

February 12, 2025

Geneva Cliffs Community Meeting #1

PRESENT:

Amy Linné (BPRD), Cathy Baker-Eclipse (BPRD), Paul Sutton (BPRD), Anthony Nguyen (ONS), Kaki Martin (KMDG), Sharon Komarow (KMDG), Dora Mugerwa (KMDG), Conservation Commission members and Community Members

Prior to the presentation, community members were encouraged to share a favorite memory of Geneva Cliffs in the chat, comments below:

- My favorite memory, and our most successful (?) event, was when we had SO many people at our Halloween event that we stopped traffic and the police-our event partners-shut us down after one hour. We were victims of our own success
- Halloween and our Wake Up the Earth events were my favorite.

Amy Linné presented the project overview, including schedule, budget, and Parks goals and priorities. Kaki Martin presented the project context and history. Sharon Komarow presented the design team's site analysis before asking for questions and feedback on what community members would like to see in the renovation project.

Ideas/comments for improvements from community members:

- Space to have a picnic
- Parking for people who can't walk there
- Keep the urban wild character & feeling of urban oasis, but also make it accessible to everyone
- Find ways to involve community youth
- Ensure adequate budget for regular maintenance and upkeep
- Improve signage
- Improve soil and planting in the area that has poor soils
- Community is lacking spaces to come together – consider a space with a stage for events similar to the DCR Martini Shell in Hyde Park

Community member questions/comments:

- There was a mention of \$1.5 million budgeted for improvements in 2026. Could you please provide details on what sort of improvements would be included?

BPRD/Design Team Response:

- *Looking for feedback from community to prioritize the list*

- *May include upgrades to paths, new trees/plantings, earthwork, adding accessible paths, invasive vegetation management, among other possibilities*
- How was the budget for Geneva Cliffs determined? Noted that it seems high compared to other park renovation projects with active recreation in the area.

BPRD/Design Team Response:

- *Many factors contribute to determining the budget, including preliminary design ideas developed at the request of Friends of Geneva Cliffs that considered incorporating more active recreation*
- *Geneva Cliffs will be a challenging site for contractors to work because of all the ledge and the difficulty in accessing the site - construction of relatively modest improvements will come at a higher cost*
- *The budget can also be used for several years of invasive vegetation management*
- *If full budget isn't needed, it would be reallocated to other park renovation projects.*
- Adjacent Eversource parcel is a big concern for the community. What are Eversource's plans for their adjacent parcel and how is it zoned? Has Eversource been contacted about leasing the land to the City or a use agreement? Community is interested in continuing to hold events in this space.

BPRD Response:

- *Ongoing communication with Eversource to work on a use agreement, Parks Department will be continuing these conversations*
- *Eversource parcel is zoned for open space purposes and will not be developed*
- The 2023 meeting included discussion about changing the designation of Geneva Cliffs from an urban wild to a park. Where does that stand?

BPRD Response:

- *Under consideration, final decision is dependent on feedback from the community*

Next steps for project:

- Collecting community feedback through the survey
- Next community meeting to be held on site in the spring, exact date will be posted on the project website when determined