

September 19, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the building of a play structure to accommodate older children at Wellington Park.

I have lived directly across the street from Wellington Park for almost 30 years. Over the years I have seen and participated in the expansion and vast improvement of the park, including the community-building of the current play structure for younger children. As the neighborhood has grown and park use has dramatically increased the need for a facility appropriate for the utilization of older children has become evident.

The addition of a play structure for older children, along with the current play structure, basketball and tennis courts, as well as the open fields, would offer the growing children and families of our neighborhood the opportunity to continue using Wellington Park as the extraordinary resource for our local community that the park has become over the years.

I wholeheartedly support the addition of the proposed play structure for older children.

Sincerely,

David Lewis

41 Kilburn Road

West Newton, MA 02465

dlewis@mit.edu

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to express our **strong support** for the proposed play structure project at Wellington Park.

We live across the street from the park and spend several hours there almost every day with our two daughters (aged 7 and 2) and our dog. It is a privilege to be a few steps from this vibrant park which offers so much to people of a variety of ages and interests, from parents with infants who stroll the park path, to preschoolers on the swings and slides, to older kids and adults playing basketball and tennis, to community gardeners who collaborate on the park's wonderful plantings.

We have noticed, however, that the park does not offer so much to elementary school aged children. Our older daughter (7yo) is no longer challenged by the small slides and the swings in

the existing playground and is still several years away from enjoying games of soccer, basketball, or tennis as a casual activities. We see children in her age range finding various "creative" ways to enjoy the park (climbing on trees and other structures, hiding among the trees, etc.), but **we would be thrilled if our park had some of the challenging and engaging equipment we see at more distant playgrounds and which is being proposed in this project.**

Best,
Eyal Dechter and Amy Heberle
35 Kilburn Rd, West Newton 02465
(650) 603-6368
eyaldechter@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Benjamin Bayes, and I live at 96 Westland Ave, West Newton.

Wellington Park is a wonderful resource for the local community. It is the favorite of my 4 year old and 2 year old girls. We live just a few blocks away and regularly walk over to visit. It is also notable for the substantial volunteer effort to maintain it. A wide array of toys are donated for public use here, the flower garden is kept beautiful, etc. We have attended large public gatherings and birthday parties here. It is unusual to visit and not find at least a few families enjoying it. Clearly this park is loved by many.

I strongly support the "big kid" playground structure proposal. It would be fantastic to be able to continue using the park as my girls grow up, instead of having to travel further for "big kid" parks.

Thank you for your consideration!

Benjamin Bayes
96 Westland Ave, West Newton
bayesb@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I have two young girls, ages 4 (almost 5) and 2, and are wholeheartedly in support of a new play structure at Wellington Park. Wellington Park is our go-to park--we live

within walking distance--and our girls absolutely love it there. We generally visit at least two to three times a week.

With all this being said, my older daughter is starting to outgrow the play structure that currently exists at Wellington, as it really is for slightly younger children. She would revel in new, older child-centric structures being installed at the park. I, as a parent to a walking (sprinting, careening) bundle of spitfire energy, would revel in her having additional abilities and locations to outsource her energy (that doesn't involve my indoor furniture being damaged).

Many thanks for your time,

Heather Lockrow & Benjamin Bayes
(Gwendolyn Lockrow Bayes, 4yo & Cora Lockrow Bayes, 2yo)
96 Westland Ave, West Newton, MA 02465
hlockrow@gmail.com or bayesb@gmail.com
716-982-1195 or 617-838-8761

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of two elementary aged children who love visiting Wellington park! It is a wonderful park walking distance from our home where we get to meet friends, have play dates, parties and sports practices.

That said, the current play structure is targeted for young children and I greatly support the proposal to expand, build a new structure that would serve an older group of children and accommodate the number and variety of kids that visit Wellington Park! This park is a hidden gem that allows our community to come together and I urge you to support the improvements to Wellington park!

Thank you,
Lisa Madding
224 Cherry Street
Newton MA 02465
ldacey24@hotmail.com

To whom it may concern:

We are a local family of West Newton, with two small boys (ages 9 and 6). We have lived here for seven years and were first introduced to Wellington Park after a few months of living here and having not met many other younger families.

We were told they we have a “neighborhood park”, and that it was a lovely place for families to meet up they are local to the community.

It was just that! It’s been a place of gathering, and celebrating (we have had birthday parties there- permits were pulled!) an easy, quiet, walkable park.

The park could benefit so greatly from updates such as play structures that can grow with our kids, fields that can have kids play football, baseball, soccer on, walking paths, and benches. Tennis/pickle ball courts and basketball nets that are updated and taken care of.

If we can keep parks that can grow with families, we can keep our kids there and out of trouble around town! I personally would love a Friday evening where we could all go to the town park and find something to do together.

Thank you,
Roopshree Shah
29 Pleasant Street, 02465
roopshreeshah@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

We don’t go to Wellington often because it’s a bit far for a walk. When my kids were younger, they liked pushing the toys on the basketball court and paths, but they’ve mostly grown out of that activity and the play set does not keep their interest for very long, so we’re not drawn to drive over like we do for some other Newton playgrounds like Newton Centre and Emerson.

I definitely support the installation of equipment that would provide more of a challenge to older children. Considering how the West Newton playground is also designed for younger children, it seems this installation would fill a gap in outdoor activities for children playing north of I-90 in West Newton.

Please feel free to pass on my sentiments to the city, and best wishes for your presentation!

Best,

Devon Villarreal

Mother of Jesse (5) and James (3)

164 Chestnut Street, Newton MA 02465

dhm Villarreal@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I support the new play structure in Wellington Park. Let me know if you need anything more to help move things forward.

Regards,

Anthony Cutone

25 Llewellyn Road

Anthony.Cutone@am.jll.com

To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for working on this initiative for our neighbourhood! The proposed new play structure at Wellington Park is a great idea and definitely something we would look forward to having our kids play at together.

Best,

Leslie and Dennis Kwok

269 Waltham Street

lesliewong.a@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

Our family are residents of West Newton. Our kids are in public school here. We live only a couple of blocks from Wellington Park, where we have loved to play and meet with neighbors for several years. The park is wonderful, but it is in need of a play structure for older kids. We

have two — a 5-year-old and an 8-year-old — who would use and benefit from such a play structure for many years to come. Right now, they play on the small structure, and it is no longer appropriate for them. We have seen the new plans and approve wholeheartedly. Please find a way to bring something like this to Wellington.

Thank you.

Jeff and Sarah Harris

38 LLEWELLYN RD.

NEWTON, MA 02465

hereisjeff@gmail.com

sarahharris1110@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

The structure proposed at Wellington park is a great idea to promote community and active play to our kids in the community who are growing and need more access to community space and challenging play equipment which are in need in this wonderful park. It would allow more access to age-appropriate equipment for older kids and promote more community and active play in an already well-loved space. This park has great access to community toys for tots and structures for toddlers and younger preschool-school age kids but lacks more complex structures for older kids to play on. There is ample space to continue for free play, picnicking, tennis, basketball, and gardening even if this proposed structure is built. I am in support of its building and feel it will promote community and engagement in West Newton.

Regards,

Kelly Ramappa

96 Temple Street

West Newton, MA 02465

kellyburrall@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I live in west newton, about a 15 minute walk to Wellington park.

My family and I moved from Brookline in January 2020 and once the nice weather came I was really missing the parks from my old neighborhood- filled with kids laughter and a nice

community feel. I reached out on the newton fb parenting group to find parks with a similar feel and several people recommended Wellington park, and I was so excited to take my kids there.

My son is on the autism spectrum and he gets overwhelmed with new environments, but he easily felt so comfortable because of the open lay out and ride on toys easily available.

Having a new structure would be so amazing and I know my kids would love it! Also, it would nice to have a rubber surface instead of woodchips for my wild toddler who loves to try and eat them:)

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help!

