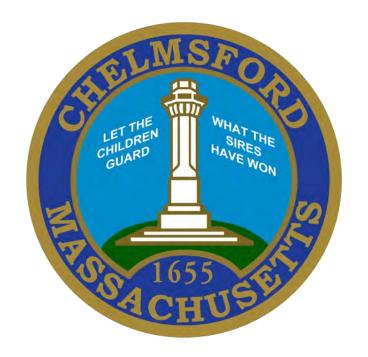
To be presented at Committee meeting scheduled for 4/09/20



# Roberts Field Advisory Committee April 09, 2020 Meeting

Revised: April 8, 2020

#### Meeting Agenda

- Call To Order Notification Of Live Broadcast/Recording
- Public Input
- RFAC Board Member Review
- Review Master Plan Improvements & Updates
- Review Remaining and Other Projects
  - DPW Plans for Sports Fields Installation
  - Updates on Friends of Roberts Field Projects
- Vote on any necessary topics
- Next Meeting Available Dates
- Adjourn



## Public Input

#### • Send email to: <a href="mailto:questions@robertsfield.org">questions@robertsfield.org</a>

Greetings,

Thank you so much for all the effort that has been put into the park! The community loves it!

I read over the latest information and I am happy to see the way forward. Knowing how the park has been used I wanted to add one comment. When parking gets full, people start parking on the grass and field. There was mention of adding additional parking. I wanted to also suggest fencing, gates, or barriers to prevent selfish people from driving right into the green areas.

Thanks again for all that your group is doing. It is a wonderful improvement to our community as a whole!

Thanks,

Kerry Zekser

#### RFAC Board Member Review

Co-Chair: Marcus Bush

Co-Chair: Elisabeth Bobrow

Secretary: Justin Whitehouse

Member: Bill Askenburg

Member: Adelle Stavis

Member: Tameka Grantham O'Brien

Member: Open seat

To apply to join the committee, contact:

Town Manager Paul Cohen

pcohen@townofchelmsford.us

(978) 250-5202

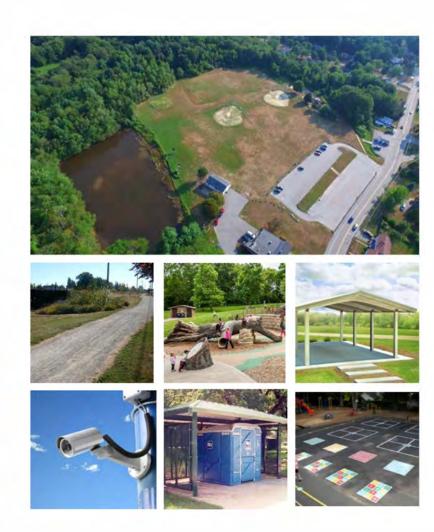


#### Master Plan Site Plan Drawing



#### Feature & Improvement Recommendation

- Larger Natural Playground
- Athletic Fields
- Pond Side Multi-Use Picnic Pavilion
- Walking Trail & Exercise Circuit
- Portable Bathroom Enclosure
- Hardscape Play Area
- Upper & Lower Parking Lots
- Engine #3 Driveway Area
- DPW Parks Garage
- Park Welcome Area
- Natural Park Area Improvements
- Safety Improvements



