

December 18 2023

Revitalizing Haskell Field

A Plymouth Community Park Project



Submitted by Cole Matinzi
on behalf of the Town of Plymouth

Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program

Division of Conservation Services - Melissa Cryan

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18 December 2023

Melissa Cryan
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Dear Mrs. Cryan,

I am writing to bring your attention to a significant issue affecting the community of Plymouth – the deteriorating state of Haskell Field. The Haskell Field Renovation Project, for which we, on behalf of the Town of Plymouth, are seeking a \$16,000 grant from the Division of Conservation Services, aims to revitalize this crucial community space.

Haskell Field, spanning 3 acres, currently faces neglect, affecting over 1300 students at the neighboring Plymouth North High School and the broader Plymouth community. This proposal focuses on strategic interventions, including basketball court resurfacing, landscaping, and additional features, to transform it into a vibrant community park. This initiative aligns seamlessly with the Division of Conservation Services' commitment to enhancing and preserving public spaces.

The proposal underscores the urgency of the problem, citing the decline of once-vibrant play spaces near Plymouth North High School. It highlights the team's unique composition, combining community insight, landscaping expertise, construction skills, and governmental liaison, making it a standout choice for support.

Emphasizing clear and measurable goals, a detailed renovation plan, and the qualifications of key personnel involved, the proposal requests funding to ensure a comprehensive revitalization strategy. The budget breakdown of \$16,000 is meticulously designed to address the immediate needs of Haskell Field and create a transformed space that fosters community engagement.

In summary, this project stands out through its holistic approach, measurable goals, and a team with diverse expertise. The urgency of the problem is stressed within the proposal, and we urge the Division of Conservation Services to support this transformative initiative. This partnership is an opportunity to contribute to the immediate improvement of recreational spaces and foster lasting positive change.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working together to make Haskell Field a vibrant and well-maintained public space.

Sincerely,

Cole Matinzi

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1. Statement of the Problem:



Figure 1: Photograph of children sitting by a lakeside

It is a prevailing concern that the present generation of students faces criticism for their increased reliance on electronic devices, leading to a notable disconnection from outdoor activities. The apprehension over children spending excessive time indoors has given rise to what is now termed "Nature Deficit Disorder"¹. The proven benefits of outdoor play, such as fostering creativity, imagination, and building confidence, underscore the significance of providing safe and well-maintained areas for children to engage in outdoor activities. Unfortunately, this is increasingly rare in both urbanized and suburban areas, creating a challenging environment for children to

¹ "Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature." Child Mind Institute, 30 Oct. 2023, childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/.

connect with nature.² Unfortunately, safe, and well-maintained areas for children to engage in outdoor activities are no longer plentiful.

In my hometown of Plymouth, Massachusetts, the degradation of once vibrant play spaces is evident. Playgrounds that were once bustling with activity along my old bus route have succumbed to disrepair. Basketball and football courts, once filled with spirited games, now stand barren, and even attempts to play baseball on deteriorating fields are thwarted by unfavorable conditions.



Figure 2: Photograph of Plymouth North High School

The students of Plymouth North High School, which I attended from 2016-2020, face a similar challenge. Adjacent to the school lies Haskell Field on 43 Nook Road, encompassing over 3

² “Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature.” Child Mind Institute, 30 Oct. 2023, childmind.org/article/why-kids-need-to-spend-time-in-nature/.

acres of land,³ featuring a baseball diamond and a basketball court. Unfortunately, this potential haven for students has been neglected over time. The baseball diamond, sporadically maintained, is an exception, while other sections of the park have succumbed to neglect. The basketball court, now overrun by nature, portrays a stark picture with weeds entwining through pavement cracks, and rust consuming the backboards. The grass grows unchecked, and the park's borders are encroached by unruly foliage.



Figure 3: Photograph of the Haskell Field basketball court

The over 1300 students⁴ at Plymouth North High School face constant challenges in finding adequate space for recreational activities within the school premises. Renovating Haskell Field directly addresses this issue, providing not only much-needed space but also eliminating potential safety hazards posed by the current state of disrepair. The project's alignment with the

³ MyRec.com. "Haskell Field & Avery Memorial Playground." Plymouth Recreation Dept: Facility Details, plymouthma.myrec.com/info/facilities/details.aspx?FacilityID=11285. Accessed 5 Nov. 2023.

