



COPLEY SQUARE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE DECEMBER, 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 NOVEMBER:

- The fountain vault equipment has been demolished, and the contractor is in the process of figuring out where new pipes and connections can go. Even though the vault is big, “real estate” is limited down there, and it’s challenging to figure out a way for everything to fit.
- The installation of the drain pipes throughout the site continues.
- The second batch of colored concrete exhibited the same degree of speckle, which doesn’t look good. The contractor has a few ideas, which will be tested in the spring when the ambient temperature is warmer. Cold weather is bad for a nice concrete finish.
- The new planter area by Trinity now has granite curbs set up, and soil. Those trees are now happy. Other planters in this area have also been formed, with curbs and soil. This area is starting to take shape...
- The Raised Grove is moving along. We now have all piles installed, which are the vertical supports that hold up the deck structure. The requirement is that the contractor drills them down until they hit a degree of resistance - one of those piles goes down 78 feet! We also have planting soil installed in this area.

Work to anticipate in the coming weeks:

- Fountain vault will receive a lot of attention, as the contractor figures out how to make everything fit, and waterproofing.
- Installation of drainage piping throughout the site will continue.
- New planter curb will continue, as they continue moving east-to-west through the site.
- At the Raised Grove, the grade beam (a large horizontal beam supporting surface planks) will be poured in the next few weeks. Anti-rodent mesh will be installed as well.
- Work has been able to proceed, but the contractor will not be doing finished paving until spring, as cold temperatures don’t result in nicely finished surfaces.

SITE PHOTO, 12/20/2023



Drainage structures have been delivered to the site, and are waiting to be installed.

SITE PHOTO, 12/20/2023



A spray painted rock marks where some steam emerges from nearby utilities - we will work to solve this, so our plant beds don't suffer.

SITE PHOTO, 12/20/2023



Inside the fountain vault, some pipes remain and many have been removed. We need to waterproof the walls and make sure that sufficient space exists for new vents, new pipes, and new electrical systems.

SITE PHOTO, 12/20/2023



At the Raised Grove, the tops of the piles (pile caps) are just visible, sticking up above the planting soil. The grade beam will rest on top of the piles, and the planks of the surface will rest on the grade beam.



One of the new planters, completed with curbs and soil, in the east part of the site, by Trinity. Two down! And quite a few to go...

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