
APPENDIX E

Stakeholder Interviews / Focus Groups Summary

Community Discussion Meetings: February 2022

Focus Group Summary

Interview Summary

Stakeholder Outreach Summary

Round Robin Summary

Site Specific Input from Community

Public Comments on Concept Plans

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: RTM Districts 1 and 2 2/17/22 6 – 8 pm

In Attendance:

- Cynthia Pelham – District 2
- Hal Schwartz – District 2
- Melissa Longo – District 1
- Amy Ruggiero – District 1
- Karen McCormack – District 2

Input:

Programming

- Community Sailing? Not through Parks and Recreation.
- Boating lessons would be nice, boating safety...

Facilities

- Scoreboard is a consistent issue at the FL high school.
- Food needs an upgrade at Jennings (concessions).
- Skate Park...teenagers smoking marijuana, harassing other users (kids). Is 'skate at your own risk'.
- Turf is an issue...football mom. I know there are plans for several fields.
- Gould Manor...park that has been closed for several years...get it open, supposed to be ready for baseball season.
- Greenfield residents have to travel to other parts for a lot of activities.
- Dog park...open space, off-leash.
- Owen Fish playground is ADA-accessible?
- Look at facilities kids are using...fields are a mess. Also need to be able to see kids all the time at different fields. Baseball fields should be a priority.
- Lights are needed.
- Summer Camps...are great.
- No rules for pet owners at Lake Mohegan.

Information

- Website/social media is great.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Parking lot at Jennings is bad...but may be intentional for storm surge overwash.

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: RTM Districts 3, 4 and 5 2/9/22 6 – 8 pm (Virtual)

In Attendance:

- Marcy Spolyar – RTM District 4
- Alice Kelly – RTM District 4
- Laura Karson - RTM District 4
- Elizabeth Zezima – RTM District 4
- John Garskof – RTM District 5
- Jay Wolk – District 5
- Tom Lambert - RTM District 3
- Sharon Pistilli – RTM District 3
- Alex Durrell –RTM District 3
- Gaylen Brown – Assist. Director Parks and Recreation

Programming

- More outdoor activities (in winter) should be a priority for the town, esp. given covid...perhaps snow-shoeing/cross country skiing up at the golf course, with trail maps?
- Why not consider alternative program offerings? Solicit folks for ‘specialized talents’ who would be interested in volunteering to teach a new skill. I had a friend who was not interested in organized sports but enjoyed juggling. They participated in training, and found their niche as a professional juggler...maybe cooking and/or other non-traditional hobbies?

Facilities

- Dog park is needed with pet-waste stations...although need to be consistent here as not every park allows dogs.
- Town needs a pool that is also ADA-accessible.
- Ice skating rink is needed, perhaps up by H. Smith Richardson. This could even be informal, like a tarp in a depression filled with several inches of water.
- Drew Park...internal paths need improvement (drainage issues) and not ADA-accessible.
- ADA-accessibility could be improved/expanded, particularly at the beaches. Decking and pathways could be expanded to get residents to these sites more easily, still with some assistance (Penfield, Jennings, South Pine Creek). This also includes expansion of existing mobility-assisted equipment (plastic mats and all-terrain wheelchairs for beach access).
- High Ridge Park needs improvements...more permanent restrooms, rather than port-a-pots.
- Dougiello Park/Driving Range has opportunities for higher and better uses. Perhaps lighting, a liquor license and additional improvements could enhance operations/revenue stream?
- Plan should address noise pollution...a lot of residents calling for more pickleball courts...neighbors complain about the noise levels.
- Climate Change (heat/flooding) should be factored into this plan...Flooding along the Rooster River is affecting housing. There are three large-scale flood mitigation projects online located within/adjacent to parks. With projected increases in rain, this will continue to impact parks/fields, and limiting use.
- A camp with cabins would be a nice alternative opportunity.
- Burroughs Park parking lot is terrible.
- Is there anything planned for the Army Base?
- Fairchild Wheeler GC...is that Fairfield or Bridgeport...Bridgeport.
- Giant Steps (new school property) has a lot of acreage but is difficult to get there.

- Lake Mohegan...on the east side to the right of the main parking lot has drainage issues and flood often.
- Boat racks are needed at Jennings Beach, also throughout the town...with security (locks/cameras) to deter destructive behavior.
- Trash cans should be left year-round rather than seasonally and include pet-waste stations.
- Owen Fish...the pond empties into Lincoln Brook where a lot of natural debris collects...who is responsible for cleanup?
- Town should consider opening up vacant, town-owned properties for community gardening/farming (where appropriate)...provision of water, maybe some fencing needs. Could be under P/R or a community service project.
- Artificial turf for fields should be part of this project.
- Lake Mohegan...needs better access for beach and walking. Needs restrooms, access to pet waste stations and trash cans should be left out year-round.
- Catania Park includes the stream-side trail...perhaps civic groups could do some work there, pet waste stations needed.
- Soccer field conditions and maintenance (uneven surface of the grass) kids can get injured.
- District 5 has limited amenities within the district.
- Melville ark fields are always wet.
- Rooster River trail area is always beat-up, does include pet waste stations.
- Behind McKinley there is a walking path...other locations are suitable for this such as Fairfield Woods, Howland Hill.
- There is an affordable housing development going in near the old Kohl's where a portion of parkland is being taken for the housing (part of Tunxis Hill), there is barren land behind that where constituents are complaining about the litter

Information

- Is there a master list of facilities across the community available? Yes, on P/R webpage, About Us, Rules and Regulations...also offers additional information (restrooms, provided, etc.).

Connectivity/Mobility

- More trails and connections between sites. There is a great example behind Stepping Stones in Norwalk, should replicate.
- Parks need to be more walkable/bikeable. Provide amenities (bike racks, bike repair stations, water filling stations, restrooms).

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: RTM Districts 6 and 7 2/8/22 4 – 6 pm

In Attendance:

- Karen Wackerman – RTM District 7
- Matt McDermott – RTM District 7
- John Kuhn – RTM District 7
- Jill Vergara – RTM District 7
- Steve Bevecz – RTM District 6
- Dru Georgiadis – District 9
- Lisa Havey - RTM District 6

Programming

- Water sports programming? Used to have sailing, now have community sailing where folks pay a fee to use. Any partnerships potential?
- Skate parks and insurance...Jennings underutilized and good place for outdoor rink/salt pool, restaurant.
- Rec. Camp sign up is difficult, esp. with siblings, pickups are different...siblings attending the same camp would be helpful for families...should be neighborhood and convenient.
- Outdoor activities should be a priority for the town, esp. given covid.
- Retention for rec. soccer is a problem...maybe playing FUSA too early.
- Non-traditional offerings as kids get older, moving away from 'clubs'...frisbee golf.
- Geo-cacheing...exists, not well-known.

Facilities

- Water taps...replaced for water bottles (airports)
- Sherman school...middle school soccer...parents drop off, now with smaller kids, parents stay, and traffic is an issue. Match parking with parents/sport...safety concern.
- Burroughs parking is bad...does have restrooms. Rec. soccer here, when just opened with gravel parking, now paved, needs parking lines.
- Inventory sites and map out connections to address safety on off-road travel. Data to support this?
- Waterfront restaurant could be a great draw.
- Dog park is needed badly.
- Oldfield...constituent working on public access of street side (Charles Garden playground) to residential use and take more back from childcare/private daycare....look into this maybe when lease runs out...move chain link fence.
- Veres Park...toilets, not port-a-pots.
- Expansion of fields as 'hubs' for specific sports...could generate revenue. It's an infrastructure facility...being able to host at one site (Trumbull does this). Sturgis park has a deed restriction limiting activities. Can we coordinate with Fairfield U./Sacred Heart? Sacred Heart has potential opportunity for resource sharing. Definitely a bigger picture item for discussion.
- Don't take park space for ice-rinks/pools, should be taking underutilized/marginal lands.
- Lake Mohegan...inflatable waterfront park...a supervisory nightmare? Right to the existing beach might work.
- There is a pool under Old Navy...private swim instructions for kids.
- Kayak/Paddle board racks are needed...still a vandalism issue at Penfield.

- Jacky Durrell is underutilized and should consider pop-up restaurants. P/R Commission would need to change their rules.
- Covered field house is missing/needed (similar to tennis)...residents travelling to Trumbull a lot.
- Town needs a pool

Information

- ...

Connectivity/Mobility

- Marina, Ash Creek, South Pine Creek are all connected...reinforce, visit businesses
- Trumbull...has off-road trail...In Fairfield, there is excess land along the rails from one end of the town to the other. Large apron along both sides, won't necessarily impact residential areas...grant opportunities.
- Near Metro station, sidewalks only on one-side, with multiple cross-walks.
- Trolley for circulation around town, ease congestion.

General Comments

- 'Brownfields to Townfields' ...bring it back (District 9).
- Armory is an eye-sore in town...buy building next store to solve the issue... 9 acres, deeded for recreation use only.
- Incorporate historic plaques in parks...utilize PTA.
- Sensitivity to light consideration...'Dark Sky' ordinance only for commercial.
- Close down streets (several) a couple of times a year and allow restaurants to expand to the streets.
- King's Highway and New England...parcel of land (across from Ganos). Home Depot owns it...could hold 4-5 pickleball courts, or one basketball court.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: RTM Districts 8, 9 and 10 2/17/22 2 – 4 pm

In Attendance:

- Peter Tallman – District 8
- Kelly Scinto – District 9
- Christine Brown – District 9
- Peter Britton – District 10
- Ken Astarita – District 8

Input:

Programming

- Programming is great.
- How about a Fairfield Town Party w music and food, similar to Greenwich’s town party. It could act as a fundraiser to subset some of the projects.

Facilities

- Turf...is an issue in town. Grass fields get beat up and end up getting closed to recover. Fairfield Athletic Foundation is in town, working on fields.
- Trumbull has Unity Park...does Fairfield have anything like this? Is there an opportunity for state funding (Berlin got their fields paid for)?
- Fairfield and Sacred Heart...what are they providing? Before going to turf, consider amenities first (comfort stations, water fountains).
- We need the data in order to provide information. A lot of letters coming out about turf fields...we need more information.
- Jennings needs to be spruced up like Penfield.
- Dogs parks where dogs can run or fenced in as well.
- Mill Hill has an acre-8 area perfect for a dog park.
- Restaurant on the waterfront...no where to eat on the water...maybe near Jennings Beach/Marina.
- Existing parks...only 25% of residents have kids, and a percentage of those use parks.
- Penfield and Jennings aren’t being fully utilized (Westport as an example). Restaurants...get more people on the beach. No public walkways onto the beach. Perhaps an elevated walkway, offering views. Program the beaches more.
- Penfield Pavilion would make more money as a restaurant, rather than event space.

Information

- Social media is great...constant input on what’s happening.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Getting from place to place is not safe...limited sidewalks.
- Shuttlebus would be a good idea to move people.
- Bike lanes along Fairfield Beach Road.

General Comments

- Master plan needs to look at the town comprehensively.
- Does Parks/Rec ever have surplus to put towards improvements? Is the budget year to year consistent.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: Parks and Recreation Dept. 2/9/22 2 – 4 pm

In Attendance:

- Chelsea Ceres – Recreation Dept.
- Justin Cathcart – Marina Coordinator
- Kevin Fox – Parks Supervisor
- Bob Bigonette? – Golf Pro
- Scott Buckholz – Recreation/Aquatic Coordinator
- Doug Novak – Superintendent of Parks
- Gaylen Brown – Assistant Director Parks/Recreation
- Anthony Calabrese – Director Parks/Recreation
- Ginna Paules – Program Coordinator

Programming

- Summer camps use schools...reserved through BOE, don't always get approved, or during renovations.
- COVID last year, couldn't use indoor space at schools...no indoor facility...would be great (Giant Steps...field house/multi-use as a long-term goal). Only one outdoor court in town.
- Rock wall...is needed.
- Adolescent/toddler programs easy to run, middle school/early high school programming...not much to turn to, 'teen center'...transportation an issue and would require coordination with schools.

Facilities

Marina:

- 600 slips at Benson, no frills...great deal \$630 per season, antiquated equipment.
- Redevelopment a few years ago...rates would be raised; slips would be lost.
- Waitlist 2-12 yrs. depending on size of boat.
- Future redesign would be great, but hard to sell.
- Most typically only go if they own a boat...but Ash Creek folks walk dogs, and at Jennings Beach
- Ramping/lighting all old...spent a lot of money on redesign plan: 600 down to 480 slips, with modern amenities for safety. Put on hold due to remediation priorities/COVID.
- Frog arms are also antiquated, not the best.
- New life rings for safety added, installing security cameras...will need to replace floats/pilings...do have engineering plans.
- 2019 dredging happened, sought reimbursements, didn't get.
- Community Sailing Foundation (Southport)...loosely connected with P/R at Yacht Yard, offer limited opportunities.
- Kayak racks around town provided.

Parks and Recreation:

- Ash Creek for dog park...on beach between J1/J2 put in bandshell for live music.
- Jennings Beach great location for splash pad, mini-golf, ice skating in winter months.
- Basketball noise is an issue in neighborhoods.
- Event space outdoors with fenced/controlled access/egress, and outdoor covered pavilion.
- Driving range has a lot of opportunity...double decker illuminated range would benefit the community/revenue generator.

- Drew Park community garden (water provided) \$100-\$125 per plot fully utilized, with a wait list.
- Lake Mohegan...water park...just a couple of features. It's a special place and may take away the special serenity. Building could have 2nd story for restaurant...passive recreation, sunsets/photography.
- People knocking down the doors to put a restaurant on the marina....never the right opportunity. Boardwalk on the waterfront...not appropriate at a large scale.
- Complex...field house in a park setting (multi-purpose)...tricky with existing land holdings...Dugiello has potential...Tunxis 1975 plan could have worked...people don't want to drive...but people don't want cars/traffic.
- Passive recreation...sites border each other, and town is missing something with conservation...and resource sharing. Lake Mohegan is perfect example...shared use/efforts and build on it. (labor force of 4 for Conservation)...town came close 25 years ago to merging both Depts.
- Fitness trails...Riverside Park, trails behind Oldfield/Senior Center (elements along stations).
- Driving range could use some love...
- Frisbee golf is exploding.
- Sgt. Murphy Park...has potential for dog park...no parking though, would just serve immediate residential area.
- Warehouse (They own it, cold-storage) behind p/R department would be great for indoor 2-story field house, downstairs – full gymnasium, upstairs, classes , party rentals...rely on BOE for gym space and needed greatly...would then need a space for storage...currently full.
- Party boat/night cruise potential?
- Heat Jackie Durrell for year-round rentals, esp. with Penfield being torn down.

Information

- Walking guide at Lake Mohegan is needed.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Should consider linking sites together...Conservation has series of these maintained and maps. Fairfield LL and Challenger...for disabilities, Highwood Park is a good location for this. Mats at beaches... Penfield Beach, Jennings, Lake Mohegan has wide H-accessible all-terrain chairs...MOBI mats at Jennings and Penfield to access Hobi-Cats, plastic tiles for beach ramps Penfield/Jennings.
- ADA trails Lake Mohegan, Southport and Sasco Beach.
- Boardwalk connecting 5 beaches with bike path along coast would be great.
- East Avenue trail through the marshes.

General Comments

- Bring in conversation regarding gender-neutral into P/R programming and planning.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: Flood and Erosion Control Board/Sustainable Fairfield 2/9/22 2 – 4 pm

In Attendance:

- Becky Bunner – Chair Flood and Erosion Control Board

Programs

- Town does a great job, programs, kids Do more programs at beach...sand castle contest (Police Dept. does this in coordination with P/R. More family types of things at beach. Pickleball.....more is needed. Town gardens...in center part of town/senior center.
- Town Farm (Heydoo Prop. not functioning well) possibly take over (learning/farm program, with a composting program).

Facilities

- Bike trails/paths...are needed. Work with other towns to safely bike (rail trails)...along Metro-North.
- Kayak launch...Ash Creek/DPW garage with access to the Pine Creek?
- Awareness of town's sailing program at Southport....offered out of Penfield/Jennings?

General

Flood/Erosion Control/Sustainable Fairfield:

- Town should consider to build resilience into this plan.
- Working with DEEP...create a larger dune area along the front of Jennings Beach and continues to Rickards Beach. Geo-tubes investigated and should be reconsidered with demolition of Penfield.
- Rethinking parking/stormwater...permeable, bioswale.
- AARP funds to do down water project, have done permeable pavement at train station.
- Rooster River flooding is a problem, Owen Fish Park, Melville, Tunxis parks affected. Melville...idea was floated to take back field and convert to detention basin – not preferred to lose a field...woods there could be a solution. Owen Fish slopes behind 3rd base, it is intentional to create a detention basin.
- Regulations don't call for GI/LID.
- Sustainable Fairfield...EV charging stations are needed as manufacturers production increases...trending more and more.
- Solar...where are there opportunities, working with schools, 'ZREC' process, town savings in the form of electricity...parking lots potential location...plowing a bit more difficult to avoid stations.
- Recycling Infrastructure...out of control. Recycle more with appropriately sized containers, picked up regularly...upgrade all facilities. Town used to make \$50k, now they pay \$500 k...but going down slowly.
- Pollinator pathways...opportunities? (Pollinator Pathway group)...good example at H. Smith Richardson, which is great, includes technology to learn about species.
- Food sourcing at golf course...privately leased with 7-year contract but can request naturally-grown/local sourced next time around.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: Justin Beck 2/17/22 12 – 1 pm

In Attendance:

- Justin Beck, Economic Development Commission
- Gaylen Brown, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation

Input:

Programming

- Pickleball...a lot of folks asking for...what about winter sports...domed conversion facility for ice skating, soccer and lacrosse.
- Taste of Fairfield...folks in town are already talking about this, making Fairfield a destination. Paid admission, vendors showcasing local food. Could hire event person (Stamford does this now). There is so much talent in town we could draw on for entertainment. Behind Burr Mansion, behind Town Hall, Jennings Beach...
- Drum circles at the beach...if permitted. Could be one-off or scheduled monthly. Would likely need permission of Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Beach volleyball could be big...expositions, tournaments. Would need setup (stands) could be paid for through sponsorships, may need to bring in sand...
- X Games competition/roller derby.
- Casino Night?
- Festival of the Kite (Redondo Beach, CA does this)..an organized festival/event. Sand sculpture programming is pretty cool too.
- Sports skills competition during tournaments/competitions.
- Sunset dinner cruises.

Facilities

- Fencing...banners could be placed with advertising to generate revenue.
- Jackie Durrell...closed in winter, maybe use for pee wee soccer? Perhaps consider portable HVAC...seems underutilized.
- Firepits at the beaches...needs to be more between Jennings and Penfield and not limited to the summer, should be year-round.
- Restaurant at the marina...is needed, perhaps in parking lot. Could connect with the trails and could be a community asset.

Information

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Connectivity/Mobility

- Shuttlebuses in season...in between hotels/motels/train station/beaches to capture some revenue and facilitate moving people around town without additional vehicles. Rickshaws...with paid advertising on the cart...more of a novelty.
- Boat transit to areas in the community.

General Comments

- Sponsorships/naming rights for fields, parks, gazebos and other town-owned facilities...town needs more revenue to offset costs to stabilize property tax rate, or for new projects. Existing park names don't have current relevance...take advantage of success of programming for sponsorships through naming rights.
- With the right marketing approach, tap wealthy residents (fund managed by them) to work with Town to provide upgrades through naming rights, outside of everyday politics.
- Public auction of town items...stored/leftovers/decommissioned. Town had cars no one was using...I'm sure there are other items lying around.
- Current events aren't always 'healthy' ...vegetarian/vegan/dairy-free options should be included.
- Engage the universities to support facilities and programming. This is an asset we should be tapping into. Perhaps sponsorships, students could utilize facilities, advertise. Public debate contest? Leadership opportunities for youth in Fairfield. Competitions/exhibitions.
- Pizza cook-off...there are 25 pizza establishments in town...could be fun.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: Board of Finance 2/17/22 4 – 6 pm

In Attendance:

- Anthony Calabrese
- Gaylen Brown
- Craig Curley
- Sheila Marmion
- Kevin Starke
- Chris DeWitt

Input:

Programming

- Summer Camps are great...in the past it was a competition to get your kids in...kids later became counselors which was a nice continuum.
- Scheduling for older adults might be improved...timing v. offerings.
- Concerts at Lake Mohegan would be great.

Facilities

- No pool is a missed opportunity.
- Town is more fragmented...neighborhood based.
- Golf amenities...driving range underutilized, a lot of property there with opportunity for more fields. Revenue at driving range is low, improvements could improve/increase revenue generated. Winterized, lights, heating.
- Golf Courses don't have a real practice area...which would increase opportunities. With the right facility, could expand programming, camps, etc.
- Town appears to be segmented and not everyone knows what there is outside of their own neighborhood.
- Last snow storm, kids were sledding at the golf course, parents were around the fire pit, and it was packed, everyone enjoying the space.
- How to pay for turf...agree turf and better conditions and lower maintenance costs would be a good thing (although more upfront costs). Costs crushed rubber v. organic (corn/coconut) could be flushed out...need to irrigate organic to keep it moist. Data on health impacts are inconclusive. CT legislature working to banish crumb rubber.
- Past relationships with leagues where they assist/offset costs with improvements and other equipment/structural needs. Is there an established methodology for 501 C 3 providing financial contributions? Work should be coordinated by the Town, and subject to audit and financial oversight.
- Comfort station investments should be a priority. About half has physical stations, others have port-a-pots.
- Beach is the biggest asset. Should be a restaurant on the beach...would have to change the way the town does beach stickers. Does the town need to be in the banquet business? Doesn't have to be all or nothing, what about something for everyone? Showers and storage are important.

Use Boca (golf course) as an example...leased with incentive revenue once certain threshold is reached.

- Marina...wasn't there a plan? It got shelved, folks like it as is. Needs to be more of a town facility/amenity.
- Kayak rentals on the beach...an insurance risk. If private vendor, once they get insurance quotes, becomes an issue. Needs amenities 'by the marina'...concessions would be great.
- Have you ever considered making Jackie Durrell four seasons?
- What about a hockey rink/facility? Sacred Heart's rink...town gets a percentage of ice time as a result, and rentals will be offered. Outdoor hockey also would be great.
- Restaurant at Lake Mohegan? Residents/tourists are already there.

Information

- Social media and brochures have realized an increase significantly.
- Could be spread throughout all neighborhoods, seems siloed at times.
- Parks and Recreation do a great job with website/social media. Partnerships that they offer are great.
- The brochure is totally worth it...hard copies work for a lot of people.
- Parks and Recreation advertises Senior Center programming in their brochures...Parks and Recreation works to not compete with what others in town are offering.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Traffic is an issue for safety and children. Sidewalks needed.
- Bike lanes under Parks and Recreation? Not necessarily but could be a partner.
- Mill Plain over to Pine Creek to Old Field to Riverside to Grasmere to Commerce in the shoulder as a loop...would need to change driver's mind set with signage. Stratfield Rd. is tough to walk on.

