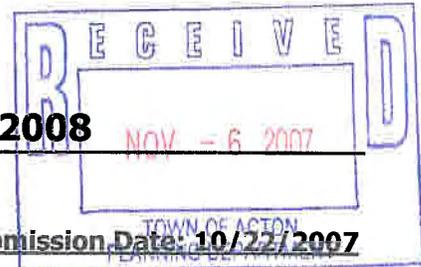


PROJECT APPLICATION FORM – 2008



Applicant: Town of Acton

Submission Date: 10/22/2007

Applicant's Address, Phone Number and Email

Purpose: (Please select all that apply)

John Murray, Temporary Town Manager
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720
jmurray@acton-ma.gov

- Open Space
- Community Housing
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Town Committee (if applicable): Recreation Commission

Project Name: Elm Street Playground

Project Location/Address: Elm Street Playground, 21 Elm St., Acton, MA

Amount Requested: \$75,000

Project Summary: In the space below, provide a brief summary of the project.

The Recreation Commission has proposed the following objective as a top priority for the new Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2008-2012 in order to meet the goal of *Improving Recreational Opportunities*:

Playground facilities are made up-to-date, safe and accessible

In accordance with this goal, Natural Resources and Recreation proposes capital item, "Elm Street Playground and Shed". The request is comprised of the following:

- New playground facility at Elm Street, behind the tennis courts, funded by CPA
- Optional new storage shed for use by Recreation and Pop Warner Football, fully funded by Pop Warner

There are several Town playgrounds that are in need of investment: Elm Street, Goward and School Street. A potential new playground is in the forecast for East Acton, near Ice House pond and Morrison Farm. Elm Street was determined to have priority due to the interest expressed by community groups and their willingness to pledge funding and donate labor. The Recreation Department has received a pledge from resident Mira Greenland to fundraise approximately \$10K or more towards the project from her connections with Acton Family Network and the Indian Village neighborhood. Gerry McGavick, President of Pop Warner Football League has pledged to provide pro bono carpentry and excavation work from League parents to convert a portion of the existing picnic pavilion into a new shed and adjoining patio/seating area, in addition to pledging a minimum of \$15,000. The shed is required to house sports equipment, because of the expanded use of Elm St. fields since the installation of new sports lighting. Due to ongoing determinations with Pop Warner as to what the best shed configuration and placement at the site is, the shed is noted as an option in this proposal. Although this application does not request funding for the shed, it has been included since it is a potential component of the new playground project.

This application requests \$75,000 in funding for the playground. An additional \$25K is pledged from the community, to total \$100K. Recreation will work closely with these partners and consult with the Commission on Disabilities as needed to create a facility that is up-to-date, safe and accessible.

Estimated Date for Commencement of Project: July 2008

Estimated Date for Completion of Project: October 2008

Narrative:

Consistent with the Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2002-2007, the Elm Street Playground Project meets the Recreational Goal of *Improve Recreation Opportunities*, specifically, "Develop recreational resources identified in the OSRP, including playing fields, **improved/new playgrounds, and improved handicapped access; also address adult, senior and toddler recreational needs.**

The current condition of the Elm Street playground is outdated and in need of replacement. The play area surface is sunken and inaccessible to the handicapped. The structures do not comply to code. The facility does include a shaded pavilion, but the surface under the pavilion is uneven.

Since citizen engagement is of vital importance in consideration of playground needs, Recreation Commissioner, Karen Jarsky, developed a resident playground survey that is accessible online through Survey Monkey. She collaborated with resident Mira Greenland, who notified residents on an email distribution list for the nearby Indian Village neighborhood and for Acton Family Network (AFN) on October 20, 2007. As of October 30, a total of 81 responses were received. Detailed open response answers were provided by participants. Ms. Jarsky's summary of the responses indicates the following written suggestions:

Survey result highlights

- **Target age level:** Most respondents would like the playground to cater to younger children: age five and under (80%) and/or six years to 11 years (65%).
- **Usage:** 69% of respondents would be likely to use the playground at least once per week.
- **Donations:** About 60% of respondents would be likely to give money to a playground fund, though most of these (56%) say their donation would probably not exceed \$100. *(Keep in mind that this is without any marketing or direct solicitation, which are likely to increase giving.)*
- **Family Structure:** Almost all of the respondents have children living at home, and most of these children are "playground age": Seventy-three percent have at least one child under the age of five and 33% have at least one child aged 6 to 11 years.
- **Desired Features:** Respondents had a range of ideas and suggestions for the playground, many relating to safety and preferred equipment.
 - Features specifically for toddlers, particularly climbing structure and slide. Also, additional infant swings.
 - Separate areas for different age groups.
 - Water feature, like a sprinkler.
 - Sand box.

- For parents: Seating; Community bulletin board.
- Equipment that encourages imaginative play
- Space for older kids (11-14) to congregate.
- Shaded area.
- Rest rooms.
- Fence around wetlands; fence around playground as a whole.
- Unique, interesting, and/or environmentally friendly materials.
- Rubber surface (rather than wood or gravel).

In addition, handicapped accessibility is a critical aspect that must be considered.

Utilizing these general guidelines, a conceptual design for the playground is being prepared by Nancy White of O'Brien & Sons, incorporating the following:

65' x 65' playground area

Playground perimeter post and rail fence

Handicapped accessible sidewalk from parking lot to new concrete pad under existing 24' x 24' picnic pavilion, continuing to playground

Separate toddler play area and 6-11 year old play area

Unique, interesting, and/or environmentally friendly materials.

Sandbox

Loose Rubber surface (rather than wood or gravel)

Option of a small water feature, such as a sprinkler

Improvements will also be made to the picnic pavilion by installing a 22' x 30' cement pad under the shed, extending the seating area 8' beyond the roof of the pavilion on the side facing the ballfields. A 5' wide concrete walkway will provide handicapped access to this pad from the parking lot, and lead to the gate of the fenced in playground. Handicapped parking spaces will be designated in the lot nearest to this walkway.

This project will benefit the citizens of Acton by addressing needs that have been identified through the Open Space and Recreation Plan (2002-2007) and underscored by the recent Recreation Commission's Elm Street Playground survey:

Introduce a new playground that is up to code

Address handicapped accessibility

Address recreational needs of toddlers

Work Plan: Estimate 60 days planning, 30 day installation	Town Staff	Contracted Services	Estimated Cost
Phase I – Bid Process			
<i>Recreation Dept</i> Write Bid document, Advertise, Select vendor(s)	60 days		
Phase II – Site Preparation			
<i>Natural Resources Dept</i> Demolition , 2 man crew x 8 hrs Existing Playground structures removed and discarded, most not salvageable	16 hours		
<i>Engineering Dept</i> Onsite Engineering , measurements, 2 men x 4 hrs Topography plan generated in house, 1 man x 4 hrs	12 hours		
<i>Playground Vendor</i> Design Playground Utilizing base information, design playground to site specs		30 days	\$75,000
<i>Highway Dept</i> Playground and Pavilion Excavation 4 man crew x 8 hrs, bobcat Unsuitable material loaded in dump truck, Hauled to Highway dept facility	32 hours 16 hours		\$ 2,000
Playground and Pavilion Fill and compact 4 man crew x 4 hrs, bobcat Bring in suitable base material, gravel, compact all material	16 hours 16 hours		
Pavilion Create Concrete forms , 4 man crew x 4 hrs Pavilion and Walkway Concrete pour 4 man crew x 4hrs Pour walkway, slab, shape and level			
<i>Pop Warner</i> Storage Shed Option 1: Pop Warner donates materials and labor to retrofit picnic pavilion with a Recreation storage shed Option 2: No Shed is constructed in picnic pavilion			
Phase III - Playground Installation			
<i>Natural Resources</i> , 2 man crew x 4 hrs Receive and inventory shipped equipment	8 hours		
<i>Natural Resources</i> , 2 man crew x 8 hrs Pour concrete footings for playground structures	16 hours		
<i>Playground Vendor/Community group</i> Installation of playground structures	16 hours		
<i>Fencing Vendor</i> Install fence 3-rail post and rail fence reinforced with black vinyl chain link	8 hours		\$ 6,250
<i>Natural Resources</i> , 2 man crew x 8 hrs Playground surface , level and finish material	16 hours		
<i>Natural Resources</i> , 2 man crew x 8 hrs Loaming and seeding grounds, update pavilion	16 hours		\$ 1,750
Totals (Shed Option 1 /Shed Option 2)	164 hrs		\$100,000 /\$85,000

