



## **Ringer Park Phase 1 Improvements**

### **Community Meeting #4 – Zoom**

December 10, 2024

Boston Parks & Recreation Department held a Zoom meeting for the fourth Community Design Meeting for Improvements to Ringer Playground. The design team shared design visuals for the playground layout and components, dog park, and gathering space. We recorded the following feedback.

### **Feedback**

Each comment noted below is a comment from one community member. Responses from BPRD or the design team in *italics*.

1. Why are there no trees shown in the swing area? Could we add more shade trees around the playground?

*We are trying to avoid the critical root zones of the existing trees and need to have a certain clearance between the equipment, but we can add more trees around the swings.*

2. Is the sports field going to be for a specific sport/specific size?

*The sports field is multi-use and not intended for one specific sport. It will be able to accommodate “u-10 soccer”.*

3. What if there’s a stray ball from the field that goes into the playground?

*There are no plans to add a backstop, and no foreseeable need, given that baseball will no longer be played.*

4. I like the playground in it’s current location, being high up and centered in the park. Has BPRD ever changed a playground to a Dog Park?

*We are not sure if Parks has swapped a playground and dog park. The benefit of moving the playground is to connect it with other park amenities such as the ball field and courts and to provide more separation for dogs.*

5. Can we add chess boards in the park?

*Yes, there are currently some in the playground but we can add one or two in the park.*

6. Are we going to deal with the groundwater issue at the new playground location?

*Yes, we can implement an underdrainage system. This should significantly improve the current situation.*

7. The existing fence at the basketball courts is in bad shape and unsightly.

*We are replacing some of the property line fence, but not the court fence. We will look into the damaged fencing.*

8. I like the entrance improvements.

9. I'm excited for the park improvements.

10. Are planning on touching the urban wild?

*Yes, we are formalizing the main pathway, making it accessible, and managing trees near the pathway.*

11. Is the rodent problem being addressed?

*BPRD understands this is an issue, and while our park improvements won't entirely mitigate this issue, providing our Maintenance crew with easy access to trash barrels will improve it.*

12. Will there be any mitigation or messaging during construction? Using the splash pad is important during the summer.

*We can't phase construction but will try being on schedule. We can also post signage during construction directing people to other neighborhood splash pads.*

13. Everything looks great. Could you talk through the decision process of your design?

*KZLA walked through the scenario of having multiple kids wanting to partake in different activities at the same time, and how the design allows for a better visual connection between the different park amenities.*

14. Will the fence at Briggs street be replaced? It's in bad shape?

*It's a matter of budget. It could potentially be an additional alternate, meaning if the bid prices are low enough, we can afford it.*

15. It looks like we have the space to make the playground larger. Why keep it the same size as the previous playground?

*We are trying to maintain a good size for the field, also the larger the playground the more expensive it will be.*

16. I like the playground being on the lower level and the dog park up top. It reduces the use of dogs in the field.

17. Could there be play equipment for older groups?

*The current plan is to include play equipment rated for users up to age 12. There are areas for socializing but no teen play equipment.*

18. Why is there so much paving? Could we limit the paving or use a softer material to discourage scooters and mopeds?

*We need to maintain wide enough pathways for maintenance vehicles.*

19. Will the field have marking?

*We could have it painted. Paint markings might limit the field use, though, and it's intended to be flexible.*

20. Will the courts be impacted during construction? There are groups that use the tennis courts frequently (Tenacity).

*We can reach out the groups. We wouldn't be impacting the existing courts.*

21. I like where the dog park is now. I would love grass instead of pea stone at the new dog park, but I understand why it's not grass.

22. Is the field going to be natural grass?

Yes

23. Will the splash pad create a problem in the grass and turn it into mud?

*We will pitch the splash pad so that it drains away from the grass. We are using some misting towers, so the water usage is lower.*

24. There should be signs to locate the dog park.

25. There is an area of tall grasses which serves as rabbit habitat. Can there be an area of meadow?

*There is currently a meadow on the hillside by Allston St entrance - perhaps because the slope makes it difficult to mow. This will not be changed during our project.*

26. Did we talk to Boston Public Schools?

*BPRD has been working with Public Facilities Dept. during their study for siting a new school and community center in Allston. As of now, it isn't clear what BPS population/school will be located in the new school building, once that is built.*

### Summary of Zoom Chat During the Meeting

Chat was minimal during this meeting. Support was voiced for the new design, and it was suggested that BPRD provides clear signage directing people to new dog area once that is opened, to ensure that it gets used – and not the open grassy field.