

**Riley, Kate**

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**From:** Ginger Ryan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2019 1:56 PM  
**To:** Riley, Kate  
**Cc:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Tobin/Vassal School Plans

Dear City Manager DePasquale and Ms Riley:

All three proposed plans for the new Tobin School have eliminated the Tobin Recreational Park at a time when we should be preserving open green space in our city.

Recent [research](#) has highlighted the importance of green space to the mental and physical well-being of our residents, particularly our children. Given that the school will be expanded to accommodate more students, maintaining green space will be even more crucial. Seven of our 12 elementary schools have no adjacent green space to play in. Children are spending less and less time outside in unstructured play so crucial to their intellectual and emotional development. Keeping the park's separate baseball and soccer fields are vital to already limited field access across the city.

Our city is growing increasingly crowded. Our tree canopy has shrunk significantly. Trees and green infrastructure mitigate flooding and extreme heat – the two consequences of a warming climate that Cambridge will face. More stories on a building to accommodate a larger student population and allowing for more thoughtfully landscaped green space is a more sustainable solution than eliminating the Tobin Recreational Park.

I urge you to maintain the Tobin Recreational Park, an invaluable community asset of 3.4 acres of open green space,

Respectfully,

Ginger Ryan, LICSW  
[REDACTED]