

Michael Joyce Memorial Playground Improvements
Public Comments

Name		Comment			
Joseph	Cappuccio	<p>Hello,</p> <p>This, community gathering area, will be a plus for inclusion, acceptance and equity. It will give all visitors an opportunity to discuss climate change, rising sea levels and reducing carbon footprint.</p> <p>There was a question asked about trash and debris. This is a good starting point a teaching moment. Where does the trash go?</p> <p>Let's see what other ideas this first meeting brings.</p> <p>Thank You, Joe Cappuccio</p>	South Boston	M A	02127
Kimberle e	Burton	Support	Boston	M A	02127
Maureen	Dubreuil	This needs daytime bathrooms and police patrolling.	Boston	M A	02127

Michael Joyce Memorial Playground Improvements Public Comments

Florence	Holmes	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Thank you for attending the Zoom meeting or sending a representative in your absence. I am writing with continued concerns regarding the upcoming Colin's Joy playground project at Marine Park on Farragut Rd. and Day Blvd. in S. Boston.</p> <p>My biggest concern is "shifting" the design closer to mid-park and the "community gathering areas." The current location offers proximity to two parking lots, restrooms, and the beach and should remain the playground's location as it has for the last 70+ years.</p> <p>Moving the park closer to 5th St. will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Increase noise to the residents, especially at night when older children and adults congregate all hours of the night, drinking, playing music at decibels that can be heard from blocks away, and behaviors that have safety concerns. *Moving the structure closer to the Bandstand will encourage people to use that setting for extended periods for gatherings preventing equal opportunity for all. *A larger "community gathering" of picnic tables will encourage a more comfortable place at night for people to congregate. We already have an issue with this. *The trash will be throughout the park vs. maintaining it in one area. Additional trash receptacles are needed; neighbors are endlessly picking up trash during the summer. *The paved walkways in the park will be an added concern. The motorcycles already race around the park and Boulevard, they may also start to utilize those areas. *Law enforcement will have less access and visibility if moved from the perimeter. Reaction time is already a concern, and resources are limited. *Lighting throughout the park needs to be enhanced at night. <p>Please don't let my concerns overshadow the appreciation and generosity to the McGrath's and the Colins Joy organization for creating joy for children by improving the playgrounds and outdoor spaces within South Boston. In addition to donating to numerous nonprofit associations and organizations.</p>	Bosto.	M A	02127
Sarah	Mckinnon	<p>I absolutely love the updates to make the park more accessible, cleaner and safer: the equipment, enclosed space and lighting are amazing.</p> <p>I can't wait for my family to use this park on a daily basis.</p>	Boston	M A	02127

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Taryn	Powers	My family and I are so incredibly grateful for the generosity of the McGrath Family and Colin's Joy Project for providing so much for the children of South Boston. On top of the wonderful events, gear, the much needed toddler playground addition to M Street Park, they are planning this thoughtfully done, incredible new playground for our children. How lucky are we! I can't think of a better tribute to a sweet child tragically gone too soon than a beautiful playground on which thousands of children will have fun for years to come! Think of how many wonderful childhood memories will be made here. I hope the original stone turtle has a special spot in the new playground.	South Boston	M A	02127
Tara	Tarr	LOVE this proposal for a new playground. I love how the park will larger and completely enclosed- and requires the removal of only 1 tree which is dead anyway, while also adding new greenery. Families love this location as it compliments younger siblings while they wait for olders at the hockey rink or playing baseball/soccer nearby. Families love this city but having easy outdoor space is essential since we live in tight quarters. A park like this is a serious gift to our children! We live a couple blocks from M Street Beach but don't frequent there much thru the spring and summer because it's so crowded with adults. Families love gathering at "hermit crab heaven" aka pleasure bay and this playground would be a wonderful addition to our time down that way.	South Boston	M A	02127
Becca	Lanstein	I love the space!! I would love for the 5-12 section to be bigger and taller for the kids to play and climb. The bigger the kids the more they need The 2-5 section looks perfect. I have 3 kids between 3-6 and they loved the pictures. Fully support the new location and everything you have done. Just make the 5-13 section more challenging for the kids to climb and play . TY	Boston	M A	02127

