



**BOSTON
PARKS AND
RECREATION**

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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Monday, November 2, 2015 6:30p.m. - 8:30p.m.

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

PUBLIC MEETING #2 – Public Comment Notes

Improvements to Carter Playground & Field

Stantec Project No.: 210801209

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 24, 2015
Meeting Place: Northeastern University, Alumni Center
Issue Date: July 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 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 –John Tobin (NEU) & Liza Meyer (BPRD)
1-2	PROJECT OVERVIEW, EXISTING CONDITIONS & DESIGN CONCEPTS – Kevin Beuttell (Stantec)
1-2.01	Description of project area
1-2.02	Description of design priorities and proposed park layout
1-2.03	This is the second of three public meetings. <u>Meeting No. 1</u> focused 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.
1-2.04	The final Community meeting Sept/Nov. 2015
1-2.05	Construction documents will be developed over the Summer and Fall
1-2.06	Construction to potentially begin in Spring 2016 and finish in Winter 2016/Spring 2017
1-2.07	Review Public Comments from first community meeting
1-3	CORNER PARK DESIGN ALTERNATIVES

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1-3.01	Review Corner Park Concept 1: Open Lawn
1-3.02	Review Corner Park Concept 2: Garden Landscape
1-3.03	Review Corner Park Concept 3: Urban Plaza
1-4	TOT LOT (PLAYGROUND) DESIGN ALTERNATIVES
1-4.01	Review of Inclusive Play Elements, Other play structures, splash pad features, and shade structures
1-4.02	Review Playground Concept 1 with large central hill and elevated play structure connection.
1-4.03	Review Playground Concept 2 with central shade shelter structure and consolidated splash pad features
1-4.04	Review Playground Concept 3 with central nature play area and water features distributed throughout the play area.
1-5	DISCUSSION AND USER INPUT - (Public)
1-5.01	An opinion was shared that permanent bathrooms would attract the wrong crowd i.e. homeless hangout, drug users.
1-5.02	A question was raised about bathroom facilities to be provided. Stantec responded that dedicated areas for portable toilets would be provided. The proposed location of portable toilets near the storage buildings was well received.
1-5.03	The loss of the ½ basketball court emphasis was discussed. BPRD responded that 12 basketball courts are within 5-10 min walk, and no basketball courts would be provided at Carter in order to preserve the 5 tennis courts (this is the only city park with 5 tennis courts). After a discussion of the importance of maintaining the tennis courts to support City youth tennis programs, there was agreement that tennis is a higher priority than basketball at Carter, and acceptance that the basketball court would not be part of the future park.
1-5.04	It was stated that the tennis courts were dedicated to Lincoln Pope, and the murals that had been created to commemorate the dedication were never installed.
1-5.05	A request was made to provide passive park amenities (shaded seating & planting) within the Tot lot area for adults.
1-5.06	A question was raised about the durability of play equipment and safety surfacing, followed by a request that the tot lot be designed with equipment breakdowns in mind (to facilitate easy/inexpensive future replacement). BPRD reported a 15-20 year lifecycle for playground equipment.

1-5.07	A request was made to solicit feedback from more community members who were not represented at the meeting. BPRD stated they would provide an on-line survey to gather additional public input.
1-5.08	A question was raised about the address for Carter Field for blue light phones. BPRD stated Carter does have an address that would be posted to facilitate quick police response. The feasibility of blue light phones requires follow-up.
1-5.09	A question was raised about parking facilities. BPRD stated that there would be no parking allowed with the park. Access will only be provided for maintenance and emergency vehicles.
1-5.10	A question was raised about the type of infill material that will be used for the synthetic turf fields, and safety concerns were raised about crumb rubber. Stantec responded that there are a variety of infill materials available, but the turf system had not been determined. Stantec also stated that the design team is aware of crumb rubber safety concerns.
1-5.11	A question was raised about trees to be preserved. Stantec stated that all perimeter street trees would be preserved, and as many other trees would be preserved as possible. BPRD stated that the size of the athletic fields requires the removal of some existing trees.
1-5.12	The Accessible/Inclusive play equipment was well received.
1-5.13	A suggestion was made to have different features at this park than other nearby playgrounds.
1-5.14	A comment was made that the corner tot lot entrance was close to a pedestrian safety crossing without a signal, as well as the Columbus parking garage entrance.
1-5.15	A question was raised about maintenance responsibilities of the street trees (BPRD or Northeastern)? BPRD stated that this still needed to be determined.
1-5.16	Members of Public indicated design preferences by applying red stickers to various images on presentation boards.
1-4	NEXT STEPS
1-4.02	Meeting No. 3 will present the final design to the community in Fall 2015.