

B FACT SHEET: WHITE STADIUM

March 14, 2024 | For more information, visit boston.gov/white-stadium

A Transformative Partnership for Boston Public Schools and the Local Community

The City of Boston and Boston Public Schools are committed to revitalizing White Stadium as a hub for BPS athletics and the local community through a public-private partnership with Boston Unity Soccer that represents a once in a generation investment in BPS athletics and Franklin Park.

Commitment to a public-private partnership to achieve a public vision.

- After many failed attempts in recent decades, the City has identified a unique public-private partnership to unlock greater potential for White Stadium.
- The partnership ensures White Stadium remains BPS owned and controlled, greatly expands BPS athletics at White Stadium, invests in Franklin Park and the communities that use it, and brings professional women's soccer to the heart of Boston.

Adding community value

BPS students deserve a facility on par with their suburban peers. The proposed new facility will be a state-of-the-art athletic center for BPS students and a hub for the local community, offering essential amenities that instill pride and a sense of value among residents of all ages.

Key benefits of the project include:

- A rebuilt stadium meeting its existing 10,000 seat capacity
- A high-quality natural grass field that will triple the amount of time BPS can play
- A new collegiate-level 8-lane track, restoring White Stadium as center for running sports
- State-of-the-art student athletic facilities and new community gathering spaces
- BPS retains ownership and control of White Stadium, including scheduling
- Tens of millions in up-front capital investments, ongoing professional field and stadium maintenance, and annual rent and revenue share
- Community benefit payments to invest in Franklin Park, BPS Athletics, and the community
- Introduction of a professional women's soccer team to provide mentorship for student athletes, foster community pride, and advance women and girls' athletics

Prioritizing BPS and the Community in scheduling

- White Stadium and the Playstead are home to many important community events, including BPS Graduations, Caribbean Kiddie Carnival, BAMSfest, Puerto Rican Festival, and more. These events will continue to call White Stadium and the Playstead home, and to enjoy priority use rights.
- The lease agreement between the City and Boston Unity Soccer will establish the following scheduling priorities:
 1. Major City, Community, and BPS special events in the Stadium and Playstead
 2. BPS games and approximately 2 Boston Unity professional games per month, up to 20 per year (including postseason)
 3. BPS practices and other City events
 4. One Boston Unity Soccer practice during the week prior to a home game

	Current White Stadium	Renovated White Stadium
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited hours: 7am-4pm on weekdays, closed on weekends ● Poor quality field limits use: ~250 hours per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increased public hours of operation into the evenings and weekends ● New field will triple BPS field use: ~750-900 hours per year
Facilities Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilities in poor condition, obsolete, not ADA compliant, fire damaged ● No public bathrooms or water fountains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● State of the art indoor and outdoor improved facilities, ADA compliant ● New public bathrooms and water fountains to serve the Playstead
Program Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ragged 6-lane track unable to host meets, (does not meet MIAA standards) ● No Indoor facilities for community needs: cramped offices, locker rooms in poor condition, poor ventilation, no fire protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New 8-Lane Track, follows MIAA standards ● A true hub for BPS athletics with new indoor facility: BPS strength & conditioning and sports medicine suites, study areas, community event space

Addressing remaining concerns

- The City and BPS have engaged and continue to engage with stakeholders, including the Franklin Park Coalition, adjacent neighborhood groups, and other park users, to ensure collaborative design, drawing knowledge from the Franklin Park Action Plan.
- We are committed to addressing the remaining questions that come with any transformative initiative and continuing to host community meetings.
- We are focused on resolving a range of issues raised by diverse stakeholders, including traffic management, parking, alignment with other Franklin Park investments, lighting and noise mitigation, benefits to park users, and integration within the cultural landscape.
- The City will codify its public commitments through multiple binding legal agreements with Boston Unity Soccer, including a lease, a facilities maintenance and use agreement, Cooperation Agreement via Article 80, a Memorandum of Agreement with the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, and a Transportation Access Plan Agreement with the Boston Transportation Department.

Confidence in our legal position

- The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has filed a misguided and misinformed lawsuit to cancel the renovation project.
- The City and BPS are confident in our legal position and hope that the ENC will return to the table productively in the near future and support this long-delayed investment in BPS Athletics and Franklin Park.