



## Penguin Park - More Accessible Thanks To The Boy Scouts



**PENGUIN PARK BEFORE**



**PENGUIN PARK AFTER**

The Boy Scouts, Andover Troop 76 volunteered to do a disability-related project in Andover. Meetings were held with Jason Felton representing the Boy Scouts, Joseph Piantedosi, the Town's Plant & Facilities Director and other town personnel and Commission on Disability members. Penguin Park was chosen to be the focus of the community service project. The plan was to make the park more accessible for people in wheelchairs by adding an accessible pathway made with crushed stone. This allows kids and adults in wheelchairs to access the park easier. Above are some pictures highlighting the changes.

In the before picture, you can see Justin Coppola Jr. in a wheelchair having a very difficult time as his wheels are sinking into the sand. In the after picture you see him able to access the park with a much better surface of crushed stone.

An additional benefit has been seen as it is now much easier for parents with baby carriages and strollers to

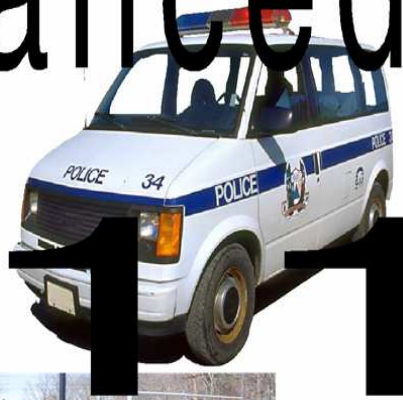
use the park. This is a well used park and many folks bring their baby carriages and strollers along. Jason was very proud with the results and said: "We had about 10 scouts and 6 adults volunteering to help. Everything went well and the scouts loved it when they got to drive the big rolling equipment. It's important for the scouts to do community service projects because that is what scouting is about."

Our thanks to Jason Felton and the Boy Scouts, Troop 76 BSA Andover, MA for the completion of the Penguin Park community service project making Penguin Park more accessible for folks with disabilities. The Andover Commission on Disability thanks Jason and the Boy Scouts for a job well done, and looks forward to working with the Boy Scouts in the future.

We would also like to thank Joseph Piantedosi, the Town's Plant & Facilities Director and all the other town personnel who were very receptive and helpful in making this project a success.

**Andover Has Implemented Enhanced 911 Service**

# Enhanced



911 Dispatch Office. This information is then entered in to the 911 system. It alerts public safety officials that an individual residing at your address may communicate via a TTY, has a disability that may hinder evacuation or transport or has other special needs. Categories are: life support system, mobility impaired, blind, deaf and hard of hearing, teletypewriter (TTY) user, speech impaired and cognitive impairment. For the deaf, the ADA regulation requires 9-1-1 or other telephone emergency service providers to provide TTY users with direct access.

## Disability Indicator Form

"Enhanced 9-1-1" or "E9-1-1," automatically identifies for 9-1-1 call-takers the telephone number and address of callers. The system provides emergency responders with the location of the emergency without the person calling for help having to provide it. This is often useful in times of fires, break-ins, kidnapping and other events where communicating your location is difficult or impossible.

Andover's system also allows people to individually register with the Police Department by filling out a 911 "Disability Indicator Form" available at the 911 Dispatch office or on the Web at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov). At the website, simply enter Disability Indicator Form in the search box. Complete the form and submit to the

*The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires all Public Safety "telephone emergency services" including the basic emergency service -- police, fire, and ambulance -- that are provided by public safety agencies, including 9-1-1 systems to provide TTY direct access. Direct and equal access must be provided to all services included in the system. All call-takers must have the capability to switch back and forth easily from TTY mode to voice mode during the same call.*

The Andover Commission on Disability urges you to fill out the form and submit it to the Police Department's 911 Dispatch Office.

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**leave a message @ 978-475-0363**