General Comments

- Need to bring all parts of town together, Parks and Recreation already facilitates this, but we can do more.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: First Selectwoman Brenda Kupchick 2/17/22 1 – 2 pm

In Attendance:

- Brenda Kupchick, First Selectwoman
- Gaylen Brown, Assistant Director Parks and Recreation

Input:

Programming

- Parks and Recreation offers a lot of programming that is affordable
- Summer camps are great.
- Sherman Green concerts...great but could do more...monthly perhaps closing a street (30 – 60 yr. old residents)...make the town more fun, centered on perhaps single folks/empty-nesters.
- Sand Jam movies on the beach...maybe events on Penfield, allow folks to bring pizza, and hang out, liquor license/permit (Art District in New Orleans feel). A lot of activities for parents with kids, how about for adult residents.
- Dog parks are needed. Town has a large open space, water and hiking that is dog-friendly (unleashed by design). Residents are asking for closed-in (fenced) areas for dogs.

Facilities

- Public/private partnership...for field upgrades, working with Fairfield Athletic Foundation, but costs are significant and still working out implementation.

Information

- Parks and Recreation does a good job with advertising events/activities and programs.
- Social media is great, haven't heard any complaints.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Jennings/Penfield...could be better for folks with disabilities (Milford does this well).
- Bike/Pedestrian Committee...working on accessibility issues.

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: Golf Commission 2/8/22 2 – 4 pm, 2/9 5 pm

In Attendance:

- Mike Herrington - Commissioner

Golf Courses

H. Smith Richardson:

Programming

- New tee-time system this year.
- Membership: approx.. 700 golfers (100 seniors/125 ladies/450 men's leagues).
- 55 k rounds of golf played last year...a record.
- Leagues have own events/6 tournaments per year for leagues (35% non-resident membership).
- More community participation/programs...introduce more to the game/course...some push back from non-golfers. Bob creating a junior program and expanding adult program.
- Bob to continue working with P/R.
- A new instructor? Current programs are filling up, so maybe.
- More events/tournaments.

Facilities

- Recently built new clubhouse....ADA accessibility-compliant, parking undersized for both golf/restaurant use, particularly high season...considering valet, but not sure where that would happen.
- 18 holes, celebrating 50 yr. anniversary, rated one of the best in the state.
- Just completed 10 yr. plan (reconstruction of clubhouse/bunkhouse).
- US Golf Assoc. last year came out said course is in good shape considering amount of use...recommendations for tree cutting/vegetation cut-back to allow for more sunlight to the turf.
- Current long-term plan the subcommittee is working on...cart paths are deficient (beat up/poor condition, too wide) and need to be replaced...looking for another town-sponsored commitment (previous one was for \$10 M with \$100 K per year for ten years). Also drainage project is on their plan...some fairways don't drain well. Address capital items beyond day-to-day course maintenance...looking for commitment from town (\$1 m ...\$100 k per year).
- New pro shop, golf cart barn, locker rooms with club house rebuild.
- Courses comply with town environmental regulations, and ponds regarding drainage work.
- Turning attention to the actual golf course...working on plan to address big/small issues...good sense of what to do with course.
- Need new driving range/practice facility, year-round (in budget for \$500 k next year).
- Equipment...need upgrade to maintenance equipment...own employees on site, backup from R/R. staff are thin, could use more staff, mainly focused on mowing, rather than special projects.
- Open to GI/LID projects.

Information

- Each course has own website outside of town 's website.

Connectivity/Mobility

General Comments

- Climate change...migration of native species? Not doing anything related to this.

Carl Dickman Par 3

Facilities

- Subcommittee attends to...looking at vegetation cleanup/cut back, will be developing a long-term plan.
- Golf pro is fairly new/great...involved in both courses.
- Could be improved, a jewel, but needs some love.
- No bathrooms, small check-in box...for amount of service, needs more attention. Consider 'overflow' but shouldn't...a stand-alone facility.

Driving Range (near H. Smith Richardson)

Facilities

- Active but not in great shape...looking at enhancements, practice facilities, cleaning up mats

Town Marina

Facilities

- Several years ago determined to be woefully inadequate...there was a plan to rebuild marina (doesn't conform to space sizing for boats), but it would have reduced the capacity of the marina. Parks/Rec. Commission approved, marina users opposed, BOS decided not to move forward.
- Safety is a concern....for small boat access, currently using 'frog hooks' to secure boats in and people are falling off pads to get onto their boat. Town/marina made available to boaters at an additional fee, town should have paid for all due to funding marina brings in.
- Recently dredged channel, now access fully conforms with industry standards.

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: Parks and Recreation Commission 2/9/22 12 – 2 pm

In Attendance:

- Brian Nerreau
- Dylan O'Connor
- Bill Llewellyn
- Chris McCoy
- Bridgette McBride
- McKay Jameson

Programming

- Programming is good...never lacked anything, girls volleyball would be a good addition.
- Registration...never used the app, online is quirky.
- Field Hockey would be a good addition programs.
- Town should offer anything HS does as 'feeders.'
- Tomlinson may offer field hockey.
- Program at Middle School?
- Age groups...maybe open age groups up more for those just starting to get 'a team' secured...outside teams are expensive. Town has the indoor space to do this. Town has tried volleyball several times, couldn't get the schools to use.
- Consider partnership for summer program?

Facilities

- Fields...trying to get more turf fields, other towns playing soccer at night on turf (HSs have turf field each). Open up a lot of the bottlenecks, no permit hoarding...would make competitiveness equitable.
- Anthony has carved out a nice plan.
- Dwight Park is possibly a tear-down and good option for turf (drainage problem).
- Preparation of fields after storms has been haphazard.
- Art. Turf would help relieve grass use.
- Tournament plan (4 per year)...Benefit Costs Analysis to show the benefit.
- Dedications/naming rights can help bring funds to construct.
- Behind golf course, there is a lot of acreage/capacity within a central location...could be ideal...access road is not great, and Police Dept. shooting range is back there. Giant Steps properties.
- Driving range...modernizing this...outdated. Could be revenue generator. Prove investments would generate revenue, short-term...increase the hours of operation...Top Golf location...they would build everything for the Town.
- Adult softball...fields are not great.
- Soccer at Warde...good, but not great due to maintenance.
- Sporadic plan for sports...everything is spread out...need a sports complex...one destination, challenge is finding the space to make it happen...how to build complex in established town...partnerships public/private.
- Warde...need to deal with equity, BOE property conflicts. FAF plan for Warde with multi-purpose facilities (complex) but so many barriers with BOE Ludlowe/Sullivan two projects, then Tunxis Hill and Gant Steps, Dugiello, Dwight. Sullivan is an option too, for multi-purpose field options.

- Commission to dev. Wish list...Sullivan, Dugiello as priorities.
- Land area near Metro...contaminated?
- Online system for field use...measure's in place to penalize...software update...can see who has what. Crossover with F. national/American LL, no designated fields.
- Contracts with Greenways...Greenways not currently Town's contractor...out to bid. Fairfield American pays for maintenance of fields, Fairfield National may pay for theirs too....they pay Greenway, not allowed to bring in outside contractors.
- P/R grounds staff to begin overtaking some of the grooming, but staffing is limited.
- There are some 'agreements' in place with leagues for maintenance and upkeep. Am. National and girls' softball don't pay the \$25 per head because they agreed to capital projects/expenses.
- ADA accessibility? Charge when rehab/retro-fitting sites...Transition plans should be developed. Risk Management taking this on...a liability? Challenger games hosted in Town...
- Playgrounds to be updated (current list in place and funded...designs in place). Sgt. Murphy playground on the list? In poor condition. Fitness park (in Spring) will be ADA accessible. Consider surfacing as an issue to plan for.
- Pickleball...saw the reaction at PW # 1...they want multiple courts near each other...Lake Mohegan has room for courts (conservation covenants on site).
- Warde student AED presentation on locations for access off season...P/R Commission to look at this...AED subcommittee interested in supporting this...Gaylen – there are 11 interior AEDs for distribution at specific locations.
- Dog park locations...Ash Creek, Lake Mohegan...2nd not as popular because a lot of people already bringing their dogs there.
- Marina...is old, fairways are one-third of what is regulated.
- Pool is needed. Jennings parking lot potential? A lot of big events go there...
- Pickleball at Lake Mohegan would suffice the pickleball group...but would be underserving the Town...Senior center potential? Replace skate park?
- Splash pad near beach...Jennings maybe? SPARKS put one in prior.
- Pool is needed because the clubs are so expensive, and schools have to rent space for their competitive teams.
- Mill Hill area...privately-owned development plans on the books.

Information

- ...

Connectivity/Mobility

- Major intersections...stop signage (buttons) would be good.
- Trail behind Owen Fish...opportunity (previous request)

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: Sports Facilities 2/8/22 6 – 8 pm

In Attendance:

- Chris Britt – Fairfield Rugby Club
- Michael Menkes – Fairfield Babe Ruth Baseball
- Michael Broderick – Fairfield National Little League
- Matt Colangelo – Fairfield Little League Softball
- Brendan Sullivan – Fairfield Youth Football
- Sarsfield Ford – Fairfield Legion Baseball
- Terry Carroll – Fairfield Little League Girls Softball

Programming

- ...

Facilities

- Fields are far behind where they should be...Trumbull/Newtown. Town asleep at wheel FAF/Athletic Foundation trying to raise money with leagues ...too many kids...too many sports, youth field hockey has no field space...only 5 team home games due to lack of space for tackle football...10 teams had to travel.
- Losing coaches at high school level due to late times for practice/play...late evening play makes it difficult for kids to play multiple sports, get home at night.
- Fields could be better...but can't overuse.
- Maximize utilization by renting out if not in use...permit hoarding happening because if foul weather, they need to find the space last minute. If it rains hard at 10 pm...no practice the next day.
- Baseball fields aren't good...lower Tunxis. Also a multi-purpose/shared use with soccer...has conflicts. Kiwanis decent baseball field. Warde now controlled by BOE. BOE controls fields with facilities that sit empty. Process is burdensome to reserve/get because no central point exists. As the town adds facilities, need central POC or better software, import fines if don't use field reservation.
- Can see availability on line but can't see who actually has it reserved...would be helpful to be able to swap...'Global Calendar' ...would reduce showing up double-booked. Town and High School fields into one calendar.
- High Schools...Miriam has to go through two athletic directors...new software/process?
- High Schools want youth programs there...they are feeders to their teams.
- If families can pay, children have access to great fields/facilities. Equity in town doesn't always work.
- Lights...and fall sports are difficult. Sullivan Field lighting is good. Football purchased lights \$8 k...10 in total. Mill Hill great place, no lights. Adult softball field has lights. Lighting is a requirement to host tournament...lost revenue.
- Down to 4 baseball fields...Figure out how to keep what they have in good safe condition, currently not maintained by contractor, esp. at Kiwanis. Grounds people don't have knowledge for field maintenance, causing injuries, sprinkler head/irrigation covers in the way. Fencing around fields is dangerous. Long term goal...turf one of the fields, with lights...but problematic with neighbors.
- They get adult summer college league requests young residents who have come back to town but can't offer because no lighting for night play.

- Significant equipment loss...no backstops, lost balls. Some limited with age play, 16/17 yr. old cause an accident with foul balls...bought tarps for fields to keep rain off, but also used by neighborhood and residents take tarps off fields. Seaside Park...partner with college for shared use...and don't turf the outfield (grass), just the infield (artificial). If they grade infield every year, just keeps getting worse. Preserve what exists first. Contractor doesn't know what they are doing. In summer, often lose use of Tunxis...due to thunderstorms/drainage late July.
- Drainage is an issue at most fields.
- Fix knowing who has the fields now (global calendar)...Better define others using batting cages v. fields (conflicts). Permit should be just for field for game time.
- Owen field cage needs to be fixed.
- Practice time is limited for a lot of teams due to lack of fields.
- Upper Tunxis/Kiwanis/Mill Hill cages...they get destroyed by outsiders, L screens.
- Teams locking up bases or staying in ground all winter and get ruined.
- Leagues don't mind with helping with upkeep...but the bigger stuff is harder.
- Softball...crown jewel of a field, but drainage issue. Last year hosted district, sectional, state...played at Warde, due to poor field conditions. Need lights for fall ball. HSs largest little league softball in state...those approaching HS can't play on the fields due to BOE control. Girls have to use mats to pitch off mound at HS. No field amenities. Other towns don't want to play on mats. Dougiello use is limited. Lack of practice time to qualify for all stars need to play a lot of games. Transparency with online system would be great, avoid bothering Gaylen...open up HSs...never had a home game or home practice.
- Rugby is growing, but BOE is a barrier. Trying to find a home in Town...losing kids to other towns...consider re-purposing underutilized field...typically use Veteran's Park.
- FAF trying to get to a better understanding of equity of use...already working with town to have multi-purpose use at these sites.
- Families likely willing to play a fee to make improvements happen, plus the monetizing of tournaments...need help immediately. Maximize usage to fund.
- Indoor facility is needed...two universities don't have full indoor either...work with them for partnership. Resources and wealth in town. Universities don't pay property taxes. Corporate partnerships.
- Multi-purpose is the way to go...look at the financial comps of grass v. turf.
- Get turf fields (multiple) adjacent to each other, so you could host tournaments.
- Little League...out of town players...have to pay \$75 per game for use of fields...a problem, so they go elsewhere.

Information

- ...

Connectivity/Mobility

- ...

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions
Group: Town Administration 2/8/22 12 – 2 pm

In Attendance:

- Beverly Balaz – Chamber of Commerce
- Mark Barnhart – Economic Development
- Tim Bishop – Conservation
- John Cottrell – DPW
- Julie Pemarco – Human Services
- Anthony Calabrese – Parks and Recreation
- Doug Novak – Parks and Recreation

Programming

- Bring back 'Taste of Fairfield.'
- Frisbee golf would be nice.
- Registration system and P/R programs are great.
- Swim lessons offered at Penfield and Lake Mohegan.
- Summer camp, outdoor music/concert series are awesome, as are the beaches

Facilities

- Pickleball is huge, indoor facility similar to tennis is needed.
- Town needs a pool...indoor/outdoor. Both high schools have competitive swimming programs/teams, but no pools.
- Senior Center has soccer field/dog park, dogs run free, no one respects signs. H accessible trail could be cleaned up enhanced (seasonal)...perhaps children's group/scouts could become stewards? Center is very old; some improvements are cost-prohibitive (windows/HVAC)...covered pavilion would be nice. Does not have a cooking kitchen so not desirable as rental space. Located in 100-year flood zone which is an issue. Center does provide transportation for seniors .
- Need restaurant on the water/event space...rooftops always work well. Economic Development recently held a retreat discussed a restaurant at marina.
- Need outdoor event space with stage (possibly museum grounds).
- Commission on Disabilities (new)...would like to have field with gym mats for use by all abilities.
- Splash pads big in Bridgeport...would be nice at the beaches, especially when swimming is closed to the public...people are still at the beach. There is a splash pad at Lake Mohegan (30 yrs. old?). Out to bid now for replacement, heavily used by younger population.
- Conservation generally deals with permitting, not planning...electric vehicle charging stations at open space areas would be great...town navigating toward this for their fleet? Works with land acquisition of parcels (adjacency)...there is a priority list (needs to be updated 2018-2019)
- Leagues push to get on fields early in the year, overuse/over-scheduling...night lighting (football rents lighting towers but not necessarily effective)
- Need ice skating rink (seasonal/outdoor)...had one downtown but was short-lived.
- Need dog park...leashed/unleashed.
- Limited multi use (Veteran's Park probably the closest) sites...South Pine Creek complex is good, but town overall is segmented, and parking is limited/often an issue
- No real 'parks' in town, like a community park...a destination/focal point.

Information

- Registration system and P/R programs are great.

Connectivity/Mobility

- Need a shuttle/trolley centrally located to bring folks around town, maybe co-located at train station.
- Connectivity could be improved...sidewalks are haphazard...great facilities (beach is an asset), golf courses are significant, walking trail could happen along Beach Road.
- Walking paths great at Hollow Lake...stone dust path always used (trail maintenance falls on conservation).
- Ridgefield...Norwalk Valley River Trail continuous trail Norwalk to Danbury that is ADA-accessible...good example...connectivity in town could be improved. Complete Streets policy, but no ordinance

General Comments

- Stratfield does not have a lot to offer, town needs to be less compartmentalized
- Primary hurdle in town...people don't want things in their backyard...neighbors are the issue...need to change the culture in town...what will/won't work.
- Town has a 'Dark Sky' ordinance.
- Neighborhood associations need an umbrella group for education/awareness and bring neighbors together.
- Oakland Cemetery...100-acre parcel...owner is developing tree-walking tours, pollinator gardens, bees...during covid, a ton of people used/visited...trying hard to give it a different look/feel...town needs more of this.
- Signage could be improved ...got a grant for wayfinding signage, no funding to execute the plan though...targeted towards residents and tourists/seasonal and universities...kiosks ...at train station?

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: First Selectwoman Lefkowitz 2/25/22 10:30 – 11:30 am

In Attendance:

- Nancy Lefkowitz, Selectwoman

Input:

Programming

- More drive-in events, taking over parking lots of beaches...(Westport has a successful summer series), more food truck festivals, family-oriented events, jazz nights...bring people together around food and arts/culture.
- Westport has a great 'Beach Camp'...not certain Fairfield is taking advantage of all assets at the beach.
- Westport 'Longshore' as a model)...offers boating/sailing/kayaking school, Fairfield should do this.
- Programming/events can be political/religious, with a sense of partisanship...should be able to engage as a community, ask important questions about process and have these discussions.

Facilities

- Turf fields...many frustrated that it hasn't already happened.
- Greenfield Hill has no walkability or neighborhood parks...no community gathering space or sidewalks.
- Boating in town feels exclusive...how to expand waterfront offerings that are accessible to all residents.
- Fairfield is really a small city divided into 10 voting districts...opportunity thru Parks/Rec to create 10 individual 'hamlets' with each having distinct sites/amenities that could also serve as the common thread throughout the community. 'Equity'...with each distinct need, how to plan for that? Should be unique to each district, not all the same. Things feel sort of disjointed...open space/nature are effective ways to bring people together.

Information

- More transparency/information is needed so there is less speculation...Fairfield Beach Club and Country Club of Fairfield are good examples here...do they pay taxes, rent, etc. Would be good if residents understood the logistics.
- Leash laws and dog 'situations' at sites are not clear...some sites under Parks/Rec and some under Conservation...use communication tools and transparency for rules/regulations to improve this understanding.
- First Selectwoman has a newsletter for communication...can this be more neutralized?

Connectivity/Mobility

- Bike paths to 'connect' the community.

General Comments

- ...

Fairfield Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Community Discussions

Group: Selectman Thomas Flynn 2/25/22 9:30 – 10:30 am

In Attendance:

- Thomas Flynn, Selectman

Input:

Programming

- Town should look at things 'holistically'...oversight over civic v. Parks/Rec v. Library v. others.

Facilities

- Coastline/beachfront is a huge opportunity for a stand-alone master plan...opportunities for things such as a restaurant and waterfront activities. The marina becomes a private club at an inexpensive rate. Pressure at Penfield Pavilion for no restaurant by neighbors...Jennings Beach has opportunity as well. Need to look at the coastline in a comprehensive approach as one of the Town's greatest assets...this should be an action item. We should treat the coastline as a business...what do we have to charge to make it work, but also affordable for all residents to participate. We have all these sub-boards/commissions that don't look at it as a business to cover costs...whether as a break-even proposition, or some that generate revenue to cover those that don't.
- Concerned over the popular things that get lobbied for...without consideration for the historic sites (cemeteries) in Town. Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are focused on the upkeep of historic cemeteries, working with Fairfield History Museum. Cemeteries in town are in bad condition. Need to balance investments for upgrades/improvements without losing site of the Town's history (150-year-old headstones).
- Fields are in deplorable shape. 15 sites with concept plans are likely accurate but finding the funds to do the work is the problem...we need to approach this as a separate business. Golf courses in town were done this way...making them profitable in order to reinvest in them consistently (\$110 – \$150 k put into clubhouse, and additional \$7 million later into Smith Richardson clubhouse).
- Several years ago invested in a softball field (Dugiello)...they also wanted lights on the field, but the ask died at BOF because there was no plan from the league to pay for it. Lights would certainly have increased capacity at the site. Perhaps a new protocol for upgrades/improvements on all parties par is needed. Programs have to be self-sustaining with consensus on a prioritization of improvements.
- 10 years ago the Town invested in the Middle School adjacent to the Library which still had some traffic issues...then shortly after, the Library came forward for needed improvements. This should have been a coordinated effort/joint project that could have realized some efficiencies with infrastructure and a better traffic pattern.
- A number of entities has purview over fields...so no one knows where/who to go to.
- Regarding location for a 'community' park/complex...perhaps on Old Dam Road by golf course...probably the only site with enough land. Maybe satellite parks perhaps would be better throughout the community...GIS Analysis is a good concept to identify potential sites.

- Town should plan for multiple uses...stripe tennis courts for pickleball also.
- Tennis bubble was a public/private partnership that worked well. Aster Plan needs to be actionable and realistic.
- Synthetic fields are great...do we need all of them to be turf?
- Need more transparency in terms of upkeep and care of facilities (who is responsible for what).
- Stakeholders in Town need to put pen to paper...how to monetize improvements...what is needed?

Information

- ...

Connectivity/Mobility

- ...