Site Control:

See attachment

Project Scope:

Install 65' x 65' playground	\$75,000
Install 260' perimeter fencing	\$ 6,250
Install 30' x 22' concrete patio slab and	
Install 40' x 5' concrete walkway	\$ 2,000
Update picnic pavilion (painting, benches)	<u>\$ 1,750</u>
	\$85,000

Cost Estimate:

Concrete (per Engineering Dept) 18 yds @ \$110 /cubic yard	\$2,000
Fencing (per DeLuca Fence quote) 260' @ \$18/sq.ft. + \$6 per sq. ft.	\$6,250
Other materials (paint for pavilion, benches)	\$1,750
Playground Structures and installation	\$75,000 ¹
Recreation Shed	\$15,000 ²
Total:	\$100,000
With Option 2:	\$85,000

Funding Sources:

CPA Grant	\$75,000
Private donations	\$25,000 ²
Town Labor	164 man hours
Total	\$100,000
With Option 2:	\$85,000

¹ Based on Conceptual Plan from O'Brien & Sons, available after Nov. 9, 2007

² Subtract \$15,000 from this figure if Option 2 selected

Feasibility:

An additional step is the requirement to file a Notice of Intent under the Wetlands Protection Act with the Conservation Commission. The process is expected to take two months. This will be coordinated with the execution of the Work Plan.

Maps:

See attached

Photographs:

See attached

Vendor List: (State Bid List approved)

O'Brien & Sons, Inc.	DeLuca Fence
P.O. Box 650	5 Old Ferry Road
93 West St.	Methuen, MA 01844
Medfield, MA 02052-0650	(978) 688-2877
Nancy A. White, CPRP	
Vice President of Sales	
T (508) 359-4200	
T (800) 835-0056	
F (508) 359-2817	

Attachments:

Field Card
Assessor's Map E2
Deed
Dimensional Table
Table of Principal Uses
Flood Plain Map
Aerial Site Map
Current Elm Street Playground Photos
Elm Street Playground Recreation Survey, October 20, 2007

TOWN OF ACTON		PLATE <i>E2</i>	PCI <i>24</i>
OWNER <i>Debitants of the Town of Acton</i>			
ADDRESS			
LOCATION <i>Elm St.</i>			
DEED BOOK <i>10698</i>		PAGE <i>446</i> <i>447</i>	PLAN <i>(1411 of 64)</i> <i>10698 Pg. 443</i>
DATE <i>11/24/64</i> <i>11/25/64</i>		LOT	
FRONTAGE <i>ELM ST. 1,166.03'</i> <i>ARLINGTON - 96'</i>		AREA <i>33.90 ac. ±</i>	

Zoned R-2

T7-

LOUIS A. FLERRA,

of Acton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts,
nominal
~~being unmarried,~~ for consideration paid, grant to

INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF ACTON,
of said Acton,

with quitclaim covenants

the land in -

(Description and encumbrances, if any)

A certain parcel of land situated on the Southwesterly side of Elm Street in that part of said Acton called West Acton and being shown on a plan entitled, "Land in Acton, Mass. owned by Louis A. Flerra" Harlan E. Tuttle, Surveyor, dated November 20, 1964, to be recorded herewith, and bounded and described as follows:

SEE PLAN IN RECORD BOOK 6299 PAGE 443

- NORTHEASTERLY by ELM STREET, one thousand one hundred sixty-six and 3/100 (1,166.03) feet;
- NORTHWESTERLY by land of Louis A. Flerra and land of the Boston and Maine Railroad, eight hundred seventy-two and 56/100 (872.56) feet;
- WESTERLY by land of the said Boston and Maine Railroad, eight hundred eighty-three and 76/100 (883.76) feet;
- SOUTHWESTERLY by land of Porter G. Jenks, George H. Allen, Sara M. DeSouza and land formerly of Duncan S. Kennedy, one thousand eighty-six and 11/100 (1,086.11) feet;
- WESTERLY by the center of Fort Pond Brook, eighty-three (83.00) feet;
- SOUTHEASTERLY by Arlington Street, ninety-six (96.00) feet;
- EASTERLY by land now or formerly of the Mill Dam Trust, ninety and 16/100 (90.16) feet;
- EASTERLY by the center of Fort Pond Brook, four hundred ninety-five (495.00) feet, more or less; and
- SOUTHEASTERLY by land now or formerly of Mill Dam Trust and land now or formerly of Willard M. Houghton, five hundred ninety-eight and 38/100 (598.38) feet.

Containing, according to said plan, 33.90 acres, more or less.
Meaning and intending to convey substantially the same premises described in a Vote of the Town Meeting on October 19, 1964, under Article I.

Being a part of the premises conveyed to me by deed of Frank A. Teele et ux, dated May 31, 1939 and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds, Book 6299, Page 199.

(* Individual - Joint Tenants - Tenants in Common - Tenants by the Entirety.)

I, Mary L. Flerra

husband of said grantor,
wife

release to said grantee all rights of tenancy by the curtesy
~~dower and homestead~~ and other interests therein.

Witness ~~OUR~~ hand and seal this 24th day of November 1964.

Louis A. Flerra
Louis A. Flerra
Mary L. Flerra
Mary L. Flerra

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Middlesex, ss.

November 24th 19 64

Then personally appeared the above named

Louis A. Flerra

and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be their free act and deed, before me

Philip Abbott Wilson

Notary Public — Justice of the Peace

Philip Abbott Wilson
My Commission Expires

December 3, 19 66

TABLE OF STANDARD DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

See also Special Provisions and Exceptions to Dimensional Regulations (Section 5.3), Transfer of Development Rights for special dimensional regulations affecting the LB, NAV and EAV Districts and certain land in the R-2, R-8 and R-10/8 Districts along and near Great Road (Section 5.4), Special Provisions for Village Districts (Section 5.5), Special Dimensional Requirements in the Groundwater Protection District (Section 4.3), Special Dimensional Regulations for Open Space Developments (OSD - Section 4.2), Planned Conservation Residential Communities (PCRC - Section 9), and Senior Residences (Section 9B).

The symbol "NR" on this Table indicates no specific minimum or maximum regulation.

DISTRICT	ZONING DISTRICTS	MINIMUM LOT AREA in sq. ft.	MINIMUM LOT FRONTAGE in feet	MINIMUM LOT WIDTH in feet	MINIMUM FRONT YARD in feet	MINIMUM SIDE & REAR YARD in feet	MINIMUM OPEN SPACE in percent	MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA RATIO	MAXIMUM HEIGHT in feet
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	R-2	20,000	150	50	30	10	NR	NR	36
	R-4	40,000	175	50	45	20	NR	NR	36
	R-8	80,000	200	50	45	20	NR	NR	36
	R-8/4	80,000	200	50	45	20	NR	NR	36
	R-10	100,000	250	50	45	20	NR	NR	36
	R-10/8	100,000	250	50	45	20	NR	NR	36
	R-A	100,000	200	50	30	10 (3)	35%	NR	36
	R-AA	10,000	100	50	30	10	35%	NR	36
	VR	15,000	50	NR	NR	10	20%	NR	36
	EAV	NR	NR	NR	10 (10)	NR (1)	25%	0.20 (4)	36
VILLAGE DISTRICTS	EAV-2	15,000	50	NR	10	10 (1)	35%	0.20 (4)	36
	NAV	10,000	100	50	10 (9)	10 (1)	35%	0.20 (4)	36
OFFICE DISTRICTS	SAV	NR	NR	NR	10 (10)	10	NR	0.20 (13)	36 (12)
	WAV	NR	NR	NR	5 (10)	NR (1)	NR	0.40 (11)	36 (12)
BUSINESS DISTRICTS	OP-1	80,000	200	50	50	30 (7)	50%	0.20 (14)	36
	OP-2	80,000	200	50	50	30 (7)	50%	0.20 (16)	40
INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS	KC	10,000	100	50	30	NR (6)	NR	0.40 (15)	36
	LB	20,000	200	50	75 (5)	30 (6)	50%	0.20 (4)	36
	PM	10,000	100	50	30	20	35%	0.20	40
	GI	40,000	100	50	45	20 (2)	35%	0.20	40
INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS	LI	80,000	200	50	50	30 (2)	35%	0.20	40
	LI-1	80,000	200	50	50	30 (2)	50%	0.10	40
	SM	40,000	100 (8)	50	50	30 (2)	35%	0.20 (18)	36 (18)
SP. DISTRICT	TD	40,000	100	50	45	50 (2,17)	35%	0.20	40
	ARC	NR	20	50	20	NR	NR	NR	36