#### Committee Considered Park Feature & Improvement List (See Appendix CJ

Park Feature	Decision	Committee Notes
New, larger playground	Accept	Strong community support; primary objective of the master plan
Bathroom Facilities	Accept	Locate near the playground
More Parking (qualified)	Accept	Maximize parking in existing footprint; ensure adequate ADA parking, Land bank parking for future expansion if needed.
Security Cameras	Accept	Placement and server, monitored at CPD dispatch
Lighting	Accept	For security; no nighttime use of Park
Protected area for wildlife	Accept	Already in plans. Extend current Land Management practices to other areas of Park.
Basketball court	Accept	Half-court hoop combined with 4-Square, hopscotch, and fire fighter graphics. Might be great for older kids.
More open space	Accept	Keep park field area open but avoid removing trees
Interpretative Nature Trails	Accept	"Nature Walk" - ID animal tracks, trees & pollinators. Spring 2017 Eagle Scout project to add 18 birdhouses and 3 informational signs.
Picnic pavilion	Accept	Multi-use; strong community support; need for shade. Pond side and near playground
Walking Track	Accept	Strong community support; retains open space
Exercise Circuit Machines	Accept	Repair existing, add new machines to benefit adults and senior users
Bandstand/performance pavilion	Reject	"Chelmsford Community Band" and multi-use picnic pavilion. Community support but some abutter opposition 2-5 Vote Against.
Water Splash Pad	Reject	Duplicative, planned for Varney, limited seasonal use, limited single use, great potential to change character of the Park
Tennis Courts	Reject	Duplicative; removes green space
Bocce Ball Court	Reject	Duplicative; requires maintenance, limited single use
Beach Volleyball Court	Reject	Not multi-use; removes green space
Pony Size Baseball Field	Reject	CYBL is not looking for this size baseball field, not consistent with age group using Park, CYBL indicated need for two bball fields
Sports Field House	Reject	Removes green space; no interest from athletic groups, long term maintenance needs
Snack Shack	Reject	For events, but may harm business at the adjacent little store, and food trucks would be allowed. Location TBD, near bathrooms?
Cricket Field	Reject	Too large for field area, would exclude baseball and lacrosse field
Disc Golf Course	Reject	Not conducive to park layout, would interfere with other park users and require clearing natural areas

#### Roberts Field Parking Lot Traffic Study

- **CPD Parking Lot Traffic Study** conducted as part of 2017 Roberts Field Master Plan
  - The Chelmsford Police Department counted vehicles driving into parking lot from Old Westford Road using a road tube unit on the following dates
    - August 7 14, 2017 (before new playground)
    - August 23 29, 2019
- Existing parking lot spaces 98
  - Includes upper and lower parking lots and 3 handicap spaces (lower parking lot)
  - Master Plan proposed increasing parking spaces (113) with new painted lines (vertical orientation) and parking extension
  - Master Plan also included landbank of 4 additional spaces in lower parking lot near Engine 3 (TBD)
- DPW Assistant Director Steve Jahnle 10/24/19 update:
  - I'm not adding any additional pavement, just restriping the lot. The top will be angled and one way like it is now. It will have 2 handicap spots up top and 2 below. Also, up top will have 2 spots for the electric car charging station, assuming the grant comes thru. Should end up with right around that 98 spaces when done.





## CPD Roberts Field Parking Lot Traffic Study Results

August 7 - 14, 2017 (before new playground)

	/tuguot /	1-1, 2017 (50.	ore new play	ground						
									Entry Exit	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Vehicles	Adjusted	
12:00 AM	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	
1:00 AM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
2:00 AM	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	8	4	
3:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4:00 AM	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	
5:00 AM	0	5	6	0	2	0	0	13	7	14
6:00 AM	0	0	5	1	2	0	0	8	4	1
7:00 AM	6	3	5	8	6	1	0	29	15	l
8:00 AM	5	3	5	6	7	2	1	29	15	
9:00 AM	9	4	5	3	6	7	2	36	18	1
10:00 AM	7	3	9	7	8	4	7	45	23	
11:00 AM	12	6	9	8	5	10	3	53	27	100
12:00 PM	10	0	3	6	5	7	3	34	17	
1:00 PM	;	10	7	2	12	3	5	39	20	
2:00 PM	7	8	4	0	2	5	7	33	17	
3:00 PM	4	11	9	6	11	10	3	54		
4:00 PM	15	8	7	6	5	7	7	55		
5:00 PM	15	11	7	11	3	4	6	57	29	136
6:00 PM	5	2	3	4	6	1	5	25	13	
7:00 PM	7	4	6	8	3	6	7	41	21	
8:00 PM	2	0	0	7	3	3	3	18	9	
9:00 PM	2	2	0	0	0	2	2	8	4	
10:00 PM	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	
11:00 PM	3		1			3	5	12	6	53
Dav Total	114	85	91	86	87	74	68	605	303	
Entry/Exit		43	46	43	44	37	34	303	43.2	
Adj										]

