



Report on White Stadium Community Survey

March 19, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Franklin Park Coalition (FPC) conducted a community survey to learn more about park users' attitudes regarding the City of Boston's proposal to redevelop White Stadium in collaboration with Boston Unity Soccer Partners, investors in a professional women's soccer team.

Established 50 years ago, FPC is a community-based park advocacy organization. FPC's mission is to serve as a voice for Franklin Park, a 527-acre historic green space located in the geographic heart of Boston and surrounded by some of the city's most diverse neighborhoods. We work to engage all park users and community members through advocacy, programs and events, and ecological restoration. To learn more, visit www.franklinparkcoalition.org/.

In conducting this survey, FPC's goal was to gauge and accurately represent the interests and concerns of Franklin Park users regarding the White Stadium proposal, in order to work with the City to ensure these concerns are addressed. The survey specifically focused on the proposal *as it has been presented* by the City and Boston Unity.

FPC has not yet endorsed the stadium redevelopment project; the proposal details are not far enough along to fully understand its impact on Franklin Park. Like many survey respondents, we are excited about this potential investment in Franklin Park and the benefits that a renovated stadium could bring. The responses to this survey provide a detailed roadmap for the development team to move in a direction that will build broader support and consolidate enthusiasm for a renovated stadium that serves the park and the large community of park users. If done right – in a way that respects Franklin Park and existing uses – this project represents a generational opportunity. We look forward to working with the City, park users, and neighbors around the park to ensure concerns are addressed.

HOW TO READ THIS REPORT¹

The introduction is followed by a “key findings” box. We then present the methods used to collect and analyze the data. The results are reported in two parts: 1) quantitative data describing participant characteristics and current attitudes towards the project; and 2) key themes that emerged from the open-ended response questions. Appendix A contains a detailed description of themes with direct quotes. Appendix B lists the original survey questions.

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BOX 1. KEY FINDINGS

More than 700 park users responded to the survey between February 20 and March 8. Nearly all reside in the neighborhoods surrounding Franklin Park. Here's what we learned:

- There is substantial support for this project: 32% of respondents are “all for it”; 24% “cautiously support” the project; 25% “have some concerns”; and just 20% are “against it”. Support for the project was remarkably consistent across neighborhoods.
- Many park users are excited about the stadium renovation and the potential for upgraded and well-maintained facilities, public bathrooms, and improvements to the adjacent Playstead, Overlook, and “Grove”. Respondents also cited the benefits to BPS students, job creation, and enthusiasm for women’s soccer. Other respondents feared that stadium events would harm the quietude of the park, compete with existing park uses, and make it difficult to access the park.
- Support for the project could be much greater if concerns of park users are addressed, including: current project size and integration with the park and Action Plan; impacts on other park uses and existing community events; ensuring community access to the stadium; traffic and parking.

The survey results, including hundreds of thoughtful written responses, demonstrate the deep love that community members have for Franklin Park as an “urban oasis” and gathering space. Park users want to ensure that the stadium does not infringe on their existing experience of the park. If concerns are addressed, we believe there is an exciting path forward for a renovated White Stadium.

METHODS

The online survey was distributed through physical posters with QR codes in Franklin Park and in a few abutting neighborhoods; through the FPC newsletter; through neighborhood associations and community groups; and via word of mouth. The survey represents the voices of park users in the local community. It was not designed to be statistically representative of all park users, all residents of adjoining neighborhoods, nor all residents of Boston.

The survey was conducted February 20 to March 8, and therefore captures beliefs about the project after the City and Boston Unity Soccer Partners had conducted its four planned public meetings on the overall proposal, transportation plan, community benefits, and integration with the Franklin Park Action Plan. By then, sufficiently detailed plans, especially for the City’s renovation of the East grandstand and integration with Action Plan priorities, were available to inform community reaction. The survey period also coincides with a lawsuit filed by Emerald Necklace Conservancy against the City on February 20 to stop the project. We provide these details as context for the responses.

The 15-question survey included quantitative and qualitative (open-ended response) questions. The text of the survey is provided in **Appendix B**.

Quantitative data were analyzed via simple tabulations and cross-tabulations. Frequencies and percentages are reported. We first describe the characteristics of the sample. We then present our core results for the question “Are you generally for or against the project?” We then assess whether support for the project differs by respondent characteristics, and we use Chi-square

tests to determine whether these differences should be interpreted as real differences or just random variation. Chi-square p-values less than 0.05 indicate that the differences in attitudes between groups was unlikely to occur by chance alone. Data were analyzed using Stata 17.

Qualitative data were analyzed by FPC board members. For each of the five open-ended response questions, ChatGPT4 was used to identify initial themes from the responses. FPC board members then read through all raw data responses and revised the list of themes, elaborating the descriptions of the themes, and illustrating the themes with direct quotes as examples. These five question-specific analyses were harmonized by one FPC board member with research expertise and were presented back to the analysis team, which made further refinements of the analysis for accuracy. In all cases, FPC board members had the last word in analyzing the data, not ChatGPT.

RESULTS

Part 1. Quantitative Results

1. Description of the survey participants

There were 712 survey respondents (each with a unique email address). Seven duplicate entries were dropped prior to analyzing the data. **Table 1** shows the characteristics of the respondents.

Survey respondents came primarily from seven neighborhoods surrounding the park. Jamaica Plain was over-represented, with about half of all respondents; however, there were large numbers of respondents from Dorchester, Roxbury, Roslindale, and Mattapan as well. (Zip Codes corresponded to the neighborhoods listed.)

Fully 90% of respondents use the park for quiet walks and bike rides, and 57% attend major events such as festivals in the park. About a third of respondents use the park for family gatherings, sports activities, and private use of the stadium. These are all uses that could be affected by the stadium project.

Survey respondents were regular park users. 94% of respondents reported they spend time in the park regularly (at least seasonally); 77% reported they use the park at least monthly; and 63% are in the park at least once a week.

Nearly all respondents (96%) had previously heard of the White Stadium proposal. And a majority had seen plans for at least one of the project components (East / West / Grove).

However, 64% of survey respondents had not attended any of the City's public meetings and 81% had attended zero or 1. Just 4% of participants had attended all of them. This survey thus captures perspectives of regular park users in the surrounding neighborhoods, many of whom have not yet had the opportunity to have their voices heard at the City's public meetings.

Table 1. Characteristics of the survey respondents (N=712)

Neighborhood		
Dorchester	116	16%
Hyde Park	12	2%
Jamaica Plain	373	52%
Mattapan	22	3%
Roslindale	49	7%
Roxbury	79	11%
West Roxbury	18	3%
Other	43	6%
What activities do you do in Franklin Park? (tick all that apply)		
Quiet walks or bike rides	639	90%
Picnics, barbecues and family gatherings	245	34%
Large events, such as cultural festivals and concerts	408	57%
Sports: baseball, soccer, cricket, tennis, basketball, etc.	229	32%
Private activities, such as running, inside White Stadium	241	34%
BPS Athletic Department activities in White Stadium	123	17%
How often do you use the park?		
Daily	166	23%
Weekly	281	39%
Monthly	104	15%
Seasonally	121	17%
Special events only	25	4%
Occasionally or less	15	2%
Have you heard about the proposal to renovate White Stadium?		
No	29	4%
Yes	683	96%
Have you attended any meetings related to the project? (how many?)		
0	455	64%
1	120	17%
2-3	108	15%
All	29	4%
Have you seen the renovation plans? (tick all that apply)		
Yes, East (BPS)	334	47%
Yes, West (BUP)	480	67%
Yes, Grove	345	48%
I have not seen any plans	215	30%

