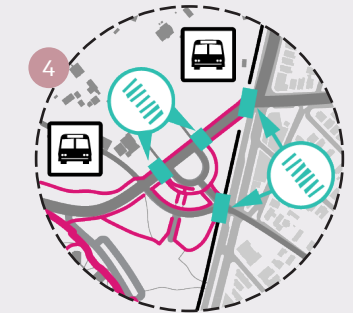
75% of survey respondents said they typically arrive to the park by car.



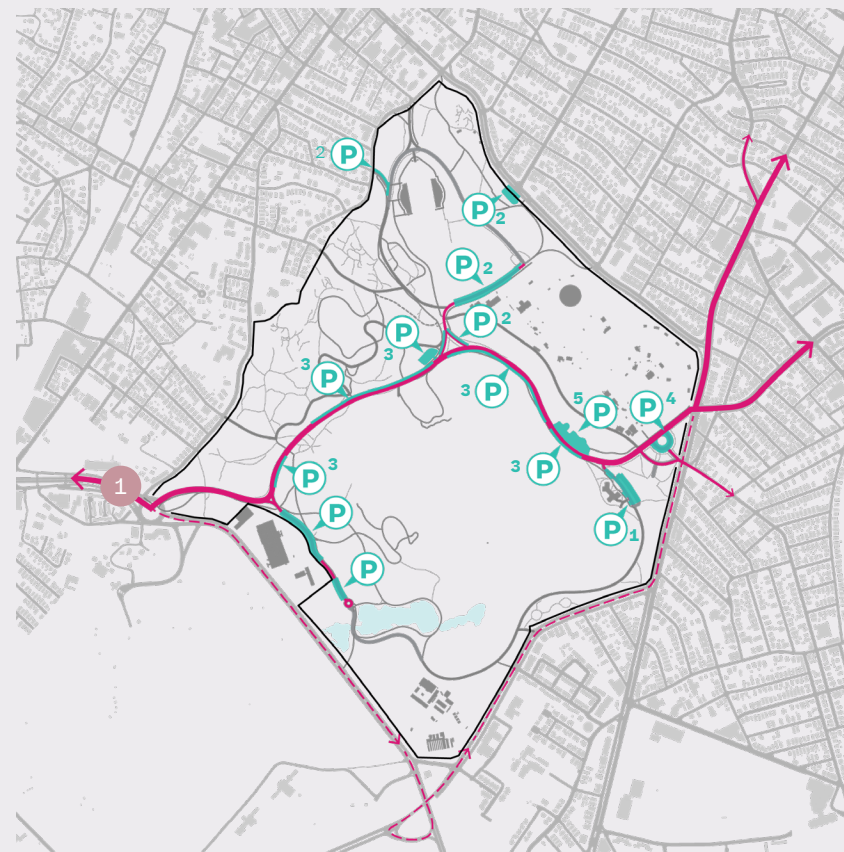
Forest Hills Entry



Valley Gates



Peabody Circle Entry



Parking and Vehicular Traffic

- Primary Vehicular Access
- Parking Lot or Roadside Parking

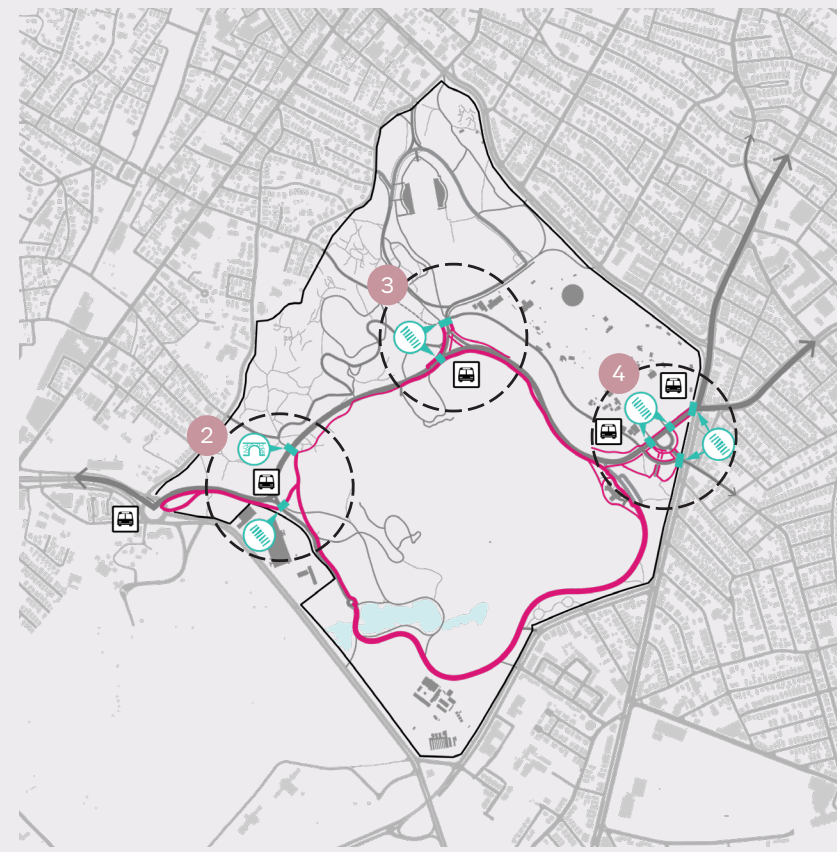
1 Shortcuts and Traffic Patterns

Most of the car traffic on Circuit Drive is not from park visitors, but instead is cars using the road as a 'cut through' from one area of the city to another.

Parking Data

Extensive parking is available within the park, but it is mostly informal in nature, leading to inefficiencies and visitors parking in the surrounding neighborhoods during large events.

Location	Spaces
1 Golf Course	120-140
2 Playstead, Stadium, Valley Gates & Seaver Street	315-345
3 Circuit Drive	220-250
4 Blue Hill Ave Entrance	120-140
5 Circuit Drive Parking Lot	140-155
TOTAL	915 - 1,030

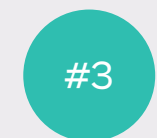


Pedestrian Circulation

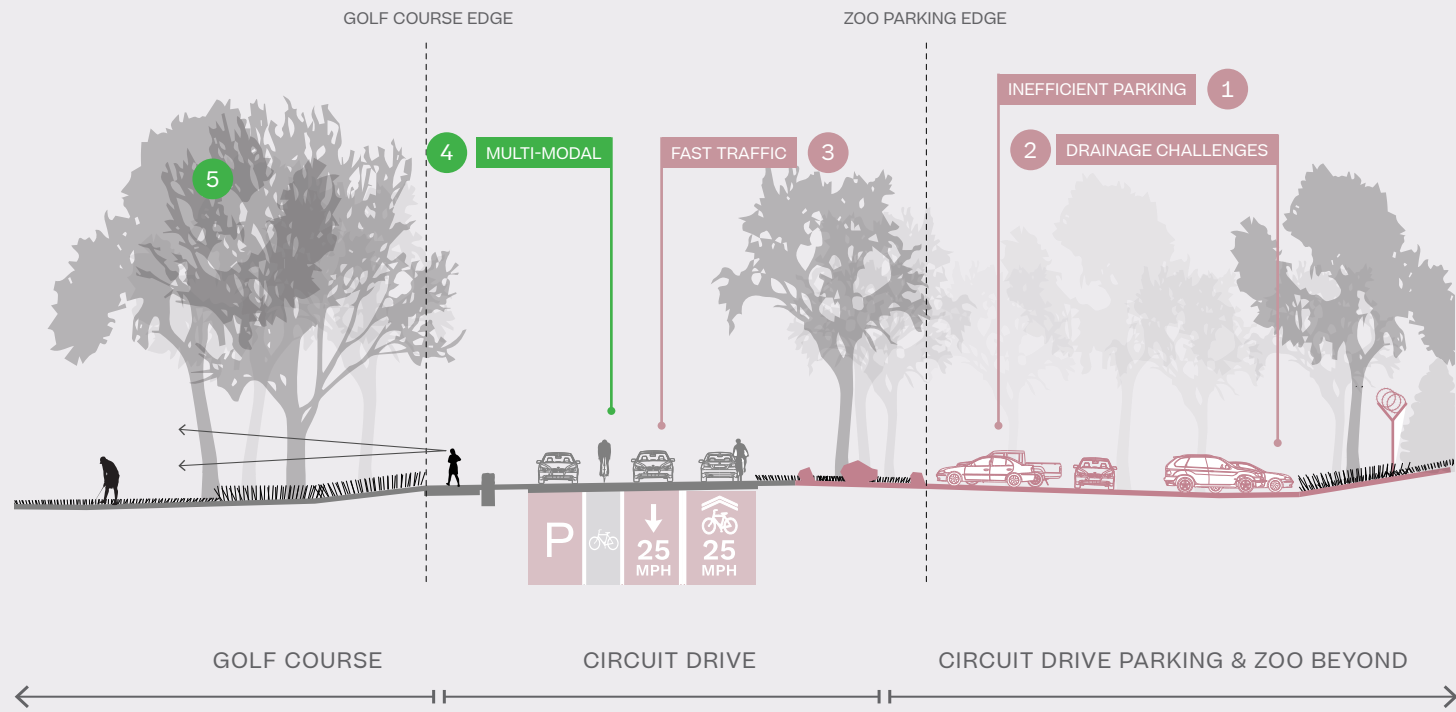
- The Circuit Loop & Pedestrian Paths
- Crosswalk
- Ellicott Arch
- Bus Stop

Intersection Confusion

Insufficient signage at three key intersections creates confusion for drivers seeking parking and park amenities. Numerous pedestrian paths cross roads and parking, adding another layer to the wayfinding confusion.



The Circuit Loop is the third most popular destination in the park.



Section A

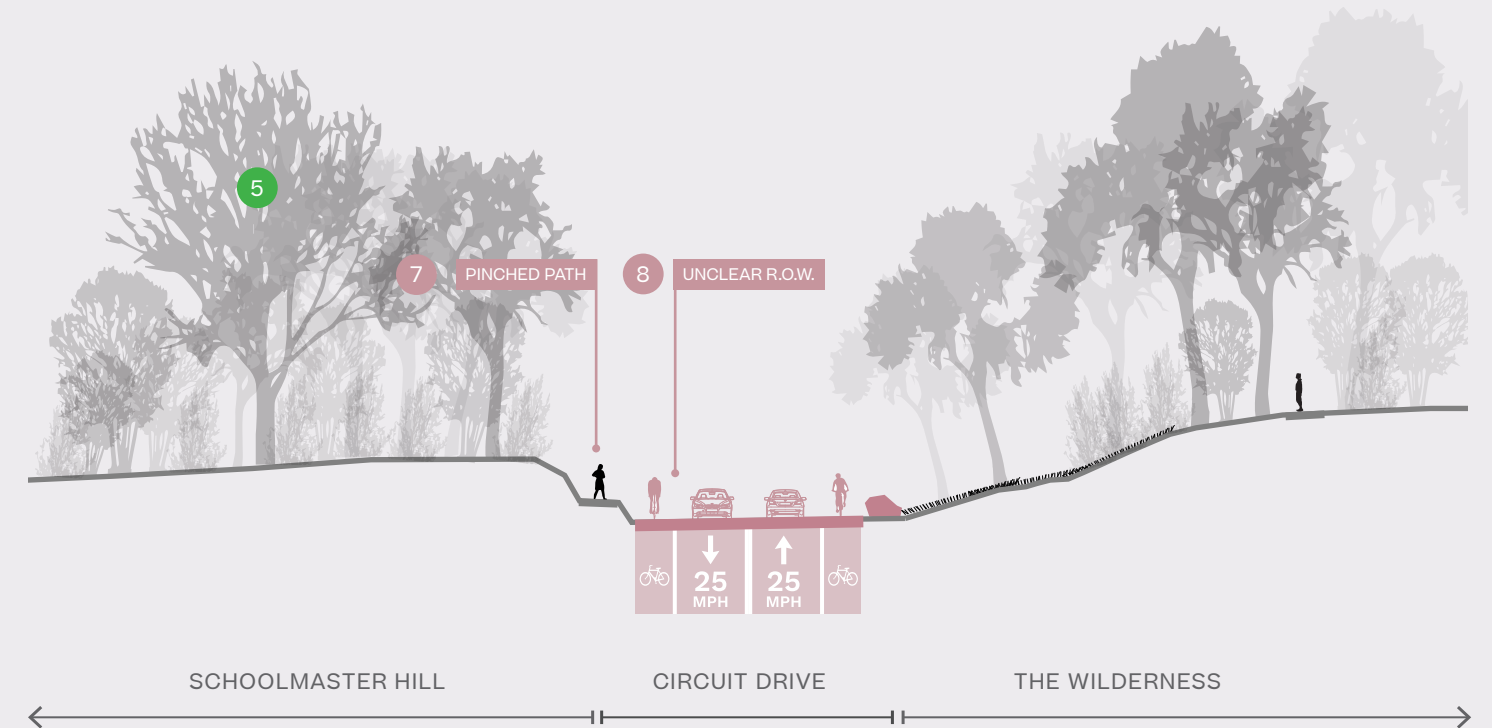
What are the barriers?

- 1 Inefficient Parking**
The majority of parking is informal, unmarked, or unregulated, leading to inefficiencies that decrease available spaces.
- 2 Drainage Challenges**
Compacted soils from mowing and low points contribute to standing water and stormwater washouts.

