

MEETING TITLE CHAIRPERSON

Jefferson Playground Site Analysis Community Presentation

[Chairperson]

DATE

10/22/2025

TIME

6 pm to 7:30pm

ORGANIZER

Max Sell - BPRD
617-961-3097 (o), 617-290-3195 (c), max.sell@boston.gov

OUR REF

103059314

LOCATION

Zoom (Virtual)

COPIES TO

PARTICIPANTS

Max Sell - BPRD
My'kel McMillen – BPRD
Melissa Beltran – Boston Public Health Commission, JP liaison
Cathy Offenberg – Arcadis
Uma Sekar - Arcadis
Karina Lanphear - Arcadis
Eryn-Ashlei Bailey -Community Member
Walter Erwin -Community Member
Allison Cox -Community Member
Sarah Freeman -Community Member
Kevin Betts -Community Member
Alison Pultinas -Community Member
Diane Brown -Community Member
May Vaughn -Community Member
Louisa Harris -Community Member

ITEM

DESCRIPTION

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Site Context
Comments | <p>1.1 Mozart Park is the closest existing playground.</p> <p>1.2 Historical significance as a former quarry site, featuring dramatic rock formations.</p> <p>1.3 Potential for broader community use, including elderly residents and local professionals.</p> <p>1.4 Request for findings from any prior usability studies.</p> <p>1.5 Opportunity for rock climbing activities</p> |
| 2 | Neighborhood
Context
Comments | <p>2.2 Non-functional light on Hennigan Community Center Gym entrance to the park.</p> <p>2.3 Parking lot is occasionally primarily used by residents, leaving insufficient space for organized sport teams.</p> <p>2.4 Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) signage is pending.</p> <p>2.5 Concern that upcoming Murphy Park and Jefferson Playground construction should be coordinated, to ensure that one of the parks is open and available for use while the other is under construction.</p> <p>2.6 Hines Playground cited as a positive model.</p> <p>2.7 Hennigan School's play structure is underutilized; area serves older age groups.</p> <p>2.8 Alley next to the Hennigan Community Center is used for illegal dumping.</p> |

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 | Park Entrance | <p>3.1 Heath Street entrance lacks accessible surfaces; asphalt ends at the park boundary.</p> <p>3.2 Walk connecting Heath Street to Minden Street is part of a city-wide walking trail system. Minden Street entrance is uninviting, marked only by a small Boston walking system sign.</p> <p>3.3 Improvements needed in accessibility, signage, and lighting.</p> <p>3.4 Desire to maintain access to Nira Rock.</p> |
| 4 | Ballfield & Batting Cage | <p>4.1 Field is highly valued but suffers from drainage issues, sometimes taking weeks to drain and unplayable after a rain event.</p> <p>4.2 Used by baseball teams aged 13-16.</p> <p>4.3 Recommendation to double bleacher capacity and elevate seating, to improve sight lines.</p> <p>4.4 Batting cage requires repairs</p> <p>4.5 Suggestions to use varied surfaces to reduce flooding.</p> <p>4.6 Linden Trees encroach on the field despite aesthetic value.</p> <p>4.7 Need for permanent storage locker near backstop.</p> <p>4.8 Lighting upgrades requested.</p> <p>4.9 Signage needed to warn pedestrians of flying balls.</p> <p>4.10 Missing dirt noted. Place for ground crew to add dirt, at right of first base bleachers desirable.</p> <p>4.11 Request for three-in-one type of water fountains.</p> <p>4.11 Cricket games observed on site on weekday evenings; more so than soccer, though Hennigan School uses left field for soccer, Monday – Friday after school. A u10 in left field might be a nice improvement.</p> <p>4.12 Inquiry about scheduling field time and BCYF activity coordination.</p> |
| 5 | Basketball Court | <p>5.1 Signage is lacking.</p> <p>5.2 Suggest outreach to Native American Association for input on priorities and design and to encourage playground use.</p> <p>5.3 Proposal to involve Mildred Hailey Youth Center.</p> <p>5.4 Court supports informal play due to absence of perimeter fencing: recommendation to preserve this flexibility. Need to confirm the size of court: size regulations.</p> |
| 6 | Playground | <p>6.1 Current playground does not serve the needs of different age groups And play amenities and activities should be more diverse than climbing.</p> <p>6.2 General improvements would be beneficial.</p> <p>6.3 Not a destination site, typically used by children waiting for siblings who are involved</p> |

in the ball field activity.

