City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

JOHN J. RYAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE SEPTEMBER, 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: JUNE-SEPTEMBER:

- Micropile installation began in July with initial pile load testing. After successful completion of the tests, the pile subcontractor, HUB, mobilized two crews and transitioned into full pile production, achieving an average installation rate of four piles per day.
- This past week, HUB brought in a third crew equipped with their largest piling rig, which is expected to increase production to approximately six piles per day. Completion of this scope of work is currently anticipated by the end of October.
- Coordination continued with Eversource to locate underground utility infrastructure. Based on the findings, adjustments were made to both pile types and locations to avoid conflicts with existing utility lines, while still maintaining the original design intent of the seawall supported by these piles.
- Phase 2 of the project was released for bid. The contract was awarded to the lowest qualified bidder, Fleming Bros. Inc.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER:

- Installation of the 270 micropiles will continue with HUB's crews making their way toward the northwest corner of the site.
- The ground improvement subcontractor, Menard, will begin work in the northeast corner of the site once HUB has vacated the area. Their scope includes installing aggregate stone columns, which are vertical shafts filled with crushed stone designed to strengthen and stabilize the soil in preparation for supporting the berm.
- Fleming Bros. Inc. anticipates mobilizing towards the end of fall at the south corner of the site and begin their scope of work, starting with the construction of a new curb cut for the future parking lot.

SITE PHOTO, 6/4/2025



UCI dug down near the old boardwalk to remove small sections of a buried retaining wall that would otherwise have posed conflicts for the micropiles.

SITE PHOTO, 6/25/2025



Drone photography captured this aerial image of the site, and shows the prepped work surface along the waterfront ready for micropile work.

SITE PHOTO, 7/16/2025



One of HUB's drilling rigs ready to start work.

SITE PHOTO, 8/13/2025



Micropile installation in progress.

SITE PHOTO, 8/22/2025



An area where the piles have been installed and are sticking up out of the ground in their casings.

SITE PHOTO, 9/10/2025



As part of the micropile installation process, soil is removed by the drill and funneled into HUB's machine that uses vibration to separate liquids and solids. The solids are stockpiled on site until future disposal.

SITE PHOTO, 9/10/2025



Standing at the northwest area of the site and looking east, you can see HUB's 3 rigs working in the distance.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:
For employment opportunities, call Unified Contracting Inc. at (617) 944-9255

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) and
B Chatfield, Senior Project Manager (abigail.chatfield@boston.gov)

Project Website: boston.gov/ryan-charlestown