

## Hometown Weekly

November 7, 2013

By Josh Perry

# Playground Opens in the Heart of Needham

After more than a year of fundraising and organizing, the Greene's Field Playground Committee officially opened a new inclusive playground for the children of Needham with a ribbon cutting at the playground's downtown location last weekend.

According to organizer Alison Borrelli, the event was the culmination of a lot of hard work and a gratifying way to celebrate the achievement of the volunteers that made the playground renovation possible.

She said, "My favorite moment of the day was seeing the kids rush onto the field after Andy Shapiro and Ruth Bonsignore of the Kyle W. Shapiro Foundation cut the ribbon. Their smiles and cheers were worth all of the hard work."



*Andy Shapiro cuts the ribbon at Greene's Field. Andy and his wife Ruth were the Grand Sponsors. (Diane Thomas Hometown Weekly)*

Borrelli also added that it was the support of the community at the many fundraising events and throughout the year that led to the completed project. The spirit of community cooperation was at the heart of the project from the beginning.

“When we first sat around the table brainstorming about the renovation of the field, we were reminiscing about the old playground and how the community rallied around that project and actually built it,” said Borelli. “We wanted to have the same feeling of community and wanted to build that excitement again.”

She continued, “This rebuild was all about community and how everybody participated in some way.”

Children raced onto the playground after Sunday afternoon’s ribbon cutting ceremony to begin using the numerous slides and apparatus that have been installed. Borrelli, who admitted going back to the playground again the following day, was thrilled at the final result and the addition to Needham’s facilities for families and children.

“We have some great playgrounds for younger children in town and some excellent playgrounds at the elementary schools, but we were missing a central destination playground suitable for all ages. After watching children play at the playground for the past two days, it is clear that we accomplished our goal of building a destination playground in Needham Center for all ages.”