- 3 Park Space Fragmentation and Compression**
Cars tend to exceed the posted speed limit (25 mph). Fast traffic and parking divide major open spaces including The Wilderness, Golf Course, and Playstead. The pedestrian park experience is compressed into a narrow space between the Zoo Parking Lot and Golf Course.

Where are the connections?

- 4 Multi-modal**
The width of Circuit Drive can accommodate many uses, but clear separation of those uses can improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike.
- 5 Canopy Connection**
Mature canopy surrounds Circuit Drive, though additional planting could establish the corridor as a parkway, rather than a divider.



Section B

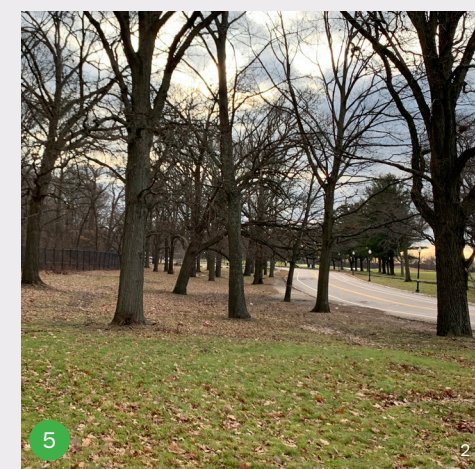
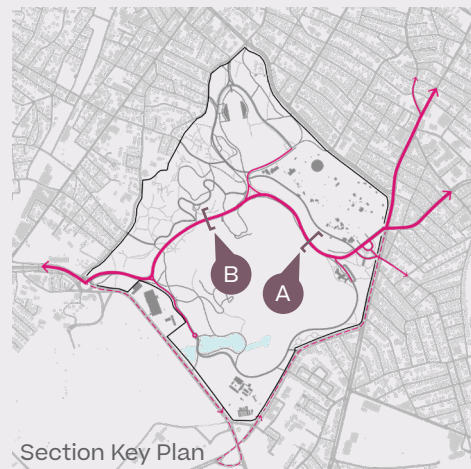
What are the barriers?

- 6 Infrequent Crossings**
Key crossings are missing to make safe connections across Circuit Drive.
- 7 Inconsistent Circuit Loop**
The Circuit Loop shrinks in width between the Wilderness and the Golf Course, pinching pedestrians between fast traffic and dense vegetation, and obscuring the main pedestrian circulation route around the park.

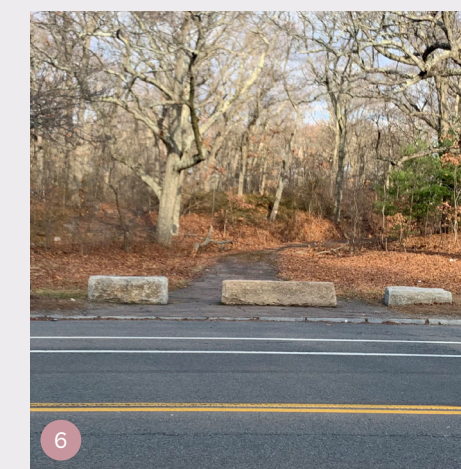
- 8 Unclear Right of Way**
Intermittent lane markings blur distinctions between parking and bicycle lanes.

Where are the connections?

- 9 Bus Connections**
Stops along Circuit Drive bring public transit access into the heart of the park. (See previous page)



Community Aspiration
 "A better Bike/Ped loop would be great. [The Circuit Loop] is fantastic, but the area along the road that cuts through the park is difficult and dangerous with kids."
 - Action Plan Survey Respondent

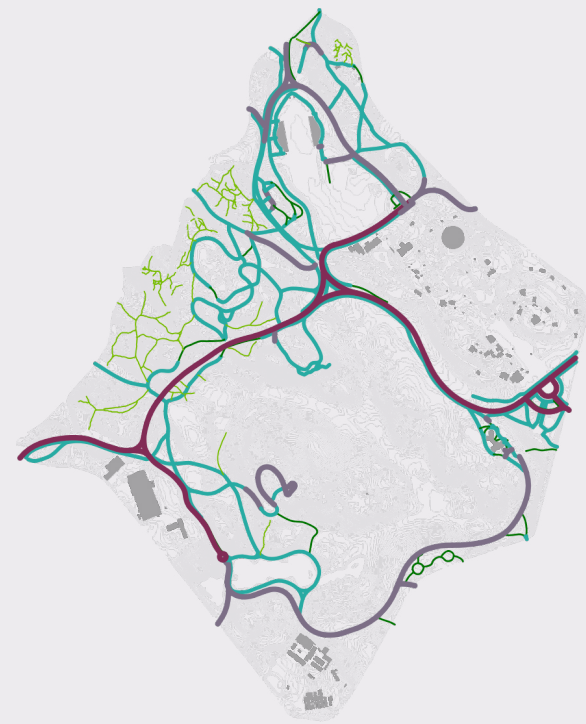


Lost Clarity

Path Hierarchy & Materials Erode Over Time

Differentiation of routes and separation of uses was a key component of the original park design. A clear hierarchy of path widths and materials served as important cues for movement and wayfinding throughout the park. Today, arbitrary and abrupt changes in width or material obscure the intuitive system of loops and circuits of the original network.

The original circulation design was carefully calibrated to use, offering a clear and immersive experience of landscapes across the Park. As cars replaced carriages and new uses were introduced, this clarity was lost. Reinstating rules to guide circulation hierarchy is critical to restoring a cohesive park experience.



Path Width and Scale

VEHICULAR AND SERVICE

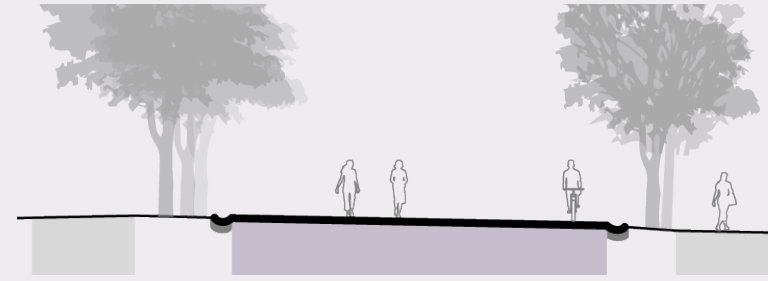
- Circuit Drive
- 16' - 30' +

PEDESTRIAN

- 8' - 15'
- 5' - 7'
- 1 - 4'

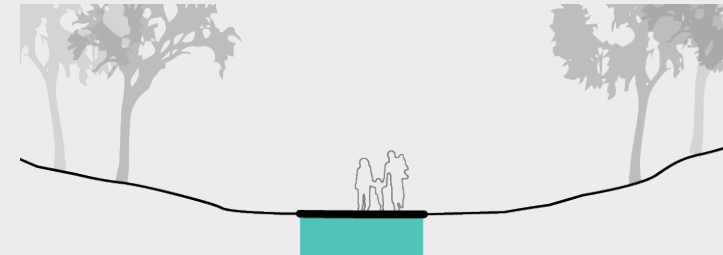
Path Material

- Asphalt
- Concrete
- Gravel
- Unpaved
- Stone



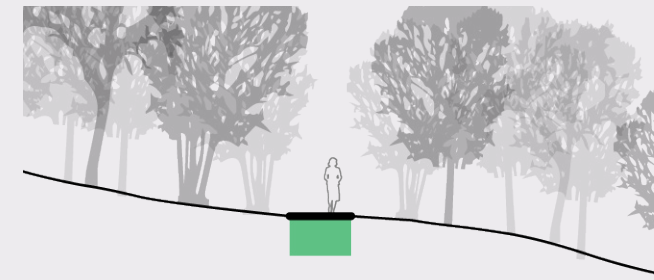
Multi-Use Vehicular, Service, and Pedestrian Paths (16 - 30'+ Width)

Vehicular-scale paths lack definition for different uses. The widely-paved areas are generous and inviting, but are often flanked by redundant pedestrian paths, making an already underarticulated expanse of paving even wider.



Primary Pedestrian Paths (8 - 15' Width)

Most paths are paved with asphalt, leading through glacial cuts and around hillsides. This width accommodates larger groups of walkers and runners. The golf cart paths are this same material and scale, which sometimes confuses pedestrians.



Secondary Pedestrian Paths (5 - 7' Width)

Narrowly-scaled paths of asphalt, gravel, and concrete are located sporadically throughout the park. This width accommodates walkers in pairs, joggers, and solo cyclists, but would benefit from material consistency and clear connections.



Woodland Trails (1 - 4' Width)

Intimately-scaled gravel or worn trails are prevalent throughout the woodlands and The Wilderness, but too many trails with a lack of hierarchy or route markers inhibit wayfinding. This width accommodates hikers and dog walkers in pairs or alone.



Divisions Intensify

Internal Edges Built to Define Ownership & Use Limit Experience

Built features from the original park design, such as walls, steps, and overlooks, were meant to guide access, curate visitor experience and provide a sense of place. In response to changing uses and programs, incremental solutions meant to control vehicles, restrict access, and improve safety now form barriers and edges throughout the park, creating visual distractions and an increased sense of division.

Fences, walls, and gates define boundaries between use and ownership but disrupt views and restrict access, which breaks down the larger park experience. Rethinking the character of these edges can improve visibility between ownership areas and create connections to adjacent landscapes.



Built Edges

- Concrete Walls
- Fences
- Gates
- Vehicular Barriers (Boulders, granite blocks, bollards, and walls)



Zoo Fence

Fencing creates a problematic visual and physical barrier around the entire Zoo perimeter. The stretch of fence between The Playstead and the Golf Course was once an orienting and sweeping view south through the Valley Gates. Today, it is interrupted by chain link and barbed wire at the edge of the parking lot, making it feel like the sports fields about a service yard rather than being situated with a view through to the rest of the park.



Granite Blocks, Boulders, and Bollards

Granite blocks and boulders were once a necessary and low cost way of preventing vehicular access to pedestrian areas of the park. While effective for cars, in some places they actually inhibit pedestrian connections (including ADA access). As other vehicular restrictions have been put in place over time, including gates and curbs, these blocks, boulders, and bollards are often redundant and create additional barriers for pedestrians to maneuver around. Considerations for their removal should happen on a case-by-case basis.



Security Gates

Freestanding vehicular gates were also added over time to restrict vehicular access. A more systematic and aesthetically-unified approach could call less attention to these controls while improving their security functions.



Stadium Enclosures

The Stadium is a tall structure occupying the center of the Playstead, visually dividing an area where lively sporting activities were once viewed from the shady prospect of the Overlook. In addition to solid concrete walls, chain link fences covered in overgrown vines extend its opaque perimeter.

Mixed Messages

Inadequate Signage Hinders Use

Signage and wayfinding elements in the landscape can work in both explicit and implicit ways, providing clues of where you are and where you can go, directing visitors and keeping them safe. Signage also serves an important educational purpose, teaching us about our surroundings and indicating important landmarks. Additionally, increased communications about special events and everyday park destinations will encourage exploration and enjoyment of all it has to offer.

The majority of signage in the park focuses on rules and regulations, with little helping to orient visitors or interpret the park's historic significance. Carefully designed signage can guide wayfinding, provide interpretation, and encourage exploration without interrupting visitor experience.

Community Aspiration

"Not only better communication about what the park has to offer, but also clear recommendations for how to explore it. I would like to explore trails but do not want to get lost."

- Action Plan Survey Respondent



Existing Signage & Wayfinding Elements

- Entry & Arrival
- Identification & Regulatory
- Interpretive and Educational

Entry & Arrival

- 1 Unannounced Arrival**
There is little indication that visitors have arrived in the park, aside from the zoo. Signage does not help visitors determine their location.
- 2 Entry Barriers**
Large bollards prevent unwanted vehicular entry but also project an unwelcome message.
- 3 Opportunity: Signage Support**
Elements, like stone walls, present opportunities to integrate signage that indicates arrival and highlights park features.



Identification & Regulatory

- 1 Dos and Do-Not's**
Most of the park signage is regulatory in nature, focusing on what should not happen, rather than what visitors can enjoy. While signage of this type is critical, adding signage that lets visitors know what they can enjoy would encourage use.
- 2 Legibility**
Typeface and font size on park signage is difficult to read. A lack of hierarchy makes it hard to identify where visitors are and what is nearby. Most signage is oriented toward roads, rather than pedestrian paths.



Interpretive and Educational

- 1 Inconsistency**
An inconsistent approach to providing maps with available destinations, landmarks, or hiking paths leaves visitors unaware of the park's complete offerings.
- 2 Opportunity: Tiny Treasures**
Subtle markers can increase educational opportunities for the passer-by.



