

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 1

Questionnaires Mailed

Total Mailing	1449
Date	4/22/2005
Responses	127
Rate	8.8%

# Streets in Mailing	66
# Streets Responded	41

Number of responses that focus only on one of the 2 parks

One Park	48
Both Parks	79

37.8%

127

Section 1: Personal Profile

How long have you lived at this location?

0-5 yrs	33
6-10 yrs	19
11-20 yrs	21
over 20 yrs	51
Blank	3

26.6%

15.3%

16.9%

41.1%

127

How many people are in your household?

HH Size	Response
1	23
2	37
3	26
4	30
5	5
6	5

Avg. HH Size	2.78
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Are there people under age 18 in your household?

Under 18	Response
Yes	54
No	73

42.5%

127

If yes, please indicate the age brackets: (check all that apply)

Age Groups	Response
0-4 yrs	22
5-9 yrs	21
10-14 yrs	12
15-18 yrs	8

How many people over age 65 live in your household?

Elderly	Response
1	25
2	19

34.6%

44

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 2

Section 2: Park Usership Information

Approximately how often do you visit these parks (non-winter times)?

Stearns Park

Often: 3 or more times a week	22	21.4%
1-2 times a week	14	13.6%
1-2 times a month	9	8.7%
Occasionally: 3+ times a year	25	24.3%
Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less	33	32.0%
No response	24	
127		

Pellegrini Park

Often: 3 or more times a week	25	21.4%
1-2 times a week	18	15.4%
1-2 times a month	16	13.7%
Occasionally: 3+ times a year	25	21.4%
Rarely: 1-2 times a year or less	33	28.2%
No response	10	
127		

What activities do you and your family engage in most often at these parks?

Stearns Park

Baseball/Softball	13	6.4%
Chess/Checkers		0.0%
Events/Festivals	11	5.4%
Other: Bocce, Biking, Dog Walking, Whiffleball	6	2.9%
Outdoor Basketball	22	10.8%
Passive Recreation	31	15.2%
Pick-up sports	11	5.4%
Picnics	9	4.4%
Playground & Swings	39	19.1%
Tennis	21	10.3%
Walking/Jogging	41	20.1%
total uses 204		

Pellegrini Park

Baseball/Softball	8	3.5%
Events/Festivals	51	22.5%
Indoor Basketball	6	2.6%
Indoor Volleyball	1	0.4%
Other: Voting, Play Games, Dog Walking, Scooter, General Gym Use, Biking	8	3.5%
Outdoor Basketball	12	5.3%
Passive Recreation	24	10.6%
Pick-up sports	11	4.8%
Picnics	15	6.6%
Playground & Swings	44	19.4%
Soccer	4	1.8%
Tennis	11	4.8%
Walking/Jogging	32	14.1%
total uses 227		

How do you and your family typically travel to the park? (check all that apply)

Stearns Park

	Freq.	Occ.	Nev.
Walk	83.8%	13.7%	2.5%
Bike	26.3%	42.1%	31.6%
Drive	25.6%	43.6%	30.8%

Pellegrini Park

	Freq.	Occ.	Nev.
Walk	82.0%	14.6%	3.4%
Bike	19.0%	52.4%	28.6%
Drive	23.5%	45.1%	31.4%

How do you rate your satisfaction with these parks in fulfilling your recreational needs?

Stearns Park

Overall Satisfaction	5.9
Safety & Security	6.27
Accessibility & Mobility	6.91
Maintenance & Condition	4.58

Pellegrini Park

Overall Satisfaction	6.7
Safety & Security	6.88
Accessibility & Mobility	7.52
Maintenance & Condition	5.85

Would you be interested in joining a neighborhood group "Friends of Stearns Parks" or "Friends of Pellegrini Park"?

