

Robin McLaughlin

abutter-Wellington

From: Nancy ODriscoll <nancyodriscoll@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 8:01 AM
To: Robin McLaughlin
Subject: Wellington Park

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Hi,

I live close to Wellington Park and just learned of an effort to build it out more.

While it is great that young families have found our neighborhood park, I worry about its future as a neighborhood open space.

Issue 1: Currently there are about 50 small plastic toys strewn about the park, on the tennis court, basketball court. At its busiest, only a handful of these toys are in use and the rest of the time they are just left behind, blocking others from enjoying the park without a major cleanup effort and creating an eyesore. I would ask to see some controls on the toys as we seem to have become a little bit of a toy dump. The park is meant to be enjoyable by all. If your neighbor's lawn looked like our park you'd want him to clean it up. I ask the same of our young family visitors- we don't need more than 10 ride on toys, and ones in poor condition should be discarded. Perhaps a parent could build a shed for them to be properly stored.

Issue 2: I am against building more structures on the land. There is not a lot of open space in Wellington and the neighborhood adjacent has older kids who use it for sports. At its core Wellington was built to be a small neighborhood park, not to be a magnet for surrounding areas. Open space in our little corner is gold and there are larger playgrounds in walking distances to Wellington.

Nancy O'Driscoll
24 Lindbergh Ave

Robin McLaughlin

From: Jaimie Kraus <jaimielk@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:11 AM
To: Robin McLaughlin
Subject: Wellington Park

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Mr. Welch,

My name is Jaimie Kraus, and I live at 51 Princess Road in Newton. My home is directly adjacent to Wellington Park. I understand that some neighborhood residents are requesting changes to Wellington Park, and I wanted to give my perspective.

1. We have fields and park spaces in Newton that impact more people in Newton than Wellington which are in far greater need of repair. We need lights at NNHS, grass on the soccer fields at Weeks, and substantial work done to the playground and fields at Franklin. I question why we would spend money on new structures for Wellington when we have existing infrastructure that needs attention so badly.
2. The open space at Wellington is much needed and is used often by the neighborhood children for sports and by adults for exercise. We have yoga meet ups, flag football practice, and Girl Scouts activities happening all the time. Taking away the grass and open space will have a negative impact. I don't support losing 3k of grass to a dark rubber surface— Wellington is one of the nicest grassy areas in town.
3. The number of ride on toys and play structures left in the park has become a real issue. There is a noticeable deterioration to the court surfaces since these toys have been allowed. People looking to play basketball or tennis are forced to move these toys out of the way to play. It's also unsightly and some of the toys are unsafe. I find it ironic that the same people who want the courts refinished are the same people promoting the toys that are causing the damage.

I love the park and our neighborhood. I'm hugely grateful to the people who manage all of the gardening activities that enhance the park. That said, I don't think a structure fits in the park or is a good use of city resources.

Sincerely,

Jaimie Kraus