



# ***Town of Huntington***

**... News Release from the Town of Huntington ...**

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Public Information Office ♦ Supervisor's Office ♦ 100 Main Street ♦ Huntington, NY 11743-6991

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Harborfields Community Playground Partnership Between Town of Huntington and School District Moving Forward**

Greenlawn – Town of Huntington Supervisor Chad A. Lupinacci and Councilman Mark Cuthbertson unveiled plans for reconstruction of the community playground located on the property behind the Harborfields Library, known by the local community as Pickle Park. Designed to be fully inclusive, the Harborfields Community Playground is a joint venture of the Town and the Harborfields School District, owner of the property, intended to make the playground accessible for children of all abilities.

Last year, Huntington and the Harborfields School District entered into a 10-year agreement under which the Town agreed to maintain and oversee the playground's use as a recreational community resource. In addition to maintenance and upkeep, the Town agreed to design a new playground to replace the existing swing set and climbing bars with equipment that would be safe for enjoyment and use by those with physical challenges. As part of the agreement, the Town and the School District approved splitting the estimated \$400,000 cost, each putting up half the funds for the capital improvements.

Supervisor Lupinacci stated, "This is more than a playground project. It is the demonstration of a broad alliance of interests among the Town, School District, and community continuing to take pride in the maintenance and improvement of the Greenlawn hamlet center."

Councilman Cuthbertson, who helped draft the agreement and sponsored the enabling 2017 Town Board resolution agreed, "This is the realization of a long standing dream to recognize the playground as a community resource and one that offers greater opportunity for children of differing abilities to play with each other."

The playground plan offers children between two and twelve years of age a diverse array of equipment, including slides, riders, play panels, swings, and climbers. Special inclusive elements will include a cushioned rubberized surface, accessible swings, double-wide wheelchair ramps, a feature specifically

designed for children with sensory sensitivities, a rocking element that can accommodate both wheelchairs and seated children, and a new accessible walkway that connects the playground to nearby streets.

The location of the play area will remain the same. The footprint of the playground will be enlarged slightly to the east toward the fence separating the playground and the library parking lot to avoid any interference with the existing basketball court and large open grassy play areas.

Superintendent of Harborfields School District, Dr. Francesco Ianni said, “The school district is pleased with its partnership with the Town, who is providing improvements to the playground. This is a place that is near and dear to many neighborhood families and the addition of accessibility will provide an engaging place for all children in the community.”

Councilman Cuthbertson said the Town wants to contract for site preparation and installation of the playground equipment in May and complete the work within a few months. “I am looking forward this summer to a ribbon cutting ceremony where the Town Board, School Board, and our friends and supporters of long-standing, like the Greenlawn Civic Association, can take part.”

Detailed playground plans are available in the lobby of Huntington Town Hall, the entry area of Harborfields School District Administration Office on Old Field Road, and the foyer of the Harborfields Public Library on Ann Street. A digital copy of the plan is available for viewing on the Huntington Town Website. Visit the [Planning & Environment](#) landing page.

All comments related to the proposed Harborfields Community Playground plan and design should be forwarded to the Town of Huntington Planning Department by May 4th in writing or by e-mail at: [planning@huntingtonny.gov](mailto:planning@huntingtonny.gov). Phone inquiries can be directed to the Planning Department at (631) 351-3196.

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