⁴ *Enrollment Data (2022-23) - Plymouth North High (02390505)*. profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=02390505&orgtypecode=6.

Division of Conservation Services' mission to enhance and preserve public spaces makes Haskell Field an ideal candidate for support. As a former student intimately familiar with the struggles of overcrowded school facilities, I can attest to the transformative impact this renovation would have on the students' well-being

2. Statement of Request:

As a concerned resident deeply invested in the well-being of Plymouth and its community, I am writing on behalf of the town to earnestly seek the support of the Division of Conservation Services. Our collective aspiration is to transform Haskell Field into a revitalized community park, addressing the pressing challenges faced by the youth of Plymouth North High School and the broader community.

Alignment with Foundation Goals:

Our proposal is rooted in the shared values and objectives of the Division of Conservation Services and the town of Plymouth. By revitalizing Haskell Field, we aim to create a vibrant, safe, and well-maintained area for outdoor activities, directly countering the concerns associated with Nature Deficit Disorder. This project aligns seamlessly with the Division's commitment to enhancing and preserving public spaces, fostering environmental stewardship, and promoting recreational opportunities for communities.

Funding Request:

On behalf of the town of Plymouth, we seek a grant of \$16,000 from the Division of Conservation Services. This funding will be instrumental in realizing the comprehensive renovation of Haskell Field, encompassing the resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of

backboards, landscaping efforts, and overall park revitalization. The estimated breakdown of costs includes approximately \$3500 for basketball court resurfacing, \$350 each for new backboards, and an estimated \$75 per hour for landscaping efforts.

Project Overview:

The urgency of this project arises from the current state of Haskell Field, which has fallen into disrepair, presenting safety hazards and diminishing its potential as a recreational space. The students at Plymouth North High School, along with residents, face challenges in finding suitable recreational areas within the town. The project not only addresses the immediate need for space but also promotes outdoor engagement and fosters a sense of community pride.

As we embark on the Haskell Field renovation project, we acknowledge the importance of addressing potential challenges that may arise during the implementation phase. In this section, we outline our proactive approach to risk mitigation and contingency planning.

Identified Challenges: Our comprehensive risk assessment has identified several potential challenges that could impact the project's progress. These include, but are not limited to, adverse weather conditions, unforeseen regulatory hurdles, and delays in material delivery. Adverse weather conditions pose a threat to construction timelines, while regulatory complexities may arise unexpectedly. Delays in material delivery could impact the seamless execution of the renovation plan.

Mitigation Strategies: To address these challenges, we have developed strategic mitigation strategies. For adverse weather conditions, we commit to closely monitoring weather forecasts and adjusting the construction schedule accordingly. Collaborating with Peggy Whalen, Director of Community Development for Plymouth, will ensure the proactive resolution of unforeseen

regulatory hurdles, as we work to obtain all necessary permits and approvals well in advance. To counter delays in material delivery, we will establish clear communication channels with vendors and suppliers, regularly tracking order statuses and having contingency suppliers identified to minimize disruption.

Contingency Planning: In the event that challenges materialize, our team is prepared with a comprehensive contingency plan. Adaptive scheduling will be employed to make the most of favorable weather conditions when they arise, ensuring minimal impact on the overall timeline. A dedicated response team, including the project coordinator, landscape architect, and construction expert, will be on standby to address unforeseen issues swiftly and effectively. Additionally, alternative procurement channels have been identified to mitigate any potential material delivery delays, maintaining the project's momentum.

Anticipated Impact:

Upon completion, Haskell Field will emerge as a thriving community park, serving as a testament to the Division's commitment to preserving and enhancing public spaces for the well-being of the town. The park will provide a haven for students and residents alike, promoting physical activity, creativity, and social interaction. Our request for funding encapsulates not only a financial need but also a shared vision for a healthier, more connected Plymouth community.



Figure 4: Photograph of smiling students having a picnic

We are confident that with the support of the Division of Conservation Services, the Haskell Field renovation project will contribute significantly to the Division's overarching goals and leave a lasting positive impact on the town of Plymouth.

