

PARK QUESTIONNAIRE

During spring and summer of this year, the City of Newton will be developing master plans for improvements at Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park, and public input is needed to make this effort successful. Please take approximately 5-8 minutes to complete this survey about parks in your neighborhood. **Your responses are anonymous. Please fill out this questionnaire and return it in the postage-paid envelope by May 6, 2005.** The results of the survey will be presented at the first of several park-planning meetings which is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2005 at Pellegrini Gym at 6:30pm. For more information on this questionnaire or the master planning process, please contact Danielle Bailey in the Planning and Development Department at (617) 796-1139 or via email at dbailey@newtonma.gov or visit www.ci.newton.ma.us/parkplan.

SECTION 1: PERSONAL PROFILE

- A. On which street do you live? _____
- B. How long have you lived at this location? 0-5 yrs. 6-10 yrs. 11-20 yrs. over 20 yrs.
- C. How many people are in your household? _____
- D. Are there people under age 18 in your household? Yes No
 If yes, please indicate the age brackets: (check all that apply)
 0-4 5-9 10-14 15-18
- E. How many people over age 65 live in your household? _____

SECTION 2: STEARNS PARK & PELLEGRINI PARK USERSHIP INFORMATION

- A. Approximately how often do you visit these parks (non-winter times)?
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Stearns Park
(please check one)</p> <p>_____ Often: 3 or more times a week</p> <p>_____ 1-2 times a week</p> <p>_____ 1-2 times a month</p> <p>_____ Occasionally: more than 3 times a year</p> <p>_____ Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less</p> | <p>Pellegrini Park
(please check one)</p> <p>_____ Often: 3 or more times a week</p> <p>_____ 1-2 times a week</p> <p>_____ 1-2 times a month</p> <p>_____ Occasionally: more than 3 times a year</p> <p>_____ Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less</p> |
|---|--|

- B. What activities do you and your family engage in most often at these parks?
 (you may check up to 5 activities for each park)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Stearns Park</p> <p>_____ Outdoor Basketball</p> <p>_____ Chess/Checkers</p> <p>_____ Baseball/Softball</p> <p>_____ Tennis</p> <p>_____ Playground & Swings</p> <p>_____ Passive Recreation: relaxing, reading, etc.</p> <p>_____ Walking/Jogging</p> <p>_____ Pick-up sports: frisbee, football, bocce, soccer</p> <p>_____ Picnics</p> <p>_____ Events/Festivals</p> <p>_____ Other: _____</p> <p>_____ Other: _____</p> <p>_____ Other: _____</p> | <p>Pellegrini Park</p> <p>_____ Outdoor Basketball</p> <p>_____ Indoor Basketball</p> <p>_____ Baseball/Softball</p> <p>_____ Tennis</p> <p>_____ Playground & Swings</p> <p>_____ Passive Recreation: relaxing, reading, etc.</p> <p>_____ Walking/Jogging</p> <p>_____ Pick-up sports: frisbee, football, bocce, etc.</p> <p>_____ Picnics</p> <p>_____ Events/Festivals</p> <p>_____ Indoor Volleyball</p> <p>_____ Soccer</p> <p>_____ Other: _____</p> |
|---|--|

- C. How do you and your family typically travel to the park? (check all that apply)

Stearns Park

Method	Usually	Occasionally	Never
Walk			
Bike			
Drive			

Pellegrini Park

Method	Usually	Occasionally	Never
Walk			
Bike			
Drive			

- D. How do you rate your satisfaction with these parks in fulfilling your recreational needs?
 (on a scale of 1-10, where 10 is most satisfied and 1 is not satisfied)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>Stearns Park</p> <p>_____ Overall Satisfaction</p> <p>_____ Safety & Security</p> <p>_____ Accessibility & Mobility</p> <p>_____ Maintenance & Condition</p> | <p>Pellegrini Park</p> <p>_____ Overall Satisfaction</p> <p>_____ Safety & Security</p> <p>_____ Accessibility & Mobility</p> <p>_____ Maintenance & Condition</p> |
|--|---|

E. Would you be interested in joining a neighborhood group "Friends of Stearns Parks" or "Friends of Pellegrini Park"? (Sign-up sheets will be made available at each of the upcoming community meetings.)

(indicate Yes, No or Maybe for each park)

_____ Friends of Stearns Park

_____ Friends of Pellegrini Park

SECTION 3: OTHER PARK USERSHIP INFORMATION

A. Do you and your family visit other parks besides Stearns and Pellegrini Parks?

(check those that apply) (more than once a week) (more than once a month) (1-2 times a year)

Neighborhood Parks	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely
Forte Park			
Magni-Coletti Park			
Boyd Park (behind Lincoln-Eliot School)			
Charles River Reservation			
Parks Outside my Neighborhood	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely

B. What are the main reasons for visiting parks outside of your neighborhood? (please check up to 3 reasons)

_____ Organized sports

_____ Special events

_____ Visiting friends and family in other towns/neighborhoods

_____ Convenience: closer to work, daycare, school, etc.

_____ Different equipment and/or activities than available at neighborhood parks

Please explain: _____

_____ Better quality equipment and/or activities than available at neighborhood parks

Please explain: _____

_____ Other: _____

SECTION 4: IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT AT STEARNS PARK AND PELLEGRINI PARK

A. What equipment and/or activities do you consider to be working well that need little or no improvement? _____

B. What equipment and/or activities are NOT working well that need improvement? What suggestions do you have for improvement? _____

C. Are there any activities or pieces of equipment that you feel are unused, inappropriate, or redundant and should be removed completely to make room for other things or for more open space? _____

D. What else would you like to see added or changed that would make your park experience more enjoyable and would encourage people to use the parks more? _____

E. For each of the parks, please choose the items that need the most improvement:

(please check up to 3 categories for each park)

Stearns Park

_____ Playfields: baseball, etc.

_____ Playgrounds: interesting, age-appropriate, etc.

_____ Accessibility: pathways, curb cuts, etc.

_____ Security: sense of security, lighting, etc.

_____ Landscaping & Beautification

_____ Park User Equipment: seating, bubblers, etc.

_____ Other Site Equipment: fencing, signage, shelter

_____ Courts: tennis, basketball, etc.

_____ Parking/Bike Facilities

Pellegrini Park

_____ Playfields: soccer, baseball, etc.

_____ Playgrounds: interesting, age-appropriate, etc.

_____ Accessibility: pathways, curb cuts, etc.

_____ Security: sense of security, lighting, etc.

_____ Landscaping & Beautification

_____ Park User Equipment: seating, bubblers, etc.

_____ Other Site Equipment: fencing, signage, etc.

_____ Courts: tennis, basketball, etc.

_____ Parking/Bike Facilities

_____ Pellegrini Fieldhouse/Gymnasium

*Thank you for taking the time to help to improve the quality of parks in Nonantum!
Feel free to attach an additional sheet of paper if you have other comments and suggestions.*

Attachment J: Questionnaire Results

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 1

Questionnaires Mailed

Total Mailing	1449
Date	4/22/05
Responses	127
Rate	8.8%

# Streets in Mailing	66
# Streets Responded	41

Number of responses that focus only on one of the 2 parks

One Park	48	37.8%
Both Parks	79	
	127	

Section 1: Personal Profile

How long have you lived at this location?

0-5 yrs	33	26.6%
6-10 yrs	19	15.3%
11-20 yrs	21	16.9%
over 20 yrs	51	41.1%
Blank	3	
	127	

How many people are in your household?

