



Approximately 100 people visited the Open House at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site on May 3, 2009. Comment forms were made available for members of the public who might want to offer thoughts on their visit, and/or issues to be considered in the General Management Plan .



Public Comments

- Fascinating Place. Enjoyed the tour very much. It is very informative and gives a real sense of history.
- Congratulations on this great historical site! Here are a few suggestions. I think you could use the basement for projections of the films/documentaries about the Kennedy and Fitzgerald Families and generally about that time period 1900s to 1920s. This house could also become more of a meeting place for the Brookline community and for historical celebrations. As a mother of an eight year-old boy at Runkle School in Brookline, I also think that children in Brookline Schools should be more familiar with this site and have field trips there at least twice during the primary education and once in high school. You could also reach out to the national and international community through your website and make a virtual tour of the house available.
- Very happy that Mrs. Kennedy took this project on. It's a great site. It would be wonderful is it could be open longer in the year.

- I am the Brookline (PSB) K-8 Social Studies Coordinator. We would like to use this site as a destination field trip for our first-graders, who will be taking a “Presidents” unit. We think that a field trip to the JFK house would be a wonderful introduction to this unit, which focuses on the biographies of Presidents as a research project.
- It was a very nice experience visiting the JFK Birthplace. I come from India, and in India, JF Kennedy is seen as a very dynamic international personality. This site is well maintained in its original form. Please do not change anything or even the surroundings because it tells us that his was a simple family and he could rise to such heights from this very place. This is inspiring. Please keep it in its original form. Thanks.
- I know President Kennedy and Pandit Nehru were friends, and I remember both were standing and thinking about the progress of the world.
- Be more proactive in alerting parents to the site’s availability. Each school has a newsletter for parents.
- It would be helpful to have a few more speakers in the kitchen – it’s hard to hear the audio when there are many people in there. In order to save time with people’s questions, it may be helpful to place small gold labels on the original furniture. Otherwise – wonderful tour!
- As a neighbor, Devotion parent, and American Studies Major, I am interested in seeing this site reach more people. I was happy to see the brochure that had a walking tour of the neighborhood in it. I feel that if the NPS, NHPS, and the town and state could get together to create signage or even a painted sidewalk, it would allow the larger community to get involved. Not sure how to deal with the bus and parking issues, as I can’t think of a place to shuttle from.
- Tour is well done. With six people it is very comfortable. A film would be helpful. Good job.
- Maintenance, woodwork. This is Brookline’s crown jewel. World War I? Piano.
- Understanding Disabilities program – integrate in particular (Brookline School Program) the Kennedy family member with a disability. Facing History and Ourselves – Brookline School Programs. Work with each individual school, PTOs – parent volunteers are very important and are willing to participate.
- I think this is very important. There are many challenges that you have to develop/enhance the site. The idea of a Coolidge Corner visitor center is a good one – good for the site and for Coolidge Corner.

- It's a wonderful site, but maybe underutilized. Some ideas for how to enhance:
 - Collaborate with public schools, especially Brookline public schools, for visits here.
 - Create multimedia resources – I really enjoyed hearing our tour guide talk about Rose Kennedy's philosophy towards teaching her children conversational skills at meals – This could be available by audio or video to reach a wider audience.
 - Partner with the JFK Library to leverage their resources. This could be complementary, not duplicative of the JFK Library.
- Have open house hours in the evenings during special occasions!
- Work in cooperation with local businesses to get traffic flow going into the Coolidge Corner area.
- Something that draws people to the site on a regular basis would be good for childless people in Brookline. Use neighborhood associations to reach the community.
- This was perfect. I had a friend from India visit for her brother's graduation and luckily she was able to go with me to the open house! Perfect timing. Informative. It would be great to see signage in Coolidge Corner so more people would know about this place and more visitors could come visit.
- Brookline residents and out-of-town visitors enjoy the historic ambiance of the Kennedy neighborhood. What are your thoughts about ways that this value can be balanced with the modern needs of the community?