



Roberts Field Advisory Committee  
*June 18th, 2020 Meeting*

# Meeting Agenda

- Call To Order – Notification Of Live Broadcast/Recording
- Public Input
- RFAC members
- Updates from DPW
- Projects Review
- Friendship Park Public Health Guidelines
- Vote on any necessary topics
- Next Meeting Dates/Agenda
- Adjourn



# Public Input

- Send email to:

[questions@robertsfield.org](mailto:questions@robertsfield.org)



# RFAC Board Members



Co-Chair: Marcus Bush

Co-Chair: Elisabeth Bobrow

Secretary: Justin Whitehouse

Member: Bill Askenburg

Member: Adelle Stavis

Member: Tameka Grantham O'Brien

Member: Barry Jefferson – Approved

To apply to join the committee, contact:

Town Manager Paul Cohen

[pcohen@townofchelmsford.us](mailto:pcohen@townofchelmsford.us)

(978) 250-5202

# Q&A with DPW



- Jim mentioned seeding the grassy area around the tree in the Natural Play Area during our meeting. Is this something that can be done while the playground is closed?
- Can you send over the list of exercise equipment you referenced in your last email?
- The committee would like to know if the Irrigation vendor has been selected yet or if there will be and RFP process. if a vendor has been selected can you please share with me who that is? if there will be an RFP process can you provide me with a copy of the RFP?
- Jim is very concerned about the trees. If we are not able to use much to protect the roots what alternative ideas do you have? Would it be possible to add mulch if we put a sign on the tree stating it was not play equipment?
- Bill asked if we could have the old seating from the T-ball field removed. Adele shared that it's an attractive nuisance.
- Can you include the Pond Side Pavilion on the phase 2 layout?
- Do you know if there are any plans to expand Engine #3 which would impede the hardscape play area planned for phase 2?

# DPW Updates

- Restripe parking lot (Completed)
- Field Survey (completed)
- **Permitting with Chelmsford Conservation Commission** (there are no firm dates at this point, all field construction projects are projected to be delayed a year)
- **Irrigation well by garage dug** (Delayed due to permitting issues)
- **Field fill and grading** (Delayed due to permitting issues)
- **Irrigation lines installed, including playground and raised garden lines** (Delayed due to permitting issues)
- **Seeding Infield clay, backstops, walking track and exercise equipment** (September after Labor Day)
- **Security Cameras** (TBD)
- **Pond Dredging** (TBD)
- **Invasive Plants removal** (TBD)
- **Portable Bathroom Structure** (TBD – most likely will have to be a volunteer project )



# Projects Review

- Grants & Fundraising
- Pond side shade multi-use picnic pavilion
- Portable bathroom enclosure
- Hardscape Play Area
- Upper & Lower Parking Lots
- Park welcome area
- Park Signage
- Sandbox Flooding
- Volunteer Projects



Total estimated budget \$140k - \$224k

Master Plan Improvements	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget			Est. Annual Maintenance
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High		
Pond Side Multi-Use Pavilion	\$ 18,900	\$ 29,610	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 19,250	\$ 29,960	13%	
Portable Bathroom Facility	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 7,850	\$ 10,350	5%	\$ 1,860
Hardscape Play Area	\$ 17,575	\$ 20,175	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 17,925	\$ 20,525	9%	
Upper & Lower Parking Lots	\$ 14,754	\$ 15,490	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 15,754	\$ 21,990	10%	
Park Welcome Area	\$ 17,625	\$ 25,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,625	\$ 25,125	11%	
Natural Areas of the Park	\$ 59,750	\$ 114,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 60,950	\$ 115,200	52%	\$ 1,200
	\$ 136,104	\$ 214,400	\$ 3,250	\$ 8,750	\$ 139,354	\$ 223,150	100%	\$ 3,060

# Grants & Fundraising



## Grants:

- Environmental Grant
- \$6,000 Shade Grant – Dermatological Association (missed in March)
- \$100K Lowes Parks and Community Grant
- Survey to show visitors from surrounding towns (Review Questions)

## Fundraising:

- Donation Items for purchase
- Buy a Brick campaign for the path to the Pavilion



# Survey Questions



## How Would You Improve Roberts Field in Chelmsford? DRAFT

How do you use the Park and what improvements are important to you?

