

# THE BALLARDVALE GAZETTE

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NEWSLETTER OF THE BALLARDVALE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

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Vol. 9, No. 1

BallardVale , Massachusetts

March 2009

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## Playground Master Plan

In an agreement with Bill Perkins, developer of BallardVale Crossing, a limited and specific amount of money set aside from the sale of units in the Chapter 40B BallardVale Crossing project, constructed adjacent to the MBTA tracks in BallardVale center, would be earmarked toward much-needed improvements to the local playground

At the February 4th meeting of the BallardVale Historic District Commission, a second meeting was held to discuss proposed changes and improvements to the BallardVale playground. Landscape architect and BallardVale resident Chris Huntress (principal of Huntress Associates) presented drawings and plans to Commission members and others in attendance. The proposal was a thoughtful and well-considered plan developed by Huntress with input from local residents and town officials. The playground currently has a small ball field, an area with playing equipment such as slides and swings, a basketball court and picnic tables. The master plan designed and proposed by Huntress - and shown on pages 2-3 of the Gazette - builds upon and enhances the current features while adding much-needed parking and accessibility.

Components of the master plan include: renovation of the ball field and addition of a backstop and protective baseline fencing; a fenced "tot lot" play area for 2-5 year olds; a play area with structures for 5-12 year olds; renovation of the current paved space to include a half-court basketball area, 4-square and hopscotch. In addition, twelve parking spaces, two of which are handicap-designated, have

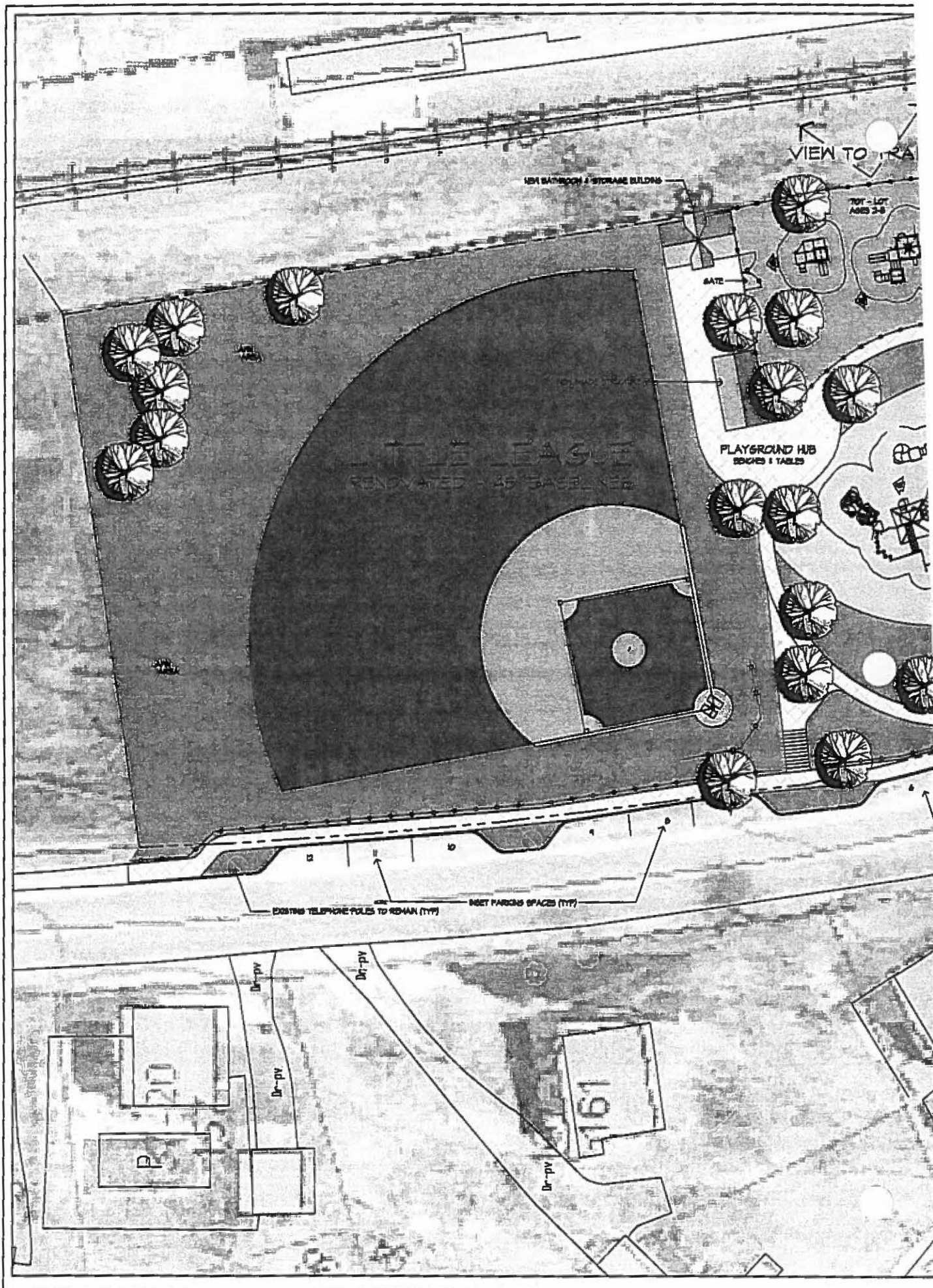
been added in the master plan. A main "gateway" located at the southern end, and an alternate entrance at the ball field, provide entry to the playground. A paved walkway around the central playground hub allows for accessibility and visibility to all of the play areas at one time.