3. Description of Proposed Work:

The proposed renovation plan for Haskell Field stems from a heartfelt commitment to transforming this valuable space into a vibrant community park. By addressing the challenges currently faced by the basketball court, providing new hoops, and enhancing the overall landscaping, we aim to rejuvenate Haskell Field into a multifunctional area that benefits both locals and students of Plymouth North High School.

Basketball Court Resurfacing:

A crucial component of this renovation plan is the resurfacing of the basketball court. Haskell Field's court, currently overrun by nature, will undergo a comprehensive revitalization. The resurfacing process, estimated at \$3500, will breathe new life into the court, ensuring a safe and inviting space for basketball enthusiasts of all ages. This transformation aligns with our vision of fostering outdoor play and physical activity within the community.

Hoop Replacements:

Recognizing the importance of well-maintained equipment, our plan includes the replacement of backboards and hoops on the basketball court. The existing infrastructure, succumbing to rust and wear, will be replaced with durable and safe alternatives, each estimated at \$350. This investment ensures that the basketball court becomes a reliable and enjoyable space for both locals and students, promoting recreational engagement and community bonding.

Landscaping Enhancement:

The landscaping efforts encompassed in this plan are designed to create an aesthetically pleasing and functional environment. With an estimated budget of \$75 per hour, landscaping activities will include clearing overgrown areas, laying new grass, and general upkeep. The goal is not only to improve the visual appeal of Haskell Field but also to provide a welcoming space for community members and students alike to enjoy outdoor activities.

Community Park Features:

Emphasizing inclusivity and community engagement, the renovated Haskell Field will be equipped with additional features. Benches and picnic areas will be incorporated to encourage social interaction and create a space that caters to the diverse needs of both locals and students.

The park will become a hub for recreational and leisure activities, promoting a sense of community pride.

Project Action Plan

1. Project Initiation (Week 1-2)

- Task 1.1: Team Briefing and Roles
 - Conduct a meeting to discuss individual roles and responsibilities.
 - Confirm team members' commitment and understanding of the accepted proposal.
- Task 1.2: Establish Communication Channels
 - Continue utilizing project management tools for ongoing collaboration.
 - Set up regular check-ins to track progress and address any emerging issues.
- Task 1.3: Funding Activation
 - Initiate the release of funds from the Division of Conservation Services.
 - Ensure the budget aligns with the accepted proposal.

2. Detailed Planning and Procurement (Week 3-6)

- Task 2.1: Detailed Project Planning
 - Develop a detailed project plan, including a timeline for each phase.
 - Share the plan with team members for feedback.
- Task 2.2: Vendor and Supplier Engagement
 - Finalize contracts with selected vendors and suppliers.

- Confirm delivery schedules for materials and equipment.
- Task 2.3: Regulatory Compliance
 - Ensure all necessary permits and approvals are in place for the project to proceed.
 - Collaborate with Peggy Whalen to address any regulatory requirements.

3. Pre-Implementation Preparations (Week 7-9)

- Task 3.1: Site Preparation
 - Begin any necessary site preparations, including clearing areas for landscaping.
- Task 3.2: Team Training
 - Provide any additional training required for team members involved in the implementation phase.
 - Ensure everyone is familiar with safety protocols and project goals.
- Task 3.3: Community Awareness
 - Start community awareness campaigns about the upcoming renovations.
 - Share the project timeline and expected outcomes with residents.
- Task 3.4: Risk Mitigation and Contingency Planning
 - Identify further challenges that may arise during the implementation phase.
 - Develop a more comprehensive risk mitigation and contingency plan to address these challenges.
 - Communicate the risk management strategy to the project team.

4. Implementation Phase (Week 10-20)

- Task 4.1: Court Resurfacing
 - Initiate court resurfacing activities, coordinating closely with Cape Curb Appeal.
 - Regularly monitor progress and quality of work.
- Task 4.2: Landscaping and Park Features Installation
 - Implement landscaping efforts and install additional park features.
 - Keep the community informed about ongoing improvements.
- Task 4.3: Regular Progress Checks
 - Conduct regular checks to ensure the project is proceeding according to the plan.
 - Address any challenges promptly to avoid delays.

5. Community Engagement Events (Week 21-23)

- Task 5.1: Event Execution
 - Execute planned community events to celebrate the progress and involve residents.
 - Capture community feedback during and after events.
- Task 5.2: Monitor Participation
 - Evaluate the success of community engagement events based on participation rates.
 - Use feedback to make any necessary adjustments.