The Roberts Field Advisory Committee would like your input on how you use Roberts Field and what improvements you would like to see made to the park. Your feedback will help to prioritize and seek funding for future improvements.

**\* 1. Please provide your zipcode.**

**2. How often do you participate in activities at Roberts Field?**

- Extremely often
- Very often
- Moderately often
- Slightly often
- Not at all often

# Survey Questions



### 3. What types of activities do you participate in at Roberts Field? (Select all that apply)

- Bring children to Friendship Park playground
- Exercise on circuit machines
- Play lacrosse, baseball or soccer
- Walk on the trails
- Walk dogs
- Enjoy the natural open spaces
- Ice skate
- Sit pond side
- Run/Jog
- Birdwatching
- Kite flying or frisbee play
- Other (please specify)

# Survey Questions



4. Which of the planned future Park improvements are important to you? (Select all that apply)

- Two baseball fields with backstops and in-field fencing
- Multi-use lacrosse field and safety goal netting
- Crushed stone walking track (.35 mi)
- Invasive plant removal (bittersweet, poison ivy, etc.)
- New gardens and tree plantings
- Park community welcome area near The Shack and parking lot
- Pond dredging and aeration fountains to improve pond ecology
- Irrigation system (athletic fields and gardens)
- Hardscape play area with half court basketball court
- Multi-station exercise circuit on walking track
- Interpretative nature trails and tree walk
- New Park and information signage
- Seating around walking track
- Pondsides multi-use shade pavilion
- More parking and restriped parking lots
- Surveillance video cameras
- Other (please specify)

5. Do you have any other thoughts, questions or concerns about improving Roberts Field?

# Pond Side Multi-Use Picnic Pavilion & Benches

- 20' x 28' Multi-use Pavilion with three removable picnic table picnic/seating area, winter skate seating, and performance area for small bands or theatre performances. Replace three pond side benches. (\$19k-\$30k)
- Expectations:
  - Includes electricity and interior lighting (timer/switch in garage)
  - (4) picnic tables
  - No walls
  - Consistent Park wooden structure style
    - Minimal visual obstruction
  - 4 pond side sitting stone benches
  - Nearby garbage can
  - ADA compliant connecting path to walking path
  - To be built when funds and DPW are available



Pavilion design like playground shade structure



I: Pond Side Multi-Use Pavilion Feature Information	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget		Est Yearly Maint Cost
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	
20'x28' Pavilion (low - wood \$12.7k, high - metal \$22.6k) with power and interior lights	\$ 12,700	\$ 22,600					
(4) Picnic Tables (6' or 8' metal - \$1000-\$1040)	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,160					
(1) garbage bin and footer			\$ 350	\$ 350			
Skate Shack Garden granite edging	\$ 600	\$ 1,250					
(4) Pond side sitting stones (stone \$400 each)	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600					
<b>Maintenance: Garden - TBD, All Other - Town</b>							
					\$ 19,250	\$ 29,960	14%

# Portable Bathroom Enclosure

- Shade structure to house two portable bathrooms with bench for seating or diaper changing. (\$7.5k - \$10k)
- Expectations
  - Parking lot access
  - Consistent Park structure style
  - Walls with some visibility
  - Nearby garbage can and bike rack
  - Located in front of Park, near parking lot, playground and Welcome Area
  - ADA handicap portable bathroom units
  - To be built when funds are available and/or volunteers are identified



Pavilion design TBD



II. Portable Bathroom Facility	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget		%	Est Yearly Maint Cost
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High		
Feature Information	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 7,850	\$ 10,350	5%	\$ 1,860
Portable bathroom enclosure (large enough for 2 handicap units, bench seating, screened walls)	\$ 7,500	\$ 10,000						
(1) garbage bin and footer - reuse			\$ 350	\$ 350				
(2) handicapped portable bathroom rental (cost noted in maintenance)								
Bike rack - reuse from playground								
Maintenance: Cost = Bathroom Rental (Handicap \$105/month, reg \$50; clean and stock once a week), Garden - TBD, All Other - Town							5	\$ 1,860