To understand a park, you have to understand its

Land

04 | Ecologies

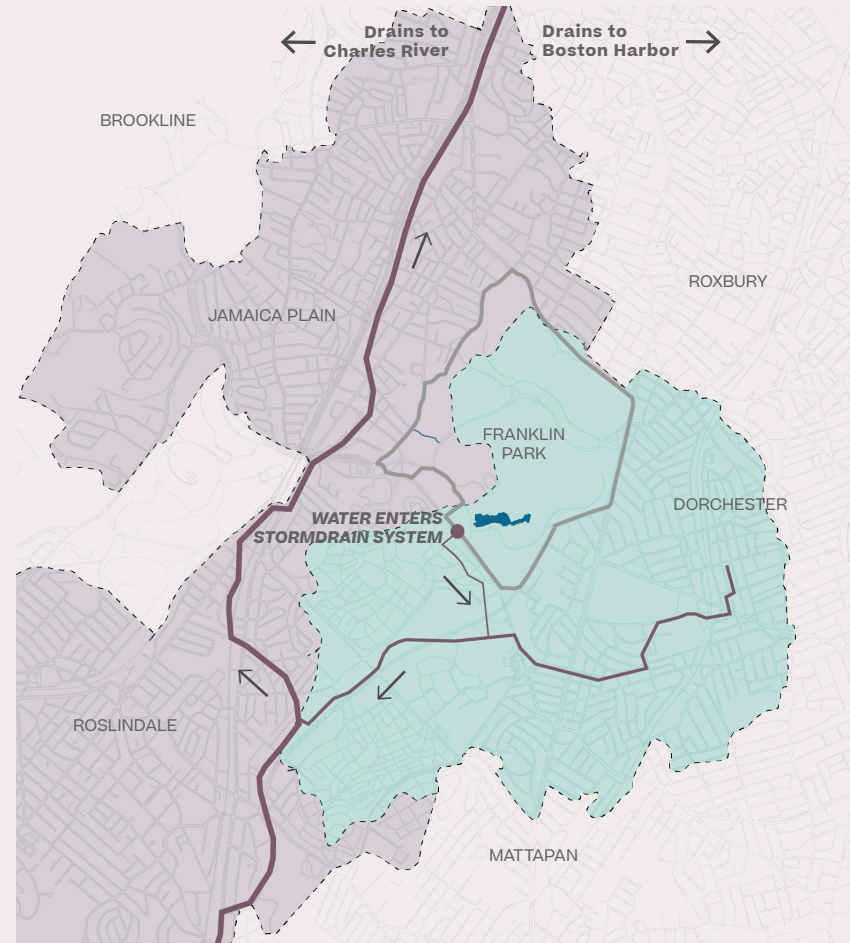
Diversity Enhances Experience

The park's composition of rocky woodlands, rolling meadow, lowland pond, and valley drainageways combine to create not only an ecologically diverse landscape but spaces for some of our most beloved activities - an immersive hike in The Wilderness, a lively community celebration at The Playstead, or a relaxing picnic with family and friends in the shade of hundred-year-old trees. The park's many landscapes also represent and rely on a complex and interdependent system of soils, water, plants and animals. Impacts to one part of this system affect the others. Management is necessary and activity must be balanced with support if these living systems are to continue to provide their many ecological and health benefits — if they are to continue to be places for families and friends to make memories for years to come.

Soaking it Up

Protect and Improve Downstream

The park spans two major watersheds, with much of its land falling within the Canterbury Brook Watershed. Runoff discharges to one of two main water bodies, Scarboro Pond, a man-made pond, or the Ellicott Arch Stream before entering the Stony Brook Conduit System and eventually making its way to the Charles River. Because of the scale and location of the park within the watershed, it not only has the opportunity to manage its own stormwater, but also positively influence 'downstream' impacts by reducing urban flooding and improving water quality.



Regional Watersheds

- Stony Brook Watershed
- Canterbury Brook Watershed
- Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream
- Scarboro Pond Outlet
- Canterbury Brook Conduit
- Canterbury Brook Connector
- Stony Brook Conduit
- Watershed Divides
- Drainage Flow Direction

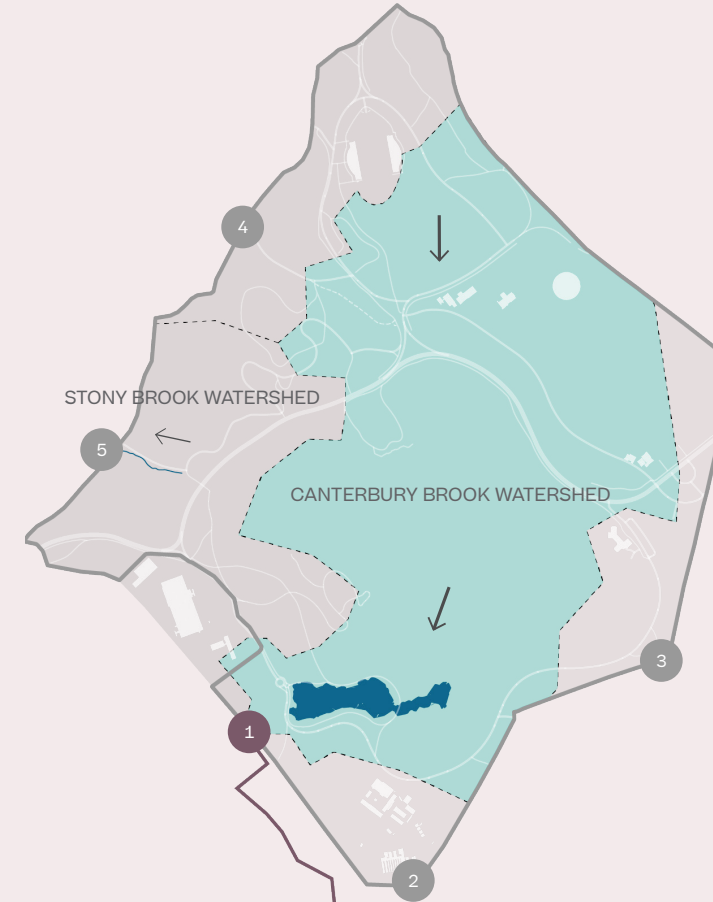


Aging Infrastructure

Dating back to the late 1880s, the Canterbury and Stony Brook Conduits were multi-decade infrastructure projects that spanned across the city to address urban flooding. In addition to constructing closed drainage systems beneath the streets, freshwater wetlands in and around the Park were filled to allow for expanding development. Aging and undersized for today's needs, this critical infrastructure is taxed by storm events occurring at an increasing frequency and intensity.

What is a watershed?

Also known as a drainage basin or catchment area, this is an area of land where all water drains to a central point. Watersheds are divided by ridges, or high points, which create boundaries between them. The speed that water drains depends on factors like soil type, paving material, and the slope of the terrain.



Park Sub-Watersheds

- Canterbury Brook Watershed
- Stony Brook Watershed
- Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream
- 1 Scarboro Pond Outlet Structure
- 2 Morton Street Closed Drainage
- 3 Blue Hill Avenue Closed Drainage
- 4 Armory Street Closed Drainage
- 5 Williams Street Closed Drainage
- Park Sub-Watershed Divides
- Drainage Flow Direction



Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream

The majority of the park's runoff outlets into Scarboro Pond, carrying high nutrient loads from fertilizers and geese. Resulting algal blooms impact water quality and degrade the pond environment. Debris and sediment build-up necessitate frequent cleaning of the outlet structure to prevent flooding.

Ellicott Stream is fed by surface and ground water. Evidence of species, like salamanders, indicates safe water quality despite high nutrients.

Outdated & Undersized Drainage Infrastructure Poses Challenges

The park's drainage system includes vegetated and cobble swales and closed drainage, which consists of piping for areas with no natural outlet. Because some of this infrastructure dates to original park construction, it is inadequate and undersized for today's needs and often causes surcharging and localized drainage issues.

An aging drainage system leaves many of the park's high-traffic areas unusable during rain events. Runoff carrying debris and pollutants discharges directly into the pond or the city's drainage system, impacting both water quality and flooding downstream. The park's significant acreage offers opportunities for on-site "green" stormwater management.

Debris Build-Up Clogs the System

The park's historic cobble drainage swales collect leaves and debris, causing maintenance issues and clogging connections to the closed drainage system. While areas of build-up are more easily visible at the surface, drainage channels provide little mitigation to clean or slow stormwater runoff.

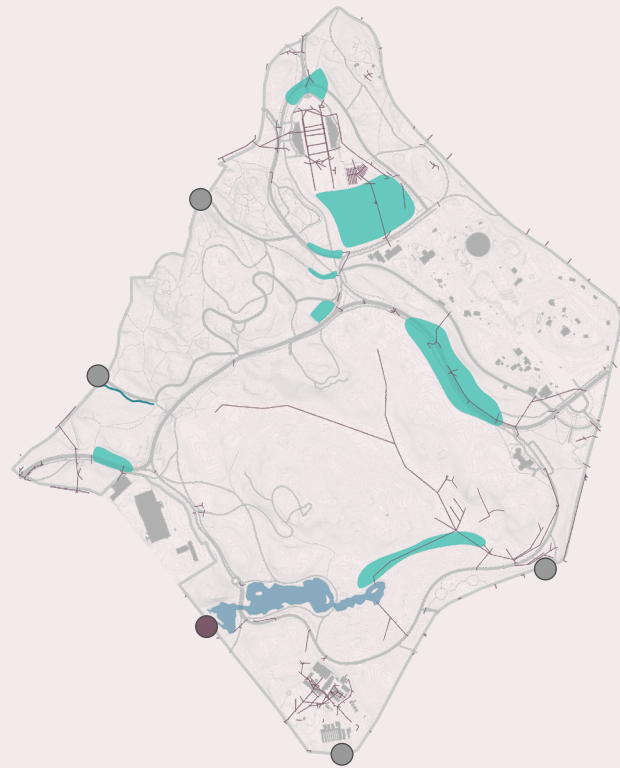


Pipe Restrictions Cause Surcharging

The subsurface drainage system within the golf course includes larger pipes discharging into smaller ones before entering Scarboro Pond. This causes surcharging within the system, resulting in manhole covers popping off and flooding along Circuit Drive.

Ponding in Low-Lying Areas

Localized drainage issues occur in isolated low spots around The Playstead, near White Stadium, along Circuit Drive, and within the golf course, leaving high-traffic areas soggy and unusable at times. Mowers and other maintenance equipment, and cars avoiding roadway flooding further compact wet soils, exacerbating the issue.



Localized Drainage Issues

- Localized Drainage Issue
- Below Ground Drainage Infrastructure
- Scarboro Pond & Ellicott Stream
- Drainage Outlet to City System

An Asset for All

Franklin Park as Living Infrastructure

Increasing temperatures and extreme weather events are just some of the impacts we are experiencing as result of climate change. Canopy cover in communities to the east is particularly low, intensifying the urban heat island effect, making Franklin Park a critical resource for access to cooler temperatures, and both active and passive recreation in nature.

Half of the park is covered by canopy, making it a popular place to experience nature in the city and an invaluable public health resource for its neighbors. Urban canopy combats climate change and improves our quality of life, by lowering temperatures, cleaning air and water, providing critical habitat, and improving our mental and physical health.



Canopy by the Numbers

27% Boston's Existing Canopy Coverage

50% Franklin Park's Existing Canopy Coverage

Shade & Cooling

Positive impacts from forest areas grow exponentially as they increase in size, making large, continuous canopies especially valuable in the city. Shade from trees produces:

- A reduction in heat island effect, glare, and reflection from pavement
- Cooler temperatures for people inside and out, resulting in a reduction in hospital visits during heat waves and energy conservation in buildings

Physical & Mental Well-Being

Visual and physical access to nearby green space can improve mood and physical health as well as outcomes for communities facing mental health challenges.

- Encourages physical activity and exercise
- Reduces stress and depression, slows heartbeats, lowers blood pressure, and relaxes brain waves

Clean Water

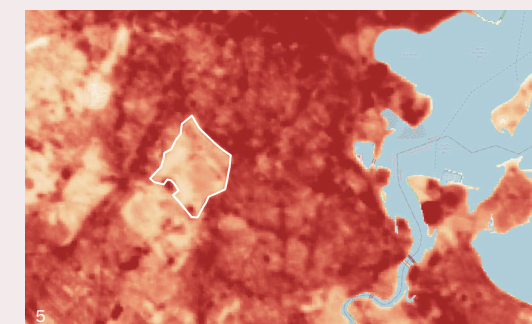
Trees and the soil they live in:

- Minimize impacts of urban flooding by reducing the rate and volume of runoff and recharging the groundwater supply
- Improve water quality by capturing and filtering out pollutants

Provide Habitat

The park's canopy provide benefits to birds, insects and mammals by:

- Providing nesting opportunities and food sources



Clean Air

Leaves filter air pollutants like particulate matter, ozone, NOx and So2 from car exhaust, chemicals, and smoke. They also sequester carbon, resulting in:

- Air quality improvements and reductions in related medical conditions

Reduce Noise

Leaves and branches absorb and block sound from traffic, construction sites, and other sources in the city to:

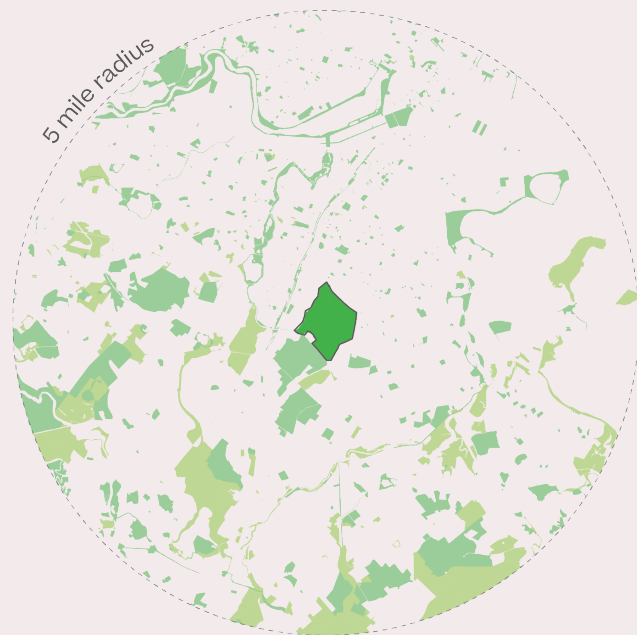
- Reduce noise pollution

Living Network

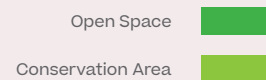
Green Relationships Run Deep and Wide

Together, Franklin Park, the Arnold Arboretum, Forest Hills Cemetery, and Boston Nature Center are one of the largest contiguous open spaces within the city, providing valuable habitat and respite for many. Much of what we experience in the park is defined by the conditions underground — the soils. Soil is constantly working to support both plant life and programmed areas and to hold and filter stormwater. Healthy soils are critical to healthy places.