August 23 - 29, 2019

			i			i				1
									Entry Exit	
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Vehicles	Adjusted	
12:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	
1:00 AM	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	2	
2:00 AM	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	2	
3:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4:00 AM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5:00 AM	1	0	2	1	1	0	1	6	3	
6:00 AM	4	5	4	5	6	2	1	27	14	
7:00 AM	4	9	11	10	5	2	0	41	21	
8:00 AM	6	10	9	8	8	5	7	53	27	
9:00 AM	20	4	12	5	5	27	10	83	42	
10:00 AM	20	26	23	36	16	27	30	178	89	
11:00 AM	63	42	39	48	39	44	50	325	163	35
12:00 PM	43	50	29	31	35	35	37	260	130	
1:00 PM	40	40	15	22	26	36	38	217	109	
2:00 PM	26	31	22	12	28	30	34	183	92	
3:00 PM	43	25	25	10	27	31	47	208	104	
4:00 PM	39	24	4	22	23	34	46	192	96	
5:00 PM	52	21	1	33	19	30	45	201	101	63
6:00 PM	38	30	2	43	21	33	38	205	103	
7:00 PM	24	14	3	21	22	30	27	141	71	
8:00 PM	9	3	2	4	2	1	3	24	12	
9:00 PM	1	3	0	1	2	1	5	13	7	
10:00 PM	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	8	4	
11:00 PM	1	2	49	0	1	0	0	53	27	22
Dav Total	435	339	253	313	287	378	422	2427	1214	
Entry/Exit Adj	218	170	127	157	144	189	211	1214	173.4	

- Entry Exit Adjusted = Total Vehicles divided by 2
- Total Vehicles could include bicycles







## Traffic Study: Future Parking Lot Demand

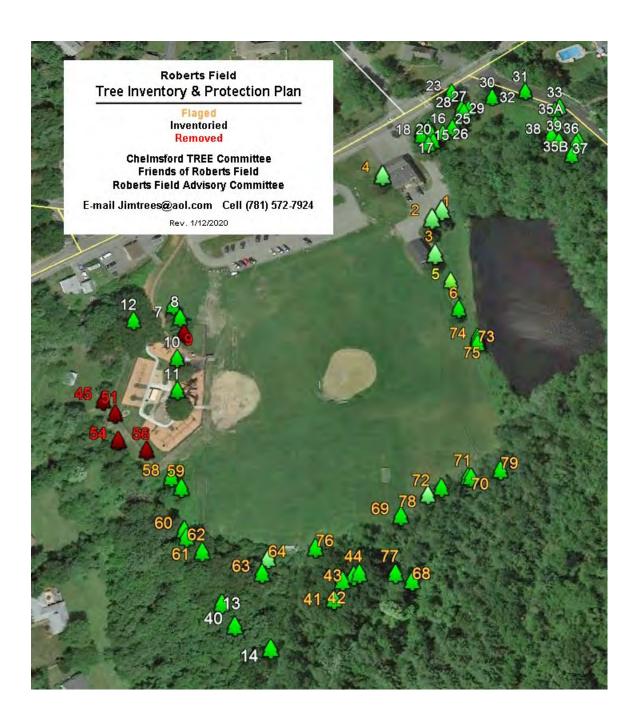
- FY21 planned opening of new ballfields creates new parking lot demand
  - Two baseball fields (Stakeholder: CYBA U12, March-October)
    - Weeknight practices and Saturday games requiring estimated 40 parking spaces each
  - Multi-sport lacrosse striped filed (Stakeholder: CYLA, Spring-Summer)
    - 5-6 games or practices per week requiring 50-60 parking spaces each
  - CYBA and CYLA coordinate game and practice schedules
- Existing parking space inventory (98) may accommodate new demand with exceptions during busy periods
  - Existing Saturday traffic is an average of 29 (high of 44)
  - Existing weeknight traffic is an average of 23 (high of 52)





# Protected Tree Inventory Update

- Protected Trees near anticipated construction area were marked in early January.
- Jim Martin



