

Community Preservation Committee Town of Arlington

CPA Funding – FY2020 Final Application

One (1) electronic copy and three (3) hard copies of the completed application must be submitted to the CPAC **no later than 4 p.m. on December 10, 2018** in order to be considered for advancement to the final application stage, with the electronic copy sent to AFidalgo@town.arlington.ma.us and the hard copies to:

Community Preservation Committee c/o Amy Fidalgo
Town of Arlington, 730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476

Applications will be date stamped and assigned control numbers in the order that the hard copies are received. This PDF form may be completed on a computer using [Adobe Reader](#).

1. General Information

Project Title: _____

Applicant/Contact: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

2. CPA Eligibility (refer to the chart on page A-4)

CPA Category (select one):

Community Housing Historic Preservation Open Space Recreation

CPA Purpose (select one):

Acquisition Creation Preservation Support Rehabilitation & Restoration

3. Budget

Amount Requested: _____ Total Project Cost: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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Please answer and document all questions on the following page

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Attach answers to the following questions. Applications will be returned as incomplete if all requested information is not provided. Include supporting materials as necessary.

1. **Goals:** What are the goals of the proposed project?
2. **Community Need:** Why is the project needed? Does it address needs identified in existing Town plans? If so, please specify.
3. **Community Support:** What is the nature and level of support for this project? Include letters of support and any petitions.
4. **Project Documentation:** Attach any applicable engineering plans, architectural drawings, site plans, photographs, any other renderings, relevant studies or material.
5. **Timeline:** What is the schedule for project implementation, including a timeline for all critical milestones?
6. **Credentials:** How will the experience of the applicant contribute to the success of this project?
7. **Budget:** What is the total budget for the project and how will funds be sourced and spent? All items of expenditure must be clearly identified. Distinguish between hard and soft costs and contingencies. (NOTE: CPA funds may not be used for maintenance.)
8. **Other Funding:** What additional funding sources are available, committed, or under consideration? Include commitment letters, if available, and describe any other attempts to secure funding for this project.
9. **Maintenance:** If ongoing maintenance is required for your project, how will it be funded?
10. **Impact on Town Budget:** What, if any, potential secondary effects will your proposed project have on the Town's Operating Budget? Are there any capital projects that rely on the successful completion of your project?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Provide the following additional information, as applicable.

1. **Control of Site:** Documentation that you have control over the site, such as a Purchase and Sales Agreement, option or deed. If the applicant does not have site control, explain what communications have occurred with the bodies that have control and how public benefits will be protected in perpetuity or otherwise.
2. **Deed Restrictions:** In order for funding to be distributed, an appropriate deed restriction, meeting the requirements of Chapter 184 of Mass General Laws pursuant to section 12 of the Community Preservation Act, must be filed with the CPAC. Provide a copy of the actual or proposed restrictions that will apply to this project.
3. **Acquisitions:** For acquisition projects, attach appraisals and agreements if available. Attach a copy of the deed.

4. **Feasibility:** Provide a list of all further actions or steps that will be required for completion of the project, such as environmental assessments, zoning approvals, and any other known barriers to moving forward.
5. **Hazardous Materials:** Provide evidence that the proposed project site is free of hazardous materials or there is a plan for remediation in place.
6. **Permitting:** Provide evidence that the project does not violate any zoning ordinances, covenants, restrictions or other laws or regulations. What permits, if any, are needed for this project? Provide the expected date of receipt for necessary permits, and copies of any permits already acquired.
7. **Environmental Concerns:** Identify all known wetlands, floodplains, and/or any natural resource limitation that occur within the boundaries of your submission.
8. **Professional Standards:** Evidence that appropriate professional standards will be followed if construction, restoration or rehabilitation is proposed. Evidence that the applicant and the project team have the proven or potential capacity to conduct the scope and scale of the proposed project, as evidenced by project leaders with appropriate qualifications and technical experience or access to technical expertise.
9. **Further Attachments:** Assessor's map showing location of the project.

REMINDER: Projects financed with CPA funds must comply with all applicable state and municipal requirements, including the state procurement law, which requires special procedures for the selection of products, vendors, services, and consultants. Project sponsors will be required to meet with Arlington's Town Manager before the Town enters into any contracts or issues any purchase orders. However, this requirement can be waived if adherence to procurement procedures will be overseen by a Town Department Head or other MCPPO certified third party.

