

July 14, 2020

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members,

Attached please find an application for the "Roosevelt Community Park" project. The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate a park that can be accessed by the entire community. It will provide an environmentally friendly atmosphere that demonstrates the community's desire to maintain its valuable green space and to promote sustainable development.

As we venture through the Covid19 pandemic, our community has developed a deep appreciation for our parks and green space. This project would give bikers and walkers on the adjacent bike trail a place to stop and rest under a tree canopy, play at the playground, shoot some hoops, exercise, practice Tai Chi or enjoy the garden area.

Should the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation agree to apply funding for this project, we feel the garden/wetlands area, which would serve as a butterfly garden and wetlands experimentation area, could be appropriately named, the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Garden, to reflect her love of botany and trees.

Some of the site work has already been completed on this project (\$250K for site work and design) which includes soil testing and drainage investigation. Comparative investigations revealed that natural grass sod is equivalent in cost to an artificial turf option. Recreational and park planners, consulted by the Friends of Roosevelt Park, have concluded that grass is certainly a viable option and grass turf field experts (local and nationally recognized) have provided research and data to support renovating with grass. Reestablishing a parks department in the City of Malden would assure a maintenance plan to keep our parks as beautiful as they once were when we had a department focused on upkeep. Our parks are an asset to our City and they are what residents are drawn to when settling in an urban setting.

In addition, a grass field, a tree canopy and a garden area will alleviate flooding which occurs in the park area and the adjoining neighborhood. The Malden Vulnerability Plan outlines Roosevelt Park as key to mitigating flooding. With drainage updates and a grass field the area will be in a better position to mitigate flooding and to move toward the goal of modifying the effects of climate change and move closer to sustainable development.

Other aspects of this project would include a basketball court (with a penetrable base) for area youth and Salemwood School students to enjoy, a stage or amphitheater with benches which could provide a place for performances, and a grass field for softball or baseball games.

The Mayor and City Council have agreed that this park is in need of rehabilitation. With the support of our City of Malden leadership, this vision for a community park could come to fruition for our residents to enjoy in multiple ways.

We believe "Roosevelt Community Park" is eligible for significant funding from a Massachusetts PARC grant, up to \$400,000 in funding sources. The City of Malden already has a PARC grant application on file, and now that Malden is a Community Preservation community our eligibility is enhanced. The deadline for PARC Grant financial assistance to municipalities for the acquisition of recreation land, development of new parks, or the renovation of existing parks is Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 3:00 pm.

We appreciate the work done by the Community Preservation Committee across the City and we look forward to working with the committee and the City for directional support to enhance Roosevelt Park for the entire community to enjoy.

Sincerely yours,

The Friends of Roosevelt Park and the Salemwood School Community

Stefanie Alberto	Annie and Joe Oppedisano
Kari Percival	Susan Noonan
Anita LaFauci	John Saia
Ann Schiro	Amanda, Marie, and Biff Maffeo
Kathleen and Robert Sullivan	Sarah Strayer
Danyal Najmi	Cathy and Brian MacDonald
Ariane Taylor	Mary Jo Kouzimi
Joan Coburn	Lara Thompson
Kelsey Menon	Susan Nysten

Penny Kalman

List for Proposed Improvements/Renovations/Rehabilitation

1. Bike Trail Rest Area with benches, bike racks, tree canopy
2. Basketball Court
3. A second playground area for young children (similar to Linden Park)
4. A stage or amphitheater for community and school performances, or exercise classes with benches
5. Grass field and for softball or baseball games.
6. Adelaide Breed Bayrd Outdoor Nature Garden/classroom with native wildflower/pollinator garden, birdhouse area, wetland bird viewing area, entrance to wetland area, shaded by trees already growing there and more native trees added.
7. Composting area for use in the garden. Vegetable and fruit waste from school breakfast and lunches.
8. Dog Park

https://www.turi.org/Our_Work/Community/Artificial_Turf UMASS TURI, Toxic Use Reduction Institute

