

CIP-Amanda Howard Park

ralong65@comcast.net [ralong65@comcast.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 10:20 PM**To:** Garrison, William

Dear Mr. Garrison,

My name is Richard Long and I live at 11 Fairview Ave in Ward 2. I have four children. I live 4 houses down from the Amanda Howard Park. I have lived in this neighborhood for the past 11 years. I have spoken with Garry Bannon on many occasions about getting this park repaired and refurbished as it is one of the older forgotten parks in Dover. I have volunteered with my family cleaning the park up over the years and also had a group of fraternity folks from UNH clean it up as a community service project. I have called many times to advise the city about the dead tree limbs and the roots sticking up around the swing set and slide and the many rocks exposed. On some occasions the city would trim a few branches and bring a little sand in to cover up the roots and rocks but in my opinion it was a band aid approach that continues to be the case for this park. I was told on many occasions that the park would be addressed and it is on the list to be refurbished. The neighborhood signed a petition at least 6 years ago to request the city to address it. We had approximately 40 signatures on the petition from the surrounding neighborhood. We had several meetings to address what we wanted done to the park as per Garry Bannon to get things started. I was told that due to the Hancock Park being in the process of a major over haul and redesign the Amanda Howard Park would be next. Well, unfortunately the park continues to sit as it was when we bought our house over ten years ago. Many kids in the neighborhood do not use it because of the safety concerns. It is not because of the lack of kids. I can tell you that the master plan that was done that mentions the park is the least used park in the city is wrong. I think it indicated one child uses it. I have 4 kids and my kids have used it countless times and I know many families that have used it since we have lived here. The data is wrong. I am not sure who surveyed the neighborhood on the park usage but we have a few dozen kids around here that use it or have used it. However, one of the reason many families do not use it often is because it is a wreck - it is not safe and does not meet any of the safety standards and in my opinion poses a liability to the city. My kids are getting older now but we have many new younger families in the neighborhood that could really benefit and enjoy this park if it was refurbished. We are not looking for an elaborate Hancock Street park but one that fits the small neighborhood it is in. If you look at the history of the park and why it was named the Amanda Howard Park you will see why this situation needs to be addressed and appropriate action taken. The city of Dover needs to take care of what we already have and not start other projects unless we can keep up with what is on our plate. I am not placing blame on anyone and know we have limited resources but I think this should be kept at the level of funding that was proposed in the CIP and should be a priority out of all the park projects proposed. I am requesting that you share my concerns with the city counsel on this matter so they have the complete picture on the Amanda Howard Park before the vote on the CIP. Please feel free to contact me at 234-3140.

Sincerely,
Richard Long