# Hardscape Play Area

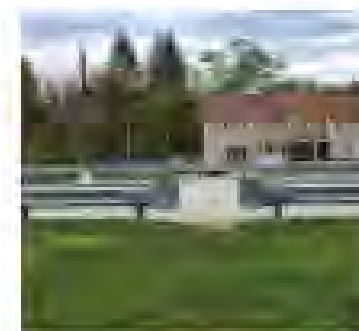
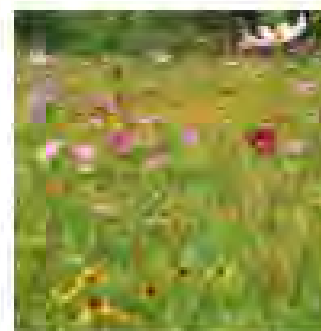
- Half court basketball court and hardscape play area adjacent to Engine #3 and the DPW garage. (\$18k - \$21k)
- Expectations
  - Painted games like four square & snakes and ladders
    - Fire Station or Nature themed CHS Art class paint project
  - Single basketball goal on gooseneck pole
  - Nearby bike racks and garbage can
  - Park Rules sign (hours, vehicle access, parking, dogs)
  - To be built when funds and DPW are available



III. Hardscape Play Area Feature Information	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget		Est Yearly Maint Cost
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	
Next to Engine #3 (grade, gravel, 3.5Inches mix, lined, hoop, half basketball court, four square)	\$ 17,575	\$ 20,175	\$ 350	\$ 350	\$ 17,925	\$ 20,525	9%
Bike rack - reuse from Town inventory	\$ 17,500	\$ 20,000					
Park Rules sign (\$75 - \$175 hours, vehicle access, parking, dogs) (1) garbage bin and footer	\$ 75	\$ 175	\$ 350	\$ 350			
<i>Maintenance: Garden - TBD, All Other - Town</i>							

# Upper and Lower Parking Deck

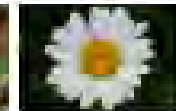
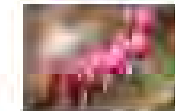
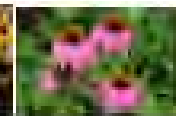
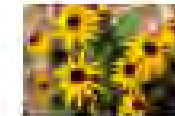
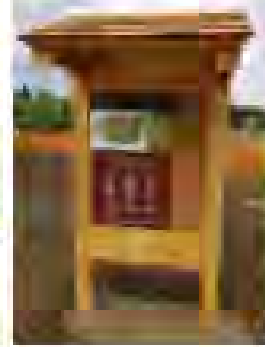
- Add additional parking spaces, restripe upper and lower parking deck and replace upper parking lot metal guardrails with wooden guardrails. (\$15k-\$16k)
- Expectations
  - Existing parking spaces: 93
  - Proposed parking spaces: 113
  - Handicap parking spaces: 3
  - Land Bank parking spaces: 4
  - New painted lines (vertical orientation)
  - New upper parking lot wooden guardrails (stained white wood)
  - Maintain field access points from parking lot (stretcher width)
  - Hydroseeded plantings under guardrails and between upper and lower parking lot (flowering meadow roadside mix)
    - (2) property signs (certified pollinator habitat)
  - Replace existing damaged Parking Lot Sign "Roberts Field"
  - Blocked vehicle field access from new parking lot side wooden guardrails
  - To be built when funds and DPW are available



IV. Upper & Lower Parking Lots	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget		Est Yearly Maint Cost
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	
Feature Information	\$ 14,754	\$ 15,490	\$ 1,000	\$ 6,500	\$ 15,754	\$ 21,990	10%
White wooden parking lot guardrails (requires staining)	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500					
Restripe upper and lower parking lots (low - paint, high - thermo)			\$ 500	\$ 6,000			
Replace sign (\$500 "Roberts Field") and add (2) property signs (\$75 each "Certified Pollinator Habitat")	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 500	\$ 500			
Landscaping (guardrails & upper/lower parking lots - Flowering roadside seed mix 9200 sqft x \$.12-\$.20)	\$ 1,104	\$ 1,840					
<b>Maintenance: All Other - Town</b>							7