Its size alone — 500+ acres — makes the park a unique habitat within Boston's network of small neighborhood playgrounds and linear waterfronts. Within its bounds, the link between above and below ground defines and supports plant life and program, while performing important ecosystem services like stormwater management, groundwater recharge, and carbon sequestration.



Open Space Network



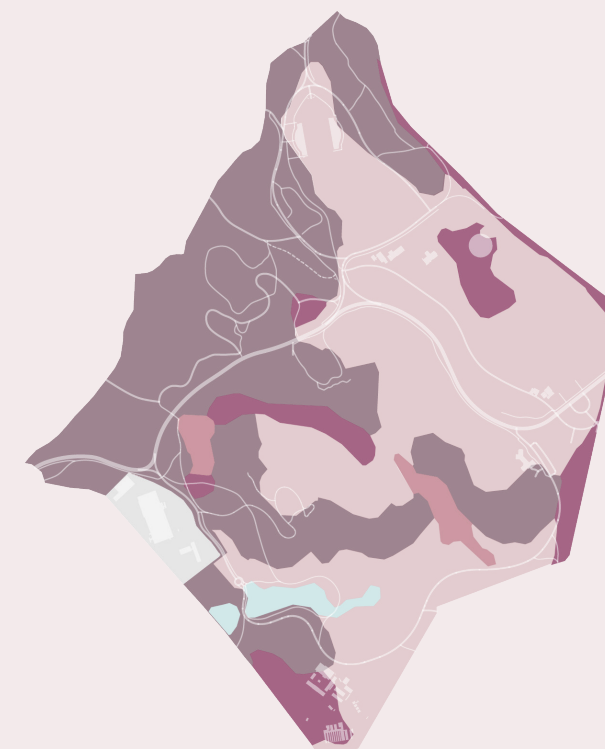
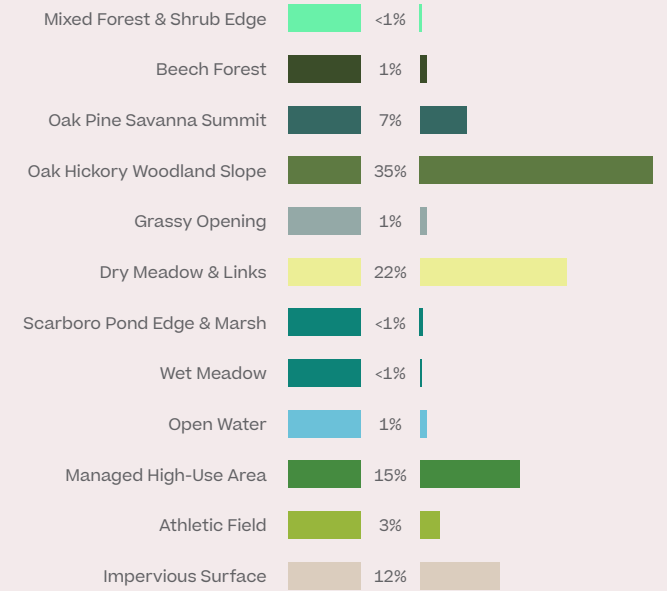
What do soils tell us?

The soils in the park were shaped by glaciers and vary across elevations, with thin soils over bedrock on hills and deeper sands in valleys.

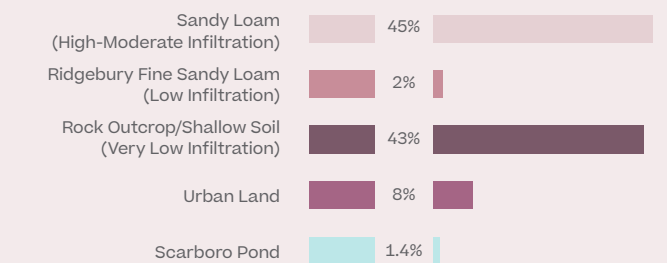
1. Soils in the woodlands, on slopes, and near rock outcrops are broadly shallow with a fine sand and silt composition. They are prone to very slow infiltration rates, but the presence of organic matter helps retain nutrients and water for plant growth.
2. Soils in open areas, like the golf course, are deeper with more coarse sands near the surface. This soil remains porous and promotes better drainage, while supporting frequent foot traffic and maintenance vehicles.



Ecological Types



Soil Types



Landscape Mosaic

The Potential for Health & Diversity Exists

Olmsted amplified the original character of the land into a series of distinct landscape types — ranging from rocky savanna and wooded slopes to meadows and open water. Today, ecologies in the park fall within three broad types, primarily composed of woodlands and open areas, with little to no transition zone between the two. While diverse characters and ecologies still exist, their health has been compromised by deferred maintenance, heavy use, and the emergence of invasive species and threatening pests. Tailored strategies can be employed to return these systems to health and create a resilient, and even more varied, park experience.

Woodland

Buffer

Open

Oak Pine Savanna Summit & Grass Clearings

Oak Hickory Woodland Slope

Beech Forest

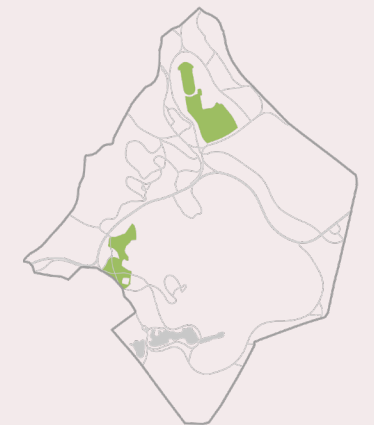
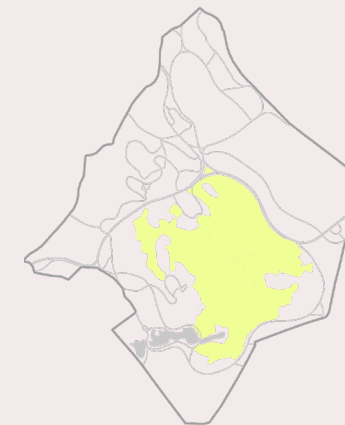
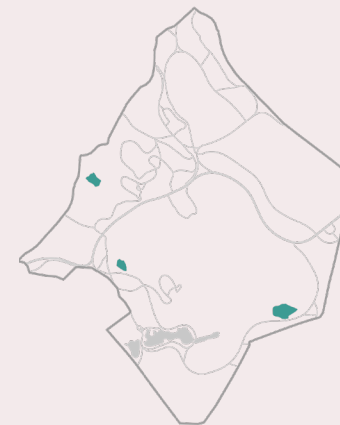
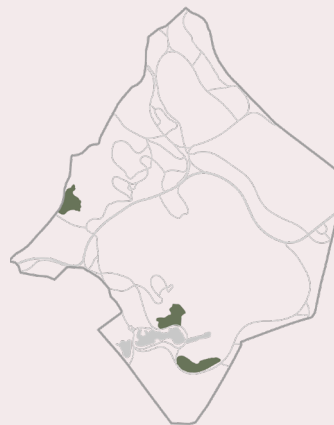
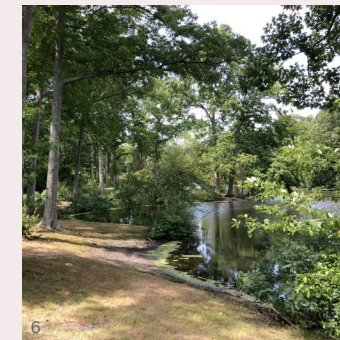
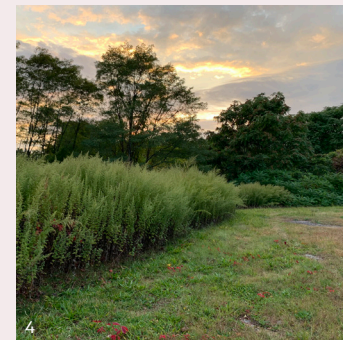
Mixed Forest & Shrub Edge

Wet Meadow

Scarboro Pond Edge & Marsh

Dry Meadow & Links

Athletic Fields & Lawns



Shallow Soils, Sunny Openings

Oak Pine Savanna & Grass Clearings

Oak pine savanna communities occur at the highest elevations in the park. Naturally dry and drought-prone, these areas are characterized by thin, low-nutrient, acidic soils and puddingstone rock outcrops with little horticultural planting. Typically, healthy canopy cover ranges from 10-50%, with high light levels. Removals of pitch pine and disturbance of the ground plane has resulted in the expansion of woody plants and a decrease in rich, flowering vegetation at the ground level that provides important food and habitat for small mammals and birds.

Overgrown and unmanaged canopy has reduced the amount of light that can reach the ground layer, depleting the savanna-like grasses that characterize this zone. Reintroducing evergreens would improve habitat for winter months and build diversity in a woodland dominated by oaks.



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



70%

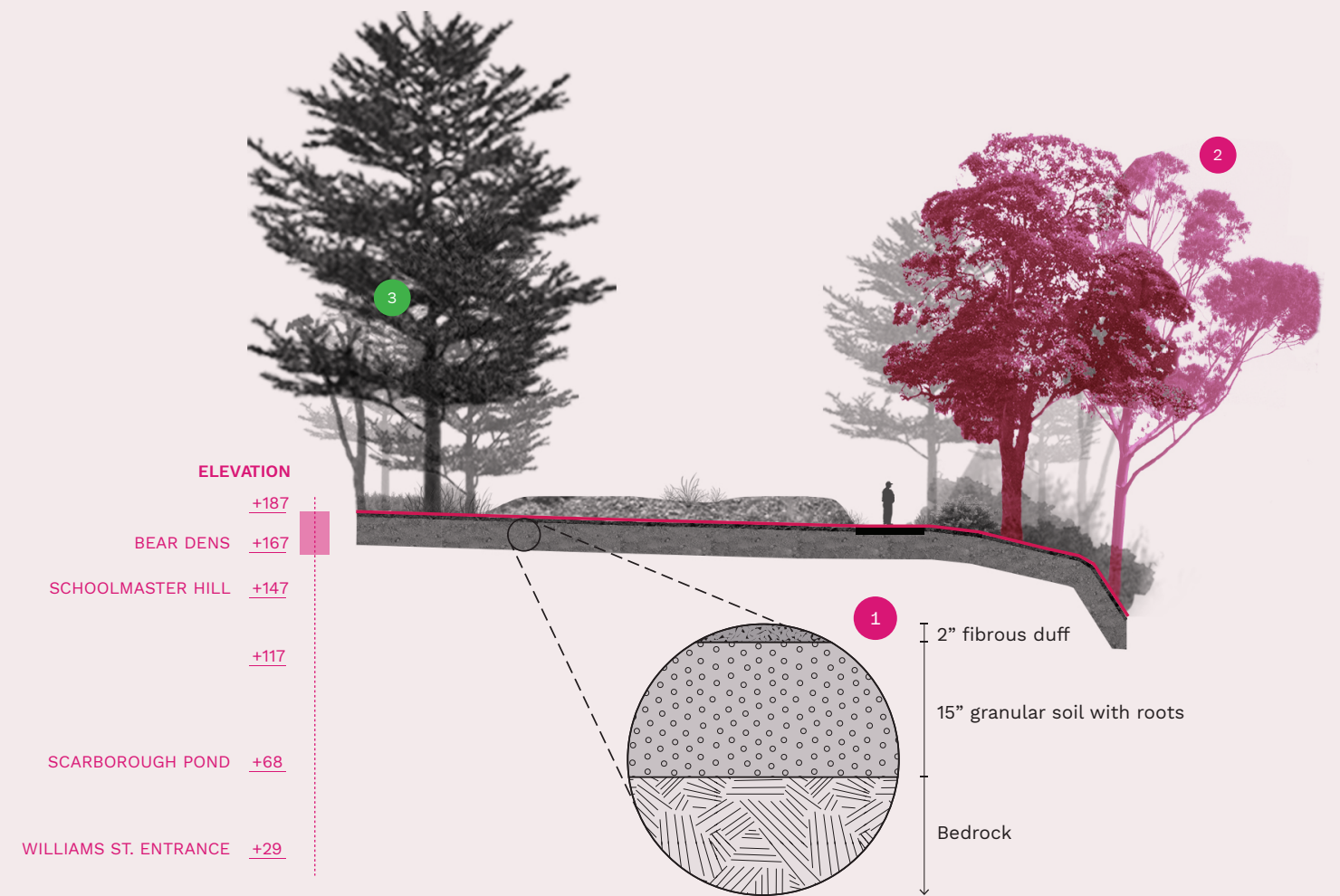
of Action Plan survey respondents identified **access to nature** as their most appreciated thing about the park



Hike in the Woods



Take in the City Views



Where are the challenges?

1 Thin soils
Thin, low-nutrient, acidic soils are present here. While they are indicative of soils typically found in rocky woodland landscapes, they do prevent planting larger specimens.

2 Dense Canopy
An overgrown and unmanaged canopy has reduced light levels on the ground layer, causing a loss of savanna-like grasses in this zone.

What are the possibilities?

