



JOHN J. RYAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE JUNE, 2025

Thank you for your interest in the renovation of Ryan Playground, in Charlestown.

We realize this park is a very important outdoor space for recreation and community gathering in Charlestown, and we aim to have it back open as soon as possible.

As a reminder, the project is being completed in two phases. The first phase, underway with Unified Construction Inc. (UCI), includes **site demolition** along with the **installation of micropiles and ground improvements** that will structurally support the earthen berm designed to protect the playground and adjacent communities from storm surge and sea level rise flooding. The second phase is scheduled to go out to bid this summer and will focus on installing the park's 'visible elements,' including:

- **Seating, viewing, and fishing areas along Harbor Walk, on berm**
- **Playground with colorful rubber safety surfacing**
- **Splash pad**
- **Renovated natural grass ballfields**
- **Shaded dugouts, press box and batting cage**
- **Soccer field**
- **Relocated and restored street hockey rink**
- **New trees and shrubs**
- **ADA-compliant pathways**
- **Pedestrian lights and sports lighting systems**

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: MARCH-JUNE:

- Phase 1 demolition is complete, and Unified Construction Inc. also performed selective demolition in preparation for Phase 2.
- To coordinate with utility companies, the team located underground lines using test pits and sound wave technology. Based on these findings, we adjusted the structural design to avoid conflicts with any utility infrastructure that cannot be relocated.
- The site's water lines were cleaned and video inspected.
- Dust and geotechnical monitoring systems were put in place, and fabric scrim was installed along the perimeter fence to keep particles inside the site.
- Topsoil in the Phase 1 work area was stripped and stockpiled for reuse in Phase 2.
- The locations for micropiles were marked out for review. In preparation for installation, the contractor pre-dug and installed 8' deep sleeves for approximately 73 micropile locations within 3' of the gas main running beneath the site, parallel to the Mystic River. These sleeves will ensure safe and error-proof installation in those areas.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN JULY:

- Installation of the 272 micropiles is set to begin! The crew expects to install between 1.75 and 3.5 piles per day of construction. Each pile is 60–70' long, so this work will take some time and will likely remain part of ongoing construction activities through the coming months.
- The revised Phase 2 design package will be finalized and released for public bidding.

SITE PHOTO, 3/5/2026



The contractor located the below-grade utility lines that our survey did not capture.

SITE PHOTO, 3/26/2025



Topsoil in the Phase 1 work area was stripped and stockpiled. A working surface was installed.

SITE PHOTO, 5/7/2025



Retaining walls buried below the boardwalk were demo'd in sections that would conflict with micropiles.



Pre-dug sleeve at future micropile location.



Pre-dug sleeves at future micropile locations along the gas main line.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:

For employment opportunities, call Unified Contracting Inc. at [\(617\) 944-9255](tel:6179449255)

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
Kezia Ofiesh, Project Manager (Kezia.Ofiesh@boston.gov)

Project Website: boston.gov/ryan-charlestown