



Madison

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Benefits Greatly Outweigh the Cost

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Madison Youth Football (MYF) would like to express its support for the development of a new town park at Griswold Airport. We understand that there would be a \$50 to \$60 annual property tax increase per household and we are sensitive to that fact, but MYF believes that the benefits to the townspeople greatly outweigh the cost.

We support the development of the park for the reasons below.

It would decrease overuse damage to our current fields. A quick walk through the Exchange complex will alert any fair-minded citizen that several of our fields are suffering greatly from overuse. Most shoreline towns have the ability to "rest" fields during the season to give field repairs time to take hold. Madison Youth Football practices almost 200 players aged 9 to 14 in an area slightly larger than a single football field. By mid-season the field is hardened, dusty, and in many areas without grass. The risk of injury is increased as the field deteriorates and the dust is unhealthy for everyone involved, but especially for those children with asthma.

Griswold would offer a town park for all citizens. Only 20 to 30 percent of the Griswold acreage would be used for town fields, leaving the vast majority of the property supporting other non-youth sport activities.

It would allow preservation of the coastal region. Imagine driving down Route 1 and looking at more than 120 private homes when we could have preserved the coastal region for generations to come.

We are sensitive to opposing viewpoints, but MYF would like to strongly support the development of a town park as opposed to a 127- unit residential development. Let's not let this opportunity pass us by.

Jeff Richard
2009 MYF President
Madison

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