



## City of Gaithersburg Junior Mayor Contest - 2015

The theme for this year's contest, to be explored in 275 words or less, was: "RESPECT. If you were Mayor..."

- There is a vacant lot in "Happy Town." Some want to build a playground, others want to build a skate park. In the end the Town Council decides on the playground.
- How would you get both sides to work together to build a playground?
- What would you do to help citizens and elected officials stay nice to each other even though some may not like the final decision?
- What would you do, after the decision is made, to make sure the whole town supports the playground?

### If I Were Mayor

*by Andrew Volat*

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If I were Mayor I would form a committee to analyze the situation. After the committee looked at all the citizen comments, held a hearing, and listened to the children, I would ask the committee for their top three opinions on what is the safest, most fun and most economical way for the city residents to enjoy their new playground.

As Mayor, in having listened to all the comments at the hearing, I would sit with the children and start to plan a playground that would make most people enjoy the playground as a playground for recreation that everyone could enjoy, not just skaters. Although, I would build a small, safe skating area.

The children want slides, swings, sand boxes (for smaller kids), climbing walls, monkey bars, and other recreation equipment. The other important idea is to have a large open field area. The field should be divided by fences like Morris Park in Gaithersburg. If the field was setup this way, some could play baseball, some could play football, some can play soccer and we could pave some of the field for tennis. Also, we should add a space for a picnic area.

As Mayor, I would ask all the city residents to help in some way to make this project possible. Some could donate money, the schools could have a contest on which school could raise the most money. Businesses could donate equipment and services, and all of the community could come together to put the playground together.

In my opinion, building this playground could make Happy Town a better place!