



Meeting Notes

Franklin Park Tennis Improvements – Meeting #3

March 26, 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
Cathy Baker-Eclipse, BPRD
Kyle Zick, KZLA
Yongjae Lee, KZLA
David Nardone, Vision Sports Design
Boston Public Schools (BPS)
Franklin Park Tennis Association
Franklin Park Coalition

Community Meeting #3 Summary

1. Project Overview

- **Objective:** The project aims to expand the existing two tennis courts to five, improve lighting, pathways, parking access, and picnic areas, and enhance overall usability for the community, the Franklin Park Tennis Association, and BPS athletics.
- **Timeline:** Construction is planned to start in the summer of 2025 (after Juneteenth), with a goal of completion by spring 2026 to accommodate the full 2026 season for BPS and the Franklin Park Tennis Association.
- **Budget and Design:** The design concept was developed based on community input from prior meetings and will continue to be informed by permitting processes involving the Boston Landmarks Commission and Boston Water and Sewer Commission.

2. Key Features of the Renovation

- **Tennis Courts:**
 - Expansion from two to five courts to support community use and Franklin Park Tennis Association matches.

- Lighting with timers and push-button controls (shutting off at 11 PM) will extend playable hours.
 - Fencing will be 10 feet high, with a practice wall inside the complex. Court colors discussed include green-on-green or green-and-terracotta (blue was ruled out due to anticipated disapproval from Boston Landmarks).
 - Accessibility improvements include ADA-compliant pathways connecting to the courts.
- **Picnic Area:**
 - Replacement of existing picnic tables on concrete pads, with at least one table featuring a shade structure.
 - Some tables will be accessible and others will have fixed grills.
 - Pads for hot coal bins will be installed (the bins themselves are not part of this project scope).
 - One drinking fountain and trash receptacles will also be included.
- **Pathways and Entrances:**
 - New and modified pathways will connect parking, picnic areas, and tennis courts, with a strong emphasis on accessibility.
 - A new pathway will run along the parking edge with a welcoming entrance from the road, and options like bollards or granite blocks will prevent vehicle access while allowing pedestrian flow.
- **Parking:**
 - No new parking spaces will be added, but discussions are underway with the Parks Commissioner to potentially open a swing gate that leads to Scarboro Pond, which would allow for additional parking access.
- **Restrooms:**
 - No permanent restrooms are planned, but a screened area for seasonal portable toilets is proposed near the tennis courts.
- **Trees and Landscaping:**
 - An independent, certified arborist evaluated all trees in the project area, recommending removal of dead, invasive (e.g., Tree of Heaven), or structurally poor trees.
 - Two significant trees (an oak and a Kentucky coffee tree) are slated for removal due to severe structural issues. Boston Parks will remove the oak soon due to the safety risk.
 - Community members voiced support for leaving dead or poor trees in the woodland area to serve as habitat.
 - (21) New trees will be planted to replace removals, with selections that avoid nut-bearing species near the courts and align with the historic park design.

3. Community Input and Concerns

- **Scheduling:** A weekday and weekend schedule was shared to minimize overlap between BPS, the Franklin Park Tennis Association, and community use—with only a one-hour overlap during BPS matches in May and June.
- **Seating:** Community members preferred having benches inside the court area for players.
- **Path Removal:** Concerns were raised about removing a path into the woodlands; alternatives like crushed stone paths were suggested to maintain connectivity.
- **Trash and Maintenance:** Expanding parking access raised concerns about trash and upkeep; the team assured us that maintenance staff funded by the action plan will address increased needs.
- **Court Colors:** Community preference leaned toward green-on-green or green-and-terracotta for better ball visibility and historical compatibility.
- **Tree Removal:** Community members voiced their support for retaining dead or structurally compromised trees in the adjacent woodland area to promote wildlife habitat.

4. Next Steps

- The project team will follow up with BPS and the Franklin Park Tennis Association for additional input on court colors and layout specifics.
- An email update will be sent to attendees with responses to outstanding questions (e.g., tree replacements, path alternatives).
- Stakes marking the proposed court layout will remain in place for two weeks to help community members visualize the project.

Contact Information:

Lauren Bryant, Project Manager (contact information attached).

Additional Notes:

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

FRANKLIN PARK SHATTUCK TENNIS
Community Meeting #3
March 26, 2025



AGENDA FOR MEETING #3:

- Introduce the project team
 - **Lauren Bryant**- Senior Project Manager, Boston Parks
Lauren.Bryant@boston.gov
 - **My'Kel Mcmillan**- Community Outreach Coordinator, Boston Parks
Corey.Mcmillen@boston.gov
 - **Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture**
Design Team
- Share project goals and scope
- Present design concept
- Discussion of tree removals
- Listening and discussion
- Closing remarks and next steps

FRANKLIN PARK PROJECT WEBSITES:



Boston Parks has created a central website for ongoing design and construction projects in Franklin Park.

boston.gov/franklin-park-initiative

FRANKLIN PARK EMAIL SIGN UP:

