



City of Malden Massachusetts



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Malden City Council
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September 3, 2025

George Warren, Chairman
Richard Veilleux, Assistant Superintendent
Mystic Valley Regional Charter School
4 Laurel Street
Malden MA 02148

RE: MVRCS Application for a Use Permit for Trafton Park

Dear Chairman Warren and Assistant Superintendent Veilleux:

In early August, I in good faith reached out to Mystic Valley Regional Charter School representatives offering to work with MVRCS and the City of Malden Recreation Department towards issuance of a use permit for Trafton Park in accordance with the City's Park Rules and Regulations. Those regulations help protect the City's key park assets from overuse and misuse and set clear terms to fairly balance use for organized group activities with the desire of families and individuals to play freely in their neighborhood parks.

At a site visit on August 12, attended by Assistant Superintendent Veilleux and Trustee Doug Banghart with Jane Ventrone of the City and myself, I discussed the compelling reasons why the City had recently updated its Parks Rules and Regulations and also offered to work with MVRCS and the Recreation Department on the issuance of a permit that had been stalled, in my understanding, by the MVRCS's request to a pay fee inconsistent with the fee schedule recently adopted by the City's Stadium and Athletic Field Commission. I mentioned that I had spoken to DPW Director Knox who estimated that keeping up the field at Trafton Park with a fall and springtime maintenance program of aeration, re-seeding and fertilization would cost about \$2500 per season. I spoke up on behalf of my constituents who feel unable to freely use the park when MVRCS brings scores of students that take over areas of the park and some who have mentioned MVRCS staff asking them to leave those areas. I made clear that a parent or grandparent coming with children to play at Trafton Park should not be put in a situation where they need to confront MVRCS staff or students whose activities conflict with free play. Any permit with MVRCS must clearly spell out times of use so that the neighbors can know when to visit without conflict. I also emphasized that the City does not issue permits for playground use and that Malden provides its school students on-site playgrounds. MVRCS use of Trafton without a permit not only violates City Rules and Regulations, it also in my mind, means that MVRCS cannot fulfill its duty to monitor adults who maybe present during student activities since MVRCS staff have no right to limit public use of the park without obtaining a permit.

I have not received either a positive response or counteroffer to the oral proposal I outlined on August 12, even after the City responded to the MVRCS's public records request.

I have spoken further with the Recreation Department which has made clear that they will not vary from the fee schedule adopted by the Stadium and Field Commission without a request by the Ward Councillor to the City Council to approve such relief. I am willing to send forth a proposed fee reduction on the following terms:

1. MVRCS be provided a Fall 2025 season permit for the use of Trafton Park from August 27 (the start of Malden Public Schools) to Thanksgiving Day limited to 8 AM to noon, on days when MVRCS is in session, and a Spring 2026 season permit for use of Trafton Park limited to 8 AM to noon from March 15, 2026 to the last day of Malden Public School (on or about June 15, 2026), on days when MVRCS is in session, excepting MPS April vacation week.
2. The fee for seasonal use of Trafton Park be \$2500 per season, or as an alternative MVRCS submit an executed contract to undertake aeration, re-seeding and fertilization to the satisfaction of the DPW Director prior to issuance of the permit.
3. The permit covers the use of the court area and field. Use of the playground, picnic and dog park areas are expressly prohibited.
4. All other Malden Park Rules and Regulations and standard permit conditions will apply.
5. The limitations of this permit apply to MVRCS, its employees, contractors or any entity permitted by MVRCS to provide programs for MVRCS students.

If I have not received an affirmative response to this proposal by noon on September 4, 2025, I will not advance this proposal to the Council for Fall 2025 on to the City Council Docket for September 9.

Continued use of Trafton Park by MVRCS in violation of the City's Parks and Regulations as occurred yesterday will be noted and this letter in no way is intended to waive any rights for the City to undertake action to restrict such further unpermitted use, impose fines and seek collection of unpaid use fees.

Sincerely,



Stephen Winslow
Ward 6 Councillor

Cc: Joseph Levine and Laura Perez, Malden Recreation Department
Jane Ventrone, OSPCD