

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph J. Connelly, Director of Recreation
Dan McGrath, Recreation Supervisor
Laura Munsey, Administrative Assistant



Recreation Department

PARK COMMISSIONERS

Donald Vitters
Nancy Campbell
Jim Robillard
Leslie Mayer
Jennifer Rothenberg

TO: Brian Sullivan, Town Manager
FROM: Joseph J. Connelly, Director of Recreation
SUBJECT: Portable Restrooms
DATE: April 16, 2009

At their April 14, 2009 meeting, the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission voted to recommend approval of the pilot program for portable restrooms. Attached is the detailed proposal and park maps with the locations of the units identified on them.

In summary, this will be a two-month trial period at seven of our parks paid for by the various user groups, with the Arlington Soccer Club being the majority sponsor.

At the end of the two-month trial there will be an evaluation process by the Arlington Park and Recreation Commission and a public hearing will be held for public comment. The date of this public hearing will be posted on each of the units along with emergency phone numbers to report any maintenance issues or vandalism. The date will also be posted in the Town Meeting section of the Town's website, arlingtonma.gov.

The units would be placed at Hurd, Thorndike/Magnolia, Crosby, Florence, McClennen, Hills Hill and Robbins as soon as final approval is secured.

To: Town of Arlington Officials

Fr: The Coalition for Clean and Comfortable Parks including:
Henry Brush and Cathy Saleh (Arlington Soccer Club)
Christian Klein (Friends of Robbins Farm)
Town Representatives:
Jennifer Rothenberg (Commissioner, Parks and Recreation Commission)
Joe Connelly (Director of Recreation)

Da: March 3, 2009 – **Revised April 16, 2009**

Re: **Portable Restrooms in Arlington Parks**

We are writing to propose a plan for provisions in our fields and parks for a basic human need: using a bathroom. There are many compelling reasons to address this issue and we have found broad community support.

RATIONALE

- 1) **Let's respond to the increased need.** Arlington residents, like all Americans, are spending **more time outdoors** and **more time physically active**. We make sure our youth **drink lots of fluids** to stay hydrated. This has led to an increase in the need for on-site facilities to go to the bathroom. The duration of a game, practice, or visit to the playground may be a couple of hours. Even if you are an Arlington resident who plans ahead and uses a bathroom at home, the need presents itself sometimes. And out of town visitors cannot plan ahead in this way.
- 2) **Let's bring Arlington in line with other towns.** Public restrooms have become commonplace at parks and fields surrounding Arlington and across Massachusetts.
- 3) **Let's address the public health issue that currently exists** as we have heard from numerous abutters to the fields about urination on shrubs, etc.
- 4) **Girls and women** are inconvenienced because they don't have any option but to find a facility. **Younger children** have less ability to regulate their basic needs. And the lack of facilities has put **adult men** such as coaches or parents, who would use the woods, at risk of being charged with a sex offense.

Providing portable restrooms would dramatically improve day-to-day life for the many people in Arlington who enjoy using our parks and fields. And they would be a new symbol of welcome to our visitors. Thank you for your consideration.

PORTABLE RESTROOMS IN ARLINGTON PARKS: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

THE PROPOSAL

We would like to implement a trial program for one spring season, which is approximately 2-months long, at fields based on our knowledge of usage patterns and available funding. At the end of the two-month period there will be an evaluation process and public meeting to determine the success of the pilot and possible pilot extensions.

Where will they be located? We would like to place a portable restroom unit on a level site within 25 feet of a paved parking area or street and a minimum of 75 feet from neighboring properties where possible. Units may be moved within the trial period upon the recommendation of the Director of Recreation and the Department of Public Works.

Thorndike/Magnolia
McClennen
Crosby

Summer/Hills Hill/Buck
Florence
Hurd

Robbins Farm

Why portable restrooms and not other alternatives? Several other alternatives are simply cost-prohibitive at this time. Portable units installed on a slab with plumbing and electric are estimated to cost \$65-70,000 per unit. Composting toilets, which require no water or electric are \$40-45,000. Opening schools or public buildings near fields is also cost-prohibitive and limits access to certain specific hours.