6.4 Suggest engaging families to identify preferred age groups and equipment.

6.5 Desire for swings and use of natural materials over plastic.

6.6 Overall fence not desired, keep flow to Nira Rock. Recommendation to fence or otherwise seclude the 0–2-year-old play area.

7 Lawn Space

7.1 Hills used for sledding.

7.2 Space between the playground and basketball court is underutilized.

7.3 Suggestions include adult fitness equipment and water misters.

8 Dogs

8.1 Ball field is used, against posted regulations, as a dog park.

8.2 Suggestion to install dog waste stations and educate users on appropriate areas for dog use.

8.3 Explore alternative locations for dog walking locations.

9 Maintenance

9.1 Unclear responsibility for park maintenance.

9.2 Dog waste identified as a major issue.

10 Budget

10.1 No grant funding is currently available.

10.2 BPRD will publish the project budget.

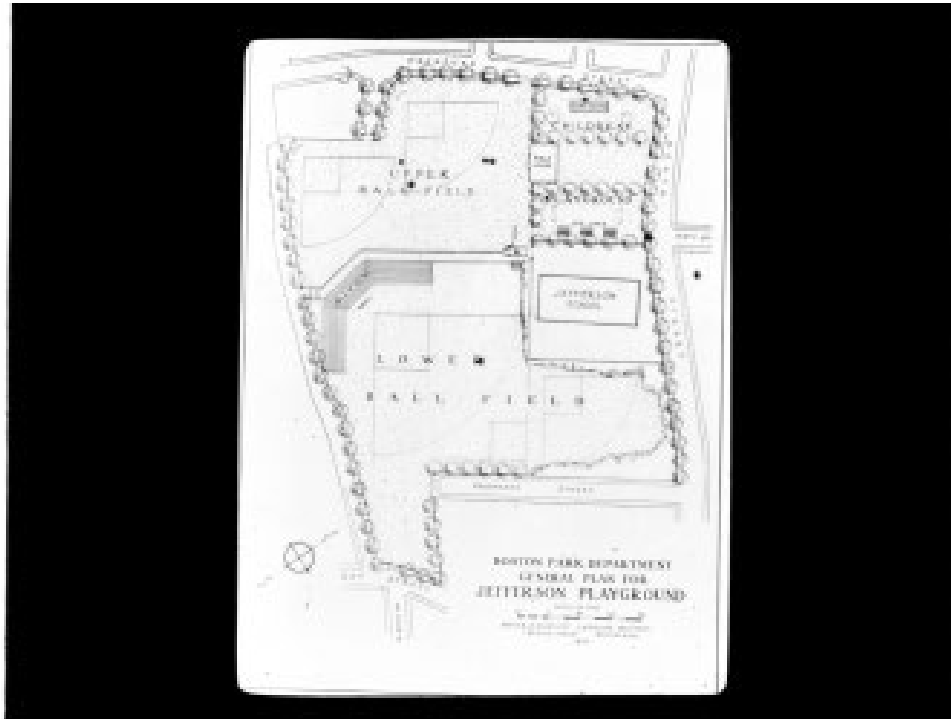
Enc. [Enclosures]

Images received from Alison Pultinas via email on 10/22/2025:

1. Historic photograph of Jefferson Playground
2. Plan of Jefferson Playground, dated 1925



Historic photograph of Jefferson Playground



Plan of Jefferson Playground, dated 1925