6. Evaluation and Reporting (Week 24-25)

- Task 6.1: Measuring Project Success
 - Begin evaluating the success of the project based on predetermined goals.
 - Gather data and feedback from community members.
- Task 6.2: Documentation
 - Document the transformation of Haskell Field, capturing before-and-after images.
 - Collect testimonials and stories from community members.
- Task 6.3: Interim Report
 - Prepare an interim report highlighting project achievements to date.
 - Share the report with the Division of Conservation Services.

7. Project Closure and Follow-Up (Week 26)

- Task 7.1: Final Report Preparation
 - Compile a comprehensive final report, including project outcomes, challenges, and community impact.
 - Ensure the report aligns with the initial proposal and accepted project scope.
- Task 7.2: Final Community Event
 - Host a final community event to showcase the revitalized Haskell Field.
 - Express gratitude to the community and project team.
- Task 7.3: Submission to Division of Conservation Services

- Submit the final report and any required documentation to the Division of Conservation Services.
- Include an invitation for representatives to visit the transformed Haskell Field.

8. Knowledge Transfer and Sustainability (Week 27)

- Task 8.1: Knowledge Transfer
 - Document lessons learned and key insights from the project.
 - Share this information with relevant individuals for future reference.
 - Task 8.2: Sustainable Maintenance
 - Hand over a sustainable maintenance plan to relevant local authorities or community groups.
 - Provide guidelines for ongoing care and preservation of Haskell Field.
-

4. Measure of Project Success:

The Haskell Field renovation project establishes clear and measurable goals and objectives to guide its implementation. The primary goals include revitalizing the basketball court, enhancing landscaping, and replacing backboards and hoops to transform the space into a vibrant community park. Objectives include completing the renovation within the proposed timeline, promoting community engagement, and increasing park usage.

Measurable Goals and Objectives:

1. **Renovation Completion:** Ensure the successful resurfacing of the basketball court, replacement of backboards and hoops, and landscaping within the proposed seven-week timeline.
2. **Increased Community Engagement:** Organize a minimum of three community events within the first six months post-renovation, measuring attendance rates and participant feedback.
3. **Diverse Recreational Spaces:** Install additional features such as benches and picnic areas to cater to diverse age groups, measured by observed increase in park users' diversity.
4. **30% Increase in Park Usage:** Aim for a minimum 30% increase in park usage within the first-year post-renovation, monitored through sign-in sheets, surveys, and regular observation.

Evaluation of Project Success:

The success of the Haskell Field renovation project will be evaluated through tangible outcomes and community engagement metrics. Key evaluation criteria include:

1. **Park Usage Statistics:** Regularly monitor and compare park usage statistics before and after the renovation to assess the impact on community engagement.
2. **Community Feedback:** Conduct surveys and feedback sessions to gather community opinions and assess satisfaction with the renovated space.

3. **Event Participation:** Measure attendance rates at community events to gauge increased community engagement and the attractiveness of the revitalized park.
4. **Diversity of Users:** Assess the diversity of park users before and after the renovation, ensuring that the space caters to a broad range of age groups and interests.

By employing these measurable goals and evaluation criteria, the project aims to ensure its success in creating a revitalized community park that not only addresses the immediate need for outdoor spaces but also fosters lasting community engagement and inclusivity.

5. Description of Available Facilities:

Haskell Field, nestled in Plymouth, Massachusetts, spans approximately 3 acres, boasting a baseball diamond and a basketball court. Presently, the park exhibits discernible signs of decline. Notably, the basketball court, once a lively hub for outdoor activities, now reflects neglect and wear. Weeds have found their way into the pavement's crevices, and rust has claimed sections of the backboards. The overall upkeep of the court has been insufficient. In tandem, the surrounding grass remains largely untouched, contributing to an overall diminished visual appeal. This depiction underscores the compelling need for the proposed renovation initiative, envisioning Haskell Field as a revitalized and welcoming community park.

The planned renovations aim to infuse renewed vitality into the park, transforming the dilapidated basketball court into a safe and well-maintained space. With resurfacing and replacement of basketball hoops, the court will become an inviting area for recreational activities. Landscaping efforts will rejuvenate the green spaces, fostering an environment that

encourages outdoor engagement and community interaction. These enhancements seek to not only address the existing issues but also create a vibrant and appealing haven for both local residents and Plymouth North High School students.