NOTES for TABLE OF STANDARD DIMENSIONAL REGULATIONS

- (1) Where a nonresidential USE abuts a residential district the yard or yards abutting the residential district shall be 20 feet in WAV, 30 feet in NAV and 30 feet in EAV and EAV-2.
- (2) If the LOT abuts a Residential District, whether directly or separated by a public or railroad right of way, the side and rear yards abutting the Residential District shall be increased as follows:

Industrial District	Minimum Side or Rear Yard
TD	200 feet
GI	100 feet
LI or LI-1	60 feet
SM	50 feet
- (3) Where a Multifamily Dwelling USE abuts a residential zoning district other than R-A the minimum side and rear yard shall be increased to 30 feet.
- (4) In the EAV District, subject to the provisions in Sections 5.4 and 5.5B. In the EAV-2 District, subject to the provisions in Section 5.5B.2 In the NAV District, subject to the provision in Section 5.4 and 5.5C. In the LB District, subject to the provisions in Section 5.4.
- (5) The minimum front yard to the sideline of STREETS other than Great Road shall be 30 feet. On LOTS with FRONTAGE on Great Road and in existence on or before February 15, 1990, where the 75-foot minimum front yard to the sideline of Great Road would exceed 30% of the LOT depth, the front yard may be reduced to 30% of that LOT depth, but not to less than 30 feet. Lot depth shall be measured in a line that is perpendicular to the Great Road sideline.
- (6) If the LOT abuts a residential zoning district the minimum side and rear yard shall be 50 feet. On LOTS in existence on or before February 15, 1990 where the minimum side or rear yard exceeds 20% of the LOT depth, the side or rear yard may be reduced to 20% of that LOT depth, but not to less than 30 feet. Lot depth shall be measured in a line that is perpendicular to the applicable side or rear LOT line.
- (7) If the LOT abuts a Residential District the minimum side and rear yard shall be 60 feet.
- (8) Minimum LOT FRONTAGE on Rt. 27 (Main Street) shall be 200 feet.
- (9) Where a LOT is facing Great Road or Main Street the minimum front yard shall be 30 feet.
- (10) The maximum front yard shall be ten (10) feet in the WAV District and twenty feet (20') in the SAV and EAV Districts, or the lesser of the front yards of the two BUILDINGS or STRUCTURES on either side, whichever is the least. Exceptions: a) The maximum front yard requirement shall not apply to a BUILDING or STRUCTURE in the rear of an existing BUILDING or to an addition to the rear of an existing BUILDING or STRUCTURE, if all are located on one LOT with FRONTAGE on only one STREET. b) The maximum front yard requirement shall not apply to a BUILDING or STRUCTURE on a LOT without FRONTAGE and located entirely in the rear of existing BUILDINGS or STRUCTURES so that it does not face a STREET.
- (11) The FLOOR AREA RATIO may be increased to .70 provided that for every 1000 square feet of non-residential NET FLOOR AREA built above a FLOOR AREA RATIO of .40 an at-least-equal amount of residential NET FLOOR AREA is provided simultaneously.
- (12) The minimum height of a BUILDING shall be twenty (20) feet. Accessory BUILDINGS, such as garages or sheds, may be less than 20 feet in height.
- (13) The maximum Floor Area Ratio (FAR) may be increased to .40, provided that for every square foot of non-residential NET FLOOR AREA built above FAR of .20 an equal amount or more of habitable residential NET FLOOR AREA is provided simultaneously, and set aside for exclusive residential USE.
- (14) On LOTS within the OP-1 District, which on April 3, 1995 were held in common ownership the FLOOR AREA RATIO may be calculated by dividing the sum of the NET FLOOR AREA of all BUILDINGS on such LOTS by the DEVELOPABLE SITE AREA of such LOTS, whether or not such LOTS are contiguous or divided by a STREET.
- (15) Subject to certain provisions in Section 5.6, Special Provisions for the Kelley's Corner District.
- (16) Subject to certain provisions in Section 5.7, Special Provisions for the Office Park 2 District.
- (17) Landscaped screening shall be required to separate a nonresidential USE from a Residential District. The screen shall be 100 feet in width and shall be nontransparent in all seasons of the year from the ground to a height of at least six (6) feet, with intermittent visual obstruction to a height of at least 20 feet. The screen is intended to exclude visual contact between uses and to create a strong impression of spatial separation. It may be composed of a wall, fence, landscaped earth berm, or densely planted vegetation or a combination of these items.
- (18) The maximum FLOOR AREA RATIO and height may be increased further subject to procedures and conditions set forth in Section 10.4.3.12.

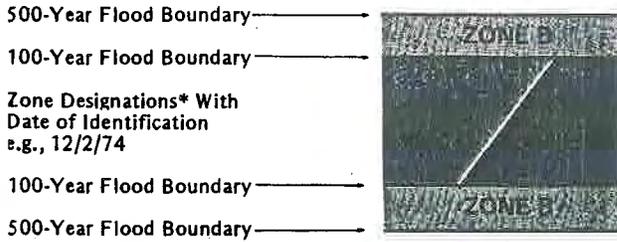
TABLE OF PRINCIPAL USES
 PRINCIPAL USES listed in this Table are subject to provisions in corresponding Section 3.

PRINCIPAL USES	RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS		VILLAGE DISTRICTS		OFFICE DISTRICTS		BUSINESS DISTRICTS		INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS			SP, DIS
	R-2 R-4 R-8 R-8/4 R-10 R-10/8	R-A R-AA VR	EAV EAV-2 NAV SAV WAY	OP-1 OP-2	KC LB PM	GI LI LI-1 SM(1) TD						
3.2 GENERAL USES												
3.2.1 Agriculture	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.2.2 Conservation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.2.3 Recreation	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP	SPP
3.3 RESIDENTIAL USES												
3.3.1 Single FAMILY Dwelling	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Single FAMILY Dwelling with one Apartment	Y(2)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.3.3 Two-FAMILY Dwelling	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.3.4 Dwelling Conversions	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA	SPA
3.3.5 Multifamily Dwelling	N	SPA(3)	Y(3)	Y(3)	N(4)	Y(3)	Y	N	N	N	N	N
3.4 GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONAL & PUBLIC SERVICE USES												
3.4.1 Municipal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.4.2 Educational	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.4.3 Religious	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.4.4 Nursing Home	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS
3.4.5 Public or Private Utility Facilities	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
3.4.6 Child Care Facility	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.4.7 Other Public Use (5)	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS
3.4.8 Full Service Retirement Community	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS
3.4.9 Assisted Living Residence (6)	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS
3.4.10 Wireless Communication Facility (7)	SPP	SPP	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
3.4.11 Commercial Education or Instruction	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.5 BUSINESS USES												
3.5.1 Retail Store	N	N	Y(8)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.5.2 Office	N	N	Y(8)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.5.3 Health Care Facility	N	N	N	Y	SPS(11)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.5.4 Hospital, Medical Center	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
3.5.5 Restaurant (9)	N	N	N	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS
3.5.6 Combined Business & Dwelling	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
3.5.7 Hotel, Motel, Inn, Conference Center	N	N	N	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS	SPS