What about aesthetics? Portable restrooms have become a normal part of the visual landscape at parks and recreational areas. We've come a long way from the neon-colored portable restrooms of the past. To quote a former soccer club president, "When you need one, they're the most beautiful thing in the world."

Our intent is to build a 3-sided lattice screen around each unit as suggested by the Building Inspector, and to anchor each unit to a pole within this structure. This helps to achieve zoning compliance, improves appearance, and secures the units from tipping. These screens will be installed from the beginning of the program at each site, as volunteer labor is available.

What about maintenance? Maintenance is provided by the vendor. Once per week, all facilities are routinely cleaned, re-stocked and pumped. Hand sanitizer and deodorizer are standard as well. Vendors serving other towns' recreational areas report that once weekly cleaning has been adequate. However, we plan to arrange for twice weekly cleaning at an additional cost during the trial period at the three most heavily used spring fields: Thorndike/Magnolia, Summer/Buck/Hills Hill, and McClennen Park. We will evaluate these needs during and at the end of the trial period and make adjustments accordingly.

What about vandalism or graffiti? Most of the sports contacts in other towns that we called said they had had zero to one incident(s) of vandalism over the years of having portable restrooms at their fields. Nevertheless, we will purchase insurance, which will cover vandalism, destruction, graffiti, etc. The preferred vendor under consideration would respond within 24 hours, including weekends, to resolve any issue. The vendor has agreed to name the Town of Arlington is named as additional insured.

Arlington Parks and Recreation will be the primary vendor contact. We plan to place signs on each unit instructing users to report any vandalism or maintenance issues to Arlington Recreation during weekday hours, and to DPW dispatch after hours and on weekends. These parties will then contact the vendor to request action.

When will they be available?

We view this as a community service effort and plan to keep the units open so they are available to not only the youth sports community, but also to the many other groups that use our parks such as preschoolers, seniors, and others. They will be located at the most heavily used parks and fields across town.

What are the estimated costs and who will pay for this?

This would be paid for by several sports organizations and Friends of Robbins Farm. Because the preferred vendor is on the state bid list for municipal or state entities, we are able to save several thousand dollars if the payment to the vendor is made by the Town of Arlington from funds contributed by the private organizations.

