

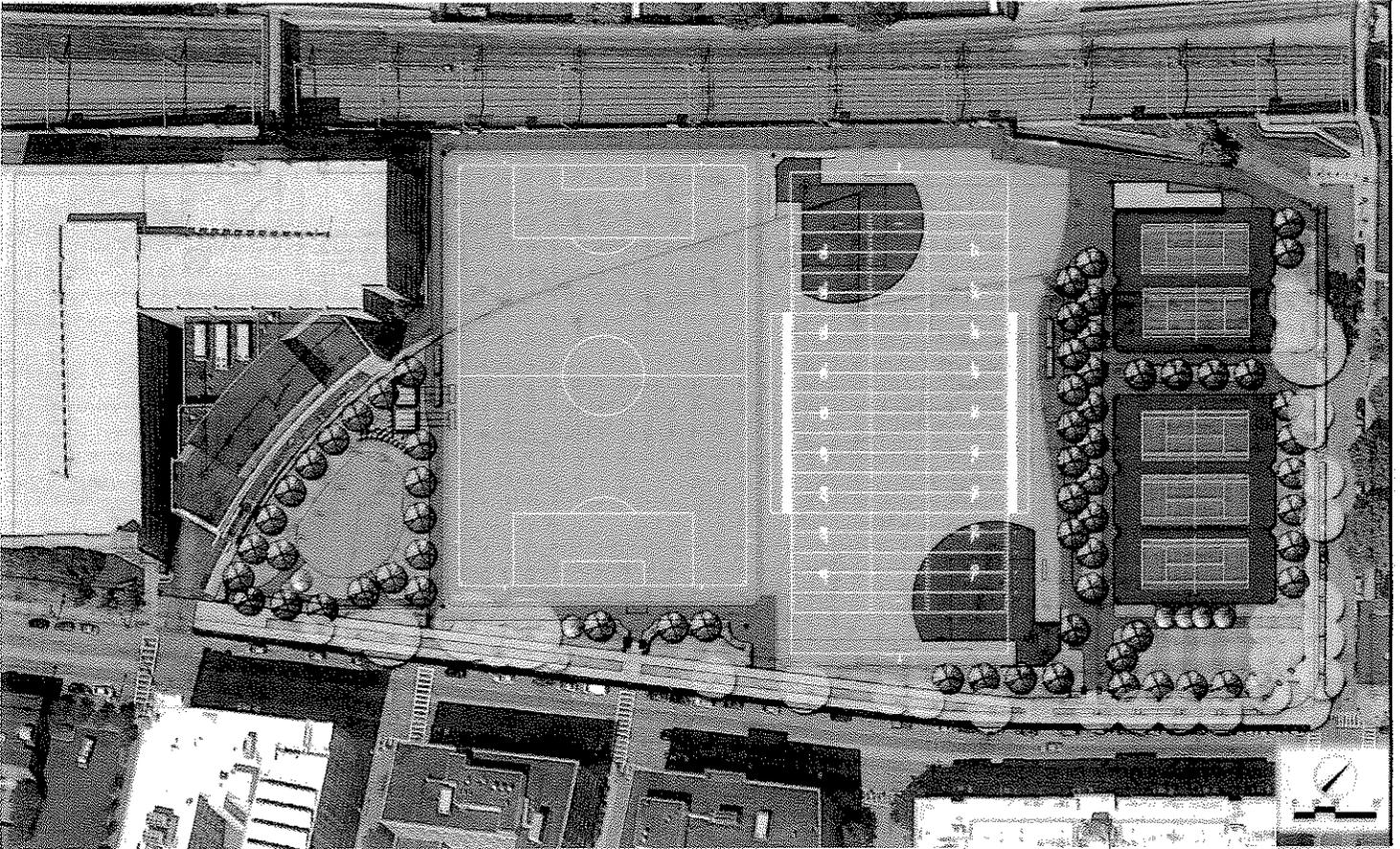


COMMUNITY MEETING NOTICE

You are invited to a meeting regarding the renovations to:

CARTER PLAYGROUND

Northeastern University
City and Community Affairs



The Boston Parks and Recreation Department and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services in collaboration with Northeastern University invite the public to a meeting to discuss upcoming improvements to Carter Playground located at 790 Columbus Avenue, Boston, Ma.

The Parks Department and Northeastern University are very interested in what the community has to contribute to the planning process. Following a brief presentation community members will be able to offer input regarding the material presented and the Master Plan process.

For more information please call Marchelle Jacques-Yarde at the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (617)961.3006 or email Marchelle.Jacques-Yarde@boston.gov.