Phase 2 – DPW Site Plan Drawing w/ Protected Tree Inventory updates

#### Projects Update

- DPW Current Timeline/Action Plan:
  - Restripe parking lot, install HP signs (next few weeks)
  - Field Survey (completed)
  - Permitting with Chelmsford Conservation Commission (early March)
  - Irrigation well by garage dug (April/May)
  - Field fill and grading (mid July)
  - Irrigation lines installed, including playground and raised garden lines (August)
  - Seeding Infield clay, backstops, walking track and exercise equipment (September after Labor Day)
  - Athletic fields fenced off over winter, with walking track accessibility
- Questions?
  - Expectations for DPW coordination and oversight
  - Exercise Equipment Selection and Location

#### Existing Projects

- Security Cameras
- Pond dredging
- Refresh wooden picnic tables
- State Funding Advocacy
- Friends of Roberts Field
  - Founder Plaque
  - Kinetic Sculpture
  - Tree Walk Tags
  - Playground Gardens
  - Playground Signage
  - Shade Trees

#### New Projects?

- Playground sandbox drainage/overflow solution
- Replace tic tac toe log
- Invasive plant removal
- Pond side shade structure and seating
- Portable bathroom structure
- Park welcome area



## FORF Fundraising Update

- Friends of Roberts Field
  - Fundraising ended October 2019
  - Provided nearly a third of total playground project value
  - 42 playground sponsorships
  - 941 bricks sold
- \$90k paid to the Town
  - Approximately \$30k to be used for debt service of CPA bond at Spring Town Meeting
- Plus \$50k in FY20 State funds for Phase 2 improvements

Town CPA Account Expenditures	\$449,098.08
Town Revolving Account Expenditures	\$ 55,577.90
Total Town Expenditures	\$504,675.98
Planned Additional Town Expenditures	\$ 7,300.00
Total Town Playground Expenditures	\$511,975.98
Volunteer Sweat Equity	\$ 40,000.00
DPW Sweat Equity	\$ 75,000.00
Total Playground Value	\$626,975.98
FORF Funds Raised To Date	\$116,813.20
FORF In-kind Donations To Date	\$ 13,413.00
	\$130,226.20
FORF Value Add To Date	\$170,226.20
	27%

## Friends of Roberts Field Projects Updates

- Install Three Stone Benches
- Build/Install Founder Plaque and Stone
  - Plan Dedication Ceremony
- Approve/Build/Install Kinetic Sculpture
- Engrave/Install Tree Hunt Tags
- Design/Plant Butterfly and Five Senses Gardens
- Design/Print/Install Playground Signage
  - Install Bulletin Board
- Locate/Plant Five Shade Trees



#### Installed Sitting Stones

- Three granite benches installed around Butterfly Garden
  - With recessed sponsor plaque areas
- DPW picked-up and installed benches from LeMasurier Granite
- Bill A. to install sponsor plaques later this spring





## Build/Install Founder Plaque and Stone

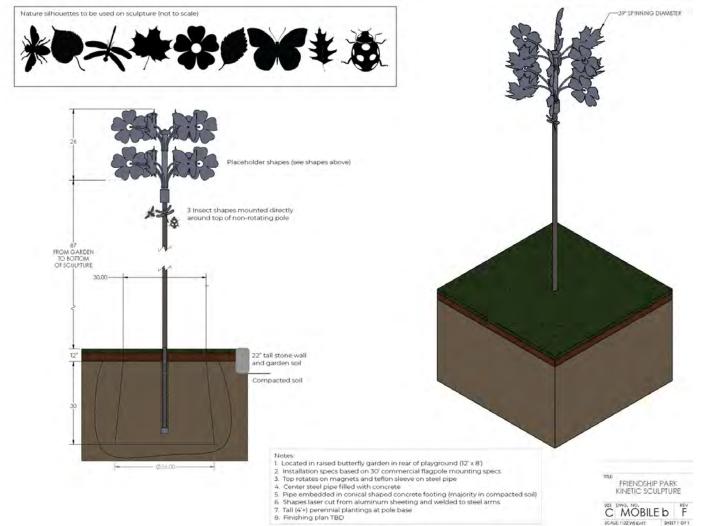
- LeMasurier to donate stone and plaque mounting
- DPW to pick-up and install when complete
  - Replaces temporary sponsor sign on brick pathway
- Plaque list being proofed
- Plaque to be ordered in late spring
- Installation Fall 2020
  - Plan Dedication Ceremony with Town Manager





