

# Investing in Our Town Park

*Why Should Bourne Residents Support the Completion of Buzzards Bay Park?*



## Because Parks...

- **Generate private sector investment.**

*"Cities [and towns like Bourne] are investing in parks, trails and play-spaces, and creating healthy communities where young adults are choosing to live and work and families are choosing to raise their children."*<sup>1</sup> An investment in Buzzards Bay Park signals a commitment to redevelopment and to fostering healthy lifestyles. The Town's commitment will help leverage private sector investment within the Main Street Corridor and beyond.

- **Establish points of community pride and lead to economic development.**

*"People and businesses want to locate next to high-quality parks...In general, the higher the quality of a park, the greater the demand for property near that park. That demand translates directly into higher property values and greater municipal property tax revenues."*<sup>1</sup>

- **Improve healthy lifestyle choices with play and exercise.**

*"One in ten Americans, from teens to seniors, say they are not active outside because places to recreate are too far away . . . Access to places for physical activity . . . has been shown to produce a 48 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity."*<sup>1</sup> The completed Buzzards Bay Park will provide wide-ranging, multi-generational recreational opportunities and new facilities will support community events and activities.

- **Connect the next generation with nature through play.**

Buzzards Bay Park, with new facilities to support activity and accessibility for all ages and abilities, will bring families to Main Street where they can play and exercise adjacent to the Cape Cod Canal and bikeway. What other park in the region has this magnificent view?



<sup>1</sup> Quotes are from The Return on Investment in Parks and Open Space in Massachusetts, The Trust for Public Land, September 2013, <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits-ma-roi-report.pdf> and A Smart Investment for America's Economy, The Land and Water Conservation Fund, 2015, [http://www.cityparksalliance.org/storage/documents/Mayors\\_for\\_Parks/CPA\\_LWCF\\_FNL\\_1.15.15\\_B\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.cityparksalliance.org/storage/documents/Mayors_for_Parks/CPA_LWCF_FNL_1.15.15_B_FINAL.pdf)

\*The images above and on the reverse side are representative of possibilities for the park. Since the design has not been completed, final decisions have not been made as to specific equipment or structure types.



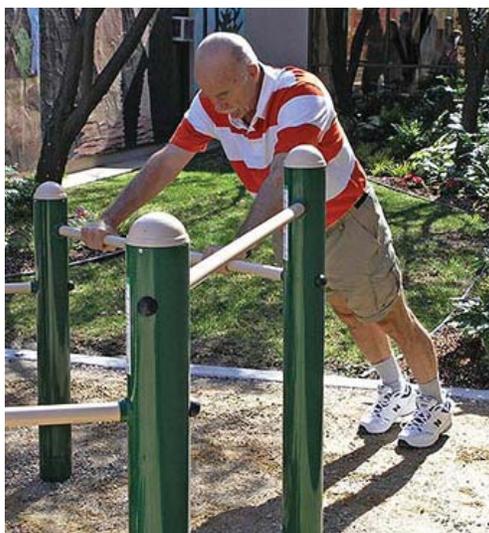
**B**uzzards Bay Park is designed by [redacted] and for the people of Bourne. When the idea of upgrading the park was put forth by Bourne Selectmen, the first action was to survey Bourne residents to determine what they would like in the park. The approved plan, which has been totally shaped by residents' preferences, will be completed with funds to be voted on at the May Town Meetings.

The park is being upgraded in phases – Phase 1 (shown on the left side of the plan) is currently under construction. It will be completed by June using existing funds with the exception of plantings and irrigation. The existing gazebo will be handicapped accessible and a new Memorial Grove will highlight various park memorials. New entrances from Main Street and the Army Corps of Engineers property will invite residents and visitors into new walkways and newly graded spaces with improved drainage, and

new benches and lights. The Phase 1 area has a budget of \$775,000. Residents are being asked to vote “yes” for an additional \$300,000 at the Special Town Meeting on May 1 to continue Phase 1 area improvements including installing irrigation, landscaping (with a variety of plants and trees), and the construction of a pavilion for large gatherings and outdoor movies.

Phase 2 (shown within the pink dashed line) will include the new and ADA accessible recreation features identified by Town residents: play equipment, outdoor fitness stations, and a splash pad, all enclosed by decorative fencing. Shade structures will invite people to rest while watching children play. New walkways will connect to Main Street and the National Marine Life Center. Additional plantings and irrigation will enhance the beauty of Bourne's Downtown. This final phase requires a “yes” vote on an Annual Town Meeting article authorizing \$1,015,000 in Community Preservation Act funds as recommended by votes of the Community Preservation and Capital Outlay Committees. (The use of CPA funds will not impact the Town's operating budget.) With a positive vote, the park can be fully restored by fall 2017.

**Your “yes” votes will ensure a park that you can be proud of and enjoy far into the future!**



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