HH Size	Response
1	23
2	37
3	26
4	30
5	5
6	5

Avg. HH Size	2.78
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Are there people under age 18 in your household?

Under 18	Response
Yes	54
No	73
	127

If yes, please indicate the age brackets: (check all that apply)

Age Groups	Response
0-4 yrs	22
5-9 yrs	21
10-14 yrs	12
15-18 yrs	8

How many people over age 65 live in your household?

Elderly	Response
1	25
2	19
	44
	34.6%

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 2

Section 2: Park Usership Information

Approximately how often do you visit these parks (non-winter times)?

Stearns Park

Often: 3 or more times a week	22	21.4%
1-2 times a week	14	13.6%
1-2 times a month	9	8.7%
Occasionally: 3+ times a year	25	24.3%
Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less	33	32.0%
No response	24	

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Pellegrini Park

Often: 3 or more times a week	25	21.4%
1-2 times a week	18	15.4%
1-2 times a month	16	13.7%
Occasionally: 3+ times a year	25	21.4%
Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less	33	28.2%
No response	10	

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What activities do you and your family engage in most often at these parks?

Stearns Park

Baseball/Softball	13	6.4%
Chess/Checkers		0.0%
Events/Festivals	11	5.4%
Other: Bocce, Biking, Dog Walking, Whiffleball	6	2.9%
Outdoor Basketball	22	10.8%
Passive Recreation	31	15.2%
Pick-up sports	11	5.4%
Picnics	9	4.4%
Playground & Swings	39	19.1%
Tennis	21	10.3%
Walking/Jogging	41	20.1%

total uses 204

Pellegrini Park

Baseball/Softball	8	3.5%
Events/Festivals	51	22.5%
Indoor Basketball	6	2.6%
Indoor Volleyball	1	0.4%
Other: Voting, Play Games, Dog Walking, Scooter, General Gym Use, Biking	8	3.5%
Outdoor Basketball	12	5.3%
Passive Recreation	24	10.6%
Pick-up sports	11	4.8%
Picnics	15	6.6%
Playground & Swings	44	19.4%
Soccer	4	1.8%
Tennis	11	4.8%
Walking/Jogging	32	14.1%

total uses 227

How do you and your family typically travel to the park? (check all that apply)

Stearns Park

	Freq	Occ	Nav
Walk	83.8%	13.7%	2.5%
Bike	26.3%	42.1%	31.6%
Drive	25.6%	43.6%	30.8%

Pellegrini Park

	Freq	Occ	Nav
Walk	82.0%	14.6%	3.4%
Bike	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
Drive	23.5%	45.1%	31.4%

How do you rate your satisfaction with these parks in fulfilling your recreational needs?

Stearns Park

Overall Satisfaction	5.9
Safety & Security	6.27
Accessibility & Mobility	6.91
Maintenance & Condition	4.58

Pellegrini Park

Overall Satisfaction	6.7
Safety & Security	6.88
Accessibility & Mobility	7.52
Maintenance & Condition	5.85

Would you be interested in joining a neighborhood group "Friends of Stearns Parks" or "Friends of Pellegrini Park"?

Stearns Park

Answer	Response
Maybe	13 18.3%
No	42 59.2%
Yes	16 22.5%
Blank	56

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Pellegrini Park

Answer	Response
Maybe	21 24.4%
No	48 55.8%
Yes	17 19.8%
Blank	41

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Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 3

Section 3: Other Park Usership Information

Neighborhood Parks	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely
Forte Park	10	15	26
Magni-Coletti Park	16	21	26
Boyd Park (behind Lincoln-Eliot School)	12	21	32
Charles River Reservation	23	22	22
Parks Outside my Neighborhood	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely
see below for other parks	23	31	9

Park Names

Albemarle
Albemarle, Cabot
Albemarle/Horace Mann
Albemarle, Newton Centre, Watertown parks
Cabot Park, Burr Park
Cabot woods, Edmunds Park
Carr School, Albermarle, Burr
Casey Park in Watertown
Castle Island
Cold Spring Park
Cold Spring, Cabot
Ecco Bridge
Edmunds Park, Cabot Woods
Halloran/Albemarle
Homer St Park, Watertown parks
Horace Mann
Horace Mann, Watertown St Park
Horace Mann, Watertown Street park
Needham Center Park, Albemarle Park
Newton Centre, Underwood School, Albemarle
Newton North, Warren
Norumbega
Parker Park
Parker School
Underwood School, Parker School, Watertown Street in Watertown
Victory Field Playground
Walden Pond
Watertown St park
Watertown St park in Watertown
Watertown, Cambridge
Watertown- Casey
Wellington Playground, NCSC/Davis Playground

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 3

What are the main reasons for visiting parks outside of your neighborhood? (please check up to 3 reasons)

Better quality equipment	28	18.2%
Convenience	12	7.8%
Different equipment and/or activities	36	23.4%
Organized sports	19	12.3%
Special events	21	13.6%
Visiting friends and family	24	15.6%
Other:	14	9.1%

Reasons
other: Bigger space
Other: different scenery, plus Cabot Woods has hills- better for working out
other: for walking & exercise
other: Long walks
other: Ocean
other: quieter, more peaceful, & nature friendly
other: to walk, picnic & read quietly
other: walking with dog
other: walks
Other: Availability of basketball or tennis facilities
other: more security
other: quieter atmosphere
other: walking trails

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Section 3: Other Park Usership Information

Other park comments

better equipment for 7+ kids
Better walking
bike paths, kayaking, hiking trails
Cleaner, no trash or glass
Different equipment at Albemarle Field
different equipment- shade- better taken care of- no trash around
Different levels of equipment- preschool (1-2 yrs) (2-4 yrs) (over 4 yrs)
Fishing, quiet time
foam soft mat for ground cover & picnic tables
Have a path to walk or run
Horace Mann has a wonderful play area, various equipment, fenced-in tot lot, near Albemarle pool
I walk along the River about once a week
more equipment for kids
more to play on for all ages
Much safer for my kids
My child is a monkey-bar acrobat.
My kids are getting too big for tot lot
Newer, cleaner, safer surface- not the terrible woodchips used everywhere in Newton
older children's equipment
other basketball courts, more open space
park on Watertown St just over Newton line- better equipment (How about that at good old Stearns)
playgrounds and parks are more attractive and have greater variety
Please fix up Boyd Park- Thanks.
Pool, water sprinklers, foliage
rubber flooring. Equipment newer & safer
Safety
soccer games
Soft ground in play area
sprinkler parks in Waltham and Watertown
Tennis
Tennis courts
The condition of Carr School is a disgrace.
The park on Watertown St was well rehabbed.
Water facilities
Also, in summer, fountains or water showers are available.
great equipment for toddlers & school age children
More age equipment to choose from
more children at site which daughter prefers
Newer, better- ground is rubberized, cleaner
newer, sponge ground
soft ruberr padding (as opposed to wood chips)
Some newer equipment. Nicer people & better behavior. Stearns Park needs more security- has more teen problems
The soccer net is too close to my house and the ball hits my house- it should be moved.
When we have little children visit, we go to the Horace Mann playground. It would be great to have that sort of facilities here.
Other parks seem to benefit from greater attention to maintenance! Clearly, Stearns Park warrants merely reluctant, meager attention from the City
The playground equipment is more challenging for older children
The playground equipment is safer, more appealing

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Soft rubber tarp- cleaner & softer than chips in preschool area
Cleaner and more green- homes not so close to play areas

Section 4: Improvement Ideas

What equipment and/or activities do you consider to be working well that need little or no improvement?

