



Meeting Notes

Franklin Park Tennis Improvements Meeting #2

January 14, 2025

Time:

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Location:

Franklin Park Clubhouse (in person)

Attendees:

+/-50 public attendees

Lauren Bryant, BPRD

My'Kel McMillen, BPRD

Kyle Zick, KZLA

Yongjae Lee, KZLA

David Nardone, Vision Sports Design

Community Meeting #2 Summary

1. Franklin Park Project Updates

- **Current Franklin Park Projects:**
 - **Wilderness:** Restoring pathways and picnic tables.
 - **Glen Road:** Addressing debris from cross-country path; work planned for spring.
 - **Bear Dens:** Property is now in the care and custody of the City of Boston. Safety repairs to start this spring.
 - **Ellicott Arch:** structural review, safety lighting and vegetation management.
- **Franklin Park Action Plan:**
 - Initiating priority projects including dog park studies, traffic calming on Circuit Drive, and conceptual designs for the overlook.

2. Tennis Complex Expansion

- **Proposed Designs:**
 - Expanding from 2 to 4 or 5 courts.
 - Plans include fencing, lighting, shaded seating, pathways, and benches.
- **Feedback:**
 - Boston Public Schools (BPS) use can be accommodated with little impact on Franklin Park Tennis or community use.
 - The five-court expansion was unanimously preferred by the community at the meeting.
 - Can pickleball striping be added? Several community members and the BPS coach have concerns with adding.

- Can blue lines be added for youth tennis?
- Will the lights be able to be used year-round?
- The park is open dawn to dusk, how can the courts be used beyond that?
- Can the pathway north of the courts be retained?
- The tennis courts are a social space, maintain space for people to set up their own chairs outside of the courts.
- 10' tall fencing is desired around the perimeter of the courts.
- No picnicking should be allowed on the courts.

3. Accessibility and Amenities

- **Pathways:**
 - Retaining primary paths.
 - Exploring rerouting the east/west path north of the tennis court expansion.
 - Concern about ATV access, but pathways need to meet ADA, which are similar widths that ATV need.
- **Shade Structures:**
 - Proposed near courts and picnic areas.
 - Design focus on minimal maintenance and historical context.
 - Community didn't think shade structure by road would be used.
- **Amenities:**
 - Water fountains, seating, and bike racks to be installed.
 - Prefer to add some hot coal bins and fixed grills for picnics.
 - Tennis needs a bulletin board, storage, and practice wall.
- **Restrooms:**
 - Not included in the current project scope but discussed as a future priority by the community.
 - Options could include portable toilets with enclosures.
- **Feedback**
 - **Parking and Traffic:**
 - Retaining parallel parking due to road width limitations.
 - Suggestions to improve pedestrian access from parking areas.
 - **Lighting and Safety:**



- Concerns about light pollution affecting birds and wildlife.
- Requests for emergency call boxes in the park.
- **Historical and Cultural Considerations:**
- Recognition of significant park landmarks and individuals (e.g., Henry Page).
- Interest in dedicating courts or benches to local contributors; further discussion to take place at meeting #3.

4. Timeline and Funding

- **Schedule:**
 - Final design and permitting expected by late winter 2025.
 - Construction planned to start post-Juneteenth, aiming for completion by summer 2026.
- **Funding:**
 - Project funded through city capital improvement program.

5. Next Steps

- Mark proposed court perimeters on site for community review.
- Study alternative pathways north of tennis courts.
- Clarify restroom options.
- Refine lighting and fencing plans with updated community input.
- BPRD to look into court numbering and court naming.
- Share inventory of City of Boston tennis and pickleball facilities, see attached.
- Consider adding emergency call box, tennis storage, and bulletin board to program.
- Schedule the next community meeting to present finalized designs.

Contact Information:

Lauren Bryant, Project Manager (contact provided in meeting materials).

Additional Notes:

Community members encouraged to join future discussions, provide feedback, and sign up for project updates through the official website.



Existing tennis courts and pickleball courts in the city:

PARK	Neighborhood	Quantity		Court Type
Billings Field	West Roxbury	3	Tennis	Full
Billings Field	West Roxbury	1	Tennis	Quickstart
Boston Common	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	2	Tennis	Full
Bynoe Park	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full
Byrne Playground	Dorchester	1	Tennis	Full
Carter Playground	Roxbury	5	Tennis	Full
Cassidy Playground	Allston-Brighton	2	Tennis	Full
Clifford Playground	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full
Dorchester Park	Dorchester	2	Tennis	Full
East Boston Memorial Park	East Boston	2	Tennis	Full
English H.S. Athletic Fields	Jamaica Plain	4	Tennis	Full
Fallon Field	Roslindale	1	Tennis	Full
Franklin Park	Roxbury	4	Tennis	Full
George Wright Golf Course	Hyde Park	2	Tennis	Full
Hunt Playground	Mattapan	3	Tennis	Full
Hunt Playground	Mattapan	2	Tennis	Quickstart
Iacono/Readville Playground	Hyde Park	2	Tennis	Full
Madison Park H.S. Athletic Fields	Roxbury	2	Tennis	Full
Malcolm X Park I	Roxbury	2	Tennis	Full
Marcella Playground	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full
Moakley Park	South Boston	3	Tennis	Full
Ochard Park	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full
Peter Looney Park	Charlestown	1	Tennis	Full



