

Parks & Recreation Commission Proposed Strategic Goals for 2023-2025 Fiscal Year

Complete the following 1-8 from 2022-2023:

1. Invasive Species control in the parks.

- Invite BSC Group to Commission Meeting and review completion of survey. Commission with Erin McKenna to present Consultant's report to the Board of Representatives, BOF and Planning Board.

2. City Youth Sanctioned Baseball League Programs

- Per Youth Baseball Study Report, follow-up with sanctioned leagues and rate of participation in program.

3. Organic Playing Fields - Complete.

4. Friends Groups / Volunteers

- Contact Information database for volunteers – In Progress. Discuss best format.
- Set-up meeting with City employees to meet the park volunteers at designated parks.
- Review and revise Friends Group Agreements with City – Waiting for Dana Lee response.
- Invite Friends Groups and/or volunteers to a Commission meeting to review mission & goals.

5. Interpretive Park Signage - Phase 1

- Finalize signage type as presented in July 2021 draft.
- Finalize locations of signs as presented in July 2021 draft.
- Help Erin McKenna with RFP to hire artist to design signs.
- Provide information as requested.
- Commission to review proposed signs for approval.

6. Triennial Properties / Expansion of Active Play Space / Usage Survey of Parks

- Create a priority list of properties that are parks not zoned as parks.
- Begin process to start changing parks to be zoned as a park.
- Review growth of City and equivalent amount of active recreation space for sports leagues, playgrounds, City camp programs, etc. - In Progress.
- Review Park Equity and ask for a Capital Improvement Project to assess existing park use (count people!), demographics, recreation fields, daily use, dogs, children, etc. What is being used the most in each park and what is not. What the Park could use. Maintenance needs. [Review this after the Parks Strategic Plan has been released]

7. Park Trees

- Per Sara Kuebbing's letter to the Planning Board which states: *Developing restoration plans for the City parks that involves increasing tree canopy cover and removing invasive plants can increase Stamford's resiliency to climate change.* Develop Tree Masterplan.
- Planting native trees in the parks to sustain ecological value. Native trees often are not viable street-tree options but create many benefits for park-goers as well as ecological.

8. Proposed Scofieldtown Dog Park

- Follow-up on 2nd Public Hearing to show revised location of dog park.

Proposed Ideas for 2024-2025: (After reading Parks Strategic Plan recommendations, individual proposed goals can be modified)

- Parks & Recreation Commission ideas from Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks Document. See attached list.
- Hardcourt surfaces: Scalzi Bocce, Scalzi Tennis, Cove Tennis, etc.
- Playgrounds: Review & Compare Playground Costs of surrounding communities with Stamford's playgrounds. Compare materials being used, amount of equipment, design elements, cost of design firm, etc.
- Playgrounds: Create
- Possible location and/or adaptive reuse of an existing building for the Parks & Recreation Department to hold all recreation class activities v. leasing building. The lease was renewed last year and is a 5-year lease.
- Review Park Restrooms: Which parks already have bathrooms? Which parks require bathrooms? Priority of year-round bathrooms and making sure there are ADA accessible options. Are there alternative, less expensive options available vs. traditional plumbed & heated building structures?
- Water bottle filling stations in parks (Note: at the last meeting Kevin noted the parks used to have water bottle filling stations, but they were removed because of maintenance issues. Filters must be maintained.)