<https://www.naturalgrass.org/about> , National Grass Advisory

PARC Grants -

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program-bid-fy-21/download>

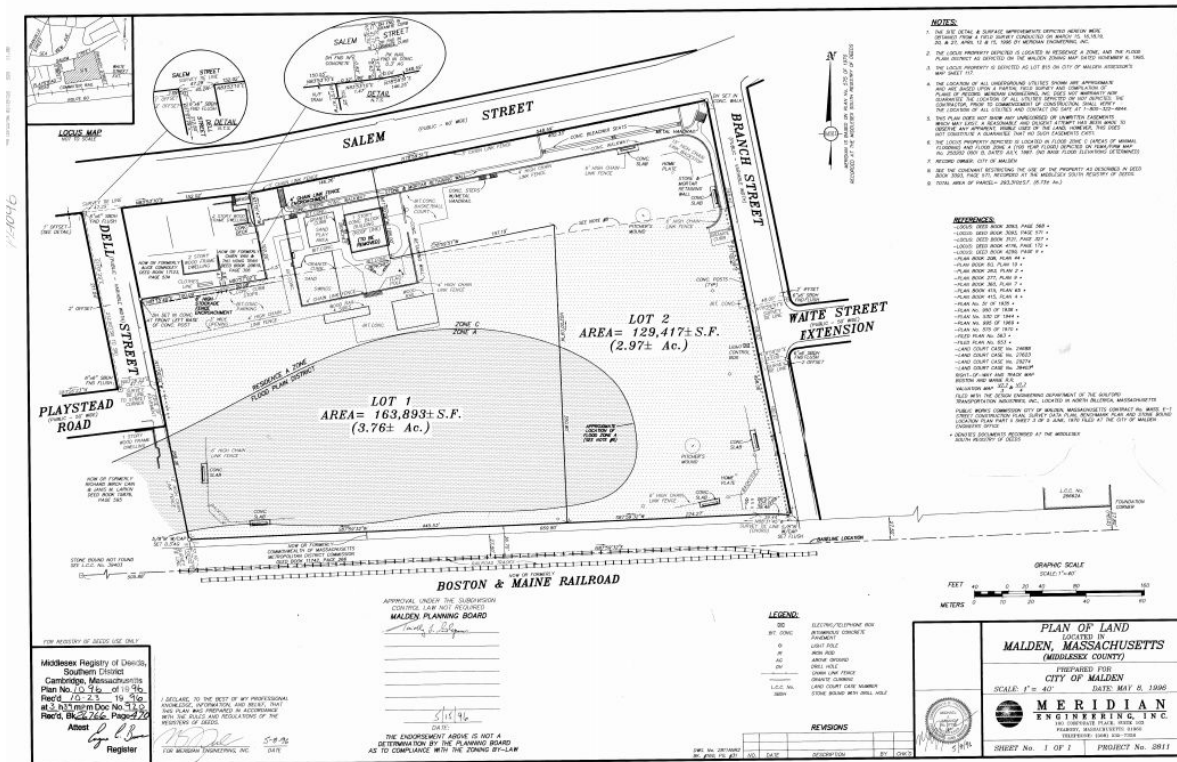
Roosevelt Community Park

Concept Rendering



Roosevelt Community Park (Preliminary Sample Design)

- 1) Ball Field
- 2) 100 yd sprinting, warmup track
- 3) Outdoor Classroom A
- 4) Gathering Place (Size of basketball full court, Outdoor Classroom B)
- 5) Bioswale, Botanical Accents
- 6) 27 Trees, about 25 feet in diameter



Statements From City Officials

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From Councillor DeMaria

“ I will continue to say, I support real, fresh grass and the beauty and wellness of what city parks bring to a community. Having said that, I believe this new re-designed project offers the CPC (our community) a choice.

Further, with the future of an enlarged Parks Department, we will be able to put residents to work.

Debbie DeMaria

Councillor At Large

781-953-9474”

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From Councillor Linehan

“To the esteemed members of the CPC:

I write today to express my support for the pre-application proposal to explore more deeply a natural grass alternative for the future of Roosevelt Park. Emphasizing a natural grass option while building upon the existing investment of CPA dollars at the site could provide the City with critical cost comparison information to guide its future rehabilitation of the entire Roosevelt property, to the benefit of the adjacent school community, the local recreation ecosystem, and the surrounding neighborhood and city as a whole. Fully vetting the cost to install and maintain natural grass -- while laying out clearly the trade-offs in environmental impact and time for sports, recess, learning and passive recreation -- is in alignment with our recent Municipal Vulnerability and Open Space and Recreation plans, both of which focus on climate resilience, stormwater management, equity for Environmental Justice communities, and investment in a broader park management strategy for Malden.

Amanda LinehanWard 3 City Councillor

alinehan@cityofmalden.org

781-873-9224

She/Her/Hers”

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From Councillor O'Malley



Ryan O'Malley
Councillor-Ward Four

City of Malden
Massachusetts

Malden City Council
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, Massachusetts 02148



Phone (781) 870-0041
Email romalley@cityofmalden.org

July 14, 2020

Community Preservation Committee
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Honorable Members of the Community Preservation Committee,

I write in wholehearted support of the Roosevelt Community Park pre-application which is being submitted by the Friends of Roosevelt Park for immediate consideration by the Committee in line with the precedent set for accepting off-cycle applications. As you will see from the pre-application this proposal differs from previous applications submitted for Roosevelt Park in that it is community driven and supported by a wide range of community leaders who are directly impacted by the future of Roosevelt Park at the Salemwood K-8 School. Community members come from different ethnic backgrounds, faiths, and socio-economic statuses representing a literal and actual grassroots movement to save Roosevelt Park.