Peters Park	South End	1	Tennis	Full
Porzio Park	East Boston	1	Tennis	Full
Porzio Park	East Boston	2	Tennis	Quickstart
Ramsay Park	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full
Ringer Playground	Allston-Brighton	2	Tennis	Full
Ripley Playground	Dorchester	2	Tennis	Full
Ripley Playground	Dorchester	1	Tennis	Quickstart
Rogers Park	Allston-Brighton	2	Tennis	Full
Ross Playground	Hyde Park	1	Tennis	Full
Savin Hill Park	Dorchester	2	Tennis	Full
South Street Mall & Courts	Jamaica Plain	2	Tennis	Full
Thetford/Evans Playground	Dorchester	1	Tennis	Full
Walker Playground	Mattapan	1	Tennis	Full
Walsh Playground	Mattapan	1	Tennis	Full
West Roxbury H.S. Athletic Fields	West Roxbury	3	Tennis	Full
Winthrop Playground	Roxbury	1	Tennis	Full

PARK	Neighborhood	Quantity		Court Type
Billings Field	West Roxbury	3	Pickleball	Bring your own nets
Boston Common	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	2	Pickleball	Bring your own nets
Boston Common	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
Cassidy Playground	Allston-Brighton	2	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
DeFilippo Playground	North End	1	Pickleball	Bring your own nets



Dorchester Park	Dorchester	2	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
English H.S. Athletic Fields	Jamaica Plain	4	Pickleball	Standalone
Fallon Field	Roslindale	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
Malcolm X Park	Roxbury	2	Pickleball	Bring your own nets
Malcolm X Park	Roxbury	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
Moakley Park	South Boston	2	Pickleball	Standalone
Ochard Park	Roxbury	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
Peters Park	South End	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
Ramsay Park	Roxbury	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net
South Street Mall & Courts	Jamaica Plain	6	Pickleball	Bring your own nets
Walker Playground	Mattapan	1	Pickleball	Uses tennis net

One of the attendees' letters after the meeting:

"Greetings and thank you for allowing my input. Franklin Park has helped me through many problems with stress using tennis. Even though my game has not been that good, Jennie can attest to that.

After severing Boston as a police officer on the overnight shift, I would go to the tennis courts by the Shattuck Hospital and hit off the rebound wall; if you don't believe me, ask the patients who complained about me.

I serve on three boards: Roxbury Main Streets, Brookline Community TV, and, Community Wellness Advisory Board, at Sportsmen Tennis Club. Yes, I am retired, a veteran, but Boston is my love. Boston allows access to so many services, the best schools, the best hospitals and yes, the best Park: Franklin Park, Zoo and Golf course.

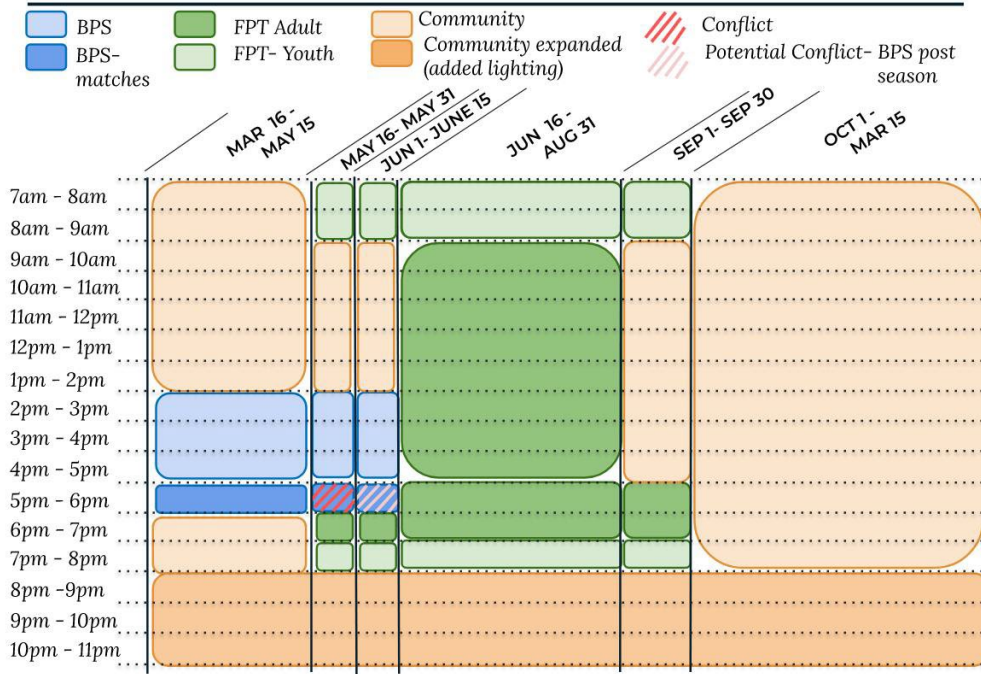
My concerns are these, first, did you know that at one time there were twenty-six tennis courts in Franklin Park, and I believe, the northeastern corner of the tennis courts at Shattuck are the ashes of first Black Tennis pro, Henry Paige; Henry taught Doctors and Nurses tennis in their off-time hours. Also, in light of the fires around the country, what safeguards are in the planning, with the Park, Zoo, homes and next to it, a research lab?

Inclosing, I sincerely ask this, regarding the new courts, that one be named in honor of a man who so loved tennis, so much, that he memorized the tennis rules, Joe Taylor.

Thank you"

Proposed tennis courts usage schedules:

TENNIS USAGE SCHEDULE- WEEKDAYS



TENNIS USAGE SCHEDULE- WEEKENDS

