

MAKING ANDOVER PLAYGROUNDS ACCESSIBLE!



Ballardvale Playground entrance is almost inaccessible.

the fence running parallel to the train tracks, a possible skateboard surface, the addition of more play equipment for toddlers, a horizontal slide, a wooden climbing structure, and a space for ice skating in the winter. These are being addressed by Landscape Architect Chris Huntress.

A circular path could be considered for an all-age and all-ability walking path of the two acre playground. Considerable re-sloping of the terrain would be involved. Improving the accessibility of the Town's playgrounds is a multi-year continuing effort with the Plant & Facilities department. Our thanks to Joe Piantedosi and his team for their continued understanding and support.

This year, the Disability Commission will be working with the BallardVale Historic District Commission, to improve accessibility of the Ballardvale playground. Our recommendations include: accessible parking, wheelchair access into the playground, a hard-surfaced path wide enough to accommodate wheelchair access to all of the equipment, specialized play equipment, wheelchair accessible picnic tables, and overall compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Local residents have proposed additions and suggestions for playground improvements such as the creation of parking, closure of holes in



Grass makes wheelchair travel difficult.

Handicap Parking Placard Abuse



Have you been granted a Handicap Parking Placard from the Registry of Motor Vehicles?

Are you aware of any misuse of the HP Placard by your family members?

We hope not, because the fine for the misuse of a HP placard is \$500.00 for the first offense with a mandatory 30 days loss of driver's license.

Each subsequent offense fine is \$1,000.00. An abuse is:

1. anyone using HP placard which was issued to another person
2. any altering or tampering of a placard
3. photo copying the placard and using it
4. parking in a HP parking space without the placard owner leaving the vehicle.

A parking ticket of \$100.00 is issued when a vehicle is parked in a HP space without proper ID; is blocking access ramps or the HP space; or is parked on the hash marks attached to the HP space. These hash marks are part of the van parking space. This area is the landing space for the lift being lowered from the van, allowing the wheelchair-bound person to exit the van. In all these cases, the vehicles can be towed at the owners' expense. During routine patrolling by the Andover Police, handicap parking spaces on both

public and private property are checked for any abuses, and, if found, ticketing and/or towing or both will occur.

The abuse of a HP Placard hurts both parties. Violators lose money and their licenses.

The persons with disabilities who have the HP placards are not able to go about their activities because they cannot park nearby.

Please follow the law and use the HP Placard responsibly. For further information regarding the HP Placard, go to the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles web site:

www.mass.gov/rmv

HELP WANTED

The Commission on Disability relies on your input about the needs of the disabled in our town.

Please e-mail any observations or suggestions to: coppolai@comcast.net

There is currently a vacancy on the commission. If you would like to make a serious personal investment in our work, please complete a volunteer application: "Talent Bank Form" and specify the Andover Commission on Disability. Available online at:

<http://andoverma.gov/publish/talentbank.pdf>

Details of our history and the type of work we do is on the Andover's Commission on Disability's website that can be reached at:

<http://andoverma.gov/boards/disability>