

L A T C H S T R I N G P A R K

YARMOUTH, MAINE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why renovate Latchstring Park?

The park has long been neglected and is currently more parking lot than park. In its existing condition and configuration, it is unsightly and unsafe for pedestrian passage; it is also not an inviting environment for people to gather. Improving Latchstring Park meets the policy objectives expressed in both the Comprehensive Plan and the Open Space Plan. Additionally, reducing the impervious surface contributes to a reduction of heat island effect in this important Main Street location, a space where people walk and gather, in close proximity to a nursing home population; all vulnerable to increasing high summer temperatures. The renovation will result in an increase in the usable area of the park, reduce the amount of impervious surface, and shift the usable space to the rear of the park away from the noise and traffic along Main Street. The renovation provides a permanent solution to the cut through traffic in the parking lot that had been a chronic problem until the town installed temporary barriers along Patty Lane.

What will this campaign fund?

We have committed to designing, renovating and maintaining the Latchstring Park without impact to the town budget. Our goal has been to raise the necessary funds for complete renovation and ongoing maintenance. Funding will replace a neglected, inefficient space by creating a vibrant, warm and welcoming park accessible to people of all ages and abilities, while establishing more efficient parking for patrons of neighboring businesses.

Will the traffic pattern be changed?

No. Patty Lane will remain two-way traffic, with recommended pedestrian and bicycle lanes. The entrance at W Main will meet town standards to accommodate entering and exiting vehicles, including emergency services. The curb cut on W Elm will be eliminated to allow for the shift of parking and increased green space.

Will there be parking?

Yes. Throughout the design process, considerable effort was made to meet the need for improving the park while retaining and enhancing the available parking. Currently, of the 15 spaces, only seven are two hour spots available to patrons of Main Street businesses. The plan includes 11 two hour spots, one of which is handicap accessible, all available for people using the park or neighboring businesses.

Who created the park design?

Collaboration through public meetings involved the community, town officials, Latchstring award winners, the Task Force, and most importantly Josh Tompkins. A licensed Landscape Architect in the state of Maine, he holds fifteen years of experience with a diversity of project types ranging from private gardens to public parks. Josh read about our efforts in the initial Forecaster article and reached out to help; he lives in Yarmouth and owns a small practice in town.

Will there still be a holiday tree?

Yes. We will have the opportunity for an illuminated, seasonal tree in the middle of the lawn space, the trunk secured in a small recessed chamber.

What are the options for making a gift and donating to this effort?

Glad you asked! Donations can be made to the Town of Yarmouth, with designation to Latchstring Park. Cash, checks or credit cards are accepted and you may donate in person, online, or via mail. You may also donate from a retirement fund, or through our non-profit partner Frank Knight Foundation. For more information please see How to Give.

Will donors be recognized?

Yes. All donors, unless anonymous, will be recognized for their contributions and will receive a letter of acknowledgment for their tax-deductible contribution.