

Doug Melanson Memorial Park

Design Program

This is a new Yarmouth town park to be constructed on the former Milton Elementary School site. A school has existed on the property since the 1880's, a significant factor in that the new park will honor and respect this history. However it will be a park to appeal to people of all ages, from small children to seniors. As seniors constitute a greater portion of the neighborhood population, no playground structures will be included. That is not to say that there will not be adventure and interest for young people as well. We plan to create a park that will draw people in to explore its pathways, activity centers, and lush plantings. It will be a place for kids to run, for people to read and reflect, to amble, observe nature or to sit and chat with friends in a comfortable, safe and interesting environment. It will have elements that will link it with other parks in town and with the planted heritage of Yarmouth. Above all it will be an environmentally progressive park, a magnet for the community, and a unique new jewel in Yarmouth's crown.

The park will be constructed on a 3 to 5 year plan. Elements listed here are in order of proposed installation. **Images included are to depict the idea only and do NOT constitute a design choice.**

Elements to be Included

Central Lawn with Play Mounds

A lawn with play mounds will be installed on the spot where the school stood. Play Mounds are simply small grassy hills for kids to run up and down, and from one to the other, using their imagination to invent games and get exercise involving no other equipment. They are low-maintenance, requiring a string trimmer only. Children cannot get hurt and there is nothing to be vandalized.



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Bus Stop Seating area

Currently there is a school bus stop at what will be the main entrance to the park, on Brunswick street. Children and parents wait there morning and afternoon, so we will build attractive seating to accommodate them as well as to frame the entrance to the park. Decorative brick paving will echo Yarmouth's waterfront park.

Group Seating area with potential for Public Speaking

This will be a long curved bench capable of seating 25 people. Area in front of bench will accommodate a speaker; it will be suitable for educational purposes and will appeal to a wide range of groups. Material is concrete for economy and ease of maintenance.



Hedgerow

A traditional hedgerow will be planted along the west side where the park abuts the newly developed lot. A hedgerow is a closely-spaced, long row or rows of varied plants, typically seen in Britain and used historically to delineate borders. It will be planted in addition to or instead of a traditional fence. It welcomes native wildlife and creates a backdrop for specimen plantings. (This hedgerow may or may not include an opening for the occupants of the new development to access the park.)



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Specimen Trees/ Memorial Plantings

A variety of trees will be planted to provide bird habitat, shade for the future and to exemplify an environmentally sound park. Trees will be subsidized with donated funds which will honor a loved one with a small plaque which also identifies the tree species.

Currently existing, recently-planted trees may have to be transplanted to accommodate the design plan.



Native Plant Blocks

A wide variety of shrubs, perennials and groundcovers are to be included for beauty, wildlife habitat and educational value. A composition of at least 50% native plants, planted in groups, will be hardy and enduring, will minimize maintenance, provide for threatened species, and signify a progressive, sustainable approach for a public place.



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Nesting Boxes

Nesting boxes mounted on tall metal poles will provide spring nesting habitat for native birds. A variety of hole sizes allow for different species. The boxes can be built by local craftspeople and possibly be sponsored by the public. Tall metal poles will prevent unwanted predators and allow for viewing from a distance. Maintenance required is only annual cleaning out and occasional painting.



Benches/Sitting areas

Benches throughout the park will be sited in shady and sunny areas. Some will be grouped and many individual to allow for varied preferences. They can also be subsidized by the public and/or built by local craftspeople but should be made largely of wood for comfort and aesthetics.



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Game Tables

Small game tables with painted or printed checkerboards and two attached seats will be installed later in the park's development. Very popular in European cities, these tables provide opportunities for the public to gather and enjoy games in a community setting. Material will be concrete or a composite for economy and low maintenance.



Balance Beams

Low Balance beams can be built in one small area. Three with varying heights and widths allow for different users. Aged people commonly lose their sense of balance and low, wide beams encourage mild exercise without exertion or the threat of falls. Material wood.

Labyrinth

A labyrinth in the landscape design context is intended for contemplation and meditation. It is a circular element with concentric paths for meandering. Crushed stone or another economical material will be used and string trimming is the only needed maintenance.



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Signage

Interpretive signs will be placed to honor Mr. Melanson, the Milton schools, and specimen trees or other park elements. These will be of a similar style to other interpretive signs in Yarmouth parks.

The park's entry sign will be of the same style used for Coronation Park and Sealed Landers park, for its beauty and to link this park with the others.

Lighting

A comprehensive lighting plan will ensure security for all users. Light poles the same as at Heritage Park will be attractive and cohesive; solar lights can also be used in many places, especially to enhance pathways and be low-cost.

Other Actions

The park will have three entrances, one on each side: main entrance on Brunswick, secondary entrances on Elm and Huntington.

Plants chosen will have attractions in all seasons, including winter. Fragrant plants will be included where possible as well as heritage plants reflecting Yarmouth's history. A precise planting plan allowing for local conditions and plant needs ensures long-term plant survival. High-cost annuals will be minimized.

A maintenance plan will be included with the park plan. This is a user-friendly chart that spells out specific maintenance for each plant in each season. As the plants will largely be in blocks, ease of work is facilitated. Most of the plants chosen will be fairly low maintenance and as lawn in the park will be minimal, time normally spent mowing can be used for basic pruning and weeding.

Because of the sustainable plan for the park, various funding sources may be available.