6. Qualifications of Personnel:

Cole Matinzi - Project Coordinator

As the chief proponent of the Haskell Field renovation initiative, Cole Matinzi brings a distinctive blend of personal dedication and insightful community engagement to the project. Having attended Plymouth North High School from 2016 to 2020, Cole possesses an intimate understanding of the challenges students face in finding suitable recreational spaces within the town.

Professional Background: Cole Matinzi's commitment to community welfare is evident in their role as a deeply invested resident dedicated to Plymouth's betterment. While lacking formal training in landscape architecture, Cole's firsthand experiences and awareness of the issues tied to overcrowded school facilities provide invaluable context for the Haskell Field renovation project.

Community Advocacy: Cole Matinzi's ties to the community, particularly Plymouth North High School, position them as an impassioned advocate for the project. Having witnessed the decline of once-vibrant play spaces in Plymouth, including Haskell Field, Cole is uniquely positioned to outline the current state of the park, emphasizing the deterioration and scarcity of outdoor spaces for Plymouth's youth.

Communication and Advocacy Skills: As the principal author of the grant proposal, Cole Matinzi demonstrates the ability to articulate the project's goals clearly, align them with the Division of Conservation Services' mission, and effectively convey the urgent need for Haskell Field's revitalization. Serving as a bridge between the community and the Division showcases strong commitment to fostering positive change.

Understanding of Project Impact: Cole Matinzi's personal connection to Plymouth North High School and their emphasis on the transformative impact of the renovation, addressing both space challenges and safety concerns, add a compelling dimension to the proposal. This understanding enhances the project's credibility and underscores its potential positive impact on the community, especially the students.

Tim Acton - Local Landscape Architect

Tim Acton is the distinguished founder and lead landscape architect at Tim Acton Landscaping, a full-service landscape design, construction, and property maintenance company with a rich legacy of serving the Cape Cod community for over four decades. Backed by a team of skilled professionals, including designers, horticulturists, stonemasons, and dedicated staff, Tim Acton Landscaping has earned its reputation as the preferred landscape contractor in the area.

With an unwavering commitment to excellence, Tim Acton Landscaping offers a comprehensive range of services, from complete property overhauls involving multi-phase installations to routine lawn maintenance. Tim Acton, as the driving force behind the business, has demonstrated a passion for shaping outdoor spaces into captivating landscapes that stand the test of time.

Tim Acton's expertise extends beyond the technical aspects of landscaping; he is deeply invested in establishing strong client relationships. The philosophy of the business revolves around

workmanship, pride, and professionalism, ensuring that every project, regardless of size, is meticulously planned and discussed with clients in advance. Tim Acton's approach emphasizes courtesy, quality, and honesty throughout the entire process, whether it's a transformative landscape overhaul or routine property maintenance.

The enduring success of Tim Acton Landscaping is a testament to Tim Acton's dedication to creating landscapes that not only complement homes but also reflect the individuality and aspirations of each client. With over 40 years of experience, Tim Acton brings a wealth of knowledge and a commitment to quality that aligns seamlessly with the goals of the Haskell Field renovation project.

Bill Putman - Local Construction and Maintenance Expert

Bill Putman, the owner of Cape Curb Appeal, brings over three decades of expertise as a locally family-owned, licensed, and insured construction company in Plymouth. Specializing in outdoor renovations, Bill is recognized for his commitment to quality workmanship and the use of superior materials.

Specialization in Court Resurfacing: Bill excels in court resurfacing, focusing on tennis and basketball courts. His proficiency in acrylic resurfacing and crack repair ensures the durability and safety of court surfaces, making Cape Curb Appeal a trusted choice in Plymouth.

Proven Track Record in Plymouth: Since 1992, Cape Curb Appeal has been a prominent player in Massachusetts outdoor projects. Bill's dedication to quality has earned the company a solid reputation, making him an ideal candidate for the Haskell Field renovation project.

Comprehensive Construction Services: Cape Curb Appeal offers a range of construction services, including new construction, overlays, repairs, and maintenance. Bill's company is well-equipped to handle various outdoor projects with precision and reliability.