The Friends of Roosevelt Park are fighting the good fight to preserve our limited and immensely valuable open space from unnecessary destruction. The fight they are waging goes back decades and even centuries in Malden. Fellow Maldonian, Sylvester Baxter was the chief architect of the Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston which is now the system of reservations, parks, parkways and roads under the control of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Baxter's foresight left Malden and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with thousands of acres of permanently protected open space. Many of our local parks exist because of the work of Baxter and other Maldonians who could see the big picture.

Unfortunately, a few decades ago a campaign, that would have likely been condemned by Baxter, was waged to dispossess Maldonians of many of our public assets like schools and parks. When the Salemwood, Ferryway, and the other K-8 schools were being planned by the administration of Mayor Richard Howard back in the 1990's, the community fought for years to protect our open spaces like Roosevelt Park and Ferryway Green. We now know that these preservation efforts were unsuccessful because of powerful special interests who wanted to take advantage of the disposition of our original 1800's elementary and junior high schools. We now have fewer parks and schools than we did before this massive transfer of public assets into the hands of private developers.

Now is the time to put an end to special interests taking advantage of our community by dictating what they want behind the scenes while completely ignoring what the vast majority of Malden residents need and demand: natural, living open space; not plastic grass. The Community Preservation Committee has the chance to course correct and prove to the community that it will live up to the mission of the Community Preservation Act and help preserve our community.

Sincerely,

Ryan O'Malley

Funding Overview

Funding for the “Roosevelt Community Park” project is similar to the previous “Roosevelt Park Improvement Project” - with the difference being the availability of \$400,000 in grant money for the “Roosevelt Community Park” project that was not considered in the funding below.

SECTION 6: BUDGET SUMMARY

Please include a complete, itemized budget of all project expenses with this application.

Total Project Cost	CPA Funds Requested	Cost Share Amount	Cost Share Percent
\$ 2,608,646	\$ 1,998,271	\$ 610,375	% 23.3%

Budget Categories <i>Leave any category blank if not applicable to your project</i>	CPA FUNDS	OTHER FUNDS (Cost Share)	TOTAL
Personnel			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Soft Costs	\$434,774		\$434,774
Acquisition			
Construction			
New Construction			
Alteration/Addition			
Restoration/Remodel	\$1,563,497	\$610,375 State: \$250,000 Bayrd: \$360,375	\$2,173,871
Other			
Total	\$1,998,271	\$610,375	\$2,608,646 *

“Soft Costs” include design, professional services, permitting fees, closing costs, legal, etc.

“Equipment” is generally defined as an item with a useful life expectancy of more than one year.

“Supplies” are defined as an item with a useful life of less than one year.

NOTE: CPA FUNDING FOR ANY CATEGORY REQUIRES COMPETITIVE BIDDING unless applicant can provide a sole source justification for any category not competitively bid.

****Attach 3 bids (preferable) and a minimum of one recent bid****

***A possible alternative is fully fund this application with CPA funds. There could be a scenario where the City bonds against anticipated future CPA funds.**

Maintenance Budget (if necessary) –Reminder: CPC cannot fund the maintenance costs for any CPC projects. CPC prioritizes projects with no maintenance required. Please identify the source of maintenance funding, if required.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$ \$15K	\$ \$15K	\$ \$15K	\$ \$15K	\$ \$15K

Community Participation

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Published Every Friday

617-387-2200

Friday, July 10, 2020

Park advocates say Roosevelt renovations fall short of UniteMalden goals

By Barbara Taormina

Community groups are asking city leaders and residents to take another look at the plan for an artificial turf field at Roosevelt Park through the lens of the city's commitment to eliminate racial inequity. The Friends of Roosevelt Park and the Salemwood Community have published an open letter to Mayor Gary Christenson, Malden Redevelopment Authority Director Debbie Burke and the Board of the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation, which has offered to pay for the turf, asking for a review of options for rehabbing the athletic field at the park.

The Friends and the Salemwood Community stress that now is the time to take a second look at the plan for Roosevelt Park. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has issued a stop work order on renovations at the park while the agency reviews an appeal concerning the bordering wetlands at the site.

Last month, Christenson announced "UniteMalden 2020," an initiative with specific steps developed to immediately begin addressing systemic racism. UniteMalden calls for declaring racism a public health crisis, establishing a police department community review board, hiring a director of equity, inclusion and community engagement, establishing diversity in hiring practices and recognizing Juneteenth as an official city holiday.