Justin Coppola, Sr., Chair of Andover's Commission on Disability and Lauro Ruiz from Andover Little League, both present at the meeting, as well as Commission members were supportive of the proposed improvements to the playground, and grateful for Huntress' time and effort in creating the plan.

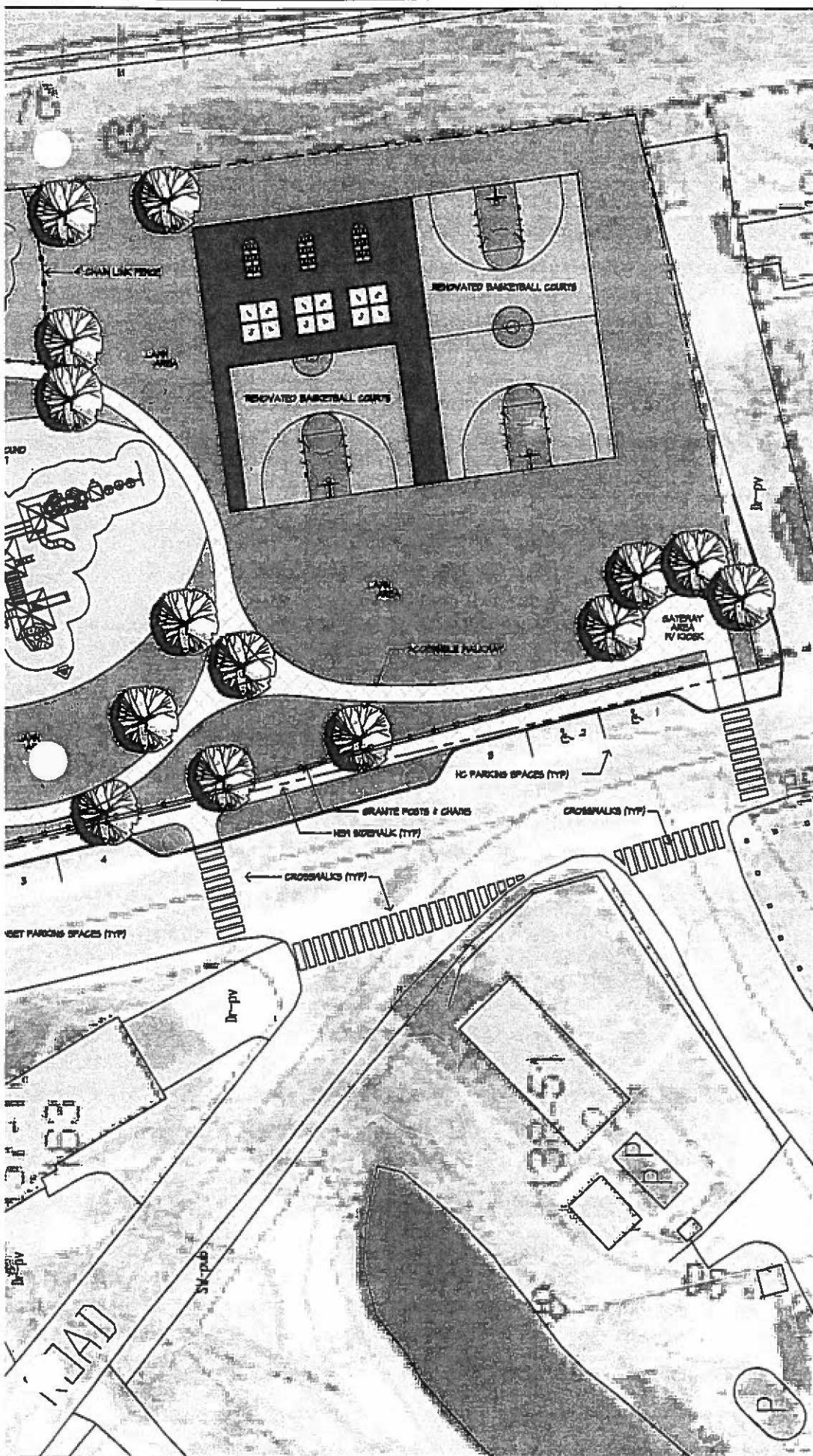
Execution of the improvements will be challenging in the current economic climate. While money promised from the BallardVale Crossing development is available to be spent, a significant amount of additional funds will be needed to complete the project. A phased implementation is likely. No date has been set for a meeting to discuss additional design ideas, costs and funding strategies.

