

# CITY OF STAMFORD PARKS AND RECREATION

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# *Department Introduction & Brief History*

## **State Your Department's Mission:**

- To enhance the quality of life in our city by providing and maintaining quality parks, trails and green space and by offering enriching recreational activities and facilities for people of all ages and abilities

## **State Your Department's Strategic Initiatives for FY2023-2024**

- Maintaining and protecting 58 City Parks
- Managing 637 acres of city park land including 3 major beach properties, 2 city marinas, 2 city boat ramps
- Managing 25 seasonal facilities, 92 lawns/medians, which includes 3 major beaches, 30 baseball/softball fields, 15 soccer fields, 3 synthetic fields, 26 Tennis Courts, 12 Basketball courts and 1 swimming pool
- Managing (1) municipal golf Course- EGB Brennan
- Managing (1) municipal Ice Rink- Terry Conner's
- Recreation,-Youth Engagement, Leagues, Afterschool Programs, Outdoor Recreation, Aquatics Program and summer camps
- Managing Forestry Department which handle the all tree emergency and non-emergency maintenance, storm and planting needs throughout the City.
- Management of the Marina Division which is responsible for assisting boaters with docking, maintaining docks, ramps and slips to ensure they are safe and secure for all boaters
- Ensuring City Parks Fiscal Sustainability-engaging the Legislature, the Administration, and the public in a discussion of creative sustainable funding options – including endowments or other stable sources of revenue – with the long-term goal of providing the Department with adequate funding in perpetuity
- Utilizing Parks and Recreation spaces for active and passive activities/programs which builds a collective environment to build a sense of community and motivates people from diverse backgrounds to work together and achieve shared visions.

# City of Stamford Office of Operations Parks & Recreation





# Major changes

## **NEW Major Changes**

- Re-organizational structure to include the merging of Parks Maintenance and recreation services under one umbrella
- Implementation of the New Oracle Financial system, Dayforce Time Keeping, online permitting and Gov Q citizen request systems
- Continuation of turf maintenance program which reduces cost of repairs and expands longevity of turf replacement. (currently on year 16)
- State mandated soil testing monitoring @ Scofield town park went from quarterly to semiannual which was a savings of \$72,500
- Continuation Park Ambassador Program which is to be expanded to additional parks citywide which will oversee quality of life perception and promote/document that all park rules and regulations are followed
- Organic Turf Maintenance program to promote healthier athletic fields within the environment
- Continuation of preventive maintenance programs for our beaches, athletic fields and park infrastructure to prevent costly repairs
- Phase 1 of Cove Island Marina Dredging is complete- which has opened the channel for boaters and eliminated safety hazard.
- Implementation of the Park Facilities/Sustainability Division to coincide work request thru work orders in a streamline priority organization for all trade work
- Inspection and assessment of City Park property and Facilities- to work with the Facilities and sustainability department to continue to obtain for propriety reports to determine deficiencies, immediate repairs and create a replacement reserve table
- ADA compliance- continuation for all our interior and exterior park properties to ensure access for all users
- Playground Rehabilitation- Continuation of annual reporting via certified playground inspections which will update safety and longevity of all citywide playgrounds



# Major changes

## **Describe what management is doing to reduce department costs or eliminate services that are no longer critical**

- Developing advocacy for Parks and Recreation
- Parks Strategic Planning- Coordinating a comprehensive research agenda and ensuring the results are widely shared and Identifying and developing recommended strategies for dealing with issues and opportunities.
- Creating funding for future programs and expansions to make all park and recreation needs equitably available city wide. This initiative would be in conjunction with other city-wide programs.
- Working with our administration to obtain state and federal funding opportunities to coincide with the capital campaign to improve our parks infrastructure and amenities.
- Strengthening City Parks Image, Press and Media operations, partnerships, stewardships and online website presence
- Further developing our sponsorship program to help with Special Events and League Costs
- Developing a volunteer program for residents to clean beaches and parks



# Program Expansions

- **Tree Maintenance Specialist Resolution 4159**- Enhanced management of Trees in City Parks/Properties. This position assist and handles all tree emergencies and non-emergency maintenance and planting throughout the city. **\$68,269**
- **Business and Revenue Coordinator**- to oversee the process of collecting and organizing analytical data, financial activities and develop strategic systems and process the growth of the Parks and Recreation Division to assist with the continuation of all park upgrades/programming **\$78,976**
- **Additional Funding Park Ambassadors** for the Northern Parks which will institute and extension of current program at our parks/beaches to ensure a quality of living and a sense of security. **\$40,000**



# Goals and Highlights/Capital Projects

## **Goals and Highlights - Below Projects would assist with the ongoing efforts to activate our city parks which engages both youth and adult programming**