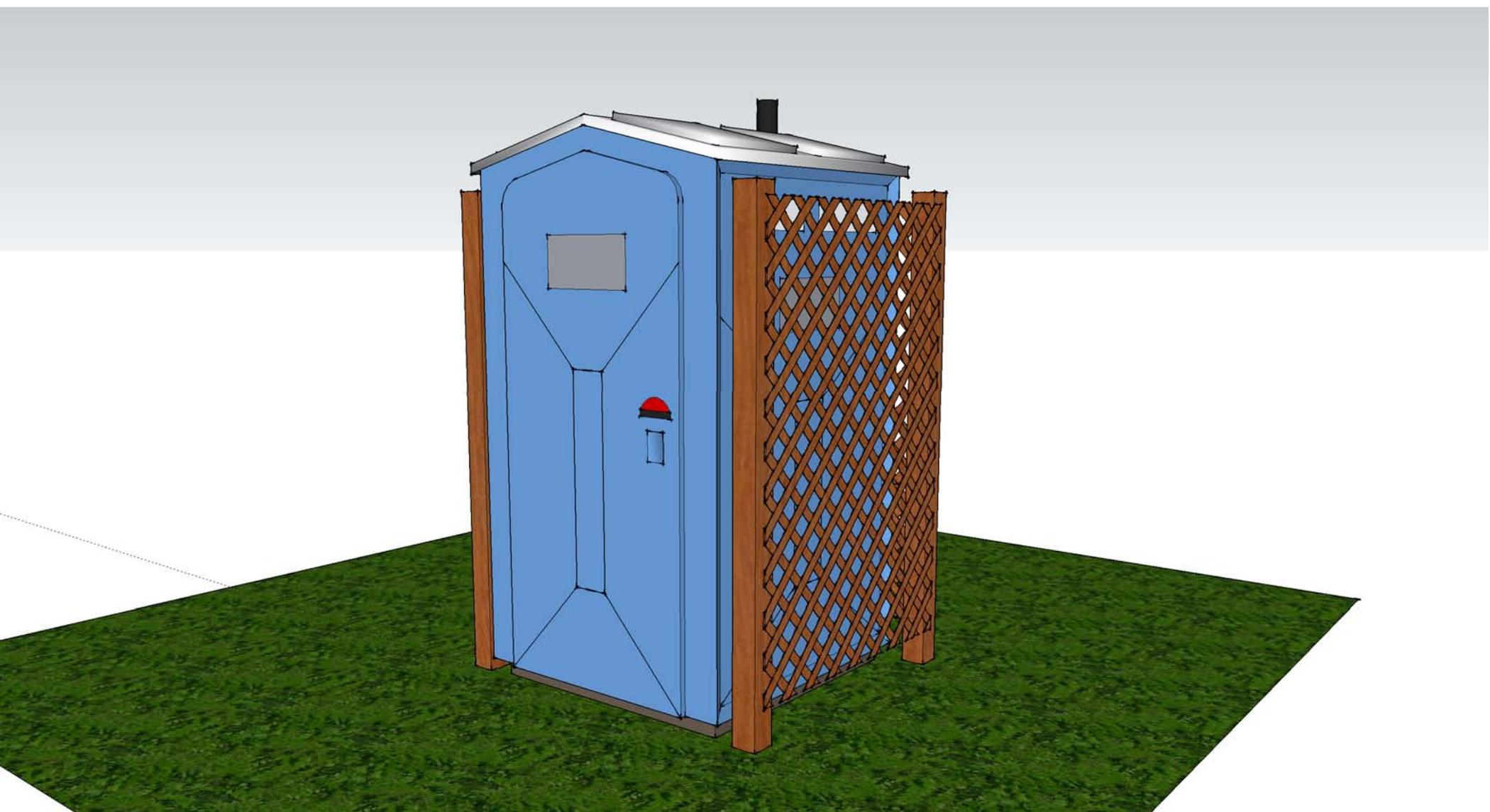
ESTIMATED COST:

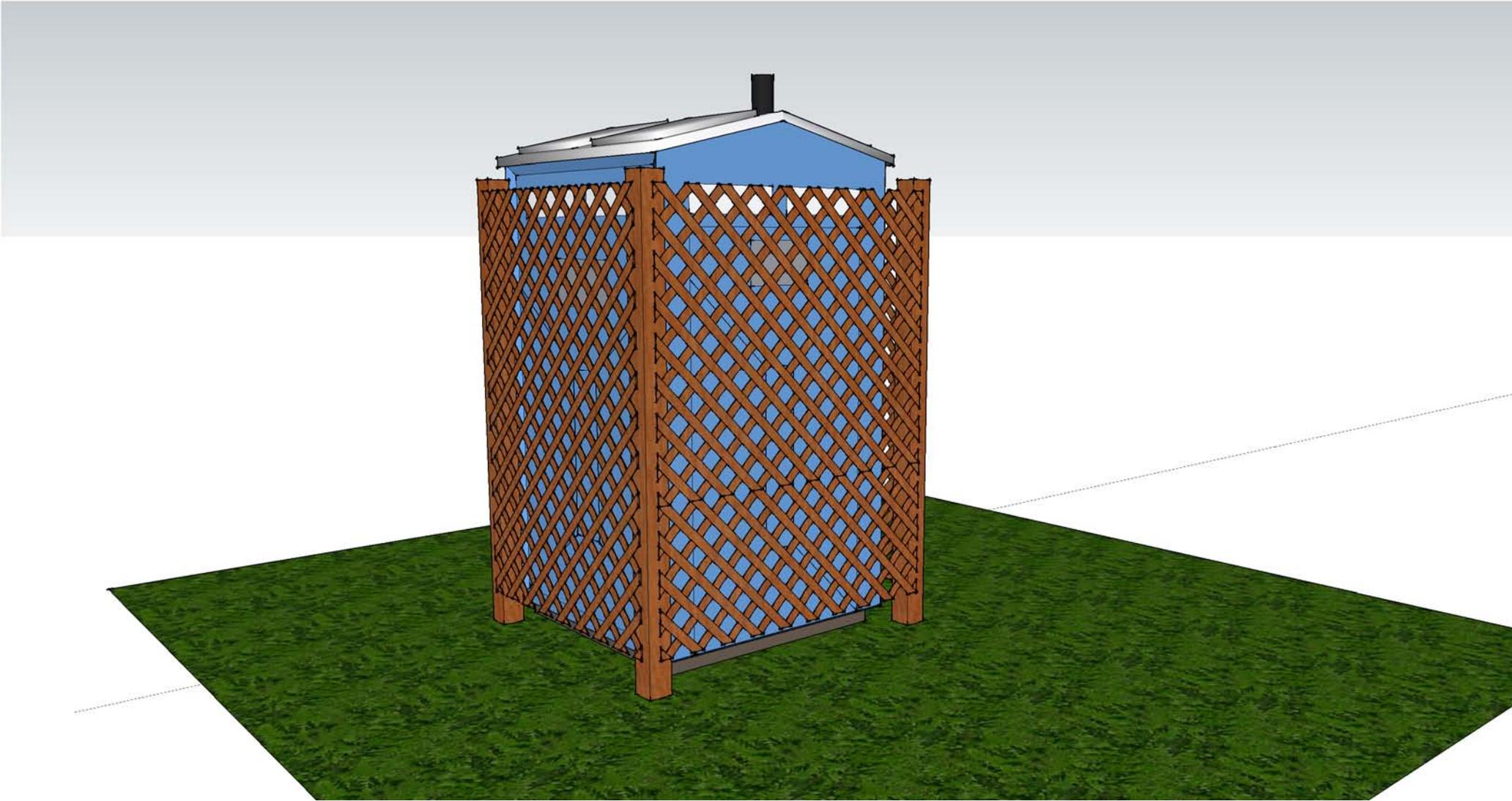
	<u>2-month Period</u>	<u>Full 8 months</u>
Units are \$95 x 7 fields per month	\$1,330	\$5,320
Extra cleaning each week \$ 66/month x 3 locations	\$ 396	\$1,584
Start-up costs \$100 screening and anchoring materials x 7 fields	\$ 700	\$ 700
Contingency Funding (additional cleaning, incidentals, etc.)	\$ 250	\$ 250
TOTAL	\$2,676	\$ 7,854