Goals

The North Union Playground project will be replacing an existing playground that has outlived its useful life with a new playground. The North Union Park is a very active park and the playground gets heavy use 7 days a week.

Community Need

Playgrounds are important community gathering spaces. This playground is used by many residents in the community. Abutters frequent the park and the school uses it on a daily basis. This is also a destination park in the community with the Thompson Spray Park seeing thousands of visitors during the summer months.

Community Support

The Park and Recreation Commission had several meetings with large resident turnouts expressing concern about the age and condition of the playground. Attached are letters of support as well as an online petition.

Project Documentation

A part of the funding request is for design and engineering work to be completed.

Timeline

See attached

Credentials

This project will be managed by the Recreation Department.

Budget

The anticipated project cost is \$425,000. Below is a breakdown of anticipated costs.

Other Funding

\$100,000 has been secured thanks to an Earmark in the State Budget from Representative Garballey. We will also be seeking CDBG funding for this project. We will not know the amount of funding we will be able to receive from CDBG, but anticipate it will be a significant portion of the funding. It would be the goal to have CDBG fund as much as possible with either CPA or Capital funding the remaining portion.

Maintenance

Due to the condition of the current playground the town is spending significant funding on annual repairs. A new playground for the first 5 years would require minimal input.

Impact on Town Budget

There are no real impacts to the town budget with this project.

The North Union Playground in East Arlington, North Union Street, is in need of a complete renovation. The equipment was installed in 1996 and will have served the community for 23 years. The useful life of play equipment is between 15 and 25 years depending on use. This playground is one of the most heavily used in the Town of Arlington. The surfacing was redone 10 years ago, but is failing and is beyond repair and needs to be addressed. The recommendations from playground consultations are to replace both the playground structures and surfacing. There is no alternative.

The total anticipated cost is expected to be slightly north of \$425,000. We are seeking \$325,000 in this request to support this project. The cost breakdown is as follows:

Removal and Disposal of Old Equipment & Surfacing, site prep Mob	\$35,000
New Play Equipment, Site Furnishings	\$180,000
Poured in Place Safety Surfacing	\$100,000
Path Connections and Landscaping	\$45,000
Design and Engineering	\$40,000
Contingency >5%	\$25,000
Total Cost	\$425,000

Representative Garballey has secured \$100,000 in the state budget for this project. There has also been upwards of 100 residents who have mobilized to support this project. They are working on ways to seek additional funding for site amenities and are already working with the Park and Recreation Commission and Tree Committee on tree plantings at the site.

There are over 30 playgrounds in the Town of Arlington and although this is not the oldest, it is one of the most heavily used. The Park and Recreation Commission has made it a priority to focus on addressing these aging playgrounds by pushing for a replacement of a playground each year. This effort combined with an enhancement to playground maintenance should better address the issues with our aging playgrounds.

Last Revised 11.1.2018

FY2019

North Union	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Feasibility					Review with Friend G.							
Design & Engineering								Design & Engineering Pending Funds				
Permitting & Bid											Out to Bid	
Funding - Grants												
Construction												

12/10/2018

Last Revised 11.1.2018

FY2020

North Union	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Feasibility												
Design & Engineering												
Permitting & Bid												
Funding - Grants		Funding CDBG										
Construction		Construction Ideally before school starts										

12/10/2018

FRIENDS OF NORTH UNION PARK

December 10, 2018

VIA EMAIL

Community Preservation Committee
Community Development Block Grant Subcommittee
c/o Jon Marshall, Director of Recreation
jrmarshall@town.arlington.ma.us

Re: Playground at North Union Park

Dear Committee Members:

Attached please find letters from community members supporting the renovation of North Union playground, which were all sent by email for inclusion in the funding applications being made for this project.

My family and I have lived in East Arlington since the oldest of our four kids (who's now 8) was an infant and have spent countless hours at North Union playground. This playground is a vital part of our neighborhood and community – it's where we often go on the weekends, where we meet friends and neighbors after school and where you can almost always find other kids and families, reflecting the rich diversity of this neighborhood, gathering and playing. The playground, though, is badly in need of renovation. The equipment is rusted and falling apart, the surfacing is full of potholes that are increasingly unsafe and it desperately lacks shade – and this situation is becoming worse as the playground continues to see extensive use.