Naz Ali
46 Underwood ave
Zaviyar Mehdi, 1st grader at Franklin
nazfali@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I was so excited to read that you are working on a proposal for the renovation of Wellington Park! My children have loved the park all their lives, and now that they are getting a little older, we wish there were opportunities for them to play there on structures designed for older children. We were excited to read that this was something you were proposing!! Also, in general, Wellington is such a peaceful haven to pass a weekend afternoon, and the idea that you would be renovating it for many years to come makes us so happy.

Thanks for all your efforts! We wholly support this project proposal!

Heather Budd and Ben Berman
46 Milo Street
Newton, MA 02465
617 835 7231
buddhl@yahoo.com

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for driving this effort forward! We live on Waltham St, just a 2mn walk to the park, with our two girls (4/6yrs old) who have years to come to play at this playground. We fully support adding the new structures, especially for kids older than 6-7 who have outgrown the current play structure but not ready to play basketball or tennis yet. Good luck on Monday, hoping they follow your vision! And thank you again :)

Alix Eastham
339 Waltham st
Newton, MA 02465
alixceastham@gmail.com

Amanda, first....thanks for your effort. I am sure there have been a lot of thankless hours working this. Know the community supports you even if they don't send an email.

I have a 5 and 7 year old and live in West Newton. We frequent the park as a family and have even had a birthday party there for my youngest. As my kids have grown they still in enjoy the park but tend to play in the grass areas and basketball court as they outgrow the current play structure. I fully support the upgrade!

Thanks
Erin Scheaffer/Jeff Lockhart
52 Eliot Ave, West Newton, MA 02465
escheaffer@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Cheryl Wermer. I live at 153 Randlett Park in West Newton with my husband and 3 children (ages 10, 8, and 4). Wellington Park has been a neighborhood park for many years. We utilize Wellington Park for meeting up with friends, tennis, and girl scout troop meetings. However, the park is very much geared towards younger children. I am writing in support of adding a play structure for older/bigger children. By adding this, it would afford more kids the opportunity to play at Wellington and get full use out of the park. As a parent, I greatly value spaces that where ALL of my children can play, not just my younger children. Adding this play structure would be a great resource to Wellington.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Wermer
153 Randlett Park
Newton, MA 02465
617-997-9301
cwermer@yahoo.com

To whom it may concern,

I hope this email finds you well.

In advance of your meeting with the City, in an effort to have the new play structure proposal approved, I wanted to reach out to show my support.

Especially in the last 2 years, as we have lived through this Covid pandemic, we understand the importance of outdoor play even more! To have our community support this and offer NEW play structures that provide our kids with further outdoor stimulus and motivation, is wonderful!

This email is to show and share my full support in this new play initiative for Wellington Park, West Newton.

Fingers crossed it goes through,

Thanks for all your work,

Thomasin Hummerstone

150 Otis street,
West Newton
02465
thomasin.hummerstone@reebok.com

To whom it may concern,

We wanted to send along our quick email in support of your great work with Wellington Park.

Thank you,
Keith & Tanya Fortier

250 Waltham St, West Newton, MA 02465
thefortierfamily@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to show my utmost support in the redevelopment of Wellington Park. My young family enjoys nothing more than an afternoon at the playground and with new climbing structures and sensory elements that this committee is proposing, my children will get to further their love for being outside, climbing, running, swinging and playing. We sincerely urge you to consider this proposal for approval and write with excitement over our future at Wellington Park.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Timothy Marken
50 Putnam St
West Newton, MA 02465
ericaduggan@gmail.com

Hi Amanda,

Thanks so much for your work to improve our beloved Wellington Park! I am writing to share our strong support for the planned improvements.

We lived at 58 Henshaw Street for several years and enjoyed the park many times a week while our children were pre-school aged. When we needed a bigger home, we waited years until a house in close proximity to the park became available because we love the neighborhood, and the park is such a big piece of that!

Over the years, we have enjoyed the little kid playground, the basketball courts, the open fields, and most of all, the sense of community. We have held several of our kids' birthday parties at Wellington Park, and have especially appreciated the open outdoor space during this difficult time with Covid precautions.

It's such a beautiful little gem of a park, and we very much support the planned improvements to ensure that the park will meet the needs of the community for years to come. In particular, our elementary aged kids will love the new bigger play structure!

Best regards,
Alison McLaughlin & Jenny Robertson
449 Waltham Street
alison7111@gmail.com

Hi Amanda -

I am so excited to hear of your hard work and efforts to help improve Wellington Park. My two kids are now 7 and 10 and we started going to Wellington Park when they were babies. This park is a special place for our community. Our family has always viewed Wellington Park as an extension of our home's green space. We never installed a swing set or play set in our small backyard because we would walk to Wellington Park instead. We always look forward to going to the park as we always run into old friends and make new ones.

The proposed improvements will be a great overall addition to the park and will be a benefit to all kids and adults. The proposed new structures for older children are needed and no doubt will be used.

Thanks again for being a leader in improving Wellington Park.

Helen Makadia
22 Warwick Road
helen.alva.makadia@gmail.com

Hi Amanda,

I am writing to express my family's enthusiastic support of the Wellington Park project! We have a 2nd grader at Franklin, a 4 year old in preschool and two dogs. Our family visits the park at least once a day. We are very excited about the prospect of a larger child play structure as my children and many of their friends gather at the park to play, even more so over the past year and a half. I believe our whole community would greatly benefit from this addition. We are also excited about the other proposed improvements, including improved fields, walking paths and courts. We use every foot of Wellington and these improvements will also go a long way to sustaining the park for future enjoyment.

We so value the little gem that Wellington is in our community. We have met so many wonderful neighbors and friends, and are grateful for this community gathering area. Wellington is one of our favorite things about life in Newton, and we look forward to these improvements and supporting the next steps of this proposal.

Thank you,
Meghan & Russell Perkins
286 Cherry St
West Newton, MA 02465
megs323@gmail.com

Hello Amanda,

The Brenner Family enthusiastically supports the recommended improvements to Wellington Park in West Newton.

We live approximately 200 steps from the park, so my Fitbit tells me. It is easy to think of examples of how important Wellington Park is to the surrounding community. Yes, the community uses this park for the little kid's playground, basketball and tennis courts, and open spaces. However, they do not tell the whole story. Our kids use it to see their friends and have birthday parties, we attend neighborhood gatherings and volunteer to maintain a beautiful garden, and dogs have a place to show love and be loved by everyone. Wellington Park is a treasure to the West Newton community.

That said, the physical space does not match the enthusiasm or accurately represent the community. There is an age gap between who can play on the play structures and the two adult-focused courts. My 8-year old prefers the surrounding trees, also needing improvements, as a place to play with friends. Plus, the park has accessibility issues for strollers and the elderly needing safe entry into the park. These are examples of Newton's shortcomings compared to the superior Waltham parks a short distance away.

We encourage the City of Newton to support the enthusiasm of the Wellington Park community by approving the proposed improvements.

Thank you,

Tim, Ami, and Ben Brenner
35 Byrd Ave
(~500 ft from the park)

Dear Amanda,

I am thrilled to express my support for adding the proposed play structure in Wellington park. Having seen the designs, I think it is wonderful and unique; and will be a source of excitement for all the kids in the neighbourhood!

If you need any help at any point in the process, please don't hesitate to contact me

Thanks,
Santosh
36 S Gate Park, West Newton, MA 02465
617.610.8080
santosh.shanbhogue@gmail.com

Hi Amanda,
First off, thank you and our other neighbors for spearheading this campaign to continue the improvements to our beloved community park and playground.

Our family moved into our house on Cherry Street in 2014, and we have been glad to enjoy the park ever since. We have two young daughters who have loved the park through all seasons and visit often. As they've gotten older and outgrown the equipment designed for younger children they've also grown to appreciate the beautiful plantings and gardens. The improvements and maintenance of the park has proven essential for our family to get to know our neighbors and is a keystone for our community.

I hope our city will support your efforts to improve, maintain, and build spaces for our children, neighbors, and friends to grow and enjoy the environment that makes West Newton such a wonderful place to live.

-David Mankus
272 Cherry St, West Newton
dmankus@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

Thanks for organizing around the design of Wellington Park's future layout.

I'm strongly supportive of a variety of equipment - for little kids and for big kids. The current set up is largely oriented toward little kids, but as a center of our community (EVERYONE has their parties and meetups there), it draws kids of a variety of ages.

I see kids even at 4 or 5 climbing on the existing equipment in dangerous ways - spending time in the trees near the fence in highly dangerous climbing games - giving them a designed climbing space that is more challenging will both help avoid issues with those larger kids in dangerous places but also align with what other parks do where they have small kids areas and big kid areas to keep the kids from hurting those younger than them (or scaring them off).

Lots of support for your proposal -

Dave Smith
3 Rangeley Rd
West Newton, MA
dave.smith49@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to **wholeheartedly support** the on-going efforts to obtain **a new play structure at Wellington Park** in West Newton, MA. We have been taking our daughter to Wellington Park weekly since she was a toddler. And we have continued to bring her there weekly for the last almost 8 years already! We appreciate the sense of community that the park provides. We love meeting our neighbors and friends there --whether intentional or by chance. The addition of a big kid play structure would be AMAZING! A new structure suited for her age to climb would allow her a *place* in the park to get her big kid energy out instead of climbing the trees and fences along the edges. Hard to believe but Wellington Park and its playground, open space, courts and gardens have become even more important to our family in the pandemic as we go there for solace and friendship in the face of COVID-19 and its variants. The proposed added structure would only be a benefit to the community! And still allow plenty of space for other community needs (e.g., space for girl scouts meetings, birthday parties, soccer games).

Please let me know if there is more I can do to ensure Wellington Park gets a new structure!

All the best,

Alisa

Alisa Miller
11 Llewellyn Rd, Newton, MA 02465
alisabmiller@gmail.com

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support the proposed play structure to be built at Wellington Park. It is a much needed update that will keep our neighborhood's children happy and entertained. Our kids (aged 8, 12, and 15) will all benefit from the facilities at Wellington being improved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Walkey
17 Llewellyn Rd, Newton, Ma 02465
brenda.walkey@gmail.com

To Whom it May Concern:

We are West Newton residents, that live in the area of Wellington park. We are writing to support the proposed play structure at Wellington. As parents of 2 children, that are 4 and 7 years old, we feel the larger structures are important to allow children to continue to play as they grow.

We look forward to hearing which new structure(s) will be placed, as Wellington evolves into a new and improved family park.

Sincerely,

Adam and Raquel Rein
75 Fuller Terrace
Newton MA 02465
raquelrein@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

We live at 417 Waltham Street, just around the corner from Wellington Park. We used to go to Wellington Park all the time. It is such a lovely neighborhood park. We used to be at the park every day, but our boys (8 and 6) have aged out of the play ground. We still go there from time to time to skateboard, but the boys get bored after a short while. The park is seriously lacking in safe, challenging play structure equipment. Our boys need climbing. If there's nothing meant for climbing, they will find something to climb. They scale the tennis court fence, climb any tree they can, and even scale the exterior of the small kid structure and perch up at the very top.

Obviously, none of this is how the park was intended to be used. It's so evident that we need a structure to climb. We enthusiastically support the proposed play structure, which we understand is to be approximately 2,700 square feet. It would improve the park so much and bring so much joy to the many, many neighborhood kids (and therefore parents and grandparents as well). Please remember that it's all for the kids. We can't wait to make this play structure a reality!

Sincerely,

Tim and Kate Kausch
417 Waltham Street
k_murphy00@hotmail.com