# Park Welcome/Community Area

- Create Park Welcome/Community Area (\$18k-\$25k)
- Expectations
  - Add Information Kiosk
  - Add “Roberts Field” stone marker and rock seating
  - Add driveway garden
  - Locate bathrooms
  - Add “New England Covered Bridge” to pedestrian bridge that connects to store
    - Joint project approval with “The Shack” and Town
    - Bridge and roof should be ADA compliant
  - Add spiral meditation labyrinth
  - To be built when funds and DPW are available

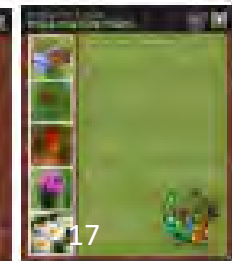
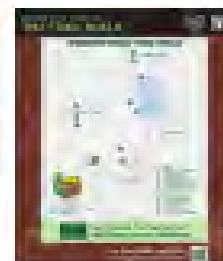


V. Park Community/Welcome Area	Master Plan Budget		Town Budget		Total Budget		Est Yearly Maint Cost
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	
Feature Information	\$ 17,625	\$ 25,125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,625	\$ 25,125	11%
“New England Covered Bridge” addition for store bridge	\$ 12,500	\$ 18,000					
Drive way garden	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,000					
“Roberts Field” stone marker (Etched Stone - \$1200)	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200					
(4) Sitting Stones (1 here and rest added around walking track)	\$ 1,600	\$ 1,600					
Meditation labrynth (stones from DPW)	\$ 500	\$ 1,000					
(1) garbage bin and footer - reuse	\$ -	\$ -					
Information Kiosk (Kiosk (\$250) Park Map, Park Events; Sign (\$75) rules)	\$ 325	\$ 325					
<b>Maintenance: Garden - TBD, All Other - Town</b>							



# Playground Signage Plan

- Installed August/September (or sooner)
  - Printed on ½” black pvc stock (except “Sanctuary” sign 1/8” stock)
  - Also install rubber bulletin board on Map Kiosk
  - Volunteer Installation
- Signs inside of playground
  - Map Kiosk (double sided)
    - Front - Rules (updated)
    - Back - History of Friendship Park
  - Natural Play Area (double sided)
    - Front - Overview
    - Back - Animal Tracks/Tree Walk
  - Garden Markers (5)
- Signs outside of playground
  - Walking Trails Map (updated)
  - Tree Walk Map (2 locations)
  - Pollinator Park



# Main Playground Kiosk



Front



Back

WELCOME TO **FRIENDSHIP PARK**

Friendship Park playground features the award-winning design for municipalities, a large playground that children and caregivers of all abilities can enjoy together.

We hope you and your family will make many memories and enjoy many more years!

## PLAYGROUND RULES

Please use playground area at your own risk. Do not use equipment when it is wet or when ground is frozen.

 <b>HOURS</b> Playground is open from 6:00am to 6:00pm	 <b>EMERGENCY</b> In the event of an emergency, call 911	 <b>NO ALCOHOL</b> No glass or alcoholic beverages
 <b>NO LITTERING</b> Put it all in or recycle it	 <b>SUPERVISE</b> Always supervise children at all times	 <b>NO PETS</b> No pets allowed on the playground
 <b>NO BICYCLES</b> No bicycles, skateboards, or scooters allowed in the play area	 <b>NO TOBACCO</b> No tobacco products or drugs permitted on the premises	 <b>WARNING</b> Heads, hands, feet, wheels, wheels and jewelry may catch and injure! Please be careful.

Users of this recreation area assume all liability for any losses. Contact Chelmsford DPW with questions or concerns: (978) 250-5228.

26" x 42"

## THE HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP PARK AT ROBERTS FIELD

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

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. In 1970, a Special Town Meeting voted to build the West Chelmsford Engine 3 Fire Station and to designate the remaining area for recreational purposes.

1973

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 donations from Chelmsford businesses and civic organizations.

