



## JOHN J. RYAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE FEBRUARY, 2025

Thank you for your interest in the renovation of Ryan Playground, in Charlestown.

We realize this park is a very important outdoor space for recreation and community gathering in Charlestown, and we aim to have it back open as soon as possible. Our goal for the park opening is Fall 2026 - we appreciate your patience.

The project is being addressed in two phases. The first phase involves site demolition and “setting the stage” for the berm (micropiles and ground improvements) with Unified Construction Inc. The second phase will start this summer 2025, to install the ‘visible elements’ in the park such as ballfields, playground, lighting - the scope listed below.

The site is challenging from a permitting perspective (being adjacent to the water) and a utility perspective. We have a 24” gas line cutting through the site in one direction, and regional electrical infrastructure as well. Coordinating between these entities continues through the project - we are working to ensure a timely - but most importantly safe - delivery of the final park renovation.

### **The scope of the overall project includes the following:**

- **Earthen berm to prevent storms and sea level rise from flooding the playground and adjacent communities**
- **Seating, viewing, and fishing areas along Harbor Walk, on berm**
- **Playground with colorful rubber safety surfacing**
- **Splash pad**
- **Renovated natural grass ballfields**
- **Shaded dugouts, press box and batting cage**
- **Soccer field**
- **Relocated and restored street hockey rink**
- **New trees and shrubs**
- **ADA-compliant pathways**
- **Pedestrian lights and sports lighting systems**

### **CONSTRUCTION IN FEBRUARY:**

- Demolition has commenced and - most visibly - the sports lighting is in the process of coming down.
- We’ve had utility companies working with us to determine where their lines are located.
- Tree removal for those indicated trees has occurred, and protection for those to remain has been installed.
- Inspection of the site water lines has started, but there is a significant amount of debris that is making this unexpectedly difficult.

- The boardwalk has been partially removed. Due to being near a gas line, we are proceeding carefully and waiting for instructions on the removal procedures for removing the concrete base.

#### WORK TO ANTICIPATE IN MARCH:

- Test pits in the Eversource area along Alford Street
- Continued demolition of site elements, including bike racks, lighting, fencing.
- Installation of micropiles and ground improvements (this will take some time, and this item will stay on this “upcoming work” list for a while!)

#### SITE PHOTO, 2/20/2025



*A crane guiding the light pole as it is detached from the base and laid down for deconstruction, before shipping offsite. One of these structures hosted an osprey nest, which is vacant during winter months. Following protocol, we are within the window of acceptable removal time by taking this down in February.*

**SITE PHOTO, 2/05/2025**



*Yellow spray indicates the gas line - it turns within our site limits, which was not reflected on drawings. Site conditions frequently differ from record drawings. With a large gas line, it's clearly important to make sure to get it right.*

**SITE PHOTO, 2/05/2025**





Tree protection includes both protecting the trunk from accidental contact, and protecting the earth under the dripline from being compacted if it gets driven over - using bright orange plastic fencing.

**SITE PHOTO, 2/05/2025**



One of the large chunks of debris found in the water line that we need to inspect during this phase of the project. The brick is there for scale - but that was in the water line too!

**SITE PHOTO, 2/12/2025**



The wooded River Walk has been mostly removed at this point, and you can now see the granite seawall below. Repair of small areas of this seawall is part of the project, and removing the boardwalk clearly indicates the extent of repair that needs to happen.

**THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:**

**For employment opportunities, call Fleming Brothers Inc. at (781) 843-4071**

**OTHER ITEMS:**

Please use 311 to document non-emergency issues relating to park use, and 911 for emergency situations relating to public safety.

Construction questions and concerns can be directed to  
Kezia Ofiesh, Project Manager (Kezia.Ofiesh@boston.gov)

Project Website: [boston.gov/ryan-charlestown](https://boston.gov/ryan-charlestown)