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Ashley	Balacanis	This proposal would allow for more inclusivity within our community. A larger space for kids of all abilities to gather together compared to the current set up would encourage more inclusive play, ease for families and caregivers to watch children, and potentially draw more young families to consider living here. We can all agree that South Boston is battling the "young professional" crowd with the many bars and condos being built- why is adding a beautiful, accessible, and safe playground an issue? It would only improve young families' lives by giving us another place to go. In terms of late nights- how is that different than the parties constantly happening next door to me? Consider more patrol of the area, lock gates if need be- spend the money where it matters keeping the space clean and safe. This organization's mission works to improve the community and increase engagement for young families and that is exactly what this proposal does. Not to mention, the man it's named after would be more than proud of Colin's Joy Project's mission, work, and this to come to fruition. Allowing this through is showing that you value the young children of this neighborhood and in our city - keep the focus on that and work to keep the area protected for them - this in turn helps the neighbors, too.	Boston	M A	02127
Amanda	Markovitz	This park could use an upgrade and I'm glad it's being done thoughtfully, in a way that brings in the children in the community and is inclusive for different ages and abilities.	South Boston	M A	02127
Danielle	Hiller	My husband and I recently moved to Southie last year and live just a couple of blocks from this playground. We have a 3 month old and frequently discuss how excited we are for her to grow up in such a great neighborhood. This playground is in a great location, near the beach and easy parking, and within walking distance of our place. However, it is outdated and is not very safe as it is near a busy road without an enclosure. I am very much in favor of the design for the new playground. It will provide a fun and safe place for so many families.	Boston	M A	02127
Jessica	Stolee	Please make sure there are some picnic tables (not just benches) so that the kids can have a place for lunch/snacks and for small groups to gather (similar to what is already in place at the playground)	South Boston	M A	02127

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Christine	McKenna	<p>The additions to the park look fun. I have 3 children and we live across from Marine Park. We go to the park daily. I will say we always feel safe in the parks current location (kids ages are 5,4 and 2) We just make sure to keep a watchful eye on our children. I feel STRONGLY that the location does NOT need to be moved, but rather build the proposed park in the existing park area and put the proposed fencing around the park.</p> <p>The green space of grass in-between the park to the bandstand is some of the only open green space we have in Southie (that is not overrun by dogs or dedicated sports fields). This space is used to host MOMS Club gatherings with inflatables and touch- a- trucks. It's also used for community concerts at the bandstand. We've also had the pleasure of seeing Brownie troops meet there and Karate classes held there since Covid brought more activities outside. We've seen families host birthday parties in the grass, end of school year parties, families enjoy picnics there, and kids playing in grass without pavement in their path.</p> <p>Please, please consider building the proposed park in the current park space to give children, familes, and seniors the very best of both worlds- An amazing and beautiful new park, with appropriate safety measure of a fence, while also allowing people to continue to enjoy the open space of the grass there for our Southie community.</p>	South Boston	M A	02127
Rachel	Hutton	I'm very excited about this project. South Boston has a lot of families that are looking to stay here and are looking for places to bring their children if they don't have yard space. This provides a safe and closed in place and refreshes existing park. I hope this is approved!	Boston	M A	02127
Meredith	Blount	Love the design and plan. Can't wait for it to be done!	Boston	M A	02127
Robin	Adams	In favor. There are many young children in South Boston. It's very important to have safe places to play.	Boston	M A	02127
Blake	Linehan	I hope the Turtle statue that has been a fixture for many years stays and finds a spot in the new and improved park!	South Boston	M A	02127

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Molly	Clark	<p>Very excited about the opportunity for a new playground but I have concerns and reservations about moving the location of the playground from its current spot to the proposed location. As a mother of a 1 year old I do not find the current location unsafe as has been proposed but rather the ideal location. It's shaded, has great access to both parking lots, and is also an area that does not flood as does the dirt road near the proposed new location. My concerns about moving the location of the playground are as follows.</p> <p>1.) it will take up the middle of the park and is too close to the bandstand. People use the park for other activities and building something of this scale in the middle of the park will prohibit this.</p> <p>2.) it's too close to residential housing. This area is already a hot spot for disruptive activity and moving the playground closer to peoples houses will increase this activity, especially with a large family gathering/picnic area.</p> <p>3.) moving the location of the playground will take up residential parking spots along Farragut Road as opposed to utilizing the parking lots that are in closer proximity to the playgrounds current location.</p> <p>Again, very excited at the opportunity for a new playground. I myself grew up playing here with my siblings and friends and love that I have the opportunity of taking my daughter here as an adult. A new playground will be wonderful for our community but I hope that we can be respectful and mindful of the nearby abutters. As I said I feel my daughter is completely safe at this playground and have no concerns of it being located to close to the street.</p> <p>Thank you, Molly</p>	South Boston	M A	02127
Caitlin	Hill	This is very much needed! Lots of children in the neighborhood that would benefit from this update!	Boston	M A	02127
Jessica	Norton	Love it! Can't wait to see the finished product!	3	M A	02127

