

Archived - Roosevelt Park Improvement Project Update



City of Malden News

Posted on April 29, 2024

**The original article was published from
4/29/2024 12:00:00 AM to 4/29/2026
11:59:00 PM**

An important update from Mayor Gary Christenson on the Roosevelt Park Improvement Project:

This memorandum provides an update on the Roosevelt Park Improvement Project. The City recently advertised for public bids for the long-awaited improvements to the park. Eighteen (18) interested parties obtained bid documents. Among those were seven (7) general contractors, all well-known and highly regarded by the project team. Two bids were received.

Disappointingly, the low bid was \$1.6M above the funds available. Given the current state of the City's finances, it would be ill-advised to seek another appropriation for this project and I have

Select Language



Google Translate

therefore concluded that it would not be in the City's best interests to move forward with the proposed renovations at this time.

Market volatility and unpredictability experienced in the local construction industry post COVID due to unprecedented cost escalation, inflation, the prevailing labor market, and supply chain disruption along with persistent, yet unsuccessful, public challenges to stop this project at the local, state and federal level, have all contributed to significant delays and increased costs for this project. In addition, the logistics of removing large volumes of urban fill in a tightly constrained area like Roosevelt contributed to the higher than expected bids and will need to be accounted for in any future plans for this park.

Roosevelt Park is a key recreational asset that has served the City since 1904. I continue to believe that an improved park with a synthetic turf surface and the other elements incorporated into the plan as a result of public engagement and feedback was the appropriate direction to take and the best solution to better support all users of the park including the public, the Salemwood School and the Malden Public Schools in general, local youth sports programs and adult leagues. However, I also acknowledge that we've exhausted all avenues and funding sources at this point, and the community needs to move on to whatever steps must come next to deal with the most pressing issues at this site.

Any future plans to refurbish this park will require a re-set of the community planning, engagement and the design and permitting process as well as the identification of financial resources for a potential future proposal. State, local, federal and private financial resources that were secured for this bold renovation project have various stipulations and are likely not transferable to a different approach. We will also have

to look at what funds have been spent to date on this project and whether some of those funds need to be reimbursed. To be clear, I will look to the same vocal voices who opposed this approach to take an active leadership role in putting in the time and energy to develop a comprehensive plan as to where this goes from here.

While some in the community may declare victory over this decision, let me be clear that this leaves us with no solution, starting from scratch, and that is nothing for anyone to celebrate today. Lost are the opportunities to improve the outdoor space that Salemwood students use to play, to provide a reliable space for Malden Public School sports teams and youth sports groups to practice and play, especially sports like soccer and lacrosse that have grown tremendously over the past two decades and serve much of our minority communities.

Also lost is the opportunity to address the urban fill materials discovered during project planning that had been utilized to construct the existing park. Given that this condition will no longer be addressed as an integral part of an overarching project as was intended, I have requested the project team's Licensed Site Professional to assist the City in evaluating alternatives to allow for the removal of the existing temporary fencing and any additional measures in the absence of the proposed improvements.

In closing, despite this setback, we remain committed to providing access to high quality facilities for all our students and young athletes.

Related News in City of Malden News

[First Lutheran Church, 130 Years in Malden Merges](#)

with another Congregation

City of Malden News

Posted on September 28, 2026

Fatboy BBQ Opens on Broadway

City of Malden News

Posted on September 24, 2026

Something "Hot" Wheeled into Ward 8!

City of Malden News

Posted on September 24, 2026

Malden Transforms Downtown into Vibrant Hub of Gaming, Art and Culture this Fall

City of Malden News

Posted on September 22, 2026

Library Event Celebrates Life E. Florence Barker: A Life of Service, Impact, and Inspiration

City of Malden News

Posted on September 16, 2026