NOTES FOR TABLE OF PRINCIPAL USES

- (1) See also Section 10.4.3.12 - Special Provisions Applicable in the SM District, for special USE restrictions in oversized BUILDINGS.
- (2) A Single FAMILY Dwelling with one Apartment shall require a Special Permit from the Board of Appeals, if located on a LOT with less than 15,000 square feet in LOT area, or if the Apartment is located in a detached BUILDING. See Sections 3.3.2.9 and 3.3.2.10 of USE Definitions.
- (3) Not more than four DWELLING UNITS shall be permitted per multifamily dwelling. In the VR District a Site Plan Special Permit shall not be required. In the SAV district, the Board of Selectmen may by Special Permit allow more than four DWELLING UNITS per Multifamily Dwelling.
- (4) Multifamily dwellings created under the provisions of Section 5.4 and Section 5.5 shall be permitted.
- (5) If the proposed USE will be located in the Floodway Fringe, as defined in Section 4.1, or Zones 1, 2 or 3 of the Groundwater Protection District, as defined in Section 4.3, before granting a special permit under this Section the applicant shall submit the information required under Sections 4.1 or 4.3 and the Board of Selectmen shall find that the proposed USE complies with the requirements of Sections 4.1.8.1 and 4.1.9, and 4.3.8 through 4.3.10 respectively.
- (6) Assisted Living Residences with 10 or fewer residents shall not require a Special Permit or Site Plan Special Permit.
- (7) Refer to Section 3.10 for specific standards for Wireless Communication Facilities and for certain categorical exemptions from the requirements set forth in the Table of PRINCIPAL USES.
- (8) Provided that the owner of the property resides on the property, the business USE is limited to 500 square feet of NET FLOOR AREA, and all parking spaces are provided to the rear or side of the BUILDING. For purposes of this footnote, the owner shall be defined as one or more individuals residing in a DWELLING UNIT who hold legal or beneficial title and for whom the DWELLING UNIT is the primary residence for voting and tax purposes. The business USE hereunder shall not be deemed a home occupation. Home occupations are authorized separately under Section 3.8.1.2. Site Plan Special Permit shall not be required. Hours of business operation shall be limited to 7 AM to 9 PM Monday through Saturday, except hours of retail sale shall be limited to 7 AM to 7 PM Monday through Saturday. Exterior lighting fixtures for the business USE shall not be illuminated except during hours of business operation.
- (9) No Special Permit shall be required for a Restaurant with 10 seats or less.
- (10) No Special Permit shall be required for Commercial Recreation facilities with a NET FLOOR AREA of less than 2,000 square feet.
- (11) No Special Permit shall be required for this USE if its NET FLOOR AREA is 5000 square feet or less.