Process

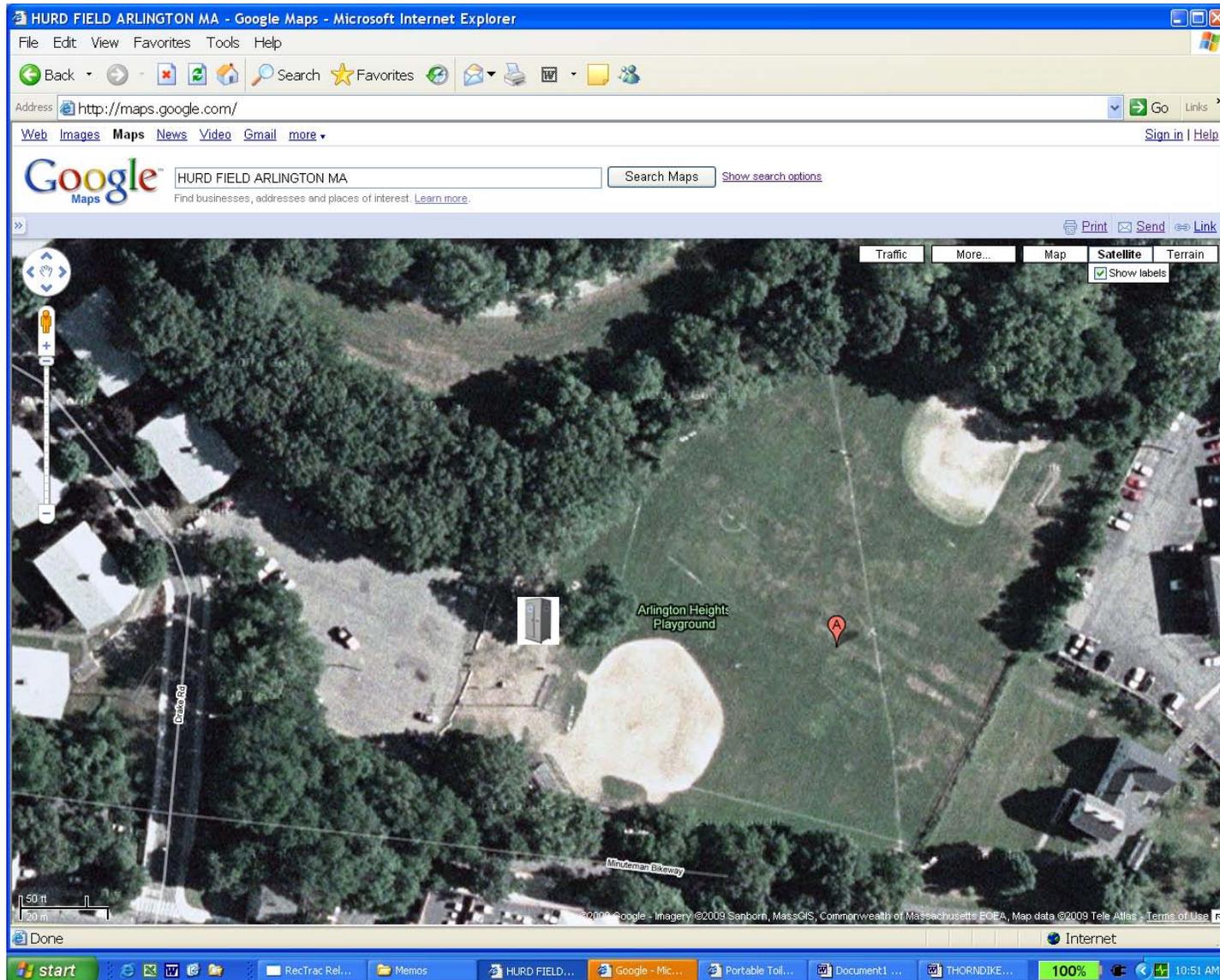
We welcomed broad participation to the initial meeting to formulate this proposal and have found broad community support. The proposal has been discussed and modified based on input from numerous Field User groups, Friends of Parks Committee, Arlington Recreation staff, and the Parks and Recreation Commission. We have solicited input from department heads and official town entities, including the Selectmen. A public hearing was held on March 25, 2008. A revised plan with any needed modifications based on input went to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a vote on April 14 and was approved for recommendation to the Town Manager. .

The trial period will be funded through donations from the Arlington Soccer Club, Arlington Girls Lacrosse, Women's Soccer, the Friends of Robbins Farm and Arlington Catholic High School. Arlington Soccer Club will be the majority sponsor. All user groups were asked for financial support, but due to the timing of the program were not able to commit funding for this year.