3 Evergreen Habitat
Evergreen plants are critical for winter bird habitat but have declined in recent years in part due to pests like the hemlock woolly adelgid.



Aging Canopy, Invasive Understory

Oak Hickory Woodland Slope

Oak hickory woodland slopes occur at middle elevations and account for the majority of the woodland ecology in the park. Soils are typically only inches deep before hitting rock. There is some horticultural planting at overlooks and other key destinations, but overall native plant life is in competition with invasives like Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, periwinkle and other Eurasian plants, resulting in a loss of native flowering shrubs and reduced oak and hickory germination rates.

The park's woodlands are central to its design and experience, but their future is threatened. An unmanaged canopy and ground plane means that this single-age stand of trees does not have new saplings to take their place. Invasive species growth further stresses the forest, reducing diversity and blocking views, causing some visitors to feel unsafe.



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



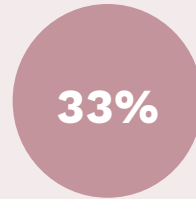
Scarlet Tanager



Southern Flying Squirrel



Pink Lady's Slipper Orchid



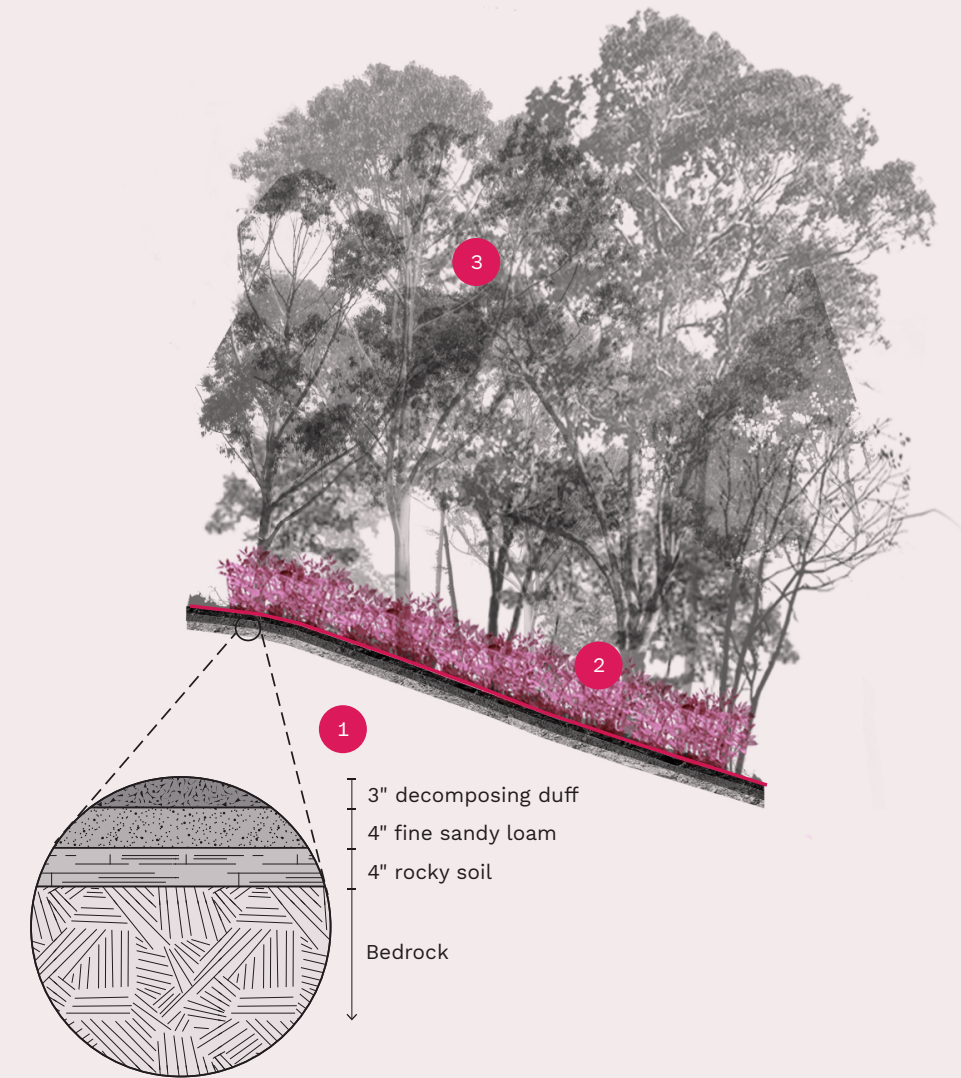
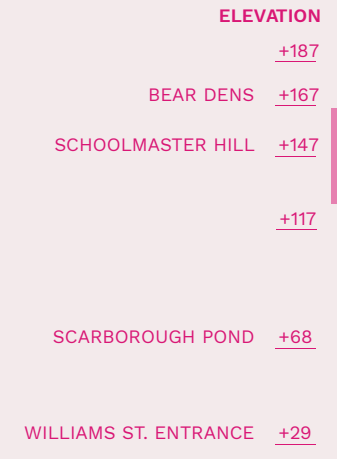
33% of Action Plan survey respondents listed **The Wilderness** as their most visited place in the park



Visit Park Ruins

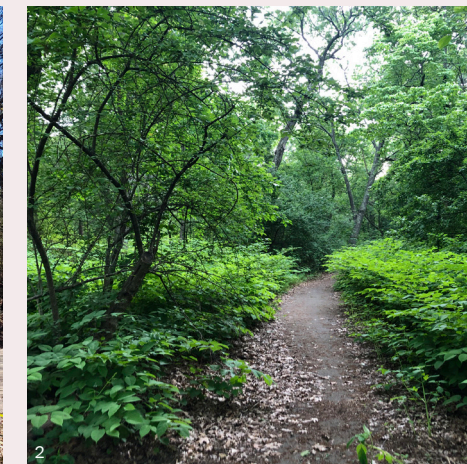


Spend Time in Nature



Where are the challenges?

- 1 Thin soils**
Soil is only a few inches deep before hitting rock, making natural regeneration of oak seedlings the most sustainable way to ensure the next generation of the woodland canopy.
- 2 Invasive Species**
Glossy buckthorn, Japanese Knotweed, and Garlic Mustard are most prevalent in 6"+ deep soils. Their presence competes with understory trees and shrubs. Circulation systems increase light corridors, which invasives follow to spread across the woodland.
- 3 Closed Canopy**
Mature canopy has been unmaintained, reducing light and inhibiting germination of new oak & hickory trees. Selective clearing, crown reduction pruning, and Buckthorn removal can encourage the next generation of drought-resistant trees that will thrive here.



Heritage Canopy, Threatened Conditions

Beech Groves

Small pockets of large European and American Beech live amongst oak, hickory, walnut, black cherry, and white pine woodlands, but are damaged by pests and threatened by thriving invasive species. Because the forest succession process is restricted due to lack of sunlight, this collection of trees largely exists without a new generation to replace them. Not only are these groves significant as some of the original Olmsted plantings, they also provide excellent food supply for mammals and birds and represent a majestic moment in the landscape.

These heritage trees are some of the oldest groves in the park, likely dating back to original Olmsted-era planting. The grand stands represent distinctive and powerful moments in the woodland canopy, but without measures to increase successional growth and protect from pests, they could disappear from the park's landscape.



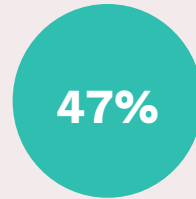
Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Lowbush Blueberry



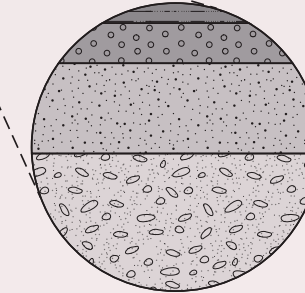
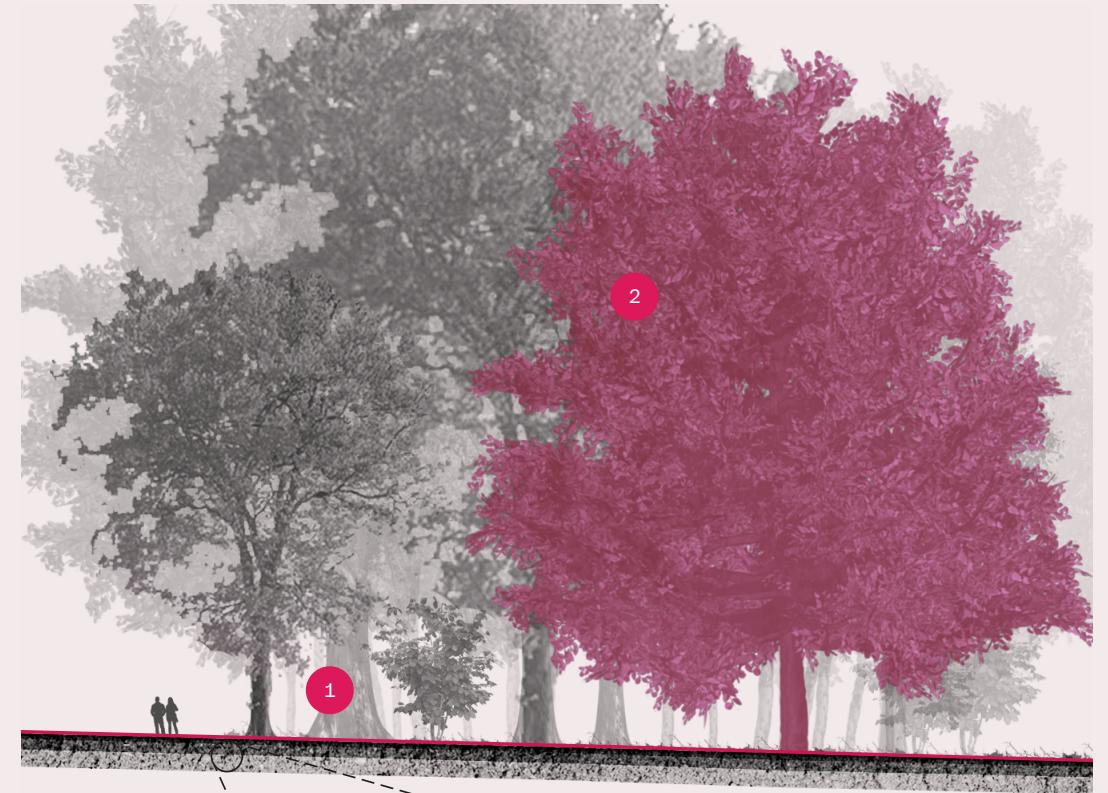
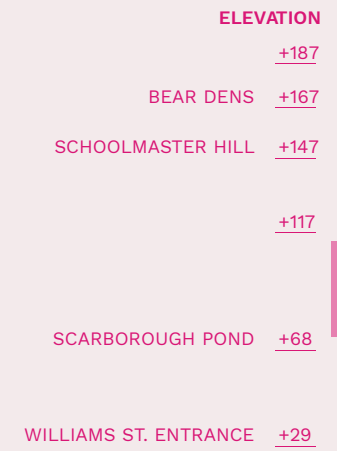
Witch Hazel



of Action Plan survey respondents identified **mature trees** as their most appreciated thing about the park



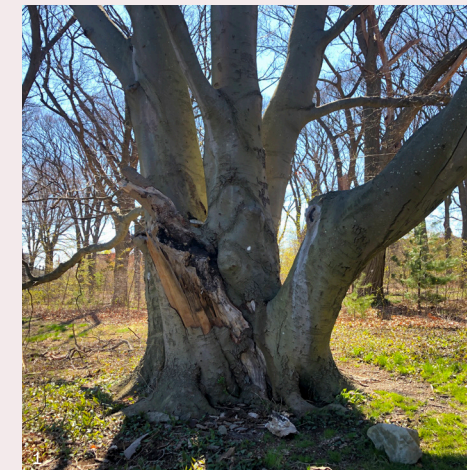
Action Plan survey respondents ranked this Imagine Boston 2030 goal second: **'Respect the historic and ecological environment.** The demands of park users and the diversity of park uses will be managed in a way that is compatible with the landscape's history and ecology.'



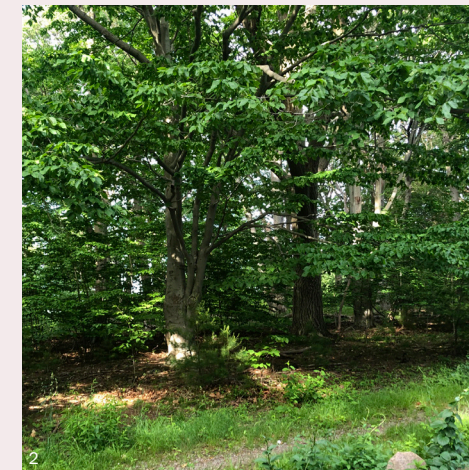
2" decomposing leaves
4" granular structure, some roots
9" fine sandy loam, some roots
14" gravelly fine sandy loam, few roots

Where are the challenges?

1 Bleeding Beech Canker
This fungal disease causes lesions on stems and major branches, opening trees to secondary pests. Modern treatments and preventions exist, including surface mulching with hardwood chips.



2 Dense & Aging Canopy
Low light levels prevent germination and growth of the next generation of Beech, as well as ground and understory plants that would increase diversity.



What are the possibilities?

3 Heritage Trees
The mature European Beech trees in the park are over 100 years old. Increased care can prolong their lifespans. Cultivate the next generation of heritage trees with replanting efforts.



