



November 17, 2022

Honorable Holyoke City Council  
536 Dwight Street  
Holyoke MA 01040

Re: Springdale Park Update

Dear Honorable City Councilors:

Please accept this communication as response to your order "*That the parks and recreation and DPW give us an update on the project and remodeling of Springdale Park*"

Working off the master plan that was designed for Springdale Park a few years ago we are looking at what we can do to upgrade the park in segments as well as its entirety. When I started, I sat down with the City Engineers as we discussed working with the master plan for making the upgrades down there. They both said we must be strategic on what we put there, when we put it there and where it goes. As we put new installations there, we don't want to do invest money on something and then must work around or over it to get to other space. For example, we would like to eventually put a walking pathway around some of the installations there, but it should be installed towards the end of the project as we wouldn't want the contractors to drive over it to work on potential surrounding space and cause any damage to the walkway.

Looking at the master plan there are some big-ticket items that will take a good amount of money, as well as time to complete. Parking lots renovations, a building for Parks Maintenance Crew, possible visitors center, bathrooms, fencing /gate just to name a few. When these bigger items are addressed, we can then start to re-establish the recreation and sports elements that will fill in the around these structures. Keeping in mind that these sport and recreation elements or courts will be big projects themselves – but not as big as some of the fore mentioned items.

The playground at Springdale was completed this past summer and we look to our next round of CBDG applications that will be due at the end of the year. With that next round of funding, we are hoping to secure some money to tackle the splash pad. That splash pad / water element has been there for some time and desperately needs some TLC. As outdated as it is, it still gets used a lot during the summer months as a cool off spot. My commission board and I thought it would be a good time to target the splash pad next because it will give the park goers two brand new installations -the playground and the potential new splash pad- to use as we further plan down the road to go after the bigger items. By having the playground and splash pad there along with all the fields that get used regularly by youth leagues we can still offer the park to the public and not have to shut it completely down when the projects are underway.



City of Holyoke

Parks & Recreation Department

PARC, CBDG, CPA are all sources of funding that we will be applying for each cycle. We just were notified that Springdale Park was added to the EEA's (Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs) Gateway Cities Grant Park Program list for potential funding from the resources that were recently allocated by the Economic Development Spending bill. This isn't a guaranteed source, but the fact that it got put on to the list for potential locations is a huge plus for Springdale Park.

Sincerely,

Thomas Reynolds

Parks & Recreation Director