Alberico, Old Morse, and Fulmore Parks
Community Meeting #1 12/7/11
Summarized Meeting Comments

The following comments are summarized from the discussion at the first community meeting for the renovation of Alberico, Old Morse, and Fulmore Parks. Questions were asked of meeting attendees including; how open space and parks in the neighborhood are currently used and what is liked most about them; what are the issues that should be addressed in the neighborhood parks; and what would an ideal neighborhood park would look and feel like?

How do you (and your family) currently use parks in the neighborhood and what do you like most about them?

• A lot of park users from the neighborhood don't have large backyards.   The parks help to serve that purpose but there is also a sense of community.

• Fulmore Park is often used by young families and small children as well as children that are home schooled or in day care during school hours. The play structure at Fulmore Park is easy for a parent to get around when watching a younger child although children may outgrow the play structure and become more interested in the other parks in the neighborhood such as Old Morse Park.

• The grassy area at Fulmore Park is used for a variety of activities including sometimes juggling, while the seating area is sparsely used.

• Alberico is also used by young families. The unique and challenging nature of the structure at Alberico Park, is appreciated but there is some concern about the overall safety of the structure.

• The paved court area at Alberico park is used for basketball as well as other activities such as young children bike riding, while the grass strip is often used by dogs.

• The size and layout of Alberico Park make it nice for parties.

• The sand at Old Morse Park is a nice feature.

• Enjoy the hills at Fort Washington Park.

• Franklin Street Park is a beautifully redesigned park behind Green Street.

• Many of the challenging features at Dana Park have been broken or removed.

• There is a park in Allston with a dry river bed feature which is nice.

• The redesigned Kemp Playground in the Cambridge Common has nice interactive sand and water features and natural trees. The low hills are also a positive feature although not part of the natural landscape.

• The Charles River provides an urban wild in walking distance of the neighborhood.

What are issues that should be addressed?

- Magazine Beach doesn't include many features that people wanted and chemicals used on the grass are destroying the vegetation.

- Sight lines are bad at Old Morse Park when walking through.

- Basketball is a nice feature but it doesn't necessarily meet the needs of all older kids. Older age groups are not as well represented in the parks.

- The sitting area at Fulmore Park is not very well used. There are also issues with dogs off leash and not being picked up after.

- Hastings Square is often used for dog walking. At times there do not seem to be enough benches.

- Recycling and garbage pickup should be improved.

- Doesn't feel safe to take children in day care to the parks.

- It's hard to get up and down some of the structures as parent.

- There is a drainage issue at Alberico Park.

What would an ideal park look and feel like?

- Parks would serve as an educational resource and feature active uses as well as passive enjoyment such as bird watching, and exploring and finding wildlife.

- It would provide a chance to be in touch with nature, and green, open, wild spaces.

- There should be more hills and a natural peaceful feel. Don't want to see wildlife displaced at Fulmore or Old Morse Parks.

- There should be plantings such as perennials and consideration of urban trees.

- There should be attractions for a variety of ages, including space for seniors and challenges for older children. Actual demographic data should be utilized in determining features to include.

- Parks should meet the needs of pre-teens, and teenagers. If the playgrounds are too safe then there is a chance they will be misused.

- There should be developmentally appropriate and challenging swings and a structure for older kids.

- Appreciate that the current structures are "dense" with a lot of different activities. Don't want to see less exciting or challenging structures.

- There should be different kinds of creative water features that can serve kids of different ages.

- There should be a Ping Pong table feature or option.

- There should be at least a small basketball court.

- There should be more lighting.

- A community garden for the neighborhood.

- Consideration should be given to a fitness circuit such as the one at Magazine Beach.

- There should be benches near play areas, and other nicer places to sit.

- Would prefer wood chips rather than pebbles in the toddler area.

- There should be more attention to the perimeter of Alberico Park during the design process.

- There should be a path with adequate access to walk through the park.

- There should be some kind of uses available in the winter such as skating.

- Enclosed areas for dogs can have both a positive and negative effect. There are already 2 off leash areas in the neighborhood.

Other design considerations
- Are the abutters to each park going to be surveyed?

- Consideration should be given to the distinguishing characteristics of the neighborhoods around each park.

- It's important to understand the uses surrounding the parks and to consider how fast children may outgrow certain features. People enjoy using the parks currently because its designed for their needs. Also important to know how different age groups fit together in the spaces.

- A good design will help to create a destination where everyone can go.

- It will be important for neighborhood to be engaged and involved and to take ownership; the City can't meet every need in each park. There should be a cleanup at least twice a year.

- It is a good idea to design all 3 parks at once.

- It should be kept in mind that there will be a new residential development very close to Fulmore Park.

- Healthy park and playground issues should be considered throughout the design process.