



TOWN OF BROOKLINE
Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
August 16, 2021

Erin Chute Gallentine
Commissioner

Alexandra Vecchio
Director

Cypress Playground & Athletic Field Project Update

We are writing to provide an update regarding the ongoing Cypress Street Playground and Athletic Field Renovation Project. As you may recall, this project received significant public input during the Park and Recreation Commission Design Review Process throughout 2019, was packaged and prepared for bid in 2020 and then temporarily put on hold to align with the funding needs and schedule of the full High School Renovation and Expansion Project, inclusive of the MBTA platform, Tappan Gym, public way and civic space. Construction began in March 2021 and is expected to continue through the end of August 2022.

As highlighted in our last letter, the extensive public process has resulted in a project supporting the Town's goals for a safe, inclusive, multi-generational, and accessible park design that will serve the community, the neighborhood, the High School student body, High School Athletics, and the Recreation Department. Highlights of the project improvements include; a wonderful and inclusive new play area for all ages with a new water play area, renovated natural grass sports field with new drainage and LED sports lighting, new basketball court with LED sports lighting, a picnic grove, plaza, and pathway improvements, handicapped accessibility improvements, pedestrian scale lighting, extensive stormwater management infrastructure, expanded areas for seating and gathering and numerous new plantings. Cypress Playground will be inviting for healthy outdoor recreation, socializing, and gathering for all ages and abilities. The ability to move through and access amenities within the park are significantly improved with this plan. **Figure 1** provides an overall site plan of the work.



Figure 1: Cypress Street Playground Site Plan

Pedestrian Accommodations

Vehicular and pedestrian movement within the High School Campus, and between the Old Lincoln School, is being coordinated between the Department of Public Works, Building Department and High School Project Team. The entire site, including the Kirrane Pool/UAB Buildings, 22 Tappan Street Campus Building, and MBTA Platform is currently under some phase of construction. At this time, the Town is coordinating sidewalk construction along Tappan Street, Davis Street and Cypress Street, to provide safe pedestrian access at the High School campus. The attached **Figure 2** provides an overview of the pedestrian route around the park as of August 31, 2021. Further below in **Figures 3 and 4**, are specific pedestrian routes and associated dates around the Kirrane Pool and UAB Buildings. This work and these figures have been provided by the High School Expansion and Renovation Team. Signage regarding the pedestrian route will be provided to students and be posted on the perimeter construction fence.