General Comments

- 17 years in town government, 3rd budget cycle with BOS

Stakeholder Outreach Summary (Interviews/Focus Groups/Round Robins), February 2022

Programming

Program Offerings

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Need boating/sailing lessons (public/private partnerships)
- More outdoor activities needed (esp. in winter)...snow shoeing, cross-country skiing (with maps) up at golf course
- Program/activate the beaches more
- Teen programming/center is needed...would be affected by transportation (coordination with schools would be needed)
- Enhanced water sports programming

Other Stakeholder input:

- Consider alternative programs based on specialized skill-set...offer non-club sports/activities
- Camp sign up is difficult (esp. families with multiple children and multiple locations (pick-up timing)...siblings at same camp, not by age groups
- Partnership with Haydu Farm for learning/composting farm
- Beach volleyball
- Programming schedules for older adults...timing v. offerings
- Girls volleyball
- Field Hockey
- Swim lessons at Penfield, Lake Mohegan
- Consider a 'beach camp'

One-off Events

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Taste of Fairfield
- Party boat/night cruises/sunset dinner cruises
- Events for adults/empty-nesters

Other Stakeholder Input:

- Drum circles
- X Games Expo/Competition
- Casino night
- Kite festivals
- Pizza Cookoff
- Annual Fairfield Town Party (music and food)

- Concerts (Lake Mohegan)

Policies

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- All municipal departments/groups to look at programming holistically (P/R, Senior Center, Library)
- Close down streets a couple of times per year and allow restaurants to expand to the streets. Sherman Green concerts great, expand here
- Focus new programs based on HS offerings as 'feeder' programs
- Make boating in town/at the marina accessible to all residents

Other Stakeholder input:

- Recreation soccer retention is failing...maybe FUSA too early?
- Neighborhood associations need an umbrella group for education/awareness to bring everyone together
- Programming/events should avoid politics/partisanship, religion
- Plan for equity at sites in all neighborhoods, use parks and recreation to bring people together

Facilities

Operations/Maintenance

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Artificial turf
- Playgrounds need an upgrade
- Trash cans should be left year-round and include pet waste stations (Lake Mohegan, Catania Park)
- Landscaping contractor improvements...not knowledgeable in field care/grooming
- Marina...revisit redesign plan improvements for safety (ramping, lighting, frog arms)

Other Stakeholder input:

- Drew Park paths need work (drainage issues)
- East side of Lake Mohegan floods (drainage issues)
- Soccer fields need work
- Melville Park has drainage issues
- Rooster River flooding impacting Owen Fish, Melville, Tunxis Parks
- New instructor at golf courses is needed to expand, more tournaments
- Golf courses need to upgrade maintenance equipment
- Prepare SOPs for fields after storms

- Town cemeteries need attention and emphasis on 'history' is important
- Plan for dual use of facilities (stripe tennis courts for both tennis and pickle ball)

Amenities

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Need lighting at fields to extend use/play
- Boat racks needed throughout town with security (kayak, paddleboard, canoe)
- Need bike racks, bike repair stations, water-filling stations, restrooms
- Water taps to accommodate water bottles

Other Stakeholder Input:

- Concessions needs an upgrade at Jennings Beach
- Parking lot at Jennings is bad (may be intentional for overwash)
- High Ridge Park needs permanent restrooms
- Dougiello Park needs lighting and perhaps liquor license
- Parking lot at Burroughs Park is terrible
- Veres Park needs bathrooms
- More pollinator pathways at sites

What's Needed

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Dog park (off-leash)...Mill Hill has an 8-ac parcel perfect for this, Ash Creek, Sgt. Murphy Park
- Town pool (ADA-accessible)
- Community gardening/farming on vacant town-owned parcels (Drew Park has a wait list)
- Need a destination/community park
- Covered fieldhouse is needed
- Multi-use/purpose fields are needed
- Lighting...summer college league requests, but timing doesn't align with schedules, required for tournament play
- Driving Range has a lot of potential as revenue generator (double-decker illuminated range)
- Restaurant on the waterfront
- Penfield as a restaurant, not event space
- Indoor complex...summer camp utilizes schools, not always available
- Ice skating rink (perhaps up by golf course) and could be informal

- Pickleball courts...Home Depot owns parcel of marginal land (across from Ganos), or a basketball court

Other Stakeholder Input:

- Greenfield residents have to leave their neighborhood for activities
- District 5 has limited facilities
- Seasonal camp with cabins
- Jennings Beach...good location for salt pool, ice rink, restaurant, splash pad, mini golf
- More outdoor basketball courts
- Bandshell (Ash Creek)
- Event space that is fenced/controlled access and egress and covered pavilion for more events (revenue generator)
- Rock wall is needed
- Lake Mohegan...opportunities for water park, restaurant (second story), deck for passive recreation
- Riverside Park...fitness trails (elements along stations)
- Frisbee golf
- P/R cold storage warehouse adaptive reuse for indoor facility (would in turn need storage)
- Heat Jackie Durrell for year-round rentals
- Town gardens at Senior Center
- Kayak Launch Ash Creek/DPW Garage with access to Pine Creek
- Fire pits at the beach (year-round)
- Practice area at golf courses...could incorporate camps/programming
- Restaurant at Lake Mohegan
- ADA-accessible field with gym mats
- Stand-alone Master Plan for the coastline/beaches
- Rugby is looking for a home

Policies

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Skate park needs enforcement/oversight
- Explore public/private partnerships with Sacred Heart/Fairfield University
- Better coordination with Conservation for beneficial adjacencies/efficiencies
- Need to figure out how to monetize turf sites, require as part of development proposals (Cost Benefit Analysis)
- Methodology for 501 C 3 financial contributions for improvements at sites...develop SOPs

- Cease 'permit hoarding' for field reservations, penalize non-use of empty fields
- More transparency with online field reservations so users can 'see' who has what reserved, and when...for inclement weather rescheduling. Global calendar. BOE oversees some fields that often sit empty, process is burdensome due to no central POC and need of new software
- Town should be less fragmented/neighborhood-based
- SOPs for equipment damage/loss for leagues (back stops, field cages, lost balls, bases locked up, or left out all winter)
- Factor in climate change considerations at sites (Rooster River area)
- Address noise pollution (from pickleball/basketball courts)
- Sherman School...soccer program and parents staying (no drop off) traffic/safety a concern...match parking with activity

Other Stakeholder Input:

- Rules for pet owners at parks (Lake Mohegan)
- Oldfield...Charles Garden playground...once lease to childcare/private daycare is up, take back more land area
- Sturgis Park has deed restriction limiting activities
- Consider certain parks as 'hubs' for specific sports (complex idea)
- Consider pop-up restaurants at Jackie Durell
- Bring back 'Brownfields to Townfields'
- Incorporate historic plaques in parks
- Sensitivity to light considerations
- Bring in conversation regarding gender-neutral programming/planning
- Build resilience/sustainability into all aspects of this plan (Low Impact Development, Green Infrastructure)...would need to address/update regulations first. EV charging stations at sites. Solar opportunities, recycling at sites.
- Food sourcing at sites...naturally-grown/locally sourced
- Utilize fencing for banners/advertising as revenue generator
- Sponsorships/naming rights for fields/parks/other town-owned facilities as revenue generators
- Consider 'healthy approach' to concessions
- Policies for off-season AED access
- Activating Oakland Cemetery...walking tours (species/pollinator gardens)
- Town should be looking at short- and long-term improvements that have beneficial adjacencies for cost-savings/efficiencies
- Conservation to work with Planning on updating land acquisition priority list

Information

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder Input:

- Town is segmented, not many know what is happening outside their neighborhood
- Make the master list of sites on P/R website more visible.

Other Stakeholder Input:

- Offset informational 'letters' regarding turf with data/information (pros/cons)
- Lake Mohegan...walking guide needed
- Conservation maintains a series of walking/trails maps...more visible/access
- Seek grant to implement wayfinding signage
- More transparency with revenue generators (Fairfield Beach Club/Country Club of Fairfield)

Access/Connectivity/Mobility

ADA Accessibility/Universal Access

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- Drew Park, Lake Mohegan, Southport and Sasco Beach...ADA trails
- ADA-accessibility could be improved/expanded at beaches. Addition of/Expansion of decking/boardwalks to get residents to site more easily (Penfield/Jennings/South Pine Creek). Expansion of mobility-assisted equipment (mats/all-terrain wheelchairs).

Other Stakeholder input:

- Develop transition plans for enhanced ADA-accessibility

Biking/Walking/Trails

Repetitive 'themes' from Stakeholder input:

- More trails/connections are needed between sites
- Inventory sites and map out connectivity
- Consider town trolley (loop system) that stops at metro station
- Limited/inconsistent sidewalks throughout town
- Bike lane along Fairfield Beach Road
- Boardwalk connecting five beaches with bike path along coast
- Major intersections need pedestrian lights to cross safely

Other Stakeholder input:

- Lake Mohegan needs better access for beach and walking

- Behind McKinley there is a walking path...Fairfield Woods/Howland Hill also suitable for paths
- Marina, Ash Creek, South Pine Creek are all connected...reinforce/strengthen this to foster economic development
- Excess land along the rails for off-road trail
- East Avenue trail through the marshes
- Consider rail trails along Metro north

PROGRAMMING

Program Offerings

- Swim lessons
- ADA accessible/Adaptive recreation options/alternatives
- Adult programming
- Enhanced water sports (boat rentals/lessons)
- Winter-based outdoor activities (snow shoeing/cross country skiing)
- Focus programs based on high school offerings (feeder programs)

One-off Events

- Music events
- Holiday events
- Program/Activate the beaches
- Taste of Fairfield
- Party boat/sunset dinner cruises
- Events targeted towards adults/empty-nesters
- Close streets a couple of times per year, allow restaurants to expand into streets

Information

- Increase visibility of parks/facilities on Town's website
- Trail maps/markers are needed (incorporate technology)

Policies

- Municipal departments/groups look at programming holistically (Parks/ Recreation, Senior Center, Library)
- Boating in town/at marina more accessible to all residents

FACILITIES

Amenities

- Food trucks/Concessions
- Comfort stations at fields (more/year-round)
- Lighting at fields (to extend play/use)
- Water taps to accommodate water bottle filling)
- Boat racks (with security)
- Boat rentals
- Field amenities (scoreboards, dug outs)

Policies

- Field reservation system is cumbersome (cease permit hoarding, penalize non-use of reserved fields, offer global calendar for transparency)
- Utilize Board of Education 'waterfall' system for equipment/facility planning
- Equitable focus/offerings (girls youth sports)
- Safety/Security (increased)
- Space management plan
- Trash receptacles/recycling/pet waste stations (available year-round)
- Revisit marina redesign plan (safety/ramping/lighting/frog arms)
- Skate park needs oversight/enforcement
- Continue to explore partnerships with Sacred Heart/Fairfield University
- Improved coordination with Conservation (beneficial adjacencies/efficiencies)
- Develop Benefit Cost Analysis for artificial turf (monetize improvements)
- Develop methodology for 501C3 financial contributions for site improvements
- Standard Operating Procedures for equipment damage/loss for leagues
- Consider sustainability/changing climate for improvements
- Community gardens/farming opportunities
- Consider noise pollution

FACILITIES

Operations and Maintenance

- Field conditions (drainage, contractor deficiencies)
- Artificial turf
- Tennis courts (resurfacing)
- Enhance natural landscape of parks
- Improved maintenance of existing areas
- Playgrounds need an upgrade
- Driving range upgrade

What's Needed

- Public pool
- Fields/Multi-Use complex (destination park)
- Dog park
- Ice rink
- Pickleball courts
- Field house/indoor complex
- Bike path (s)
- Rugby (home field)
- Indoor/Outdoor courts (basketball)
- Baseball field (s)
- Walking/Hiking paths
- Football field (s)
- Additional facilities (with ADA accessibility/universal access)
- Platform/paddle Tennis
- Community gardens/farming opportunities
- Restaurant on the waterfront/beach

ACCESS/CONNECTIVITY/MOBILITY

ADA Accessibility/Universal Access

- Provisions for beach access (boardwalk, mats, all-terrain wheelchairs)
- Provisions/Accommodations throughout sites

Biking/Walking/Trails

- Biking amenities (paths, racks, bike repair stations)
- Sidewalks (more consistent to link sites)
- Connectivity between sites (on/off-road)
- Consider Town trolley/loop system
- Bike lane along Fairfield Beach Road
- Boardwalk connecting beaches
- Pedestrian signal lights at intersections

Site-specific summaries for sites slated for concept plans (summarized from Workshop #1, Stakeholder engagement, and Community Survey)

Giant Steps

Dover

- Turf fields

Dougiello

- Lighting
- 2nd softball field
- Artificial turf
- Basketball courts
- Baseball field
- Artificial turf for soccer and softball

