



Improvements to
**FRANKLIN
PARK
TENNIS
EXPANSION**

Community Meeting #1



October 28, 2024
Boston Parks and Recreation



MEETING RECORDING



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be recording the meeting and posting to our project webpage for those who are unable to attend the Zoom meeting live.

It is possible that participants may also be recording the meeting with their phones cameras or other devices. If you do not wish to be recorded during this meeting, please keep your microphone muted and camera off.

Please share with your neighbors and friends,

WEB LINK:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/franklin-park-tennis-expansion>

AGENDA

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PROJECT TEAM

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PROJECT GOALS AND SCOPE

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LISTENING AND DISCUSSION

4

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS

PROJECT TEAM

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CITY OF BOSTON PRIORITIES

- **Expanding walkable access to parks**
- **Addressing equity**
- **Climate resilience**
- **Health**
- **Housing and community building**



PARK & RECREATION GOALS

- **Accessible and available to all**
- **Diverse, balanced, and efficient mix of uses**
- **Meaningful and inclusive community engagement**
- **Adaptive and resilient landscapes**
- **Promote connections**



FRANKLIN PARK TENNIS DESIGN SCOPE OF WORK

Review and amend to improve:

- **Tennis complex expansion and upgrade/improvements/enhancements**
- **Tennis lighting**
- **Picnic area**
- **Parking edge pathways**



FRANKLIN PARK TRUST PROJECTS

Year 1 (2023)

Enhanced Maintenance:

- Invasive vegetation removal and treatment at the Overlook
- Debris removal at Blue Hill Ave/Refectory entrance
- Cobble gutter cleaning
- Drain cleaning

Design work:

- for Glen Road pathway repaving
- Design work for Overlook stairs resetting and repointing

Programming- Franklin Park Coalition:

- Music in the Park
- Kite Festival
- Nature Tours

Year 2 (2024)

Enhanced Maintenance:

- Repaved Glen Road pathway
- Repaired Overlook stairs
- Repaired Refectory stairs
- Continued and expanded invasive vegetation treatment
- Continued cobble gutter cleaning
- Rehabilitated picnic area in the Wilderness

Design work:

- for Ellicott Arch, stone work, vegetation and lighting

Programming- Franklin Park Coalition:

- Music in the Park
- Kite Festival

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN INITIATIVES

Maintenance and Operations

Maintenance:

- PowerCore collaboration on invasive removal
- Tree crew increased staffing allowing for more tree maintenance to happen in Franklin Park

Operations:

- An Executive Director of Franklin Park position was created based on the recommendations of the Action Plan
- The posting is live and the City is currently conducting interviews.

Sign up for Franklin Park email lists



Capital Improvements Program

Bear Dens- Make Safe Project

boston.gov/improvements-franklin-park-bear-dens



Overlook Study and Conceptual Design:

boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/franklin-park-overlook-shelter-programming-and-design-study



Tennis Expansion:

boston.gov/franklin-park-tennis



Circuit Drive Traffic Calming and Drainage:

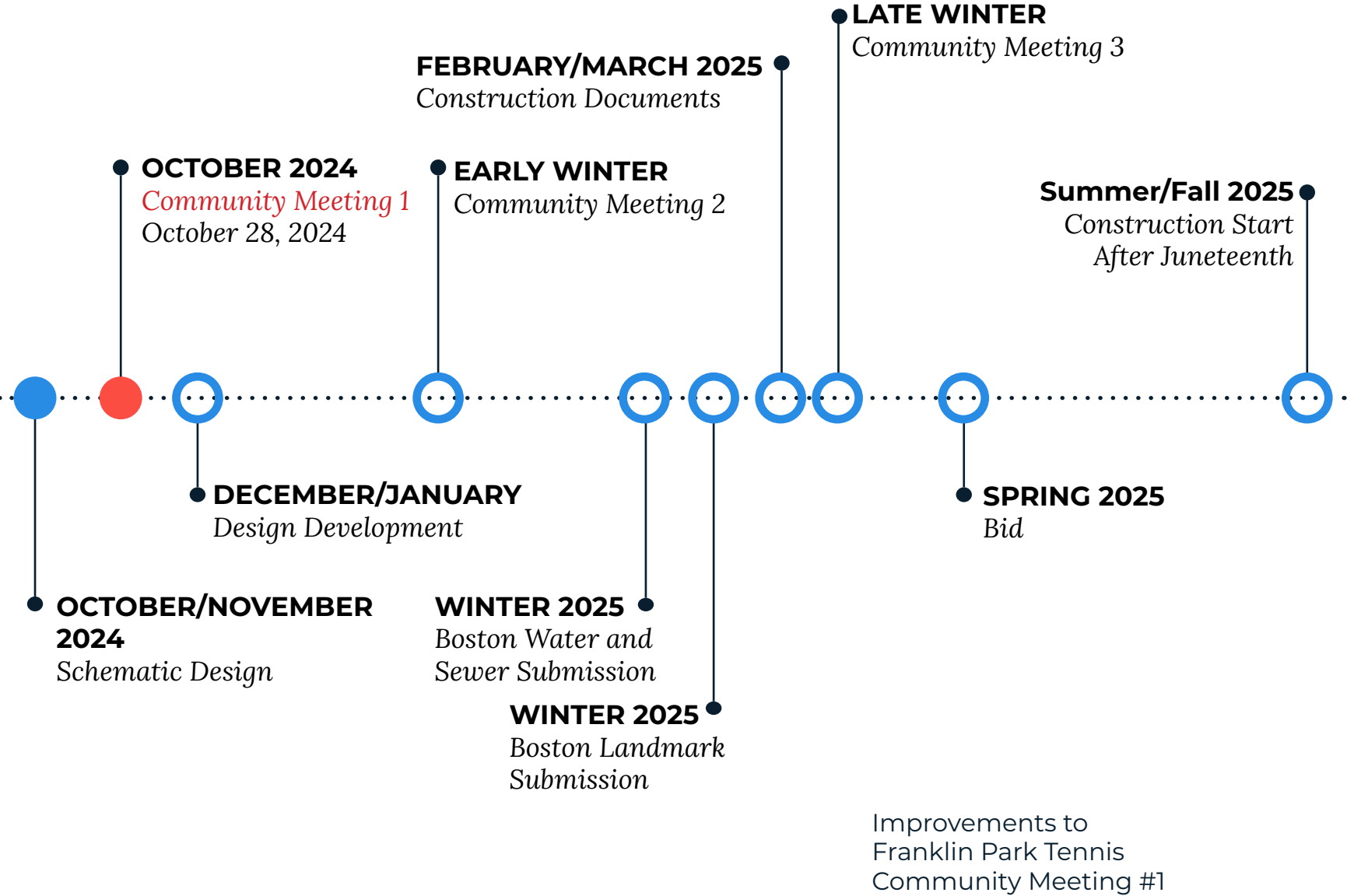
- RFQ is currently available
- Designer selection in the coming months

Dog Facility Study:

- Designer selected
- In contract phase

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PROJECT SCHEDULE & FUNDING



The Big Picture

Amplify Magnet Destinations

Franklin Park was intended to serve as a common ground — a place for recreation, relaxation, and to experience nature — welcoming all communities and bringing people together for shared experiences that support discovery, education, and mental and physical health. We must celebrate all it has to offer and build on its long legacy of serving many groups in many ways. Larger centers of activity must be complemented by smaller destinations distributed throughout the park.



Protecting Historic Features

While most of the historic structures in the park no longer exist or are in serious decline, they continue to draw visitors. The key remaining elements deserve a comprehensive conditions assessment and an updated historic structures report to inform either restoration or future transformation.



Diversifying Destinations

The park already has many, much-loved centers of activity. Larger destinations are often anchored by stakeholder offerings (like the zoo or the stadium), while smaller destinations are usually distributed and repeat throughout the park. Clarifying the design of each of these destinations and expanding their programming where desirable will ensure that all sides of the park can fully, and in distinct ways, serve gatherings both large and small.

Investing in the Major Magnets

The park has a long legacy of serving many groups in many different ways - from performance and recreation to education and community building. Recommendations for the Major Magnets build on each of their histories and amplify the programs and character of each space, further enhancing these four major destinations, each with a defined identity and unique offerings.

