

# Meeting Notes



<b>Project</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
Dudley Town Common	Priyanka Vankina (BPRD)
<b>Client</b>	My'kel Mcmillan (BPRD - remote meeting only)
Boston Park and Recreation	Naomi Cottrell (CCLA)
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Leah Broder (CCLA)
August 28, 2025	Echo Chen (CCLA)
<b>Issue Date</b>	Lewis Barnes (DSNI - remote meeting only)
September 4, 2025	

These notes reflect feedback provided by attendees at the Farmer's Market at Dudley Town Common the 3-5pm on August 28 and from the DSNI Sustainable Development Committee Meeting held via Zoom on August 28 at 6pm. Boston Parks and Recreation introduced the project, its general timeline with Community Engagement during the summer 2025 concluding with a final design to be shared with the Community in September. Crowley Cottrell presented findings from community surveys and design options for both the North and South sites of Dudley Town Common.

On Zoom multiple participants concerned that the Community was not adequately informed of the meeting; posters at park were not enough and nearby residents said they had not received flyers. One person said they do not want a CDC controlling the space and that DSNI are not residents

## NORTH SITE

### COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

- Usage: Most people use North Site Daily or Weekly; Most in Afternoon and Morning; in Summer
- Why people do not visit (ranked): Lack of shade, Lack of seating, Feels unsafe
- Priorities to Keep (ranked): Benches, Trees, Lawn
- Site elements they want more of (ranked): Community Art, Tables/Chairs, Trees, Lighting

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Multiple people requested shade/shelter structure that would protect from sun and rain.

Two people said that the City should engage La Alianca Hispana who run the community garden across the street.

Safety concerns were a priority and included: neighborhood resident concerned that City is not keeping park.

safe; there is homeless camp behind the globe structure and dirty needles; neighborhood resident observe park.

visitors using drugs or evidence of drug use on site; reiterated need for more lighting especially back of site.

Two community member suggested adding a drinking fountain.

One requested an emergency call box with AED equipment.

One voiced desire for accessible porta potty.

### CONCEPT 1 – TARGETED IMPROVEMENTS

Of all of those engaged with, there were three who preferred this option.

- Multiple voices of support for picnic tables, places to eat and stay
- Three specific mentions wanting game tables
- Six individual (or more) voices of support for water play/mist poles for cooling and to attract kids
- General support for more shade
- Desire to remove canopy structures because they do not provide shade or shelter request for shelter structure from rain and sun



## CONCEPT 2 – DOG PARK

Only one person expressed preference for this scheme.

- Two liked the idea but said they would not go there
- One thought it would be popular once condos built next door
- One voiced conditional support, liked that it might make rest of neighborhood cleaner
- More than three voiced opposition to dog park
- One didn't like the fence enclosure, takes away from open feeling of open park;
- One concerned people will not clean up after dogs
- Multiple supporters of keeping tile mural

## CONCEPT 3 – THE LOOP

This option was the clear preference by the majority of those asked specifically to choose.

- Appreciation for open green reminiscent of historical town green
- Multiple people excited about mist poles
- Multiple people says they liked the look and simplicity of the design, one mentioned elegance
- Preference for keeping tile mural

## SOUTH SITE

### COMMUNITY SURVEY FINDINGS

- Usage: Most people use South Site Daily or Weekly; Most in Afternoon; in Summer, Fall, Spring
- Why people do not visit (ranked): Lack of shade; Noise and traffic; Lack of seating
- Priorities to Keep (ranked): Benches; Trees; Lawn
- Site elements they want more of (ranked): Community Art; Tables/Chairs; Trees; Lighting

### GENERAL FEEDBACK

Many people discussed the value of the site as a site for programming on the stage - people want more programming and events. Suggestions included music, food, yoga, exercise classes. Multiple people mentioned that the City stopped supporting programming years ago, and that the intent of the park as a site for culture was not being realized. One said the community needs to identify stewards for this.

There was a strong desire to have a performance stage in the new design to encourage cultural programming.

Those who were asked if the stage needs the same canopy as today, they said no.

One voiced strong support for using solar-powered lighting.

One community member suggested adding an emergency call box with AED equipment.

One voiced desire for homeless -friendly porta potty.

Two wanted to salvage and reuse etched bricks for re-use, to keep elements of the past and carry into the future.

Multiple people requested shade/shelter structure that would protect from sun and rain.

One voiced idea of having art competitions for temporary display in the park.

Multiple requests to replace trash receptacles with rat-proof ones, add one on Blue Hill Side.

One suggested water fountain should have sensor instead of buttons for hygiene.

One suggested re-making sculpture out of copper.

One asked if possible to keep existing trees.

If the final option keeps a stage, it should be simplified into one level.



#### CONCEPT 1 – TARGETED IMPROVEMENTS

Four preferred this or this equally with one of the other schemes.

- Liked simplification of levels
- Liked addition of trees

#### CONCEPT 2 – PLAZA + PARK

Five preferred this or this equally with one of the other schemes.

- Those who preferred this scheme liked it because more green, less plaza
- Multiple people were concerned that grass would not survive
- One suggested synthetic turf, another suggested native groundcover
- A couple of people wanted to combine aspects of Concepts 2 and 3
- One asked if possible to keep existing trees
- One suggested the trees be fruiting
- One suggested moving music fence to behind the stage

#### CONCEPT 3 – THE GROVE

This scheme was preferred by the majority of those who stated a clear preference.

- Of those, multiple wanted to integrate a performance space or stage into the scheme
- Two were concerned about site lines to events - would trees block views
- Multiple strongly supported all the trees and shade and one spoke at length about how hot and arid site is
- DSNi staff said they had data showing site is 9 degrees Fahrenheit hotter in the plaza than it is 2 blocks away
- Multiple people wanted to integrate a water element like mist poles