1995

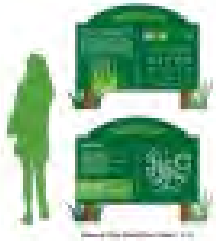
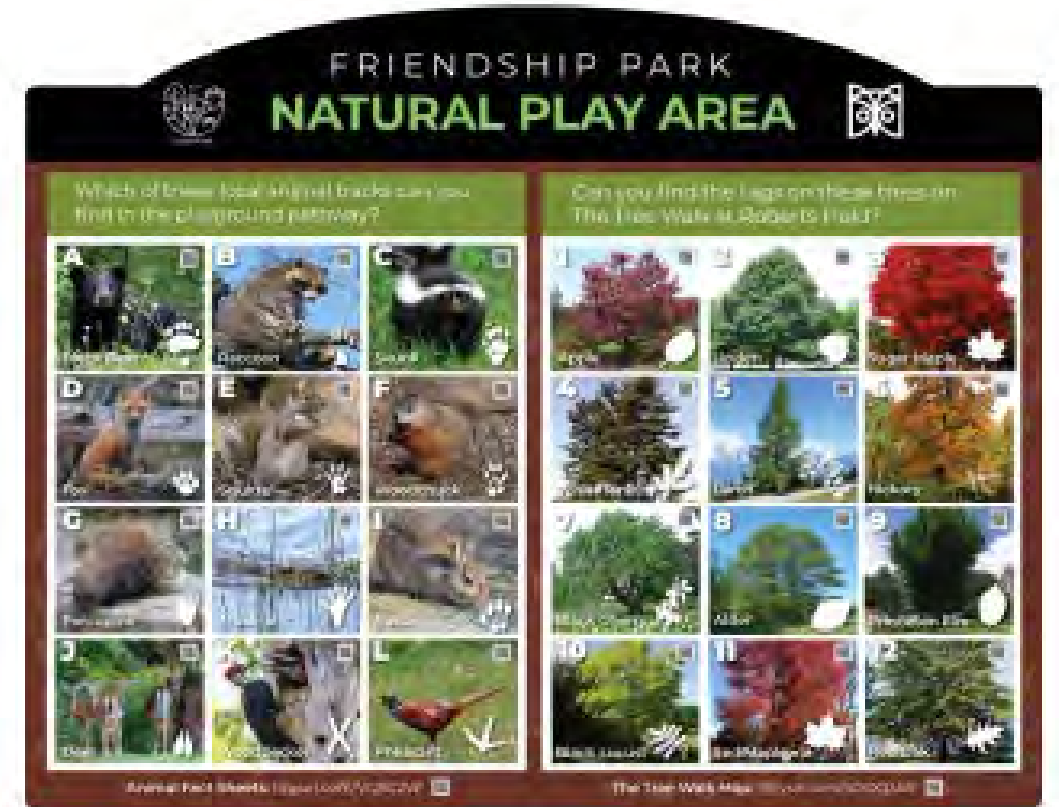
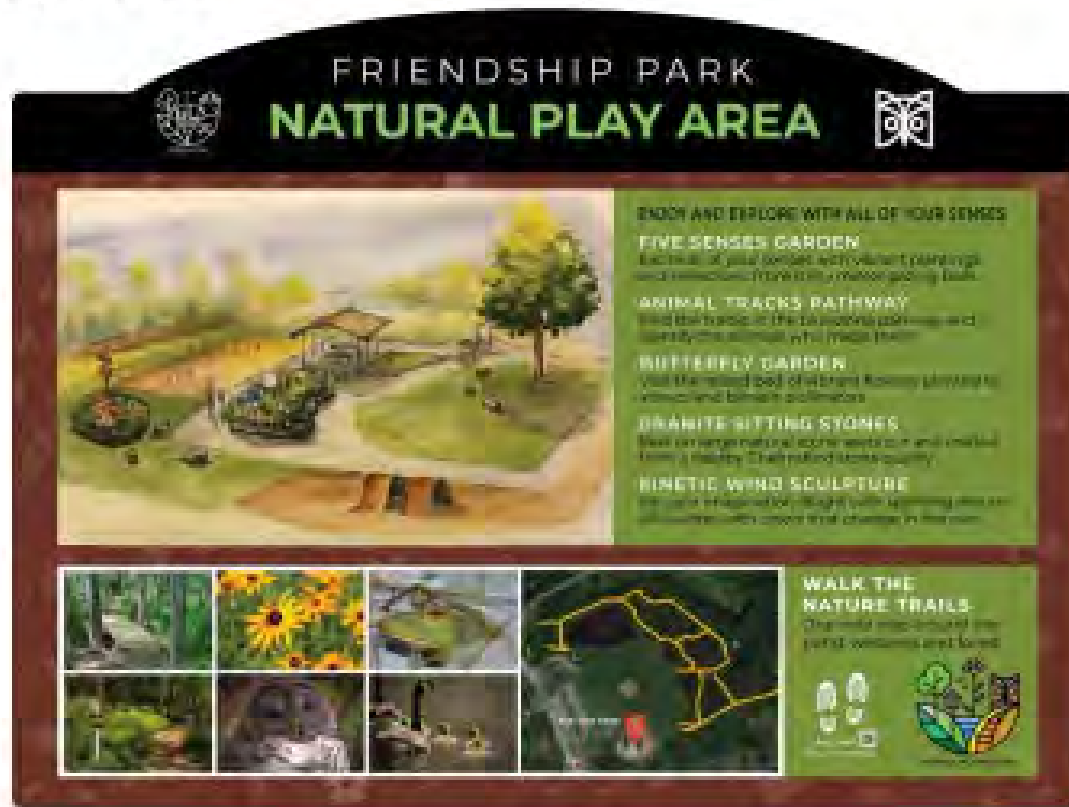
The Friends of the Park worked with the Town to build a new playground using large wooden, steel, and plastic structures. These included slides, swings, climbing areas, a sandbox, and a wooden car. An engraved brick pathway and stone marker featured donor names. The community named the playground Friendship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