Ellicottdale:
A Place for
Gathering & Relaxation

The Playstead:
A Center for Arts
& Recreation

Peabody Circle:
A Civic Gateway

The Yard:
A Commitment to
Care & Stewardship



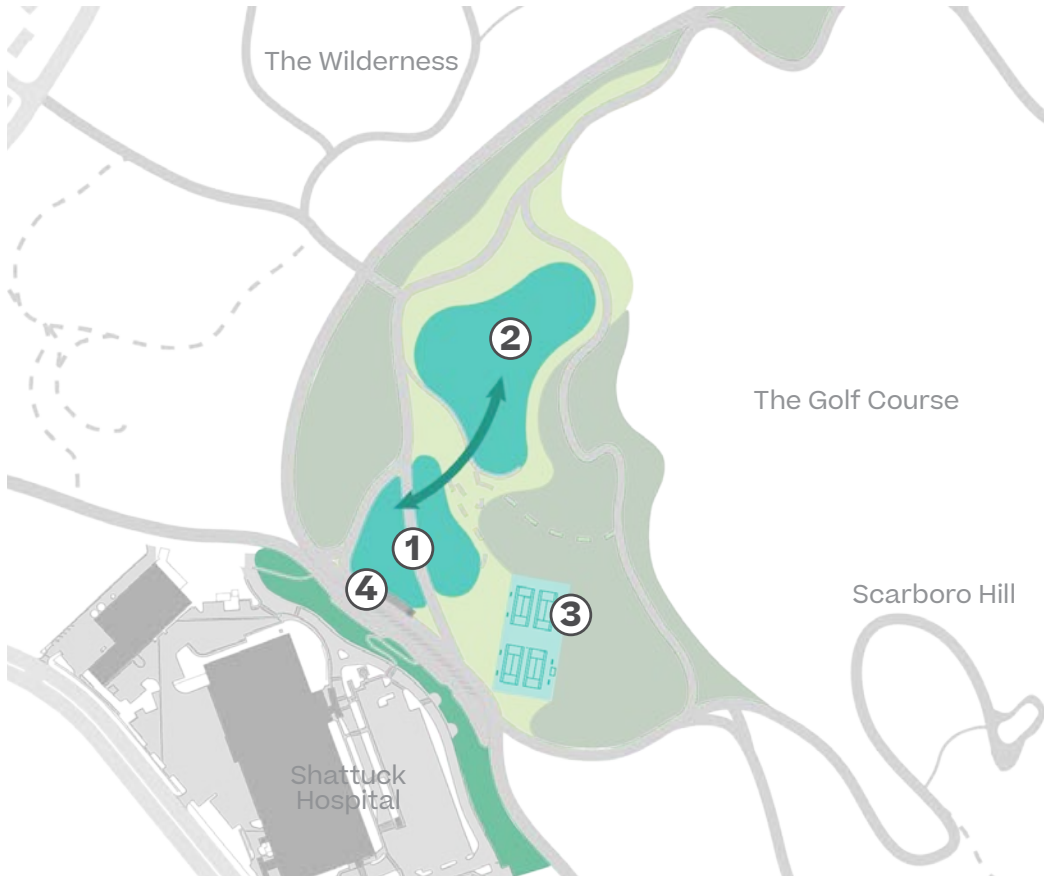
Mini Magnets

- High Points - Lookouts
- Low Points - Unique Ecologies
- Play & Education

Highlighting the Mini Magnets

The park's smaller destinations include wide-ranging improvements and programming that support the day-to-day use of the park. As opposed to the major magnets, these destinations may repeat on multiple sides of the park, promoting a more equitable distribution of certain programs and encouraging convenient and habitual use from the surrounding neighborhoods. Sometimes situated at elevational high or low points, mini magnets also allow visitors to experience the park's dramatic topography.

ELLICOTDDALE'S OPEN LAWNS



Proposed Open Spaces

- ① Upper Lawns
- ② Lower Lawn
- ③ Expanded Tennis Courts
- ④ Pavilion / Shade Structure