KEY TO MAP



Base Flood Elevation Line
With Elevation In Feet**

~~~~~ 513 ~~~~~

Base Flood Elevation in Feet  
Where Uniform Within Zone\*\*

(EL 987)

Elevation Reference Mark

RM7x

River Mile

• M1.5

\*\*Referenced to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929

## \*EXPLANATION OF ZONE DESIGNATIONS

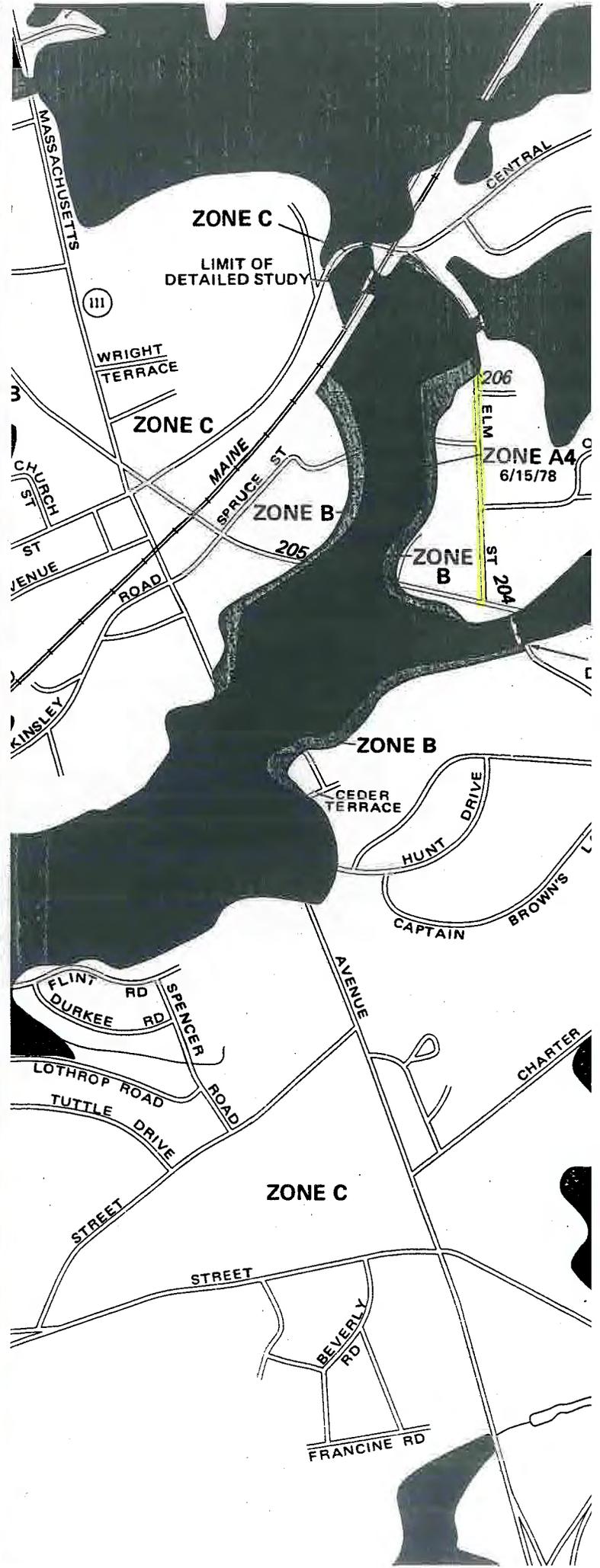
| ZONE   | EXPLANATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A      | Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| A0     | Areas of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet; average depths of inundation are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined.                                                                                                                      |
| AH     | Areas of 100-year shallow flooding where depths are between one (1) and three (3) feet; base flood elevations are shown, but no flood hazard factors are determined.                                                                                                                             |
| A1-A30 | Areas of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| A99    | Areas of 100-year flood to be protected by flood protection system under construction; base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.                                                                                                                                            |
| B      | Areas between limits of the 100-year flood and 500-year flood; or certain areas subject to 100-year flooding with average depths less than one (1) foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile; or areas protected by levees from the base flood. (Medium shading) |
| C      | Areas of minimal flooding. (No shading)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| D      | Areas of undetermined, but possible, flood hazards.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| V      | Areas of 100-year coastal flood with velocity (wave action); base flood elevations and flood hazard factors not determined.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| V1-V30 | Areas of 100-year coastal flood with velocity (wave action); base flood elevations and flood hazard factors determined.                                                                                                                                                                          |

## NOTES TO USER

Certain areas not in the special flood hazard areas (zones A and V) may be protected by flood control structures.

This map is for flood insurance purposes only; it does not necessarily show all areas subject to flooding in the community or all planimetric features outside special flood hazard areas.

INITIAL IDENTIFICATION  
JULY 26, 1974





TOWN OF ACTON ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

**ELM STREET  
PLAYGROUND**

TOWN MAP E-2 PARCEL 247

LOCUS PLAN

SCALE: 1"=20'

DATE: 11/2/2007

P:\Drawings\Town Projects\Conservation\Elm St Playground - Concrete Pod - GFC Project.dwg

## Current Elm Street Playground Photos



Playground



Edge of Playground, overlooking  
parking lot and Picnic Pavilion



View of Playground through the  
Picnic Pavilion

**Elm Street Playground Survey**  
**Results as of October 30, 2007**

**TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 81**

**Survey distribution:**

A link to the on-line survey was sent to several email groups on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. The survey allows only one response allowed per computer (i.e., per household). The recipients included:

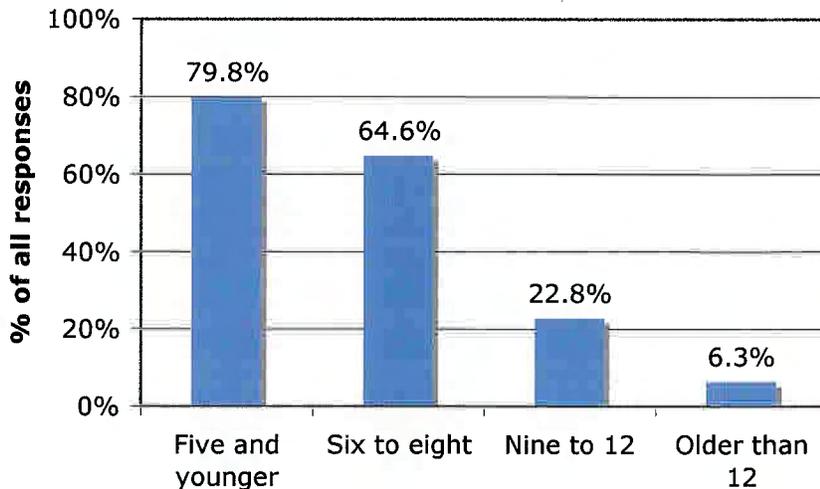
- Acton Family Network
- Indian Village list serve

**Survey results (highlights so far):**

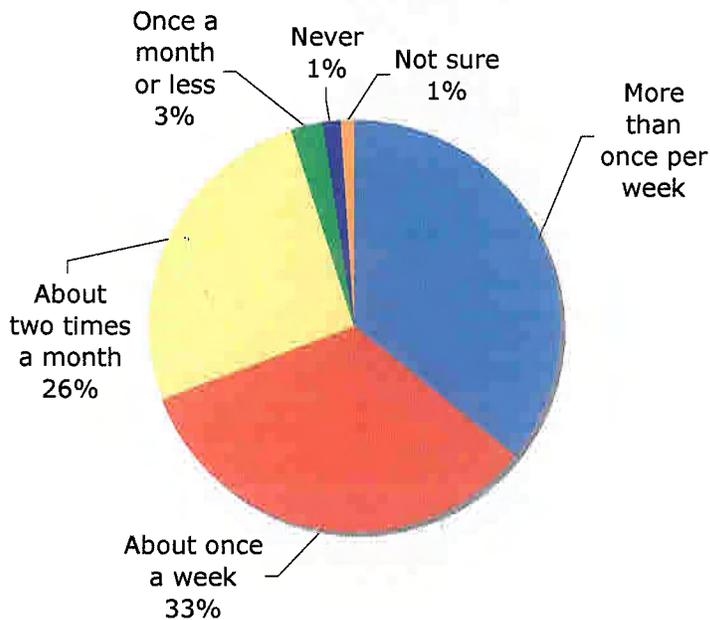
- Target age level: Most respondents would like the playground to cater to younger children: age five and under (80%) and/or six years to 11 years (65%).
- Usage: 69% of respondents would be likely to use the playground at least once per week.
- Donations: About 60% of respondents would be likely to give money to a playground fund, though most of these (56%) say their donation would probably not exceed \$100. (*Keep in mind that this is without any marketing or direct solicitation, which are likely to increase giving.*)
- Family Structure: Almost all of the respondents have children living at home, and most of these children are “playground age”: Seventy-three percent have at least one child under the age of five and 33% have at least one child aged 6 to 11 years.
- Desired Features: Respondents had a range of ideas and suggestions for the playground, many relating to safety and preferred equipment.
  - Features specifically for toddlers, particularly climbing structure and slide. Also, additional infant swings.
  - Separate areas for different age groups.
  - Water feature, like a sprinkler.
  - Sand box.
  - For parents: Seating; Community bulletin board.
  - Equipment that encourages imaginative play (fire truck, for example).
  - Space for older kids (11-14) to congregate.
  - Shaded area.
  - Rest rooms.
  - Fence around wetlands; fence around playground as a whole.
  - Unique, interesting, and/or environmentally friendly materials.
  - Rubber surface (rather than wood or gravel).

Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

**2. As you probably know, playground equipment is often designed for specific age groups. What age group(s) would you like the new Elm Street Playground equipment to serve? (Please check all that apply.)**

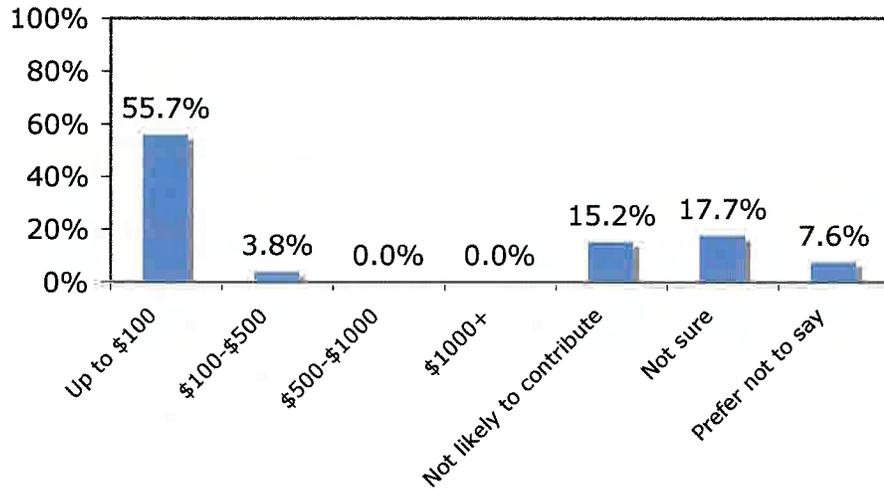


**3. Once the Elm Street playground is renovated, and assuming it incorporated some or all of the features you have listed as important, how often (weather permitting) do you think you and/or another member of your family would use the playground?**

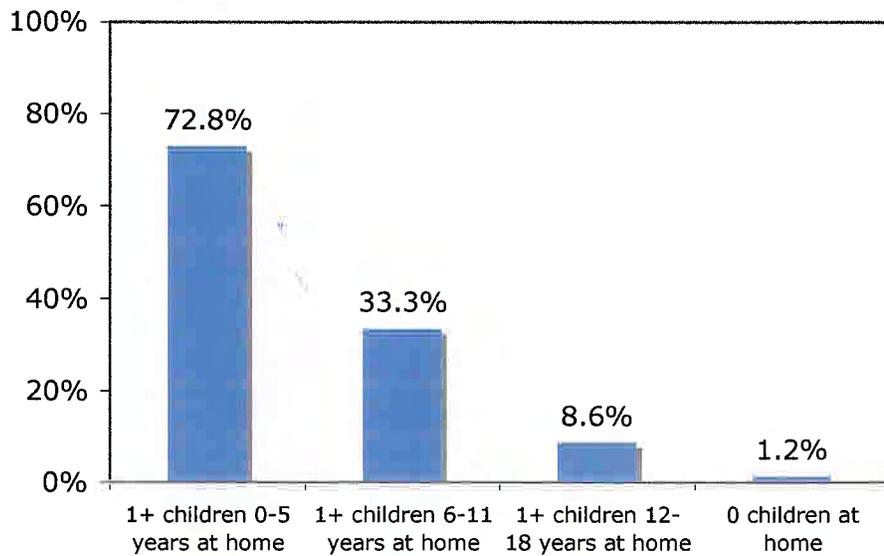


Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

**4. The Recreation Department will be applying for supplemental funding for the Elm Street playground. One of the important considerations for the potential funders is the existence of community support. Would you be likely contribute to an Elm Street Play**



**5. So that we have a sense of the range of families that are responding to this survey, please check all that apply to your family.**



## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

**1. The Acton Recreation Department is in the planning stages for a playground renovation at the current Elm Street site (near the tennis courts). We are eager to gather thoughts and opinions about what features this new playground should include. With that in mind, what features would you like to see in a new Acton playground? (Please be as specific as possible. You might want to think about other playgrounds that you visit and particularly enjoy, or even other playgrounds that you think need improvement.)**

**1.**

One thing my kids love is the thing they hang from and glide along a track. However the one at NARA has NEVER worked. The one at Flerra is great.

Thu, 10/25/07 8:45 PM

**2.**

Equipment that will last. The library playground used to be great and the wood structures have rotted. It needs to be painted or stained periodically. The other playgrounds with metal/plastic seem to do much better. Playground with equip for a variety of ages

Thu, 10/25/07 2:37 PM

**3.**

I would like to see the playground behind the Acton Library upgraded to something more modern, safe and updated. The Elm St playground would greatly benefit something more updated also. My children enjoy swings and climbing structure.

Wed, 10/24/07 8:46 PM

**4.**

It would be wonderful to see a playground that was really up to standards, using the rubber type surface instead of all the pebbles and wood chips. It would be great to see something "new" here like the water/sprinkler parks they have in Concord, Belmont, Burlington, Arlington, etc. We have no community recreation facility or pool and I refuse to go to Nara Park in the heat of the summer. A cleaner, cooler alternative would be nice. If there were a small wading pool or just a fun sprinkler play area - like Davis Farmland - although on a smaller scale of course, it would be great! We already have lots of swings, slides and climbing structures, perhaps some new ideas are in order.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

Wed, 10/24/07 4:32 AM

5.

swings - both baby & regular tire swing climbing equipment slides monkey bars see saw tubes & tunnels

Tue, 10/23/07 9:31 PM

6.

Lots of baby swings please. An old fashioned merry-go-round. Two age appropriate play structures - one of the younger group and another for older kids, so they aren't trampling the little kids.

Tue, 10/23/07 7:53 PM

7.

Please also help the library playground. It is falling apart and needs more swings. Elm Street would be nice to have lots of swings and some good slides.

Tue, 10/23/07 2:21 PM

8.

I like playgrounds that have toddler and older kid friendly equipment. Many playgrounds are not toddler friendly enough. I do not like gravel - it gets into shoes and kids throw it - so something else softer would be better. Enough toddler swings is also a bonus and SHADE is a must.

Tue, 10/23/07 1:31 PM

9.

climbing structures. (ie. Rock wall) I find that there doesn't seem to be anything for the older kids once they've mastered the swings & such. We seem to have alot geared for younger children, library & west acton.

