



JOHN J. RYAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE MAY 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 anticipated date for the park opening is Fall 2027, and 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 we are in Phase 2: installation of a berm, ballfields, playground, splash pad, lighting - the park and playground.

CONSTRUCTION IN MAY:

- Phase 1 of this project installed over a hundred piles in the ground, to support the berm, seawall and Harborwalk. In order to attach our berm to these piles, our contractor needed to expose the tops of these piles and prepare them by adding a pile cap to each one. This is now complete.
- All old light poles have been removed, and new light pole footings and bases have been installed.
- The rebar for the new seawall by Schraffts has been erected, and concrete poured. The landform - a berm made of lightweight fill and soil - will be created against this wall.
- We are working with the Little League to refine what the press box features are, and then we will order this long-lead item, which will take about 6 months to manufacture.
- Drainage manholes near the seawall by Schrafft's have been installed. Connecting these with piping will happen next. (Installation of drainage infrastructure throughout the site will continue for months.)
- Some soil stockpiles from Phase 1 have been added back into the site grading; new stockpiles are being created from soil excavated for the wall footings.

WORK TO ANTICIPATE IN JUNE:

- Berm and wall construction continues, moving from the Schrafft's edge towards Alford Street. The wall holding up the playground (mid-berm) will be done next, in early June.
- Light poles for sports lighting will be delivered
- Water utility structures will continue to be installed

SITE PHOTO, 5/08/2026



By the corner of the park with Schrafft's, the curved base of the berm will be supported by this wall, which has rebar almost ready for the concrete pour.

SITE PHOTO, 5/22/2026



The same area - shown from a different angle - with the concrete wall poured.

SITE PHOTO, 5/22/2026



Looking towards the Alford Street bridge, the tops of the piles are visible in the area of the berm where the playground will go. The wall attached to these piles will be formed with rebar, and poured concrete next, and should be visible in early June.

SITE PHOTO, 5/22/2026



A concrete light pole base, waiting for the light to be installed.

SITE PHOTO, 5/22/2026



Site soil gets stripped from its location, screened and added to the stockpiles, for use in the overall site grading and berm topsoil.

SITE PHOTO, 5/22/2026



It's hard to show scale - these stockpiles are so big. The Schrafft's building in the background might give a sense of that.

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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 (abigail.chatfield@boston.gov)