Fragmented Transition, Limited Territory

Mixed Forest & Shrub Edge

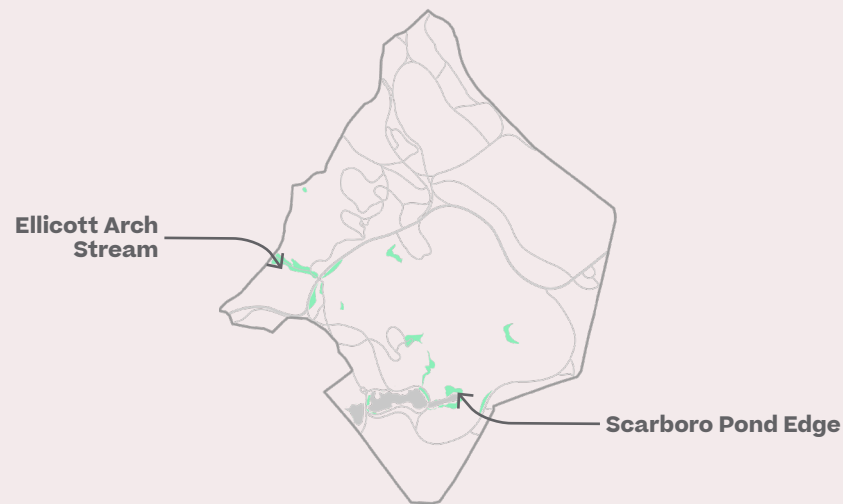
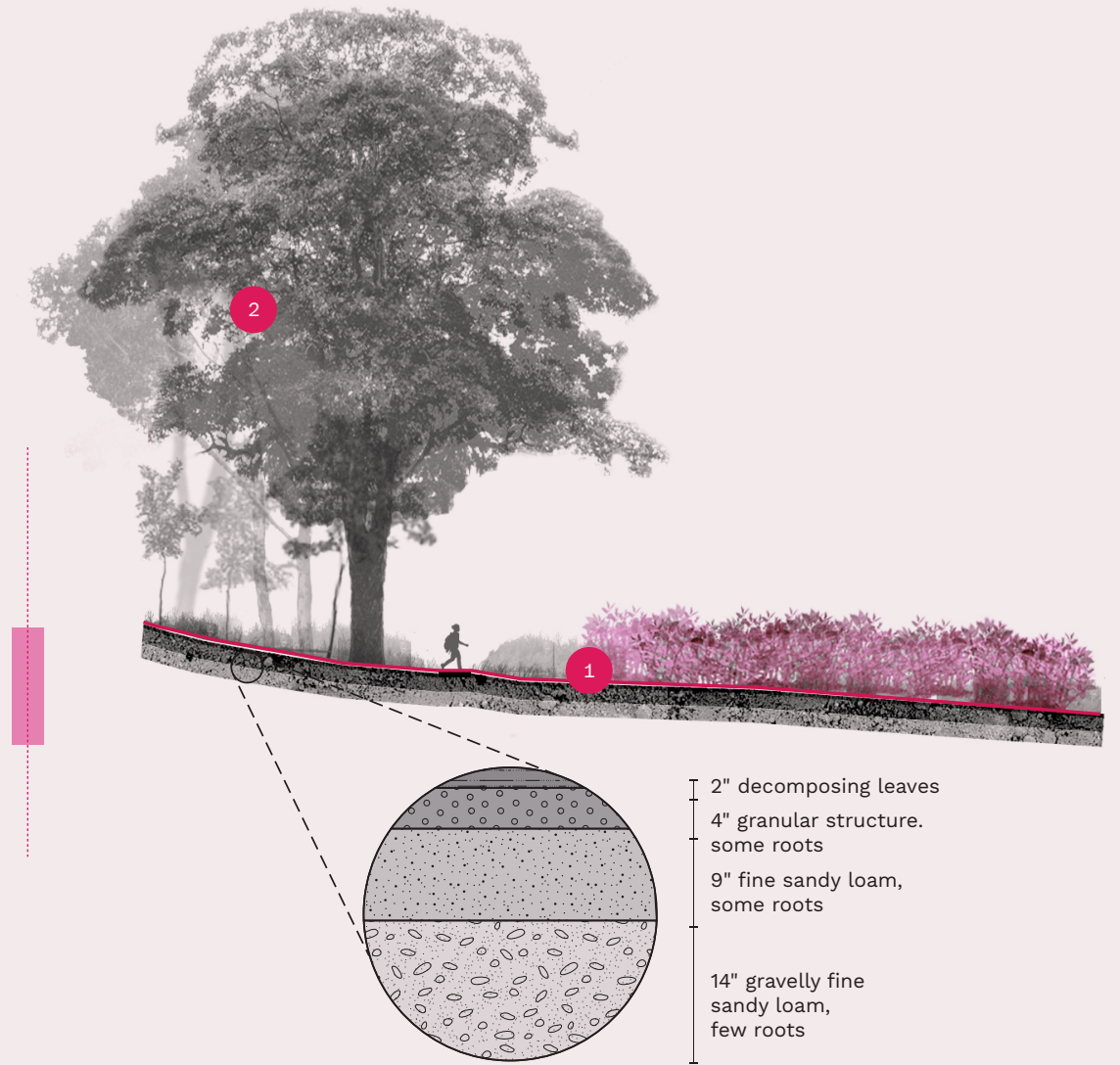
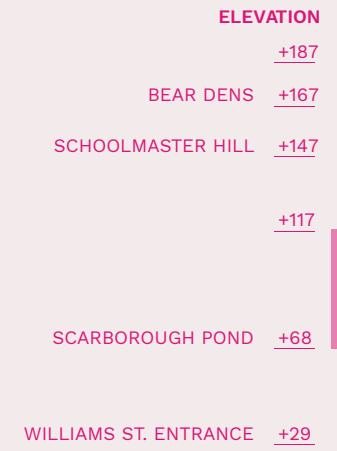
Characterized by sandy, low-nutrient soil, with high infiltration rates, these lower-elevation forests of oak, hickory, black cherry, and white pine, are often out-competed by Norway Maple. Low ground-level diversity limits germination, making this the most damaged groundlayer in the forest. Shrub edges, between forests and grasslands, would typically have more extensive horticultural planting like highbush blueberry and sumac, but this ephemeral habitat has been over-colonized by trees, resulting in high contrast between wooded and open areas.

The stark contrast between woodland and open areas leave ecological habitats disjointed and visitors with an 'either/or' experience of the park. Increasing transitions and buffers between these zones would protect and connect important habitats across the park and provide visitors with a more exciting and diverse landscape to explore.

Dream Big! What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"Connect urban residents with nature!
Environmental education programming,
citizen science initiatives, junior ranger
programs, park cleanups..."

- Action Plan Survey Respondent



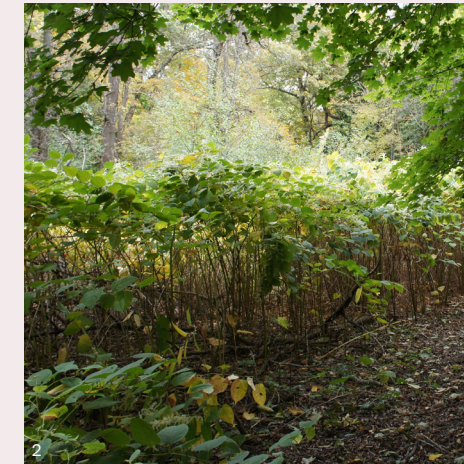
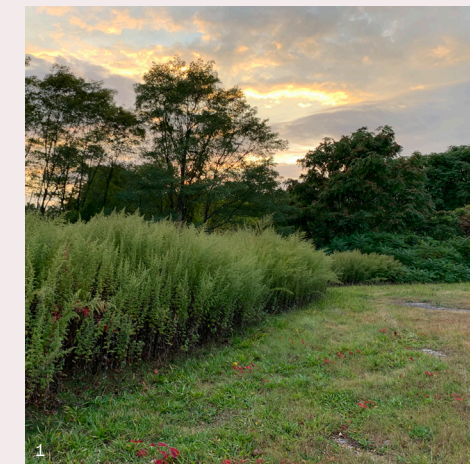
Where are the challenges?

1 Transitional Habitat
Disturbance of the ground layer has resulted in a loss of flowering shrubs. The shrub edge is valuable for wildlife cover, food sources, and micro-climates, but requires intervention to reduce competition.

2 Invasives Prevent Succession
Dense shade from Norway Maples and the presence of Japanese Knotweed prevents ground layer growth and forest succession.

What are the possibilities?

3 Past Plantings
Historic photos reveal planting character and species of the past, illustrating a rich transition zone largely missing in the park today.



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Song Sparrow



Brown Thrasher

Low Diversity, Compacted Soils

Athletic Fields and Lawns

Athletic fields occur at lower elevations in the park and are characterized by level ground and sandy, low-nutrient soils. Though their ecological diversity is low, these areas offer important places for flexible use and stormwater management. Today, permeability is compromised by compaction from heavy use and infill of fine particles in the soil. Compromised infiltration capacity and traditional turf maintenance methods mean that unwanted chemical nutrients are carried to the pond or transferred to groundwater during rainstorms.

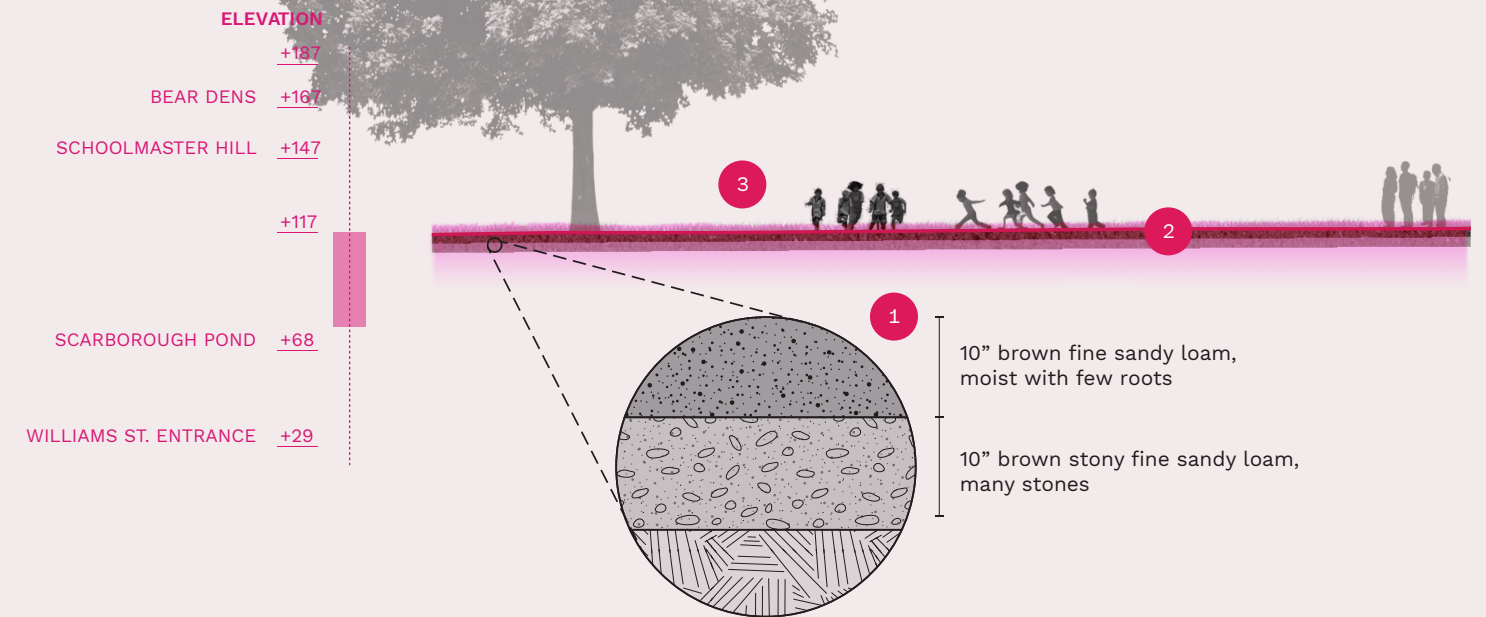
The athletic fields and lawns are some of the most frequently used areas of the park, hosting everything from festivals and events to team sports. Heavy use without remediation has undermined infiltration and surface resilience necessary to keep fields dry and usable for year-round programming.



Attend a Festival or Concert



Play Team Sports

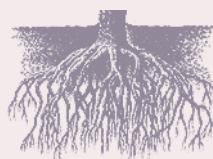


Where are the challenges?

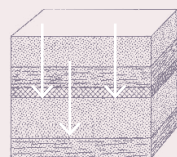
- 1 Compacted Soils**
Heavy use over time has led to compaction, inhibiting drainage in these high-use areas.
- 2 Nutrient Loads**
Turf areas export nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers via runoff and groundwater, which stimulate growth of undesirable plant life in open water.
- 3 Low Biodiversity**
Mostly turf areas produces a monocultural habitat.