Stearns Park

Answer	Response	
Maybe	13	18.3%
No	42	59.2%
Yes	16	22.5%
Blank	56	
127		

Pellegrini Park

Answer	Response	
Maybe	21	24.4%
No	48	55.8%
Yes	17	19.8%
Blank	41	
127		

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 4

Section 4: Improvement Ideas

For each of the parks, please choose the items that need the most improvement: (choose 3)

Stearns Park

Accessibility:	12	6.6%
Courts:	15	8.2%
Landscaping & Beautification	47	25.7%
Parking/Bike Facilities	6	3.3%
Playfields: baseball, etc.	19	10.4%
Playgrounds:	24	13.1%
Security:	24	13.1%
Site Equipment:	8	4.4%
User Equipment:	28	15.3%

Pellegrini Park

Accessibility:	10	5.0%
Courts:	13	6.5%
Fieldhouse/Gymnasium	12	6.0%
Landscaping & Beautification	45	22.5%
Parking/Bike Facilities	7	3.5%
Playfields: baseball, etc.	22	11.0%
Playgrounds:	30	15.0%
Security:	20	10.0%
Site Equipment:	5	2.5%
User Equipment:	36	18.0%

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Section 3: Other Park Usership Information

Other park comments

better equipment for 7+ kids
Better walking
bike paths, kayaking, hiking trails
Cleaner, no trash or glass
Different equipment at Albemarle Field
different equipment- shade- better taken care of- no trash around
Different levels of equipment- preschool (1-2 yrs) (2-4 yrs) (over 4 yrs)
Fishing, quiet time
foam soft mat for ground cover & picnic tables
Have a path to walk or run
Horace Mann has a wonderful play area, various equipment, fenced-in tot lot, near Albemarle pool
I walk along the River about once a week
more equipment for kids
more to play on for all ages
Much safer for my kids
My child is a monkey-bar acrobat.
My kids are getting too big for tot lot
Newer, cleaner, safer surface- not the terrible woodchips used everywhere in Newton
older children's equipment
other basketball courts, more open space
park on Watertown St just over Newton line- better equipment (How about that at good old Stearns)
playgrounds and parks are more attractive and have greater variety
Please fix up Boyd Park- Thanks.
Pool, water sprinklers, foliage
rubber flooring. Equipment newer & safer
Safety
soccer games
Soft ground in play area
sprinkler parks in Waltham and Watertown
Tennis
Tennis courts
The condition of Carr School is a disgrace.
The park on Watertown St was well rehabbed.
Water facilities
Also, in summer, fountains or water showers are available.
great equipment for toddlers & school age children
More age equipment to choose from
more children at site which daughter prefers
Newer, better- ground is rubberized, cleaner
newer, sponge ground
soft ruberr padding (as opposed to wood chips)
Some newer equipment. Nicer people & better behavior. Stearns Park needs more security- has more teen problems
The soccer net is too close to my house and the ball hits my house- it should be moved.
When we have little children visit, we go to the Horace Mann playground. It would be great to have that sort of facilities here.
Other parks seem to benefit from greater attention to maintenance! Clearly, Stearns Park warrants merely reluctant, meager attention from the City
The playground equipment is more challenging for older children
The playground equipment is safer, more appealing

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Soft rubber tarp- cleaner & softer than chips in preschool area
Cleaner and more green- homes not so close to play areas

Section 4: Improvement Ideas

What equipment and/or activities do you consider to be working well that need little or no improvement?

Basketball, baseball and children's play areas
Children's equipment
Children's play area
Children's swings
Don't use either park
Everything in each park needs some improvement
I like the basketball court at Stearns
infant swings & tot lot
Jungle gym
Pass by Stearns everyday. Seems well attended.
Play area
Play structures
Playground
playground
Playground equipment
Preschool equipment
Soccer games, high school games, playground
Some of my children went to Stearns School when it was used.
Sometimes I want to rake the leaves.
Swings
swings, benches
Swings, play structures
Tennis & benches in upper section of Stearns and baseball in lower section
Tennis nets at Pellegrini
The playground equipment is in good condition
The tot lot is adequate but more interesting equipment and better fencing would be a great help.
Tot lot
Tot lot swings work well with the kids.
Playground area
The children's play equipment is all in good working order, it just needs to be more challenging, more appealing to children 4+

What equipment and/or activities are NOT working well that need improvement? What suggestions do you have for improvement?

