

Possible Parks & Recreation Commission 2023/2024 Fiscal Year Goals (From the Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks document)

November 5, 2023

Choose from the following options:

1. Finalizing P&RC Policy, Rules, Guidelines & Vision for Stamford Parks.
Action: Discuss starting a sub-committee to revise document for department structural changes, grammatical errors, broken hyperlinks, and complete the Appendix. Subcommittee would 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.
2. Not all parks have a park zoning designation at this time. (Pg. 15).
Action: Make a list of the parks without park zoning designation and start the process to make them zoned appropriately. This is important because land that is not zoned as parkland is easier for the city to sell and/or reuse for other purposes. It overlaps with the current 2022-2023 Fiscal Goal of Triennial Properties.
3. Parks & Recreation Commission is supportive of a City-wide endeavor to create a Geographic Information 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, etc. The function and priority ranking of the city park will be accessible as separate layers. (See Chapter 8 for more GIS detail). (Pg. 17 refer to Pgs. 15-16 for Green Space definitions.)
Action: Work with Erin McKenna in the Land Use Bureau Department to create a new Park GIS Map with layers for the green and open spaces in Stamford.
4. Make Contact with the BOR Food Truck Committee (FTC) re: General Policies. (Pg. 27)
Action: Request the list of vendors and review with General Policies. Ask to be informed of new potential vendors serving the parks to ensure General Policies are followed. Review the environmental impact of food trucks on the environment and surrounding neighborhoods.
5. Set the guidelines and prioritize which park(s) are in need of benches, and which locations within those parks would be appropriate. (Pg. 28)
Action: Visit parks with benches, count number of benches and locate them on an aerial view map provided by city. Determine which parks require more benches, a map showing existing benches and proposed bench locations, and where benches are no longer permitted to be installed.
6. Add Tree Commemoration Donation Policies to Policy Document. (Pg. 28)
Action: To coincide with the upcoming GIS mapping of the City Park trees, establish an official Tree Donation policy. Research other cities with commemorative tree planting programs and compare. Create a masterplan with the city to show areas in need of trees for donations. Create a list of acceptable species of trees allowed to be planted.

7. Attend other Commission, Board and/or Special City Meetings that pertain to Parks. (Pgs. 10, 34, 35, 37, 49)
Action: Commission makes a list of pertinent Commissions, Boards and City Departments to review. Commission emails requesting to be informed of meetings pertaining to parks, park goes or open/green space that is being proposed to change zoning districts and/or sold or acquired.
8. Prioritize Publicly Accessible Amenity Spaces - PAAS. (Pg. 42)
Action: 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 Commission when proposed development is required to include a PAAS. Visit PAAS to review signage is visible to the public.
9. Affects of Economic Development on Connectivity and Accessibility. (Pg. 46)
Action: Map the amount of previous 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.
10. Form a subcommittee with specific attention to the Budget to monitor parkland operating expenses. (Pg. 47)
Action: Provide insights for the balance between Parks & recreation maintenance, capital project priorities, ongoing capital projects and future budget proposals to the BORs.