

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

## **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, Board of Finance 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 with League Survey.
- Review Memorandum of Understanding with Parks & Recreation Department

## **3. Friends Groups / Volunteers.**

- Contact Information database for volunteers.
- 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.

## **4. 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.

## **5. 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.]

## **6. Park Trees.**

- Per Sara Kuebbing's letter to the Planning Board that 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.

## **7. 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.

## **8. Finalizing P&RC Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks.**

- Review and revise document for department structural changes, grammatical errors, broken hyperlinks, and complete the Appendix.
- Commissioners will report back to the full Commission at the monthly meetings of the changes, additions, etc. it is recommending. Revisions should include recommendations of the Citywide Parks Strategic Plan where appropriate.

## **9. Help Create a City-wide Geographic System (GIS) Map.**

- This map will provide integrated information for all of the green and park areas in the city. These areas will include all of the City parks, public or private, cemeteries, golf courses, educational sports fields, Land Trust properties, PAAS, easements, etc. (See Chapter 8 for more GIS detail). (Pg. 17 refers to Pg. 15-16 for green space definitions.)
- The function and priority ranking of each City park will be accessible as separate layers.
- Work with Erin McKenna in the Land Use Bureau to create a new Park GIS Map with layers for the green and open spaces in Stamford.

## **10. Prioritize Publicly Accessible Amenity Spaces (PAAS) (Pg. 42).**

- Follow-up with Ralph Blessing on a list of previously granted PAAS and create a layer on the City-wide GIS map that includes all parks, green spaces and open spaces.
- Review and comment on signage.
- Request to be notified of Planning Board, Zoning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and the Harbor Management Commission when proposed development is required to include a PAAS.
- Visit PAAS to review signage is visible to the public.

## **11. Effects of Economic Development on Connectivity and Accessibility (Pg. 46).**

- Map the amount of pervious and impervious surfaces within our parkland to develop proper ratios that could be further analyzed.
- Develop Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure against other neighboring CT towns and cities.
- Work with the City to determine proper benchmarks and begin KPI process.