Bill Putman's extensive experience and commitment to quality make him the perfect local construction expert to contribute to the success of the Haskell Field renovation in Plymouth.

Peggy Whalen - Director of Community Development

In her role as Director of Community Development at Plymouth's Town Hall, Peggy Whalen serves as a valuable connection between the Haskell Field renovation project and local government initiatives. Peggy's wealth of experience in community development positions her as a key collaborator, capable of providing crucial support, navigating bureaucratic processes, and addressing regulatory matters.

Navigating Bureaucratic Processes: With a deep understanding of Plymouth's local government intricacies, Peggy can streamline bureaucratic processes, ensuring a smooth execution of the Haskell Field renovation project.

Addressing Regulatory Matters: Peggy's expertise allows her to adeptly address any regulatory issues that may arise during the project, facilitating efficient resolution and adherence to compliance standards.

Connecting with Local Government: As a representative of the Office of Community Development, Peggy is well-versed in fostering connections between community projects and local government objectives, ensuring alignment with broader community development goals.

By engaging with Peggy Whalen, the Haskell Field renovation project gains a knowledgeable ally who can navigate the complexities of local government and provide essential support throughout the process.

7. Budget:

The requested funding of \$15,500 for the renovation of Haskell Field will be strategically distributed across various essential categories to ensure a comprehensive revitalization of the park. A significant portion, totaling \$5,000, is allocated for the crucial task of court resurfacing, addressing the current state of disrepair, and guaranteeing a safe and well-maintained play area. The replacement of basketball hoops, another vital aspect of the project, is allocated \$1,500, contributing to the structural integrity of the court and ensuring a high-quality playing experience for the community.

Additionally, an extensive landscaping effort, funded at \$2,500, is planned to enhance the overall aesthetic appeal of the park, creating an inviting environment for community members. Lastly, the addition of 10 benches and 5 picnic areas, allocated \$6,500, aims to provide communal spaces, fostering community engagement and encouraging residents to enjoy the revitalized park.

Budget Narrative:

This budget allocation is meticulously designed to ensure that each component of the renovation plan receives the necessary financial resources and labor commitment. By strategically distributing funds, the renovation project aims to breathe new life into Haskell Field at a low cost. This comprehensive approach aligns with the project's overarching goals of promoting

outdoor activities, enhancing community spaces, and addressing safety concerns. The allocation not only considers the immediate needs of the park but also envisions a transformed space that fosters a sense of community and encourages outdoor recreation.

Budget Category	Cost	Hours	Description
Court Resurfacing	\$ 5000 ⁵	30	Comprehensive resurfacing to address court wear and tear.
Hoop Replacements	\$ 1500 ⁶	15	Replacement of basketball hoops and backboards for safety and functionality.
Landscaping	\$ 2500 ⁷	40	Weed removal, grass cutting, and general upkeep for aesthetics.
Benches and Picnic Areas	\$ 6500 ⁸	25	Addition of seating and picnic areas for community enjoyment.

Figure 5: Table of Budget Allocation

Total Funding Request: \$15,500

Note: Labor hours are estimated based on industry standards for each respective task. Costs include both material expenses and labor fees.

⁵ Smith, Sam, and Sam Smith. "How Much Does It Cost to Resurface a Basketball Court?" *DNA of SPORTS*, 24 Feb. 2022, www.dnaofsports.com/basketball/how-much-does-it-cost-to-resurface-a-basketball-court.

⁶ *Lifetime 73729 48 in. Shatter Proof Backboard Rim Combo, Orange/White ...*, www.amazon.com/Lifetime-73729-Shatter-Backboard-Orange/dp/B0BZC6391V. Accessed 14 Dec. 2023.

⁷ Crail, Chauncey. "How Much Does Landscaping Cost in 2023?" *Forbes Home*, 5 July 2023, www.forbes.com/home-improvement/lawn-care/landscaping-cost.

⁸ "Charleston Bench in Semi-Matte Black - Transitional - Outdoor Benches - by Innova Hearth and Home Inc. | Houzz." *Houzz*, www.houzz.com/products/charleston-bench-in-semi-matte-black-prvw-vr~64959294.

