

# Toddler-friendly celebration set for June 11

The Board of Trustees of the Cunningham Park Foundation will dedicate the play garden in honor of Dr. Anne Coghlan during a celebration and reception on June 11 from 11 a.m. to noon at Cunningham Park.

Coghlan was a lifelong Milton resident, educator, and community leader for over five decades until her death in 2012.

Designed by Studio MLA Architects, the park's new Coghlan Play Garden provides an innovative natural setting for safe and imaginative play specifically designed for toddlers and young children.

The fenced-in area includes a variety of play elements and features, including a "Ladybug House," two toddler-sized twin slides built into a small hill, an area for sand play, a "Willow Hut," toddler-safe swings, and picnic tables under a cedar trellis.

The large "Spider Structure," first installed at Cunningham Park over 50 years ago, has been completely restored. A new wheelchair accessible path around

the perimeter of the Play Garden leads to a larger slide, also built into the side of the hill, and larger swings for older children.

The new Play Garden for toddlers reflects Coghlan's commitment to the children of Milton, where, as a Town Meeting member and advocate for the rebuilding of Milton's public schools back in the 1990s, she tirelessly advocated for young people's education, health, and safety.

Bruce Alexander, former Cunningham Park Foundation board chair and Milton resident, stated, "Anne was an early advocate for a strategic plan which the foundation undertook in 2008. Through that process, she became committed to securing a dedicated outdoor play space featuring natural elements. Anne was a visionary in so many ways for our town, and she knew how to advocate for what she believed was truly important. This Play Garden is a lasting tribute to her dedication to Milton and her fortitude."

According to Joanne Hiromura, director of land-

scape and playscape design at studioMLA Architects, "These days, children spend less time playing outside and more time inside on electronic devices. Even when they are outside, much of that time is dedicated to organized sports or other adult-directed activities, rather than simply playing and exploring the natural environment all around them. There is growing evidence that this is impacting children's development and their connection to nature – what's often referred to as 'nature deficit disorder.' The Play Garden is a nature-based setting, with child-friendly native and wetland plants, complementing the natural environment of Cunningham Park."

During the celebration on June 11 (the rain date is June 12), the Cunningham Park Foundation will offer toddler-friendly refreshments, face painting, balloons and more. Remarks will also be made by members of the board, as well as by Hiromura.

Cunningham Foundation board chair and long-time Milton resident Tony Will noted, "We had wanted to dedicate the Coghlan Play Garden two years ago, but the pandemic came along, and so we needed to put the brakes on this until now. When Mary A. Cunningham passed away in 1904, she stipulated in her will that her trust be used to benefit town residents. I can't think of a better use of Miss Cunningham's resources than to engage our youngest residents in a deeper appreciation of the outdoors in a safe and welcoming play and exploration space like the Coghlan Play Garden."

For more information about the Coghlan Play Garden festivities, visit [www.cunninghampark.org](http://www.cunninghampark.org).



A view of the new play area at Cunningham Park which will be dedicated June 11.



**SG Harold Plumbing, Heating & AC**  
 Your Neighborhood Plumber


Specializing in Bosch Tankless Water Heaters and Solar Hot Water, Unico Air Conditioning, Radiant Floor Heating, Runtal Radiators, Video Pipe Inspections  
 We are on call 24/7 for Hot Water Tank Replacements  
 & All Your Plumbing and Heating Needs

6 School St. (Rear) Milton, MA 02186  [www.sgharold.com](http://www.sgharold.com)  
[sgharold@verizon.net](mailto:sgharold@verizon.net)

**617.696.2400**

**McDERMOTT & PADIS**  
 Attorneys at Law

P.O. Box 55, Milton, MA 02186  
 (617) 698-2828 • Fax (617) 698-4270  
 Email: [AAPJRLaw@aol.com](mailto:AAPJRLaw@aol.com)

Alexander A. Padis, Jr., P.C.  
 Mary T. Cusson, Paralegal  
 Francis P. McDermott (1928-2012) 

General Practice of Law  
 Including Personal Injury, Motor Vehicle Accidents, Wills, Trusts & Estates, Real Estate, Contracts, Product Liability, Business Law, Incorporation, and Lead Paint

**JUST SOLD!**

465 East 8th Street  
 Boston MA  
 02127

Get more for you money with  
 a great real estate team!

**THE FOSTER/HARRINGTON TEAM**  
[thefosterharringtonteam.com](http://thefosterharringtonteam.com)  
 Coldwell Banker Realty - Milton  
**617.721.9500 / 508.930.8415**  
[Vanessa.foster@nemoves.com](mailto:Vanessa.foster@nemoves.com)

