

# **Parks & Recreation Commission**

## **Strategic Goals for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year**

### **1. Invasive Species control in the parks.**

- Help coordinate the RFP to hire consultant to survey, document and evaluate parks. Consultant also to provide a calendar and list of recommendations (cyclical maintenance plan) on how to control existing invasive species.
- Know goals for each site/park to review with Erin McKenna and Kevin Murray.
- Work with Consultant on Ecological Value of each site/park with community use/input.
- Recreational vs. passive biodiversity in designated park.
- Review completion and present Consultant's report to the Board of Representatives.

### **2. City Youth Sanctioned Baseball League Programs**

- Per Youth Baseball Study Report, follow-up with sanctioned leagues and rate of participation in program.
- Continue to coordinate and facilitate discussions on the location of a 50-70 field
- Review with Recreation Department Youth Baseball Study Report recommendations for coach training, leagues providing City with requested information and website analysis.

### **3. Organic Playing Fields**

- Review with Kevin Murray and Peter Stokes how implementation of program is going.
- Chuck Sherwood has invited Kevin, Peter and Parks Commissioners to view Madison Schools organic athletic turf fields in late May.

### **4. 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
- Invite Friends Groups and/or volunteers to a Commission meeting to review mission & goals.
- Investigate the creation of a *Stamford Park Foundation* as an umbrella organization for all Friends' Groups to help distribute funds and ensure park equity.
- Park Volunteer Appreciation Day
- Goodbody Garden - The Stamford Garden Club Appreciation with Mayor Simmons: Tuesday in July

### **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.
- 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.

## **7. 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.