



COPLEY SQUARE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE OCTOBER, 2023

Thank you for your patience and continued interest in this project.

Copley Square Park is an important cultural center of our city, and we understand that having the entire park closed for the duration of construction is difficult for many. We appreciate your patience during our renovation, and look forward to the reopening in 2024, with a completed park that is beautiful, safe and accessible.

Our project is scheduled to occur over 16 months, with completion in Fall 2024. This means that the Marathon will not occur in this park next year, but we look forward to welcoming this event back at Copley in 2025.

CONSTRUCTION SINCE SEPTEMBER:

- All of the site pavement has been removed, with the exception of perimeter sidewalks.
- We have started removing the portions of the fountain that will be renovated.
- The large infiltration chamber has been excavated, and that structure has been delivered on site.
- Pavers have been finalized and selected, and the designers are choosing the right tone for the colored concrete.
- Now that we have peeled up the pavement, we can see where tree roots are located. With the help of the arborist, we determine if roots can be moved or trimmed - but sometimes they can't, and so the design needs to change! (See below, by Trinity.)
- Pile locations for the Raised Grove are being spray painted first, so we can see if they overlap with tree roots. The engineers designed the piles so they can move up to 2' in each direction, making way for the trees.

Work to anticipate in the coming weeks:

- We had hoped to start paving work in the northeast corner of the site, near Clarendon Street, but we need to install a new tree planter in this area first. Granite curb will be delivered to the site in the next two weeks, and paving will commence after that.
- Installation of drainage piping throughout the site will continue for the next few months.
- Piles for the Raised Grove will be installed.
- Continued hand-demolition of the pieces of the fountain that are changing.

SITE PHOTO, 10/11/2023



The excavation area for the infiltration chamber: Pieces of the chamber were just delivered to the site - the bright yellow material on the far side of the pit. (That's not play equipment!)

SITE PHOTO, 9/28/2023



4 mature London Plane trees by Trinity Church were discovered to have too many large roots to install the pavement and tree grates around them. So they will breathe easier with a planter!

SITE PHOTO, 10/20/2023



Hand removal of the fountain basin tiles will allow us to reuse those in good condition.

SITE PHOTO, 10/20/2023



The Raised Grove will be built around mature trees. Now that we have seen where their roots are (and covered them up with damp burlap) the contractor is spraying where the support piles will go, to see if we need to relocate any of them.

SITE PHOTO, 10/4/2023



This concrete color is Summer Beige. We will also be looking at some other colors. The design team wanted warm tones, to complement the colors of Trinity Church, the Library, and the materials used throughout the Back Bay.

TRINITY:

Trinity Church is a helpful neighbor during this challenging project, and they are attending our weekly site meetings, for the most up-to-date information regarding construction and schedules. The church is “open for business” during this project.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:

For employment opportunities, call WES Construction Corp. at (781) 294-1080

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 B Chatfield, Project Manager (abigail.chatfield@boston.gov)

Project Website: boston.gov/copley-improvements