More swings & bigger kid playground equipment
Stearns- needs work- fix equipment. Sewer problems at Pellegrini- rain backs up into the gym. Toilets overflow- needs work.
Surface Areas
Tennis & children's equipment
Equipment at Pellegrini could use updating although the children do love it. I would like to see different ground cover- not bark mulch/wood chips. Would like to see a softer mat type of ground cover.
Pellegrini could use a better or full basketball court. The one hoop they have gets a lot of use and the pavement is in bad condition.
New swings
Ball fields, lighting
Parks are for children, need more for youngsters age 2-9. Don't let any vehicles, cars, trucks park or ride on grassy areas.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Swimming pool
The play lot at Pellegrini is not safe for tots. I bring my kids there a lot but only let them use the swings- not the play yard.
Swings
Nothing
Wading pool. If you can't use it for children, put a fountain on it for a relaxing spot
Stearns: basketball court is old; tot lot is so-so; everything else needs improvement. Pellegrini: field is kept up due to league play; gym is old, rundown & bathrooms. Both parks: water bubblers do not work, please fix.
Mulch chips are terrible. They get into sandals and toddlers put into mouths. Not clean. Many times I have found broken beer bottles in the mulch chips and near swings. Parks should be kept clean weekly.
Stearns: Water fountain needs work- also the sun roof. The softball/baseball field needs to be leveled. The field has too many bumps that cause the ball to take odd hops. Also kids running could twist an ankle.
Stearns needs more teen control. More equipment for 7+ kids. Teen baseball becomes dangerous to smaller kids and adults. No mopeds- minimotorcycles. Better traffic control- i.e. stop people from racing down Jasset St at 50+mph. More patrolling and/or
The tennis courts at Stearns is a joke- no one uses it. It is a waste.
Some of the lights at Stearns Park are out along the walking path. The bulbs need to be replaced. Tennis courts need to be better cleaned
The Pellegrini field is in terrible shape. It is beaten down, grass is terrible. But as long as it is ruined every year by the carnival, any money the City puts into it will be wasted. The carnival should pay to have the field restored every year. I c
infant pool never has water or is accessible to children
Stearns needs more toddler activities in addition to preschool equipment. Safety harnesses needed on all swings
See-saw (needs to be raised up to right level)
Dog droppings- the signs do not work
Better grass, better kept tennis court. Better lighting at night in field.
Swings have ruts under them
Playground area, tennis court & gate
The sprinkler pool at Pellegrini looks dangerous and I've never seen it on.
Softball field
Tennis courts at Stearns need remodeling
New to neighborhood- don't use parks
New grass, trash receptacles
Some playground equipment could be changed or updated
Activities for seniors- arts, crafts, exercising- these were cut for this area. The gym needs improvements.
Stearns Park needs new overhang by tables- rusty! Pellegrini needs pool area to be closed in-dangerous for little ones.
I'm not sure, but you should check.
toilet facilities- people will use the bushes
Keep clean
Gate on tot lot needs to be repaired. Baseball field needs improvement badly. Sun roof needs repair
Cleanliness of park & maintenance of equipment.
Lighting- need additional lighting at top of park
Tennis courts at Stearns
Tennis courts in Stearns Park desparately need repaving. The roof of the covered seating area needs replacement. One basketball rim needs to be replaced.
At Stearns, need more picnic benches & trash barrels, more lighting for evening
Swings need updating and we could use additional swings. Additional items for small children ages 1-3.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

New structures, new sponge ground, more challenging structures for 6-8 yr olds
The tennis courts need to be taken care of and free of pet poop, debris, etc. The seat & tables need TLC.
Basketball used sometimes until 11pm-2am. Very annoying for Jasset St residents. Residents must often close windows to drown out basketballs.
Complete new play equipment appropriate for toddlers. More frequent cleaning and litter removal. Lots of glass shards can be found in grassy areas.
Just needs to be cleaner
Tennis courts need much improvement
Too much dust
More playground equipment for both parks, sandboxes
Redo tennis courts at Stearns
The road needs the holes filled in. They are very dangerous to drive on- which causes problems for everyone
All
The tennis courts at Stearns need to be resurfaced. I am so pleased to have the tennis courts right behind my house. The crack in the nets is hard to use. I am seeing more families on the courts. I am hoping the courts will receive some attention during the improvement phase.
The wood chips have to go. The small babies are always trying to eat them and the older children just get filthy playing in them. The playing field is in terrible shape (Pellegrini).
Honestly, I would rather see housing in both parks- kids have school play areas to go to or Albemarle Playground, Charles River, etc.

