

Community Preservation Act Committee- Proposal Request Form for FY 2020

Project Title: Groff Park Modernization-Construction

CPA funding category: Check all that apply

- Community Housing
- Open Space
- Historic Preservation
- Recreation

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 200,000.00

Submitting Entity: Town of Amherst

Contact Person: Barbara Bilz, Director of LSSE

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Email: bilzb@amherstma.gov

Please complete this form in its entirety and include the following in your proposal.

Overview of Proposal: Please describe your project and your feasibility analysis

The Groff Park Modernization project includes the installation of a new playground, splash pad, upper pavilion and associated amenities. The Town has been working with the Berkshire Design Group for over 2 years to finalize the design and plans for the park, and seek funding for construction. The CPA Committee has previously recommended \$1,050,000 for this project, which was approved by Town Meeting. The Town has also received a \$300,000 grant from the Land Water Conservation Fund. However, with inflation and the rising costs of material and labor, the available funds are not sufficient to construct the project.

The Town went through a formal procurement process this fall, and the bid results were over budget. We believe the high bids were a result of two factors: 1) a few custom elements of the park that have since been modified to bring down costs, and 2) we had outlined an aggressive schedule late in the construction season that put a premium on the project. The plan moving forward is to re-bid the project in December/January when there will be more competition amongst contractors for 2019 projects. At the same time, the Town is purchasing the equipment using 2018 prices because it is expected that 2019 prices will be 3-5% higher. The Department of Public Works is also completing site preparation this month to allow for a quick start of construction in the spring.

Describe how your request meets the CPA criteria:

1. Description of funding needed, including:

- a. Documentation of cost estimates, budget
- b. Other sources of funding, e.g., grants, self-funding, fund-raising
- c. Timeline on how CPA funds would be spent, including over multiple years

The funding request of \$200,000 is to help with construction and is based on the bids received in October 2018. The project is funded by CPA (\$1,050,000) and a Land Water Conservation Fund Grant (\$300,000). The project is expected to start construction in Spring 2019 and be completed by September.

2. Urgency of the Project, if any.

The Town is committed to the Groff Park Modernization Project. The Department of Public Works is currently removing the playground and preparing the site for construction in the spring. The wading pool was removed last year because of its deteriorated condition. The goal remains to have a new playground, splash pad, and pavilion open to the public in 2019.

3. Estimated timeline from receipt of funds to Project completion.

The project is expected to be completed by September 2019. The Town is going to re-bid the construction in late December in order to secure a contractor for an early spring start.

4. Acquisition or preservation of threatened resources.

Groff Park is one of the most widely used recreation areas in Town, serving much of Amherst and nearby communities. The park offers formal recreation fields, public bathrooms, hiking trails, open space for passive recreation, wading pool, playground, and picnic areas with grills. The park is used year round for organized activities as well as passive recreation.

The demand and use of the park, combined with the age of some amenities, made it apparent to the Town that a comprehensive update was necessary to maintain safety and functionality, and to keep the park a destination for local residents.

5. Population(s) to be served by the Project.

All Amherst, particularly residents of South Amherst and East Hadley Road. Within one mile of Groff Park are environmental justice populations that would benefit greatly from improved facilities. The project will make the spray park, playground and new pavilion fully accessible to serve diverse population and range of users.

The following is a list of estimated users of Groff Park

Spring Programs

Flag Football	440
Adult Softball	1800

Summer Programs Daily Visits Per Season

Adult Softball	4,300
Ultimate	1,200
General Day Camps	960

Fall Programs

Ultimate	500
Football	3,360

Wader (Summer)

Children	2,500-3,000 est.
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Pavilion Rentals, April thru November

Rented to: 50-60 groups for a total of 2,000 - 2,500 est.