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BOSTON, MA

Wednesday, June 24, 2014 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

Northeastern University, Alumni Room, 6th Floor, 716 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA



PUBLIC MEETING #1 – Public Comment Notes

Improvements to Carter Playground & Field

Stantec Project No.: 210801209

Meeting Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2015
Meeting Place: Northeastern University, Curry Student Center, Room 442-448
Issue Date: June 2, 2015
Writer: K. Beuttell
Copy: Stantec File, NEU, BPRD

The below represents the writer's understanding of the comments, decisions or actions taken at the meeting listed and is not intended as a full representation of the meeting. Please advise the writer in writing of additions or corrections required upon receipt or the information herein shall be deemed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

Mtg-Cat.Item	Description
1-1	INTRODUCTIONS – Chris Cook (BPRD) & John Tobin (NEU)
1-2	PROJECT OVERVIEW, EXISTING CONDITIONS & DESIGN CONCEPTS – Kevin Beuttell (Stantec)
1-2.01	This is the first of three public meetings. <u>Meeting No. 1</u> will focus on a general discussion of the overall project and community concerns. <u>Meeting No. 2</u> will focus on conceptual playground and corner passive park plans for community feedback. <u>Meeting No. 3</u> will focus on a review of the final proposed design.
1-2.02	Community meetings will take place on June 24 (#2) and Sept/Nov. (#3) 2015
1-2.03	Construction documents will be developed over the Summer and Fall
1-2.04	Construction to potentially begin in Spring 2016 and finish in Winter 2016/Spring 2017
1-2.05	Description of project area
1-2.06	Description of design priorities
1-2.07	Description of Site History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Near the former site of the South End Grounds First Boston Park Named After an African American (Sgt. William E. Carter)
1-2.08	Analysis of Existing Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportions of the Existing Park Limit Field Layout Options Northeastern Parking Lot will Be Added to the Park Existing Street Trees will Remain Park Edges are Underutilized

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spaces for Passive Users are Limited and Underdeveloped • Entrances are Uninviting • Connection to the Southwest Corridor is Awkward • Tot Lot will be Relocated and Renovated with New Equipment and Poured-In-Place Rubber Safety Surfacing • Unused and Underutilized Features will be Removed
1-2.09	<p>Description of Design Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Multi-Use Fields & Provide Artificial Turf for Extended Use • Provide 5 Tennis Courts for Tenacity & Interscholastic Use • Provide Community Spaces for Non-Athletic Uses: Tot Lot, Water Play & Passive Corner Park • Retain Areas for Walkways and Trees to Provide Cohesion in the Park Design
1-2.10	<p>Description of the layout of park features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Space, Circulation & Entrances • Synthetic Turf Fields • Athletic Lighting • Seasonal Air Structure • Tennis Courts • Tot Lot & Water Play • Corner Park
1-3	DISCUSSION AND USER INPUT - (Public)
1-3.01	The seasonal air structure was well received.
1-3.02	Northeastern University's investment in the park was acknowledged and appreciated.
1-3.03	The overall design was positively received by many.
1-3.04	The group discussed that the park should be inclusive.
1-3.05	The proposed design removes the existing 1/2 court basketball to make space for other park elements. An opinion was shared that the basketball court is an important facility for park users. Boston Parks noted that the existing 1/2 court is under-utilized and can't be permitted which further limits its use. The design team has studied options to include a full basketball court in proposed improvements, but doing so eliminates gathering spaces, trees, and pathways that are all crucial components in creating a successful multi-use park.
1-3.06	Group consensus that security of the park is important.
1-3.07	Multiple requests to provide bathroom facilities. Rotch Field was referenced as an example: "facilities like Rotch". It was noted that the Rotch field house is maintained by Emerson College and is a multi-million dollar investment. BPRD clarified that they typically cannot provide permanent bathroom facilities in parks. Portable toilets are the standard solution throughout most of the city park system.
1-3.08	Request for covered areas to be provided for portable toilets.
1-3.09	Request to provide a concession building or dedicated area for grills, carts, etc. It was noted that concessions may divert customers from nearby stores. Game-day concessions will be furthered evaluated.
1-3.10	Storage will be provided for athletic organizations.
1-3.11	A member of the public mentioned that Berklee's Beantown Jazz Festival will no longer be held on Carter Field. The last festival on Carter Field will be held September 2015. An alternate location for this festival will be necessary beginning in 2016.

1-3.12	Request to provide adequate bleacher capacity.
1-3.13	Request to provide adequate maintenance & staffing for park. Northeastern to provide maintenance of the park.
1-3.14	General consensus to keep the existing entry arches; moving them is also acceptable. At a minimum, entry arches to be renovated as required.
1-3.15	Permitting of the fields/tennis courts was discussed. No change to existing permitting for user groups.
1-3.16	Request to provide parking. BPRD clarified that parking is currently not provided in the park, and will not be provided in the renovated park. On-street parking is standard for city park facilities in all but a few locations that have a regional draw.
1-3.17	The size of the multipurpose field associated with the seasonal air structure was discussed. Confirmed dimension of this field is 210'x330'.
1-3.18	Request to provide an indoor playground.
1-3.19	Statement that the tot lot needs to be well protected from the busy street, and a request to think about entrance locations for supervision and safety.
1-3.20	Question if tennis can be accommodated under the Seasonal Air Structure. The field could be used for running youth tennis camps, but the field surface is not ideally suited for adult tennis play.
1-3.21	Question if restroom facilities will be provided for the Seasonal Air Structure. Portable toilet locations will be furthered evaluated with Air Structure users in mind.
1-4	NEXT STEPS
1-4.01	Next meeting will be held June 24, 2015
1-4.02	Meeting No. 2 will present various playground and passive corner park design concepts for review and comments by the community.

Park Program & Layout