Lake Mohegan

- ADA-accessibility/Universal access
- Should not be a dog park
- Water park/splash pads
- Leashed dog area
- Pet waste stations
- Movie nights
- Improve/maintain trails
- Trail markers
- Swimming opportunities for older youth
- Public pool
- Concerts
- Open space area
- Expand hours for lifeguards
- Update the sprinkler/spray jets
- Corn hole
- Install Morehouse sidewalk from entrance parking to hiking trails
- Kayak rentals
- Sun shade for splash pad
- Better security (close the gate)
- Swim lessons
- Add 2nd story for passive recreation
- Walking guide for trails

Owen Fish Park

- Half marathon based out of park
- Upgrade playground
- Club house for teens
- Rebuild pitching mounds
- Field upgrades

- Repair/replace benches
- Fence in playground

Highwood

- Upgrade playground
- Walking path upgrades

Tunxis Hill

- Pickleball courts (need more)
- Rebuild pitching mounds
- Year-round dog park
- Trash receptacles
- Preserve wooded areas
- Repair/resurface pickleball courts

Jennings Beach

- ADA-accessibility/Universal access
- Basketball
- Boardwalk
- Lockers
- Boat rentals
- Fire pits
- Volleyball amenities
- Upgrade playground
- Swimming pool
- Outdoor movies
- Hobie Cat sailing
- Dog Park
- Skate Park
- Food Trucks
- Ice rink
- Marina
- Mini golf

South Pine Creek Rec Area

- Artificial turf (Sullivan Field)
- Cross walks
- Traffic/safety improvements
- Trail safety improvements (cameras)

Veterans Park

- Basketball
- Volleyball amenities
- Baseball field
- Low-impact sports (like bocce)

Maybe

Lincoln

- Basketball
- Volleyball amenities
-

Others for future concepts are:

Riverfield

- Upgrade playground

Dwight

- Fix tennis courts (resurface)
- Upgrade playground
- Picnic areas

Fairfield Woods

Oldfield Soccer

- Take back more land when lease is up (for safety)

Penfield Beach/Pavilion

- Improved changing rooms
- Boardwalk
- Restaurant
- Fire pits
- More picnic tables
- ADA-access
- Food trucks
- Swim lessons

APPENDIX F

Online Survey Summary

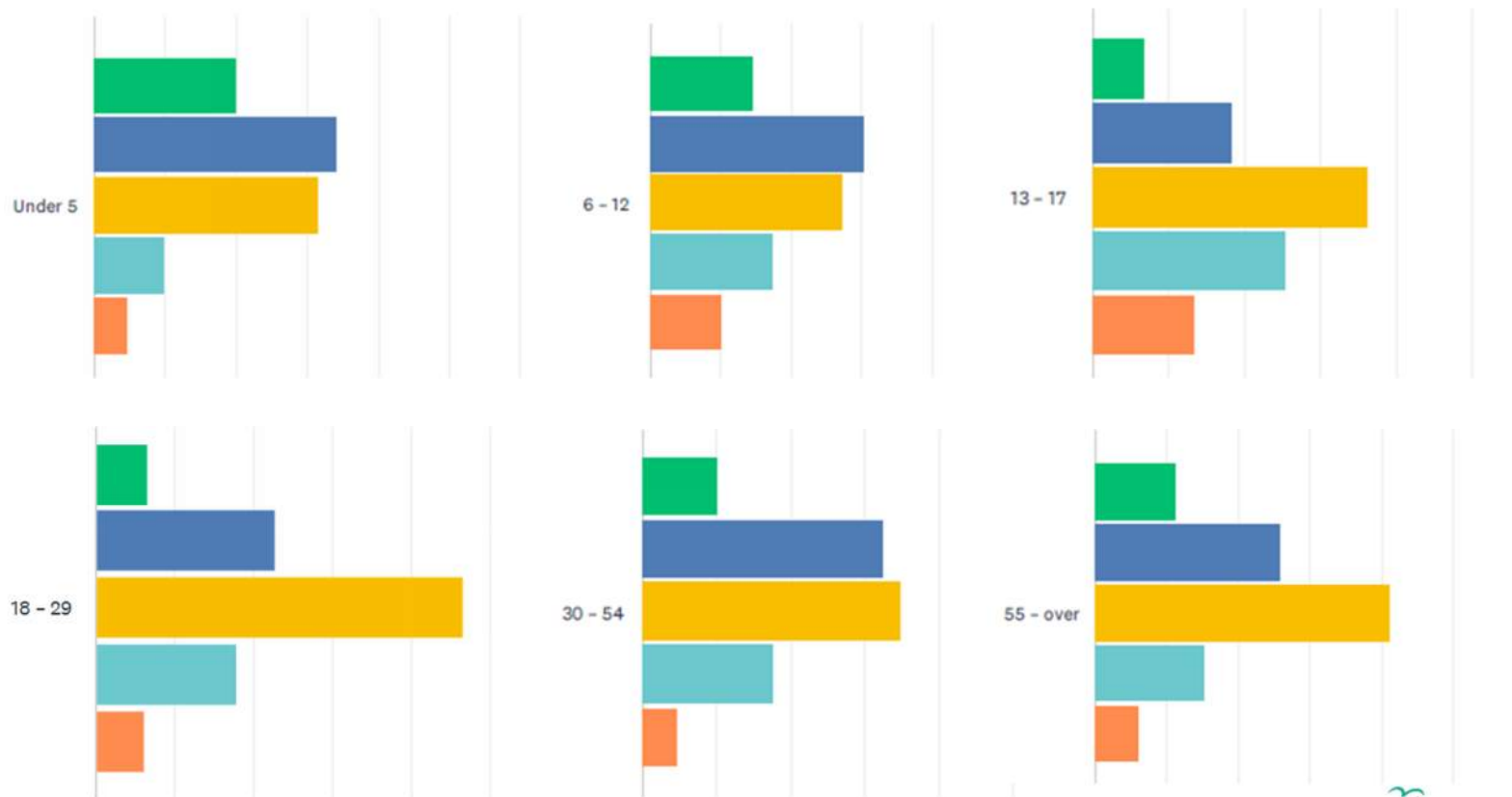
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- List three open space, recreation facilities or places that you/your family use in Fairfield...top priorities (question #1)
 - Penfield Beach
 - Beaches
 - Jennings Beach
 - Lake Mohegan
 - Sullivan Field
 - Owen Fish Park
 - Sasco Beach
 - Veteran's Park
 - Gould Manor Park
 - Sandcastle Playground
 - Tennis Courts
 - H. Smith Richardson Golf Course



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How satisfied are you with existing parks/recreation facilities for the following age groups...(question #6)



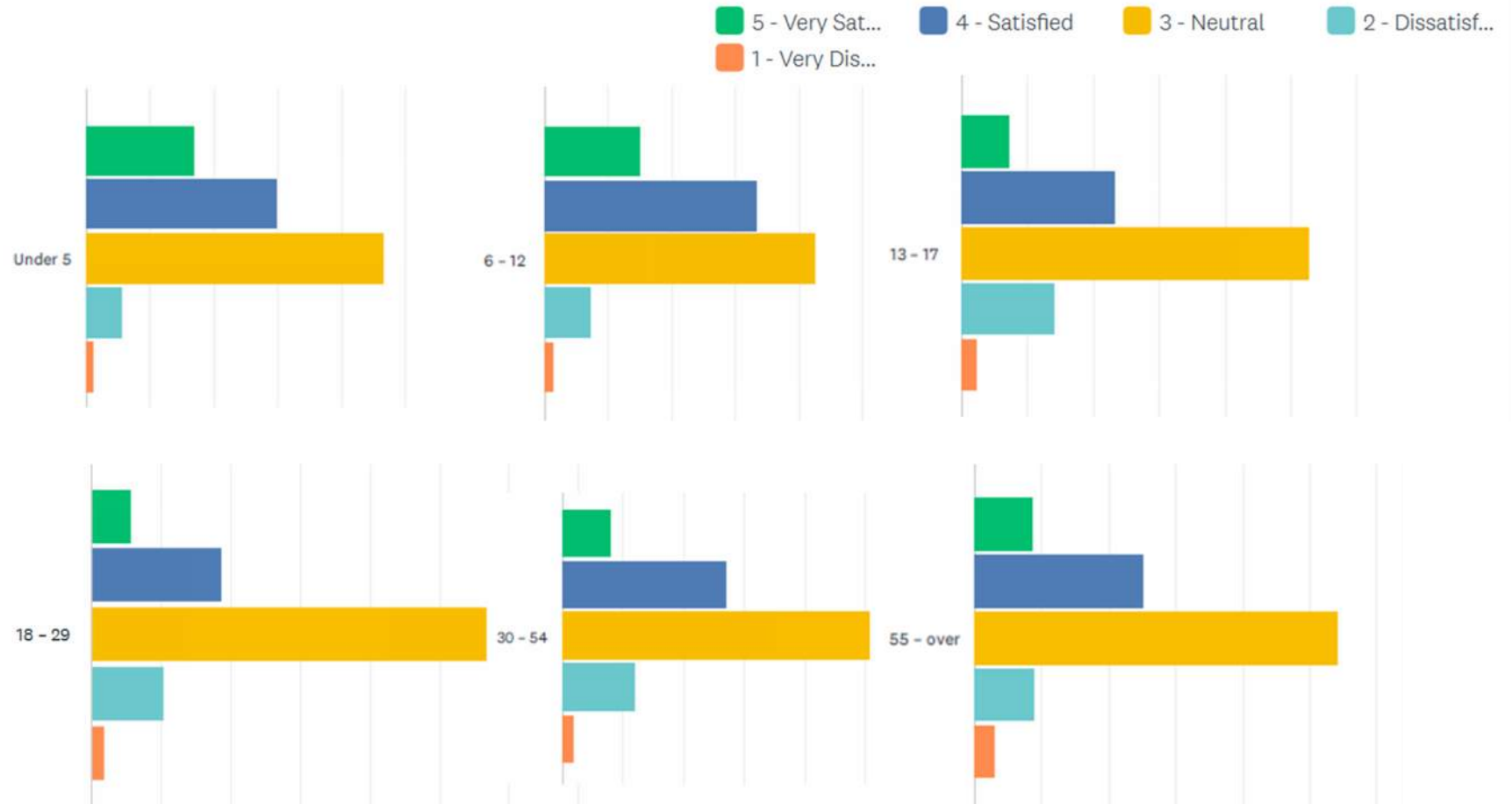
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- List three community events/programs that you/your family have attended/participated in over the past several years in Fairfield?...top priorities (question #3)
 - Christmas events
 - Music/Comedy events
 - Beach events
 - Memorial Day events
 - Town fireworks (4th of July)
 - Soccer games
 - Baseball/Softball games
 - Football games
 - Farmer's Markets
 - Parades



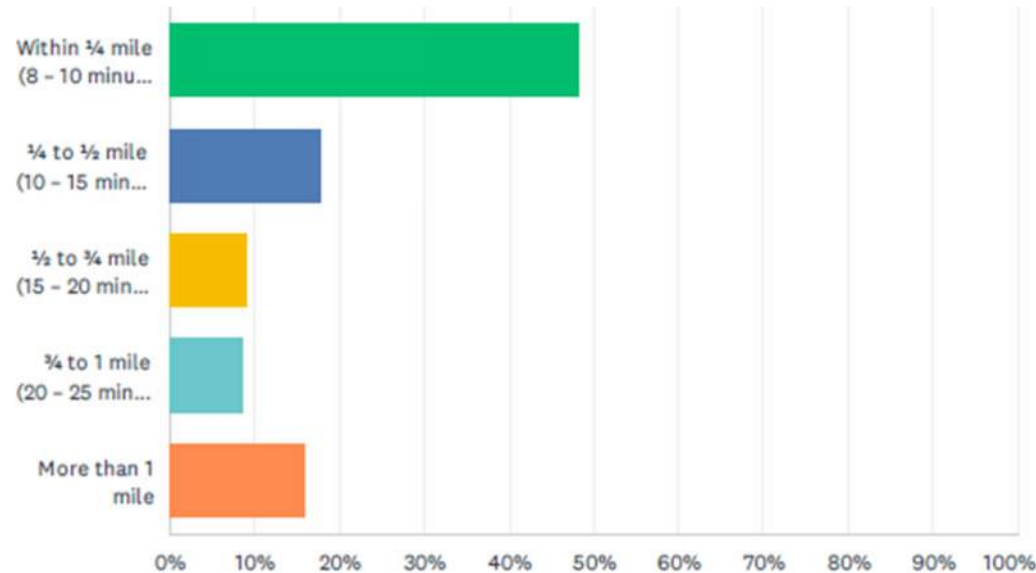
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How satisfied are you with recent community events/program offerings in Fairfield for the following age groups...(question #7)