Tue, 10/23/07 11:07 AM

10.

Some of the other playgrounds we have been to have a rubber-like floor - that is great feature that prevents a lot of bumps and bruises.

Tue, 10/23/07 10:58 AM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

11.

toddler safe climbing structures (i.e., without huge open spaces 4 feet up). BABY SWINGS, lots of them, placed NEAR big kid swings.

Tue, 10/23/07 10:54 AM

12.

More climbing structures, more toys suited for younger kids, some baby swings. Better surface (there's a playground in Lexington that has an amazing playground - fenced in, soft padded surface, many toys for babies on up to school-aged kids). The playgrounds near both Libraries are in horrible shape, and poorly planned (esp the one on 111). toys too spread out, too few pieces of equipment for toddlers and preschoolers.

Tue, 10/23/07 10:51 AM

13.

Play structures similar to West Acton & town center (near library) - making sure that structure does not get too heated (Nara gets TOO HOT in the summer to climb on - esp. slides)

Tue, 10/23/07 10:20 AM

14.

Splash park would be great. If not that, then a playground with a good range of equipment to accomodate both babies and up to 7 or 8 years old.

Tue, 10/23/07 10:09 AM

15.

Clean and safe bathroom facilities picnic tables/benches some areas of shade

Tue, 10/23/07 9:27 AM

16.

Anything with water (ie like Beaver Brook in Belmont), infant swings/toddler appropriate equipment. A large sandbox (like at Dean Park in Shrewsbury or in Northborough) would be great (and inexpensive), too.

Tue, 10/23/07 9:05 AM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

17.

Long swings. The playground at Long Lake in Littleton has long swings. Long slides such as the one in W Concord. Tire swings are fun. Climbing structures such as the one at the Library playground.

Tue, 10/23/07 8:46 AM

18.

Make a structure like Castle in the Trees, in Littleton

Tue, 10/23/07 8:19 AM

19.

Climbing structures, slides, Swings (+ tire swing), sand box, monkey bars

Tue, 10/23/07 8:18 AM

20.

The West Acton playground (Gardner Field) has a good playground. Swings, climbing structure with slide, tire swing, fire truck climbing structure. It is a good model. One thing to avoid is very high structures like the slide at the WEST CONCORD playground which many parents in Acton dislike and consider dangerous.

Tue, 10/23/07 8:15 AM

21.

Water spraying play structure for hot summer days. Partial shade. Clean restroom facility. Dog-friendly.

Tue, 10/23/07 12:23 AM

22.

-Ground: Wood chips vs. pebbles since the kids like to throw the rocks -Multiple Playground areas (stairs, bridges, slides) that are appropriate for different age groups (one for toddlers, one for bigger kids) -Castle in the Trees in Littleton and Hannah Williams in Wayland are great playgrounds. They are the wooden castles and seem to have enough for everyone to play on. In addition, having 3-4 baby swings and 3-4 bigger kids swings is nice. -Shade - West Acton and Nara Park are always so hot come the summer - no trees are near the playgrounds and the plastic material heats up really quickly -Sandbox - I don't think any of the parks in Acton have

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

this. Hannah Williams has one attached to their playground with communal toys. -Bathroom - Sprinkler area - If you have ever been to Beaver Creek in Belmont that place is awesome. Great for summertime activity, but probably a stretch for this renovation.

Mon, 10/22/07 11:36 PM

23.

SHADE TREES, PLEASE!!!! gates or other safety feature so kids are "enclosed" safely while playing and can't run into parking lot, etc. (like w. acton playground or w. concord playground). W. Concord playground is set up GREAT - anything similar on a smaller scale would be fantastic. Thanks!

Mon, 10/22/07 11:33 PM

24.

I'd love to see a toddler-centric playground in Acton like they have at the Sudbury Atkinson Lot - smaller slides, more toddler swings, ?sandbox?, easily climb-on-able sets for smaller legs (balanced with things for older kids so you can bring siblings). I feel like we have lots of mid-range playgrounds here, but not much for the extra young.

Mon, 10/22/07 11:00 PM

25.

My kids really enjoy swings, tire swings (like the one at NARA or the Library) and slides. There should be activities they can do cooperatively.

Mon, 10/22/07 10:27 PM

26.

Splinter-free (i.e. recycled rubber, composite, etc.) Plenty of swings! "Rock climbing" wall Tire swing

Mon, 10/22/07 9:57 PM

27.

variety of age group appropriate equipment what about a spray pool?

Mon, 10/22/07 9:38 PM

28.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

soft-spongy turf, equal number of baby swings and big kid swings, tunnels, car/truck make believe, see saw, upper body pulling structures \*robbins farm playground in arlington is really nice. check it out for great ideas!

Mon, 10/22/07 7:43 PM

**29.**

I'd like to see a playground with toddler friendly structures and preschool friendly structures. Many of the playgrounds in Acton do not accommodate the 18mo-36mo crowd.

Mon, 10/22/07 3:45 PM

**30.**

I'd like there to be rubber mats/sections similar to a running track surface under a large portion of the play area. Also, separate areas and apparatus for toddlers and older children (divided by a small fence perhaps). A water area with spray nozzles which can be turned on during the warmer months (similar to Arlington or the Boston Common). Swings-swings-swings!!! Several for babies and toddlers, several for older kids, and at least one handicap (but it MUST include the safety straps and clips- which seem to be missing at all of the playgrounds in Acton.)

Mon, 10/22/07 3:28 PM

**31.**

We love the library playground- but only for location and convenience. The playground itself is a bit run down. The parts we like about it is that there are lots of different kinds of structures to climb onto and use imaginations with (vs a playground with just a jungle gym). A new playground needs to have structures for multiple age groups and places for the parents to sit and still see the kids. Picnic tables are great so you can also have a snack at the park.

Mon, 10/22/07 12:19 PM

**32.**

Its not at all clear where you mean! "The current Elm Street site (near the tennis courts)" includes the Douglas school playground(s), the basketball courts, the baseball field, the Tball field, the tennis courts, the little field behind the tennis courts that gets used for soccer practice. Which part(s) are up for renovation?????????

Mon, 10/22/07 12:04 PM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

**33.**

Picnic area Imaginative play area (i.e. house or cafe structure) Climbing structure

Mon, 10/22/07 10:46 AM

**34.**

Some sort of climbing structure or monkey bars would be good. I've also heard about the possibility of sprinklers, which would be a big draw during the summer for my child. We would be more likely to use it more often during the summer if they were installed.

Sun, 10/21/07 11:17 PM

**35.**

I answered this earlier but had some additional thoughts. A spray/water park would be a WONDERFUL element, especially for those of us nearby the Elm Street playground who do not have access to a neighborhood pool. I would be likely to contribute to a playground fund if this were included. Otherwise, I've got a good size backyard and swingset of my own.

Sun, 10/21/07 9:56 PM

**36.**

State of the art playground with latest developments in technology (e.g. NOT a wood one like Acton library) and with "cushy" (latex? rubber?) flooring, not dirt, gravel or wood chips. A variety of climbing structures, tunnels, and slides that will appeal to 5+ age group. Separate area for toddlers. Separate sand box area. SHADED area with picnic tables. For example, playground on 111 is way too hot and not any respite from sun. Some have mentioned a separate sprinkler part area, which would be great, but not at the exclusion of a regular playground. Beaver Brook park in Belmont is an example of a playground with a separate sprinkler area, and two different playground areas. Davis Farmland has some exceptional playground equipment.

Sun, 10/21/07 9:21 PM

**37.**

A toddler section in the playground would be great. There is one in Sudbury that is very safe and fun for kids up to 5 years old.

Sun, 10/21/07 9:10 PM

**38.**

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

small slides for little kids and bigger ones for big kids. Truck-type things for kids to "drive" (steering wheels on remotely truck-type things are great.) swings Good fence between all parking, roads and any other traffic. Seating for parents, in the shade.

Sun, 10/21/07 8:36 PM

**39.**

\*Sprinklers and shallow wading pool. \*play vehicle (train for instance with cars) that you can climb in and play. \*interesting climbing apparatus (spider web, vertical rope ladders, interconnected levels) are all very fun for the kids and great for arm muscle development

Sun, 10/21/07 3:12 PM

**40.**

Water park with a sprinkler or spray feature like many Cambridge playgrounds. I also prefer rubber (or recycled tire?) like ground covers instead of sand, rocks, or wood mulch.

Sun, 10/21/07 10:28 AM

