



Diane N. Tradd  
Assistant City Manager/Director

R. Eric Slagle  
Director of Development Services

David Fuller  
Building Commissioner

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*  
**FROM:** Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director  
**DATE:** September 27, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** \$400,000 PARC Grant Award

The Department of Planning and Development received the maximum grant award of \$400,000 through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program to renovate the existing playground at Hovey Field in Centralville. This grant will allow the City to install its first fully accessible playground. The project will also include making other accessibility improvements via universal design standards for playground orientation, access, and surfaces. The City also committed to planting a minimum of ten (10) shade trees to mitigate heat effects that currently discourage use.

The Department of Planning and Development, in consultation with the City's Disability Commission, and residents who participated in the recent Open Space and Recreation Plan update planning process, identified Hovey Field as a priority action item for improvement. The main features of the park are a multi-use sports field that underwent some improvements in 2009 and a playground that has not been updated in decades. This playground is extremely dated with play equipment that is inaccessible to the 4.4% of persons with disabilities in Lowell who are under 18.

Lowell was one of 23 Massachusetts communities that the Baker Administration awarded a total of \$7.7 million in grants for park and recreation improvements across the commonwealth.

CMM/ns

cc: Claire Ricker, Chief Design Planner  
Christine McCall, Senior Planner  
Yovani Baez-Rose, Design Planner