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Joseph	Casper	<p>A new playground is something I welcome as an abutter of the proposed project, but the new location brings it closer to our homes. It's no secret that the quality of life for people living along Farragut Road has gotten progressively worse during the past few years. Noise from groups in the park lasting late into the night drinking and setting off fireworks as well as large motocross / ATV groups marauder the streets and park is common and the police seem reluctant to confront them.</p> <p>The playgrounds current location is as far removed from the residential areas as possible with easy HP access and parking from Daye Boulevard. The current location is easily seen from the road where potential vandalism, public drinking and large after-hours groups will be seen and reported quickly. To move deeper into the park with a paved road will make it more likely to be vandalized more difficult to to police. As a grandfather, I visit the current park often and look forward seeing this new park built, but if the current location and paved road remain I and my neighbors will oppose it.</p> <p>Joe Casper</p>	Boston	M A	02127
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Paul	McKenna	<p>Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the Michael Joyce Playground. I write the below from the perspective of a father with 3 young children, ages 2 - 5, who has lived in City Point for the last 15 years. We've seen wonderful changes to the neighborhood with an explosion of young families and visitors from all around the city. That said, this is still a neighborhood and not a major attraction area or equipped to be one the likes of the Seaport, Common or Back Bay</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a neighborhood park, in a tightly packed area. Making it larger changes the park into a destination putting significant undue strain on neighborhood relations, intensify existing parking problems, elevate the existing trash issues and there will be an obvious significant increase in foot traffic b. Castle Island, which has ample parking and facilities including a food vendor, is already a destination and better suited for a park this size 2. As this is a neighborhood park, it is unnecessary to enlarge and move the park. The existing location works. Safety concerns could easily be addressed via a completed fence. 3. The height of some of the larger features, similar to what exist in Martin Richard Park appear to be enormous. That is a destination park that sees thousands of visitors a year, and is well equipped to do so. Creating sizeable structures will be a net negative for a community that is still looking to solve its own transit issues 4. This is one of the last, large green spaces in the city of Boston on the water. I believe there are conservation rules protecting this space 5. The space near Murphy Rink is widely used by children of all ages during a variety of sporting events. It would make more sense to have a project of this size where children are already playing and would not have a direct neighborhood impact 6. This location has seen recent crimes- shootings, illegal fireworks- Moving its location places these activities on our door 	Boston	M A	02127
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Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street
Boston, MA 02114

January 27, 2022

RE: Michael Joyce Memorial Playground Improvements/Marine Park South Boston

Dear Office of Public Outreach:

As a longtime civically involved family and direct abutters of Marine Park, we wish to extend our appreciation to all at DCR and the contractor staff, for your efforts to further improve the *Michael Joyce Memorial Playground*. We join others in applauding this significant project as supported by the *Colin Joy Project* and the McGrath Family of South Boston. Also many thanks to the Michael Joyce Memorial Committee for their prior work. Michael Joyce was known to us, as being a very civic-minded citizen who served the people of the Boston area with distinction.

Marine Park is a tremendous natural resource that has been enjoyed by countless people since first designed by Frederick Olmstead in the nineteenth century. Balance is essential to preserving the unique and specifically defined areas of the park. It is important to maintain both parks sporting fields, other recreational facilities, including the skating rink and playground, as well as preserving the remaining passive open space for people to enjoy tree shade and sun. Bob Ferrara, and the DCR maintenance crew do a wonderful job in the day-to-day care of the park.

We are grateful that the proposed plan respects the unique passive open space of Marine Park. This area encompasses the grand acreage surrounding the Bandstand – from the south side of Murphy Skating Rink – facing the Admiral Farragut Statue at East Broadway - to the beginning of the Playground area. It is important that this unique landscaped area continue to be preserved.

The placement of the playground in the southeast portion of the park (nearest the *USS Kearsarge Anchor Memorial* at Day Blvd) was determined after extensive community input in the 1960s. Our mother, Mary, chaired this community-initiated project. Through the efforts of many members of this prior committee, the original playground, in the current area, was the first of its kind built in the City Point area. She joined as a participant on the recent Joyce Playground zoom public meeting and still remains active in overall South Boston community civic concerns. The placement of the playground in this specific and general area of the park remains necessary in respecting the complexities of the park and neighborhood.

Negative challenges have long impacted Marine Park, affecting the abutting and overall community. In order to best preserve the Marine Park and best protect the proposed playground – we urge the following - from lived experience.

Nighttime loitering, drinking and drugging, tied with excessively loud radios within Marine Park have long been a problem in the park – negatively impacting the overall community. Occasions of vandalism within the park appear to be increasing. This problem is compounded by the shortage of State Police, particularly at night, and often absence of enforcement of park rules throughout the day. Neighborhood calls to the State Police are often delayed due or go

unanswered due to the shortage of police. Additional police need to be assigned to the South Boston Barracks, formerly known as the Old Colony Police Station. Lack of DCR enforcement of park rules and their shortage of staff has also worsened the problem. Police and DCR Ranger patrols need to further and actively enforce park rules in order to benefit all – without the need of park users or abutters reporting a problem. The playground’s design and that of the community gathering area needs to address the realities of the area and to avoid potential problems – particularly the unintended after-hour use of the playground area. The long-term use of the playground will depend on whether these measures are taken.

Playground/Gathering Area need to be Further Fenced Posted “Dawn to Dusk” – Secured and Actively Patrolled - While the new design proposes the playground be fenced. The same or additional fence needs to be installed in the Community Gathering area. Both areas need to be Posted “Dawn to Dusk” and properly secured/locked at night. This signage will best allow the State Police and/or DCR Park Rangers to protect the facility for our youth and our families. DCR needs to fund Rangers for Marine Park and to especially assign them to evening/night hours. It should also be noted, DCR Rangers earnestly worked at Castle Island the past few summers especially in that parking area. Ranger Steve Owens and other Rangers need to be particularly praised for their effective work at Castle Island.

New Lower Height Historic LED Light Directed/Non-Glare Fixtures need to be installed: The current outdated cement street light fixtures are not park lights. They are not even the standard lighting fixtures for today’s streets. They also provide insufficient lighting of the playground during the summer months because of blockage large from the foliage of large shade trees. New lower height historic light fixtures need to be installed. They should be equipped with park style LED lights that are - site directed/non-glare. Eventually such fixtures need to be placed within both parks – according to the particular use of the park. These lighting fixture issues have been long raised by community groups and remain unaddressed by DCR. This is the time for DCR to begin such improvements. The proposed playground area – is somewhat further away from visible police car patrols. This will result in the area being more open to vandalism during night hours. An unsecured playground will become an opportune place for drinking and drugging, resulting in remnants of bottles and needles left for our children during daytime hours. These illegal activities currently exist during the warmer months. This awareness in the finalized design will best protect the people and the playground.

NO FIRES/NO COOKOUT GRILLS: Marine Park has long been posted for “No Fires. No Cookouts” Open flame cookout grills are prohibited and further enforcement is needed. No Fires signs were posted decades ago in other areas of the park– because *hot charcoals* left smoldering on the ground – burned the soles of children playing in the park, as well as those on route to the beach. “No Fires. No Cookouts” signs also need to be posted around the playground and community gathering area – and this rule enforced. Permitted and secured cookout areas are available at Castle Island with seasonal on-duty DCR Rangers to ensure proper usage.

Installation of vehicle barrier Gates placed at each end of the current Emergency Accessway -running from Farragut Road/East Fifth Street to Day Blvd (*Kearsarge Veteran*

Anchor) Gates need to be installed at both ends of this accessway to prevent vehicles from using this proposed “Pathway”. A Pathway is beneficial – provided it not become an unintended roadway. Paving of this area could also attract illegally parked cars within the park – as noted elsewhere in the other park, adjacent to the baseball field. A gate securing both ends of this proposed path is necessary to best protect the children and their families from vehicles– while allowing pedestrian/handicap use. The current and eroding gravel accessway was installed in the late 1960s for emergency access only.

Omission of new Picnic Tables/unintended consequences/experienced nighttime gang use: Clustering of Picnic Tables enables gangs to gather after-hours. This has been problematic for people taking evening and night walks, and as experienced by the community. Additional Picnic Tables need to be eliminated – as the current proposed plans places them closer to homes. Adding picnic tables to the expanded community gathering space, will be used for nighttime loitering which will serve as a detriment to the playground and park, as well as disruptive to the quality of life in our neighborhood. Playground Benches are needed. However, they should also not be clustered together for the same noted concerns. Thankfully, it appears the current proposal does not include problematic Overhead Canopy or Shelters over the benches, which become sleep areas which would have negative consequences upon next-day use of the playground. The proposed playground area is shaded by longstanding trees.