2. What are current attitudes towards the project?

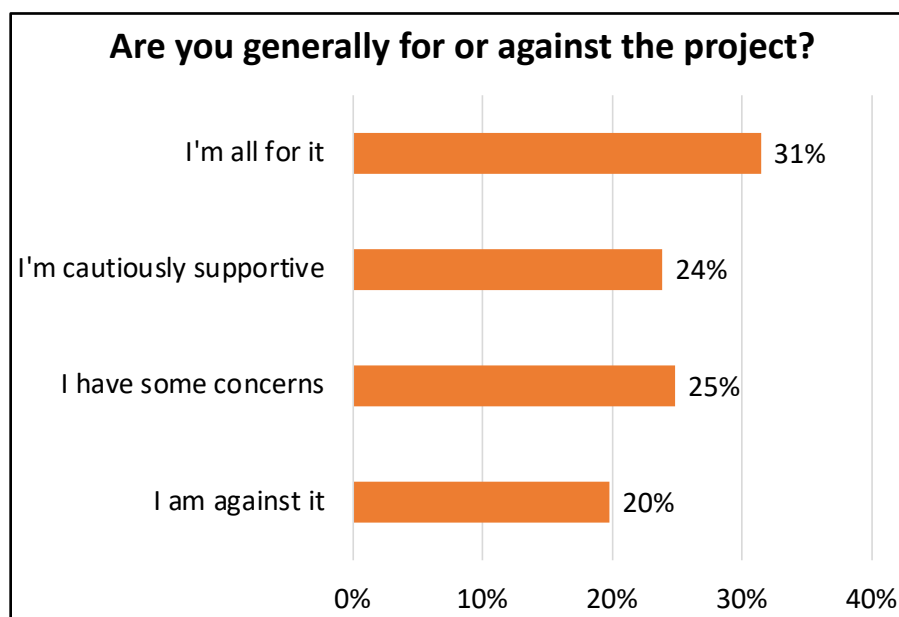
The survey asked participants “Are you generally for or against the project?” and provided four response options: “I’m against it”, “I have some concerns”, “I’m cautiously supportive”, and “I’m all for it”. Respondents could choose multiple answers to this question (although very few did). We assigned people to a single category, as follows. People who said they were “against it” are listed as “against it” (regardless of what else they indicated). People who said they were “all for it” are listed as “all for it” (regardless of what else they indicated). People who said they “have some concerns” and were “cautiously supportive” are listed as “having some concerns.” The remainder said that they were “cautiously supportive” and did not tick any other box.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of current attitudes among survey respondents. Just 1 in 5 respondents said they were against the proposal. More people said they supported the project (“All for it”) than said they were against it. However, by far the largest number were people who “have concerns” and/or expressed “cautious support.” While just 31% of respondents endorsed the current proposal without reservations, support for the project could be as high as 80% if the concerns of park users are addressed in future revisions of the proposal.

Respondents indicated what “having concerns” and “cautious support” mean to them:

- “To clarify my answers on general favorability or opposition: I have strong concerns that lead me to oppose it as is, but could be persuaded it's a good thing for the community, provided that nearby neighbors are listened to and their concerns addressed fully”
- “This plan could be great, but it needs to be responsive to constructive community feedback. Blanket opposition doesn't seem likely to produce that, but there are reasons to be critical of certain aspects of the plan.”

Figure 1. Support for the White Stadium Renovation Project (Feb 20-Mar 8; N=712)



3. How does support vary by participant characteristics?

Table 2 shows attitudes, stratified by neighborhood, park use, and exposure to the project. Chi-square p-values less than 0.05 indicate that differences in attitudes across groups are “statistically significant”, which means that they are unlikely to be due to chance.

Although there was uneven representation by neighborhood in this survey, attitudes were remarkably consistent across neighborhoods. (In fact, with a p-value of 0.278, we cannot reject the statistical hypothesis that attitudes are the same.)

Attitudes varied significantly with frequency of park use. Daily users were significantly less likely to say they are “all for it” than less frequent users, indicating that the most frequent users have concerns they need addressed before they can support the project. People who do not use the park for “quiet walks and bike rides” were much less likely to oppose the project and much more likely to support the project. These results are consistent with qualitative data indicating a key concern of regular park users is that the quietude of the park may be disrupted by stadium events (more on this below). People who use the park for small gatherings and to attend events were more likely to indicate cautious support or concerns, indicating unanswered questions for the City about how the project will impact their enjoyment of the park.

People who had seen any of the plans (East grandstand, West grandstand, Grove) expressed stronger opinions for and against, and were less likely to be unsure. The increase in support among those who had seen the plans was twice as large as the increase in opposition.

Among respondents (n=575) who had attended zero or 1 meetings, there was nearly twice as much support as opposition; however, 50% of these respondents “had concerns” or expressed “cautious support” and were not prepared to say they were for or against the project.

People who attended two or more meetings (n=108) were equally likely to support and oppose the plan. However, this group was 50% more likely to be opposed to the plan than the average for all survey respondents (31% for this group vs. 20% total). We cannot say whether this reflects a negative response to those meetings or that people opposed to the plan are highly motivated to attend meetings. Either way, these results suggest that the perspectives of people who oppose the plan may be over-represented thus far in public discussions.

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Table 2. Support for the White Stadium proposal, by respondent characteristics

		I am against it	Have some concerns	Cautiously supportive	I'm all for it	TOTAL
Totals (see Figure 1)	#	141	177	170	224	712
	%	20%	25%	24%	31%	100%
By Neighborhood		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: 0.278)</i>				
Dorchester	#	23	34	28	31	116
	%	20%	29%	24%	27%	100%
Jamaica Plain	#	75	86	90	122	373
	%	20%	23%	24%	33%	100%
Roslindale	#	4	10	16	19	49
	%	8%	20%	33%	39%	100%
Roxbury	#	18	26	17	18	79
	%	23%	33%	22%	23%	100%
Other	#	21	21	19	34	95
	%	22%	22%	20%	36%	100%
By frequency of park use		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: 0.026)</i>				
Daily	#	40	49	40	37	166
	%	24%	30%	24%	22%	100%
Weekly	#	58	74	66	83	281
	%	21%	26%	23%	30%	100%
Monthly	#	22	19	25	38	104
	%	21%	18%	24%	37%	100%
Seasonally	#	14	27	28	52	121
	%	12%	22%	23%	43%	100%
Occasionally/events	#	7	8	11	14	40
	%	18%	20%	28%	35%	100%
Use the park for: quiet walks and bike rides		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: <0.001)</i>				
No	#	3	16	16	38	73
	%	4%	22%	22%	52%	100%
Yes	#	138	161	154	186	639
	%	22%	25%	24%	29%	100%
Use the park for: small gatherings, picnics, BBQs		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: 0.011)</i>				
No	#	98	99	111	159	467
	%	21%	21%	24%	34%	100%
Yes	#	43	78	59	65	245
	%	18%	32%	24%	27%	100%
Use the park for: large events		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: 0.001)</i>				
No	#	74	61	60	109	304
	%	24%	20%	20%	36%	100%
Yes	#	67	116	110	115	408
	%	16%	28%	27%	28%	100%

Table 2. Cont'd

		I am against it	Have some concerns	Cautiously supportive	I'm all for it	TOTAL
Seen any of the plans?		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: <0.001)</i>				
No	#	30	68	76	41	215
	%	14%	32%	35%	19%	100%
Yes	#	111	109	94	183	497
	%	22%	22%	19%	37%	100%
How many public meetings attended?		<i>(p-value for Chi-sq test: 0.007)</i>				
None	#	78	116	121	140	455
	%	17%	25%	27%	31%	100%
1	#	24	23	27	46	120
	%	20%	19%	23%	38%	100%
2 or 3	#	33	25	19	31	108
	%	31%	23%	18%	29%	100%
All 4	#	6	13	3	7	29
	%	21%	45%	10%	24%	100%

Notes: (1) Categories with row totals less than n=25 were combined for the table but entered separately into the Chi2 test. (2) Results stratified by other park activity categories are not shown as there were no statistically significant differences in attitudes.