There has been some interest in adding a link to the BallardVale Historic District portion of the Andover Historic Preservation website ---

<http://www.mhl.org/historicpreservation/> --- that would provide a draft of the master plan and up-to-date information on the progress of the project. If you are interested in the playground improvement project, and have not received emails of previous meeting dates, please contact Diane Derby at [derby01@comcast.net](mailto:derby01@comcast.net) for notification of future meetings and website availability.







Huntress Associates, Inc.

Landscape Architecture & Land Planning

17 Tewksbury Street  
Andover, Massachusetts 01810  
978 470 8882 FAX 978 470 8890

Project:

# BallardVale Playground

BallardVale, Massachusetts

Drawing Title:

## CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Revision \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Scale: 1" = 50'  
Date: MARCH 2004  
Job: 01-123  
File: PR-MP  
Drawn: CCH  
Checked: —

Drawing No.

**L-1**

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# BallardVale Historic District Commission

*Andover Town Offices  
36 Bartlet Street  
Andover, MA 01810*

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## Window Repair Class

The North Bennet Street School is offering a 2-day wooden window sash restoration class at its Arlington location. The class will be held on Friday and Saturday, June 12-13, 2009. Please visit [www.nbss.org](http://www.nbss.org) or call 617-227-0155 for more information.

## CALENDAR

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|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Apr. 1 (Wednesday)</b>  | <b>BallardVale Historic District Commission</b> monthly meeting<br>Town Offices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| <b>May 6 (Wednesday)</b>   | <b>BallardVale Historic District Commission</b> monthly meeting<br>Town Offices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| <b>May 26 and 27</b>       | (Tuesday and Wednesday) <b>Annual Town Meeting</b><br>Andover High School Field House – 7:00 pm                                   |
| <b>May 28 if necessary</b> | (Thursday) <b>Annual Town Meeting</b><br>Andover High School Collins Center – 7:00 pm   |
| <b>June 3 (Wednesday)</b>  | <b>BallardVale Historic District Commission</b> monthly meeting<br>Town Offices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| <b>July 1 (Wednesday)</b>  | <b>BallardVale Historic District Commission</b> monthly meeting<br>Town Offices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |
| <b>Aug. 5 (Wednesday)</b>  | <b>BallardVale Historic District Commission</b> monthly meeting<br>Town Offices – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room – 7:00 pm |