- Capital Projects- Working to obtain state and federal funding to support the following capital projects and pending board approval
- Cummings Park upgrades which include- Parking lot enhancements/Open air pavilion event venue, ADA Bathroom upgrades
- Scalzi Park- (12) Bay Tennis court to be upgraded to posttension concrete, which will include pickleball, Cubeta Stadium LED retroFit for sport Lighting and new scoreboard, Bocce Courts to be upgraded, Maintenance building bathroom upgrades to be ADA compliant
- West beach/Park- Surface upgrades and park amenities
- Lione Park- Surface upgrade and park amenities
- Barrett Park- Playground upgrade, Bathroom Facility to be ADA compliant w upgrade, park amenities
- Hatch field Park- Spray feature upgrade and park amenities
- Carwin park- Spray feature upgrade and park amenities
- Cove Island park- Quigley Beach Bathroom ADA upgrade, Pedestrian pathway and signage upgrades, Tennis Court upgrades
- Playground Rehabilitation program- Upgrades to Northrop park and Nemotin Park
- Kosciusko Park- Parking lot/Pedestrian pathway upgrades
- Citywide Tree Replanting-



# Obstacles

- Staffing needs within our Park Maintenance staff and Forestry staff
- Minimum Park enforcement/Park Police officers - Quality of life issues and prevent ongoing vandalism
- Extra cleaning throughout all park infrastructures, beaches and fields from constant use 7 days a week starting May 1st thru September 30th annually
- Recreation lack of staffing to oversee the process of collecting and organizing analytical data, financial activities and develop strategic systems and process the growth the Parks and Recreation division to assist the continuation of all park upgrades/programming
- Overpopulation of Geese that surround our Beach/parks which increases manpower to remove
- Declining infrastructure upgrades needed throughout our city parks including game courts
- Yearly Recreational Programs have grown and the Lack of space
- Recruiting and retaining seasonal staff (Lifeguards, counselors, aquatics director(s) and Para educators)
- Wages need to be balanced with our surrounding towns and cities to be able to recruit for all areas within recreation and also to be able to retain those employees
- School Space use and cost limitations both in school year and summer
- Limited Lease space within the Star Center Facility during a 10 month agreement
- Minimal City pool availability both indoor and outdoor
- Rising cost of minimum wage and custodial union wages
- Lack of active athletic field space, including lighted fields
- Funding to support the continuation of City Marina Dredging
- Funding to support Utilities within our marina infrastructure- Current setup has limited utilities





# Measuring Success

## Measuring our Success

- Customer Feedback via surveys and webpage which will be a platform of discussion and information
- Facility usage from our residents visitors, permits and programs that are using our parks actively and passively
- Financial Considerations
- Strategic Plan advocacy to assist with the growth and upgrades to our Parks
- Growth- creating or expanding new programming, acquiring property and or forecasted capital upgrades
- Accessibility- ensuring City Parks are available to all citizens
- Make Parks Insta- worthy or social media friendly
- Health Benefits of Recreation- which promotes increased physical activities which will reduce the risk of diseases



# Recreation & Leagues

## Recreation Programs:

Year	Season	NON Star Center# Participants	Star Center # Participants
2022	Winter	178	962
2022	Spring	206	908
2022	Fall	889	669
2022	Summer Programs	272	666
2022	Summer Camps	803	150
2022	Totals	2,348	3,335
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# Recreation & Leagues

## **Leagues:**

Adult League Teams:	320
Aquatics Participants:	280
Tournaments:	35

## **Adult Leagues – Managed by Recreation.**

Basketball

Beach Volleyball

Kickball

Indoor Volleyball

Softball

Flag Football

Pickleball (Indoor and Outdoor)

## **Adult Independent Permitted Leagues**

Soccer-Women's, Coed, Men's

Over 30 Baseball-Men's

Cricket-

Bocce



# Budget Highlights

- Pickleball: Stamford Recreation introduced Pickleball in January 2021-June 2022 the sport was immediately a huge success with 318 participants signing up and keeps growing. Anticipated numbers for 2022-2023 are well over 800 participants and revenue over \$25,000. Pickleball currently uses outdoor courts Scalzi, Cummings, Scofield Parks, as well as playing indoors at Still meadow Elementary School gym. The outdoor courts are shared with tennis users, but a number of the courts have been lined for Pickleball use. To continue the success of the Pickleball programs and to keep up with the growth, dedicated courts are necessary, within the next 1-2 years.
- 2023 revenue has increased 128% and participation 165% in only two months.

<b>2022 Recreation Season</b>	<b>Star Center Revenue Collected</b>	<b>Non Star Center Revenue</b>
• Winter	\$157,311.50	\$18,697.00
• Spring	\$99,408.50	\$24,695.00
• Summer Camps/Programs	\$152,840.00	\$58,911.60
• Summer Camp		\$512,014.00
• Fall	\$140,593.50	\$39,995.00