For all of the reasons expressed in these letters, we hope that the full funding needed for this project will be approved.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Philip Tedesco
74 Park Street #2
Arlington, MA 02474

We would like to voice our support for the renovation of the union park playground. We live on Yale Road, a block away from the park and have two kids (4/6 years old). We have spent countless fun hours in the park with them and lots of memories captured. It remains one of the go to places for them and will continue to be so for the next 3-4 years at least. I hope that you will support the renovation of this very important community resource so it can serve as a vibrant meeting place for the neighborhood families.

In addition this park has provided a beautiful, diverse experience for us and our kids to be able to interact with families from all walks of life, backgrounds, and means that we believe is critical for a well rounded and aware childhood for kids.

Best
Daniela and Pavan Kumar
18 Yale Road, Arlington.

The North Union playground is an unassuming sanctuary for children and parents alike---and a welcome bit of green and safe space for all residents in the nearby neighborhood and beyond. Despite its state of disrepair (cracking and ripped foundation, broken and outdated play structures, and eyesore appearance, especially in contrast to the wonderful new Thompson Elementary School, the playground is heavily used and loved. In that sense, the North Union playground's weathered state is a testament to its huge importance to all of the kids who continue to find joy and happiness there. For parents like myself, the playground serves as a kind of "second home" or refuge, whatever the season. In the winter it is proximate to sledding and in the spring/summer it is proximate to the water park.

Further, for those of us with kids at Thompson, the playground is also the entry / exit point to the school (more so than the newer structures on the school property), and it is where kids long to stay before the doors close in the morning and want to be after the doors open in the afternoon.

Finally, the place is special, especially in a town like Arlington, as it has somehow attracted an inclusive, diverse, and connected population. Enhancing North Union is long overdue, and having newer, safer, cleaner, and better shaded structure is vital from a pragmatic point of view. That said, an investment would be a "visible reminder" of what a community such as Arlington values and best reflect what in the hearts and minds of those that live there.

Michael Patrick Rutter & Amy Yeager (parents of Abigail and Samantha, both aged 6).
74 Oxford Street,
Arlington, MA 02474

To the Community Preservation Committee and Community Development Block Grant,

My name is Tiffany Steinwert and I am a resident of Arlington, MA. My family and I live in the Center and have two children who attend Thompson Elementary School in first and fourth grades. I write to strongly support the funding applications for the renovation of North Union playground.

The North Union playground has been a community center for my family for the past four years as my children have become part of the Thompson community. You can find us there before and after school, as well as on the weekends and over the summer. It provides a safe place to gather, to build relationships, and foster a sense of community.

Unfortunately, the playground has been in disrepair for the majority of time we have used the space. I worry often about the safety of children playing on broken equipment and running across the many rips and tears of the rubber matting. Our family supports the renovation project because we think it will greatly add to the sense of community for our town and provide a safe and accessible space for children and their families. We need more gathering spaces to make Arlington the town we know and want it to be.

Thank you,

Tiffany Steinwert
Joshua Arrowood
Grady Steinwert-Arrowood
Henry Steinwert-Arrowood
133 Warren Street Unit 2
Arlington, MA 02474

This project is very important to our family as we have two young children, one who attends Thompson and one who will be there in a couple years. We utilize this playground but have noticed the disrepair - cracked/broken ground and surfaces, faded paint, outdated structures - as well as the lack of shade. These factors have definitely impacted our use and enjoyment of the playground, and we would love to see the town prioritize the renovations.

Best wishes,
Allison Smith

The North Union playground is a hub for Arlington families, whether those attending Thompson School all year or those seeking relief from the heat in the summer. My daughter has made some of her fondest memories here, and I would love for the park to be renovated as needed so it's a safe, fun place to play for all children for years to come.