Sample of Renters:

Individuals for Family Gatherings and Birthday Parties

UMass Departments

Public Policy Dept	Graduate History Dept
Microbiology Dept	Integrative Learning Dept
Education Dept	Chinese Studies Dept

Schools

ARMS	Montessori
Wildwood	

Community Groups and Non-Profit Organizations

Big Brothers Big Sisters	Community Action
Boy Scouts	Community Emergency Response Team
Center for New Americans	Jewish Community Center

6. How will the CPA investment in your property, facility or project be maintained over time?

Groff Park will be maintained by the Town, through seasonal and annual maintenance, and through volunteer efforts coordinated by DPW, LSSE, and the programs that use the park. The Tree & Grounds Division of DPW is responsible for the maintenance and care of all the towns' parks, commons, athletic fields, cemeteries and public shade trees. An example of volunteerism is Mass Impact Day—each year in the fall, UMass students help with seasonal maintenance through this event. This past year they helped weed, spread mulch on the playground, paint and repair seating and tables

7. Which relevant Town committees and/or commissions are you working with?

The plans for Groff Park have been reviewed and approved by the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the LSSE Commission, Design Review Board and the Disability Access Advisory Committee. In addition to the board/committee reviews, there has been a Groff Park Design team composed of staff and LSSE Commissioners who have been meeting regularly during the design process to provide input and recommendations of the community.

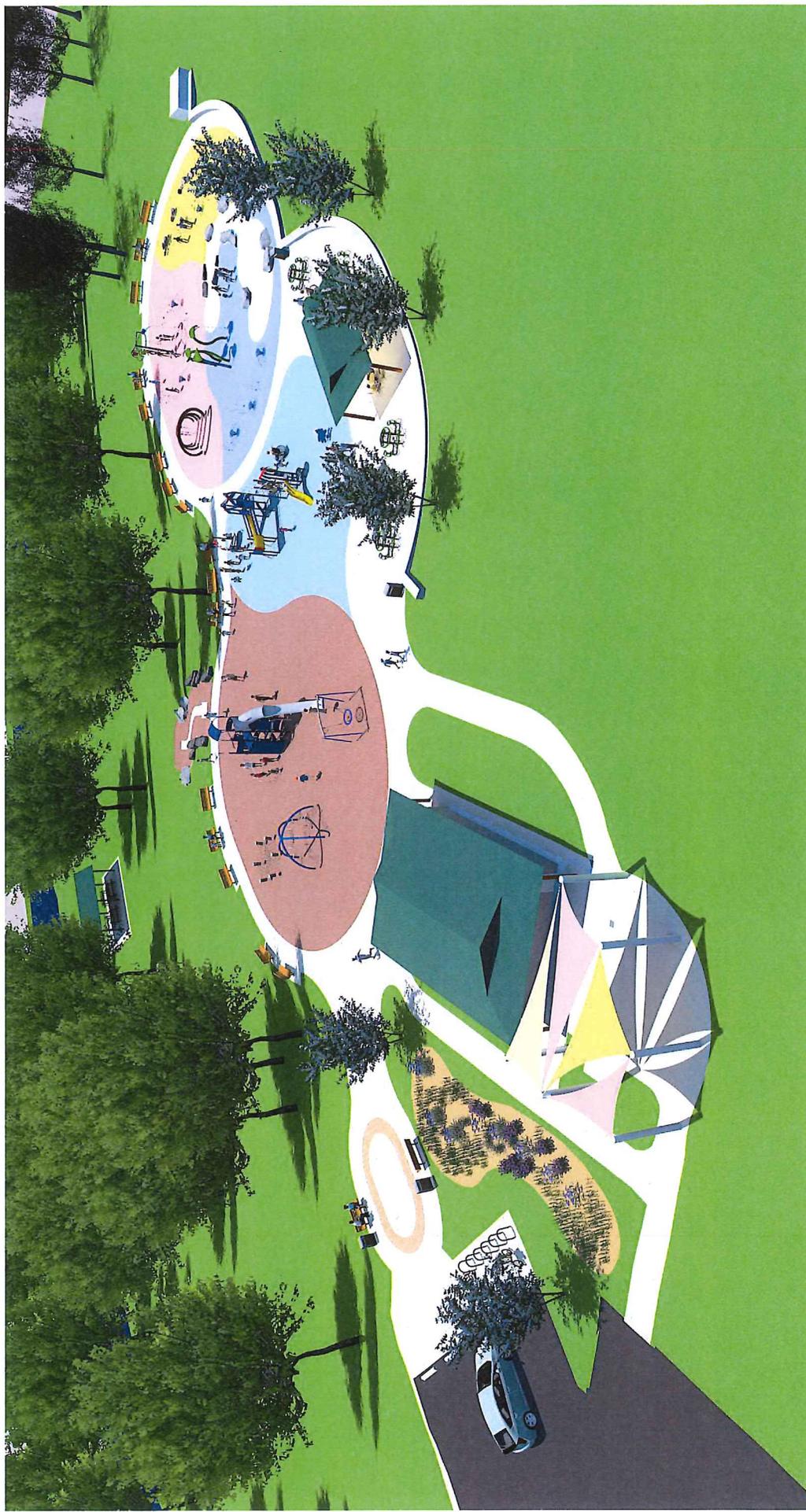
8. Other information regarding the Project deemed necessary for CPAC.

