

Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
246 Dudley Road, Newton, MA 02459
Office: (617) 796-1500
TDD/TTY: (617) 796-1089
parks@newtonma.gov



June 15, 2022

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

I'm writing in full support of the Gath Pool project. As the "Over 55" Director for Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture, I am fully aware of the physical, social, and emotional benefits a community pool offers older adults.

City planning for aging populations benefits all people. By providing an alternative to land-based exercises, seniors will stay active and mobile longer, promoting independence longer. The current design addresses barriers, such as zero clearance, ensuring access and inclusion for all. The designed walking therapy track will be a sought after and beneficial option for people of all fitness levels. Overall, the Gath project will create a strong name for effective community wellness and engagement.

As the project moves forward, I am furthermore in favor of supporting funds for additional design work. The City of Newton is an accepted member of the AARP's Age Friendly Community Network, which is part of an international effort of the World Health Organization initiative to *promote planning and prepare cities* to address the needs of rapidly aging populations. Newton seniors are the largest growing demographic in the city. This project supports the vision of the Age Friendly Community Network and will have immeasurable benefits for our community.

Sincerely,

Nancy Scammon

Nancy Scammon
Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture
"Over 55" Director
nscammon@newtonma.gov 617-796-1506

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