Additional Trees: – the planting of additional trees is urged to promote natural shelter from the sun – in the land around the playground as well as abutting areas, while open-space in other sectors of the park needs to be preserved.

USS Kearsarge Anchor – Veterans Memorial: Any design needs also to take account the nearby *Kearsarge Veteran Memorial*. Recently, great efforts have been made by local residents to restore this site through grants obtained by the City of Boston. This longtime monument is dedicated to our veterans. A playground – with children playing – further adds to the area. Brief reference at the recent zoom meeting to a proposed large art sculptor outside the playground – that is not part of the play structures – could have unnecessary impact on this memorial – and is not necessary.

Thank you for your continued efforts to improve Marine Park. An improved playground will make the park more dynamic and accessible to all children. It is important that this proposed resource be properly designed to prevent unintended negative consequences. Respecting the balance and other important aspects of the Park’s historic design is essential.

Sincerely,

The DiPerri Family

South Boston, MA 02127

cc. South Boston Elected Officials of State and City

RE: Michael Joyce Memorial Playground Improvements

Dear Office of Public Outreach:

As residential direct abutters to Marine Park in South Boston we realize how fortunate we are to live near Marine Park, and we get to enjoy all the benefits of the wonderful open space and the beautiful beach landscape.

We are happy to hear that through the efforts of Colin's Joy Project and the McGrath family in South Boston whose mission it is to enhance play spaces in the city of Boston, the Michael Joyce Playground will undergo much needed improvements and will make the playground equipment accessible to all children regardless of their abilities. This is a wonderful effort in a beautiful space in South Boston. Thank you to Colin's Joy Project!

However, as concerned abutters to Marine Park, we know that there will be unintended consequences to these improvements and negative impacts we will be subjected to particularly at nighttime during the warm months of the year. Here are our issues that we would like addressed, remedied, or eliminated.

We are concerned that relocating the playground closer to residents will increase the noise to us due to nighttime loitering. Year after year we are subjected to loud parties all hours of the night, gatherings and use of grills after dusk, and our calls to the MA State Police sometimes go unanswered due to lack of state police resources. Therefore, we ask that we do not relocate the park closer to us. Please keep in the current location and make the improvements that the space will permit. We would like to see the added picnic tables eliminated as well as the community gathering space. The playground area with benches should be sufficient for visitors to enjoy the public space. Adding picnic tables and the community gathering space, although seems nice for daytime use, will be used for nighttime loitering which is disruptive to the quality of life to our neighborhood.

We would like a commitment that no special permits will be issued for large gatherings for celebrations at the playground, and no permits for food trucks in the Marine Park area.

We do not want any vehicular access onto the Marine Park at all so we ask that the pathway be paved is not a vehicular roadway other than for DCR official business or emergency personnel. We know that the roadway will bring cars to the area – last year there was a shooting in the parking area. We are very fearful that a roadway will be used for access and illegal activity.

The park is long overdue for better lighting for safety reasons so we would like to see better lighting using decorative lighting that you see along other DCR properties. Marine Park should not have those ugly street lights in an historic park such as this. The current park lighting is offensive.

We respectfully ask that our concerns be heard, and the improvement plan be adjusted accordingly. We believe the park can be enjoyed with these changes and the vision of Frederick Law Olmstead satisfied as a relaxing oasis from city life.

Thank you,

John and Kelly Conroy

South Boston. MA 02127

Mr. Cushing,

I'm not in favor of the current proposal. The playground location is there for visual protection, and the park is perfectly functional in its current form.

If there's to be a change more thought needs to be put into a solution for all parties especially adjacent residents.

Life long resident South Boston.

Thank you.

Alicia Simpson

January 21, 2022

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Office of Public Outreach

251 Causeway Street

Boston, MA 02114

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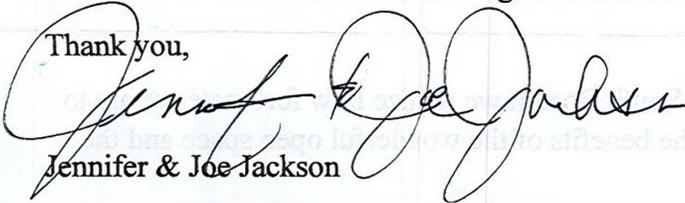
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Thank you,



Jennifer & Joe Jackson

South Boston, MA 02127

cc. Senator Nick Collins, Representative David Biele, Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty, Boston City Councilor Ed Flynn, DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery.