

Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

October 7, 2004

Fran Towle
Commissioner
City of Newton Parks and Recreation Department
70 Crescent Street
Newton, MA 02466

Dear Fran,

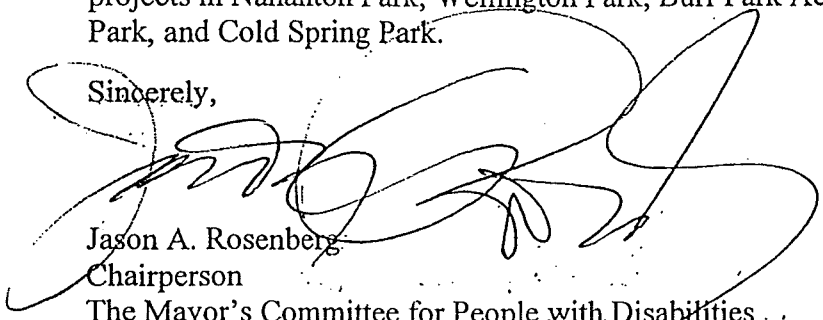
On behalf of the members of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, I have the pleasure of conveying our support of your goal of making the Newton Centre Playground accessible for people with disabilities.

The Mayor's Committee would like to achieve a city environment in which people with disabilities can use and enjoy the same public areas already enjoyed by able-bodied people. To that end, the Committee has made access to public recreational facilities in the City one of its highest priorities.

The Mayor's Committee has recommended the use of CDBG funds to support the increase of accessibility at Newton Centre Playground. We agree that it is an important facility to make accessible because of its central location and its heavy use by people of all ages.

Incidentally, some of the past accessibility projects supported by the Mayor's Committee with CDBG funds include projects at Nahanton Park, Auburndale Park, Burr Park, Albemarle Park and Playground, Gath Pool, Crystal Lake, and Lower Falls Community Center. The Committee has also given its support to future projects in Nahanton Park, Wellington Park, Burr Park Activity Center, Auburndale Park, and Cold Spring Park.

Sincerely,



Jason A. Rosenberg
Chairperson
The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities

C: Bob
Mark
Caral

MASON-RICE SCHOOL

149 Pleasant Street
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Mark Springer
Principal
Mark_Springer@newton.mec.edu

617-559-9570
617-552-7315 (fax)

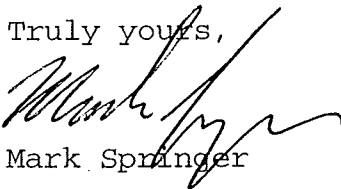
October 12, 2004

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

To Whom It May Concern,

As principal of the Mason-Rice Elementary School. I would like to express my support for the proposal being submitted by Newton's Parks and Recreation Department to make the Newton Centre playground more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. Our school is presently home to several children with disabilities which preclude them from taking full advantage of the playground apparatus and natural beauty of the park. An enhanced system of walkways connecting the school with the adjacent playground and surrounding streets would not only make the park more accessible to our students during the school day, but would make the entire area more accessible to these students and all others during the afternoon hours, weekends and summer months. I sincerely hope the Community Preservation Committee will be able to support this proposal. Thank you very much.

Truly yours,



Mark Springer



October 14, 2004

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I am writing in support of the Newton Parks and Recreation proposal to make the Newton Centre playground more accessible to people of all abilities and ages. Along with its natural beauty, the park offers many advantages to the citizens of Newton and to the Mason-Rice community – playground structures, basketball courts, playing fields, etc. A network of pathways would make the park more accessible to the whole community. Pathways would also eliminate automobile traffic thus making the park a safer place.

I sincerely hope that this proposal will be supported by the Community Preservation Committee. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wendy J. Protheroe
Executive Director

BOWEN AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAM, INC.
280 CYPRESS STREET, NEWTON, MA 02459
617-969-3130

November 4, 2004

Community Preservation Committee
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton MA 02459

Dear Committee Members,

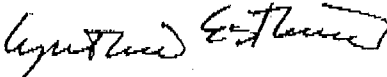
I hope this is not too late to express my support for the recent proposal now before the Newton Parks and Recreation Dept. for the improvement of the Newton Centre Playground. In particular, I would like very much to see this beautiful open space preserved and more accessible to citizens of all ages and abilities/disabilities.

The Mason-Rice After School Program and the Bowen After School Care Program run a great program on Tyler Terrace in The Jeannette West Recreation Building, also known as "the Hut". Throughout the ten month school year, our children maximize use of this playground on a daily basis. When we move out in June, the Centre Acres Day camp moves in to enjoy the playground in summer.

Over the last several years, the wear and tear of the climbing structure, swings, concrete forms and tennis courts have become more evident. We would love to see the park improved, preserved, and made accessible to all!

Thank you for efforts on this.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Esthimer, Director

Community Preservation Proposal
Accessibility Plan for Newton Centre Playground
Phase I Estimated Schedule and Cost
Parks and Recreation Department
November 10, 2004

Estimated Timeline: project start-up through schematic design - 3 months

<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Design Fees</u>
<i>Inventory and Analysis (4-6 weeks)</i>	
Topographic survey (4-6 weeks, per engineers' estimate)	\$16,500
Historic research and documentation	
Existing conditions inventory and documentation	
Identify programming requirements	
Identify permitting requirements	
Meetings with City staff and other key stakeholders	
Meeting with Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities	
<i>Preliminary Schematic Design Alternatives (4 weeks)</i>	
Coordination/progress meetings	
Public Meeting #1 – present inventory and analysis/receive public input	
Grading and drainage studies	
Develop schematic design alternatives	
Develop cost estimates	
<i>Final Schematic Design (4 weeks)</i>	
Coordination/progress meeting	
Presentation to P&R Commission, ConComm	
Public Meeting #2 – present alternatives to the public	
Finalize schematic design	
Final cost estimate	
	<u>\$40,000</u>
Estimated Total:	<u><u>\$56,500</u></u>