



Furlong Park, Franklin Street, Salem

Notes from discussion at two public meetings on May 5 and June 2, 2008
with Salem Sound Coastwatch and eleven North Fields Residents

1. History
 - a. When was it filled? Believed to be after the Salem fire of 1914
 - b. Where did the fill come from?
 - c. Once housed a summer day camp

2. Current Uses
 - a. Baseball field
 - i. Age restricted to under 10's (double A's) because balls were being hit into homes
 - ii. Reorientation of field at some time in the past was estimated to be \$15,000
 - iii. Heavily used basket ball court that is not fenced
 - b. Fishing (by tree for eels and smelt)
 - c. People digging in bank for old bottles and glass
 - d. Tennis court
 - i. Uneven and in poor condition, but has high fencing
 - ii. Little children from the Foster Street daycare play within the fenced in court
 - e. Around 1987 had a exercise path around outside edge of park
 - i. Not present or used currently
 - f. Playground for young children
 - i. Built around 18 years ago
 - ii. Parents bring their children to play but do not go beyond the playground
 - iii. Rest of the park has glass in the fill
 - iv. Water's edge not considered safe
 - g. As of 2007, Halloween fireworks
 - h. Dog walking – need dog bag dispenser as in some of the other parks
 - i. Tai chai

3. Issues

- a. Water front park with poor water access and little water use
- b. Erosion of North River bank, park, and Franklin St and Moulton Ave.
- c. Parts of the park and baseball field can be inundated at high tides
- d. Poor drainage – some areas pool
- e. Goose poop
- f. Reorientation and / or expansion of playing fields
- g. Parking
- h. Safety of pedestrians crossing Franklin Street
- i. No place to fish
- j. Lack of trees
- k. Not safe at night
 - i. Homeless using the park
 - ii. Drugs and alcohol
 - iii. Teenagers' hangout
 - iv. People can be heard but not seen
- l. Lighting needed
 - i. In middle of park?
 - ii. At water's edge?
- m. Stormwater from Ferris seeping from broken pipe
- n. Determination of park boundary with abutter

4. Desired

- a. Pedestrian river walk and bike path
 - i. North River master plan
 - ii. Access to the commuter MBTA
- b. Prevention of further erosion
- c. Better access to water for small paddle craft (kayaking and rowing)
- d. Better access for fishing
- e. Neighbors like the fenced tennis court and would like to see a multiuse area for basketball court, hockey, tennis, confined area for little children
- f. Perhaps ice skating rink in winter
- g. Picnic tables, trees and landscaping
- h. Improved streetscape (trees, sidewalks, traffic crossing, pedestrian crossing)
- i. Off street parking
- j. Good night time lighting, perhaps with a sensor
- k. Port-a-potties during Little League games