



Information & Allies to Advocate for Boston Greenspace

Elected Officials

At-large City Councilors (and where they live)

- Michelle Wu, City Council President – Roslindale
- Ayanna Pressley – Dorchester/Ashmont
- Annissa Essaibi-George – Dorchester
- Michael Flaherty – South Boston

Local City officials:

Look up at: www.cityofboston.gov/myneighborhood/

Your District City Councilor

Your “Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services” (ONS) Rep

State officials:

Look up at: www.wheredoIvotema.com

Your State Rep

Your State Senator

Contact info & phone numbers:

- City Hall – call 311 and ask to be transferred
- Boston Parks Department – 617-635-4505
- MA State House – 617-722-2000
- 311 - www.cityofboston.gov/311/

Use 311 to report any problems in your park: broken fences or playground equipment; the need for more trash barrels; a tree maintenance issue; public safety concerns; anything!

The more you report issues to 311, the more attention your park will get. Download the 311 app on your smart phone and send a picture with your request. If you go to 311 in the spot where the problem exists, the GPS coordinates will be logged. Otherwise, parks have

no real street address and 311 operators may not be able to put in the location.

City Budget

There are two basic types of government budgets:

- **The operating budget**
 - Funded by tax dollars (real estate, sales, and from state taxes via “funding for cities and towns”)
 - Covers costs of day-to-day maintenance, personnel, and programs
 - Shows only citywide costs, not park-by-park
 - As advocates we can only push for an overall increase in Parks Dept. funding, but using stories (maintenance problems, need for programs to draw neighbors into the park) from our individual parks helps to make the case.

- **The capital budget**
 - Funded by bonds the city takes out – Boston has a high bond-rating which means its economy is strong and the city is financially efficient. As a result, Boston can increase its bond funding.
 - Capital projects are physical improvements: a new or renovated playground; re-paved paths; replacing a fence; upgrading facilities like the golf courses; and even some woodlands restoration.
 - Shows specific projects by individual park.
 - Friends groups can advocate for capital improvements for their individual park!

Check out the Boston budget page: www.boston.gov/departments/budget

For specifics on the operating and capital budgets scroll down to “Volume 2: Environment Energy and Open Space” You’ll find the capital projects listed by park after the operating section.

DCR Parks

The MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) owns half of all the parkland within the city’s borders - including the Southwest Corridor, Neponset River parks, South Boston and Dorchester beaches, and Charles River parks on the Boston side.