BROOKLINE HIGH SCHOOL – Pedestrian Access Routes starting August 30, 2021

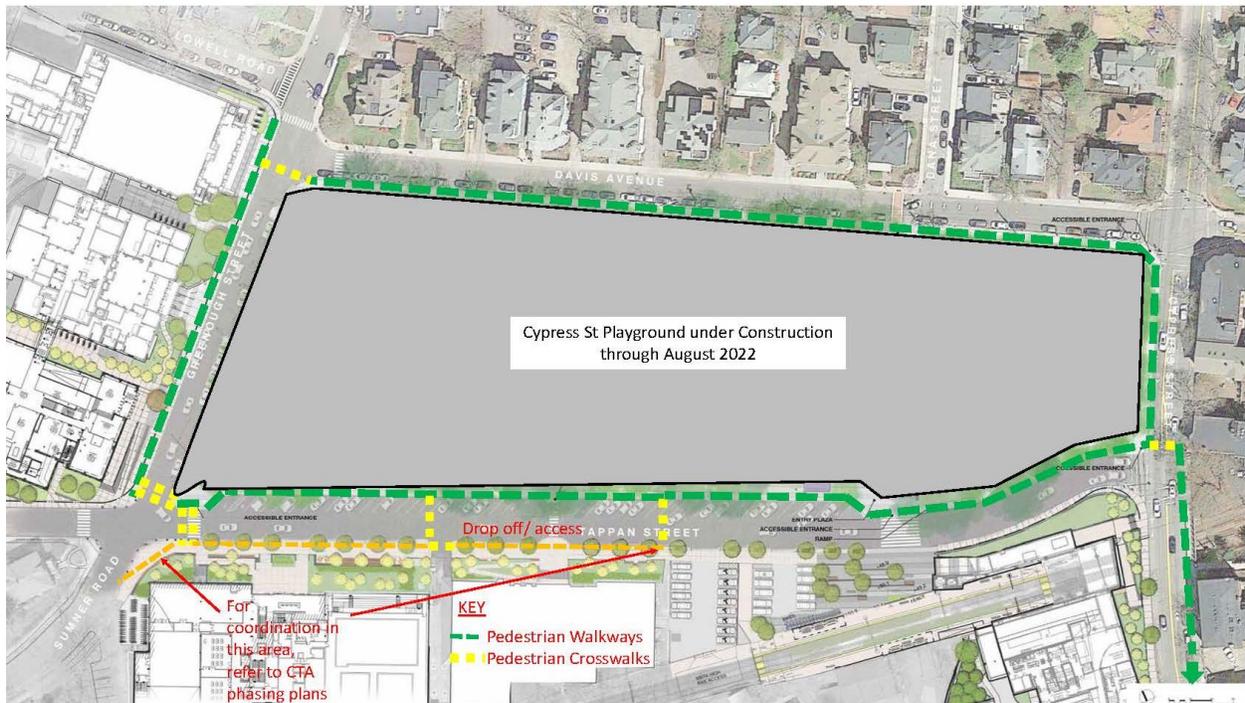


Figure 2: Pedestrian Route around Cypress Street Playground

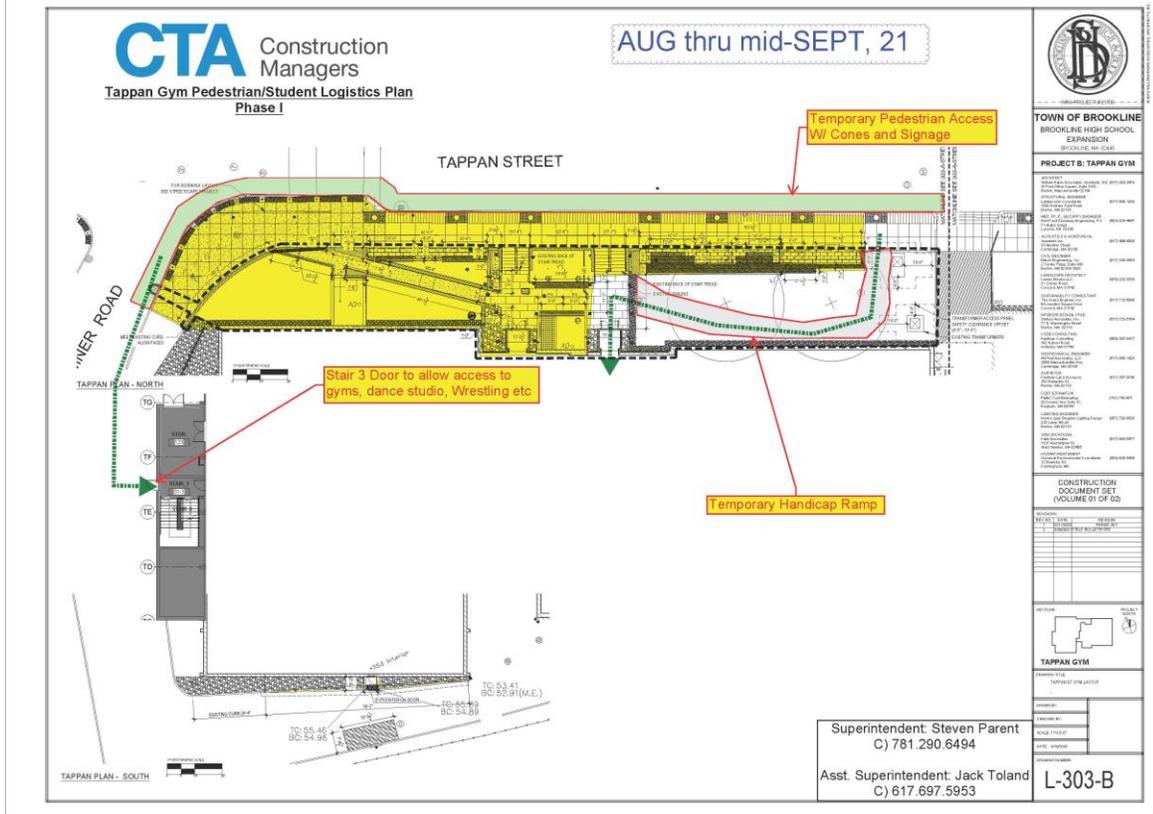


Figure 3: Kirrane Pool/ UAB Access August through September 21

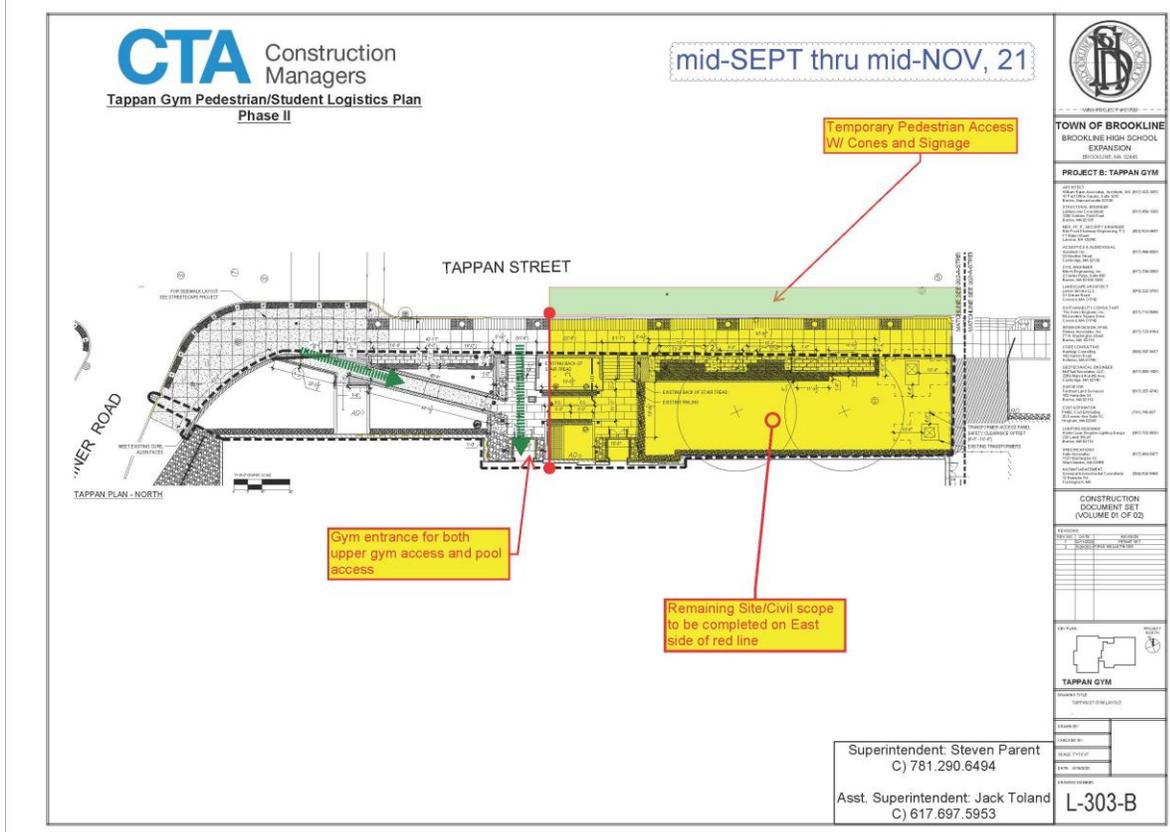


Figure 4: Kirrane Pool/ UAB Access August through September 21

The next major milestone of the Cypress Playground and Athletic Field Project, is to complete construction of the athletic field, including seeding in September 2021. This will allow the grass to grow and the roots to establish this fall, next spring and summer, before it is re-opened to the public. Once the field is seeded, and throughout the fall, the contractor will work along the perimeter and at both ends of the site to construct the plaza areas, playground, splash pad, basketball court, seating, planting, lighting and walking corridor from Dana Street to the MBTA station.

Please feel free to contact Scott Landgren, Senior Landscape Architect, if you have any questions at 617-264-6490 or slandgren@brooklinema.gov. You can follow the construction progress by visiting the Town's website tinyurl.com/4zvwezep.

Sincerely,

Erin Gallentine
Commissioner of Public Works

Alexandra Vecchio
Director of Parks and Open Space

Cc:

Melvin Kleckner, Town Administrator
Select Board
Park and Recreation Commission