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RESULTS, Part 2. Themes from open-ended response questions

The open-ended response questions provide a detailed picture of perceived benefits, concerns, and proposed solutions offered by park users. The specific questions and key themes emerging from our analysis of each question are listed in **Box 2**, below. **Appendix A** includes detailed descriptions of each theme and direct quotes drawn from the open-ended responses. We urge the interested reader to engage with Appendix A which captures the voices of our community.

Love for the Park: Responses across all questions reflect a community deeply invested in the future of Franklin Park and White Stadium, with a strong desire for a project that respects the park's historical and cultural significance, meets the needs of the local community and Boston's young people, and enhances the park as a resource for all neighborhood residents.

Despite varying attitudes towards the stadium proposal, an abiding consensus runs through the comments that Franklin Park is treasured. Respondents used words like “urban oasis,” “emerald jewel,” and “sacred” to describe the park. They noted that it is an historic landmark; a critical gathering space for community events; and a place of respite and relaxation, where one can decompress and commune with nature. Olmsted envisioned such benefits over a century ago; Elma Lewis and neighborhood groups rekindled these values in the 1960s.

Project Support: Respondents expressed enthusiasm about the potential benefits the project could bring – *if done well*. Benefits included: improved facilities for Boston's public school athletes; a community gathering space in the proposed “Grove”; enthusiasm for a professional sports team nearby; community access to recreation and fitness resources; public restrooms; improved park maintenance; and new investments in park areas around and near the Stadium, including rehabilitation of the Playstead and Overlook, improved basketball and tennis courts, paths/circulation, and integration with surrounding park features and landscape, using the Franklin Park Action Plan as a guide.

Project Concerns: Despite tentative support, many concerns emerged. Traffic, transportation, parking, and bicycle access were among the most frequently noted, with concerns about impact on surrounding neighborhoods and park access on game days. Respondents are concerned that existing Playstead activities including major events and festivals may be displaced on game days. More broadly, respondents voiced concerns about the impact of soccer games – and increased BPS usage – on the many ways the community already enjoys the park. One noted, “The park is already THRIVING. It is in daily use, and absolutely packed on a summer Saturday with folks jogging, walking, barbecuing, etc. This plan threatens all of that.”

Increased use of the stadium, an expanded footprint, and noise and light pollution could also affect the tranquility that many seek in the park. Respondents questioned the size of the overall project and lack of integration with the Action Plan. Respondents voiced concerns about equity, fearing that the project could displace the diverse community of park users.

Potential Solutions: Respondents suggested many potential solutions to the concerns raised, which are outlined in **Box 2** and **Appendix A**, below. Key suggestions include a transportation plan that addresses traffic and parking concerns; limiting games to evening hours so as not to conflict with daytime park activities; reducing the size of the project and setting limits on noise, light, and visible advertising; commitments to invest in park areas around the stadium; an integrated planning process to align the Stadium project with Franklin Park Action Plan; ensuring public access to the stadium; creating formal systems of governance and community oversight; integrating equity directly into the proposal; and consideration for a renovated Stadium without a professional soccer team. The suggestions underscore a desire that the stadium renovation respect and uplift Franklin Park and the many ways it is enjoyed.

Community Engagement: Respondents voiced frustration with the speed of the stadium proposal process, including review steps being conducted before critical details had been worked out. Just one in three respondents had attended a public meeting. Wider dissemination of information on the project is needed, particularly related to the concerns raised above and concrete ways those concerns are being addressed.

There is an historical context to the debate about this current proposal: decades of racism and public disinvestment. While the City neglected Franklin Park for years, community members came together to maintain and revitalize the park with clean-up efforts and park programs, many of which persist to this day. Community members are deeply invested in Franklin Park and in shaping the vision for the future of the park.

Deep community engagement was evident in the planning process for the Franklin Park Action Plan, which provides an integrated plan for reinvestment in the park and incorporated the input of thousands of community members over a multi-year planning period. Mayor Michelle Wu showed her support for Franklin Park in endorsing the Action Plan in December 2022 and committing to large increases in funding for park maintenance, ecological restoration, and park administration in January 2024, as called for in the Action Plan. Integrating the White Stadium redevelopment into the Action Plan would go a long way towards aligning it with community priorities and the City's officially endorsed vision for the park.

While opinion is currently divided on the White Stadium project, there are large potential benefits if concerns can be addressed. Our shared passion for Franklin Park will help us work together and with the City to ensure that this project and all upcoming park improvements serve to elevate Franklin Park, the symbolic and geographic heart of our city.

BOX 2. SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES. The survey asked 5 open-ended questions. Here we list the key themes that emerged in the responses. Detailed descriptions with representative quotes are in **Appendix A**.

1. What benefits do you think the Stadium renovation will bring to Franklin Park?

- a. Upgraded park infrastructure and amenities
- b. Empowered student and women’s sports programs
- c. Increased inclusivity and use of public space for community
- d. Revitalized local neighborhood economy and revenues for park maintenance

2. Are there improvements you would like to see in the areas surrounding the Stadium?

- a. Tending and protecting woods and wild spaces
- b. Well-maintained and lighted pathways
- c. Public access to amenities
- d. Improved pedestrian and bicycle safety in, around, and getting to the park
- e. A traffic and parking plan for the stadium and park as a whole
- f. A cleaner and safer park, free of trash, drug detritus, motorbikes
- g. Improved playing fields in the Playstead; fields are uneven with drainage problems
- h. Upgraded basketball, tennis courts, and kids play areas
- i. Implement the Franklin Park Action Plan including Elma Lewis Playhouse & Bear Dens

3. What concerns do you have about the impact of the renovation project on community use of the park and the overall parkland?

- a. Traffic and parking concerns
- b. Access and community use of the stadium
- c. Environmental and green space preservation
- d. Noise, light pollution, litter, and disruption
- e. Equity and inclusivity
- f. Impact on existing park activities
- g. Transparency and community engagement
- h. Design concerns
- i. No concerns

4. What would you like to see included in the proposal to help avoid negative impacts on Franklin Park and community park use?

- a. Reduce size of the project; limit impact on park environment and experience of park users.
- b. Minimize light, noise, and litter.
- c. Protect existing events and activities from being displaced.
- d. Invest in park areas around the stadium.
- e. Integrate the stadium into the park and the Franklin Park Action Plan.
- f. Make White Stadium more than just a sports stadium and ensure public access.
- g. Integrate concrete Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice initiatives directly into proposal.
- h. Create formal systems of governance and community oversight.
- i. Improve transparency and community engagement during proposal development.
- j. Clarify traffic, parking, transportation, and bicycle access; and mitigate impacts.
- k. Consider redeveloping White Stadium without the women’s soccer team as partners.

5. Any other comments or input you'd like to offer?

- a. Lots of support for this project
- b. Concerns regarding preservation of park as “urban oasis” and health benefits
- c. Concerns about competition with existing park uses, particularly on game days
- d. Concerns about scale of project, integration with adjacent park areas, aesthetics
- e. Frustration with perceived lack of community engagement and transparency by City

APPENDIX A. Key Themes Emerging in Open-Ended Response Data

Q1. What benefits do you think the Stadium renovation will bring to Franklin Park?

