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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

City to transform Brighton park, ball court into outdoor performance area

Posted by Matt Rocheleau November 10, 2011 04:13 PM

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A sketched rendering of Brighton Common, which broke ground Thursday morning.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Crews broke ground today on a city project to transform a grassy park and basketball court near Brighton Center into a venue for outdoor community shows and other events.

The triangle-shaped city park between Chestnut Hill Avenue and Academy Hill Road, currently called Brighton Park, will be renamed Brighton Common when the a \$710,000 project is complete, city officials announced today. Construction is scheduled to finish by summer 2012.

Work will include tearing up old basketball court on one section of the park adjacent to a city senior center, the city said. In the ball court's place, a permanent wood and steel pergola, or an outdoor stage covered with a permeable awning, for community gatherings and performances will be built.

There will also be a plaza that will include a seating area, pathways, trees and garden furnishings, officials said.

The plaza area will be named for the late Mary Talty, a local resident, teacher, and longtime member of the Brighton-Allston Improvement Association.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino joined Brighton residents and local officials for a groundbreaking ceremony this morning to mark the start of the capital construction project in the works for several years overseen by the city's parks

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construction project in the works for several years overseen by the city's parks department.

The project's design was funded by the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund and the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, the city said. The construction budget is funded by \$660,000 from the mayor's Capital Improvement Program and \$50,000 from Fund for Parks and Recreation.

The Halvorson Design Partnership designed the plans and Tasco Construction, Inc. is the project contractor.

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From left to right: Boston District 9 City Councilor Mark Ciommo, State Rep. Kevin G. Honan, Charlestown residents Larry Rinaldi and Mary Talty's sister Ann Rinaldi, Brighton resident Beth Schinkel and her daughters' 8-year-old Kate and 6-year-old Maeve Schinkel standing in front of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino at Thursday morning's groundbreaking.

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