



JOHN J. RYAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE APRIL, 2026

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. Our goal for the park opening is Fall 2027 - we appreciate your patience.

We are now in the second of two construction phases. The first phase was site demolition and “setting the stage” for the berm (micropiles and ground improvements) and now, starting a little later than planned, we began Phase 2 in March 2026, to install a berm, ballfields, playground, splash pad, lighting - the park and playground.

CONSTRUCTION IN APRIL:

- Construction fencing kept blowing over, so our contractor replaced it with heavier fencing that is less likely to fall down. We still have a hard time with the dust netting on this windy site, but things have been looking a bit better than they did a few weeks ago.
- The contractor has taken down the light poles at the street hockey rink, to be reinstalled in the rink’s new location on site.
- The majority of the site work is happening near the water, by the Schrafft’s edge of the park. The rebar for the new seawall is being erected, and the pile supports (installed in Phase 1) are being adapted so Phase 2 can add a pile cap and then connect to the piles to support our berm and sea wall.
- The new entrance on Alford Street - by the rotary, so you don’t have to U-turn in Everett! - has been started. The contractor has relocated a hydrant. New concrete sidewalk will come shortly.

WORK TO ANTICIPATE IN MAY:

- The berm and sea-wall construction will continue, starting by the Schrafft’s edge and continuing towards Alford Street.
- Light pole footings for sports lighting

SITE PHOTO, 4/17/2026



Orange construction fence marks the Critical Root Zone of trees that will be preserved and protected during construction. We require tree protection to be in place before the construction begins.

SITE PHOTO, 4/24/2026



One of the mountains of excavated soil, protected with tarps to prevent dust.

SITE PHOTO, 4/24/2026



Tops of the piles that were installed in Phase 1 need to be cut, and rebar in the center will be exposed, so the pile cap can be attached. This photo is adjacent to the fishing pier, looking back at Schrafft's.

SITE PHOTO, 4/24/2026



In the corner of the site near Schrafft's the seawall curves, which you can see here. They have rebar set up and plywood forms, preparing for the concrete base.

SITE PHOTO, 4/24/2026



A forest of rebar sticking up out of the trench - ready for the concrete to make the footing of the seawall. Adjacent on the right, you can see the 24" gas line that we've had to be careful of during this reconstruction.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:

For employment opportunities, call Fleming Brothers Inc. at (781) 843-4071

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

Project Website: boston.gov/ryan-charlestown