Health Indicators



Healthy Soils & Aeration

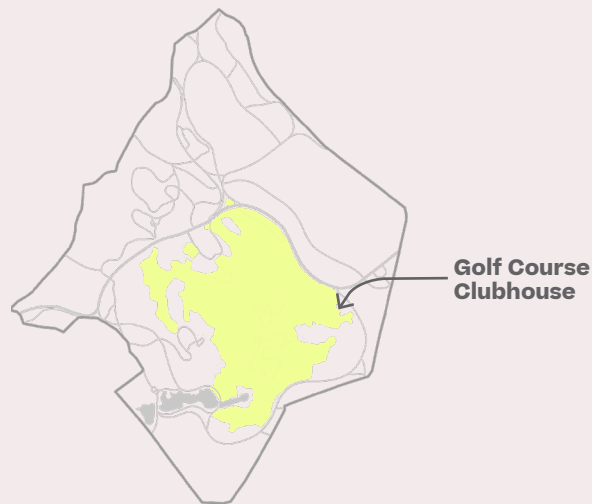


Water Infiltration

Low Diversity, Poor Drainage Dry Meadow & Golf Course

The golf course is characterized by sandy, low-nutrient soil, high soil infiltration rates, and surface groundwater levels within a few to several feet of surface. The fairways and short roughs have low canopy cover and diversity and pose problems similar to the athletic fields, with nutrient export affecting water quality in the pond and groundwater. Taller roughs covered in little bluestem grass are generally out of play, making them opportune spaces to introduce forbs and flowering plants to support pollinators and birds.

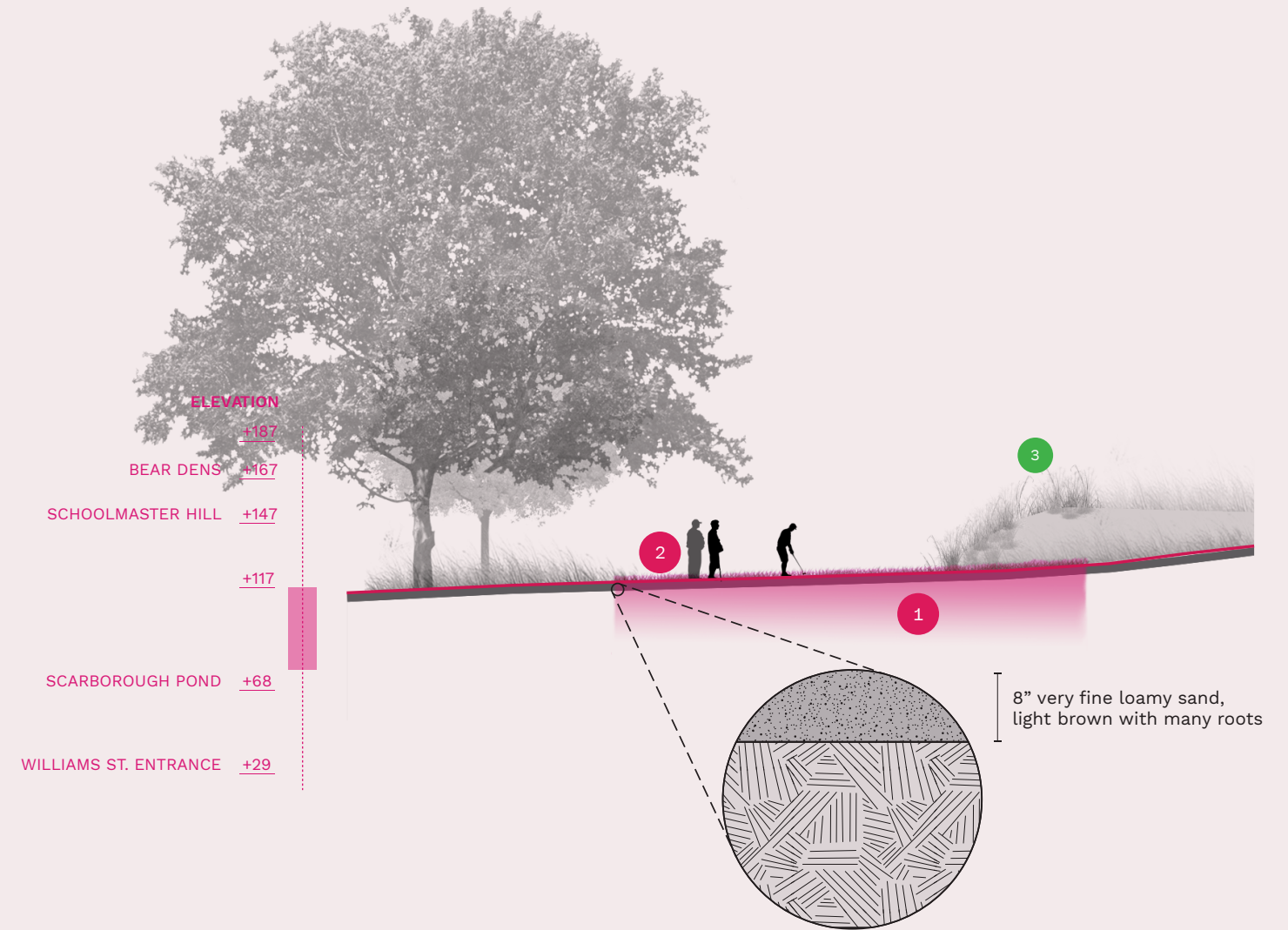
The use has changed, but the concept of the Country Park has stayed the same: a large open meadow with sweeping park views. Runoff from the golf course has impacted water quality and the turf monoculture makes for poor habitat, but the large surface area and central location provides an opportunity to improve both without affecting play.



Play Golf



Take in Park Views



Where are the challenges?

1 Nutrient Loads
Turf areas export nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers, via runoff and ground water, which stimulate growth of undesirable plant life in open water.

2 Compacted Soils
Water pools in low-lying areas of the golf course in historic wetlands and drainageways. Traffic from mowers, golf carts, and golfers impacts soil quality and infiltration rates.

What are the possibilities?

3 Support Biodiversity
Expand and extend areas of flowering forbs and other meadow species in the rough to support pollinators without disturbing play.

Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Eastern Bluebird



Grasshopper



Saturated Soils, Unique Habitat

Wet Meadow & Woodland

Wet meadows and wet woodlands exist in depressions near the water table below the land surface, which create saturated soils. Low areas with sandy loam wetland soils that were filled to expand the golf course still receive large amounts of stormwater runoff due to natural drainage patterns. Minimal tree cover and a dense growth of undesirable herbaceous plants has crowded out asters and sedges. Meanwhile, the dense canopy of wet wooded areas has encouraged invasive plants that now dominate these areas.

Small pockets of wet woodlands and meadow are dominated by invasive species, limiting habitat for birds and pollinators. The lower elevation and sandy soils make the wet meadow ideal for capturing and cleaning stormwater, but its current extent is limited. Increasing diversity would improve these functions and provide an additional dimension of park beauty.



Watch Park Wildlife

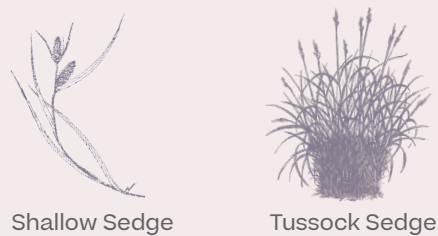
Dream Big! What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"I want Franklin Park to be an oasis of nature in an urban setting - a respite where people can be refreshed by interaction with natural and wild spaces."

- Action Plan Survey Respondent

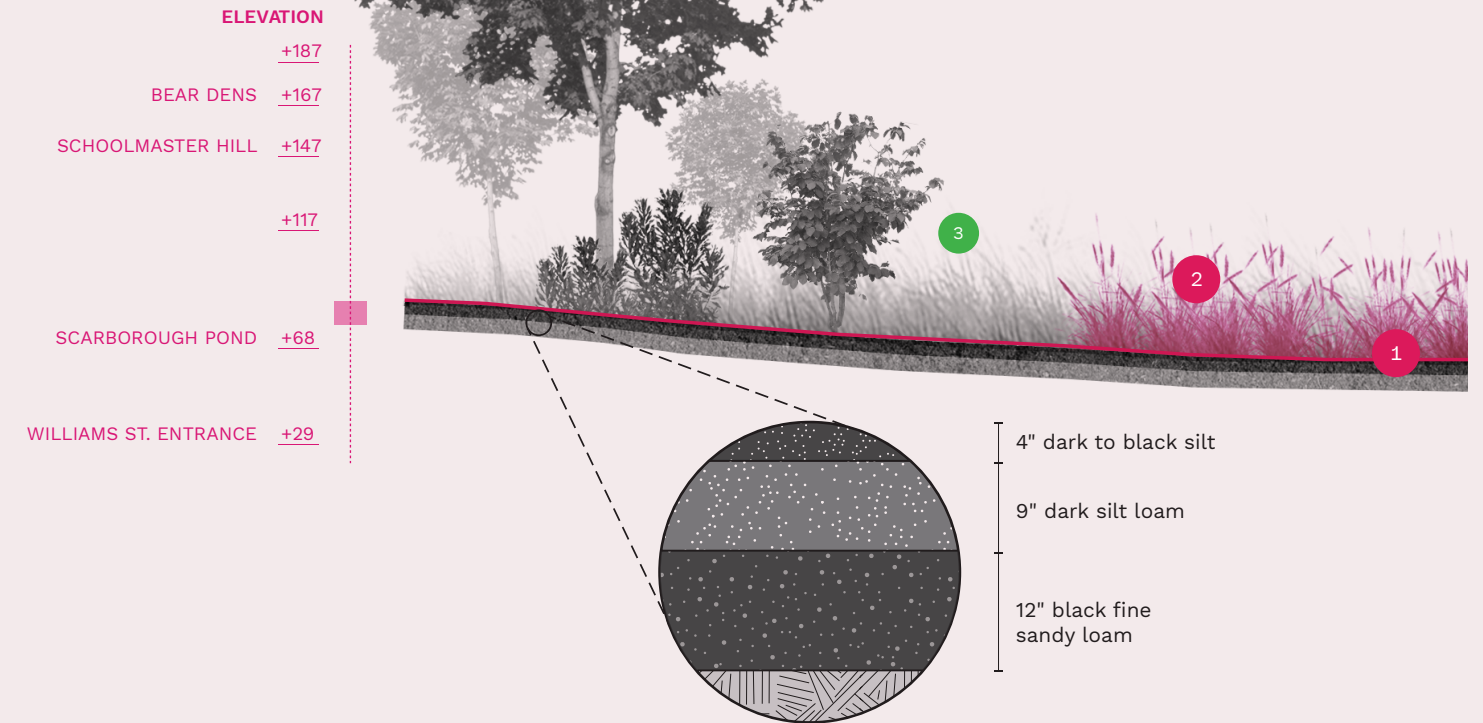


Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Shallow Sedge

Tussock Sedge



Where are the challenges?

1 Habitat Reduction
Filling of former wet meadows has greatly reduced one of the park's rare habitats and unique features.

2 Invasive Species
In the meadow, wet areas are dominated by reed canary grass, giant reed, and narrow-leaved cattail; in the woodland, by Japanese knotweed.

What are the possibilities?

3 Pollinator Habitat
Reintroduce flowering plants and food supply for pollinators.



Open Water, Degraded Conditions

Pond Edge & Marsh

Excavated early in construction, Scarboro Pond is the park's only large open waterbody. Fed by overland flow and drainage pipes, it experiences vigorous algae growth and reduced plant diversity due to concentrations of phosphorus at ten times natural levels. Herbaceous and shrubby vegetation should dominate the marsh between open water and upland elevations, with bulrush and other rushes, willow, sedges, arrowhead, and other aquatic plants typically present. Currently, these are limited by the narrow-leaf cattail invasion.

As the only open water body in the park, Scarboro Pond is a popular destination. Foot traffic causes erosion in some areas, while overgrown vegetation creates secluded and unsafe spaces in others. Runoff transfers pollutants and sediment, causing maintenance issues, degrading habitat, and impacting water quality in the pond and downstream.