Thank you,
Shauna Pellauer (22 Jean Road, Arlington, MA)

Maintaining and improving the North Union playground is important to me for two related reasons:

1. I became a new mom in March of 2018. My son Zephyr has been visiting this playground since he was one month old, as soon as I could comfortably get out the door. He was far too little to use the equipment in the beginning - our visits were more for me, to meet up with mom friends (and meet new friends), where I received support from the community. Zephyr loved to watch the big kids play - he would giggle with amazement at how they moved. Later in the summer my partner Aaron and I would bring Zephyr through the playground on our way through the spray park, so Zephyr could swing for a bit. It is such a treasure to have this playground so easily accessible.

2. Aaron and I are a mixed-race couple and we feel very fortunate to be in a neighborhood with such diversity - and we regularly see this diversity represented on the playground. I've also never seen a playground that gets as much use. I'm so glad that Zephyr's go-to playground is a place where families from all around the world have an opportunity to connect through play.

Thank you for supporting the North Union playground renovation project!

Sincerely,
Angie, Aaron, and Zephyr
Wheaton Rd.

My name is Katrina Bernstein-Lewicke and I am an East Arlington resident. The North Union playground provides a valuable space for my children to play and exercise for their physical and mental well being. The location being walkable to both Arlington Center and Capital Square also makes it a central place to meet up with friends and contributes to a sense of Arlington as a community. The structures are in clear need of updating to keep the space safe, fun and accessible for all of us who use it regularly.

Sincerely,
Katrina Bernstein-Lewicke

I think projects like the North Union Park are incredibly important for a number of reasons. Having safe, green spaces for our children to play is of vital importance in such a densely populated town such as Arlington, but also attractive and well-maintained parks and schools are what make Arlington such a desirable place for young families to live. Thank you for all that you're doing!

Thomas Finn

We support the renovation of North Union Playground. Our son and his friends have made great use of this park over the years. It is sad to see it decline over the years due to high use and low maintenance. There have been safety incidents at the park due to lack of maintenance, including one that I witnessed and reported (W054163-041515). A rail fell and kids fell with it. The park also lacks shade which is a public health concern regarding young kids getting too much sun exposure.

We hope that our town will move forward to address safety and health concerns by renovating our North Union Playground.

Sincerely,

The Lee Family of 6 Norcross Circle

North Union Playground is a vital part of our neighborhood, and I'm excited at the prospect of it remaining so.

One of our family activities includes going on bike rides around town and ending at North Union for a picnic and play time. My 9-year-old daughter has enjoyed many, many hours of swinging and climbing on the play structures over the years, and it has been a bit distressing to see how worn the park has become. My 2-year-old now requests bike rides to the playground, and at the current rate of decline it wouldn't be a desirable destination by the time he's my daughter's age.

I'm encouraged by the response the town has had, and am very much looking forward to the outcome.

Thanks so much!
Dawn Wise

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a family of 5 and have two kids who are in K and 1st grade at Thompson. The North Union Playground is a key meeting place for any Thompson family, especially during the warmer months. We have had play dates, K and 1st grade meet-ups, soccer practice and much more. My kids love the area and the playground, even though it is in less-than-ideal conditions at the moment. We strongly support the renovation project, especially since that playground sees such high traffic (I have always seen tens of families there every day, by far many more than what you see at other playgrounds, say Waldo or Parallel Park).

Kind Regards,

The Marrocchelli-Mendez family

We support the renovation of North Union playground. The playground provides important outdoor recreation space and facilities to the Town of Arlington.

It is very actively used by the community. The spray pool provides great fun for children on warm days. The playground and equipment are also heavily used.

There is a need to resurface the area and replace the aging playground equipment and improve the landscaping. Open space is very important to our urban community.

We appreciate the new trees.

Sincerely,

Catherine Farrell
Steve Wofsy
76 Park Street
Arlington 02474

from: Walter Cronin 53 Sherborn St., Arlington

As a lifelong resident of Arlington, I have seen the importance of Parks&Playgrounds over the years.

As more families seem to be attracted to our schools and what Arlington has to offer, the playgrounds (especially at the schools) are used heavily.

With that heavy use, comes the maintenance, repair and replacement.

The North Union/Thompson School Playground, used by hundreds of kids every day, is in dire need of that replacement.