Basketball, baseball and children's play areas
Children's equipment
Children's play area
Children's swings
Don't use either park
Everything in each park needs some improvement
I like the basketball court at Stearns
infant swings & tot lot
Jungle gym
Pass by Stearns everyday. Seems well attended.
Play area
Play structures
Playground
playground
Playground equipment
Preschool equipment
Soccer games, high school games, playground
Some of my children went to Stearns School when it was used.
Sometimes I want to rake the leaves.
Swings
swings, benches
Swings, play structures
Tennis & benches in upper section of Stearns and baseball in lower section
Tennis nets at Pellegrini
The playground equipment is in good condition
The tot lot is adequate but more interesting equipment and better fencing would be a great help.
Tot lot
Tot lot swings work well with the kids.
Playground area
The children's play equipment is all in good working order, it just needs to be more challenging, more appealing to children 4+

What equipment and/or activities are NOT working well that need improvement? What suggestions do you have for improvement?

More swings & bigger kid playground equipment
Stearns- needs work- fix equipment. Sewer problems at Pellegrini- rain backs up into the gym.
Toilets overflow- needs work.
Surface Areas
Tennis & children's equipment
Equipment at Pellegrini could use updating although the children do love it. I would like to see different ground cover- not bark mulch/wood chips. Would like to see a softer mat type of ground cover.
Pellegrini could use a better or full basketball court. The one hoop they have gets a lot of use and the pavement is in bad condition.
New swings
Ball fields, lighting
Parks are for children, need more for youngsters age 2-9. Don't let any vehicles, cars, trucks park or ride on grassy areas.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Swimming pool
The play lot at Pellegrini is not safe for tots. I bring my kids there a lot but only let them use the swings- not the play yard.
Swings
Nothing
Wading pool. If you can't use it for children, put a fountain on it for a relaxing spot
Stearns: basketball court is old; tot lot is so-so; everything else needs improvement. Pellegrini: field is kept up due to league play; gym is old, rundown & bathrooms. Both parks: water bubblers do not work, please fix.
Mulch chips are terrible. They get into sandals and toddlers put into mouths. Not clean. Many times I have found broken beer bottles in the mulch chips and near swings. Parks should be kept clean weekly.
Stearns: Water fountain needs work- also the sun roof. The softball/baseball field needs to be leveled. The field has too many bumps that cause the ball to take odd hops. Also kids running could twist an ankle.
Stearns needs more teen control. More equipment for 7+ kids. Teen baseball becomes dangerous to smaller kids and adults. No mopeds- minimotorcycles. Better traffic control- i.e. stop people from racing down Jasset St at 50+mph. More patrolling and/or
The tennis courts at Stearns is a joke- no one uses it. It is a waste.
Some of the lights at Stearns Park are out along the walking path. The bulbs need to be replaced. Tennis courts need to be better cleaned
The Pellegrini field is in terrible shape. It is beaten down, grass is terrible. But as long as it is ruined every year by the carnival, any money the City puts into it will be wasted. The carnival should pay to have the field restored every year. I c
infant pool never has water or is accessible to children
Stearns needs more toddler activities in addition to preschool equipment. Safety harnesses needed on all swings
See-saw (needs to be raised up to right level)
Dog droppings- the signs do not work
Better grass, better kept tennis court. Better lighting at night in field.
Swings have ruts under them
Playground area, tennis court & gate
The sprinkler pool at Pellegrini looks dangerous and I've never seen it on.
Softball field
Tennis courts at Stearns need remodeling
New to neighborhood- don't use parks
New grass, trash receptacles
Some playground equipment could be changed or updated
Activities for seniors- arts, crafts, exercising- these were cut for this area. The gym needs improvements.
Stearns Park needs new overhang by tables- rusty! Pellegrini needs pool area to be closed in-dangerous for little ones.
I'm not sure, but you should check.
toilet facilities- people will use the bushes
Keep clean
Gate on tot lot needs to be repaired. Baseball field needs improvement badly. Sun roof needs repair
Cleanliness of park & maintenance of equipment.
Lighting- need additional lighting at top of park
Tennis courts at Stearns
Tennis courts in Stearns Park desparately need repaving. The roof of the covered seating area needs replacement. One basketball rim needs to be replaced.
At Stearns, need more picnic benches & trash barrels, more lighting for evening
Swings need updating and we could use additional swings. Additional items for small children ages 1-3.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

New structures, new sponge ground, more challenging structures for 6-8 yr olds
The tennis courts need to be taken care of and free of pet poop, debris, etc. The seat & tables need TLC.
Basketball used sometimes until 11pm-2am. Very annoying for Jasset St residents. Residents must often close windows to drown out basketballs.
Complete new play equipment appropriate for toddlers. More frequent cleaning and litter removal. Lots of glass shards can be found in grassy areas.
Just needs to be cleaner
Tennis courts need much improvement
Too much dust
More playground equipment for both parks, sandboxes
Redo tennis courts at Stearns
The road needs the holes filled in. They are very dangerous to drive on- which causes problems for everyone
All
The tennis courts at Stearns need to be resurfaced. I am so pleased to have the tennis courts right behind my house. The crack in the nets is hard to use. I am seeing more families on the courts. I am hoping the courts will receive some attention during the improvement phase.
The wood chips have to go. The small babies are always trying to eat them and the older children just get filthy playing in them. The playing field is in terrible shape (Pellegrini).
Honestly, I would rather see housing in both parks- kids have school play areas to go to or Albemarle Playground, Charles River, etc.

Are there any activities or pieces of equipment that you feel are unused, inappropriate, or redundant and should be removed completely to make room for other things or for more open space?

Basketball court. Forte Park has an exceptional double court with lights, parking & no residential homes.
Chess board at Stearns should be either repaired or removed.
Children's equipment
Equipment should be age appropriate. Equipment should be for small toddlers and older children.
Fenced-in pool- is it ever used?
I think the blue tot lot should be replaced.
No more Elvis Day or carnival that comes in July- they tear up the field
None
None
Nothing
Nothing
Pool at Pellegrini- remove it or at the very least lock gates so children cannot get in there.
Pool never used for children- just sits there.
Remove the carnival- it destroys the park, then the fields could be restored.
splash pool at Pellegrini- if we are not able to use space- it could be used for other equipment
Stearns: No, maybe the sunroof if it is not painted, repaired or replaced.
Tennis courts at Stearns.
The chess/checker tables in Stearns Park are not used and are in ill-repair. Some of the park benches are peeling and splintered and need to be replaced or repaired.
The rocking things don't seem to be used. Another see-saw would be nice. The wood chips are horrible.
The Stearns baseball field used to be used frequently but it is old and rundown now, grass is overgrown, no dirt on infield
Water area should be removed- it's a hazard to small children.
Pellegrini is open field- convenient for circus but nothing else.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

What else would you like to see added or changed that would make your park experience more enjoyable and would encourage people to use the parks more?