Movie Night



Picnic



Informal
Lawn Games

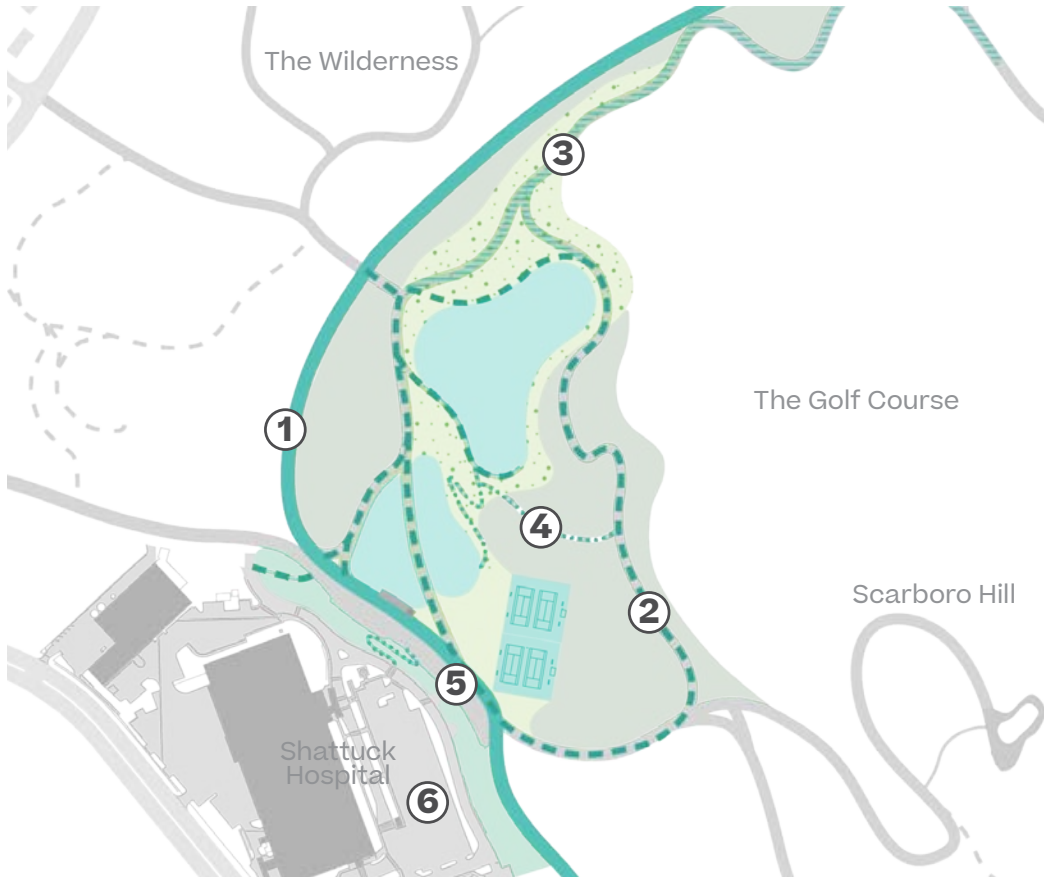


Exercise
Classes













BBQ

ELLICOTTDALE CIRCULATION & PLANTING



Proposed Circulation & Planting

-  Open Lawns
-  Buffer Planting
-  Evergreen Planting
-  Existing Adjacent Woodlands
-  ① The Circuit Loop
-  ② 1/2 mile Ellicott Loop
-  ③ Flowering Tree Walk
-  ④ Wet Woodland & Wet Meadow Trail
-  ⑤ Parking Lot
-  ⑥ Opportunity for some restored park land at the Shattuck site



Franklin Park Action Plan

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FRANKLIN PARK - Olmsted Lithographic Plan

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FRANKLIN PARK -

Olmsted Lithographic Plan with Aerial Photo

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HISTORIC PHOTOS

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FRANKLIN PARK - Project Area with Aerial Photo

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EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS

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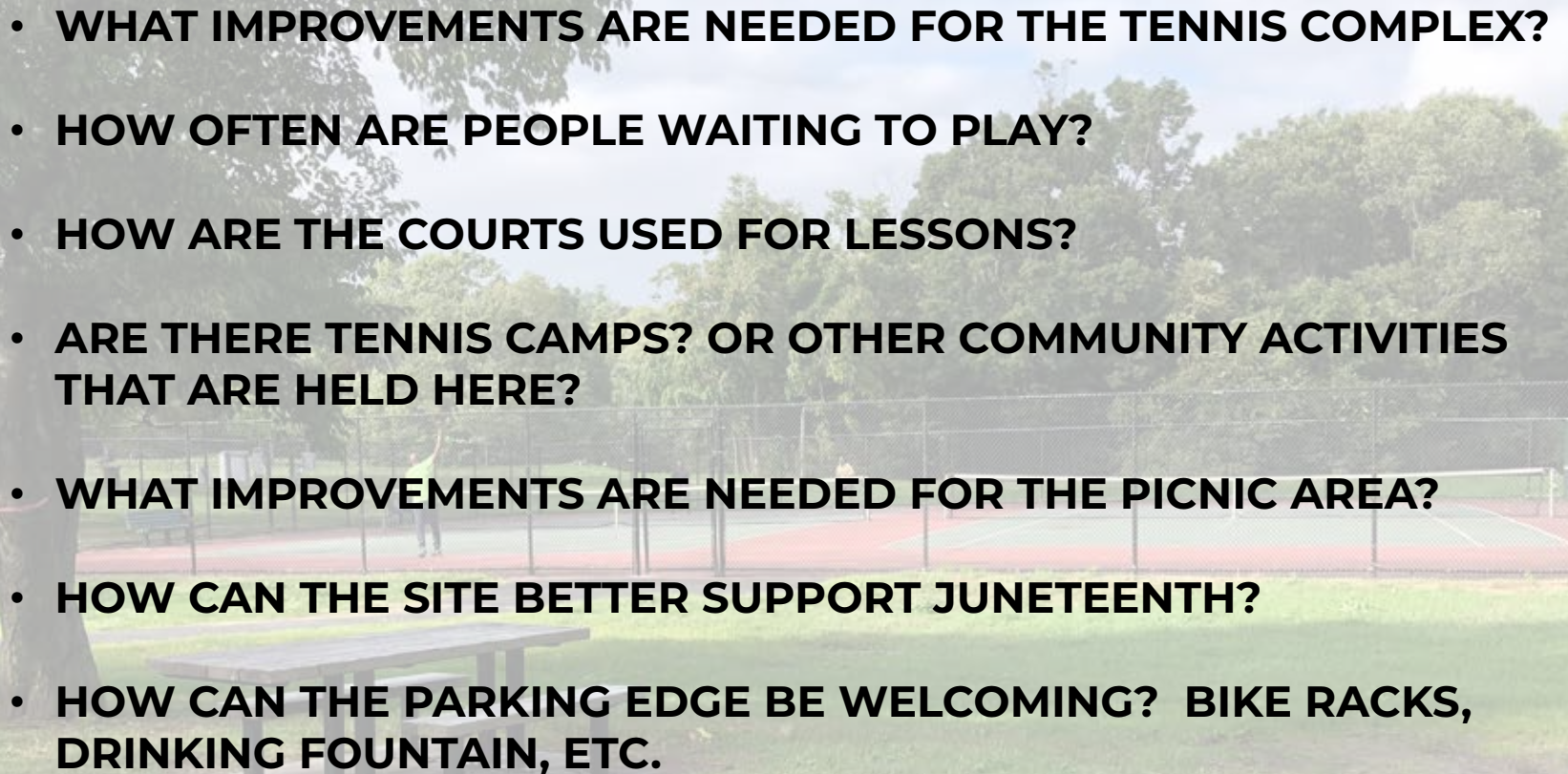
EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS

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EXISTING CONDITIONS PHOTOS

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- 
- **WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE TENNIS COMPLEX?**
 - **HOW OFTEN ARE PEOPLE WAITING TO PLAY?**
 - **HOW ARE THE COURTS USED FOR LESSONS?**
 - **ARE THERE TENNIS CAMPS? OR OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THAT ARE HELD HERE?**
 - **WHAT IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED FOR THE PICNIC AREA?**
 - **HOW CAN THE SITE BETTER SUPPORT JUNETEENTH?**
 - **HOW CAN THE PARKING EDGE BE WELCOMING? BIKE RACKS, DRINKING FOUNTAIN, ETC.**



LISTENING & DISCUSSION

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

NEXT STEPS

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING(S)

- Site Analysis and Schematic Design
- Winter 2025 Community Meeting

VISIT PROJECT WEBSITE

WEB LINK:

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/franklin-park-tennis-expansion>

Scan me with your
phone's camera!



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A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a wooden picnic table with two benches. Behind it, a large tree stands on the left. In the background, a tennis court with a red and green surface is visible, enclosed by a black fence. A person in a bright green shirt is on the court. The sky is blue with some clouds.

THANK YOU!

See the project website for future updates.

Next Meeting(s):
Winter 2025 Community Meeting #2



For questions, maintenance requests or
concerns regarding any of our
parks contact 311



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