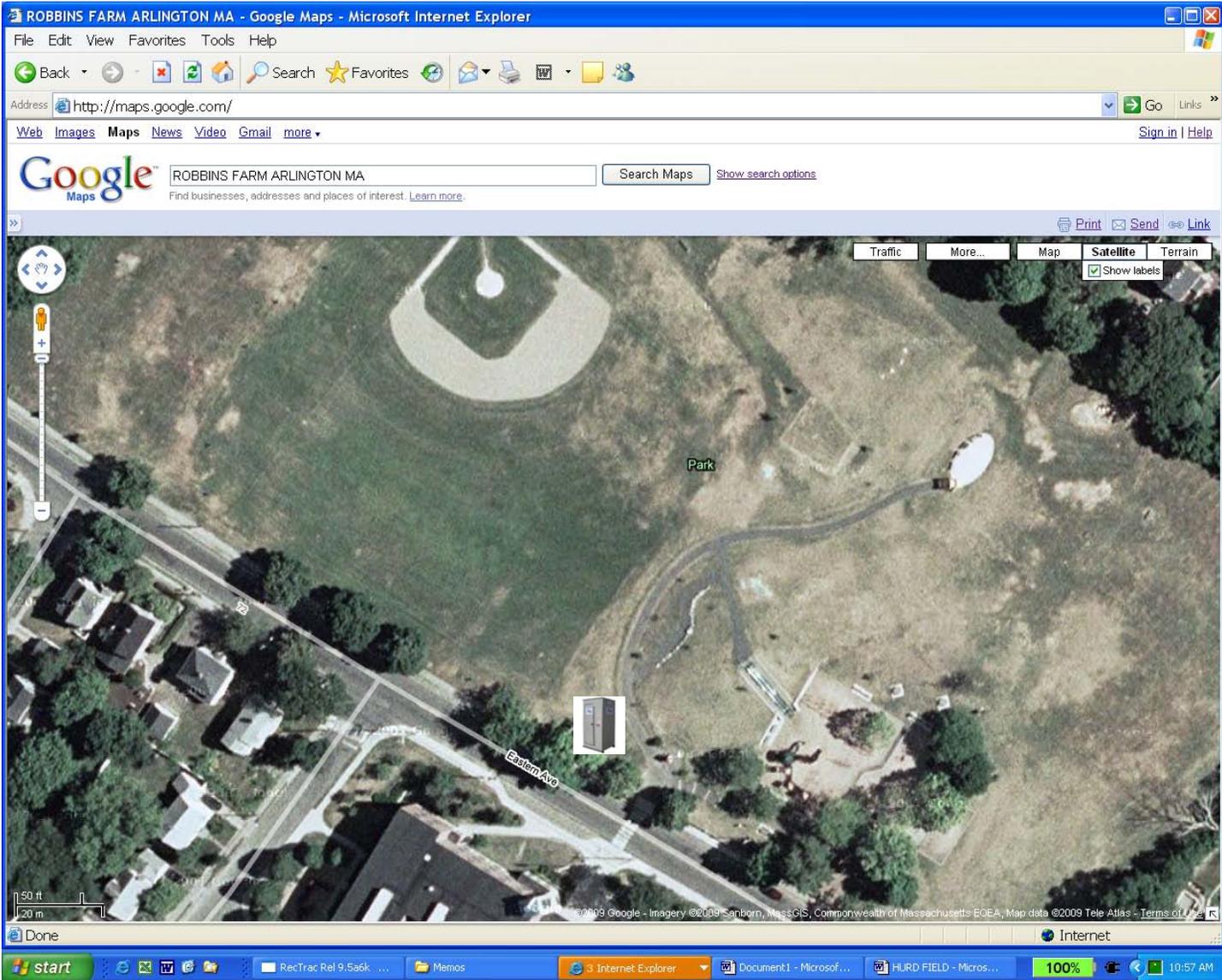




HURD FIELD



ROBBINS FARM



CROSBY

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying Google Maps. The title bar reads "CROSBY SCHOOL - Google Maps - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://maps.google.com/". The search bar contains "CROSBY SCHOOL" and the search button is labeled "Search Maps". Below the search bar, the text "Find businesses, addresses and places of interest. Learn more." is visible. The map area shows an aerial view of a residential neighborhood with a red tennis court and a blue location pin. The map controls include a compass, a vertical zoom slider, and buttons for "Traffic", "More...", "Map", "Satellite", "Terrain", and "Show labels". The bottom of the browser window shows a sponsored link for "The Fenn School" and a download progress bar for a picture from "http://kkm2.google.com/kh/v=388hl=en&x=158490&y=193810&z=19&s=...". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several application icons, and the system tray with the time "11:01 AM".

