

Kelley Ramirez  
Recreation Director  
Town Fairhaven, Recreation Department  
227 Huttleston Avenue  
Fairhaven, MA 02719  
September 29, 2023

Community Preservation Committee  
40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Dear Committee Members,

The Fairhaven Recreation Department is seeking Community Preservation funding to revitalize the Fairhaven Recreation Center playground, which is in urgent need of rehabilitation. Our proposed project aims to enhance safety, accessibility, and long-term sustainability while addressing significant challenges that currently hinder children from enjoying this vital community space.

**Project Overview:**

Located at 227 Huttleston Avenue, our municipal playground has long been a cherished space for families and children to gather, play, and connect. However, the passage of time has taken its toll on this beloved community asset. We seek funding to address the following critical issues:

**1. Safety:**

Our playground currently poses a safety hazard due to the inadequate surface depth beneath the play structures. The lack of the recommended surface depth increases the risk of injury when children fall off the play equipment. Compounding this issue is the recurring problem of insufficient wood fiber surfacing caused by poor drainage. Each time it rains, the wood chips are washed out of the playground, leaving the surface dangerously shallow. To address this critical safety concern and ensure the well-being of our young community members, it is imperative that we replace the existing surface with a durable and stable solution, such as poured-in-place rubber surfacing, which will not be susceptible to erosion and will maintain the necessary depth for safety.

**2. ADA Compliance:**

Our playground, in its current state, falls far short of meeting ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Notably, it lacks an accessible surface, making it difficult for children with mobility challenges to navigate safely. Furthermore, the playground does not have any

wheelchair-accessible play elements, denying children with disabilities the opportunity to engage fully in recreational activities alongside their peers. Ensuring ADA compliance is not only a matter of equality but also an essential step toward fostering inclusivity within our community.

### **3. Drainage Challenges:**

As briefly addressed above, the recurrent flooding of the playground every time it rains is an equally pressing issue. This issue not only renders the playground unusable for days following precipitation but also poses health risks due to the formation of stagnant water that attracts insects and creates potential breeding grounds for disease vectors. It is not uncommon for the playground to be holding 5 inches or more of rain water for several days after a rainstorm. The photos attached in this packet show the severity of the playground's flooding. A poured-in-place rubber surface is recommended in wet areas, as the stone sub base aids in the water drainage.

### **Project Objectives:**

With the support of the Community Preservation funding, our project aims to accomplish the following objectives:

- **Safety and ADA Compliance:** We will install an accessible poured-in-place rubber surfacing to reduce risk of injury and meet ADA standards, ensuring children of all abilities can access and enjoy the playground. Wheelchair-accessible play elements will be incorporated, promoting inclusivity.
- **Resolve Drainage Issues:** To address the persistent flooding issue, we will relocate the playground uphill to the other side of the field where the topography is better suited for the playground.
- **Establish Long-Term Maintainability:** Our proposed poured-in-place rubber surfacing increases the playground's longevity and reduces future upkeep costs. Once the poured-in-place rubber is installed, it usually lasts ten years before any maintenance is required. When needed, spot repairs can be conducted, or a fresh layer of rubber can be poured over the surface, increasing safety and eliminating the need for a complete replacement/resurfacing. This will result in cost savings, as we will no longer need to replace the wood fiber chips every year.

### **Project Alignment with Community Goals:**

Our project is fully aligned with the objectives set forth in Fairhaven's Open Space and Recreation Plan and Community Preservation Plan. Our project enhances stewardship over a critical recreation asset by addressing safety and accessibility issues, ensuring its continued usage and enjoyment by the community (OSRP goal #6). The Community Preservation Plan states the Committees commitment to meeting ADA-required accessibility standards for access to all town-owned conservation, recreation and athletic facilities, as outlined in the ADA

transition plan. This project will bring this playground into alignment with the standards in the ADA transition Plan.

**Project Beneficiaries:**

The beneficiaries of our playground revitalization project extend far and wide within our community. Firstly, the entire community will reap the rewards of having well-maintained recreational amenities and assets they can take pride in. Secondly, our project will directly benefit the many families who visit our recreational center regularly. Within the last month alone 188 youth aged 1-14 were enrolled in various activities and/or held memberships. Families often visit our facility to participate in programming with plans to take their children out to our playground after, only to find that the playground is flooded and unusable. Additionally, a revitalized playground significantly enriches the daily experiences of the 400-700 children attending our summer day program. This impact is particularly pronounced for the children attending our program on scholarships, and the children with disabilities or mobility challenges that will have an accessible and inclusive playground that accommodates their needs, fostering a more equitable and welcoming community for all.

**Inclusivity in Community Programming:**

It is important to highlight that although New Bedford has an ADA-accessible playground that Fairhaven residents can access, our playground's current condition hinders inclusivity in our own community programming, such as our summer day program. If a child needing ADA-accessible spaces were to participate in our Recreation Department's programs, they would not be able to access the playground like their peers. This project will bridge that gap, ensuring that all children in our community can enjoy our recreational facilities equally.

**Project Impact:**

The rehabilitation of the Recreation Center Playground will have a profound and lasting impact on our community:

- It will create a safe, accessible, and inclusive space where children of all abilities can play together.
- It will address the long-standing drainage issues, ensuring that the playground remains a reliable and enjoyable resource for our community regardless of weather conditions.
- By preserving and restoring salvageable equipment, we demonstrate fiscal responsibility while maintaining a sense of familiarity for our community members.

**Budget Breakdown:**

We are seeking \$113,000.00 in Community Preservation Funding to support this project. The funds will be allocated as follows:

<b>Site Preparation</b>		
Processed Gravel	\$1,040.00	
Stone Dust for Surface Prep	\$1,430.00	
Loam and Seeding (Previous Location)	\$560.00	

	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$3,030.00</b>
<b>Play Equipment</b>		
Repainting + repairing existing equipment*	\$16,000.00	
New ADA spinning chair	\$7,000.00	
Sensory features	\$11,730.00	
	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$34,730.00</b>
<b>Site Furnishings</b>		
Bench/seating	\$1,000.00	
Accessible picnic table	2,500.00	
trash / recycling receptacles	\$1,000.00	
	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$4,500.00</b>
<b>Surfaces / Walkways</b>		
Poured-in place-rubber safety surface	\$60,000.00	
	<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>\$60,000.00</b>
	<b>Project Total:</b>	<b>\$102,260.00</b>
	<b>Contingency:</b>	<b>~\$10,000.00</b>
	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$113,000.00</b>

**\*Salvageable Equipment Restoration:** We will refurbish, repaint and repair the salvageable playground equipment, preserving their functionality while revitalizing the overall play area. By refurbishing existing equipment, rather than replacing all existing equipment, we will save approximately \$102,663 on project costs.

This budget breakdown comes from cost estimates (attached) provided by Premier Park & Play. The Recreation Department is scheduling site visits with other trusted industry professionals and vendors and will provide three professional quotes as soon as they are available.

**Conclusion:**

The rejuvenation of the Recreation Center playground is an urgent and vital endeavor for our community. A renovated playground is more than just a play space; it serves as a vital community resource that promotes physical health, social interaction, mental well-being, and community cohesion. It contributes to the overall vitality and quality of life within a community and is an investment in the well-being of current and future generations. We humbly request the Community Preservation Committee's support to bring this project to fruition. Together, we can ensure that our children have access to a safe, accessible, and sustainable playground that will benefit the community for many years to come.

I am available to provide any additional information, address questions, or arrange a meeting with the committee to discuss our proposal further. Thank you for considering our application, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate with you in revitalizing our cherished playground.

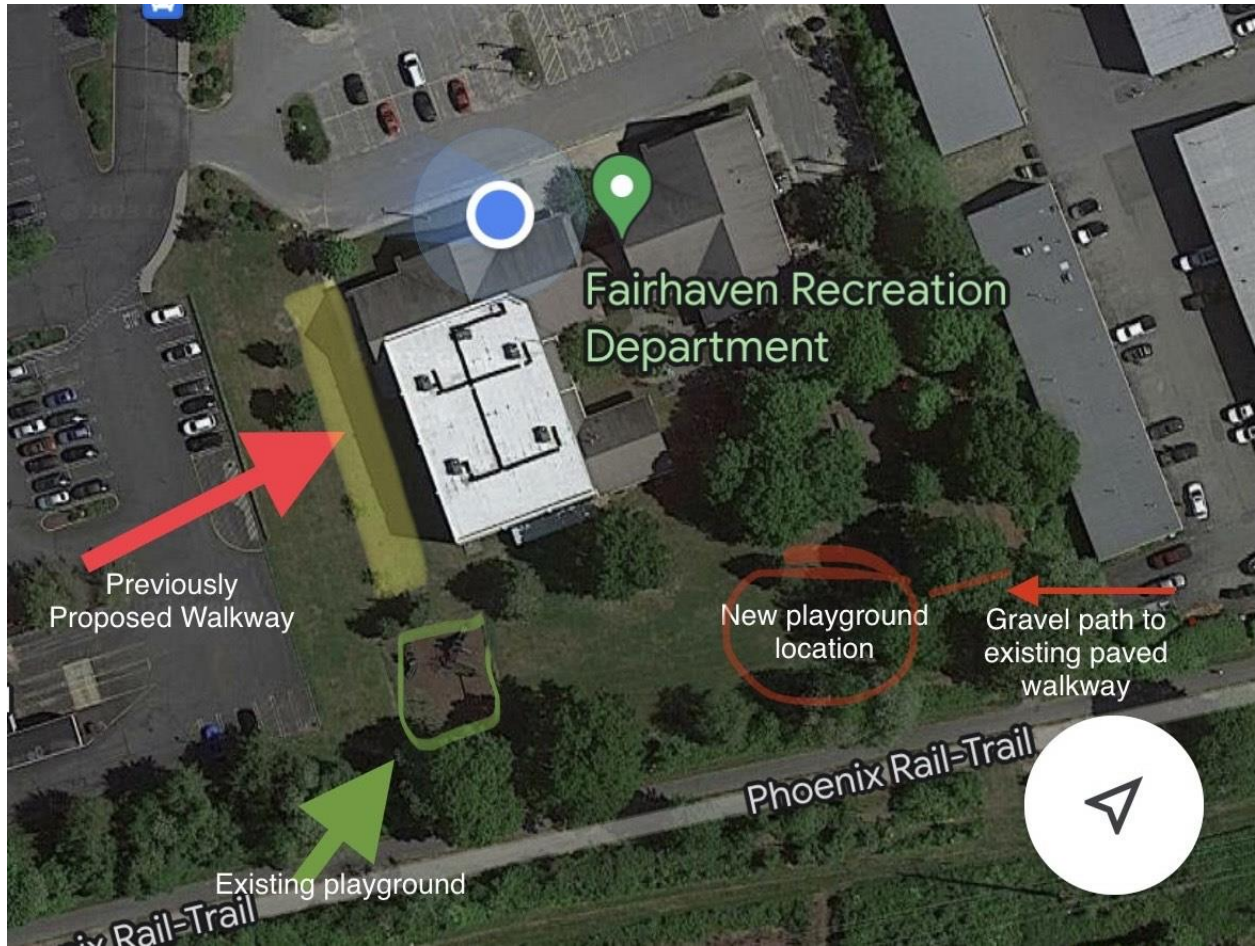
Sincerely,

Kelley Ramirez  
Recreation Director  
Town of Fairhaven, Recreation Department  
[kpeterston@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:kpeterston@fairhaven-ma.gov) | 508-993-9269





11 - Fairhaven Rec Center - Recreation Center Playground Rehabilitation  
Aerial View of the Project





REC CENTER PLAYGROUND MAINTAINING PLAYGORUND AT EXISTING LOCATION

LENGTH            65 FT            WIDTH            50 FT

REMOVE EXISTING SURFACE MATERIAL

DEPTH REMOVED            1 FT  
 VOLUME            120.37 CY

**REPROCESSED GRAVEL**

DEPTH PLACED            12 IN  
 ADDED DEPTH FOR DRAINAGE            8 IN  
    1.67 FT  
 200.6173 CY

SAY            300.93 TON  
 PRICE            **310 TON**  
                                  **\$16.00 /TON**  
                                  **\$4,960.00**

**STONE DUST FOR SURFACE PREP**

DEPTH            0.333333 FT  
    40.12346 CY

SAY            60.19 TON  
 PRICE            **65 TON**  
                                  **\$22.00 /TON**  
                                  **\$1,430.00**

**PERIMETER TRENCH DRAIN**

ASSUME 3 FT WIDE TRENCH X 2 FT DEEP

PERIMETER LENGTH            230 FT  
 3/4 INCH STONE VOLUME            1380 CF  
    51.11111 CY

SAY            76.67 TON  
 PRICE            **85 TON**  
                                  **\$26.00 /TON**  
                                  **\$2,210.00**

PERFORATED 4 INCH DRAIN PIPE

300 FT            **\$500.00**

**LOAM AND SEED FOR BLENDING**

ASSUME 4 FOOT WIDTH AROUND PERIMETER  
 DEPTH            6 IN  
    1060 CF

SAY            39.26 CY  
 PRICE            **45 CY**  
                                  **\$28.00 /CY**  
                                  **\$1,260.00**

**WALKWAY EXTENSION FROM WEST SIDE OF BUILDING**

ASSUME 150 FT X 5 FT CEMENT CONCRETE

83.33333 SY

SAY            90 SY  
 PRICE            **\$75.00 /SY**  
                                  **\$6,750.00**

**TOTAL            \$17,110.00**

**SAY            \$17,500.00**

REC CENTER PLAYGROUND AT NEW LOCATION, UPHILL TO THE EAST OF CURRENT LOCATION

LENGTH            65 FT            WIDTH            50 FT

REMOVE EXISTING SURFACE MATERIAL

DEPTH REMOVED            0.50 FT  
VOLUME                      60.19 CY

**REPROCESSED GRAVEL**

DEPTH PLACED                      4 IN

0.33 FT  
40.12346 CY

60.19 TON  
65 TON  
SAY                      \$16.00 /TON  
PRICE                      \$1,040.00

**STONE DUST FOR SURFACE PREP**

DEPTH                              0.33 FT

40.12346 CY

60.19 TON  
65 TON  
SAY                      \$22.00 /TON  
PRICE                      \$1,430.00

**LOAM AND SEED FOR BLENDING**

ASSUME 4 FOOT WIDTH AROUND PERIMETER

PERIMETER LENGTH            230 FT

DEPTH                              6 IN

460 CF

17.04 CY  
20 SY  
SAY                      \$28.00 /TON  
PRICE                      \$560.00

TOTAL                      \$3,030.00

SAY                         \$3,500.00

PERIMETER DRAINAGE NOT NEEDED AS NEW LOCATION HAS BETTER TOPOGRAPHY  
WALKWAYS NOT ANTICIPTED