



City of Beverly, Massachusetts

PRESS RELEASE

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BEVERLY RECEIVES \$300,000 GRANT TO IMPROVE PETE'S PARK

BEVERLY – The City of Beverly was recently awarded a \$300,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant from the Baker-Polito Administration to revitalize a special playground and park on Middlebury Lane. Formerly Longfellow Playground, it was renamed Pete's Park in 2015 in honor of Pete Frates, a Beverly native and ALS activist who is known as the man who helped launch the Ice Bucket Challenge.

Beverly Mayor Michael Cahill commented, "Thanks to the Baker-Polito Administration for this fantastic grant award. These funds will allow us to build Pete's Park, fulfilling Pete Frates' vision to provide complete playground accessibility to all kids in Beverly and throughout the region. We are especially excited to honor Beverly's own Pete Frates who continues to demonstrate incredible courage and strength in his effort to strike out ALS."

When completed, the site will be transformed into an all-inclusive, multi-use, integrated park and playground that is compliant with the ADA's (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards of accessible design. Fundraising efforts for this massive park renovation have been ongoing for a number of years. This latest grant award brings the City of Beverly one step closer to making the vision a reality.

Courtney Melei, close friend of the Frates family and Chair of the Friends of Pete's Park committee is thrilled. "We are honored to be one of the seven communities in Massachusetts chosen to receive funding from the LWCF. This has been the result of a lot of hard work, dedication and collaboration among the City of Beverly, the Pete's Park Committee, the Frates family and the overwhelming support of our community. More than anything, I am proud that we will be breaking ground soon on a new park worthy of Pete's name. It is my sincere hope that he and Lucy will be playing there this summer".

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Director Bruce Doig added, "A lot of people have worked hard for the past few years to plan, raise funds and increase awareness about this critical project. With this generous grant, we now have the resources to begin converting a park with limited accessibility into a totally ADA compliant playground with many accessible resources for people of all abilities to enjoy."

"The award of this grant from the LWCF is a direct result of the hard work of the Pete's Park Committee, the continued and appreciated support of our family by the State House and the Commonwealth and the amazing promise of a community park that will be all inclusive, extraordinarily inspiring and a legacy to a young man from Beverly who showed us all that when handed an unimaginable challenge in life, you dig down deep and change the world, our son, Pete Frates," said Nancy Frates, mother of Pete Frates.

To learn more about Pete's Park and the vision for the project, go to www.petespark.org. Those interested in donating can visit www.gofundme.com/petespark or mail a check payable to "Friends of Beverly Recreation" to the following address: Pete's Park, 13 Middlebury Lane, Beverly, MA 01915. (Checks should be marked as 'Pete's Park' in the memo line.) The Friends of Beverly Recreation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization, donations are tax deductible.