**41.**

The castle like playgrounds are always great and them seem to appeal to a larger age group. I have also seen many playgrounds that offer shallow water/ sprinkler like pools. That would be absolutely wonderful to have in Acton.

Sun, 10/21/07 10:21 AM

**42.**

I would LOVE to see a playground very friendly for toddler usage. One example would be Sudbury's tot lot on Fairbanks/Hudson Rd. Low entrance points for tots, rubber/soft material for them to fall on. Maybe a theme, like an airplane or car. And material that is easy to clean, and okay for very hot summer days (ie flammable and something they will not burn themselves on).

Sun, 10/21/07 9:55 AM

**43.**

We LOVE Jones Field and the Ferra Meadows playground in Boxborough. In general since I have a toddler and a preschooler, I am always in search of a playground that caters effectively to both ages--which means not only equipment for both, but not too many high, unreachable places where my toddler can get himself into danger.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

Sun, 10/21/07 8:41 AM

**44.**

Monkey bars to little kids. Many other parks have the bars so high that is dangerous for my son to practice the bars. Tunnel slides More swings - seems there is always an upset child waiting for a swing - particularly the "baby" swings. balance beams low to the ground. Tire swing. playhouse.

Sun, 10/21/07 8:27 AM

**45.**

Shade 2-4 toddler swings Toilet facilities

Sun, 10/21/07 7:05 AM

**46.**

baby swings, sandbox, sprinklers (the kind that you touch a button to turn them on so that they're not running all of the time)

Sat, 10/20/07 7:14 PM

**47.**

I think it would be really nice to have this playground set apart from some of the others. I wouldn't care whether that meant a wooden structure like Castle in the trees (that'd be awesome!) or just playground equipment that doesn't already exist at other playgrounds... just something different.

Sat, 10/20/07 6:59 PM

**48.**

Fenced in area. The swamp/wetlands behind the playground and field pose a safety concern for little ones who like to bolt from their parents.

Sat, 10/20/07 6:56 PM

**49.**

We just moved to Acton and one of the things I miss about the parks in our old town were sandboxes. They were really large with some sitting/digging toys. Picnic tables and benches are a must too.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

Sat, 10/20/07 2:00 PM

**50.**

I would like (in order of priority) Baby swings (at least two) Swings for older children. A slide suitable for preschoolers (The current slide with its low sides looks dangerous for young preschoolers. A climbing structure for elementary schoolers

Sat, 10/20/07 1:40 PM

**51.**

sand box; bathroom facilities (outhouse, etc),

Sat, 10/20/07 12:35 PM

**52.**

A large sandbox. Wading pool. or water park Something different from the other playgrounds. But still the favorites--swings, spring animals, climbing structures and picnic tables. Thank you for asking.

Sat, 10/20/07 9:42 AM

**53.**

climbing structure/maze - often seen constructed in wood - long ramps to run & slides.

Sat, 10/20/07 9:22 AM

**54.**

water sprayers - something like the train at the library playground or the fire engine at the 111 playground that encourages imagination - basics like swings, slide, climbing structures - could we use some environmental products to build - like recycled materials?

Sat, 10/20/07 8:45 AM

**55.**

At least one large structure, like the ones at other playgrounds, that includes a slide (or 2), a bridge, ladders and monkey bars. At would be nice to have some smaller items that are apart from the large structure as well. For instance, at the Mass. Ave. park they have two creatures on big springs that rock back and forth, a few play houses and the stationery fire truck. Some variety of play items in different locations would be good.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

Sat, 10/20/07 8:24 AM

**56.**

Many of the playgrounds around town lack equipment for infants/young toddlers. (swings, tiny slides).

Sat, 10/20/07 8:09 AM

**57.**

The tennis courts and associated playground is a meeting place/playing space for the 11 to 14 year olds. The kids play tennis and sometimes sit on the swings and talk. I would like what ever we do their to accomodate this type of activity. There are plenty of playgrounds in the town that accomodate the younger children. Thanks for asking.

Sat, 10/20/07 8:00 AM

**58.**

A water park...underground sprinklers...see comments below. A fantastic idea.

Sat, 10/20/07 7:53 AM

**59.**

It would be nice if the playground had things for toddlers but also progressed to elementary school (8-10) activities/climbers. Also please keep the shady areas for moms/dads to sit.

Sat, 10/20/07 7:52 AM

**60.**

Prior to building another park, I think resources should be devoted to improving the library park. The play structures need structural improvements including making the central climbing structure safer.

Sat, 10/20/07 7:51 AM

**61.**

climbing structures made of wood not metal; access to bathroom facilities of some sort; perhaps two structures - one geared for younger kids and one for older kids; more than 2 infant swings!!!

Fri, 10/19/07 10:14 PM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

Do you have any **other** thoughts you'd like to **share** with the Recreation Department about Acton playgrounds?

1.

There should be portapotties where there are no restrooms. Between being pregnant three times and potty training two kids, with one to happen shortly, I can assure you that there are times when having portapotties would have been nice. They are at Leary Field with no apparent problems.

Thu, 10/25/07 8:45 PM

2.

I would like to see most of the playgrounds renovated and updated in the Acton area. They all get used excessively. It is a wonderful place to bring our children to get exercise and some fresh air. The upgrade would encourage them to stay longer and keep everyone healthy.

Wed, 10/24/07 8:46 PM

3.

Keep them in good repair, maintenance - keep the grass and/or paved areas clear of the stones, woodchips, etc. So perhaps there could be some decent grass. Have some mini soccer nets or a mini running/walking track (with the softer rubber surface).

Wed, 10/24/07 4:32 AM

4.

Acton needs more playgrounds, and a lot of work done to the playgrounds that are already in existence!!! they are awful!

Tue, 10/23/07 9:31 PM

5.

Please do not renovate the playground behind the library. We really like how different it is from the other Acton playgrounds (the wood, tires, train, little houses, etc) and love going there.

Tue, 10/23/07 7:53 PM

6.

Please help the Library Playground. I would be willing to help (as would others) in the rebuilding

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

effort. We just need a plan and approval. That is the central playground for all of Acton and so great to have near the library. What can we do? Please contact me if I can help. Tanya Rosen-Jones info@rosenjones.com

Tue, 10/23/07 2:21 PM

7.

The playground in Littleton Castle in the trees is a wonderful playground. Alot of tunnels & climbing. This may be something Acton would want to consider?

Tue, 10/23/07 11:07 AM

8.

I so hope the playgrounds get a much needed update and facelift. Acton is such a family-oriented community, yet the playgrounds are in pitiful shape. We often travel to Concord, Bedford or Lexington just to go to a decent playground. I hope the high taxes we pay can be somehow redirected a bit to help support the Rec Dept's efforts to build the children of Acton some wonderful playspaces.

Tue, 10/23/07 10:51 AM

9.

It would be great for Elm St playground to be renovated, since there are so many families with young children in Indian Village...This playground would be used SO often since we would all be able to walk over there in the spring, summer and fall.

Tue, 10/23/07 9:05 AM

10.

It is nice to have swings -- everyone loves to swing. Also, tire swings are a big hit!

Tue, 10/23/07 8:19 AM

11.

I would be very happy to see the update of the playground right behind the library. It's so nice to go to the library and be able to stop at the playground afterwards, but it would be nice to play in the playground that would be a little safer for the kids.

Tue, 10/23/07 8:18 AM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

12.

The Elm street program is obviously in great need of update. However, when you are done, the library playground needs to be updated. It is falling apart and is probably the most important playground in town since it is at the library. A good playground there encourages more library visits which is so important. Also, it doesn't seem that the lawn is getting mowed or weeded very well at that playground. Thanks!

Tue, 10/23/07 8:15 AM

13.

Yes, we are willing to volunteer to do some work if community participation would be helpful and would offset some of the cost of the renovations. We are certain that many other families with young children would be willing to help as we have many friends (including us) that travel to other towns for better playgrounds.

Mon, 10/22/07 11:36 PM

14.

thanks for the continued improvements - a lot of progress has been made in the past 10 years.

Mon, 10/22/07 11:33 PM

15.

Benches and picnic tables are nice for the parents and playgroup gatherings as well as a portable bathroom. Also maybe a fitness circuit since there aren't any others in town.

