



## FIELD IMPROVEMENTS TO MURPHY PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE MAY 2025

Thank you for your interest in the Improvements to the Field Improvements to Murphy Playground project! We know this is a very important space for Margarita Muniz Academy, several sports teams, and neighbors. We aim to reopen as soon as possible. We appreciate your patience!

Thank you all for bearing with us during a very noisy part of construction last week. The contractor is currently in the process of stabilizing the perimeter site walls. As some of you may recall, during Design Documentation we discovered that the perimeter walls are structurally compromised and in need of repair or replacement. In order to keep the walls from failing, the structural engineers recommended a method to stabilize them in place. (The alternative to this method would have been to tear down the walls and replace them; this would have been a much more invasive project, causing significantly more disruption and difficulty for neighbors). In an effort to minimize disruption to the community, to protect the existing trees, *and* to minimize cost (so that the existing funding could be better spent on the athletic fields and site amenities), it was determined that stabilizing the walls in place was the best course of action. However, we do understand that this process has been noisy and inconvenient; for that we apologize.

The first stage of the wall stabilization was to cut out sections of the face of the concrete wall, which required loud tools. The next step will be to push large nails - called soil nails - through the wall to support it. After that, the walls and buried nails will be covered by a concrete patch. We're thrilled that City Year will be able to repair the mural after the structural work is complete. The goal of these repairs is to make the park safe and stable for the next 30 years!

To complete the remaining wall work, there will be some additional noises and inconveniences that may impact abutters. The contractor plans to close Verona Street for a few hours on 5/27 to test the soil nail installation process. If all goes according to plan, the contractor will return on 6/2 to perform the rest of the work. Be aware that Child Street will be closed most of the week of June 2nd. Once Child Street is reopened, Verona Street will then be closed for a day or two that week as well. **Please note that this work will be louder than the typical sounds of construction.** I will send an email notifying you when the

wall stabilization is complete. After this phase, the rest of the site work will be typical site construction activity.

The target date to open the park (except for the field) is Fall/Winter 2025. The athletic fields will be seeded in the fall, but they will not be ready for use until the following year. Seeded fields need protection for two growing seasons for the grass to establish. If everything goes well, the athletic field will be playable next Summer/Fall 2026.

#### **CONSTRUCTION IN MAY:**

- Concrete mow strip below new chain link fence installed
- Damaged asphalt paving demolished and removed
- Existing healthy trees pruned; dead and dying trees removed
- Stage 1 of perimeter site wall stabilization: cutting holes for soil nails
- Porous paving samples received and color selected
- Gravel base for porous paving has been installed
- Concrete bleachers patched and repaired

#### **WHAT TO EXPECT IN JUNE:**

- Soil nails driven into perimeter walls
- Porous paving to be installed
- Site furnishings to be installed
- Concrete bleachers repaired

**SITE PHOTO MAY 20, 2025:**



*Concrete mow strip below the chain link fence has been installed.*

**SITE PHOTO MAY 20, 2025:**



*The gravel base for the porous paving has been installed.*



**SITE PHOTO MAY 20, 2025:**



*Holes have been cut in the perimeter site walls to make room for the soil nails which will secure and stabilize the walls.*

**THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:**

**For employment opportunities, call ANJ Construction at (610) 704-4275**

**OTHER ITEMS:**

- Please use [311](#) to document non-emergency issues relating to park use, and 911 for emergency situations relating to public safety.
- Construction questions and concerns can be directed to Nelle Ward ([nelle.ward@boston.gov](mailto:nelle.ward@boston.gov)), Project Manager for Boston Parks and Recreation.
- Project Website: [Boston.gov/field-improvements-murphy-playground](https://boston.gov/field-improvements-murphy-playground)
- Please reach out with any additional questions: [nelle.ward@boston.gov](mailto:nelle.ward@boston.gov) or 617-961-3035.