



MCKINNEY PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION UPDATE SEPT - OCT 2026

Thank you for your continued interest in the improvements to McKinney Playground. We know this is an important community gathering and recreation space, and we appreciate your patience as active construction gets underway!

We are excited to report that mobilization, site clearing, and underground infrastructure work have been moving forward as planned. As of September 14, 2026, the playground and sports courts were closed to the public to ensure everyone's safety throughout the duration of construction. We continue to anticipate the park being closed through summer 2027.

A few updates about items that may have caught your attention:

- Fence Replacement: The contractor is currently replacing the perimeter fence around the park. The work is scheduled to take a few more weeks.
- Ground Vibrations: Upcoming asphalt paving operations will require heavy compaction equipment that may generate noticeable ground vibrations. These vibrations are standard for this type of work and while it may feel concerning from inside your home, these types of vibrations do not have the intensity to cause damage to neighboring foundations.
- Dust Control: Active soil stockpiles are being watered regularly to minimize drifting dust.

Thank you to all the abutters and the neighboring community as we have moved through some of the noisier phases of construction and through the replacement of fencing in backyards. We sincerely appreciate the community's continued patience and support as we work to deliver these exciting improvements to McKinney Playground.

CONSTRUCTION AUGUST - OCTOBER:

- Park closure and mobilization
- Installation of temporary construction fencing and tree trunk protection
- Completion of invasive species management and selective tree removals/pruning
- Subgrade soil stripping and earthwork across the main field area
- Installation of underground stone pocket infiltration systems and drainage piping
- Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) drainage inspections
- Decommissioning and removal of existing electrical services
- Demolition of batting cage and court chain link fencing

- Demolition of play equipment, safety surfacing, and curbing
- Staking of the proposed perimeter path layout and site grades
- Commencement of perimeter fencing refurbishment along park borders
- Material ordering

WHAT TO EXPECT OCTOBER - NOVEMBER:

- Continued drainage structure installation throughout the playground area
- Completion of perimeter fencing and ball-control netting upgrades
- Paving operations (binder course) for new bituminous concrete pathways
- Installation of infield clay for the athletic ballfields
- Delivery and structural assembly of new playground equipment
- Continued utility coordination and water service upgrades for the upcoming splash pad
- BWSC GSA inspections

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 14, 2026



The Leicester Street stair has been demolished and the contractor is being careful to protect the existing tree roots as best as possible.

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 14, 2026



The existing trees to remain have been pruned and new fencing is in the process of being installed!.

SITE PHOTO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



Catch basins ready for install!

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 7, 2026



Underground stone pocket drainage system being installed in the field area.

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 7, 2026



Playground demolition in process.

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 7, 2026



The contractor is being careful to protect the critical root zone of the existing trees to remain.

SITE PHOTO OCTOBER 7, 2026



Rough grading and subsurface drainage infrastructure at the new athletic fields is complete.

SITE PHOTO SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



The existing basketball courts have been demolished and new drainage infrastructure near the new courts is being constructed.

THIS IS A BOSTON RESIDENTS JOBS POLICY PROJECT:
For employment opportunities, call JAM Corp: (508) 852-4119

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-mckinney-playground>
- Please reach out with any additional questions: nelle.ward@boston.gov or 617-961-3035.