Sincerely yours,
WC

This is Yunqiu Chen living in Exeter St. I fully support the renovation of north union playground. My two sons love this playground and I hope the facility can be renovated to provide safer environment to the kids.

Thanks.

Yunqiu Chen

My name is Shannon LeMay-Finn and I'm a resident of Arlington. My children attend Thompson School and Gibbs School. I fully support the renovation of the North Union playground. Over the years, my children have played at this park many times, during school and in the summer time. Unfortunately, the park lost one of its best features recently (a long slide) and has recurring issues with equipment being broken. It would be a great boost to the community to give this park the attention it deserves.

I am writing this letter in support of the North Union Playground renovation. The North Union Playground lies at the center of the Thompson School community. It is the play space where our children not only spend recess but afterschool playtime – easily 2-3 hours a day, 5 or more times a week.

Not only is it an important space for the Thompson families, it serves the wider Arlington community (and surrounding towns) who use the playground after ASC soccer games at Lussiano Field and who flock to the water feature during the summer. For some of the neighborhood children, it is their only available outdoor playground having none at home. It is safe to say this playground likely gets more use than some other playgrounds in town, given this additional usage and the size of Thompson School as one of the largest elementary schools in town.

But, for the Thompson Community and my family in particular, the North Union Playground is more than just a play space for our kids. It is the heart of our community. It is a spot unique to Arlington where parents and children of a multitude of international and socio-economic backgrounds converge to talk, make personal connections, and to play. If you spend five minutes here, you will find myriad languages spoken and people from all walks of life enjoying this play area together. Community-building happens here on this aging, unsafe playground.

Our community and these children deserve a safe, functional playground. And, our community is strong and determined to support this renovation from beginning to finish in any way possible.

Thank you for your help and consideration with this project.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christina E. Murphy-Macinta
46 Grafton Street, Arlington

The North Union Park is central to the Thompson School, East Arlington and wider communities. Families and Thompson school students gather to play on the playground, cool off at the spray park in the summer, sled down the hill in the winter, play soccer, baseball and other sports and socialize as a community throughout the year. The park hosts a wide variety of groups from near and far on its grounds. Many who live in the neighborhood have small yards, and so active play time is often done at the park as opposed to private backyards. Families who do not have cars can easily bike to the park to play and meet with friends. The entire Thompson school uses the park 120 days per year. For these reasons the park is in use every day of the year.

Arlington has a wonderful opportunity to maintain multi-use safe, public green spaces such as North Union park to ensure we continue to have a close, vibrant and sustainable community. Safe, well maintained equipment is especially key for families with young children. Shade from well maintained and watered trees is important to the park's use in the heat of the summer when many families without central air conditioning use the spray park and shade trees to cool off. Our family including children, Eli (10) and Ana (7), appreciate the engagement of our neighborhood and school community that is possible because of the resource of North Union park.

Elizabeth Rocco
94 Grafton Street
Thompson School mom

My son spends a lot of time at North Union playground, both at school and during vacation time and weekends. He and his friends play on the structures, engage in games in the field and thoroughly enjoy the entire grounds. This renovation project is important because it keeps this area fixed up and useable for my son, his friends, and everybody in the community.

Jason Goodwin

As the parents of two boys and a member of the Arlington community, we support the project to repair the North Union Playground. This park has become part of what we identify as "home". This is where our family has spent so much of our time together and where we have met some of our closest friends. North Union is where our kids have played, learned to ride their bikes, and splashed in the spray park. It's a special place to us as it is to so many other families. It is for this reason that I felt sad when the playground started to break down and is now currently in rough shape. Our support of the North Union Playground project is out of our desire to give our children, our friends, and our fellow Arlington neighbors the safe, welcoming, and enjoyable park that they deserve. We know the frequency of use is high amongst our circle of friends that we've met through Thompson School and we know how truly important this is to all of us. We hope the project moves along as planned and we look forward to growing our friendships and community. We also volunteer any time or work that is needed to help make the project a reality. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

The Crowley Family
54 Exeter Street

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a parent of two young children (Thompson class of '23 and '26) and am I writing to support renovations to the North Union playground. We have lived in Arlington for three years and use the playground several times a week throughout the year. The North Union playground is loved and used by so many East Arlington residents. It is especially important because it is the only playground that many Thompson kids can access without having to cross Broadway.