Updated equipment and nice landscaping
A bigger structure like the one at Boyd Park. There is a structure for the younger kids and one for the older kids.
Groom the back area
More senior friendly. Stearns Park has no sanitary facilities. Need bocce alleys.
Updated children's equipment
At Pellegrini- combine the playground with the swings into one fenced-in area. Get rid of the pool. Stearns is not well maintained. I use this park daily with daycare children. I have to clean up trash every time.
More tables and chairs. A bocce court would be nice.
Beautifying will make them inviting and keep families in our neighborhoods. Grass, flowers, benches, etc. needed at both. More visitors lowers vandalism and destruction.
New flag pole with plantings, Signage re: dog use, information on using parks for family functions/resident use; more seating by tot lot & park
Comfortable benches
More seating areas
More seating, better upkeep of ball fields, better landscape
A safe structure for children to run, slide down and play on, for young children. I would like to see Pellegrini more "tot" friendly. There are a lot of little ones in the area who would use it more if it was safe.
Have games you can play indoors- not just basketball.
Water activities
Pellegrini basketball court should not be in parking lot. Play structure for older kids (11-18). Monkey bars. More swings. More pavement for biking, rollerblading, etc.
It would be nice to see the children's area have the cushion ground put on versus the wood chips.
More sitting
I wish it had an outdoor track for walking or jogging. This would attract older neighbors.
Better or improved tennis courts
Working water bubblers at all parks, especially for those hot humid days! Please check the water content also.
Clean & safe equipment
Stearns: Fix the ball field at Stearns Park! Could be a great softball field. Nice place to watch a game. Field needs improvement. Paint the backstop.
Concerts- live music at Magni Coletti
Better maintenance.
Some landscaping, planting of flowers would make it more attractive. Some flower beds.
Parks should all be more dog friendly. More trash containers are needed, especially on the Newton side of the Charles River Reservation. One of the things I love most about Newton is all the parks!
When our children were little, we would go to the park a lot, like once a week, although the facilities were very limited. We helped build the Horace Mann playground and a facility like that would be very nice here.
More picnic spaces and activities that we could bring our kids /grandkids to- like readings or puppet shows
Fill the concrete pool with sand at Pellegrini- would make great play area. Need more benches for seniors.
More trees & less concrete or crushed rock, more grass.
In Pellegrini, a track would be great. Just something paved around the park.
playground cleanup, dog dumping cleanup, add bike trail
Pellegrini needs benches inside tot lot. The wood chips need to be replenished or replaced with rubberized flooring. The wading pool needs to be redone and used or just taken out.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Place for skateboarding. More basketball hoops
Better landscaping, cleanliness and improved picnic facilities
Better lighting
I believe the space for the child wade pool could be changed into a water spray park similar to the parks that have been constructed in Waltham
Walking around the park
Infant seats for swing. Infant toys.
I'd like to see the ending of the meetings/discussion every single year on the carnival at Pellegrini. It's only once a year- for the ones opposed- let them go away on vacation or something!
It's a lovely park and my late father-in-law, who came to Newton in 1903, told me old man Stearns left the money for school and playground. My kids went to school there so did their late Father Robert Tocci.
More climbing structures & slides. More benches for parents. A better water fountain.
It's nice now, too residential to expand services much more
benches to sit on to watch soccer games
Keep lit and open longer
Removing the wood-like chips on play lot and adding a padded surface which some parks have. How about that in Nonantum?
Have grounds maintained better. Newton parks in other areas are much better maintained
Updated equipment, rubber surface, water park
All of the walkways need to be repaved and the dirt pathway by the baseball field needs to be paved.
A few tables and benches. Some evening lighting
sprinkler park please
Work out gear- for step ups, chin ups and the like. Moms can get a workout while the kids play. The Pellegrini Fieldhouse needs staff to run events and activities.
More police patrol. Teen gangs converge in the warm months and deter others from going into playground (especially in evenings).
More picnic tables. Nicer trash receptacles. Sponge/rubber surface beneath play equipment
More park benches
There is a pile of old wood, plastic tubs, old hoses, etc along the back fence of Stearns. Despite calls, this pile of trash has never been removed.
Larger toddler playground with safe ground covering
Sustained level of maintenance and cleanliness that is clearly absent today
Please renovate or put up an aesthetically appealing sitting area (i.e. next to basketball area) (at or near the telephone box on the other end near Faxon). People who work nearby or work trucks get lunch and eat at the picnic bench and always leave a mess.
Trash receptacles, plantings
More picnic tables. Seating for adults. There is that huge spread of gravel area that is completely unused 99% of the time- so much potential.
There is no atmosphere at Pellegrini. Stearns is better with some trees and shade but too much housing nearby.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 4

Section 4: Improvement Ideas

For each of the parks, please choose the items that need the most improvement: (choose 3)

Stearns Park

Accessibility:	12	6.6%
Courts:	15	8.2%
Landscaping & Beautification	47	25.7%
Parking/Bike Facilities	6	3.3%
Playfields: baseball, etc.	19	10.4%
Playgrounds:	24	13.1%
Security:	24	13.1%
Site Equipment:	8	4.4%
User Equipment:	28	15.3%

Pellegrini Park

Accessibility:	10	5.0%
Courts:	13	6.5%
Fieldhouse/Gymnasium	12	6.0%
Landscaping & Beautification	45	22.5%
Parking/Bike Facilities	7	3.5%
Playfields: baseball, etc.	22	11.0%
Playgrounds:	30	15.0%
Security:	20	10.0%
Site Equipment:	5	2.5%
User Equipment:	36	18.0%

Attachment K: Meeting Notes

Stearns & Pellegrini Parks Planning Meeting #1

Monday, May 16, 2005

6:30pm

Pellegrini Gymnasium, Hawthorn Street

City of Newton staff welcomed over 20 residents to the first of several park planning meetings and explained the intent of the master planning process. The Nonantum Advisory Committee, a resident-based group that provides guidance for the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds in Nonantum, recommended that a comprehensive look be taken at the two main neighborhood parks in order to first establish a vision for each park and then work toward reaching that goal. The CDBG Program has been investing funds in Nonantum for over 30 years however many of the projects have simply addressed small isolated issues, particularly in the parks. This piece-meal approach has contributed to dissatisfaction by the residents and has left many unfulfilled recreational needs. The aim of this planning effort is to develop a plan that maximizes the recreational opportunities, minimizes any redundancies, and increases park user ship and satisfaction levels. Once the vision is created, it will be used to leverage the needed public and private dollars to execute the plans for both parks.

Staff relayed some of the results of the questionnaire. 127 of approximately 1450 surveys were received, about a 9% response rate (a 5% response rate is considered good so 9% is very positive). It was reported that the top three areas that need the most improvement at both parks are Landscaping and Beautification, Playground Equipment, and better Park User Equipment (such as benches, bubblers, picnic tables, etc.). The questionnaire responses were very useful in understanding the important issues at each park.

Staff then introduced Marion Pressley and Jay Emperor of Pressley Associates, Inc. who led the meeting by listing the current conditions of the park and took comments and suggestions from the residents.

