

Task I Site Analysis: Community Meeting I

Fidelis Way Park
City of Boston

Date/Time: July 31, 2025 / 6:00 PM
Location: Virtual Meeting
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MINUTES OF MEETING

This document summarizes community feedback collected during the first community meeting for the Fidelis Way Park improvement project. The meeting was hosted by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) in collaboration with landscape architects Brown, Richardson and Rowe (BRR). BRR presented their Task I Site Analysis findings, providing an overview of the park's current conditions and usage. The primary purpose of the meeting was to share the site analysis findings with the public and gather input from community members, which will directly inform the development of concept design options in the next phase of work (Task II).

1. Park Usage

- Community members value the park as a free, accessible green space for passive recreation
- Regular use includes walking, dog walking, passing through to nearby medical institutions, and usage of the playground

2. Safety Concerns

- The main park area is generally considered safe, though this varies by time of day.
- The eastern section (between Brighton Marine and Nova Apartments) is perceived as unsafe due to reported drug activity and loitering.
- Uncertainty about the condition of the grass and lack of maintenance contributes to unease (e.g., cleanliness, potential hazards, overgrowth)
- Users noted that the lawn is often overgrown and questioned if there was a lack of maintenance access to the park

3. Park Access & Connectivity

- Many users illegally enter through 1501 Commonwealth Ave as it provides the closest and most direct access from Warren Street.
- Suggestion to coordinate with Brighton Marine to open or formalize an accessible entrance from their property into the park.
 - Brighton Marine is reportedly open to discussing improved access through their property.
- Users noted that the vegetation at Monastery Path is overgrown and the stairs and railings are in poor condition
- Desire for enhanced signage and visual appeal from Carriage Road and 1515 Comm Ave. User noted that this area is unkempt and overgrown.
 - BPRD noted that they have an initiative to be aligned with Public Works Department and the Streets Team to improve safety and accessibility into their parks.

- Some users questioned whether there was a parking lot designated for park users. Others noted there was not enough parking for park users.
 - BPRD clarified that there is a parking lot behind BHA Commonwealth Development designated for park users.
- 4. Playground & Youth Amenities
 - Current play equipment is not suitable for young children (ages 2–5) and is outdated / in need of replacement.
 - Users have concerns regarding the wood chip mulch surfacing; finding it messy and not accessible.
 - Many caregivers are using strollers, making the current layout and park entries difficult to navigate.
 - Strong community interest in adding a splash pad. Users noted that the closest splash pad is at Joyce Playground which is often overcrowded.
 - Interest in adding pickleball courts
 - Some support for features that could enhance school-related use and connectivity with Brighton High School.
 - BPRD will ensure Brighton High School is engaged in the design process.
- 5. Seating and Social Areas
 - Requests for more picnic tables with shade structures to facilitate lunch and group gatherings.
 - Suggestion for group seating around the basketball court, potentially replacing the cobble edge with tiered seating.
- 6. Open Space and Lawn Areas
 - Concerns about patchy grass and dirt, especially near the high school side of the park.
 - Desire for a designated clean green space without dog access to allow for safe play and sitting.
 - Suggest maintaining separate areas for dogs and families.
- 7. Community Connection & Historical Significance
 - A community member noted that Fidelis Way was originally built for Korean War veterans.
 - Recommendation to explore the addition of a military memorial.
 - BPRD will coordinate with the Veterans Commission to determine desires for memorial space.
- 8. Winter Use
 - The park is well-used in the winter for sledding, and this should be supported in future design plans.
 - Some users in their survey responses expressed concerns regarding icy pathways and lack of winter maintenance of paths
- 9. Abutters and Future Community Engagement
 - One member noted that the BHA Commonwealth Development was underrepresented at this meeting and noted that a lot of children in the neighborhood use this park
 - Users noted it would be nice to ensure there are neighborhood kids at the next meeting who can voice their opinions on desired park improvements
 - BPRD will further engage with surrounding community groups and BHA Commonwealth Development

10. Park Name and Branding

- Users noted that there is confusion in the name of the park whether it is Fidelis Way or Overlook Park. The community members present at the meeting felt strongly that the name should be Fidelis Way Park
 - BPRD confirmed that Fidelis Way is the official name of the park

The preceding meeting minutes represent our understanding of the information exchanged. Please notify us of any misunderstandings in writing within 48 hours of the date of issue otherwise we will proceed on the basis that these items are as agreed to by all parties concerned and will become part of the contract documents.