- 1. Upgraded Park infrastructure and amenities:** Respondents agreed that the stadium has deteriorated and that a renovated stadium will provide a modern and high-quality sports facility to Boston Public School students; it will keep the park maintained and improve the overall quality, safety and usability of the park. Improved infrastructure includes lighting, drainage, restrooms and accessibility upgrades. The renovations can include environmental sustainability and historical preservation of Franklin Park structures.
 - 1.1. "The Stadium deserves to be renovated, as an asset to historic Franklin Park and the to the neighborhood around the park."
 - 1.2. "The stadium is long overdue for a major renovation; certainly our public schools kids deserve better facilities"
 - 1.3. "White Stadium is in rough shape and I believe it will continue to deteriorate without a significant financial investment."
 - 1.4. "After years of patchwork efforts to sustain the stadium, I feel like this could be a collective effort to expand the stadium, make it green, and provide a first class venue for scholastic and professional teams to play."
 - 1.5. "Restore the decrepit old stadium, give us better facilities for BPS high school students, bring positive attention and new visitors to Franklin Park"
 - 1.6. "I think it will revitalize the area and bring a much needed safety component"
 - 1.7. "The White Stadium renovation could introduce green building practices, improved waste management systems, and energy-efficient lighting and equipment, contributing to a reduction in the carbon footprint of the venue."
 - 1.8. "If the renovation includes preserving historical aspects of the White Stadium, it can enhance the cultural and historical value of Franklin Park. Preserving historical structures while updating their functionality can create a unique blend of the old and the new, appealing to both residents and visitors."

- 2. Empowered Student and Women's Sports Programs:** Respondents expressed strong support for investments in modern sports and training facilities for Boston Public Students and excitement for women's soccer. People are eager to see opportunities to offer a competitive venue for youth sports and development and attract more sports tournaments and professional women's soccer to Boston City.
 - 2.1. "A first class facility for BPS students"; "it would uplift students' spirits and aspirations."
 - 2.2. "...if the plans support youth sports, I would be strongly in favor"
 - 2.3. "Our students deserve to have those facilities. In addition, this will bring a women's soccer team to the area and I'm in full support of that."
 - 2.4. "I am excited to see this historic place get fixed and used by women's soccer and BPS."
 - 2.5. "I love the idea of supporting women's sports."

2.6. "The renovation of White Stadium and establishing a women's soccer team would be an awesome source of pride for the city"

3. Increased Inclusivity and Use of Public Space for Community: Respondents say that the park is underutilized and that improvements to the stadium and surrounding park amenities will provide an opportunity for a hub of diverse and inclusive community activities, increased community engagement and higher use of the park through sports, cultural and recreational events and concerts.

3.1. "Improved facility, increased usage!"

3.2. "Unity and youth generated events"

3.3. "A place for Boston residents and their families to gather and support various cultural and sporting events"

3.4. "Making it a place for even more people to enjoy"

3.5. "I am fully in support of making the park a vibrant, accessible, bustling center for everyone to enjoy, inclusive of the folks in the abutting neighborhoods and less frequent visitors. I would like to see the stadium developed into a resource that benefits the students in BPS and can make the park a place more people frequent. More athletic and cultural resources can be a good thing."

3.6. "Benefits include opportunities for community events & performances through BPS and neighborhood organizations"

3.7. "I think we should be inclusive and utilize the stadium for more than sports, what about more concerts, community events etc... there is such an opportunity here!"

4. Revitalized local neighborhood economy and revenues for park maintenance:

Respondents believe the renovation could bring an economic boost to the area through job creation during the upgrades and stimulation of local business from more visitors to the area and provide additional revenue boost for maintenance of the park.

4.1. "Tourism, more resources being brought to the neighborhood"

4.2. "...An influx of spending and income for the neighborhood businesses..."

4.3. "Economic renewal of the surrounding area will be the biggest benefit in my view"

4.4. "The renovation will have a positive economic impact on Franklin Park and its surroundings, through job creation and the stimulation of local businesses."

4.5. "Neighborhood development. More small businesses, more foot traffic, more spaces and opportunities to connect with neighbors, more tax revenue."

4.6. "This is an opportunity of a lifetime for Franklin Park and BPS. The Parks Dept has been underfunded for decades as has BPS sports -- my kids went to the Curley and BLA and BLS. This will bring business to the restaurants in Forest Hills and on Blue Hill Ave near the Zoo. The four voters in my house are all in for this!"

4.7. "Investment in the park, which does not receive enough maintenance generally"

4.8. "A large influx of folks that previously haven't visited the park and could build the prestige of Franklin Park"

4.9. "... It will put Boston (Dorchester) on the map, bringing jobs, visitors for the zoo and the golf course, new customers for the surrounding business"

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Q2. Are there improvements you would like to see in the areas surrounding the Stadium?

About 450 people responded to this question and made it clear that park users are passionate about seeing better cared for parklands and infrastructure that offers more amenities and opportunities for the community. People are also eager to see more attention to the Franklin Park Action Plan. Specific themes that emerged are listed in order of prominence.

- 1. Tending and Protecting Woods and Wild Spaces:** The woodlands, fields, and natural areas are the most valued aspect of Franklin Park and deserve far more care. People want more planting, pruning, pulling of invasive species, protection of wildlife, and generally better tending of the precious escape from urban life available in Franklin Park.
 - 1.1. "Improve tree canopy and [add] tree pest controls. Plant dense native plants to provide bird and wildlife protections."
 - 1.2. "The land should be park land with trees and grass to lessen heat island and provide open play space for residents."
 - 1.3. "I primarily use the park as an outdoor oasis and gathering spot. I would like to see the ecosystem restored with invasive plant management -- more diverse native plants to support bird and bee life and add beauty."
 - 1.4. "The trees are dying of neglect. Serious commitment to replanting trees (and bigger ones, not just seedlings), invasive species management and restoring the forest floor are huge needs right up to the stadium."

- 2. Well Maintained and Lighted Pathways:** The pathways need extensive repair, repaving, and upgrading. People want the pathways to be safe and easy for walking, biking, pushing a baby stroller, or using a wheelchair at all times of day. An overwhelming number of commenters wanted lighting on the paths and signs to help find their way.
 - 2.1. "Better lighting, cleaning and repair all of the paved paths. Snow removal from all paths especially access from the streets to the walking paths."
 - 2.2. "more lighted paths to run walk safely in evenings/night time"
 - 2.3. "I am eager to see improvements such as those in the FP master plan. A new playhouse, improvements to the walking and biking paths, park entrances, signage, lighting, etc. I think this proposal fits in well with the larger plan."

- 3. Public Access to Amenities:** The respondents want a renewed White Stadium to offer amenities to the public whether the stadium is open or closed, especially bathrooms and water fountains, also shaded sitting and gathering areas, concession stands, and picnic and barbecue facilities.

- 3.1. "More water fountains, public bathrooms, concession stand"
- 3.2. "nature space (explaining the natural rocks, animals, etc found there)"
- 3.3. "water stations (like at other parts of the emerald necklace)"
- 3.4. "More areas/facilities for family and community gatherings (benches, picnic tables)"

4. Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety in, around, and getting to the park.

- 4.1. "Slowdown or close traffic on circuit drive so it is not dangerous to pedestrians"
- 4.2. "Traffic calming measures are needed on roadways all around the park."
- 4.3. "Creating a more visible/celebratory entrance on Seaver/Humboldt (and fix the awful traffic signal issues that jeopardize pedestrians' lives)"
- 4.4. "Bike racks or blue bikes and adequate signage for walking between the park and the orange line." "Implement bike lanes from the orange line / SW corridor to the park."
- 4.5. "Complete the walking and bike paths within the park. It's so silly that you can't walk through or in a long loop around our lovely park."

5. A traffic and parking plan for the stadium and the park as a whole. Plans must preserve the natural environment of the park and protect the quality of life for park neighbors.