Are there any activities or pieces of equipment that you feel are unused, inappropriate, or redundant and should be removed completely to make room for other things or for more open space?

Basketball court. Forte Park has an exceptional double court with lights, parking & no residential homes.
Chess board at Stearns should be either repaired or removed.
Children's equipment
Equipment should be age appropriate. Equipment should be for small toddlers and older children.
Fenced-in pool- is it ever used?
I think the blue tot lot should be replaced.
No more Elvis Day or carnival that comes in July- they tear up the field
None
None
Nothing
Nothing
Pool at Pellegrini- remove it or at the very least lock gates so children cannot get in there.
Pool never used for children- just sits there.
Remove the carnival- it destroys the park, then the fields could be restored.
splash pool at Pellegrini- if we are not able to use space- it could be used for other equipment
Stearns: No, maybe the sunroof if it is not painted, repaired or replaced.
Tennis courts at Stearns.
The chess/checker tables in Stearns Park are not used and are in ill-repair. Some of the park benches are peeling and splintered and need to be replaced or repaired.
The rocking things don't seem to be used. Another see-saw would be nice. The wood chips are horrible.
The Stearns baseball field used to be used frequently but it is old and rundown now, grass is overgrown, no dirt on infield
Water area should be removed- it's a hazard to small children.
Pellegrini is open field- convenient for circus but nothing else.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

What else would you like to see added or changed that would make your park experience more enjoyable and would encourage people to use the parks more?

Updated equipment and nice landscaping
A bigger structure like the one at Boyd Park. There is a structure for the younger kids and one for the older kids.
Groom the back area
More senior friendly. Stearns Park has no sanitary facilities. Need bocce alleys.
Updated children's equipment
At Pellegrini- combine the playground with the swings into one fenced-in area. Get rid of the pool.
Stearns is not well maintained. I use this park daily with daycare children. I have to clean up trash every time.
More tables and chairs. A bocce court would be nice.
Beautifying will make them inviting and keep families in our neighborhoods. Grass, flowers, benches, etc. needed at both. More visitors lowers vandalism and destruction.
New flag pole with plantings, Signage re: dog use, information on using parks for family functions/resident use; more seating by tot lot & park
Comfortable benches
More seating areas
More seating, better upkeep of ball fields, better landscape
A safe structure for children to run, slide down and play on, for young children. I would like to see Pellegrini more "tot" friendly. There are a lot of little ones in the area who would use it more if it was safe.
Have games you can play indoors- not just basketball.
Water activities
Pellegrini basketball court should not be in parking lot. Play structure for older kids (11-18). Monkey bars. More swings. More pavement for biking, rollerblading, etc.
It would be nice to see the children's area have the cushion ground put on versus the wood chips.
More sitting
I wish it had an outdoor track for walking or jogging. This would attract older neighbors.
Better or improved tennis courts
Working water bubblers at all parks, especially for those hot humid days! Please check the water content also.
Clean & safe equipment
Stearns: Fix the ball field at Stearns Park! Could be a great softball field. Nice place to watch a game. Field needs improvement. Paint the backstop.
Concerts- live music at Magni Coletti
Better maintenance.
Some landscaping, planting of flowers would make it more attractive. Some flower beds.
Parks should all be more dog friendly. More trash containers are needed, especially on the Newton side of the Charles River Reservation. One of the things I love most about Newton is all the parks!
When our children were little, we would go to the park a lot, like once a week, although the facilities were very limited. We helped build the Horace Mann playground and a facility like that would be very nice here.
More picnic spaces and activities that we could bring our kids /grandkids to- like readings or puppet shows
Fill the concrete pool with sand at Pellegrini- would make great play area. Need more benches for seniors.
More trees & less concrete or crushed rock, more grass.
In Pellegrini, a track would be great. Just something paved around the park.
playground cleanup, dog dumping cleanup, add bike trail
Pellegrini needs benches inside tot lot. The wood chips need to be replenished or replaced with rubberized flooring. The wading pool needs to be redone and used or just taken out.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Sections 3 & 4- Qualitative

