

Town of Oak Bluffs Parks Commission – Resources Inventory and Conditions Assessment (Phase 2)

Citizen's Interest in Park Planning - Comments received to date (as of December 14, 2015) for top ten prioritized parks:

Hartford Park

- Remove the dead oak trees, and plant new ones
- Replace the side walk at the end of the park opposite Circuit Ave., it is falling apart and made of asphalt
- Has any thought been put into putting the park benches on concrete slabs?
- Some flower beds and or vegetable gardens that the neighborhood would tend to
- Rake and weed gardens
- Replace broken sidewalk, someone has already fallen. The brick sidewalk in front of our house was done many years ago by the MVRHS students. It is still in excellent condition.
- Crossland Landscape Co. should be considered for park maintenance. Ocean Park is an excellent example. They put in our irrigation system in 2007. Our green grass is beautiful.
- Hartford Park is on the walking Tour of Oak Bluffs and also has a historic site in our park (The Consecrated Tree)
- We live on Hartford Park and would first like to thank the people responsible for getting irrigation installed. People use the park much more because of it.
- I would like to see pole lighting in the dark spots that are not covered by street lighting, possibly solar powered. I have noticed drug use in these areas that lighting might discourage.
- The sidewalk that runs diagonal across the park on the south end is really hard to use and maybe a brick replacement would be good fix.
- Utility boxes need camouflage
 - The Town and Friends of Oak Bluffs are working on a plan to cover/hide the electrical boxes.

Hiawatha Park

- Remove split rail fencing – replace with low growing shrubs
 - The split rail fencing was installed to prevent the parking of vehicles on the grass and causing damage.
- Have the park surveyed to see where the park boundaries actually are in order to see if diagonal parking can be implemented on the Hiawatha Ave. side only. This will help to alleviate some of the downtown congestion and provide more resident parking for owners, renters and guests.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

Nashawena Park

- There is a definite increase in traffic in front of my home on Pocasset Ave. Many cars travel at a great rate of speed, one of which almost hit my grand-daughter. There has been a new home and bowling complex developed which added to the traffic circulation. I think a 4-way stop sign is needed at the corner of Pocasset and Uncas, with a speed limit of no more than 35 mph.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.
- More interpretive signage is needed in the general area related to pedestrians (e.g., Watch out for Children, Slow Down, Speed Limit, etc.).
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

Naushon Park

- Needs policing and enforcing

Pennacook Park

- It's hard to see the brown, dry grass (where we have grass), broken picnic tables and fence, and no nice trees for shade!
- We like to relax, play pitch and catch, chat with neighbors or picnic in the park.
- I am also willing to contribute a new 8 seat picnic table!
- Remove all split rail fencing
 - The split rail fencing was installed to prevent the parking of vehicles on the grass and causing damage. The Parks Commission is looking into curved edging (similar to Hartford Park) as an alternative.
- All utility boxes need to be camouflaged. Have been trying to address this problem since 2002.
 - The Town and Friends of Oak Bluffs are working on a plan to cover/hide the electrical boxes.

Sunset Lake/Lakeside Park

- The draft report does not even mention the ugly fake wooden structure covering the pumping station that has been in place for more than a decade. It should be removed and replaced with sections of Victorian decorative fencing and shrubs. This would be an ideal place to welcome people on bikes to stop and rest (benches) and maybe even park their bikes and walk into town. Could even have some kind of information about the history of the Campmeeting and Crossing Jordan etc. Could also direct bikes to travel south on Dukes County Ave. to Masonic to Circuit to Nashawena to Naushon to Seaview Ave. and on to Edgarton via the bike path. This would surely promote a safe passage through the center of town and still provide an opportunity for bikers to visit our downtown on foot before traveling on.
 - Parks Commission has discussed this building in the past.
 - Bike routes fall under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

