

# Caring for our community: Getting to know our parks

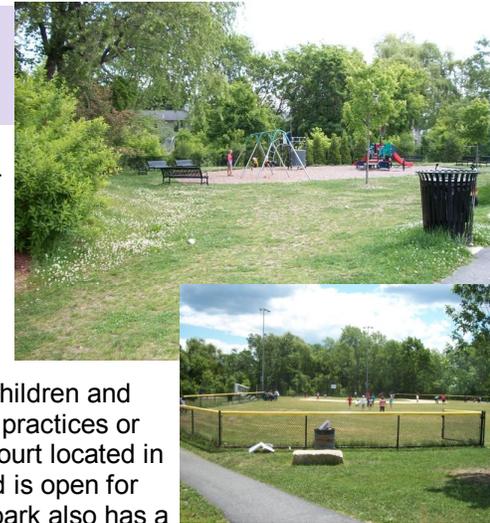
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## What A Park!

Tanya Borrero

Mount Vernon Park is a park where our community as a whole comes together and we want everyone to be acquainted with the good features this park has to offer! Mount Vernon Park is known for its quiet area. You can find this park at the intersection of Amherst Street and Mount Vernon Street, where everyone is more than welcome from dawn until dusk. Mount Vernon Park is a place where anyone can come to relax and unwind, whether it's by taking a walk on the trail or reading a book in its

nice sitting area. This park features many different things that make visiting the park very comfortable. For example, Mount Vernon Park has restrooms for both males and females that are handicap-accessible. Also, there are drinking fountains where cool water is available. The kid's area is very well equipped with a jungle gym for toddlers and older children, and a nice swing set where kids can enjoy their time. There are three baseball fields where softball and baseball games for children and adults are held. The whole family can come and watch practices or games. The park also has a nice full-court basketball court located in its own area. During most events, the concession stand is open for anyone who wants to purchase snacks or drinks. The park also has a large parking lot that is visible from the sports areas. After coming to Mount Vernon Park you will be excited to come back!



## Appreciating Our Parks as a Community

Katherine Almonte

Our parks are gifts and we should appreciate them by keeping them clean and safe. The parks are important because they provide us with a space to enjoy ourselves. For example, we can hold birthday parties at the park, or play games with friends such as dominos or baseball. My family lives in Lawrence and we enjoy going to the park to watch my brother play baseball. He loves playing base-

ball at the park and dreams about being a baseball player. My parents like watching him play at the park and are proud of him because he is using his free time in a healthy way.

The Lawrence community has many different kinds of parks; some have fields and trails, while others have equipment for young children. Respecting the parks and keeping them clean as a community will improve their

quality and our quality of life. Many communities do not have as many parks as Lawrence and some can't use their parks because they are in a really bad shape. We should be thankful for the parks we have and that Lawrence children and families have access to many good parks. Working together as one community we can make a huge difference by caring for our parks, which may inspire other communities to do the same.

## This Park Needs Some TLC!

Rumaira Balborda

Not all parks in the Lawrence community are the same.. Most parks have playgrounds, basketball courts, and baseball fields. Many have open fields where individuals of all ages can have a good time either taking a nice walk, playing sports, or relaxing in a quiet area. However, I have also observed a park that doesn't have these things and is in need of some tender love and care. Plainsman Park is not as well maintained as some of the other parks and also needs more equipment. Although there are a few benches and trees, the park has trash on the ground and there are many areas covered in graffiti. It is important that we keep our parks clean so that everyone will be able to enjoy them. Plainsman Park could be a great park for the community, it just needs some TLC! Please help us improve the park by putting your trash in the garbage cans and not tagging the equipment!



A habitual newsletter for the Lawrence community updating you on our research project *Improving our Opportunities for Recreation and Physical Activity: Engaging Youth in Research and Local Policy Advocacy*.

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If you have any questions or comments about our research project please contact Flavia Peréa at 617-636-6805.