



MCLEAN PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE AUGUST 2026

Thank you for your continued patience as we improve McLean Playground. We understand how vital this space is for the neighborhood and are working to complete work as quickly and safely as possible.

We have several exciting milestones and important updates to share this month. Thanks to a Community Preservation Act (CPA) grant secured in partnership with the Harbor View Neighborhood Association (HVNA), the replacement of our aging site walls is officially underway. To ensure the park remains a great space for local youth, we have been coordinating closely with Excel Academy on wall and chain-link fence heights so popular activities like kickball can continue seamlessly. Looking ahead to the finishing touches, BPRD is also exploring the possibility of a vibrant collaboration with City Year, Excel Academy, and neighborhood residents to bring community artwork and colorful murals to the park once structural construction wraps up next year.

Behind the scenes, our team is navigating a critical infrastructure update. During recent site work, engineers discovered that some existing underground utilities are in worse condition than initially assessed and require immediate replacement. Active on-site construction will experience a brief slowdown while our engineers finalize the new design direction and update contract details. However, progress continues steadily off-site as contractors move forward with shop drawings and place orders for long-lead materials so everything is ready for installation as soon as utility repairs conclude.

We appreciate your flexibility as we work through these necessary infrastructure repairs, and we are currently aiming to welcome the community back to a fully restored McLean Playground by **June 2027**.

CONSTRUCTION JULY - AUGUST

- Tree protection and route pruning
- Demolition of asphalt paving area near Bennington Street
- Aggregate base for safety surface and porous surfacing installed
- Demolition of perimeter concrete and brick arched site walls
- Demolition of perimeter brick walls
- Demolition of brick walls along Saratoga and Bennington Street
- Play equipment approved and ordered

- Wall materials approved and ordered

WHAT TO EXPECT IN SEPTEMBER:

- The perimeter park walls between the park and abutters will start to be reconstructed
- Shop drawings for ornamental fences finalized and materials ordered
- Shop drawings for rebar in walls finalized and ordered
- Repairs to subsurface utilities
- Relining and cleaning of drainage pipes

SITE PHOTO AUGUST 22, 2026:

The trees have been protected. The contractor has installed the base material for the porous paving.

SITE PHOTO AUGUST 22, 2026:



The perimeter site wall next to Excel Academy has been demolished, with the foundation to remain and neighboring properties protected.

SITE PHOTO AUGUST 22, 2026:



The trees have been protected. Concrete paving has been demolished.

SITE PHOTO AUGUST 22, 2026:



The deteriorating brick wall along Saratoga Street has been demolished.

SITE PHOTO AUGUST 22, 2026:



The perimeter site wall next to residential homes has been demolished, with the foundation to remain and neighboring properties protected.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:
For employment opportunities, call JJ Phelan: [\(978\) 851-5850](tel:9788515850)

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 Nelle Ward (nelle.ward@boston.gov), Project Manager for Boston Parks and Recreation.
- Project
Website: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/project/improvements-mclean-playground>
- Please reach out with any additional questions: nelle.ward@boston.gov or 617-961-3035.