52%

of Action Plan survey respondents identified **views** as their most appreciated thing about the park

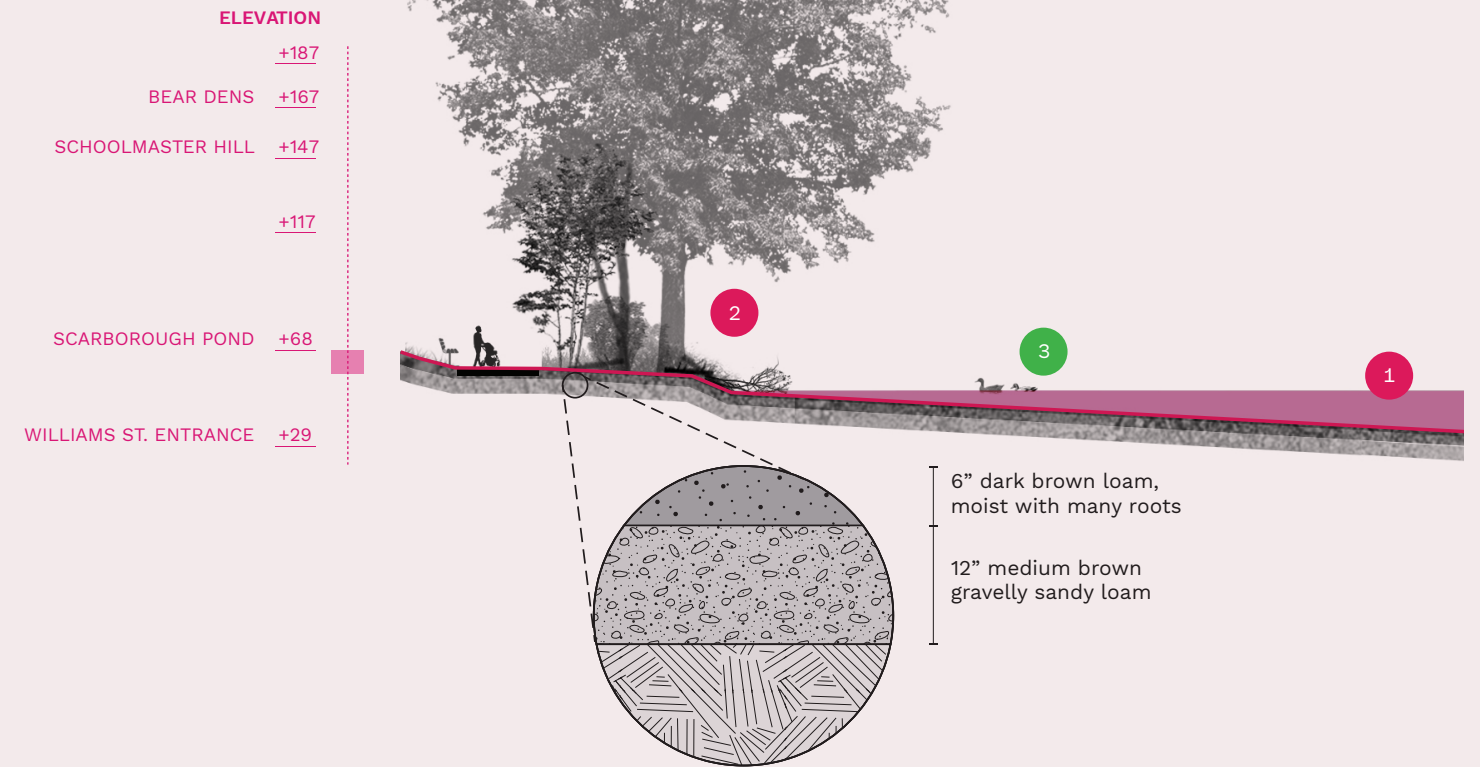
Dream Big! What is your hope for the future of Franklin Park?

"As a Kindergarten teacher in Dorchester the idea of an affordable field trip includes Franklin Park! ...some type of teachable Pond Habitat Guide offering would be awesome."

- Action Plan Survey Respondent



Ecosystem Health Indicator Species



Where are the challenges?

1 Excess Nutrients
Phosphorus and nitrogen from turf runoff, groundwater, and the goose population promote algae growth.

2 Edge Compaction & Invasive Species
Foot traffic around the pond results in compaction, affecting plant health, runoff, and bank erosion. The narrow-leaf cattail has the potential to behave as an invasive plant and exclude other species.

What are the possibilities?

3 Healthy Habitat
The pond habitat can support a wide range of plant and animal life that can be enjoyed by many with improved water quality and stabilization of the edge.

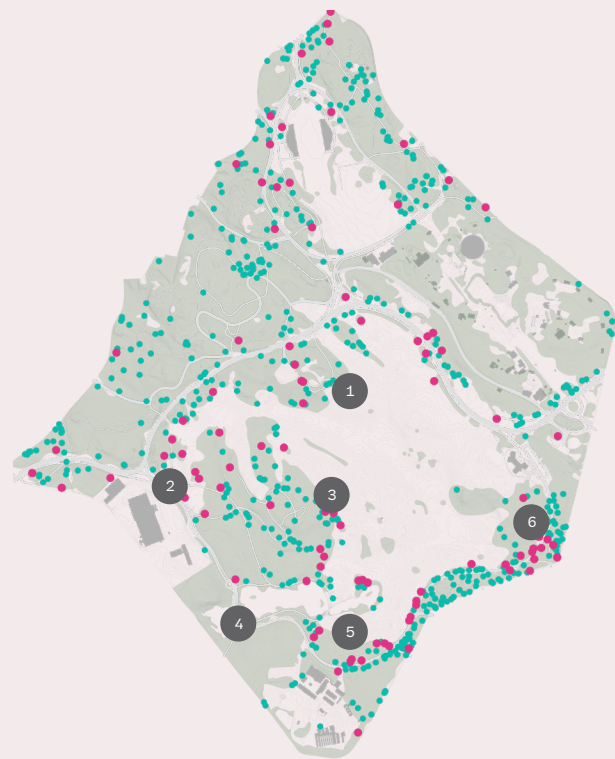


Protect Historic Specimens

Heritage Trees

The park has many stately trees located on open fields, within complex woodlands, and along scenic paths. Important to habitat and integral to the character of significant places within the park, these specimens contribute unique beauty, strengthen the spatial framework of the park, and embody the park's cultural significance within the city. These trees, some of which date to the park's construction, merit protection.

Heritage trees are notable for their age, size, and species, but most importantly for the legacy and significance that they carry. Older than most visitors, these unique trees have witnessed the park's long history. Their circumstances require special attention to ensure their health and longevity.



Legacy & Heritage Trees

- Legacy Trees (48" diameter)
- Heritage Trees (33" diameter)
- # Distinctive Heritage Tree Area
- Park Canopy Cover

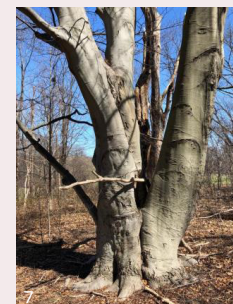


What is a heritage tree?

This term is used to describe a specimen that is typically a large individual tree or grouping of trees with unique value and is considered to be irreplaceable. Criteria for defining heritage trees includes age, rarity, size, and aesthetic, and botanical, ecological, and historical value. Preservation of these specimens can mean stabilization of the tree itself, which may mean structural pruning or plant health care treatments, and/or removal of surrounding trees that are impacting a heritage tree's health or survival.

What is a caliper inch?

The standard unit for measuring trees is caliper inches, which refers to the diameter of its trunk. Measuring at chest height is a standard way to compare the size of mature trees to one another.



1 Schoolmaster Hill

Significant trees are wide ranging, including groupings of mature pines and oaks and large individual specimens like a 31.5" Hornbeam. Dense overgrowth and invasives block views and crowd individual specimens.

2 Ellicottdale & Shattuck Picnic Grove

Several trees in this area are noteworthy for their size, age, and species, including 43", 50" and 70" oaks, and 48" and 55" sugar maples. Along paths bare soil conditions create compaction around trees and long lateral limbs near activity areas are safety threats.

3 Scarboro Hill

Scarboro Hill features large hemlocks and white pine, important evergreen habitat that adds to the woodland diversity. Large groupings of significant but declining oaks could be improved with selective thinning and understory maintenance for extended longevity and opening views.

4 Scarboro Pond

Two unique groves - one of tupelos and the other pin oaks - around the pond are growing in compacted, bare soil, which is in need of remediation. These groves are further threatened by polluted water runoff.

5 Beech Groves

Two beech groves, one of American beech and the other of European beech, are unique and significant trees within the park's canopy. Because of their age and susceptibility to disease, structural pruning, bracing, and treatment for insects and fungi should be prioritized.

6 Circuit Drive & Loop

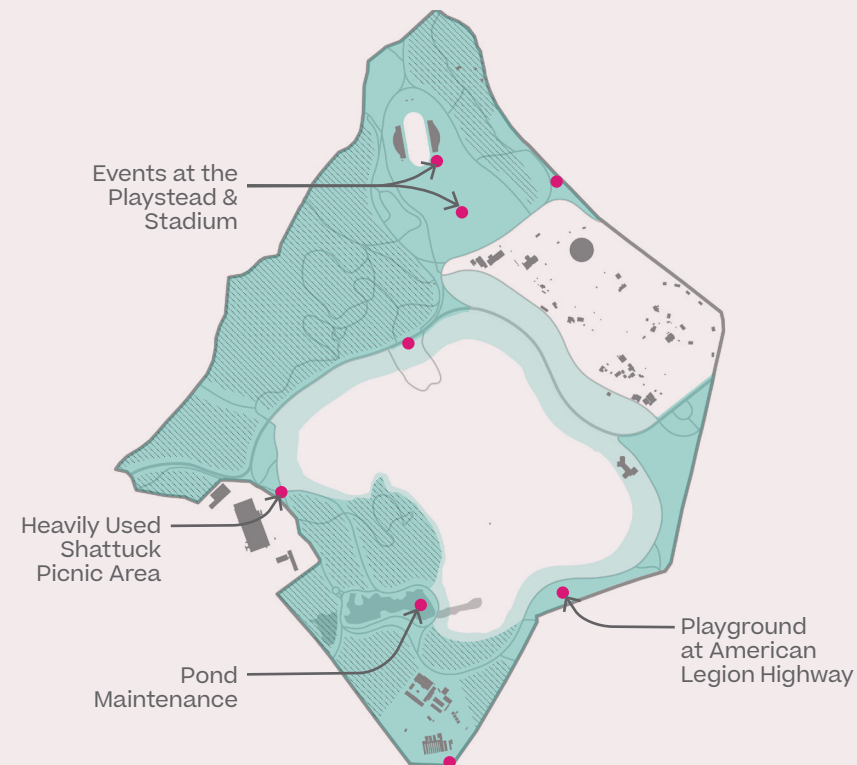
Many mature red maples, red oaks, and swamp white oaks dot the edge of Circuit Drive and the walking loop. Their prominent location means they are enjoyed by many, but compromised roots near paths and roads need attention for the long-term health of these trees.

Caring for the Park

Maintenance Practices

Maintenance sustains the health, diversity, and functionality of a park's habitats and program spaces. Visitors also feel welcomed and safe in a park that is routinely cared for. But regular upkeep is just one part of the job in a park of this size – crews must also accommodate events of varying scales and intensities. The maintenance demands for a park of this size are extensive, time-consuming, and require training. Improvements to the park should consider the level of continued care they will require.

Only four staff members take care of Franklin Park. The scope and requirements of their daily work is demanding, only further challenged by limited equipment, failing infrastructure, and extra responsibilities brought on by large-scale events. An increase in programming must be carefully considered against the workload of the crew.



Maintenance Jurisdiction

- BPRD Crew - Routine Maintenance
- BPRD Crew - Limited Maintenance
- Overlap between BPRD Crew & Adjacent Maintenance Crew (Golf Course or Zoo)
- Challenge Areas

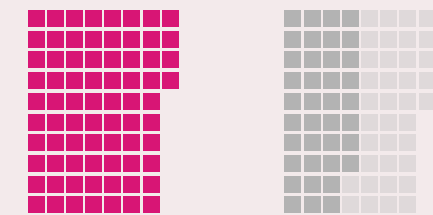
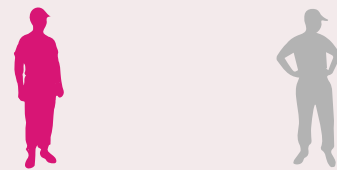
#5

Action Plan survey respondents ranked **Maintenance** fifth on a list of 35 improvements that people want to see in the park.

Who maintains the park?



The maintenance crew consists of four people.



At Franklin Park, each staff member is essentially responsible for 75 acres of regular maintenance. In comparable parks, on average, each staff person manages 38 acres.

ROUTINE & SEASONAL CARE



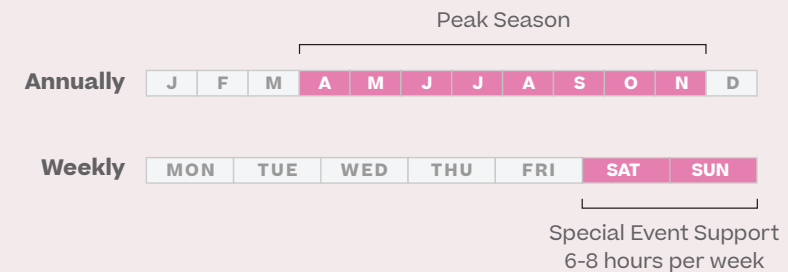
Tasks

- Regular maintenance takes place on frequented paths and highly used areas of the park, like The Playstead, playgrounds, and the Circuit Loop.
- Activities include cutting and trimming grass; de-littering, cleaning, emptying trash; clearing drains; and leaf and snow removal.

Challenges

- Perimeter clean-up and trash removal requires considerable amount of work.
- Restrooms, drinking fountains, signage require regular repair.
- A lack of access to the tools and equipment needed to do the work; aging equipment requires frequent repairs, which have a slow turnaround time.
- Lack of man-power to cover everything that needs attention.

SPECIAL EVENTS



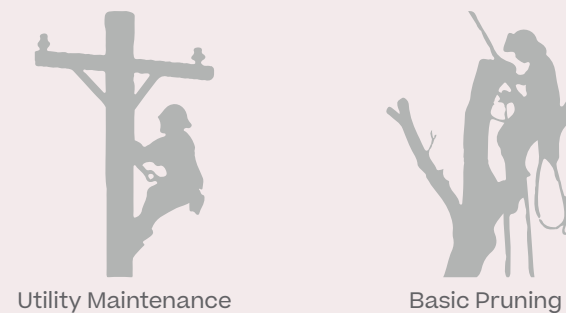
Tasks

- Preparation and event work includes putting out temporary trash reciprocals and cutting grass. Post-event work includes trash pick-up, clearing, and repairs from damage.

Challenges

- The work is time consuming and takes energy away from regular park maintenance.
- Lack of coordination between events and events support means the maintenance crew is left doing the work.

PERIODIC SPECIAL PROJECTS



Tasks

- This work is usually contracted out, and includes utility maintenance; basic pruning and canopy management for safety and emergencies.

Challenges

- Most work is reactionary.
- Limited scope, budgets, and policies means differing opinions on what is prioritized and how the work is performed.