

# Article 10 Recreational Improvements for Eldredge Park: \$850,000



# Building Facilities for Everyone

Recreational facilities at Eldredge Park play a vital role in the town of Orleans within walking distance to two schools, Snow Library, and downtown. The park supports active sports like tennis, baseball, soccer, and pickleball. It includes a toddler playground for families. Open spaces are ideal for concerts, exercise classes, flag football, or just tossing a frisbee around. But they aren't just about exercise. **Eldredge Park is an invaluable meeting place where neighbors of all ages, interests, and abilities can gather to play, spectate, learn, and grow.**

## Why does Eldredge Park Need Work?

A lot has changed since 1913 when “Win” Eldredge gave 4 acres of land to the town, “*In consideration of my affection for and interest in the young people of Orleans and my desire to provide a playground for them.*” Over the last two decades, only the baseball field, courtesy of the Orleans Firebirds baseball team, has seen substantial physical upgrades. The playground was built in the 1990s, the tennis courts before that. The property is not well lit by street lights.

In short, Eldredge Park is long overdue for a range of improvements. The playground equipment is mostly decades old and is not accessible or in compliance with State regulations. No basketball court exists. Pickleball is bursting at the seams and needs more facilities. The tennis courts have considerable cracking. In order to truly serve Orleans, an engineering design needs to be undertaken to plan what is possible with limited space.

## What events led the Town to this request?

In 2022, a recreational master study for Eldredge Park, the Nauset Regional Middle School, and the Elementary School was authorized to take a fresh look at how the three properties could be modified to better fit the outdoor recreational needs of Orleans. A diverse group of over a dozen stakeholders began their work to produce a cohesive plan.

The plan was completed in the fall of 2023 and rolled out to town and school groups, receiving broad support. It's an impressive vision of what recreational facilities could look like in the heart of Orleans. It lays out a five phased approach to completely renovate the current facilities, many of which are many decades old. This includes lights, access paths, new courts, new multi-sport fields, better parking, and a general vision for shared community use. Eldredge Park is phase one of the plan.

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## How would \$850,000 be spent at Eldredge Park?

1. Address immediate safety concerns and long term maintenance needs, including such projects as repairs to the tennis and pickleball courts and improving accessibility.
2. Hire a firm to provide a comprehensive engineering design to plan and estimate a range of projects.

If additional funds remain, some of the following could be built:

- A new playground that meets State requirements for accessibility, including new play equipment, a grassy area, shade structures, and circuit path for scooters.
- A new full sized basketball court with night lights.
- Rehabilitated tennis and pickleball facilities with a new backboard and better access.
- A new water line for hydration stations at key locations.
- New outdoor lighting to improve visibility for play areas and walking paths.

**Imagine working together as residents, neighbors, grandparents, parents, and friends to take that first step to plan and build a better recreational future for the children and adults of Orleans.**



## CONNECT

Visit the Town of Orleans Recreation Department to read the master plan.

Scan the QR Code



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