My daughter's favorite activities are the tire swing and the monkey bars--unfortunately, I do not feel safe pushing her on the tire swing as there is a major pothole underneath the tire swing and I worry that I will twist my ankle, or that one of the kids will trip or twist an ankle while getting on or off the swing. In general the surface needs major repair to be safe and accessible.

The park is in dire need of shading structures. The playground structure gets extremely hot in the summer. And so many kids use the playground as part of the after-school program--do they all apply sunscreen each afternoon without a parent's encouragement? The shade should ideally come from trees. I realize some people do not like the debris from trees such as leaves and sticks but I feel strongly that children benefit from exposure to natural materials. I have seen kids using sticks to dig in sand and to build fairy house structures, and using leaves and pine cones to enact all kinds of creative play. A child who does not wish to be on the structure or engage with other kids may find peace and quiet in the shade of a tree, or can quietly examine leaves, bugs, or birds on or surrounding a tree. The trees currently lining one side of the structure are in poor condition and pose a risk of dropping large branches over the seating area. Thoughtfully planted and cared for trees would be a huge improvement.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mara Vatz
77B Warren St
Arlington, MA

Dear committee members,

My family and I moved to East Arlington because of its diverse community 3.5 years ago. We specifically chose our block, for its proximity to the North union playground and the sense of community it created. My daughter made her first neighborhood friends there and has had innumerable play dates there since. She rides her bike to and from there. My family is only one of 100s who feel the same way. The park is a reflection of our diverse community, and is essential to our children's health and without its update both will suffer. Please recognize that our community needs these improvements for it to thrive.

Thank you.

Dr Monica Mendiola

To Whom It May Concern,

We fully support the rebuild of the North Union Street playground. As a playground that is adjacent to an elementary school, in the midst of some of the densest housing in Arlington and in a area where the young child population is booming, ensuring that this playground is safe, fun and functional should be a priority for the town.

Sincerely,
Alex Bagnall (TMM P7)
Cristin Bagnall

The North Union playground is a vital resource for the Thompson School catchment area.

In the 6 years since my son started using it, its decline has been steady as pieces of equipment break and are removed, or left in place but unusable. The trees bordering the playground are clearly unhealthy and it no longer feels particular safe to be sitting on the benches under them. It's close to crossing a threshold, if it hasn't already done so, where it's no longer seen as a safe and pleasant environment for our children to play at.

Its proximity to Thompson School means it's a critical piece of infrastructure used by various school programs to enrich our children's lives. It's location also means it's serving what I suspect is the most diverse socio-economic demographic in Arlington, where it provides an opportunity for physical activity for under-privileged families that maybe cannot take advantage of the various extra-curricular programs offered by various groups in Arlington.

I hope the committee recognizes the importance of this playground and surrounding space to East Arlington and can support the proposal.

Sincerely,

Scott Dunn.

To the members of the Community Preservation Committee and the Community Development Block Grant committee,

This letter is to express enthusiastic support of the renovation of the North Union Playground. We write to you as residents of Arlington with two small boys (ages 2 and 4) who are regular visitors to this park. It is a staple of our East Arlington Neighborhood. This is a high traffic park which attracts not only the greater Arlington Community but surrounding towns as well. It is sorely in need of repair and updating. Please commit to making this important community resource a priority for funding!

Sincerely,
Audrey LaVallee and Bruce Belanger
75 Park St.
Arlington, MA 02474

To whom it may concern.

My name is Judy Hu. I have two children currently attending Thompson Elementary school. I'm writing to express my whole hearted support of the North Union Playground project.

I am a mental health counselor very interested in building a strong and resilient community for its members. I view the playground as a space that can foster and deepen relationships, and provide emotional support to its members. Having a space where we can gather regularly and talk about what's happening in our families' lives is a huge factor in mental health--reinforcing that we have a community that cares. Having a safe space where the playground equipment is maintained and an area that can offer shade makes it more sustainable.

My girls have been refusing to go to the playground because it's either too hot (in the summer), or too crowded with not enough equipment they can use. I miss the engagement of my peers where I can watch the girls play and talk about our days. With this renovation project, I look forward to the time we can return and take the opportunity to spend time in our community at North Union and support each other on a regular basis.

