

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin Bogle, RLA, Senior Project Manager, BPRD

FROM: Regan Andreola, RLA, Senior Project Manager, W&S
Antone Almeida, Project Manager, W&S

DATE: November 20, 2025 – Revised 11/25/2025

SUBJECT: Community Meeting #2 – 11/18/2025
Barry Playground Improvements, Charlestown
Boston Parks and Recreation Department - City of Boston

ATTENDEES:

Kevin Bogle (KB)	Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)
Brandon Kunkel (BK)	Weston & Sampson (W&S)
Regan Andreola (RA)	Weston & Sampson (W&S)
Antone Almeida (AA)	Weston & Sampson (W&S)

1. **Presentation**
 - a. KB – Project and Project Team introduction, City of Boston and BPRD goals, Project goals, Resiliency
 - b. BK- W&S background and experience within Charlestown
 - c. AA- Neighborhood context, existing conditions, first community engagement feedback
 - d. RA- Concept design

2. **Community Feedback/Discussion Items**
 - a. Neighborhood Context considerations
 - i. Crossing of Chelsea Street is dangerous, consider mid-block crossing through MassDOT parking area (not in scope, but consider when preparing design)
 - ii. This census block has the least shade throughout the city
 - iii. Tobin may come down in the future. Something to keep in mind for planning

 - b. Site Use
 - i. Soccer
 - Charlestown Youth Soccer (CYS) is the primary user of the park, with permitted use M-F 5pm-9pm, and weekends 8am-8pm in spring and fall

- 9v9 is preferred field size
 - Super Soccer Stars (Pre-k), smaller size field needed, but can work with 9v9
 - CYS spends \$8K annually to maintain grass
 - Although synthetic turf is preferred, ok if there are two natural turf fields that can be rotated and rested (i.e. Ryan Plan ground will have a 9x9 natural turf field once construction is completed)
 - Current grass field drains well, can be played on within 8 hours after a rain event
 - Not having restrooms makes it difficult to host out-of-town tournaments
- ii. Softball (no representatives present, anecdotal info from CYS representative)
- Softball is typically just adult night leagues
 - Minimal use, other than current overflow use while Ryan Playground is under construction

c. Design feedback

- i. Overall preference for Concept 2 with resilient berm and spectator overlook
- ii. Retaining wall was well received.
- Provides great views for spectators and of the channel
 - Prevents balls from rolling down towards water
 - Berm elevation should be at 22.5, not 21.0 (W&S to confirm)
- iii. Landscaping
- Mulberry trees will likely need to be removed due to damage to seawall and grading changes, if berm concept is chosen. People like the Mulberry trees. Look at ways to incorporate elsewhere.
 - Fruit trees if possible, edible plantings?
 - Charlestown Sprouts Non-Profit Community Garden
 - Look at ways to incorporate seagrass and pollinator plantings along berm
 - Need to be careful about selection of shrubs on berm side slopes. Trees cannot be placed there, as they can impact structural integrity of berm
 - Concept 1- consider relocation trees away from edge of playing field.
- iv. Fitness areas
- Make sure to incorporate all ages into fitness design.
 - Consider fitness stations along the connected walkway. Harborwalk extension has a precedent for fitness equipment. They can provide what was chosen there for continuity along the Harborwalk.
- v. Athletics/Active Recreation
- Provide concrete pads for portable toilets
 - Good to have the storage areas as shown. Size to meet at least current storage unit size, and possible place for CYS's onsite storage for ride-on mower
 - Water bottle fillers!
 - Make sure to avoid existing in-ground irrigation/mechanical access

vault when siting soccer field

vi. Passive Recreation

- All liked the idea of distance markers on the pavement for walking/running loops.
- All liked the playground slope play
- All liked the café tables and seating options
- Think about location of bike town. Although they like the design, does the connected walkway achieve the same thing as bike town, and free up that space for something else?

vii. Waterfront Elements

- Existing circular concrete terminus on east side of park is the “mouth of the Mystic” marker, also the East Coast Greenway location. Should be incorporated into design, with appropriate marking/signage.
- Look at ways to incorporate public art, “artistic elements”, and/or interpretative signage. (connect with nature, nod to Charlestown, herrings, canoe burning, potato famine ships, steam paddleboards, cutters, etc.).
- Change “harborwalk” verbiage to “riverwalk”?
- Incorporate lighting along water and proximate to the Tobin, main access to housing from bus stop and needs to be safer.
- Dragon boat racing viewing point