
Eldredge Park

From Catherine Littlefield <micatya77@yahoo.com>

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To Thomas DeSiervo <tdesiervo@town.orleans.ma.us>; Jennifer Fountain <jfountain@town.orleans.ma.us>

Cc Ryan Wade <ryanwade03@yahoo.com>

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Dear Board,

The Eldredge Park renovation is not just a plan for improved public spaces. It's about community. This park has been a lifeline for our family as my husband and I have raised our 2 children in Orleans. It has been a place where I have made friends and my kids have learned to run and climb in a safe environment. Our use of the space has changed over the years as my children have grown, one who started 9th grade this year at NRHS and the other who is in 4th at OES. The one constant is that we still use it. This is where my kids first walked to when they had the chance to "be big kids" and sign themselves out of school and where they continue to play pickleball and use the skate park next door. This project offers something for everyone. Active facilities, like a new basketball court, which our teen population desperately needs. For years the older kids have been forced to play around the elementary age children after school as the only outdoor basketball space is located at OES. Then the passive areas like a series of pathways provide a variety of different benefits. We need to come up with a funding solution so we can move ahead sooner rather than later. This area could have such a positive impact. An outdoor community center if you will, where everyone can benefit from the renovations regardless of age! I appreciate all of your time and effort on the towns behalf.

**With gratitude,
Catherine and Ryan Wade
19 Lockwood Ln Orleans**