

Van Cortlandt Park Community Board 8 Meeting (4/22/26) Recap

As promised, we are sharing the recap of the recent meeting for those interested in the status of the Van Cortlandt Park (VCP) Paddleball and Handball Courts. While the content is somewhat lengthy, we wanted to ensure that all essential information about the project status is provided.

The April 22nd Bronx Community Board 8 meeting regarding the Van Cortlandt Park Stadium Master Plan CPSD study offered critical insights for the Paddleball and Handball community. Three options were presented for consideration:

1. Reconstruct the existing building.
2. Construct a new building that is twice the size of the existing one.
3. Construct a new building that is four times the size, focusing on fitness with a membership program.

All options prioritize retaining the existing 9 high-use Paddleball and Handball courts currently integrated into the stadium. At this time, the room appeared to favor Option 2 while also considering an interim “near-term” Option B solution (see attached slides).

Engineering consultants and NYC Parks acknowledged the importance of continuing to seek input from the Paddleball and Handball community, ensuring that future court designs will address the 85-year-old structure while avoiding the repurposing of existing courts.

The next phase of the study will focus on determining which option fits the budget, with an emphasis on:

- Ensuring "no gap in play" access to the courts, with officials identifying potential temporary court locations while developing a plan for implementation.

- Adhering to the current social and player-friendly "linear & line of sight" design, allowing visibility for all players and spectators.
- Maintaining the safety of the current structure while it remains in use with high-grade construction netting installed last year along the entire top portion of the nine courts. (Note: It has been over a year since installation, and there are plans for an evaluation of any deterioration to determine if adjustments or additional measures are necessary.)

As part of our follow-up with the Board and Parks Department, we will address questions you may have:

- Suggestions for implementing the "no gap in play" and "near-term" solutions.

Key Takeaways:

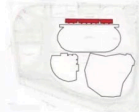
- The CB8 Board and NYC Parks support the continued presence of the courts.
- According to the VCP CPSD study, new Paddleball and Handball courts are included in the VCP stadium project.
- Strategies are being developed to ensure "no gap in play" during the ongoing use of the stadium and when future demolition or construction begins.
- Safety remains a top priority.

While the outlook from this meeting was very positive for VCP Paddleball and Handball, the NYC Parks Department and community boards across the city are evaluating the usage of all park facilities— considering both the continuation of current activities/services and the potential for replacements. They are closely monitoring Paddleball and Handball court usage—changes could occur! Therefore, we encourage the Paddleball and Handball community to stay informed and vigilant regarding related news in your neighborhoods so that we can respond and address concerns together.

You can watch the full CB8 board meeting on YouTube or skip to 33:56-1:37:45 for the portion regarding the VCP stadium and courts.
https://youtu.be/IEJ1_CvU5r0

Recap written by Andre.

Key Takeaway: All options will require complete reconstruction and will provide differing amounts of amenities based on their respective area capacities.



RECONSTRUCT EXISTING STADIUM BUILDING (non-viable)



NEW BUILDING AS HOMAGE TO EXISTING STADIUM BUILDING

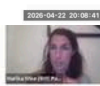


NEW CENTRALIZED BUILDING

	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
MEMBERSHIP SCHEME	N/A	NON-MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM	MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
BUILDING CONSIDERATION	Based on analysis, the existing building cannot be kept due to irreparable structural damage. Option 1 would require a complete rebuild: non-viable	New code-compliant building, with references to existing stadium building	New code-compliant building, located to accommodate variety of site considerations
PROGRAMMATIC CONSIDERATION	Could only accommodate 10,954 sq ft of requested program 10,954 sq ft (net area)	Reduced non membership program scope: would accommodate partial program opportunities 22,515 sq ft (net area)	New membership building would accommodate all program opportunities 44,234 sq ft (net area)
SITE CONSIDERATION	Given current location of building all requested programming enhancements cannot be provided on site.	Building frontage along Broadway maintains current urban character of the site while providing all requested site programming enhancements	Centralized location of building expands community program while providing all requested site programming enhancements



Van Cortlandt Park Stadium Master Plan



Interim or Near-Term Solutions

Parks is advocating for funding the long term masterplan including demolition of the existing building and construction of a new building, handball courts, and bleachers.

In the meantime, we want to hear from you about your priorities for an interim solution.

- A) Demolition of Existing Building followed by installation of new bleachers facing the fields and new handball courts to the north of the existing building
- B) Construction of new handball courts to the north of existing building prior to demolition

Parks

