

From: [Jillian Dervishian](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Subject: In support of Roosevelt
Date: Monday, May 22, 2023 9:40:46 AM

To whom it may concern,

I write in support of the Roosevelt Park renovation and urge you to move forward in building this project as soon as possible. Roosevelt Park serves Malden residents throughout the city and is especially important for residents of the immediate neighborhood and students at the Salemwood School. These residents are more diverse and lower income than the rest of the city and they deserve a high quality climate resilient park.

Roosevelt Park suffers from flooding and contaminated soil which limits playtime and endangers the neighborhood. The City's project would fix these problems by improving drainage, removing contaminated soil, and upgrading the field from grass to turf. Improving drainage is necessary to prepare the field and the surrounding neighborhood for climate change. The project will also remediate soil contamination that has been discovered and make the field safe to play on for all users. By delaying the project, opponents have allowed these dangerous conditions to continue. The result is a contaminated field with increased flood risk, which could cause harm to the surrounding neighborhood and school if not addressed quickly.

This project will also increase playtime for residents, the school, and athletic groups. The current field condition limits playtime at Roosevelt Park, which is mainly because of the field's drainage problems. The flooding will continue to damage the field and reduce playtime until fixed.

Residents and students deserve full use of the park, which the current field cannot support. Upgrading the field from grass to turf will ensure maximum playtime for Malden residents while preparing the area for climate change.

Combined with high demand from residents and students, the sad result is a Roosevelt Park that requires urgent attention. It is unacceptable to limit the ability of Malden residents, students, and athletic groups from using the park. Unfortunately this will continue until the project is completed. Parks in other parts of the city have received millions of dollars for improvements, including Devir, Trafton, and Howard Park, and recent studies indicate that Fellsmere Pond and Patchell Park will get more money as well. The City should invest at least as much money – if not more – in Roosevelt Park, a centrally located park that serves a higher number of low-income residents of all ages who deserve a great park.

Please move this project forward as quickly as possible so Malden residents can have the park they deserve.

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