

MELROSE AVENUE ACCESS ROAD

Construction of a new access road via Melrose Avenue will provide a long-term solution for access to Sliney Fields and Foote Park. Current access to the Sliney Fields is via Sliney Road, which is owned and maintained by the Branford Housing Authority (“BHA”). This road also provides access to parking spaces for current Parkside Village residents. (Parkside Village is a community that provides affordable housing to those who can’t otherwise afford it.) The road was not designed to sustain the high frequency of vehicles that visit the recreation fields during the warmer months. The BHA also does not have the resources to maintain a Town access road.

During the demolition and reconstruction of Parkside Village, Sliney Road will not be available for use as a thoroughfare, and access to both Sliney Field and the parking will be cut off. This means that Sliney Field would be inaccessible. The Parkside Village parking access via this road would also be inaccessible, and would need to be relocated. Relocation of these parking spots would require the removal of large trees along Montowese Street.

Melrose Avenue offers a solution to these issues by permanently relocating access to the Sliney Field parking area from Sliney Road to a to-be-constructed access road with an entry off Melrose Avenue. The Town initially suggested this idea, the Parks and Recreation Department has supported it and Planning & Zoning has approved it. The access road will reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Montowese Street and Indian Neck Avenue, provide access to Parkside Village during construction, and provide emergency access to both Sliney Field and Parkside Village. Most significantly, it will greatly improve access for users and safety vehicles to the little league fields. Though this road will primarily benefit the Town and its residents, BHA and Beacon recognize the advantages that this new access road would have, and have offered to contribute funds for its construction.

Click [here](#) to read a *New Haven Independent* article that gives more information about the proposed Melrose Avenue access road.