

Instructions:

- 1) The **ORIGINAL, TYPED** article is to be submitted to the Selectmen’s Office in final form.
- 2) Articles submitted by Boards and Committees must be signed by a majority accompanied by a copy of the vote signed by its Clerk.
- 3) **WARRANT REPORT**, briefly explaining intent and scope of article must be attached.
- 4) Article wording must be approved and article signed by Town Counsel before submission.

**ARTICLE                      Playground Modernization for the Sudbury Public Schools**

To see what sum the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, or appropriate from Community Preservation Act Funds funded from FY 18 Revenue and allocated from the recreation category; to be expended under the direction of the Facilities Director for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, or making extraordinary repairs to the Sudbury Public Schools Playgrounds; and all expenses therewith including professional and engineering, the preparation of plans, specifications and bidding documents, and supervision of work; or act on anything relative thereto.

Submitted by the Facilities Director.

Report: Playground Modernization Project for Sudbury Public Schools

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate an amount not to exceed \$725,000 for the purpose of modernizing the playgrounds at the Sudbury Public Schools.

This article requests funding to begin modernizing our school playgrounds. This is a multi-year project which, in its totality, will bring the four elementary school playgrounds into compliance with ADA and MAAB accessibility requirements and develop a new outdoor area at the middle school. This year’s portion of the project will address the playgrounds at Haynes and Noyes Elementary schools (\$725,000). Next year the playgrounds at Nixon and Loring will be updated (\$725,000), and a space at Curtis Middle School will be created the following year (\$250,000). Fundraising, grant applications, and in-kind donations are currently being pursued in the hopes of mitigating these costs.

Concepts of Universal Design will be applied in order to create not just playgrounds, but multigenerational recreational spaces so that the entire community can utilize and enjoy our school grounds.

Every student deserves equal access to their school playground. Despite being meticulously maintained, the Sudbury School playgrounds are outdated. The surfaces are not up to Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) standards, and much of the equipment is not ADA compliant and nearing end-of-life. Due to lack of accessibility, some students are being denied an equal opportunity to participate

alongside their peers in outdoor play activities. In order to provide a safe, accessible play environment for our children to grow and thrive, something needs to be done.

Fortuitously, because of the nature of playgrounds as a place for congregating, exploring, and exercising, there is a unique opportunity to make these playgrounds appealing not only to students, but also to a wider community of all ages. Accessible surfaces for a student with a mobility device are also impact-friendly surfaces for an older person with knee and hip issues. We plan to create a 3-foot wide track around the perimeter of the play area by simply using a different color of surfacing. Shade and tables can not only provide respite for children at play, but can also serve as a congregation point for caregivers and an outdoor meeting place for all citizens. Exercise equipment like dip benches and plyo boxes can be utilized by caregivers while they supervise their children, and also double as extra seating for everyone.

Currently 21% of the population in Sudbury is over 60, and this is projected to grow to 32% in the next several years. We need to be proactive and think about how our playgrounds can also enhance the available outdoor recreation spaces for our aging population. By using Universal Design strategies, we are committed to finding ways to create features in our playgrounds which will benefit our entire community of all ages and abilities.

Please refer to our website - [www.PlaySudbury.org](http://www.PlaySudbury.org) for more details.

SUBMITTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Counsel