- 5.1. "biggest concern is the parking. When there are events, cars park on the surrounding streets and make it hard for people who live on our street to find parking. This is particularly problematic for the number of us elderly people who live here."
- 5.2. "More connections to public transit. A bus with multiple stops around the park connecting orange line stations, especially connecting forest hills which has massive parking infrastructure. The traffic on walnut ave is not sustainable."
- 5.3. "Parking options improved. A garage [for game days] could make money for the park."

6. A cleaner and safer park. From increased ranger presence to regular cleanups, keep the park free of trash, drug detritus, motorbikes and other activities that diminish enjoyment.

- 6.1. "More regular cleaning; regulation of improper use of the park (motorcycles); stopping drug use in the park."
- 6.2. "Clean up wooded areas, better security and patrol for bike gangs, nocturnal crime"
- 6.3. "Increase of Park Rangers, horseback and also by foot"
- 6.4. "an important aspect of improving the park's environment involves addressing noise pollution, particularly from loud parties and motorcycles. This disturbance affects the peaceful enjoyment of the park, local wildlife, and residential communities nearby."

7. Improved playing fields in the Playstead, made available for youth and adult soccer, baseball, softball, etc. Currently the fields are uneven, drainage is poor.

- 7.1. "Update the softball fields, please. And add lights so we can play at when it gets darker"

- 7.2. "I'd like to see recreation playing fields - not just baseball - but smaller soccer fields for pickup games, lights for evening trainings, etc. There are dozens of adult teams in the area that need space. Provide space, permit them, have them pay, another win-win."
- 7.3. "Would love to see the Playstead improved and utilized for BPS athletics, also."
- 7.4. "I am on the board of Jamaica Plain youth soccer and we continually struggle to find sufficient field space. We would love to have the Playstead lighted with a well-drained, well-maintained field that we could use for both practice and games."

8. Upgraded basketball and tennis courts (with water fountains) and kids play areas.

- 8.1. "The tennis and basketball courts should be upgraded. I wouldn't be against more tennis courts with lighting so we could play later in the evening."
- 8.2. "More/upgraded basketball courts, space for outdoor fitness/dance classes, expanded tennis and pickleball courts"
- 8.3. "Put a new basketball court since the old one was taken away. It was a great hang out for young ballers as well as the senior Sunday"
- 8.4. "Splash pad/sprinkler"; "more play structures and activity areas"
- 8.5. "Programs for children to plant, grow, harvest, and study nature."

9. Implement the proposals in the Franklin Park Action Plan, including a home for the Elma Lewis Playhouse concerts and activation of the Bear Dens. Some would like a dog park.

- 9.1. "Implement the Action Plan recommendation of a walking path along the southern edge of the Playstead adjacent to the parking lot."
- 9.2. "I support the improvements in the Action Plan: Long Crouch Woods, the Bear Den, the Overlook."
- 9.3. "Elma Lewis area revived and modernized. Bear den educational and recreational benefits"
- 9.4. "The City must tie the Overlook/Elma Lewis Playhouse reboot into the stadium plan"
- 9.5. "We need a fenced-in dog area!"

* * *

Q3. What concerns do you have about the impact of the renovation project on community use of the park and the overall parkland?

This summary is based on N=611 responses. Several key themes emerge of concerns about the impact of the renovation project on the use of the park and overall parkland. The themes reflect a complex mix of support for potential improvements and concerns about preserving the park's accessibility, environmental integrity, and role as a community resource and minimizing disturbance to nearby neighbors.

- 1. Traffic and Parking Concerns:** (n=263) The largest number of concerns raised issues involving increased traffic and parking, fearing that game days, other events and even the increased BPS use at the renovated stadium will exacerbate congestion and parking scarcity, making access to the park and surrounding neighborhoods more difficult. Some fear that gated roadways inside the park will be opened to more vehicles. Some find traffic and parking management plans announced to date unrealistic and not credible.
 - 1.1. "Big concern is about neighborhood impact of 10,000 people coming for games. It's wishful thing on Mayor Wu's part that they're going to park 10 miles away and get bussed in or take public transit."
 - 1.2. "I am concerned primarily about the neighborhood's ability to handle increased traffic. This is a very residential neighborhood and isn't well suited to more cars or shuttles."
 - 1.3. "Mostly traffic. The other issues can be solved or mitigated. Traffic is a project killing issue that has yet to be solved."
 - 1.4. "I about the park. The roads (Sigourney, Glen, Peter Parley, Robeson) are already tight, over parked, over-used. These roads are going to be absolute disasters when people descend on the park for sporting events. They are not set up to handle the increase in volume that these events will bring."
 - 1.5. "Traffic will be an issue unless public transit options are improved."

- 2. Public Access and Community Use:** (n=176) Concerns are raised about ensuring continued and equitable access to the stadium and parkland for community events, BPS athletics, and local residents. Some respondents lament loss of BPS football for most of the fall season. Respondents worry that the renovation might prioritize professional sports or specific groups over community and school use. Many respondents objected to "privatization" of public space, new for-profit commercial facilities and activities, including sales of alcohol, and further carving up of the park for special restricted uses.
 - 2.1. "I want to ensure that BPS students and Boston residents and their families (specifically in the adjacent neighborhoods) have priority access to the facility and immediately surrounding areas."
 - 2.2. "[The stadium renovation] is parceling yet another piece of Franklin Park for private usage. Over the years, the largest public park in Boston has been slowly reduced to strips here and there as it gets carved up for one use case after another."
 - 2.3. "I strongly value to ability to use the track and stairs at White Stadium for exercise. Any limitation on public access to White Stadium is a step in the wrong direction."
 - 2.4. "It is disappointing that the proposed use would push out BPS football games."
 - 2.5. "I think the Stadium should be renovated for the use of BPS students from multiple schools, not for a professional team."
 - 2.6. "I think the area around the stadium could be cleaned up but not for beer gardens or places where thousands of folks would mingle before and after professional games."
 - 2.7. "This is taking public space away from the community and giving it over to private interests. I'm completely opposed to this project."

2.8. "Make sure the stadium stays readily available to BPS and the community. Boston and surrounding towns are really good about opening facilities to the public, like Madison Park fields, WREC fields, the Fens, etc — let's keep that up with White Stadium."

3. Environmental and Green Space Preservation: (n=68) There's apprehension about the potential loss of green space, trees, and the natural beauty of the park, especially with the expanded perimeter of the East side grandstand. Respondents emphasize the importance of preserving wildlife habitats, maintaining the park's serenity, and ensuring that construction and renovations do not harm the environment.

3.1. "I would like the city to use as little additional paving and hardscape outside the stadium as possible. I am concerned the park will lose more of its natural beauty."

3.2. "We need quiet, wildlife, and natural environment to be preserved, not encroached upon. Franklin Park is an incredible treasure . . ."

3.3. "That we will lose the trees and open grassy area behind the East stand. Much of the Arboretum is like this: open shady grass where kids can play around, but there aren't many parts of Franklin Park like this. I love the woods and wilderness, but also really have enjoyed that space e.g., for playing tag, for having a picnic. My 4th grade class used to visit from the Hernandez and we each adopted a tree to research in that area."

4. Noise, Light Pollution, Litter and Disruption: (n=99) The potential for increased noise, light pollution, litter and general disruption from stadium events and construction is a concern, with worries about the impact on local residents' quality of life, wildlife, zoo animals and the tranquil park experience.

4.1. "Excessive lighting will harm migrating birds and wildlife."

4.2. "Light and noise pollution, impact on nearby zoo animals and wildlife, traffic flow and more loitering within the park as a result."

4.3. "The noise can be an issue. The stadium announcements are so loud I can hear them from my house about 4 blocks away."