Mon, 10/22/07 10:27 PM

16.

Better upkeep of the Acton Library playground would be much appreciated!

Mon, 10/22/07 9:57 PM

17.

Please, please renovate the acton library playground! It is in the perfect location, and encourages families to visit the library as well. I would be much more likely to contribute money to library park than any other acton park.

Mon, 10/22/07 9:38 PM

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

18.

A place with shade, please! And porta potties or restrooms (preferably) near by are important. Playground at main library is falling apart...needs to be modernized and checked for safety.

Thank you!!

Mon, 10/22/07 9:29 PM

19.

We would love a playground and/or sidewalks for bike riding, running, and walking in the Fort Pond Rd. area. It would likely encourage some younger families to move to the area and would service the Patriot Hill families as well.

Mon, 10/22/07 7:43 PM

20.

I'd like to see the landscaping create a shaded (or partially shaded) playground (as best as possible). Even if it means planting young trees and we won't see the shade for several years...

Mon, 10/22/07 3:45 PM

21.

All of our playgrounds in town need to be looked at for improvements constantly. Application for CPA funds should occur every year, because equipment ages and breaks. For example- The library playground needs a significant makeover (Wood train and seesaw are archaic and deteriorating- who uses the basketball court?) and Nara needs a sheltered area and the climbing ladder and handicap swing need repair.

Mon, 10/22/07 3:28 PM

22.

Check out the Sudbury Fairbanks Rd and the West Concord Lawsbrook playgrounds. Those are very different than what we can find in Acton.

Mon, 10/22/07 12:19 PM

23.

You get high marks from me - there is enough local playground space in west acton area, (including the schools, of course), it is safe, up to date, fun. We have 3 kids here over last 12 years, so age ranges starting from 0 to now 16. Thoughts: Preserve at all costs all open space,

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

especially just small and undeveloped local lots - great for kids to walk to for a kickball game, a volleyball game, sandlot baseball, a little picnic, whatever!

Mon, 10/22/07 12:04 PM

24.

We use this playground most during the AASL season. My kids like to watch the game for a while but usually end up on the playground or playing catch in the field

Mon, 10/22/07 10:46 AM

25.

equipment should prohibit falls from high up--many of the Acton playgrounds have equipment with large openings from which a child can and quite often has--fall. Other playgrounds outside of Acton use equipment that contains better.

Mon, 10/22/07 10:30 AM

26.

Swings and the present equipment at the Elm St. playground are sufficient. The Douglas School playground is wonderful and only steps away from the field. Families can use that playground while at that facility. Why spend more of our tax payers money on something that is already there! Why not look at the elementary school playgrounds to upgrade...Gates needs new basketball equipment and additional structures to equal the Douglas School or Parker Damon facilities! Outdoor basketball or volleyball at NARA park would also be great! There is no need to spend more money at Elm ST!!!!

Mon, 10/22/07 8:06 AM

27.

I've used many Acton playgrounds, and the fact that drinking fountains (if they exist) don't work is disgraceful. I even went to Town Hall to report that the fountain at the playground behind the library didn't work, and it was never fixed.

Sun, 10/21/07 11:17 PM

28.

We desperately need a new, large, state of the art playground in Acton. For the size of this community, its wealth and number of children, the current playgrounds are severely lacking.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

They are all old, run down, and insufficient. I usually travel to other communities for the playgrounds (like Concord) because the ones here are so poor.

Sun, 10/21/07 9:21 PM

**29.**

A fence between the playground and any parking lots or traffic is essential and allows parents to relax and meet, and kids to run more. Some shade is also key! Play structures that will be in the sun should be composed of something that won't get too hot, if possible.

Sun, 10/21/07 8:36 PM

**30.**

Please help renovate the playground by the library.

Sun, 10/21/07 5:24 PM

**31.**

climbing is very important and the size is as well. Gates playground equipment, for instance, is way too big for most k-4 kids to enjoy. 6-8 is good since the little ones can do some parts and it's big enough that older kids can still enjoy them.

Sun, 10/21/07 3:12 PM

**32.**

Elm St. seems like the perfect location in town. The basketball and tennis courts already lend to it being a location to be complimented with better playground equipment.

Sun, 10/21/07 10:21 AM

**33.**

Just to say thank you for updating this playground! There are a lot of children in the area, many of whom can walk to the park with their parents. Also, because of the tennis courts and athletic fields, a lot of kids will have older siblings playing there. So thank you in advance!

Sun, 10/21/07 9:55 AM

**34.**

Please, please, please put the library playground next on your list!! There are many moms who love and value that playground who would be happy to chip in. We live very near the Elm St.

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

playground and would play there all the time if it were renovated. My children love slides and swings, monkey bars, and those crazy trolleys that you hang on and travel across an open space.

Sun, 10/21/07 8:41 AM

**35.**

Regarding the playground behind the library, many items really need to be painted. It is looking pretty ragged. Also, better weed control is needed in the Spring/Summer along the fence and toward the "train".

Sun, 10/21/07 8:27 AM

**36.**

The Elm street playground seems like a fine playground to me. It is so close to the Douglas school playground I do not see why the town would feel it is necessary to spend tax payers money to redo this playground.

Sun, 10/21/07 8:05 AM

**37.**

For us, replacing and repairing the library playground would have is a higher priority. It is very popular. We use it two or more times weekly. It is also one of the few playgrounds with a public toilet nearby. In particular, we would like to see more toddler/infant swings and to have equipment and swings kept in better repair. (The belt on the blue 'handicap' swing has been broken/missing for more than a year now.) Gardner playground's equipment is great, but it lacks toilets (very important for potty-training toddlers).

Sun, 10/21/07 7:05 AM

**38.**

a kiosk for the community to communicate about important events, walking school bus, etc. benches and picnic tables, more trees for shady areas

Sat, 10/20/07 8:30 PM

**39.**

The library playground also needs a MAJOR face lift. Also, many of our playgrounds could use bathrooms. I'm sure this would be costly, but it would be a HUGE upgrade for all of them. I think

## Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07

it's a bit sad that we were rated #1 town in the Boston area for families with children... but many of our playgrounds are falling apart. It'd exciting that we're moving forward with more upgrades!

Sat, 10/20/07 6:59 PM

40.

Elm Street playground is by far the worse and neediest of town owned playgrounds. I think there would be a lot of neighborhood support to improve it.

Sat, 10/20/07 6:56 PM

41.

A nice playground there would be great as we often like to use the tennis courts and if a child wants to play on the playground rather than play tennis, they have that option.

Sat, 10/20/07 3:53 PM

42.

Thank you for asking.

Sat, 10/20/07 2:00 PM

43.

Along Elm Street the two school playgrounds (Douglas and Gates) are well equipped for the elementary age children, but there is not much suitable for toddlers, and not much available while school is in session.

Sat, 10/20/07 1:40 PM

44.

My children used this playground for many years growing up in Acton. Now that I have grandchildren who visit, I would like to see the playground updated. I was recently surprised at how child "unfriendly" it currently is.

Sat, 10/20/07 11:40 AM

45.

I think that we have a lot of great play grounds, and for that I feel fortunate. I'd be thrilled to see the Elm St playground renovated!

Sat, 10/20/07 8:24 AM

**Responses to Elm Street Playground Survey as of 10/30/07**

**46.**

I think it would be a **gr**eat idea to incorporate a water park into one of the playgrounds. I have been to a buch of them (Watertown, MA the nearest one) and the kids would love it. I have pictures of these play**g**rounds and it just is something different to incorporate instead of the same ol' same ol'...**g**ets boring at times even for the kids. This may be the best opportunity to do this and I know there **i**s plenty of funding for the project.

Sat, 10/20/07 7:53 AM

**47.**

See note above about improvement to library playground as first priority. Generally, though, wanted to express **o**ur thanks. We go to the park at least every other day **a**nd are very grateful that the community **h**as so many nice, safe, and beautiful playgrounds.

Sat, 10/20/07 7:51 AM