Place for skateboarding. More basketball hoops
Better landscaping, cleanliness and improved picnic facilities
Better lighting
I believe the space for the child wade pool could be changed into a water spray park similar to the parks that have been constructed in Waltham
Walking around the park
Infant seats for swing. Infant toys.
I'd like to see the ending of the meetings/discussion every single year on the carnival at Pellegrini. It's only once a year- for the ones opposed- let them go away on vacation or something!
It's a lovely park and my late father-in-law, who came to Newton in 1903, told me old man Stearns left the money for school and playground. My kids went to school there so did their late Father Robert Tocci.
More climbing structures & slides. More benches for parents. A better water fountain.
It's nice now, too residential to expand services much more
benches to sit on to watch soccer games
Keep lit and open longer
Removing the wood-like chips on play lot and adding a padded surface which some parks have. How about that in Nonantum?
Have grounds maintained better. Newton parks in other areas are much better maintained
Updated equipment, rubber surface, water park
All of the walkways need to be repaved and the dirt pathway by the baseball field needs to be paved.
A few tables and benches. Some evening lighting
sprinkler park please
Work out gear- for step ups, chin ups and the like. Moms can get a workout while the kids play. The Pellegrini Fieldhouse needs staff to run events and activities.
More police patrol. Teen gangs converge in the warm months and deter others from going into playground (especially in evenings).
More picnic tables. Nicer trash receptacles. Sponge/rubber surface beneath play equipment
More park benches
There is a pile of old wood, plastic tubs, old hoses, etc along the back fence of Stearns. Despite calls, this pile of trash has never been removed.
Larger toddler playground with safe ground covering
Sustained level of maintenance and cleanliness that is clearly absent today
Please renovate or put up an aesthetically appealing sitting area (i.e. next to basketball area) (at or near the telephone box on the other end near Faxon). People who work nearby or work trucks get lunch and eat at the picnic bench and always leave a mess.
Trash receptacles, plantings
More picnic tables. Seating for adults. There is that huge spread of gravel area that is completely unused 99% of the time- so much potential.
There is no atmosphere at Pellegrini. Stearns is better with some trees and shade but too much housing nearby.

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 3

Section 3: Other Park Usership Information

Neighborhood Parks	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely
Forte Park	10	15	26
Magni-Coletti Park	16	21	26
Boyd Park (behind Lincoln-Eliot School)	12	21	32
Charles River Reservation	23	22	22
Parks Outside my Neighborhood	Visit Frequently	Visit Occasionally	Visit Rarely
see below for other parks	23	31	9

Park Names

Albemarle
Albemarle, Cabot
Albemarle/Horace Mann
Albemarle, Newton Centre, Watertown parks
Cabot Park, Burr Park
Cabot woods, Edmunds Park
Carr School, Albermarle, Burr
Casey Park in Watertown
Castle Island
Cold Spring Park
Cold Spring, Cabot
Ecco Bridge
Edmunds Park, Cabot Woods
Halloran/Albemarle
Homer St Park, Watertown parks
Horace Mann
Horace Mann, Watertown St Park
Horace Mann, Watertown Street park
Needham Center Park, Albemarle Park
Newton Centre, Underwood School, Albemarle
Newton North, Warren
Norumbega
Parker Park
Parker School
Underwood School, Parker School, Watertown Street in Watertown
Victory Field Playground
Walden Pond
Watertown St park
Watertown St park in Watertown
Watertown, Cambridge
Watertown- Casey
Wellington Playground, NCSC/Davis Playground

Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park Questionnaire Results: Section 3

What are the main reasons for visiting parks outside of your neighborhood? (please check up to 3 reasons)

Better quality equipment	28	18.2%
Convenience	12	7.8%
Different equipment and/or activities	36	23.4%
Organized sports	19	12.3%
Special events	21	13.6%
Visiting friends and family	24	15.6%
Other:	14	9.1%

Reasons
other: Bigger space
Other: different scenery, plus Cabot Woods has hills- better for working out
other: for walking & exercise
other: Long walks
other: Ocean
other: quieter, more peaceful, & nature friendly
other: to walk, picnic & read quietly
other: walking with dog
other: walks
Other: Availability of basketball or tennis facilities
other: more security
other: quieter atmosphere
other: walking trails