STEARNS PARK COMMENTS

- Many area residents play at Casey Park in Watertown on Watertown Street. It is a good example of an ideal playground and ball field- has better safety surfacing, etc.
- Need to connect to the walkway next to the new senior housing and address the bad fencing, as parts of the fencing are inappropriately used as a retaining wall.
- The site has many entries all of which need study and improvement. The Stearns Place access is lighted to Watertown Street. Although the park has pedestrian lights, a desire to add more lighting in the park was also mentioned.
- There used to be a stairwell at the end of Los Angeles and Allison Streets- now the area is a mess.
- An area has been used for gardening in the past and the area is now derelict. Debris and garden equipment has been left in one area. The need to clean up/remove the debris and abandoned equipment was expressed.
- Address the damaged game table and consider a general upgrade of site furniture.
- Playground equipment needs more age diversity; especially for ages 7-11- should be more challenging. In the past, there used to be more things and games to play.
- Basketball can be a noise nuisance after dark- needs better police enforcement since all parks close at dusk. The group however felt that basketball is good for teens and is used. Also need to encourage more play at Forte Park where it is more private.
- Tennis courts are used and wanted but need to be rehabilitated. They are occasionally misused as people close the gate and let their dogs run around- maybe remove gate? Sometimes other people, both children and adults, use the courts for different activities like hockey and batting practice. The courts are also used for tennis.
- The playground equipment and the wood chips are not accessible. Some of the swings are missing the safety straps. Equipment needs general upgrade. New equipment should be accessible and the safety surfacing should be the flat, rubber style. It has been witnessed that people have stolen the wood chips for their own private purposes.

- One difficulty about this park is the passive sloped sections, which make it difficult to use for new uses or to relocate existing uses such as basketball or playgrounds, which require level areas-, might need to think about taking out something to accommodate or expand another use or relocating some of the current uses.
- Grass throughout the park is in poor shape and there is no definition of the infield. The field is used and one neighbor said he played on it as a child and he hoped it would remain. The area of the field, however, does not allow for a full field and balls are hit into the play area and the two swing areas. It was also mentioned that the field might be appropriate for wiffleball league play. This past week a large tree came down and took-out the backstop.
- Overall trees are in good shape and provide a lot of shade- some minor pruning could be done to open up the areas and allow more light in to these passive areas. But if more room is needed, we might want to selectively remove some trees for a new use or expand an existing use.
- It was mentioned that the police do drive on the walkways when responding to a call, so the width of the walks and the quality of the pavement need to be considered.
- There is a good example of a little league field in Watertown if you follow Bridge Street to the end- fence has an orange top and defines the space well.
- The lunch crowd often leaves a big mess. Need more trash receptacles or need to empty them more often.
- Parking is a concern here. There are three spots on Stearns Place at the top of the hill that aren't well marked anymore. The remainder of parking is on the street. The streets get very crowded. Some possible parking locations are at the end of Allison Street on the private vacant lot or taking some of the parkland and indenting the side of the park to allow for limited angled parking.
- Someone thought that the Stearns will have special restrictions on the park but staff has not been able to find this information.
- Overall the fencing around the park is in poor condition and one perimeter area has no fencing.

PELLEGRINI PARK COMMENTS

- The majority of this park is active recreation in the form of field sports. The soccer and softball fields overlap. It is believed that baseball is not permitted- only softball and little league.
- The tennis courts are in decent condition, but the fence around it is in poor shape. They are used. There is only a small passive recreation area near the tennis courts.
- Overall the fencing around the park is in good-fair condition.
- The fence in the playground area is not consistent in height and not tall enough in some sections to control soccer balls and baseballs.
- The playground has old equipment and the wood chip safety surfacing- the residents would like the rubberized safety surfacing. The playground is used by area daycares frequently.
- The stonedust portion of the parking lot should be paved in bituminous concrete and line painted. The lot should be defined with curbing so that people cannot go onto to the fields.
- The residents thought that outdoor basketball is important, but finding a separate location for it that is not on the parking lot is going to be a challenge. One option is to move it behind the building, but it is not very visible there.
- It was suggested to construct an overhead pavilion next to the building to provide shade and shelter during concerts, events, cookouts, etc. as had existed in the past.
- Shade is needed in the open area by the building and playground- more trees?
- Remove pool in exchange for a water play section like in Waltham.
- It was questioned if the drinking water ever gets tested.
- More games are needed for the teens, e.g. game tables, etc.
- Bocce is played in the inner court area, but it is not designated.
- When planning for new or relocated activities, it is important to be mindful of the abutters.
- Update the boiler, bathroom fixtures, and community room in the Field house. (Pressley Associates will not be evaluating the Fieldhouse but will include any comments in the master plan.)

The next meeting is a design workshop on Thursday, June 2, at 6:30pm and the third meeting will be Wednesday, June 22 at 6:30pm. Notices will be mailed shortly.

Attachment K: Meeting Notes

Stearns & Pellegrini Parks Planning Meeting #2

Thursday, June 2, 2005

6:30pm

Pellegrini Gymnasium, Hawthorn Street

Many residents reconvened to further plan the future of Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. Site visits were done in each park prior to the meetings to aid in the planning effort. Residents were asked to divide into two groups, one dealing with Stearns Park and the other with Pellegrini Park. Attendees were shown scaled maps of the parks and given scaled templates of various uses, such as basketball courts, little league fields, and typical playground spaces. The point of the exercise was to show that in finite areas, only so many uses can exist. For example, if one new use were to be added, then another use might need to be removed. The groups were also able to peruse through catalogs of park equipment to see the range of equipment available.

Marion Pressley of Pressley Associates, Inc. led the Pellegrini Park small group, aided by Hongfei Chen of Pressley Associates, Inc. and Amy Yuhasz of the City of Newton. Jay Emperor of Pressley Associates, Inc. led the Stearns Park team, aided by Danielle Bailey of the City of Newton. Parks and Recreation Department representatives were Tom Cahill and Carol Schein.

STEARNS PARK COMMENTS

- The current ball field is undersized according to regulations. A regulation little league was significantly larger and would encroach upon the current location of the playground and basketball court. Tom Cahill of Parks and Recreation stated that undersized fields can still be considered playable. The residents were supportive of keeping the field where it is and at the same size. Keeping the field small encourages more use by children and youth, though an adult wiffleball league may want to use the space. The ball field location was experimented with, especially because of the evening sun but no other position was more advantageous. The ball field should be restored and a new backstop installed.
- The residents valued the open space in the upper section of the park and did not want to place any uses in it, other than passive activities such as picnic tables and benches.
- The group would like an expanded and consolidated play area. The new play area should have the rubberized safety surfacing and be defined with a combination of fencing, berming and landscaping/shrubs. The berming and landscaping should consider safety as the play areas are close to the street. Additionally, the play area and equipment should be accessible. The new equipment should be interesting, diverse, and challenging to younger and older children. Seating should surround the play area. Some shaded sections are very important, both for seating and for the playground. The existing shade shelter is in poor shape and kids can climb on top of it. One possible solution is to use canvas canopies, as seen in the patio of the new adjacent senior apartment. The drinking fountain should be replaced- it does not work.
- The trees in the park are great but pruning and removal of dead branches are needed, especially around the walkway near the playground.
- Because the group did not want to get rid of the tennis courts, the ball field, and the open space, and desired to expand play area, there is not enough room to keep the basketball court. The group tried many different locations but none were ideal. There are a couple basketball courts, literally down the street in Forte Park. These courts are in good shape and are underutilized. Also, Pellegrini Park and Boyd Park will have basketball.
- Both sets of swings should be removed and relocated (or be replaced with new equipment) to the area where the basketball court is now located. Relocating the swings is wise because it is currently in the way of the ball field.
- All pathways should be replaced and made handicapped accessible, where possible. A new pathway should be installed around to connect to the Nonantum Village Place/Lafayette Green walkway. A better pathway needs to be created that leads to Alison Street.
- The pathway lighting should be continued along each part of the walkway, where possible. The athletic lighting should be removed.

