

August 14, 2017

Dear Wayland Park and Recreation Commission,

Most of us have similar aged children who graduated from WHS, so I realize the great importance of having and maintaining athletic fields throughout Wayland for our many young athletes and how important youth athletics is to everyone in Wayland as it was to my children.

Many people have spent many years of very hard work developing a plan to maintain and repair existing fields and find places for new fields because there is a desperate and immediate need. The Gale Report ***Town-Wide Athletic Field Master Plan 2010*** clearly quantifies this.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan 2016 by Weston and Sampson details and emphasizes the importance of both passive and active recreation to the overall long term strategic land management plan for Wayland.

Presently Oxbow Meadows is considered part of "The Bay Circuit Trail and Greenway" (www.baycircuit.org started in 1929) described as "**Boston's Outer Emerald Necklace**" which links parks from Plum Island to Kingston Bay. Oxbow Meadows now consists of a mature forest, wildflower fields, wildlife and nature trail in the woods. This 10 acres connects Farrar Pond and Trout Brook, Bay Circuit Trails (Section 7, Map 7, page 3) and satisfies the objectives of Wayland's Open Space Plan for passive recreation and specifically, the goal to "improve connectivity between public open space properties" at almost no maintenance cost to Wayland.

It seems the ***Town Wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan*** will soon be released and it is supposed to establish an overall plan for future field development. Shouldn't Wayland Park and Rec wait for this plan and implement field development efficiently and cost effectively with several fields and parking in one location?

Considering all the issues, wouldn't it be much more cost effective (short term field preparation and long term field maintenance) for Wayland to spend \$400,000+ on a location with more soccer fields together (possibly synthetic fields which have three times the life of grass fields) instead of building ONE grass field and 55 parking spaces at Oxbow Meadows?

Marshall-Gary LLC estimates for ONE smaller size soccer field at Oxbow Meadows have already doubled:

\$200,000 - Oct. 25, 2015 (original feasibility study)

\$287,300 - Aug. 23, 2016

\$399,700 - Nov. 10, 2016

Wayland seems to be at a very important crossroads. After investing all the past resources for developing ***Open Space and Recreation Plan*** and ***Town Wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan***, it is a critical time of opportunity for Wayland to implement the most cost effective field development (including the minimum cost for future maintenance and repair).

One day, all the parents of Wayland school children like me, will be looking for a little more passive recreation area in Wayland where ALL Wayland residents can go dog walking, jogging, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, birdwatching.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marana Kern

Alex, Andrew and Stephanie Connaughton (WHS 2006, 2009, 2011)