

CITY OF STAMFORD

Parks & Recreation

Kevin Murray

Director of Parks & Recreation
3/12/2024





Staffing/Budget Updates

Staffing Updates- Parks Department, Recreation Services, Forestry, Marinas, and Beaches & Parks Enforcement

- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby time increases in all programs due to new negotiated union contracts for the MAA and UAW and Minimum wage increases.
- Parks & recreation re-organization structure under one umbrella - **No changes with staffing.**

Parks Maintenance 2134 Increases

- Parks Maintenance 2134 Increases- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby Time increases in all programs due to newly negotiated union contracts for the MAA and UAW and Minimum wage increases.

Parks Maintenance 2134 Decreases

- Clothing Allowance- \$2,250 line item was moved to ops admin.
- Building Maintenance- Reduced \$20,000- Inventory controls in place.
- Land Supplies- Reduced \$45,000- Inventory controls in place.
- Equipment Rental- reduced \$10,000- Inhouse repairs/maintenance program.
- OSHA Safety Supplies- \$6,375 line item was moved to ops admin.
- Housekeeping Supplies- Reduced \$10,000- Inventory controls in place.



Staffing/Budget Updates

Forestry 2127

- Forestry 2127 Increases- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby Time increases in all programs due to new negotiated union contracts for the MAA and UAW and Minimum wage increases.

Forestry 2127 Decreases

- Overtime has been decreased \$10,000 - Scheduling and use of outside contractors to assist with planned projects, including reimbursable projects for City Operations and BOE properties.
- OSHA Safety and Uniforms- This line item was moved to ops admin.

Marinas 2138

- Marinas 2138 Increases- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby Time increases in all programs due to new negotiated union contracts for the MAA and UAW and Minimum wage increases.

Marinas 2138 Decreases- No budget change

Beach & parks Enforcement 2536

- Increase of \$210,050 within budget that includes additional (1) full-time Park police officer and seasonal employees to assist with park patrolling and assisting with of quality life issues citywide.



Staffing/Budget Updates

Recreation Services Increases

- Salary/Seasonal increases in all programs due to newly negotiated union contracts for the MAA and UAW and Minimum wage increases.

Recreation Services-Decreases

- 2530 Parks and Recreation Administration decrease- Reduced overtime from the previous year per the reorganization
- 2531 Aquatics- Uniforms \$4,000 line item was moved to ops admin.
- 2533 Subsidized Programs- The entire budget was transferred to the special events account within the ops admin.
- 2535 Recreation Leagues (self-sustaining)- Uniforms \$2,000 line item was moved to ops admin.
- 2528 Star Center- Reduced Budget of \$72,302 seasonal and overtime \$2,475, Eliminated Busing \$6,000 for Field trips and camp visits for the summer camps and uniforms \$1,000 which is transferred to the admin budget. Working with administration to offer summer camp and programs within other city buildings.
- 2529 Special Needs and Recreation- reduced overtime from the previous year
- 2534 Camps Fee Supported- Uniform \$11,400 line item was moved to ops admin.



Reduced Budget Adjustments Across All Budget Programs

- **Parks Maintenance** - A reduced budget would prevent us from continuing to upkeep and maintain 25 facilities within the parks, 92 lawns and medians, 58 park properties, 3 major beaches, and 80 sports fields/game courts, to which we provide a clean, safe, and sanitary environment for the City's residents and visitors.
- **Forestry** - A reduced budget will affect our operation, which covers 330 miles of roadway, and be able to efficiently act upon removals and citizen requests, which responds to all tree hazards and or emergencies.
- **Marinas** - A reduced budget will eliminate the upkeep and maintenance of our (2) public marinas and (2) boat ramps.
- **Recreation Services** - A reduced budget would take away the ability of general administrative support to all leisure programs, long and short-range planning and eliminate youth and adult recreation sports, programs, and camps.



Parks and Recreation Department

Overview

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.

Department Initiatives:

- Maintaining and protecting 58 City Parks
- Managing/operating 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/operating (1) municipal golf Course- EGB Brennan
- Managing/operating (1) municipal Ice Rink- Terry Conner's
- Managing Recreation and Youth Engagement, Leagues, Afterschool Programs, Outdoor Recreation, Aquatics Programs, and summer camps.
- Managing Forestry Department, which handles 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.
- 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.



Capital Project Submissions 2024-2025

- Cummings Park- \$1,600,000- Continuation of masterplan design- *ORLP grant submitted 3/1/24 for a matching grant of up to 10 million, which the city will need to fund.
- Scalzi Park- Tennis Court(s) Upgrade- \$1,400,000 million request
- Cove Island- Tennis Court Upgrade- \$450,000 and Quigley Bathroom facility upgrade \$150,000.
- West Beach/Park- \$75,000 Turf surface upgrade placeholder
- Playground Rehabilitation- \$100,000 Citywide playground playset upgrades
- Kosciuszko Park- \$50,000 Parking lot upgrades
- Parks Fencing- \$50,000 Citywide Park fencing upgrades.
- Northrop Park- \$50,000 design and concept plan for playground upgrade and Basketball court upgrade.
- Susan Nable @ Chestnut Hill Park- \$75,000 Stone wall upgrades
- Citywide Tree Planting- \$50,000 installation of Trees Citywide Parks
- Barrettt Park- \$50,000 design and concept plan for phase 2 of masterplan
- Fort Stamford Park- \$50,000 Parking lot upgrade
- Citywide Tree Replanting- \$50,000
- Park Amenities- \$50,000 Citywide picnic table, grills, sports bleachers, and signage upgrades.
- Nemotin Park- \$50,000 Playground upgrade design