GROFF PARK ENTRYWAY



Groff Park Playground
Amherst, MA

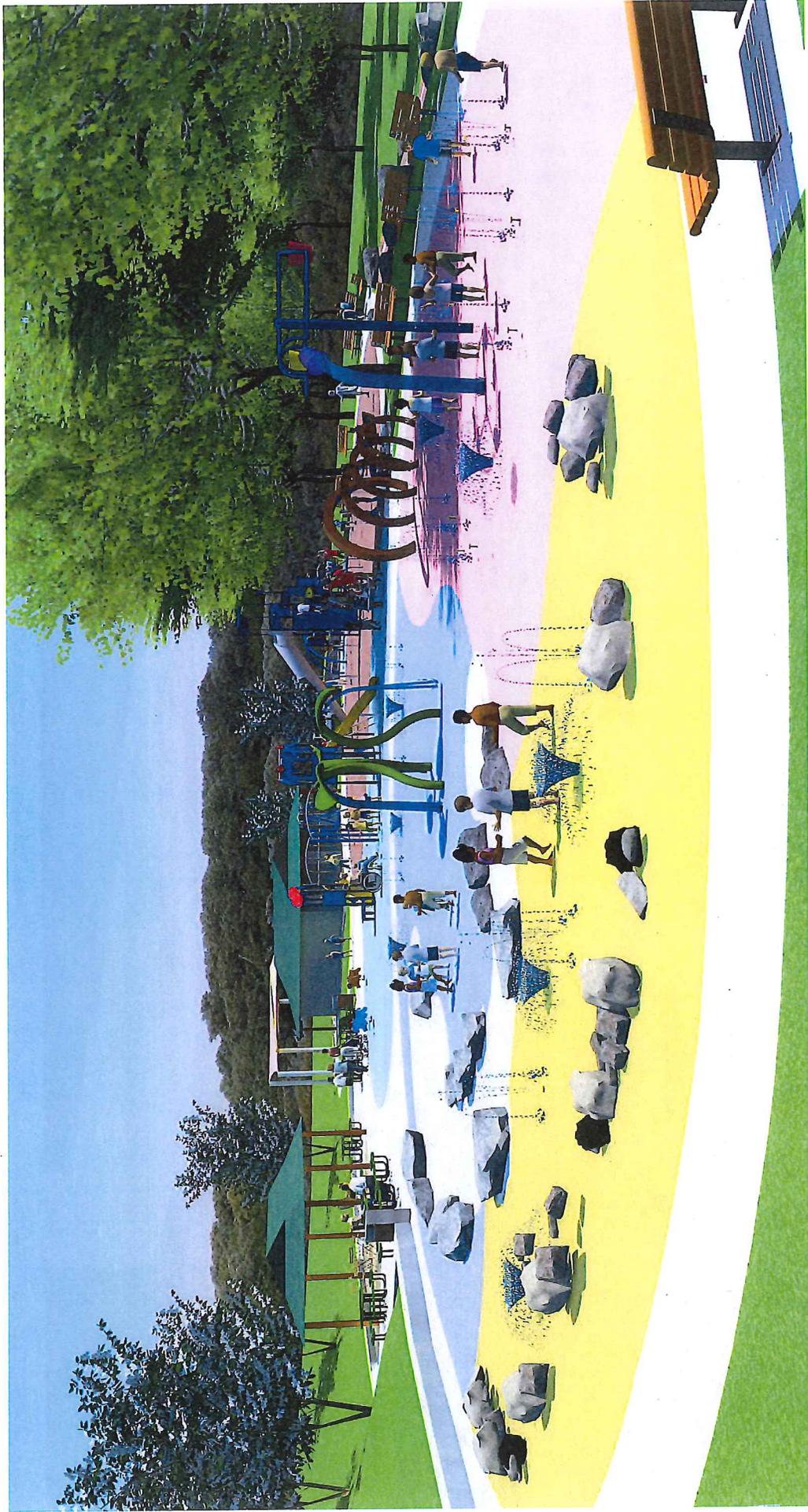
GROFF PARK OVERVIEW



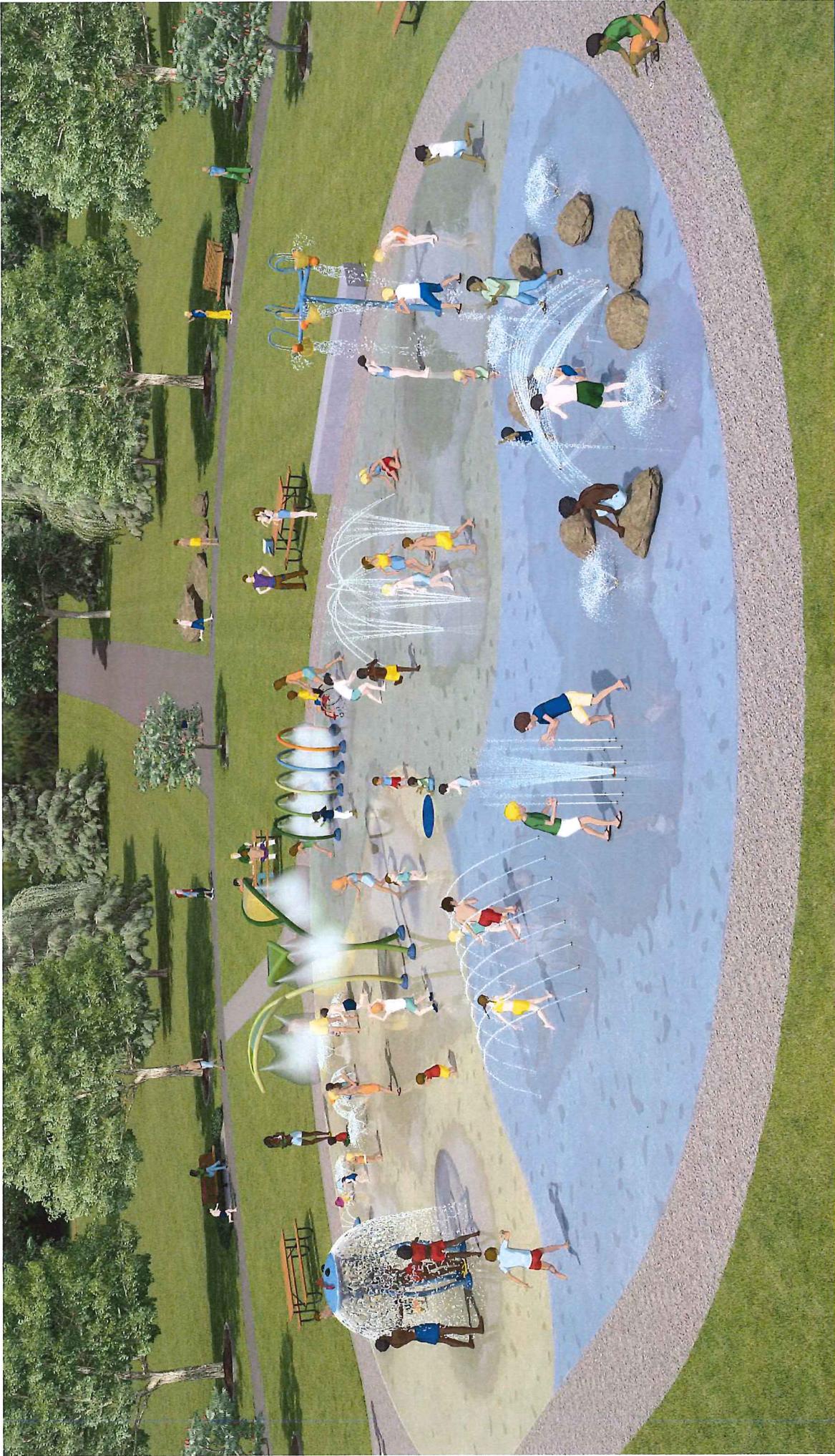
Groff Park Playground
Amherst, MA



GROFF PARK WATER FEATURES



Groff Park Playground
Amherst, MA



SPLASHPAD®
VIEW 1

AMHERST GROFF PARK SPLASHPAD, MA
Version B - 30380



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