# Kinetic Wind Sculpture

- Built by Christopher Ferreira and Joe McCarthy
- Volunteer installation
- Plan being reviewed by building commissioner
- Fabrication has begun
- Likely to be finished with color changing automotive paint
  - Yellow, green, orange, brown



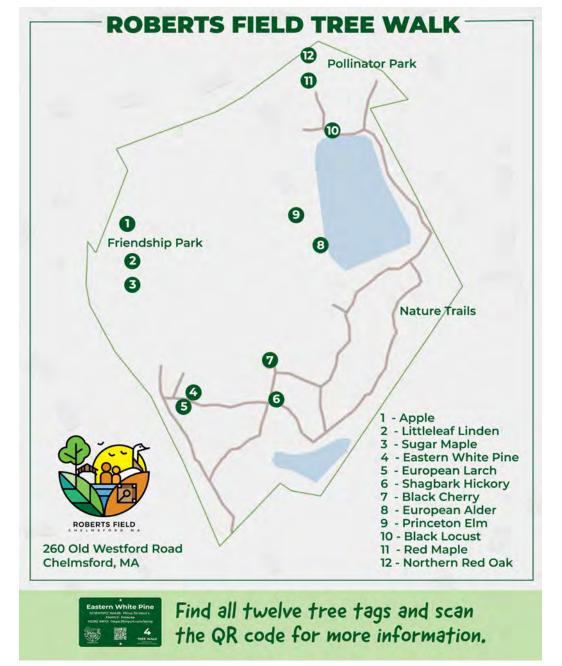




#### Tree Walk

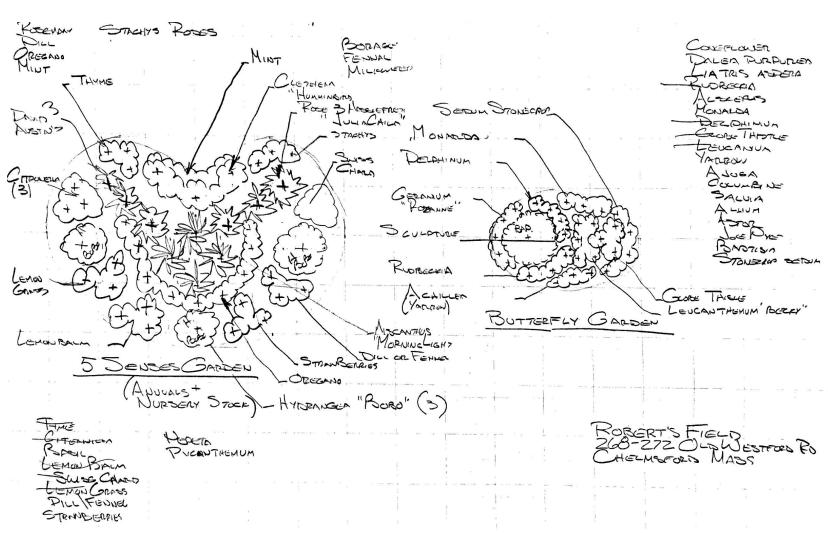
- 12 Tree Tags engraved and to be installed this spring
- Signs installed by summer





## Playground Garden Plan

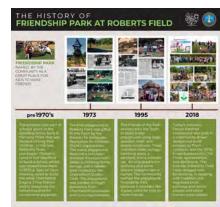
- Planting once irrigation system in place (Aug/Sep)
- Weston Nurseries provided planting design
- Includes paid and donated plants
- Sandie Rainey



## Playground Signage Drafts

- Install August/September (or sooner)
  - Install rubber bulletin board
  - Volunteer Installation
- Signs to be installed in playground
  - Map Kiosk (double sided)
    - Rules (updated)
    - History of Friendship Park
  - Natural Play Area (double sided)
    - Front Overview
    - Back Animal Tracks/Tree Walk
  - Garden Markers (2)
- Signs to be installed outside of playground
  - Walking Trails Map (updated)
  - Tree Walk (2 locations)
  - Pollinator Park
- Email feedback to bill@friendsofrobertsfield.org

