- The group would like more and upgraded (more attractive) trash receptacles. Currently, there are too few receptacles and too far between. The lunch crowd generates a lot of trash.
- The residents would like more picnic benches, with a few tables in each cluster. The wooden benches must all be replaced with a better, more durable bench.
- Replace the border fencing with new fencing.
- Restripe front parking spots on Stearns Place. Landscape Watertown Street entrance to make more attractive and inviting. General clean up of this area.
- Need park signage that explains park rules, including park closing at dusk and dog rules.

PELLEGRINI PARK COMMENTS

- There is no path from Lothrop Street to the play areas. Residents entering the park through this entrance have to walk across the grass. Removal of the tree stumps along the fence by Lothrop Street and new plantings are recommended.
- Dog owners often do not clean-up after their dogs and leave it lying on the play fields where people playing sports may walk in it/fall in it. It was suggested that dog sleeves (special trash bags) and a designated barrel be installed, in addition to signage explaining dog regulations, including leash laws, times, etc.
- Many people spoke in favor of a water play area in place of the current sprinkler. The park on Newton Street in Waltham was mentioned as an example of a nice one.
- The paved space in the back of the building should be kept versatile so that it may be used for a variety of activities, including picnics, concerts, water play, basketball, dodge ball, etc.
- It was suggested that the two existing playgrounds be combined into one and extended toward the southwest corner of the park. All the kids' equipment should be in one area. They would like to see swings for older and younger kids. Several people spoke in favor of new rubberized play surfacing for the play areas.
- Installation of a covered storage area was suggested. It was pointed out that there is a storage area on the north side of the building, but it is not covered.
- It was suggested that a canopy or other covering/shelter be installed for part of the paved area to offer shade during the summer and protection from the rain. It was suggested that a portable shelter be installed so it could be moved around/taken down depending on the need for it at the time.
- The backstop should be moved further into the southeast corner of the park to increase the size to meet high school standards for a softball field. A new backstop and team benches are needed. Bleachers are needed for the play fields. Right now, there is no place for spectators to sit.
- More picnic tables are needed.
- Accessibility is needed throughout the park and on the playgrounds, for wheelchair and stroller use.
- The soccer field should be rehabbed, especially with respect to drainage. The field should be shortened to meet standard of high school soccer field by moving the goal at north side of the park away from the fence.
- The attendees thought that, overall, the tennis court surfaces and nets are in good condition but that the existing fence and gates should be replaced.
- The athletic lighting should be relocated for better coverage.
- The parking area should be defined with granite curbing. The basketball court should be separate from the parking and relocated elsewhere in the park. The parking lot should also be accessible.
- The installation of two bocce ball courts would be nice.
- For added open space and beautification, it was mentioned that an informal garden for contemplating and sitting would be ideal between the tennis courts and the playground.
- All fencing should be uniform in style. Evergreen trees should be planted at the back of baseball field, along the existing fence, to screen the field from the backyards.
- An evaluation of the existing tree conditions should be made, and the ones in poor health should be removed.
- Seating in the park should be studied, and placement of any new seating should avoid conflict with active park uses.

The next meeting is discussion of design options for both parks on Wednesday, June 22, at 6:30pm at Pellegrini Gymnasium.

Attachment K: Meeting Notes

Stearns & Pellegrini Parks Planning Meeting #3
Wednesday, June 22, 2005
6:30pm
Pellegrini Gymnasium, Hawthorn Street

Nearly thirty people gathered to review the master plan design options for Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. The first part of the meeting was an overview of each of the schemes (2 plans for Stearns, 3 for Pellegrini). After generally explaining the plans, based on a series of in-depth resident input, the residents were asked to divide into two groups, one dealing with Stearns Park and the other with Pellegrini Park, in order to fine tune the details.

Marion Pressley of Pressley Associates, Inc. led the Pellegrini Park small group, aided by Hongfei Chen of Pressley Associates, Inc. and Amy Yuhasz of the City of Newton. Jay Emperor of Pressley Associates, Inc. led the Stearns Park team, aided by Danielle Bailey of the City of Newton. Parks and Recreation Department representatives were Tom Cahill and Carol Schein.

STEARNS PARK COMMENTS

- The residents nearly unanimously supported Option B, the version with the half basketball court. Many noted how they saw the courts used frequently and would like to continue this use but on a smaller scale.
- For the playground section, the attendees would prefer to see concrete instead of bituminous concrete on the non-safety surfacing sections. They believed that the bituminous concrete would be too hot in the summer for kid's play. (*Pressley Associates, Inc. would not advise the use of concrete. It is not a good surface for children playing, which is why you will not find it in playgrounds. Injuries would double and triple, the expansion and control joints are a hazard, and the surface needs to be non-slip (broom finish) so it would also be more likely to injure children's knees and elbows. We have shade structures and major tree planting that will provide shade so the bituminous will not be melting in the heat. If color is the issue the area can have color surfacing as one would have in a tennis court.*)
- There was a request that accessible curb cuts be placed on both sides of the street by the park entrances, which will also necessitate new crosswalks.
- The group thought that the flagpole should be removed since it would need to be lighted and maintained.
- It would be better if one more shade pavilion could be sited between the basketball court and the traditional playground.
- It was mentioned that there can't be three swings per bay anymore so the revised plan should reflect this. This would mean that either two sets of two would be provided or only one set of two.
- Some of the attendees thought that vines would be a nice touch on the fencing around the little league field, but maintenance of them might be an issue.
- It was suggested that the tot lot should be fenced in for safety and control to allow local nursery schools to utilize this area for their charges.
- The ball field should be regraded so that it doesn't pool each spring. It was reported that a family of ducks comes every year.
- One person thought that there should be a pathway along the northern edge of the park to allow access for elders with groceries coming from the Stop & Shop plaza. It was also requested that a connection be made to, and cleanup of, the vacant area at the end of Allison Street that connects to the Stop & Shop complex.
- It was preferred that any new trash cans not be moveable.
- There was a concern about the seat wall material and that it should be evaluated for safety near the tot lot.

