

# Memorandum

To: Lauren Bryant, Project Manager, Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD)  
From: Sean Sanger, Principal, Copley Wolff Design Group (CWDG)  
Date: 11/14/2018  
Re: Walker Playground – Community Workshop Summary

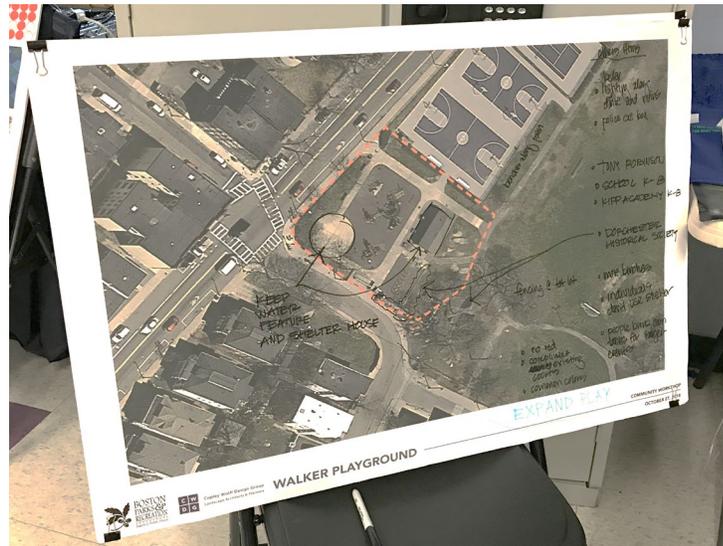
This memorandum summarizes the community workshop for the Walker Playground Renovation Project, which took place on October 27, 2018 at the BCYF Mildred Avenue Community Center in the Mattapan Neighborhood of Boston, MA. The community workshop was set up as an informal open house between 10:00 and 11:00 AM.

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 were able to review the workshop boards at their own pace and provide input by placing stickers on the elements that they liked most. Over the course of the workshop, Lauren, Sean and Christine were available for one-on-one conversations with community members to discuss the existing playground and their vision for the renovation. At the end of the hour, the group gathered, discussed their preferences, and engaged in a conversation regarding the implementation of the park and how it could be coordinated with the greater revitalization of “Norfolk Park”, the name the community uses to identify the entire open space area, including the fields, at Walker Playground.



During the Thetford Evans Playground community workshop later that day, additional input was received for Walker Playground from two camp counselors who work with the BCYF summer programs that use the playground facilities daily.

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



### **Preference Boards:**

- **WATER PLAY:** water jets similar to what is currently installed is preferred, but with working push buttons; kids fill buckets up with water and put water down the slides
- **SWINGING / SPINNING:** there was interest for a variety of swing types; large spinners for groups were preferred
- **SLIDING:** older community members requested double slides, side-by-side, while younger community members noted a preference for an extra-wide group slide
- **SEATING:** smaller tables with rotating chairs and room to pull up wheelchairs was requested
- **RESILIENT SURFACING:** some preferred muted colors; while others prefer brighter colors, specifically blues

### **Additional Comments:**

- Keep (but upgrade) water feature and shelter
- Expand Walker Playground to include more of Norfolk Park
- Hold a ribbon-cutting ceremonies upon completion of the renovation projects to celebrate opening of each playground: Walker Playground, Thetford Evans Playground, and Dorchester Park Playground
- Remove or modify the large fake climbing rock as it is currently unsafe and not used frequently
- Do not use the color red
- Use colors that complement existing court colors
- Add tables with table top games and more benches
- Include fitness equipment for adults
- Give older kids a place to socialize



- Add more trash receptacles; regularly scheduled trash pickup is needed
- Install dog poop signs, bags, not allowed signs
- Improve safety
- Remove and don't plant vegetation that obscures views; don't create places to hide
- Keep the rocks behind swings, but provide clear site lines; kids like to climb rocks and play under trees
- Schedule police patrol, especially during events (family, basketball)
- Require permits for birthday parties / private events to avoid conflict and overcrowding
- Lower wall
- Contact the Dorchester Historical Society for information regarding the existing stone foundation adjacent to playground