4.4. "Just clean up the trash, have good security and lighting and make a good and thoughtful plan for the nuisances like traffic, noise, bright lights. It's only 20x a year but should be planned for thoughtfully."

5. Equity and Inclusivity: (n=47) There's a call for ensuring that the renovated stadium and park remain inclusive and accessible to all community members, particularly marginalized groups, and that the benefits of the renovation are equitably distributed. Some respondents fear that the renovation might contribute to gentrification and displacement in the surrounding neighborhoods, affecting housing affordability and altering the demographic and cultural character of the park.

5.1. "I worry this renovation may benefit people outside or new to the neighborhood more than those who have been through years of disinvestment."

- 5.2. "I just want this to center the people that mostly use the park from the neighborhood particularly the non-white users of the park. Franklin Park should celebrate them and be reflective of what they want."
- 5.3. "Many of us gather to celebrate, and connect in the ways that align with our cultural norms. The last thing we want is more white silence and strict limitations on how the park is utilized."

6. Impact on Existing Park Activities: (n=20) Respondents worry about the renovation impacting existing park activities and events, such as festivals, youth sports, cross country meets, playgrounds (such as El Parquecito), the zoo, golfing and recreational use, fearing that new restrictions, including interim interruptions during construction, and overcrowding could limit these activities.

- 6.1. "I hope they will not impact access to El Parquesito (playground)"
- 6.2. "It's unclear to me what uses of the playstead fields by the zoo parking lot would be possible on soccer game days. I would hope that area would be kept available for its current uses as much as possible."
- 6.3. "I'm concerned about the impact of the stadium on community events like BAMS and the Puerto Rican Festival."

7. Transparency and Community Engagement: (n=7) There's a desire for transparent communication and genuine community engagement in the planning and execution of the renovation project, with calls for considering community feedback and ensuring that local voices are heard and respected.

- 7.1. "I am concerned that the communities of color are not being given enough voice and that outreach has only been done to homeowners and leaders of organizations. The city and the investors need to talk directly to students, parents and the majority of Bostonians who don't own the home they live in."
- 7.2. "Minimal effort to include our student athletes and minimal effort to include community input for an expensive project."

8. Design Concerns: (n=12) Some respondents objected to how much more massive the renovated grandstands will be in comparison to the current grandstands, and criticized poor integration of the proposed Grove with the Playstead and the Overlook.

- 8.1. "I think it sections off a piece of the park instead of integrating it with the other components. It does this by creating a high wall between the stadium and the Playstead."
- 8.2. "The stadium should be renovated at a modest scale to provide BPS kids better facilities. The size of the proposed stadium is an imposition on this historic park."
- 8.3. "It would irreparably alter an historic art deco structure."

9. **No concerns.** Some respondents said that they “had no concerns” (n=60), that the project was a “net benefit” (n=29), or that they were frustrated with community opposition (n=5).
 - 9.1. “Franklin Park is a sadly neglected treasure. I’m thrilled to see any/all improvements and attention put into it.”
 - 9.2. “Any concerns about changes to the nearby parkland are strongly outweighed by the benefits of improving the stadium.”
 - 9.3. “I think this use of the park will reinvigorate the use of the park for the surrounding community - I am a part of this community.”
 - 9.4. “I honestly struggle to empathize with the claims of negative impacts brought by my neighbors. I am an expert in public space and I have slight hesitations about crowd noise impacting wildlife in both the Wilderness and the zoo, but the specific land use of a stadium has long ago been determined, so that is not a relevant point.”
 - 9.5. “I’m mainly concerned with my NIMBY neighbors who seem more concerned with parking their private vehicles on public streets than bringing economic development to black/brown communities.”
 - 9.6. “No concerns, other than residents being in fear of the change and improvements to come.”

* * *

4. What would you like to see included in the proposal to help avoid negative impacts on Franklin Park and community park use?

1. **Size of the project; impact on park environment and experience of park users.**
 Respondents expressed that the project was too large and a strong desire to minimize environmental impact and to preserve the natural and peaceful environment of the park. Noise and light were key issues in addition to the physical space.
 - 1.1. “Avoid taking away green space for parking”; “Minimize loss of walking paths”
 - 1.2. “I hope it doesn’t involve cutting down trees. Boston can be so stressful and being in the park amongst the trees, birds chirping, you get away from all that.”
 - 1.3. “The size of the project needs to be slimmed down.”
 - 1.4. “Keep it minimalist to support community events and community access without increasing footprint and adding structures, especially not office space or the like that should be kept external to the park.”
 - 1.5. “No new buildings constructed. No mature trees cut down.”
2. **Minimize light, noise, and litter.** Respondents advocated limiting impact through stadium design, enforceable agreements, and funding for maintenance.
 - 2.1. “Agreements on noise volume; lighting respectful of neighbors.”

- 2.2. “[Use] “dark sky” downward lighting.” “Light pollution impacts animals/neighbors”
- 2.3. “Sound barriers that could help protect the surrounding community from stadium noise would be appreciated. Please keep wild wooded area along Sigourney St. intact.”
- 2.4. “Establish times that noise can happen.” “Design stadium to minimize sound and light pollution.”
- 2.5. “Funds to cover maintenance of the park to keep it clean with increased use”
- 2.6. “A sustainable plan to keep the area clean, safe and climate friendly”
- 2.7. “A commitment from the city and Unity to clean up litter in surrounding neighborhood and park after events”
- 2.8. “I would like the park to be well lit and secured with cameras.”

3. Protect existing events and activities from being displaced. Respondents want to ensure that the park remains accessible to the community for various activities like playing, walking, and family gatherings -- even on game days. They also want to make sure soccer games do not crowd out existing community festivals and events in the park.

- 3.1. “A guarantee that the home game schedule will be set AROUND the community festivals (and not the other way).”
- 3.2. “We use that area for a lot of events like Music in the park, Cricket, Family fun.”
- 3.3. “Commercial use of the stadium needs to be limited to game days and in how much space it takes up, to ensure the rest of the park remains maximally open to the public.”
- 3.4. “The contract w/BUSP needs to specify that games can only happen at specific times of day, limited to the evening hours. Otherwise, the impact on usual park activity will be too large.”

4. Project should invest in park areas around the stadium. Respondents want to see capital improvements to Franklin Park's infrastructure and landscaping in areas around the stadium, as well as improved ecological maintenance. Respondents emphasize importance of ecological features in stadium design, the need for a maintenance plan after events, and investing in the adjacent areas per the Franklin Park Action Plan.

- 4.1. “The buyers should provide funding for park maintenance, cleanup, and improvement beyond the stadium itself because they will be benefiting from the park not just because of the stadium but because there is a large space where people who want to attend the games may want to picnic, play, etc.”
- 4.2. “The contract needs to include specific maintenance commitments and contributions to capital improvements in the areas around the stadium.”
- 4.3. “Funding for FP infrastructure, landscaping”
- 4.4. “Renovation of the tennis courts and basketball courts. As much public access to the Grove area as possible.”

5. Project should integrate the stadium into the park and the Franklin Park Action Plan. Respondents wanted to see the stadium celebrate its location in Franklin Park by

incorporating aspects of ecological design, integrating aesthetic motifs of the surrounding areas in landscaping and tree planting, and providing park visitor information and signage.

