North End Parks

2015 Improvements

02.25.2015
02.25.15 AGENDA

• Introduction
  Jesse Brackenbury

• 2015 North End Park improvements:
  – Maintenance
    Robert Stigberg
  – Furniture
    Robert Stigberg
  – Horticulture
    Stuart Shillaber

• New Greenway Lease Parcels
  Steve Anderson

• Park Programming – 2014 in review
  Charlie McCabe

• Q&A
Park Maintenance
Replace Substandard Bollard Lighting

These path lights are of average quality and not appropriate for this location. Poor structural connections have broken off and some wobble excessively.
Repair Freedom Trail Lighting

Lights along the Freedom Trail are not functioning due to electrical issues and condensation build up.
Restore Finish on Metal Railings

All railings in the North End Parks need to be refinished due to spray over from the fountains, along with general wear and tear as water has encrusted the railing surface.
Refinish Pergola Support Posts

Pergola posts in garden beds are corroding, with peeling metal and post degradation. The pergola will also be refinished where general wear and tear has degraded the paint finish.
Fountain Leak on Parcel 8

Water leaks out of the fountain wall and onto the adjacent path. The Conservancy has taken measures to fix this problem and will assess the fountain this season to determine if further work is needed.

NOTE: THIS DETAIL USED WHEN SOURCE WEIR TRENCH 18” DEEP
Fountain Leak on Parcel 8
Park Furniture
Replace Benches

- Finish on the park benches has worn and chipped from use, sun damage and water damage. The solid metal construction is too hot in summer and too cold in winter.
- We will replace all 21 benches with a more appropriate bench style
- 8 of the 21 benches will be replaced with gliding “porch swings” under the pergola
Gliding Porch Swings

8 of the 21 benches will be replaced with gliding “porch swings” under the pergola.

**Status:** The Conservancy is currently waiting for the results of a structural analysis to determine if the pergola can safely support these swings.
Gliding Porch Swings:
Rendering showing benches & swings under the pergola
Park Horticulture

Pergola Garden Beds
Pergola Garden Beds

The Conservancy replanted the Parcel 10 Pergola beds in spring of 2014. We intend to replant the Parcel 8 Pergola beds in the same plant palette this spring.
Pergola Planting Design Approach

A. Retain street trees and evergreen junipers along street edge because they work
B. Add more mid-height shrubs for diversity
C. Insert punches of high color roses
P10 Pergola Bed - before & after
Park Horticulture

Boxwood Gardens
Boxwood Gardens

The Conservancy will renovate the Parcel 8 Boxwood Gardens this spring 2015. We continue to seek funds for the renovation of the Parcel 10 Boxwood Gardens.
Boxwood Gardens Renovation GOALS

- Create a healthy growing environment
- Introduce plants with 4-season interest
- Increase plant variety
- Create more welcoming experiences
Nationally recognized landscape designer, Lynden Miller, supported our professional staff in the redesign of the Boxwood Gardens.

New York Botanical Garden, New York City

Conservatory Garden, Central Park, New York City
Boxwood Gardens Renovation APPROACH

1. Work within strength of existing formal park design
2. Create/keep buffers from busy city surroundings
3. Create more welcoming experience
4. Increase vibrancy & 4-season interest

Example of a welcoming entry experience. Wagner Park, New York City
Plant Palette for 4 SEASONS
Boxwood Gardens Renovation
Design concept
Boxwood Gardens Renovation
Design refinement
Landscape Contractor: A. Bonadio & Sons

Bonadio was chosen, among other reasons, for their light touch/precise approach to construction through the use of a conveyor belt system.
# 2015 Installation Schedule

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<th>APRIL</th>
<th>MAY</th>
<th>JUNE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boxwood Gardens under renovation</td>
<td>Demo</td>
<td>Fallow period</td>
<td>Installation</td>
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<td>Pergola beds under renovation</td>
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<td>Maintenance repairs</td>
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<td>Bench/swing installation</td>
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<td>Ribbon cutting!</td>
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North End Parks

Spring 2015 improvements

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<th>TOTAL BUDGET</th>
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**Planned:**

- P8 boxwood gardens renovations: $175,000
- Bench replacements: $95,000
- Freedom Trail lighting repairs: $20,000
- Pergola repairs: $50,000
- Railing repairs: $10,000
- Bollard lighting replacement: $20,000
- Fountain leak fix: $30,000

**Separate funding source:**

- P8 Pergola Garden beds: $20,000

**Future:**

- Skate deterrents: $45,000
- Sidewalk slab repair: $20,000
- P10 Boxwood Gardens: $200,000
New Lease Parcels
First steps for restoration of 1.3 additional acres

1. **Update/fix irrigation systems** – rain sensors, soil moisture sensors, low-emission heads, remote accessibility

2. **Restore soil health** – soil testing, aeration, organic compost tea applications

3. **Replace dead trees and prune for tree health**
Irrigation System
Parcel D1
Parcel E
Programs
July/August: Berklee Greenway Concert Series
Programming in the North End Parks

• Primary use is passive
  – Fountains, tables and chairs, relaxing on lawns

• 2014 – programmed uses included:
  – Free fitness classes (yoga, boot camps, others) – primarily on Northern park parcel
  – Berklee Concert Series (Fridays in July & August)
  – Some sampling
  – One food cart vendor
  – P12: The Fence (May-Oct) and Shipping Container Galleries

• 2015 – Proposed uses
  – Free fitness classes (balanced between two park parcels)
  – P12: The Fence (May-Oct) & Shipping Container Galleries
  – Community events (we can work with neighbors, groups)
Conservancy offerings bring 1 million patrons, plus millions more who casually enjoy the park.
Questions?
Appendix Slides
Pergola Design Intent

The pergola WAS designed to be:

• The “front porch” of the North End
• An over-sized architectural element that allows for transparency through to North End

The pergola WAS NOT designed to:

• Support vine growth across the top for shade
Pergola Size Comparison

- Greenway North End Park Pergola
  - Material: Steel
  - Height: 14'2"
  - Length: 24'10"

- Christopher Columbus Park Pergola
  - Material: Wood
  - Height: 14'5"

- Norman B. Leventhal Park Pergola
  - Material: Wood
  - Height: 8'7"
  - Length: 11'4"
Vines/trellis not recommended approach

- Wouldn’t provide shade
- Vines will not grow up and over pergola
- Metal heats up, poor growing environment
- Armature system expensive
- Less necessary as tree canopy and new plantings fill in

**Recommended approach:**
Add understory plantings of varying heights, textures and colors for year round interest and a more robust buffer to the street.
More wood benches on boxwood bed seatwalls?