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

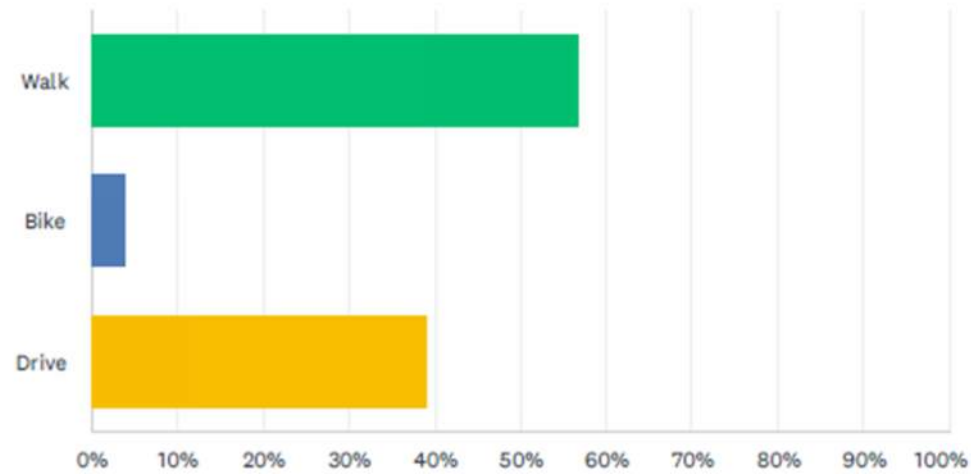
- How far is the closest park or recreation facility from your home...(question #12)



Within 1/4 mile:	48%
1/4 mile – 1/2 mile:	18%
1/2 mile – 3/4 mile:	9%
3/4 mile – 1 mile:	9%
More than 1 mile:	16%

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How do you usually get there?... (question #13)

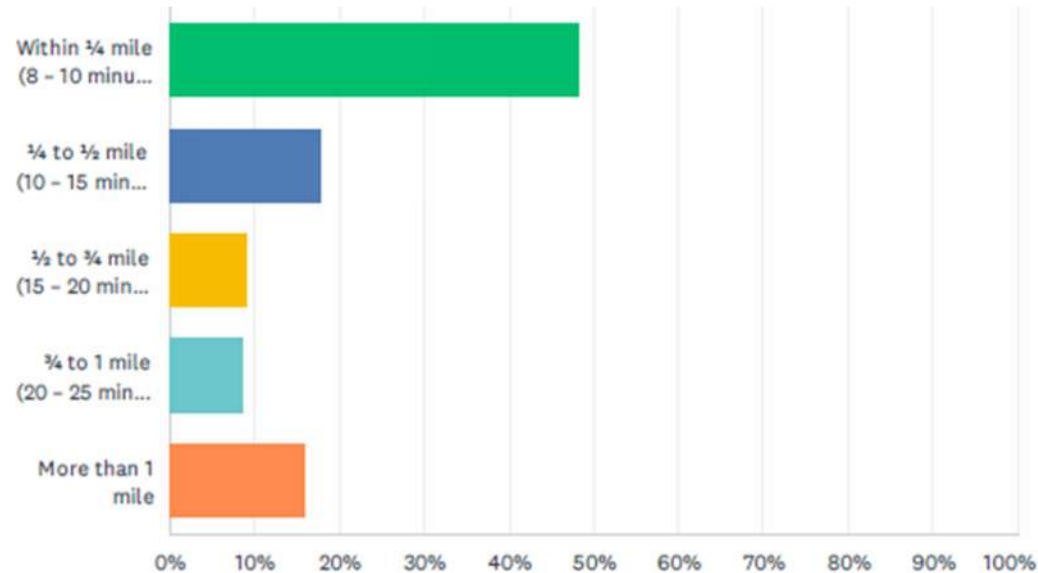


Walk: 57%
Bike: 4%
Drive: 39%



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How often do you visit parks or recreational areas in Fairfield...(question #14)



Every day:	12%
3 times a week:	40%
Once a week:	28%
Twice a month:	10%
Once a month:	7%
2 or 3 times a year:	3%



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Programming**...top priorities/needs

 - Offerings

 - Swimming programs
 - Accessibility/Adaptive recreation programming
 - Adult programming (more)
 - Water sports/boating programs (more)
 - Winter activities

 - One-Off Events

 - Add more/enhance existing community events (general)
 - Music events (more concerts)
 - Holiday events (more)

 - Information

 - Increase visibility of sites/amenities on P/R website

 - Policies

 - Equitable focus/offerings (girls youth sports)



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

- Operations and Maintenance

- Improved maintenance (fields/courts conditions)
 - Enhance natural landscape of parks

- Amenities

- Boat rentals
 - Comfort stations
 - Trash receptacles/recycling
 - Shelter from weather/sun
 - Food trucks/Concessions
 - Field amenities (lighting, scoreboard, backstop)
 - Parking

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

- What's Needed

- Public pool
 - Pickleball facilities (more)
 - Rugby (home field)
 - Artificial turf fields
 - Dog park
 - Ice rink
 - Indoor complex/Fieldhouse
 - Basketball courts
 - Baseball fields (more)
 - Paddle courts
 - Multi-Use Fields/Complex
 - Restaurant on the beach/waterfront

- Policies

- Safety/Security
 - Dog enforcement (leash/unleash, waste pick up)



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Access/Connectivity/Mobility**...top priorities/needs

ADA Accessibility/Universal Access

- ...

Biking/Walking/Trails

- Bike/Walking paths/trails
- Walking/Hiking paths



APPENDIX G

Public Workshop Presentations



Town of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Workshop #1 - 11.29.2021



BL Companies, Inc. • Horsley Witten Group, Inc. • Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Introductions – BL and HW Team



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SR. PROJECT MANAGER
BL COMPANIES



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SENIOR PLANNER
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JEFF DAVIS, AICP
SENIOR PLANNER
HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP



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Engineering
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Land Surveying

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BL Companies, Inc. • Horsley Witten Group, Inc. • Parks and Recreation Master Plan



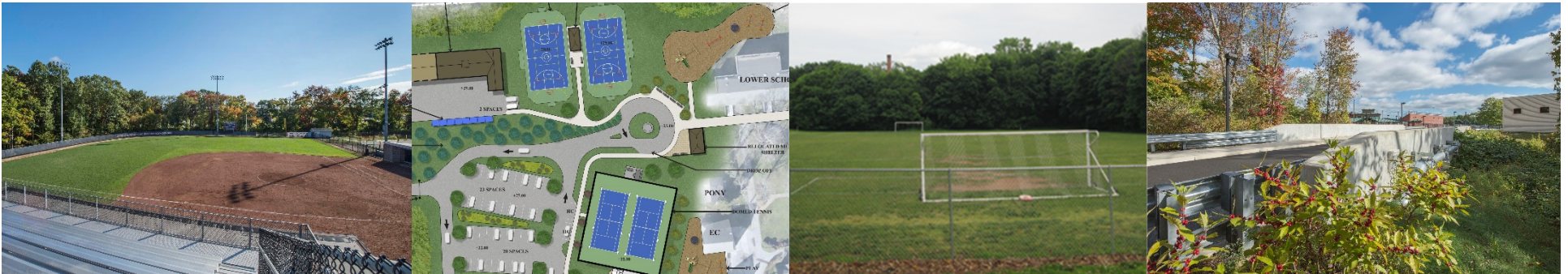
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Horsley Witten Group

COMPREHENSIVE/MASTER PLANNING

LAND USE PLANNING

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Relevant Experience | BL Companies



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BL Companies, Inc. • Horsley Witten Group, Inc. • Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Relevant Experience | Horsley Witten Group

STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



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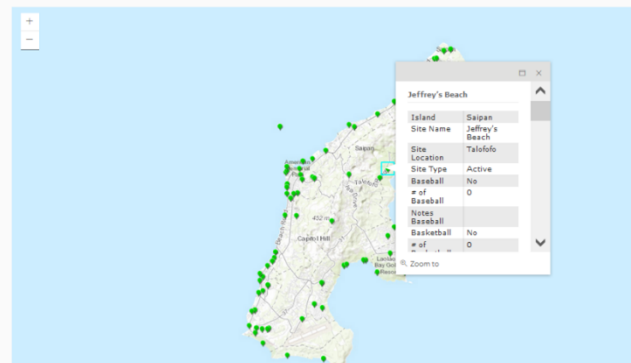
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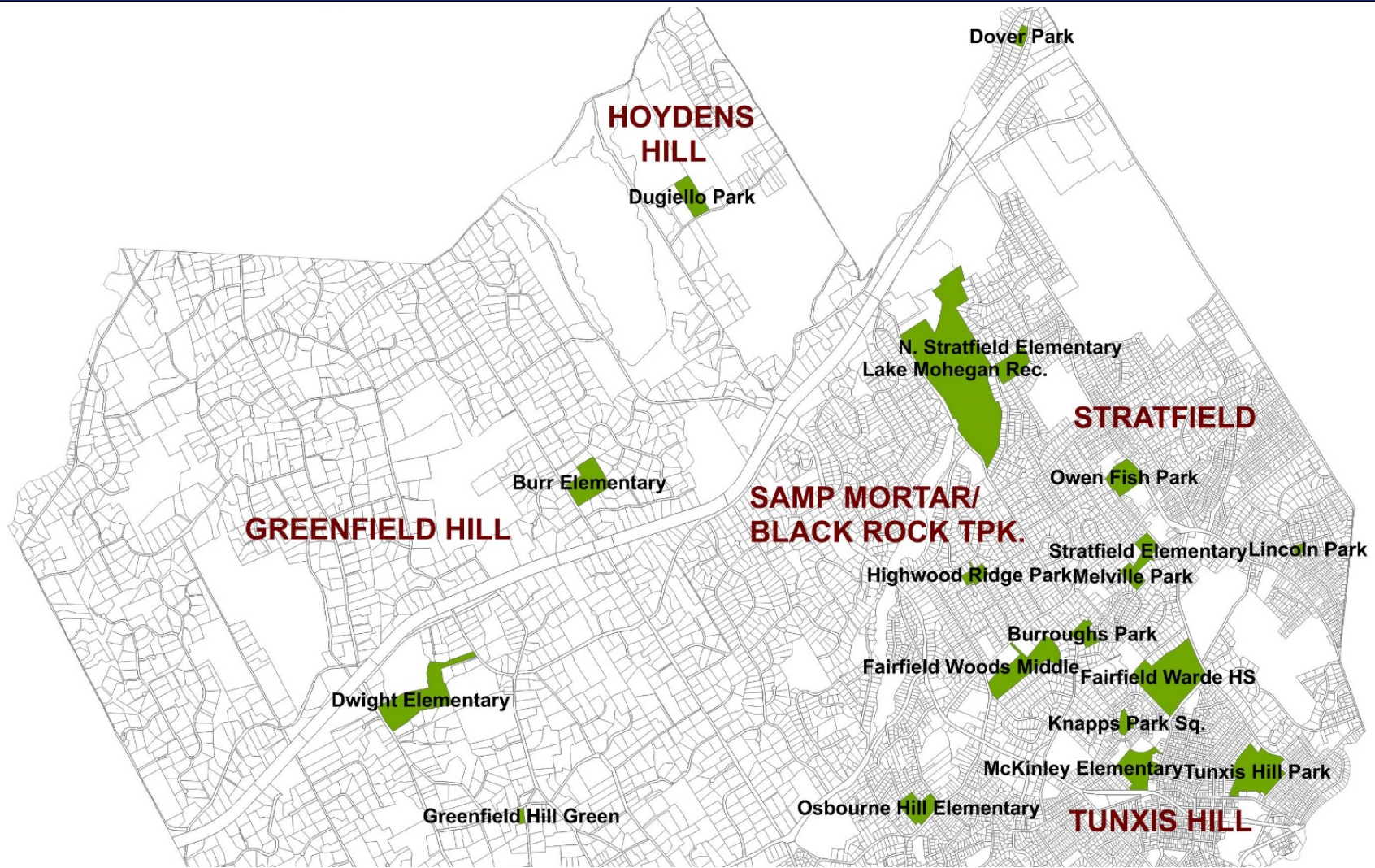


