Public Meeting #1

MASTER PLAN FOR
SMITH FIELD PLAYGROUND

ALLSTON, MA

Tuesday June 23rd, 2015 @ 6:30-8:00 pm
Harvard Education Portal, 224 Western Avenue
Agenda

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Master Plan Overview and Project Process
3. City Goals and Objectives
4. Project Context
5. Allston Initiatives
6. Existing Conditions
7. Listening Session/Discussion
8. Next Meeting-Fall 2015
1. Welcoming Remarks
WELCOME TO ALL!

- Proponent is Boston Parks and Recreation Dept.
- This is the first of a series of stakeholder meetings
- Goal is to develop a master plan for Smith Field Playground
2. Master Plan Overview & Project Process

Steps 1-6: PLANNING
1. Identify goals, target population, and desired outcomes.
2. Choose which problem(s) to focus on.
3. Find existing programs and best practices worth copying.
4. Modify the program or best practices to fit your needs.
5. Access capacity (staff, financing, etc.) to implement the program.
6. Make a plan for getting started; who, what, when, where, and how.

Steps 7-10: EVALUATING AND IMPROVING
7. Evaluate planning and implementation. How did it go?
8. Evaluate program’s success in achieving desired results.
9. Make a plan for continuous quality improvement.
10. Consider how to keep the program going if it is successful.
WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

- Preserves and protects
- Re-assesses what a park offers / lacks
- Directs change
- Allows a wholistic design approach
- Establishes a vision
- Guides capital dollars
- Sets 10-15 yr. course
WHY NOW?

- Area undergoing Significant growth and change
- Community has advocated for a master plan
- Opportunity to preserve and enhance
3. City Goals & Objectives
CITY-WIDE PARK GOALS
- Preserve and protect existing trees
- Expand usable park area
- Improve universal access
- Enhance park visibility
- Improve park access
- Preserve and enhance existing active recreation spaces
- Serve park users of all ages
4. Project Context
PROJECT LOCUS

Smith Field

- William E. Smith Playground
- Established in 1890’s
- 14-acre park
- Currently includes softball, baseball, basketball, roller hockey, and playground
**PROJECT LOCUS**

Smith Field

- Located in the NW quadrant of North Allston
- Entry off Western Ave. and Soldiers Field Rd.
CITY PARKLAND

Charles River Reservation

Smith Field

Portsmouth Street Playground

Leo M. Birmingham Pkwy

Fern Square

Ray V. Mellone Park

Hooker-Sorrento Playground
HARVARD PROPERTY

- Harvard University’s Allston Campus
- Institutional Master Plan (IMP) area
- 155 acres
5. Allston Initiatives
BARRY’S CORNER

- Planned Improvements:
  - Retail & Residential
  - Institutional
  - Public realm
NEW PARK FRONTAGE

- Component of Barry’s Corner development
- Includes both pedestrian & bike accommodations
- New frontage along Smith Field
- Connection to new green space

Image from Harvard University’s Institutional Master Plan, Revised October 2013
LONGFELLOW WALK

- Bike and pedestrian path along parks north side
- Link North Harvard Street to Soldiers Field Road
- Improve river access

Image from Harvard University’s Institutional Master Plan, Revised October 2013
OTHER INITIATIVES

- Everett Street improvements
- Soldiers Field Road crossing study
6. Existing Conditions
PARK OFFERINGS

Baseball field

Multi-use fields

Roller hockey court

(4) Softball fields

(2) Basketball courts

Playground
FORMAL ENTRANCES

- (3) pedestrian entrances
- (1) maintenance
FRONTAGE & VISIBILITY

- Limited frontage
- High stone wall
- New exposure
VEGETATION

- Perimeter trees
- Limited spatial definition
- Trees in decline
ACCESS & CIRCULATION

- Limited path network
- No internal circulation
- Limited accessibility
Ballfields

- Softball and baseball
- Multi-use fields
- Varied conditions
PLAYGROUND

- Age appropriate
- Older equipment
BASKETBALL COURT

- Good condition
- Renovated in 2011 by “Boston’s Got Wings”
ROLLER HOCKEY COURT

- Needs improvement
- Well used by local clubs for roller hockey and bike polo
7. Listening Session / Discussion
THOUGHTS, IDEAS....

- How do you use the park?
- What’s the best feature?
- How can we make it better?
8. Next Meeting – Fall 2015