- 5.1. "Proponents must demonstrate the entire project conforms w Action Plan, particularly as to impacts on the entire N corner of FP. BUSP should fund Elma Lewis reboot throughout their tenancy at stadium. Commitments by BUSP and city to maintain Grove as frequently open to public; seasonal outdoor ice rink."
- 5.2. "Integration of the project with the new Elma Lewis Playhouse, both together with a restoration of the whole Playstead landscape."
- 5.3. "Signage on stadium gates indicating public access hours"
- 5.4. "Consider the design of all fences, and exterior walls. And employ landscape architecture tactics which do not simply use grass and asphalt paths, there are other options! (multi-stems, more natural groundcover, swales for drainage issues which happen so much near the tennis courts)."
- 5.5. "I am hopeful that the renovated stadium experience can include some sort of exhibit or something which can provide a narrative history to the park, Frederick Law Olmsted, the surrounding communities."
- 5.6. "Every ecological feature possible, from materials to drainage."
- 5.7. "Lots of tree planting and invasive removal."
- 5.8. "Dedicated space for native plantings to retain environment for wildlife"
- 5.9. "More protected, wild, natural woodlands."

6. Make White Stadium more than just a sports stadium and ensure public access.

Respondents voiced excitement about stadium resources and desire for BPS and community to have access and priority for use. Included in these comments are creative ideas for ways the stadium can be used for community programming beyond athletics.

- 6.1. "White Stadium can be more than a sports stadium. Think about how Fenway Park is more than a baseball park - there is ice skating, concerts and more."
- 6.2. "Keep White Stadium and the park open to the public, make the renovated White Stadium easily available to local communities for awesome events. We always read about the awesome concerts at White in the '60s-70s, let's bring those back."
- 6.3. "A robust calendar of soccer lessons, clinics and games for area girls, held by Boston Unity Soccer Club. Also, maybe a Big Sister or mentorship type program connecting the Unity players and area girls."
- 6.4. "Concerts/Festivals/cultural engagement."
- 6.5. "Programs for youth, programs for immigrant families"
- 6.6. "Calendar space for enrichment programs... exercise... dance workshops etc."
- 6.7. "A use agreement that honors BPS students and the local community."
- 6.8. "Public access to the facility (incl stadium track) on a regular basis."
- 6.9. "Regular and open (free & accessible) events for community members."
- 6.10. "Inclusive opportunities for local groups from neighborhoods around Franklin park to use the Grove and other facilities that are upgraded"

7. **Integrate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice initiatives directly into proposal** so that the project serves the communities of color that surround and use Franklin Park.
 - 7.1. "Use of stadium to support disenfranchised communities and events targeted towards the diverse crowd of people that use Franklin Park."
 - 7.2. "Needs to serve or aim to even better serve the Black community"
 - 7.3. "Make sure there are people of color doing security, recruit from the community, have signage that affirms the history of the community and the culture of the events that have happened there."
 - 7.4. "Jobs and training with advancement opportunities for adults from the surrounding neighborhood and communities of color in Boston. Youth afterschool and summer jobs and programming."
 - 7.5. "I would like to also see a plan about how stadium security won't result in the inappropriate overpolicing of the black and brown populations who use the park"
 - 7.6. "Make sure the process and final results reflect the needs of neighbors who've lived through disinvestment. Not for me to say what that is! Also, pair any improvements to housing stabilizations and anti-displacement work."
 - 7.7. "Ensure that the economic benefits flow to the people who are already here and who have endured dis-investments for decades. That could take a lot of forms, from actually helping to develop local BIPOC-owned businesses so they can bid on contracts (in addition to the 50% goal of M/WBE) to dedicating a portion of receipts to housing stabilization."

8. **Create formal systems of governance and community oversight.** Respondents wanted assurances that agreements developed during the proposal process would be legally binding and that community would have a role in governance of the stadium once built.
 - 8.1. "We need extra clarity that the city would continue to own the stadium and is only leasing it for game use to the soccer team."
 - 8.2. "A community governing board with authority to enforce commitments made by Unity and the City, with strong watchdog and financial penalty provisions."
 - 8.3. "A legal document that ensures the Soccer folks do what they say they are going to do."
 - 8.4. "The contract needs to include specific maintenance commitments and contributions to capital improvements in the areas around the stadium."
 - 8.5. "The contract w/BUSP needs to specify that games can only happen at specific times of day, limited to the evening hours. Otherwise, the impact on usual park activity will be too large."
 - 8.6. "A use agreement that honors BPS students and the local community."
 - 8.7. "I want to see actual processes and accountability mechanisms, not just plans. The city can say they care about noise and traffic impact, and they can have plans, but what are we going to be able to do to hold the city accountable when these inevitably prove to be insufficient? The proposed plans for the stadium have the potential to massively impact quality of life for those of us around the park. Build recourse into the proposal."

8.8. Need a “point of contact if problems arise, enough resources to sufficiently cover costs over at least the next decade, ongoing adjustments to transportation as we learn more and people have more experience in traveling to and from the Park.”

9. Greater transparency and community engagement needed during proposal development

9.1. “It would be good to see literature, and signage in and around the community for ways to be a part of the decision-making process. Having outreach at the clubhouse with individuals looking to recruit community members to be part of any potential changes.”

9.2. “Transparency throughout the process.”

9.3. “This plan being rushed through is a major threat to the purpose and function of Boston's largest park, and to an Action Plan that thousands of us helped craft.”

9.4. “The city should commit to forming a group of BPS representatives to provide feedback on a regular basis.”

9.5. “An environmental study of the proposal’s impacts.”

10. Traffic, parking, transportation, and bicycle access: Many (n=209) survey participants had suggestions for the transportation plan.

10.1. “The traffic plan is the biggest unknown. This needs to be fully vetted.”

10.2. “Preferential treatment of mass transit options for people trying to reach Franklin Park”

10.3. “Permit-only parking surrounding the entire park. Shutdown of Circuit Drive.”

10.4. “Turn the streets off the park into one-way routes with speed bumps, and restrictions on parking during game times.”

10.5. “build a parking garage and see some positive improvement to roadways surrounding the park and in neighboring communities. Bike lanes on blue hill ave and surrounding streets.”

10.6. “Traffic mitigation, foot traffic and crowd control measures, resident permit parking and enforcement around and within the surrounding neighborhoods and dead-end streets.”

10.7. “Satellite parking at Forest Hills (unused MBTA lots etc) and shuttle buses for spectators.”

10.8. “Hopefully the proposal will include ways to manage traffic on event days and protect pedestrians, cyclists, and park-goers from the noise and danger of car traffic”

10.9. “Please give pedestrians a safe crossing at Circuit and Pierpont Drive, please. Please.”

10.10. “Surrounding streets become safer for pedestrians. add lights to all crosswalks and more speed bumps”

10.11. “Frequent bus shuttles, protected bike paths, and better pedestrian paths to discourage driving to stadium.”

10.12. Free public transit on surrounding bus lines”

10.13. “Traffic mitigation so that neighbors can still walk in and around the park on game days.”

11. Finally, some respondents said that the best approach to renovate White Stadium would be for the City to redevelop it without Boston Unity as a partner

- 11.1. “No one in this neighborhood wants a soccer stadium here. This should be for BPS kids FIRST, not some corporate sponsored soccer team. Ask the residents how much women's soccer they watch.”
- 11.2. “Do not put professional soccer team in this space but still renovate the stadium and surrounding park.”
- 11.3. “I would like to see Boston construct a stadium exclusively geared towards the needs of the Boston Public School students and the users of Franklin Park.”
- 11.4. “Move the professional soccer team proposal to BU's Nickerson Field-they have transit, the right size facility and the audience”
- 11.5. “I would like the city to provide a proposal that relies solely on the \$50 million investment. Let us see what’s possible without having to conceded space and access to a third-party—most of whom may not reside in the immediate area. BPS athletics deserves a better stadium, what would it look like without BUSP as a partner?”

* * *

Q5. Any other comments or input you'd like to offer?