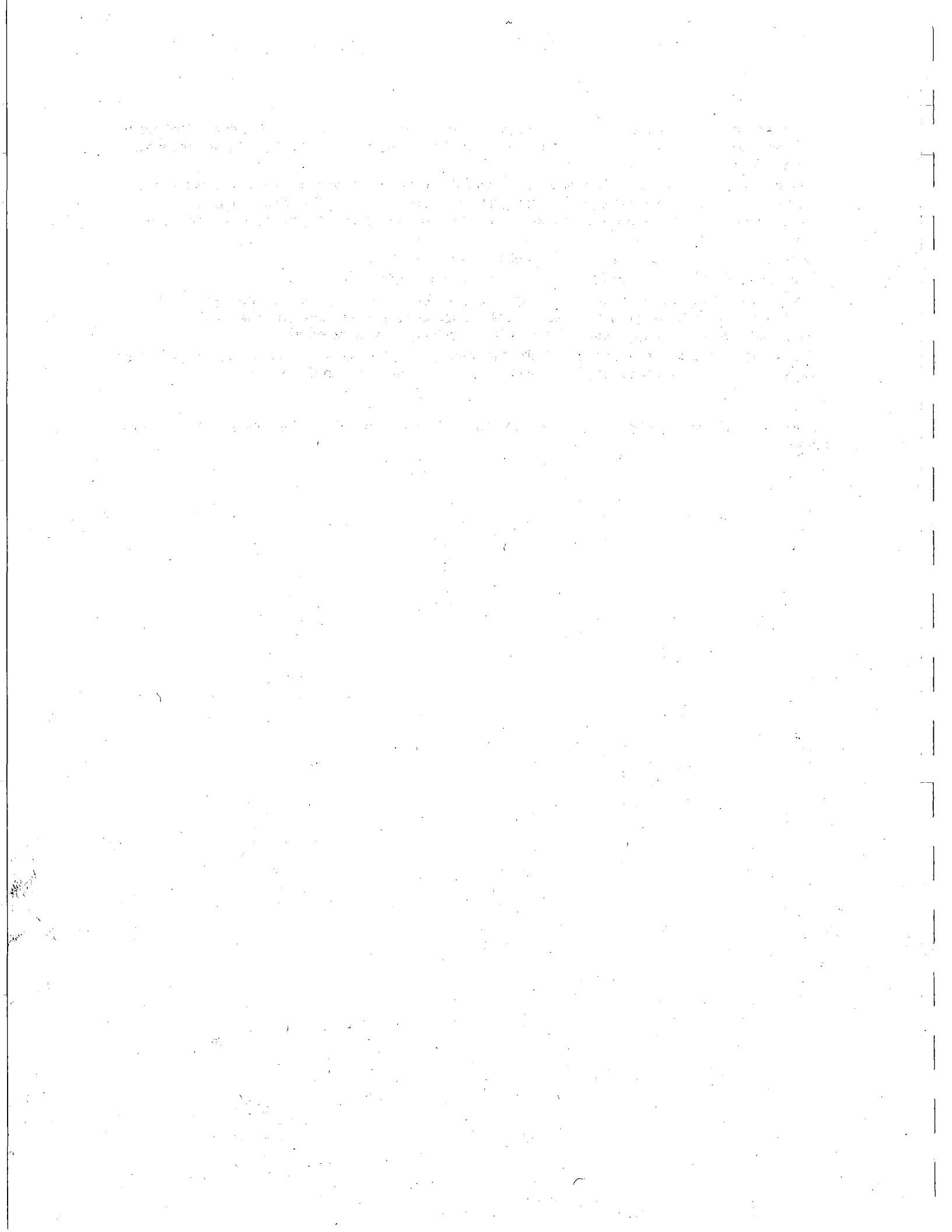
PELLEGRINI PARK COMMENTS

- There should only be one entrance for vehicles along Hawthorn Street. The preferred location for the entrance is the present location, because the neighbor opposite the other proposed location feels that it would impact her driveway.
- A drinking fountain should be located within easy access of the softball and soccer fields in addition to restoring the fountain mounted on the building.
- Bollards should be placed by the pedestrian entrance along Hawthorn Street to keep vehicles from entering that way. A separate pedestrian entrance is needed to allow pedestrians to walk to the building without having to walk through the parking lot. This is a health safety issue.
- The group thought that the seating areas at the building entry and the proposed work to make the area accessible are good ideas.
- There are water drainage issues in the neighborhood and they particularly impact the field area. These issues need to be addressed along with plans for other improvements. The underground utility system is a Department of Public Works issue, which impacts the park as well as the basements of adjacent residences.
- The proposed bocce courts should be eliminated in the area adjacent to the soccer field as well as behind the building. One option is to leave the space behind the building as a stonedust surface, with the exception of the walkways and resilient surfacing under the play structures and at the waterplay. Informal bocce can continue to be played there on the stonedust as it is currently. This however may be an issue for the resilient surfacing, since the stonedust will move to this area and make the surface slippery for the children. The areas would need to be swept on a regular basis to keep the play areas free of stonedust. The stonedust may also be an issue for the waterplay and will be an issue for storm drainage structures, which will fill with stonedust and need to be cleaned out on a regular basis. If curbing is used to separate stonedust from resilient surfaces the area will not be universally accessible.
- The bike racks shown near the playing fields might get in the way of carnival equipment, so they will be relocated to be out of the path of the event trucks.
- One neighbor felt that the play structures should be fenced off from the rest of the area so the nursery schools that use the area can insure the safety of their changes.
- Removal of the three parking spaces and relocation of the traffic island closest to the vehicular entrance off of Hawthorn Street was suggested to ease the turning of trucks and fire engines into the lot. Also the curb along the field may be a problem for event trucks to negotiate over. A temporary ramp may be needed for vehicles to gain access from the parking lot on to the playing fields.
- The entrance at Lothrop Street should only be used for maintenance and pedestrian access, not event access. The current fencing configuration and the maintenance gate should be rehabilitated as required. The residences in this area are concerned about restricting entry during events and are also concerned about noise from the ballfield relocation. The screening of this area from their view as well as noise mitigation is desired.
- There are issues with the fumes coming from Clay Chevrolet. This should be considered when deciding where to place play structures, picnic tables, the pavilion etc. This issue has been a major concern for the neighborhood.
- Several people supported a half-court basketball court instead of a full-court. It was also important to separate play structures for children from the basketball court.
- It was reported that there is an obstructed or crushed pipe under the parking lot in front of the building that should be repaired if that area is repaved. In general, upgrading of utilities should be budgeted for along with other improvements.
- The location for the pavilion for the concerts and events was discussed. It was generally felt that if it could be located adjacent to both the area at the rear of the building and the recreation field that it would provide for greater use.
- The relocation of the ballfield and the resizing of the soccer field and relocation of soccer goals were well received. Buffer plantings and replacement of eight foot height fence and replacement of the entire fence along Hawthorn Street at the soccer field with a twelve foot height fence were also

received well. There was also a request for increasing the height of the fence to say fifteen foot height. The area along the parking lot would not be fenced, but a grass median with large shade trees would be maintained.

- The community desires a spray park but the Parks & Recreation Department lacks the resources to carry the water costs associated with keeping it running. Even the simplest of water features will require some other community funding source be used to cover the yet-to-be-determined yearly water costs.
- Mural maintenance should be considered with other improvements.
- The cap on the back wall (where the Elvis mural is) needs to be replaced.
- The owner of the property adjacent to the green mesh fence needs to landscape the area on his side of the fence as he agreed to when the new wall and fence were being installed. The Parks and Recreation Department will contract the Law Department to pursue the matter.
- Overall, most people present seemed to like the area around the building, with the inclusion of a spray area, in Option C. They like the playing field improvements as shown in Option D.

The next meeting will be the unveiling of the master plans for each park. The date will be set for later this summer.



Attachment K: Meeting Notes

Stearns & Pellegrini Parks Planning Meeting #4
Monday, September 26, 2005
6:30pm
Pellegrini Gymnasium, Hawthorn Street

Between 15-20 residents attended the meeting to view the unveiling of the master plans for Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. Attendance was low due to some unrelated factors. It was a rainy evening and a vigil was scheduled at the last minute for the resignation of Father Cuenin of Our Lady Help of Christians (parishioners come from the Nonantum area). The vigil was a controversial gathering and drew many residents to that event instead of the park planning meeting.

Marion Pressley, Jay Emperor and Hongfei Chen of Pressley Associates, Inc. facilitated the first half of the meeting. Danielle Bailey of the Planning and Development Department of the City of Newton led the second half. The Parks and Recreation Department representative was Carol Schein. Refreshments were provided.

