

05/12/2026 Community Meeting 1 Notes

Project Name	Improvements to Rogers Park Phase 1
Meeting Date	May 12, 2026 (Virtual)
Meeting Time	6:00 PM - 7:30-PM
Meeting Type:	Virtual Public Meeting

MEETING HOSTS

City of Boston Representatives:

- Nellie Ward, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Project Manager
- Jennifer Roberts, Neighborhood Liaison for Allston-Brighton
- Alex Rocha, Office of City Councilor Liz Breadon

Design Team Representatives:

- Andrew Gutterman, Sasaki, Principal Landscape Architect
- Kira Sargent, Sasaki, Project Manager/Landscape Architect

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of this meeting was to kick-off the design process for Improvements to Rogers Park, Phase 1. The agenda included an introduction to the project team, project history, context, and a site analysis presentation by the design consultant. The presentation slides and recording are available at the project [website](https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/project/improvements-rogers-park-phase-1):

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/project/improvements-rogers-park-phase-1>.

Community feedback was solicited during the meeting. Attendees were able to type questions in the chat during the meeting and to speak during the listening session held after the presentation. The chat notes and listening session summary are included below.

LISTENING AND DISCUSSION SECTION

Participants were invited to speak either by responding to the conversation prompts listed on the screen or their own topics. Participants with raised hands were called to speak first, then the host read questions from the chat.

Comment from Kirsten Ryan from Oakland St:

- A 25-year resident who enjoys open space and dog walking. Agrees with the tree assessment, that there are both good and poor condition trees.
- Prefers to see the vegetated buffer as an opportunity to provide ecological benefit, particularly by keeping or planting keystone species (oaks, natives) that provide food and to keep or plant an understory, so that animals can live out their full life-cycle. Understory may include bulbs, perennials, and other low maintenance ecologically beneficial species.

BPRD Response:

Notes are considered final 7 days after last issuance.

- BPRD values biodiversity and stacking ecological functions. This design will consider ecological benefits when choosing species of trees. For the understory, BPRD has limited capacity to provide maintenance. BPRD is experimenting with low-maintenance shrubs to increase biodiversity. If Rogers Park has a rain garden, there may be more ability to include different understory species.
- Given the invasive species on the north slope, there will be some removals. The understory design will need to keep sightlines open. The north slope has had some issues with people using the space for encampment or restrooms. Parks must balance many factors in choosing planting, from safety and sightlines to ecological function and maintenance.

Sasaki Response:

- Ensuring a diverse and productive tree canopy will be a priority of the planting plan. Between the arborist report and the city tree inventory, new species will be selected to diversify the canopy and help ensure the future resilience of the canopy.

Comment from Jennifer Roberts:

We hear from constituents that the vehicles used to maintain the park and do trash pick up are too wide for the paved paths. Tire marks in the soil next to paths contribute to erosion and ponding. What can be done?

BPRD Response:

- Two new efforts are reducing the amount of driving off paths in the parks. First, trash bins are being placed next to the entrances so that they are close to the street. Maintenance crews can pull up next to the entrance and carry the trash bag to the truck rather than driving into the park. Second, the new standard path width is 10' wide where needed and feasible so vehicles fit entirely on paths. Note also that wide paths increase the need to have drop bollards to prevent other vehicles from driving into the park.

Comment from Jennifer Roberts:

- *Are the survey results for the Pulse Check available on the website?*

BPRD Response:

- The pulse check results are summarized on p. 20-21 of the presentation. Space reservations from 2025 are summarized on slides 22-23.

Chat Questions from Jennifer Seward, followed up by verbal commentary:

- *Where trees are cut down on the northern vegetated slope, please replace them with new trees so neighbors don't have to look at the backs of the buildings and graffiti. Specifically referring to the new building project Washington street which is close to the park.*

BPRD Response:

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- Replacing trees is an option and it is good to know that there is community support for this. BPRD may also address graffiti by blocking off access to the area through fences to reduce future graffiti.

Jennifer Roberts Response:

- The City is taking steps to reduce graffiti, such as a recent sweep of Brighton Square. Constituents can reach out directly to Jennifer Roberts and the Office of Neighborhood Services to continue the discussion.

Chat Question: What is the timeline for the project?

BPRD Response:

The timeline for community meetings is through 2026 to 2027. However, funding is not projected until 2029 for construction so there is no construction timeline available at this time. The current courts project is anticipated to be completed in July of this year (2026).

Parks concluded by noting that this recording will be posted on the website, along with notes from the discussion.

CHAT TEXT:

Time	From	Comment
0:36:51	Boston Parks:	nelle.ward@boston.gov
0:37:42	Boston Parks:	https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/project/improvements-rogers-park-phase-1
1:00:29	Jennifer Seward:	There should be trees planted to replace the ones that have been / will be cut down along the back of the park (near the slope). Neighbors are having to look at the backs of the buildings on Washington Street with graffiti.
1:10:41	Matt Johnstone:	Latest timeline update?
1:30:44	Jennifer Roberts:	Office of Neighborhood Services - Jennifer.roberts@boston.gov
1:31:07	Michael Kennedy:	What is the timeline of completion of the tennis and basketball court renovation?

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Glory Dalton
 Andy Medina
 Jennifer Seward
 Lori Dougherty
 Sissy Meier
 Andy Medina

Lori Dougherty
 Jennifer Seward
 Glory Dalton
 Malachi Raymond
 K Ryan
 Jennifer Roberts

Eileen Mahoney
 Rose Ribok
 Michael Kennedy
 Matt Johnstone (Matthew Johnstone)

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