FLORENCE

DALLIN SCHOOL ARLINGTON MA - Google Maps - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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150 ft 20 m

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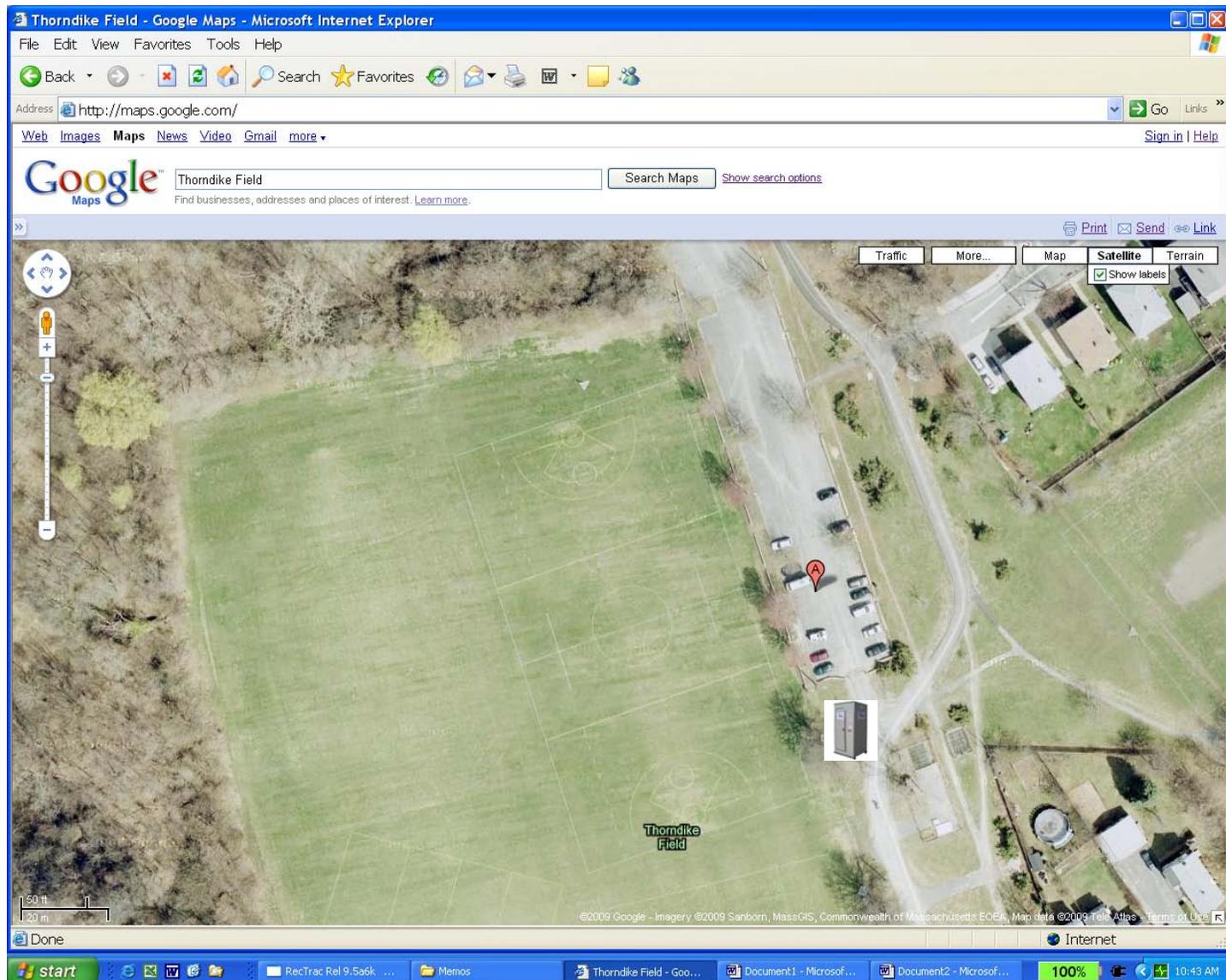
HighrockCovenantPreschool - www.PreschoolRocks.org - Quality program, Great Community! 1/2 Day to Full Day, Arlington, MA - 127 Lowell St, Arlington

Sponsored Link

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THORNDIKE FIELD AND MAGNOLIA FIELD



HILLS HILL/BUCK/SUMMER STREET

HILLS HILL ARLINGTON MA - Google Maps - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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Vets Memorial Sports Center

150 ft
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HighrockCovenantPreschool - www.PreschoolRocks.org - Quality program, Great Community! 1/2 Day to Full Day, Arlington, MA - 127 Lowell St, Arlington

Sponsored Link

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