#### Main Playground Kiosk









#### THE HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP PARK AT ROBERTS FIELD







FRIENDSHIP PARK
NAMED BY THE
COMMUNITY AS A
GREAT PLACE FOR
KIDS TO MAKE
FRIENDS



1973





#### pre1970's

The property was part of a king's grant to the Spalding family back in the early 1700s that was divided among their children. In the late 1960s the Town purchased "Robert's Land at Old Westford" to build a school, which was moved elsewhere. Meeting voted to build the West Chelmsford Engine 3 Fire Station and to designate the remaining area for recreational purposes.

The first playground at Roberts Field was gifted to the Town by the Parents for Adequate Recreation for Children (PARC) organization. The metal playground featured a tall clown themed structure with slides, a climbing dome, swings, and a toddler area created by the Chelmsford Garden Club. The playground was funded through Chelmsford businesses and civic organizations.

The Friends of the Park worked with the Town to build a new playground using large wooden, steel, and plastic structures. These included slides, swings, climbing areas, a sandbox, and a wooden car. An engraved brick pathway and stone marker featured donor names. The community named the playground Friendship Park because it sounded like a great place for kids to make friends.

1995

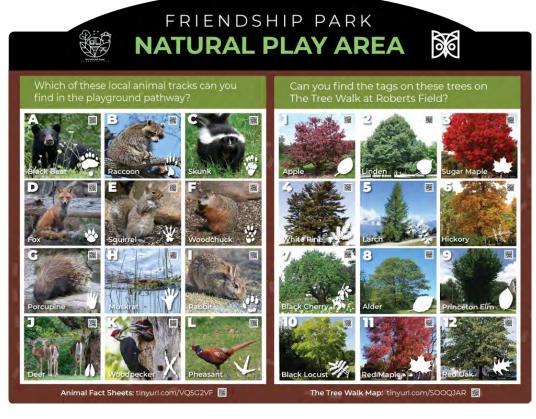
Today's inclusive, nature themed playground was built in a community driven design and build process by Town residents and the DPW. It was funded with CPA funds, sponsorships, and donations. The Friends of Roberts Field were charged with engraved brick pathway and donor plaque and stone marker were added.

2018

26" x 42" 36" x 34" 22

#### Natural Play Area





48" x 38"





8" x 7.25"



# Outside of Playground









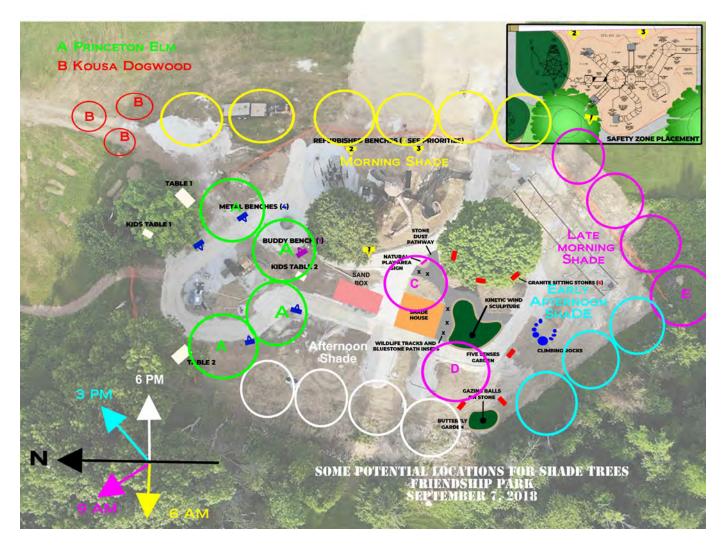




10" x 12"

#### Locate/Plant Five Shade Trees

- Plant 5 trees in and around playground to provide future shade
- Irrigation available in August
- \$1k earmarked with Town
- Jim Martin/Tree Committee to provide location and species selection
  - Coordinate with DPW
- Coordinate purchase and facilitate volunteer installation



# Next Meeting Available Dates