2018

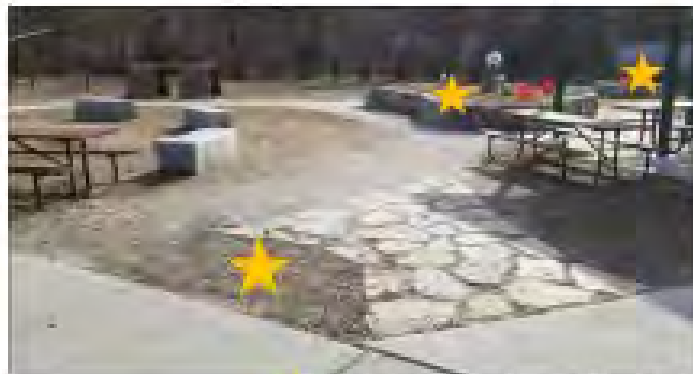
Today's inclusive, nature-themed playground was built in a community driven design and build process by Town residents and the DPW. It was funded with CPA funds, sponsorships, and donations. The Friends of Roberts Field were charged with fundraising. In keeping with tradition, the engraved brick pathway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

36" x 34"

# Natural Play Area



48" x 38"



★ Stars represent sign locations



Three Five Senses Garden Markers

8" x 7.25"



Two Butterfly Garden Markers

# Outside of Playground



**ROBERTS FIELD THE WILDLIFE SANCTUARY**

**A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY HABITAT**

- Flowering Native Plants
- Wild Flowers
- Bat Houses
- Fruit Plants
- Nest Boxes
- Downy Logs

**Wildlife Benefits (Food, Shelter & Space)**

- Seeps** - a standing dead tree after filled with insects and commonly used for shelter by woodpeckers and cavity nesters
- Brush Piles** - shelter and cover for ground nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians, chipmunks, rabbits, and other small mammals.

**Roberts Field Nature Trail**

One mile trail through woods and wetlands with wildlife friendly features and native plantings.

Roberts Field is a wildlife friendly habitat managed to protect and provide food, shelter, and space to wildlife. Pollinator Park borders the wetlands, and attracts and provides refuge for bees, butterflies, and other important pollinators. The walking trail winds through the wetlands and woodlands, which is habitat for squirrels, deer, rabbits, owls, hawks, turkeys, frogs, snakes, turtles and occasionally bears and bobcats. Please be respectful to wildlife; give them space and only leave your footprints.

