

# Memorandum

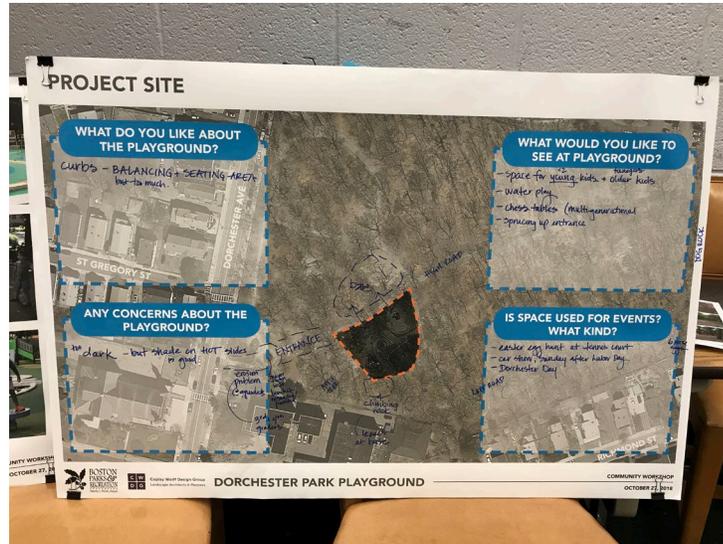
To: Lauren Bryant, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)  
From: Sean Sanger, Principal, Copley Wolff Design Group (CWDG)  
Date: 11/15/2018  
Re: Dorchester Park Playground – Community Workshop Summary

This memorandum summarizes the community workshop for the Dorchester Park Playground Renovation Project, which took place on October 27, 2018 at the Adams Street Branch of the Boston Public Library in the Dorchester Neighborhood of Boston, MA. The community workshop was set up as an informal open house between 3:15 and 4:15 PM.

Lauren Bryant, Project Manager with the BPRD, initiated the workshop by introducing the design consultants, Sean Sanger and Christine Wilson from CWDG, and then provided a brief overview of the project. Following Lauren’s workshop introduction, community members engaged in a conversation about the history of the park, concerns with existing conditions, and hopes for the renovated playground. Three of the community members in attendance are members of the Dorchester Park Association (DPA) and others in attendance live nearby the park. All were able to provide details on how the playground and surrounding park space is currently used, including both the strengths and the deficiencies.



Below is a summary of the preference and comments received from the community members in attendance.



### Preference Boards:

- NATURE PLAY: important and appropriate for Dorchester Park Playground, including logs and stacked boulders, placed in resilient surfacing or mulch; stepping logs should not be too “rustic” in appearance
- SWINGING / SPINNING: energy and motion elements are good, especially those for 2 or more kids to promote teamwork
- SLIDING: shorter, narrow slides were preferred, both curving and straight in form; no extra-wide group slides
- CLIMBING: a zipline, like at the Esplanade Playspace, was mentioned
- SEATING: organic form was requested
- RESILIENT SURFACING: some preferred muted colors reflective of the surrounding nature, while others preferred brighter, bold colors

### Additional Comments:

- Get rid of poison ivy, continue the goat program
- Tot lot is a good starter, but children grow out of it quickly
- Playground colors that reflect the colors of leaves in the park (greens, reds, oranges) would be nice
- Introduce botanical interpretive elements to educate children on the surrounding plant species and habitats
- Currently the playground is too dark, but shade is needed, especially on hot slides
- “Climbing Rock” to the south of playground is popular for climbing
- Current curbs throughout playground are great for balancing and sitting, but there is too much curbing



- Spaces/elements both very young children and teenagers would be ideal
- Water play was requested
- Chess tables to promote multi-generational play was requested
- Entrance should be “spruced up”
- Events that take place in Dorchester Park include: Easter Egg Hunt (at tennis courts)  
Car Show (Sunday after Labor Day), and Dorchester Day

