



## COPLEY SQUARE PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE MAY, 2024

Thank you for your patience and continued interest in this project.

Copley Square Park is an important cultural center of our city, and we understand that having the entire park closed for the duration of construction is difficult for many. We appreciate your patience during our renovation, and look forward to the reopening in 2024. Please note that the Marathon will not occur in this park in 2024, but we look forward to welcoming this event back to Copley in 2025.

### CONSTRUCTION SINCE APRIL:

- The fountain work proceeds with a focus on the upper pools, and installing pumps in the vault.
- There is still one large drainage structure remaining to be installed (still...) All others are in the ground at this point.
- Plant material arrived for one third of the site. The remaining trees and shrubs have been tagged, but are staying at the nursery - irrigated and cared for - until we have space in our site that is ready for them.
- We have installed curbs and soil for five of nine total planters, and now we have trees!
- The Raised Grove has most of the concrete grade beam completed. They have poured some of the footings for the benches that will go around the edges of the Raised Grove as well.
- Bases for some of the relocated art and memorials have been poured. We can now see where the Tortoise and the Hare will be, as well as the sculptor Gibran's tribute to his uncle, the poet Gibran.
- Concrete and brick paving are moving ahead in the northeast corner near Trinity Church.

Work to anticipate in the coming weeks:

- Concrete season is here! We will be reviewing the new sample of color concrete either this week or next, and that pavement should start once we have approval on the color. We are waiting for our permit to do work on the sidewalk; once that happens, we will renovate the Boylston Street sidewalk.
- Lights! Or at least the tubes (conduit) to protect their wires. Lighting conduit is already in place in the Northeast corner, but will start throughout the remainder of the site.
- The Raised Grove will continue to receive concrete work - completing the grade beam and bench footings.
- Installation of the curb and soil around the planter on Dartmouth, near the Boylston corner.

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*Trees and shrubs now populate the planter in the northeast corner, along Boylston St.*

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*The planting area adjacent to Trinity Church will be paved with a porous gravel pavement, so these trees get installed first. This swamp white oak is part of a stand of 7 trees.*

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*The Tortoise and the Hare will be installed atop these concrete bases, with their plaque in between.*

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*The Kahlil Gibran memorial will now be oriented so that the viewer sees the Library building beyond, reflecting the important relationship between the poet and this beloved institution. In this photo, you can also see the over-excavation surrounding the memorial base, which is where our next planter will be installed.*

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*The bases for the benches that wrap around the perimeter of the Raised Grove are being installed, and the concrete grade beam that will support the pavers is also mostly complete.*

**SITE PHOTO, 5/15/2024**



*Along St. James Street, the orange spray line is showing where the planter curb will be installed adjacent to these mature trees. We need to plan for a few “bridge” sections of curb, allowing mature roots that we don’t want to cut to pass below the curb.*

**TRINITY:**

Trinity Church is a helpful neighbor during this challenging project, and they are attending our weekly site meetings, for the most up-to-date information regarding construction and schedules. The church is “open for business” during this project.

**THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:**

**For employment opportunities, call WES Construction Corp. at (781) 294-1080**

**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 B Chatfield, Project Manager ([abigail.chatfield@boston.gov](mailto:abigail.chatfield@boston.gov))

Project Website: [boston.gov/copley-improvements](https://boston.gov/copley-improvements)