

2022 Holden Inclusive Park Committee Town Report



About the Committee

Members

Stephanie Klink, Chair; Members: Kathryn Andrus, Robyn Floyd, Michelle Grewal, Jennifer Renzoni

Leadership Support

Angela Greene, Recreation Director; Alicia Jasiekiewicz, WRHS Civics Educator; Anthony Renzoni, Board of Selectmen

2022 Summary

The Holden Inclusive Park Committee was formed in May 2022 and met twice monthly since. In addition to our regularly scheduled meetings, we had a booth at Holden Days and passed out treats at Halloween in Holden. We presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting in July, met with the Town Manager in September and presented at the Q&A for the Dawson Recreation project in October. The Landmark covered the committee's work in a front-page story in September. We were also available to answer questions from residents before the Special Town Meeting in October and spoke briefly for the budget line item for the initial funding, which was unanimously approved.

We created a Facebook page and sought community feedback through posts, as well as conversations through other community stakeholders including the Council on Aging, Holden Youth Soccer, and the Chaffins Church. Through all this work, we have compiled our lists of "must haves" as well as many "hope to have" items. Senator Gobi has expressed support of our project and Representative Ferguson has been discussing the project with Selectman Renzoni.

We have consulted with three playground equipment suppliers: Landscape Structures, Premier Park and Play, and Ultiplay. From each we have received a draft rendering of a possible inclusive park. Each supplier is a “turnkey” service provider.

The committee ended the year in a review process to select an Engineering Vendor for the next steps in this project.

Committee Project Vision

The committee has been researching and developing ideas for a new universally accessible park and playground at 1 Holden Street, adjacent to the Holden Municipal Light Department. We envision a multi-generational recreational space that is accessible to community members of all ages and ability levels and provides opportunities for fitness, sports, play and connection building in a park-like setting.

Design elements for this project include:

- Replace the existing playground with a universally accessible playground
- Update the existing soccer/lacrosse field with accessible surfacing
- Adding a lighted walking path around the field
- Update the parking lot with additional handicap accessible spaces and for combat wounded veterans
- Upgrade the basketball courts with new surfacing and hoops
- Construct a shaded community gathering space
- Adult fitness equipment area and family game area
- Appropriate lighting and security

Through community feedback, the committee has finalized design requirements for materials, layout, and equipment. Our social media presence has been very active, with a total reach from our posts of over 9,700 users. Our Facebook page has received over 2,200 visits, showing the power of a strong social platform. We have researched, interviewed and selected an engineering firm. We look forward to working with the Board of Selectmen and the Town of Holden on next steps.





Great ideas!

We went fishin' for ideas, and
caught so many!

- Wheelchair swing
- Pool
- Racing slide
- Seesaw x 3
- Dog park x 2
- Sign language board
- Accessible picnic table
- Water bottle filling station
- Zipline x 2
- Drum and music center
- Deaf and HOH Equipment and activities
- Music Garden
- Benches with handles
- Karate space
- Skateboard park x 2
- Pickle-ball court
- Splash pad/water feature x 2
- Changing station and nursing space
- Tire swing
- Butterfly attracting flowers
- Hiding space/sensory area
- Shady spot
- Wheelchair accessible bird feeder and garden
- Family swing
- Netted circle swing
- Swings x 3
- Climbing tower x2
- Rock/climbing wall x2
- Communication Board for Deaf/HOH
- Dwarf fruit trees/berry bushes
- Slide x 3
- Ramp slide
- Tunnel slide
- Maintenance and Operational Support
- Spinny equipment
- Textured surface for equipment





September 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/holdeninclusivepark>

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