Thank you for your part in making it happen.

Judy Hu, LMHC

Hello! We are John and Maureen Gates, parents of three kids - Gus (5), Rose (3) and Grace (1) - who live down the street from the North Union playground. This playground is so important to our family and to our whole neighborhood. Nearly every house on our block has children like ours who love to splash, run, climb, fly kites and play at North Union and it is a meeting place for our neighborhood families throughout the year. Over the past few years as the playground has experienced wear and tear, we've been hopeful that this park closest to our home will get a refresh, and so the entire street is excited to hear funding is available. We can assure you that our family and our neighborhood will appreciate and use it well!

thanks,
John

I am writing to express my concern about the conditions of the north union park. Many play structures have been broken and not replaced. The kids are told not to use the tire swing during recess due to problems.

This park is used throughout all seasons. The basketball court is very popular with few seats and limited lighting. Thompson school and afterschool are frequent users. My son has complained about the swings being broken.

I hope the committee will support the proposal so that our community can grow and enjoy this space.

Regards

Patricia Gallen

I am writing in support of the renovation of North Union Park at Lussiano Field. It's well documented that the playground is in desperate need of repair. The equipment has become unsafe. The poured surface is peeling up. I'm so pleased to hear that the Arlington Recreation Department is moving forward with the repairs. I am a lifelong Arlington resident; as a child I ran, swung, slid and waded my way through the North Union Park. For the past decade, my three children have as well, despite the fact that it has started to deteriorate around them. Now, I want to ensure that this park can be enjoyed by the families of Arlington for years to come.

I am a pediatric physical therapist and Precinct One Town Meeting Member, and I am very motivated to advocate that Arlington take the opportunity to create an inclusive playground in this space. When I say "inclusive" I do not mean merely ADA compliant. In my field of work I have all too often encountered ADA compliant playgrounds that are not at all accessible to kids (or parents) who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches or other assistive devices. I am asking that, as we move through the design process, we ask look for leadership from the disabled community --adults and children with disabilities, and parents of children with disabilities, in particular. I am asking that, at every stage, we ask how we are insuring that **all** children and **all** parents can play in this space. I am asking that we create a playground design that includes ramped wheelchair access to the highest platform center, universally accessible pathways and surfacing, activity transfers that maximize accessibility, swings and equipment with back support, elevated sand tables and activity panels, and activities for the hearing and visually impaired.

Arlington has a wonderful opportunity here. We can be a leader in accessibility, inclusion and universal design. With its close proximity to the accessible spray park on Everett St, this space could truly be a wonderful space for all to play. I have formed a working group of Arlington residents that are interested teaming with the town leadership to achieving this goal, and we look forward to coming together to make this dream a reality.

Juliet Moir

The North Union Playground is a critical resource for the community. It sees heavy and near-constant use by the large and diverse youth population of East Arlington, and being adjacent to the town's only spray park, it doubles as a destination park for families Town-wide.

Unfortunately, the playground is in a sorry state of disrepair. The playground equipment is old, rusty, and falling apart, and the surface is deteriorating and replete with trip hazards. Please ensure a renovation of the North Union Playground is fully funded.

Thank you,

Greg Dennis

Town Meeting Member, Precinct 1

I live at 39 Grafton St., 2 blocks from North Union Park. As a Town Meeting member for Precinct 3, I represent many of the families who use the park and whose children go to the adjacent Thompson elementary school.

I wholeheartedly support the efforts of the Thompson parents and others to renovate North Union Park, including installing a new playground for the hundreds of children of all ages who use the park on a daily basis. The playground equipment is in sad, decrepit shape, an embarrassment, and likely a safety hazard, sitting next to our new school.

In addition, the park lacks trees for shade and the pleasant, aesthetic, welcoming feel that residents of other areas of Arlington enjoy in their parks, such as at the wonderful playground at Robbins Farm Park and the newly renovated Magnolia Park.

Our East Arlington residents of the Thompson School area deserve better. I ask you to please support renovation of the park this year.

Thank you,

Susan Stamps, 39 Grafton St.
Town Meeting Member, Precinct 3
Member, Tree Committee