Waban Park

- The maintenance of Waban Park is disappointing
- Plant grass/flowers/shrubs/evergreens
- Put in irrigation
 - Parks Commission is currently looking into this.
- Post signs that say no golfing/playing football as these activities damage the turf
- I do not support adding parking along Waban Park. Tuckernuck is a one-way street and residents already endure a Town bus.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.
- The park is used for kite flying, golfing, prayer meetings, etc. The hedges should be maintained and the grass should be verdant.
- A fenced in dog park for a portion of Waban/Alley Park.
- Golf balls are flying around where people congregate. It is more of a safety issue than a property damage issue. People are driving golf balls every which way while children are playing, folks are flying kites, and walking their dogs etc. It just doesn't seem that driving golf balls makes any sense in a park where people gather to do so many other things. I would imagine that this is why golfing is not permitted in Ocean Park.
- This park is a mess. I have driven by Ocean Park and Waban Park almost every day this summer and have observed that while OP is a vibrant, beautiful and much used park, Waban is literally empty of people. It is in very poor condition, with the exception of a few trees/shrubs and benches.
- I would strongly recommend that the park be surveyed in order to make some kind of plan to provide landscaping, possible activities that might require a structure, the addition of lighting; the removal of split rail fencing, the camouflaging of the ugly and offensive utility boxes and the addition of some diagonal parking!
 - Parking concerns fall under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.
 - The split rail fencing was installed to prevent the parking of vehicles on the grass and causing damage.
 - The Town and Friends of Oak Bluffs are working on a plan to cover/hide the electrical boxes.

Washington Park

- The park needs to be regularly fertilized and to have a watering system like Ocean Park, half the park floods with strong rains. That rain water could be diverted to water the grass as well.
- Additional benches
 - Falls under the purview of the Friends of Oak Bluffs. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Group.
- Some solar trash receptacles
- The Craft Fair/Farmers market should fund some of the enhancements and re-sodding.

- Put back up the 'No Parking this side' sign on Wayland Ave. Someone tore it out and took it this summer
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.
- I actually pick up one kitchen bag full every other day of trash all summer long, when I walk my grand-dogs. I guess I have been care-taking this park for many years.
- Don't remove the numerous shrubs that we have donated, they keep the dust down in the park, and leave the trees planted in memory of my husband and son and let me add tablets at their base.
- Add roses and perennials on the split rail fence all around the park
- Ask Chris Sears to line his spaces in Our Market with one way in and out for traffic control.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.
- Love that this park is being used on a regular basis for events and a farmer's type market on Sundays in the summer.
- Remove split rail fencing
 - The split rail fencing was installed to prevent the parking of vehicles on the grass and causing damage.
- Provide diagonal parking (currently there is parallel and diagonal mix – very haphazardly improvised by those wishing to park there) between Wayland and Mass Ave. in an organized fashion.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

Wesleyan Park

- Remove split rail fencing.
 - The split rail fencing was installed to prevent the parking of vehicles on the grass and causing damage.
- Here is an opportunity to create a small, sweet contemplative space with benches and possibly some small tables – a sculpture or two. Get the neighbors involved the way you did with Niantic Park.

Veira Park

- Veira Park has been primarily the home of Little League baseball on the island. The ball field is very well maintained. It is a joy to hear and see youngsters participating in a well organized sports program in the spring and early summer.
- The remainder of the park has limited use. Occasionally select groups meet and picnic in the park under the shade of the trees at the southwest corner.
- The park is a favorite for dog runners of all sizes.
- The park overall is clean and well maintained. Any trash or debris is usually quickly removed from our viewpoint. We take a personal interest in picking up roadside debris along Naushon Ave. that tends to collect along the ball field fence and parking area.

- The appearance and appeal of the park can be significantly enhanced with just the simple planting of trees in the otherwise sun drenched open field. Strategically planting trees like Lombardy poplars along the perimeter of the outfield fence would have a noticeable impact. Colorful trees like sugar maples and mountain laurels placed elsewhere in the park enhance the aesthetics of the park and provide needed shade. These simple changes may entice more folks to use the park for all sorts of daytime activities.
- Create diagonal parking along Naushon with a small sign on Wing Rd. directing cars to park and walk. This would help to alleviate the car congestion and parking problems downtown and would not impact the residential neighborhood.
 - Falls under the purview of the Roads & Byways Commission. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Commission.

General Interest

- I am encouraged by the plans for Niantic Park and am hopeful that the final product will offset the unavailability of courts and playground this summer.
- Is there a strategic plan for memorial benches along Sea View and in the parks? I hope that there is one included in the plan.
 - Falls under the purview of the Friends of Oak Bluffs. A copy of the applicable comments have been forwarded to the Group.
- I very much appreciate the attention given to our public spaces.
- There should be free access to park tennis courts for OB taxpayers. I understand that there is now a reduced rate for us, but in the spirit of making tennis accessible to everyone, I think it should be free. I can't imagine there would be much of a revenue drop for the Town as the courts that were in Nashawena Park are almost always empty. I live nearby but bike to the high school to play for free.
 - A new plan for activities at Niantic Park is being developed for 2016. Stay tuned to the Town's website for more information.
- The other parks could really use irrigation to start and a defined perimeter to keep vehicles off.