Expanded Services/Programs

- Beach & Park Enforcement- Increase of \$210,050 within Budget that includes additional (1) full-time Park police officer and Seasonal employees to assist with Park patrolling and assisting with of quality life issues citywide. This program is designed for creating a safe, fun and enriching park- going experience and to monitor park use for active and passive gatherings.
- Focuses on enforcing park rules and regulations
- Monitoring of gatherings, special events, athletic permits within City parks.
- Providing informational services to visitors and programs
- Emergency Response Resource
- Oversight of Facilities, grounds, trails and other recreational areas



Abandoned Services/Programs and Key Department Challenges

- Star Center- Seasonal line was reduced \$72,302 seasonal and overtime \$2,475, Eliminated Busing \$6,000 for Field trips and camp visits for the summer camps. Working with Administration to identify other city facilities to offer camp and programming.
- \$ 149,933 of Revenue would need to be adjusted to reflect the removal of the 8-week Summer Star Program that services Morning and afternoon classes.
- Elimination of Summer Camp impacts 140 children

- Staffing Needs within our Park Maintenance and Forestry Staff.
- Facility overuse within all park infrastructure, beaches, and fields, which is a (7) day operation starting April through October annually.
- Declining infrastructure and game court upgrades are needed throughout our City Parks.
- Lack of Space for Recreational Programs
- Recruiting and retaining seasonal staff includes lifeguards, counselors, directors, and paraeducators throughout park and recreation programs.
- The rising cost of minimum wages and custodial union wages
- Lack of active athletic field space that includes light fields and game courts.



Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Park Strategic Plan Completed- Community engagement outreach and input, park analysis opportunities and funding analysis- This report was created to design a road map for park enhancements into the future.
- Parks and Recreation Re organization, which included merging of Parks Maintenance and Recreation services under one umbrella, has been very positive with organizational and planning efforts.
- Organic Turf Maintenance Program is going into year #3, which promotes healthier athletic fields.
- Cummings Park Phase 2- Beach Promenade upgrade shade includes new shade canopies and bathroom upgrades. (In Construction)
- Barret Park Playground/drainage upgrades- (In Construction)
- Scalzi Park Bocci court upgrade- work to start Mid-august 2024
- Cove Marina Dredging phase 2 is Scheduled for October 2024
- Kosciuszko Park- Decorative Park Light upgrades
- Playground Rehabilitation- Continuation of annual reporting via certified inspection report.
- New Parks and Recreation website Launched.



Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Working with our administration to obtain state and federal funding opportunities to coincide with the Capital campaign to improve our park infrastructure and amenities.
- Creation of a 501 C group to develop a corporate sponsorship program that would assist with special events and programs.
- Continuation of a volunteer program for residents to clean beaches and parks and beautification upgrades.
- Cataloging Park Locations for park vending concessions
- The process of installing safety cameras as a test pilot has begun and should be instituted within 2024.
- Drotar Park's repaving of the parking lot and drainage upgrades that border the Little League field are to be completed by early April 2024.
- Gerly Park- (Cove) Landscape upgrade and removal of invasive species
- Park Attendant program, which covered Beaches and Parks, was expanded to monitor the northern Parks this past July and assisted with quality-of-life issues and monitoring until December.
- Courtland Avenue Dog Park upgrade- The design and concept plan are being finalized.
- Scofield Town Park Dog Park upgrade- Finalizing Design and concept plan.



Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Implementing Invasive Management Plan being performed by our Forestry and Land Use Departments.
- Kiwanis Park Masonry upgrades have been completed for all mason planters and steps.
- Collaboration work has begun with the Town of Greenwich within Rosa Hartman Park and Mianus River Park.
- Domus work program established which concentrates on (35) park easements and illegal dumping locations for continuous maintenance and debris removals.
- Continuation of extending seasonal bathrooms @ (7) locations into the off-seasons.
- Sleepy Hollow Park swing set installed
- Phil Giordano Nemotin Park Playground dedication was on Thursday 9/28/24
- Susan Nable @ Chestnut Park Sign was unveiled on Friday 9/8/24
- Standalone Pickleball Game court created @ Cummins Park
- Halloween Yacht Club seawall sections @ Cummings Park repaired
- Scalzi Park Hockey/Pickleball court upgraded
- Cubeta Stadium Bleacher Project @ Scalzi Park completed.



Highlights- Recreation Programs

- Recreation Programs: Pickleball July 2022 to June 2023. this sport has been a huge success with 600 participants and generating revenue over \$25,000 during this time frame. The City of Stamford has dedicated a standalone court @ Cummings Park and converted Scalzi Hockey Pickle Ball Court to accommodate the growing sport.

2023 Recreation Season	Star Center Revenue Collected	Non Star Center Revenue
Winter	\$141,196	\$12,392
Spring	\$106,689	\$25,519
Summer Camps/programs	\$156,431	\$63,374
Summer Camp		\$530,403
Fall	\$135,823	\$36,745



Highlights- Recreation & Leagues

Leagues:	
Adult Leagues	410
Aquatics Participants	300
Tournaments	30

Adult Leagues – Managed by Recreation

Basketball

Beach Volleyball

Kickball

Indoor Volleyball

Softball

Flag Football

Pickleball (Indoor and Outdoor)

Adult Independent Permitted Leagues

Soccer- Woman's, Coed, Men's

Over 30 Baseball - Men's

Cricket

Bocce



Budget Highlights- Recreation

Year	Season	NON Star Center # Participants	Star Center # Participants
2023	Winter	199	1025
2023	Spring	220	1087
2023	Fall	841	795
2023	Summer Programs	267	779
2023	Summer Camps	885	150
2023	Totals	2412	3836