"The term UniteMalden is intended to convey our goal to begin to eliminate barriers and ob-

stacles, address prejudices and discrimination head on, and embrace our role as a city where every resident is respected, treated fairly, and welcomed in all aspects of our government and community," said Christenson in his announcement of the new initiative.

But members of the Friends and Salemwood Community say that is exactly what didn't happen as the city planned the renovations for Roosevelt Park. "The planning was done

ROOSEVELT | SEE PAGE 4



J & S

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An Open Letter from Friends of Roosevelt Park and the Salemwood Community

June 30, 2020

Dear Mayor Christenson, MRA Director Deborah Burke, and the Board Members of the Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation,

As the month draws to a close, we felt it was important to address the Roosevelt Park Renovation Project. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) has ordered a stop work order after the filing of an appeal concerning the bordering wetlands. While this hiatus is taking place, we wish to address the issues concerning why we continue to oppose this project.

The planning was done with no input from the school community and the neighborhood. Both of these stakeholders are in opposition of this project. The children who spoke out were ignored. The parents of these children who spoke out were ignored. The neighbors who spoke out were ignored. Their voices were dismissed and excluded. This moment in our modern history is a turning point for people of color, please join us in hearing them when they say, they want to be included in community decisions

for their neighborhood and school communities. Let's bring this community back to the table and re-examine options for Roosevelt Park.

The Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation has been instrumental in supporting many projects in Malden and in surrounding communities which have enriched the lives of the citizens in these communities. The foundation had offered to pay for the artificial turf portion of the project. Adelaide Breed Bayrd, as stated in the information we have found about her, loved botany, trees and her Maplewood neighborhood. We respectfully ask the foundation to reconsider a natural grass alternative for this project.

The Covid19 pandemic has made the residents of our City more aware and concerned with having our natural green space preserved. In times of crisis when we are limited to where we can travel, exercise, have fun and to find respite from the worries of the day, our parks need to serve as more than an athletic facility. One resident recently commented on the fun she had bringing her two daughters to Roosevelt Park to fly a kite and observe the bees

moving the pollen from clover to clover. Others use the space to practice Tai Chi or kick a ball around. With days in the 80s and 90s the field is a place that provides natural cooling to a congested area of our City. And with the last few days of local flooding, our parks are crucial to mitigating flooding, especially in neighborhoods like Playstead Road where flooding has always been an issue.

Let's make it clear, who will be benefiting from this project and who will be losing?

Malden needs to embrace the guidelines and processes of Environmental Justice:

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This goal will be achieved when everyone enjoys:

- the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and
- equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

We ask, once again, for the

team of individuals promoting this project to pause. This project does not seem to represent UniteMalden or environmental justice for people of color in our community.

The \$1.8 million of Community Preservation funds needs to be returned to the CPC account for projects that are inclusive of all Malden residents and especially those who will be most affected. UniteMalden needs to begin first by uniting the voices of diversity speaking out against a project that is going to affect the quality of life of school children and a neighborhood.

Sincerely yours,

Friends of Roosevelt Park and the Salemwood Community
Kari Percival Kelsey Menon
Stefanie Alberto – Sarah Strayer
John Saia – Cathy MacDonald
Anita LaFauci – Kathleen Sullivan
Joan Colburn – Lilia Hadouche
Annie Oppedisano – Joe Oppedisano
Robert Sullivan – Ann Schiro
Lara Thompson – Susan Noonan
Susan Nylen – Amanda Maffeo

Link to EPA-Environmental Justice

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

Link to Equity in Socio Economic Environmental Justice, ACE-Alliance for Climate Education

https://acespace.org/2018/10/15/equity-in-a-time-of-socio-environmental-justice/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwudb3BRC9ARIsAEa-vUvJ8ucV_ffXh-Map-VsOSY9AmCHyex-e3cXsqZ31UXfLZivGdMY-qR0aAoRaEALw_wcB

Link to Fighting for Environmental Justice, Conservation Law Foundation

https://www.clf.org/strategies/environmental-justice/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwudb3BRC9ARIsAEa-vUvJ8ucV_ffXh-Map-VsOSY9AmCHyex-e3cXsqZ31UXfLZivGdMY-qR0aAoRaEALw_wcB

UNITEMalden 2020

<https://www.cityofmalden.org/741/UniteMalden-2020>

Malden Vulnerability Plan
[https://www.cityofmalden.org/702/Municipal-Vulnerability-Preparedness-\(Draft-pgs\)](https://www.cityofmalden.org/702/Municipal-Vulnerability-Preparedness-(Draft-pgs))
<https://www.cityofmalden.org/DocumentCenter/View/2297/List-of-Qualifying-MVP-Action-Grant-Projects-PDF?bidId=>