Public Meeting #2

MASTER PLAN FOR
SMITH FIELD PLAYGROUND

ALLSTON, MA

Monday September 21st, 2015 @ 6:30-8:00 pm
Charlesview Community Room, 123 Antwerp Street
Agenda

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Master Plan Overview and Project Process
3. City Goals and Objectives
4. Meeting # 1 Recap
5. Facility Usage Summary
6. Concept Alternatives
7. Listening Session/Discussion
8. Next Meeting-Late Fall 2015
1. Welcoming Remarks
WELCOME TO ALL!

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

- Identify goals, target population, and desired outcomes.
- Choose which problem(s) to focus on.
- Consider how to keep the program going if it is successful.
- Make a plan for continuous quality improvement.
- Evaluate program's success in achieving desired results.
- Make a plan for getting started; who, what, when, where, and how.
- Evaluate planning and implementation; how did it go?
- Assess capacity (staff, financing, etc.) to implement the program.
- Modify the program or best practices to fit your needs.
- Find existing programs and best practices worth copying.

Steps 1-6: PLANNING
Steps 7-10: EVALUATING AND IMPROVING
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
- Increase park access
- Preserve and enhance existing active recreation spaces
- Serve park users of all ages
4. Meeting#1 Recap
MEETING RECAP

- First meeting held on 6/23/2015 at the Harvard Ed Portal.
- Approx. 40+ people attended.
- Topics discussed included
  - Project Context
  - Allston Initiatives
  - Existing Conditions
PROJECT LOCUS

Smith Field

- Located in the NW quadrant of North Allston
- Entry off Western Ave. and Soldiers Field Rd.
Facility Usage Summary
PERMIT HOLDERS

- Email Blast to Permit Holders

We are working on the development of a Master Plan for improvements to Smith Playground in Allston. To achieve the most successful representation of Smith Playground, our accuracy in studying facility usage within the park is crucial. We have been provided a list of recent permit holders for facility usage and we have a few simple questions for you concerning the hours you reserved at the park in the past to help guide our design. The following questions below have been generated to help you understand where and when the most activity within Smith Playground occurs throughout the year.

1. Which league, group, or club do you represent?

2. Are you the official permit holder for booked facility time at Smith Playground?

3. Attached is an aerial photograph of Smith Playground. Referring to the labels on the image, which facilities do the majority of your booked times relate to?

4. Throughout your season or leagues, how many hours or games do you spend within these facilities? Providing us with current or past league schedules will also help our design.

5. As a common user of Smith Playground, are there any general design concerns that you may have about the future of the park?

6. Are there any additional program elements you would like to see as a common park user?

Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me at the phone number below for any questions you may have.
FACILITY USAGE (2015)

- Permitted Use = 4,500 hours per year (52% of available hours)

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FACILITY USAGE (2015)
6. Concept Alternatives
BASELINE IMPROVEMENTS

- Incorporate accessible internal pedestrian circulation network.
- Increase park visibility and provide external links to community.
- Preserve active recreational uses and add additional as feasible (i.e. tennis).
- Incorporate active/passive community gathering spaces.
- Upgrade lighting
- Enhance and define spatial use w/ trees
EXISTING PARK

Basketball Court
2-5 & 5-12 Yr Old Playground

Little League

Hockey Court
Softball
Multi-Purpose Fields

Existing Park
EXISTING PARK

**PROS**

- Known entity to users.
- Maximizes ball fields with 5 total
- Provides for little league and softball.
- Includes playground, 2 basketball, and hockey court.

**CONS**

- Very disorganized layout
- Location of multiuse fields means use is either/or (i.e. no dedicated sports turf)
- Playground squeezed between basketball court and street noise.
- Playground subject to fly balls from ball field.
ALTERNATIVE #1

- Basketball Courts
- 2-5 Yr Old Playground
- Open Space / Community Activities
- Little League
- 5-12 Yr Old Playground
- Softball
- Hockey Court
- Multi-Purpose Fields

N. Harvard Street

Soldiers Field Road

Concept 1
PROS

- Provides 4 softball fields and 1 little league field.
- Adds second hockey court
- Enlarges and separates younger and older play areas.
- Greater sense of spatial organization.
- Retains 2 basketball courts.

CONS

- Location of multiuse fields means use is either/or (i.e. no dedicated sports turf).
- Solar orientation of one ball field not ideal.
ALTERNATIVE #2

Hockey Court
Basketball Courts
Tennis Courts
Open Space / Community Activities
2-12 Yr Old Playground

Softball
Little League
Multi-Purpose Field
Dedicated Turf Field

N. Harvard Street
Soldiers Field Road
Western Ave
ALTERNATIVE #2

PROS

- Includes 3 softball fields and 1 little league field.
- Maintains multi-use turf fields.
- Relocates hockey court
- Relocates playground away from basketball and street noise.
- Improved spatial organization.
- Retains 2 basketball courts and adds 2 tennis courts.

CONS

- Solar orientation of one ball field not ideal.
- Location of multiuse fields means use is either/or (i.e. no dedicated sports turf).
ALTERNATIVE #3

2-12 Yr Old Playground
Basketball Courts
Open Space / Community Activities
Little League
Hockey Court
Dedicated Turf Field
Softball

N. Harvard Street
ALTERNATIVE #3

PROS

- Includes 2 little league and 2 softball fields.
- Provides 1 dedicated 8 v. 8 field and 1 dedicated multi-use turf field.
- Provides 1 hockey court
- Enlarges playground area.
- Improved spatial organization.
- Retains 2 basketball courts.

CONS

- Solar orientation of two ball fields not ideal.
- No baseball.
- Playground remains near street noise.
ALTERNATIVE #4

Basketball Courts
Hockey Court
2-12 Yr Old Playground
Softball
Little League
Dedicated Turf Field
Open Space / Community Activities

N. Harvard Street
Western Ave
Soldiers Field Road

Concept 4
ALTERNATIVE #4

PROS

- Includes 2 little league and 2 softball fields.
- Adds dedicated turf field.
- Adds second hockey court.
- Relocates playground away from street and basketball.
- Greater sense of spatial organization.
- Retains 2 basketball courts.
- Consolidated layout improves lighting and amenities.

CONS

- Solar orientation of fields not ideal.
7. Listening Session / Discussion
THOUGHTS, IDEAS....

- How much passive recreation would you like to see?
- What type and mix of active recreation?
Next Meeting – Late Fall 2015