The volunteer group Friends of Roberts Field help maintain this area with the support of the Town of Chelmsford. Visit [www.FriendsOfRobertsField.org](http://www.FriendsOfRobertsField.org) for more information.

**LEAVES OF THREE LET IT BE**

Use Caution Stay on Trails Wash up Cover Skin

**POISON IVY**

**WARNING**

TICKS MAY BE FOUND IN THIS AREA

To avoid tick bites: Wear insect repellent, use a tick check, and get promptly treated with antibiotics. TICKS CAN TRANSMIT LYME DISEASE

★ Stars represent sign locations

33" x 27" (printed on 1/8" stock)

**ROBERTS FIELD THE TREE WALK**

Find all the trees that are on the map and see the QR code for more information.

The Tree Walk Map Link: <http://tinyurl.com/22329444>

**ROBERTS FIELD POLLINATOR PARK**

10" x 12"

# Friendship Park Sandbox Improvement



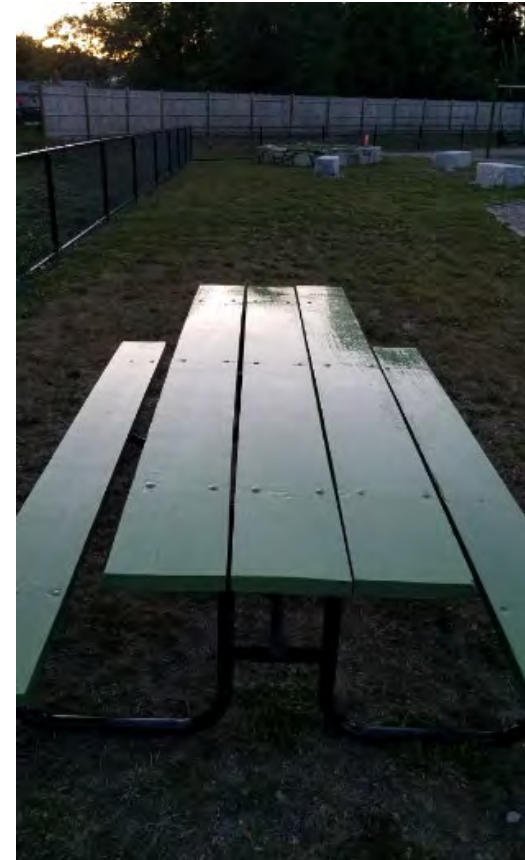
**Problem:** The issue is not the water level; it is the sand level. Putting in better drainage is a complex and expensive action that will not alleviate the issue. The water actually dissipates adequately today. The proper corrective action is to elevate the sand platform so that the play area is well above the water table.

## **Solution Constraints:**

- The modified sandbox needs to remain ADA compliant, which means that it must properly serve anyone with special needs. Specifically, the sand surface and diggers must remain as accessible as they are now.
- The modified sandbox cannot introduce any hazards such as falling, wood splinters, or exposure to hazardous substances (e.g., pressure treating chemicals).
- The modified sandbox needs to minimize sand spillage to surrounding walkways.
- The corrective steps need to be cost effective. This includes minimal changes to the surrounding areas including walkways and hardscape surfaces.

# Volunteer Projects

- Portable Bathroom Enclosure
- Covered Bridge for the welcome area
- Fence Staining
- Picnic Table refurbishing (1 completed)
- Weeding
- FORF Activities



# Friendship Park Reopening Public Health Guidelines



## PLAYGROUND GUIDELINES

In accordance with guidelines issued by Governor Baker and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

- DO NOT enter the playground if you feel sick in any way
- All Visitors over age 2 years MUST wear masks when social distancing of 6 ft cannot be maintained
- Adults supervising children should monitor children for social distancing and the requirement for face masks
- Please use hand sanitizer before and after playground use
- If this playground is crowded and social distancing of 6 ft cannot be maintained, you are required to seek an alternate playground

Failure to comply with the above guidelines will result in closure of the playground.

# Next Meeting Dates/Agenda

What goals do we want to achieve before our next meeting?

What will our agenda and action items be for our next meeting?

When do we want to meet next?