"Children's Cedar Picnic Table - Traditional - Outdoor Dining Tables - by Allagash Wood Products | Houzz." *Houzz*, www.houzz.com/products/children-s-cedar-picnic-table-prvw-vr~48293624.

8. Summary:

By supporting the Haskell Field renovation project in Plymouth, the Division of Conservation Services aligns with a transformative initiative that addresses a critical need in the community.

The proposed revitalization plan not only fosters outdoor engagement but also contributes to the overall well-being of Plymouth residents, particularly the over 1300 students at Plymouth North High School. This partnership serves as an opportunity for the Division to make a lasting impact on the community and enhance its reputation as a catalyst for positive change.

Compared to likely competition, this proposal distinguishes itself through its comprehensive approach, measurable goals, and a team with diverse expertise. One alternative approach to this project involves establishing small, well-designed pocket parks in residential areas, strategically positioned to provide accessible green spaces for local residents. This idea aims to decentralize recreational spaces, ensuring convenience for residents across Plymouth. However, it may lack the scale and impact of a central community park.

Another innovative idea suggests developing green rooftop spaces on public buildings, such as community centers or libraries. These elevated parks would feature landscaping, seating, and recreational elements. While this idea optimizes existing infrastructure for recreational purposes and promotes sustainability, it may not offer the ground-level space and diverse features of a traditional community park.

The Haskell Field Renovation Project stands out as the most compelling solution to Plymouth's need for a park. Unlike pocket parks or rooftop spaces, the renovated Haskell Field provides a centralized community park, fostering a sense of unity and offering a designated space for various activities. Its diverse recreational features, including a basketball court, green spaces, and picnic areas, cater to a wide range of interests and age groups, ensuring inclusivity.

Moreover, the urgent address of Haskell Field's deterioration makes the project a timely and necessary solution to the community's immediate challenge. The alignment with the Division of Conservation Services' mission ensures that the renovated Haskell Field contributes to broader conservation and recreational objectives. Beyond functionality, the project contributes to community pride and engagement, turning Haskell Field into a focal point for community events and fostering a strong sense of belonging among residents. In summary, while alternative ideas may offer localized solutions, the Haskell Field Renovation Project emerges as the best option for addressing Plymouth's overarching need for a central and comprehensive community park.

The urgency of the problem at hand cannot be overstated. Deteriorating outdoor spaces, exemplified by the neglected Haskell Field, pose significant challenges to the community's well-being. The decline of once-vibrant play spaces, especially those near Plymouth North High School, deprives residents of essential recreational areas. The Haskell Field renovation project addresses not just a physical deterioration but a decline in community spirit, emphasizing the pressing need for immediate intervention.

This proposal's strength lies in its holistic approach to renovation, addressing various aspects to ensure a transformative impact. The team's unique composition, combining community insight, landscaping expertise, construction skills, and governmental liaison, underscores the proposal's credibility and potential for success. The proposal's alignment with the Division of Conservation Services' mission, measurable goals, and clear evaluation criteria further reinforces its merits. It doesn't merely promise change but envisions a lasting positive impact, making it an ideal choice for support.

We urge the Division of Conservation Services to take decisive action in supporting the Haskell Field renovation project. By doing so, the Division not only contributes to the immediate

improvement of recreational spaces but also plays a vital role in fostering community pride, environmental stewardship, and lasting positive change. This partnership is an opportunity for the Division to be a driving force in creating a vibrant and well-maintained public space that benefits current and future generations. Now is the time to act and be part of this transformative initiative.

9. Appendices of Figures

Cover Photo:

Photo by Daniel Sikpi from Pexels: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/boys-playing-basketball-outdoors-16302087/>

Figure 1:

Photo by Zen Chung from Pexels: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/unrecognizable-woman-and-girl-hair-sitting-with-basket-on-lakeside-5529537/>

Figure 2:

“Plymouth North High School.” *NuClimate*, nuclimate.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/1.jpg.

Figure 3:

“Haskell Field Basketball Court.” *North and South Rivers Watershed Association*, www.nsrwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/HaskellFieldPlymouthKB8540-scaled-e1685398865237-1226x672.jpeg.

Figure 4:

Photo by Helena Lopes from Pexels: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/group-of-people-sitting-on-white-mat-on-grass-field-745045/>

Figure 5:

Table of Budget Allocation

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