The first part of the meeting was an overview of each of the master plans. The master plans were created with input from the questionnaire responses, resident comments at three public meetings, and feedback from a host of city staff. The implementation packages were discussed. Both parks are separated into two construction phases. Phase 1 for Stearns Park encompasses the tennis courts, the playground and the half basketball court and improvements to universal accessibility. Phase 2 for Stearns Park covers the remainder of the park and addresses the little league field, open space improvements, new border fencing, walkway regrading for universal accessibility and reconstruction, providing a safe accessible entry from the new housing units, and seating upgrades. Phase 1 for Pellegrini Park focuses on the parking lot, improved universal accessibility, dressing up the entrance to the park and activity building, and reorganizing the courtyard and play area, which will include a half basketball court, a picnic area, swings, playground, large pavilion, water features, and multi-use stonedust area. Phase 2 at Pellegrini Park replaces the tennis court fencing, creates a passive recreation nook, improves the softball and soccer fields, improves universal accessibility, provides bleacher seating, and provides new border fencing and buffer planting in selected areas. Attendees were given color rendered master plans for both parks. Staff stated that they would be willing to mail the plans to anyone who could not attend this meeting.

Overall, the residents expressed satisfaction with the plans and the process. Some clarifying questions were asked of the master planners. Staff reminded the group that the larger concept of the master plans will remain, but that some of the details could change as needed or requested during preparation of construction documents. The details can be worked out later after funding is received. However, at this time, the focus is on obtaining implementation funds.

The second half of the meeting covered the implementation plan and the formation of a "Friends" group for each park. Staff reported that the Phase 1 construction improvements for Stearns Park are estimated at \$600,000 and the cost for Pellegrini Park is \$822,000, for a total of \$1,422,000. Because the scope of the two projects is very large, it is recommended that a consultant prepare the specifications and construction documents for public bid. The additional design work is estimated at 10% of the construction costs, or \$142,000. Adding in bidding and construction administration costs, the total Phase 1 cost is \$1,635,000.

Staff reported that, upon the recommendation of the Nonantum Advisory Committee, there is \$140,000 presently available in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. This represents about 9% of the total cost. The remaining amount- \$1,495,000- will be requested from the City's Community Preservation Act (CPA) fund. Staff is currently preparing the application which is due October 3, 2005. Per CPA protocol, there will be a public hearing as well as one or more working sessions. Having supporters present during these meetings gives the application more credibility. Staff emphasized the importance of having visible and vocal community support during this process. Staff encouraged the attendees to sign up to be listed on the Interested Citizens list for the Nonantum Advisory Committee so they can be notified of these CPA meetings.

Staff provided the audience with a rough project timeline. The City would ideally like to implement the master plans in a five-year period. If the Phase 1 project is awarded with the needed CPA funds, the money would not become available until spring of 2006. The remainder of 2006 would be dedicated to finding a consultant and the preparation of the bid package. In January 2007, the project would go out to public bid (this is the most advantageous time to bid construction projects as contractors are trying to fill up their season so their prices are more competitive). The project would likely last the entire 2007 construction season.

Staff relayed that according to the responses of the questionnaire, approximately 40% of the respondents chose "Yes" or "Maybe" to express their interest in getting involved with a "Friends" group. There are clearly untapped resources within the neighborhood. It appears timely for the neighborhood to coalesce with the creation of the two park master plans. At each of the past three meetings, a sign-up sheet has been provided that allowed people to indicate their interest in a "Friends" group and to state which park they are most concerned with. There are approximately two dozen names on those lists. Staff explained that the City is willing to assist in the early stages of formation but that the City cannot act as the leaders. Staff invited anyone who is interested in helping to establish a "Friends" group contact Danielle Bailey, Community Development Planner, to obtain the list of interested persons.

Creating a "Friends" group is important for the successful implementation of the plan. As mentioned at the third meeting, the water play area at Pellegrini Park can only be installed if the community is willing and able to pay the water bill. The rising cost of water has resulted in the inability of the Parks and Recreation Department to continue paying. If a Friends of Pellegrini Park does not form, it will be difficult to raise funds for the water play.

Also, in both parks, there will be opportunities for additional beautification and landscaping. The "Friends" groups could formally adopt the spaces which can add significantly to making the parks warm and inviting.

The residents had no additional questions for Pressley Associates or the City. The group was thanked for their interest and attendance.



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Planning and Development

Michael J. Kruse, Director



newton
community
development
block
grant
program

David B. Cohen

Mayor October 3, 2005

Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

The Nonantum Advisory Committee (NAC), in collaboration with the Parks & Recreation Department, is pleased to submit a request to the Community Preservation Committee for funding for Phase 1 implementation of the master plans for Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. This request is a continuation of the FY2004 CPA project for master planning at these parks. The NAC is a community-based committee that assists the Community Development Program of the Planning and Development Department with the planning and development of Community Development Block Grant-funded (CDBG) neighborhood improvement projects in Nonantum. For over three decades, the NAC has recognized the importance of these two neighborhood parks and has backed up this belief by regularly allocating CDBG funds for various park improvements, as well as initiating the development of park master plans.

The representatives of the Nonantum Advisory Committee support the Phase 1 implementation of the plans for several reasons:

- The tennis courts at Stearns Park are in deplorable shape.
- The playground at Stearns Park is not meeting the needs of the residents with respect to age diversity, accessibility, connectivity, excitement, or aesthetics.
- The parking lot at Pellegrini Park is chaotic, only partially paved, drains poorly, and has a half basketball court on it, creating unsafe conditions.
- The playground and courtyard at Pellegrini Park are ineffective, outdated, and unattractive. Accessibility could be greatly improved.

The NAC is grateful to the CPA and CDBG Programs for the community-based planning efforts that took place in the spring and summer of this year under Pressley Associates, Inc. Moreover, the NAC is proud of the results of the undertaking and are excited about realizing these visions.

Should more information be required, please do not hesitate to contact Danielle Bailey, Community Development Planner at (617) 796-1139, or me, Kathy Zegarelli, NAC Chairperson at (617) 964-3180. The NAC looks forward to meeting with you to discuss the next critical steps further. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Kathy Zegarelli, Chair

The Nonantum Advisory Committee

MEMBERS

LINDA ANDERSON
LOU FAZIO

ANTHONY ANTONELLIS
ELLEN LIPOMA

LORETTA BUSA
VALERIE PAOLETTI

JOSEPH DiDUCA
KATHY ZEGARELLI

Housing and Community Development Division
1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts 02459
Telephone (617) 796-1120 Telefax (617) 796-1142

www.ci.newton.ma.us

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459



October 3, 2005

To the Community Preservation Committee:

We are writing to express our full support of the application for Phase 1 implementation of the master plans for Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. Over the past six months, the community has come out to actively participate in the planning effort, jointly funded by CPA and CDBG. We can attest to the quality and level of input that the residents were afforded. The City and the consultant heard all the comments and took them to heart and produced two master plans that truly reflect compromise and the desired changes of the stakeholders.

Both parks lie in the heart of the Nonantum village, just off Watertown Street- Stearns Park on Jasset Street and Pellegrini Park on Hawthorn Street. Implementing these well-conceived plans would do immeasurable good for the self-held and city-held image of this neighborhood, and would significantly improve the recreational opportunities available to area residents.

The master planning process has been successful to date and we are supportive that the process should continue step by step. We hope that careful consideration will be given to this vital application for Phase 1 improvements, as the need is apparent and the extensive master planning effort has been completed.

Sincerely,

Alderman Scott F. Lennon
Alderman, Ward 1

Alderman Robert E. Gerst
Alderman-at Large, Ward 1

Alderman Carleton P. Merrill
Alderman-at-Large, Ward 1