Rice Recreation Complex
Community Playground

"The playground, instead of telling the child what to do, becomes a place for endless exploration, of endless opportunity for changing play." ~ Isamu Noguchi

- Fully funded by the Community Preservation Act
- Playground for ages 2 - 12 year old and beyond
- Exciting play space for children of all ages and abilities (ADA compliant)
- Built to last for 20+ years by Kompan Playground Equipment
- Open concept encouraging free play and high visibility
- Playground has been an important element to the original plan and design approved by Wrentham residents since its inception
- Rice Recreation Complex is currently visited by over 20,000 people annually

The Recreation Commission is dedicated to making the Rice Recreation Complex your COMMUNITY destination.

Our job is to encourage, promote, endorse and deliver recreation for all ages!
Rice Recreation Complex Community Playground proposal has been endorsed 7-0 by the CPC (Community Preservation Commission) and placed on the town warrant for 2/3 vote at November 4th Town Meeting. The financing of this $445,315 playground will be funded 100% with CPA funds.

Community Preservation funds are the people’s money

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. CPA also helps strengthen the state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the Commonwealth’s workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth’s historic and natural resources.

CPA allows communities to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. To date, 175 municipalities in the state have adopted CPA; Wrentham approved the CPA in November 2016 by a wide margin in a town-wide election.

Each CPA community creates a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) upon adoption of the Act, and this five-to-nine member board makes recommendations on CPA projects to the community’s legislative body.

Property taxes traditionally fund the day-to-day operating needs of safety, health, schools, roads, maintenance, and more. But until CPA was enacted, there was no steady funding source for preserving and improving a community’s character and quality of life. The Community Preservation Act gives a community the funds needed to control its future.

Why Rice Recreation Complex Community Playground qualifies for CPA funding

In the summer of 2012, the Community Preservation Act (CPA) was amended by the state legislature to allow broader uses of CPA funds on recreational projects. These changes to CPA allowed communities, for the first time, to rehabilitate their existing recreational lands and outdoor recreational facilities with CPA funds. Prior to this, only recreational lands and facilities that had been acquired or created with CPA funds could be rehabilitated with CPA funds. In just the first year after the change, CPA communities approved over $42 million in spending on recreational projects.

“Recreational use” is further defined, in this same section, as follows:

“Recreational use”, active or passive recreational use including, but not limited to, the use of land for community gardens, trails, and noncommercial youth and adult sports, and the use of land as a park, playground or athletic field. “Recreational use” shall not include horse or dog racing or the use of land for a stadium, gymnasium or similar structure.

Community Preservation Committee

The Community Preservation Committee shall make recommendations to Town Meeting for the acquisition, creation and preservation of open space; for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of historic resources; for the acquisition, creation, preservation, rehabilitation and restoration of property for recreational use; for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of community housing; and for the rehabilitation or restoration of open space and community housing that is acquired or created as provided in this section. With respect to community housing, the Committee shall recommend, wherever possible, the reuse of existing buildings or construction of new buildings on previously developed sites.

The Community Preservation Committee may include, in its recommendation to the Town Meeting, a recommendation to set aside for later spending funds for specific purposes that are consistent with community preservation but for which sufficient revenues are not then available in the Community Preservation Fund to accomplish that specific purpose, or to set funds aside for later spending for general purposes that are consistent with community preservation. The Committee may recommend the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes in anticipation of revenues to be raised pursuant to the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act.

Understanding why CPC recommends bonding Rice Recreation Complex Community Playground

Many CPA communities are issuing bonds against their future CPA revenue stream in order to fund larger projects. In fact, over 79 communities have issued bonds for 182 different CPA projects, raising roughly $310 million through bonding (note: figures include projects approved through end of FY15).

The majority of these projects are open space projects, resulting in the protection of over 6,000 acres of open space. Many bonds have also been issued to fund projects in the other CPA categories, approximately $66 million for historic preservation, $15 million for community housing, and $22 million for recreation.

The authorization to bond CPA funds is in Section 11 of the Community Preservation Act (MGL C.44B) which states that CPA communities may issue general obligation bonds in anticipation of revenues to be raised through the local CPA surcharge.