The final question collected any additional comments. Responses fell into a few main themes:

1. Lots of vocal support for this project.

- 1.1. “I hope this happens! I think it’s a great addition to Franklin Park and surrounding neighborhoods. Franklin Park needs a renovation and an added women’s soccer team seems like a great way to get that done.”
- 1.2. “This is a once in a generation opportunity. We should seize upon it and not be so small minded.”
- 1.3. “It would be a slap in the face to every kid in Boston to turn our noses up at this gift on some pretense that we are standing up for the kids. Unlike everyone I know taking a position on this, I have actually been to football games at this stadium. It is a disgrace. If we don't take this opportunity the stadium will probably languish for another 50 years.”
- 1.4. “White Stadium has been neglected and this is a rare and feasible opportunity.”
- 1.5. “If this project can actually be pulled off, I think it could really shine a light on how amazing Franklin Park is and what a great resource it can be to the city.”
- 1.6. “I hope that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s lawsuit does not derail efforts to improve the stadium.”
- 1.7. “I am disappointed that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has filed a lawsuit. Yes, they need to figure out the logistics for game days. But ultimately, this is a massive improvement to a public resource and an incredible opportunity for the community.”

2. Concerns regarding preservation of park as “urban oasis” and health benefits. There's a strong desire to maintain the park's open, green, and wild spaces for public enjoyment and recreational activities, underscoring the park's role as a vital urban oasis for residents.

- 2.1. “The sacredness of this green jewel: Olmsted’s imagination and GOD’s provision”
- 2.2. “We need this quiet green space for basic human health. Stop trying to change that.”
- 2.3. “The mental health benefits of relaxing downtime are being ignored. The immersion in natural landscapes is being replaced by a competitive sports complex.”
- 2.4. “Franklin Park should be wild and natural and for all species, not just humans.”
- 2.5. “Between the golf course, the zoo, the Shattuck and now White Stadium expansion , they are leaving comparatively very little park space to the community.”
- 2.6. “The proposals to expand Shattuck Hospital and White stadium are a direct attack on the benefits of green space in an historic American park.”
- 2.7. “The current plan is unfair to those of us who live nearby and rely upon the park for quiet enjoyment and the occasional large event. Having a professional sports stadium there is inherently wrong. The city won’t be able to control anything once it is leased out. Traffic and noise, beer garden and concessions will be disastrous and damaging.”
- 2.8. “Please do not build a parking lot”; “Commit to zero advertising visible outside of stadium”, “Having a massive Jumbotron and bass speakers” is a bad idea
- 2.9. “It will destroy the soul of the park”

3. Concerns about competition with existing uses, particularly on game days.

- 3.1. “The park is already THRIVING. It is in daily use, and absolutely packed on a summer Saturday with folks jogging, walking, barbecuing, etc. This plan threatens all of that.”
- 3.2. “a private enterprise who’ll likely monopolize use most Saturdays game day and potentially Fridays for practice,” crowding out existing uses
- 3.3. “Keep the park safe with community-driven, culture-focused activities.”

4. Concerns about scale of the project, integration with adjacent park areas and aesthetics.

Some respondents felt the project was too big and called for reductions. Respondents raised questions about the environmental impact of the proposed renovations and the importance of integrating the project harmoniously with the park’s natural landscape.

- 4.1. “Stadium seems ill suited for 10,000 person event”
- 4.2. “Does all of BPS athletics belong in Franklin Park? curious what a smaller scale investment might bring, combined with de-centralized investments. I'm curious about just tearing down the East stand and investing the money in making the West stand work for BPS, or building something very modest on the East side.”
- 4.3. “BPS offices? What? Restaurants and other commercial presence. This is an illegal taking of parkland for commercial purposes.”
- 4.4. “I’m not against renovating the stadium. Renovating it in its current [footprint] would be good. However, I’m against expansion that will affect the surrounding green space.”

- 4.5. "There shouldn't be team office space in the park - and two kitchens? Seriously? Keep business in local business districts, and let the park be a park."
- 4.6. "Building footprint should remain the same- enough expansion into open park land"
- 4.7. "How does this fit into the overall [Action Plan] for the park in terms of impact and timeline? We need improvements and investment in basic park needs now!"
- 4.8. "It would be an absolute shame if the new construction was aesthetically in opposition to the natural beauty of what was created with so much intention."

5. Community Engagement and Transparency: Many expressed frustration over what they perceive as a lack of genuine community engagement and transparency in the planning process. There's a desire for more inclusive and meaningful public consultation, ensuring that community voices are heard and considered in decision-making. Presenting the project as two separate projects has been confusing and burdensome to community members.

- 5.1. "There has to be a more transparent process. Many folks are unaware of what is taking place at Franklin Park." "This is not being adequately publicized in the media."
- 5.2. "Outrageous 'pubic process' that has one proposal only and threats from the city to do nothing if the soccer is stopped"
- 5.3. "The city needs to slow down this process, listen to the community. The April 2026 deadline is fake. The soccer team could play at another stadium temporarily while this is being built. Or better yet, move to Everett, where there is already a soccer stadium and share with the Revolution."
- 5.4. "This process has been secretive. Residents haven't been listened to. There is something fishy about the whole process."
- 5.5. "This has been so strange. I live across the street from the stadium and by the time I learned about any of this, it was so far down the process of being baked"
- 5.6. "Slow down the process, put the brakes on. There is too much at stake here. Have a real process proposed by community based upon current use and community needs."
- 5.7. "The City has been holding events at impossible times for anyone who either works or has to make dinner for their kids, and then telling everyone that it's an amazing deal for the community, when it just isn't upon any real examination. This does not feel like a true attempt to ask the community what they actually need. What happened to the Franklin Park Action Plan? That seemed so great and inclusive! This plan complete ignores it."
- 5.8. "City moved too fast. Could have received more money from team."
- 5.9. "A simpler renovation of the Stadium by the City would be far preferable."
- 5.10. "Let the City put in the 50 million and forget PWSL."

In addition to these five themes, participants also raised issues of ensuring community access to the stadium; traffic and parking; noise; and prioritizing BPS access to the stadium.

APPENDIX B. Survey Questionnaire

1. Email
2. Name (optional)
3. Your neighborhood
4. What's your home zip code?
5. What activities do you do in Franklin Park?
 - a. Quiet walks or bike rides
 - b. Picnics, barbecues and family gatherings
 - c. Large events, such as cultural festivals and concerts
 - d. Sports: baseball, soccer, cricket, tennis, basketball, frisbee, or others
 - e. BPS Athletic Department activities in White Stadium
 - f. Solo or private activities, such as running, inside White Stadium
6. How often do you use the park?
 - a. Almost every day
 - b. Once a week
 - c. Every month
 - d. Only for special events or athletic activities
 - e. Just in warmer weather
 - f. Year-round
 - g. Other: _____
7. Have you heard about the proposal to renovate White Stadium? (Yes / No)
8. Have you attended any meetings related to the project? About how many?
 - a. No
 - b. One
 - c. 2-3
 - d. All of them
9. Have you seen the renovation plans? There are three components, check the ones you have learned about.
 - a. The West Grandstand for the professional women's soccer team by Boston Unity Partners
 - b. The Grove to the south of the Stadium next to the Playstead
 - c. The East Grandstand for BPS sports by the City of Boston
 - d. I have not seen the plans
10. Are you generally for or against the project?
 - a. I'm all for it
 - b. I am against it
 - c. I am cautiously supportive
 - d. I have some concerns
11. What benefits do you think the Stadium renovation will bring to Franklin Park? (open-ended response)
12. Are there park improvements you would like to see in the areas surrounding the Stadium? (open-ended response)
13. What concerns do you have about the impact of the renovation project on community use of the park and the overall parkland? (open-ended response)
14. What would you like to see included in the proposal to help avoid negative impacts on Franklin Park and community park use? (open-ended response)
15. Any other comments or input you'd like to offer? (open-ended response)