Specific Outcomes

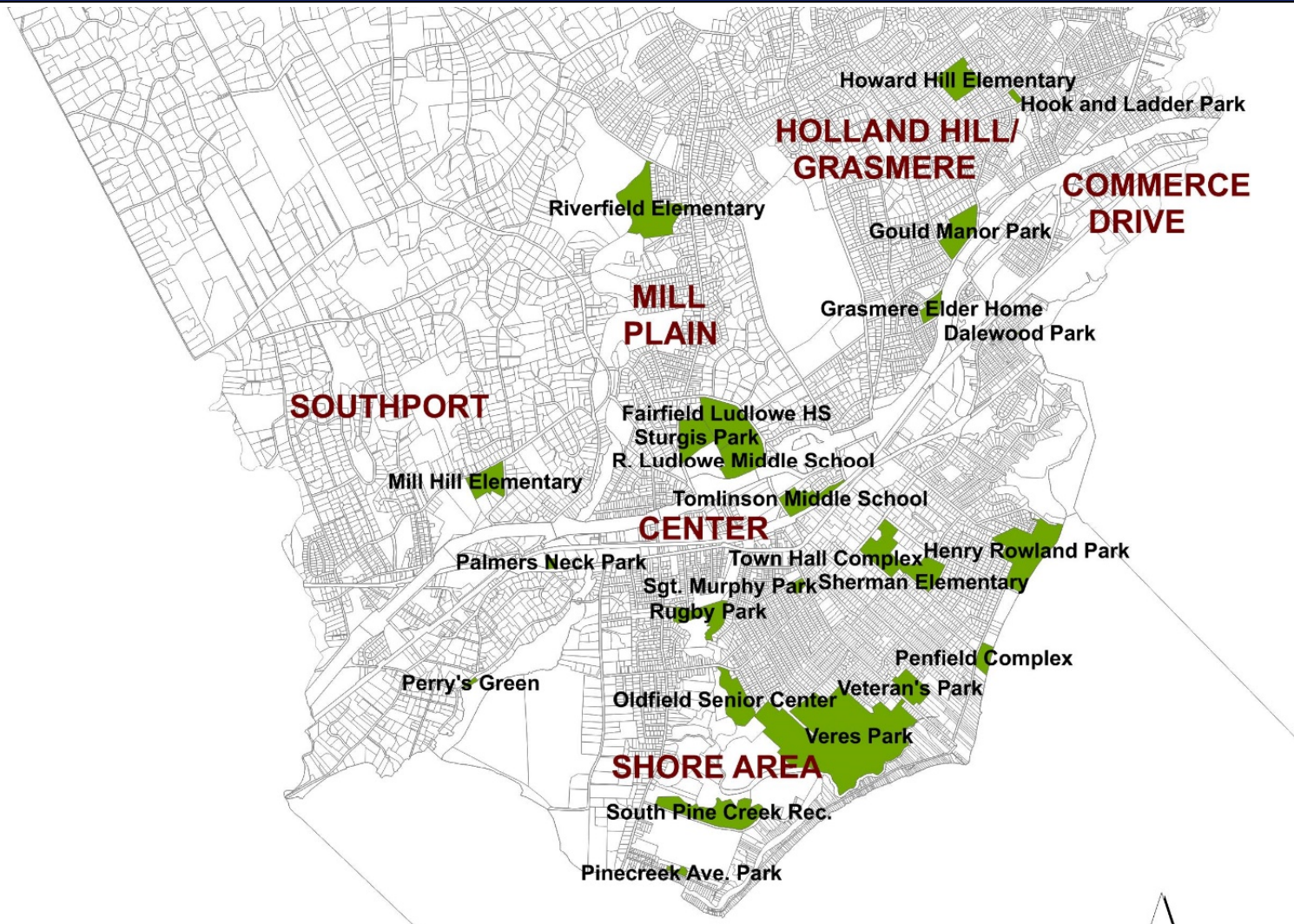
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- Guidance in the prioritization of projects
- Identify needs for current maintenance needs
- Identify risk verses benefit for natural turf field verses synthetic turf



Project Study Sites - Northern



Project Study Sites - Southern



Project Study Sites

PARK FACILITIES

BURROUGHS PARK

DALEWOOD PARK

DOUGIELLO PARK

DOVER PARK

DREW PARK

GOULD MANOR PARK

GRASMERE ELDERCARE PARK FACILITY

GREENFIELD HILL GREEN

HENRY ROWLAND PARK

HIGHWOOD PARK

HOOK AND LADDER PARK

KAROLYI PARK

KNAPPS PARK SQUARE

LAKE MOHEGAN

LINCOLN PARK

MELVILLE PARK

OLDFIELD SENIOR CENTER

OWEN FISH PARK

PALMER'S NECK

PENFIELD COMPLEX

PERRY'S GREEN

PINE CREEK AVE PARK

RUGBY PARK

SGT. MURPHY PARK

SHERMAN GREEN

S. PINE CREEK REC AREA

STURGES PARK

TOWN HALL COMPLEX

TUNXIS HILL PARK

VERES STREET PARK

VETERANS PARK



Project Study Sites

BEACHES AND MARINAS

JENNINGS BEACH

LAKE MOHEGAN

PENFIELD BEACH

RICKARDS BEACH

SASCO BEACH

SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH

SOUTHPORT BEACH

PERRY'S GREEN

SOUTH BENSON MARINA

YE YACHT YARD



Project Study Sites

SCHOOL FACILITIES

BURR ELEMENTARY

DWIGHT ELEMENTARY

HOLLAND HILL ELEMENTARY

JENNINGS ELEMENTARY

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY

N. STRATFIELD ELEMENTARY

OSBORN HILL ELEMENTARY

RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY

SHERMAN ELEMENTARY

STRATFIELD ELEMENTARY

FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL

TOMLINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WALTER FITZGERALD CAMPUS

FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL



Project Study Sites

OPEN SPACES AND CEMETERIES

ASH CREEK OPEN SPACE

BRETT WOODS OPEN SPACE

GRACE RICHARDSON OPEN SPACE

GYPSY SPRINGS OPEN SPACE

HOYDEN HILL OPEN SPACE

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE

MARY KATONA MEMORIAL OPEN SPACE

MOUNTAIN LAUREL OPEN SPACE

MILL RIVER OPEN SPACE AREAS

OLD DAM MARSH OPEN SPACE

OLDFIELD NORTH MARSH OPEN SPACE

OLDFIELD SOUTH MARSH OPEN SPACE

PEQUOT ROAD OPEN SPACE

PERRY'S MILL POND OPEN SPACE

PINE CREEK MARSH OPEN SPACE

RICHARDS BEACH OPEN SPACE

RIVERFIELD OPEN SPACE

SAMP MORTER ROCK OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK/KIRIK OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK MARSH OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK POND OPEN SPACE

SOUTHGATE LANE MARSH OPEN SPACE

SPRINGER GLEN OPEN SPACE

TRILLIUM ROAD OPEN SPACE

TURNEY CREEK MARSH TRACTS OPEN SPACE

WESTWAY ROAD OPEN SPACE

WOODSIDE CIRCLE OPEN SPACE

FAIRFIELD WEST CEMETERY

GREENFIELD HILL CEMETERY

OLD BURYING GROUND CEMETERY



Town of Fairfield | Parks & Recreation System Overview

Park Land (1200 acres total)

- 2 Major Active Parks (South Pine Creek & Lake Mohegan, +/- 75 acres each)
- 30 +/- Neighborhood Parks
- 5 Beaches on Long Island Sound
- 27 Open Space / Passive Parks
- 1 Lakefront Property

Amenities

- Water Spray Park
- 31 Tennis Courts (6 lighted)
- 5 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 4 Pickle Ball Courts
- 4 Bocce Courts
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 24 Playscapes
- 13 Baseball Diamonds
- 7 Softball Diamonds (1 lighted)
- 2 Golf Courses
- 3 Marinas
- 1 Skate Park
- ADA Compliant Playground
- Multiple Fishing Areas
- Jogging Paths
- Hiking Trails

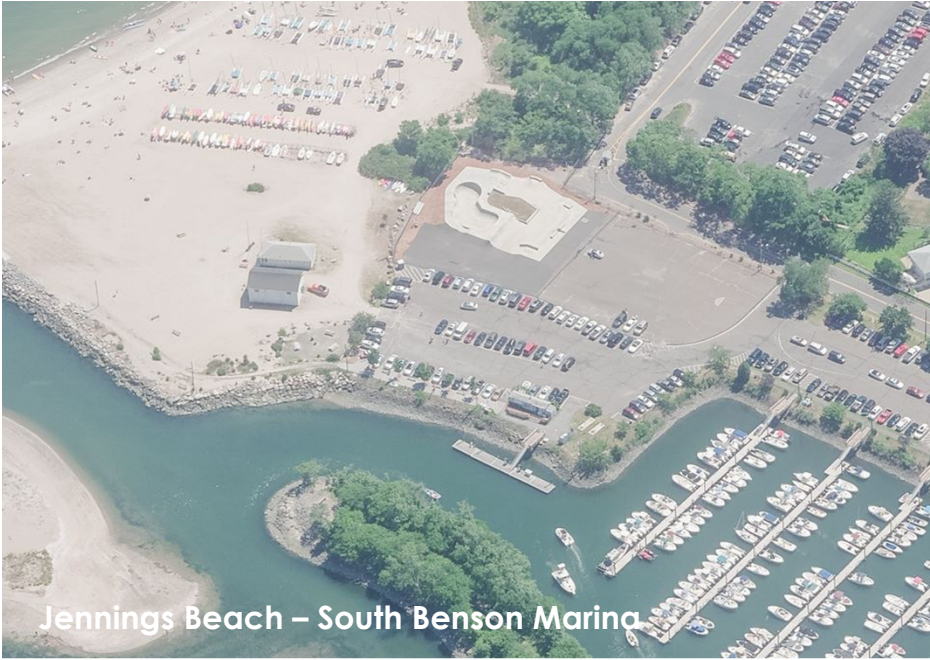


Public Visioning Session

Break out Sessions

- What are we doing well?
- What could we do better?
- What is the Town not doing?

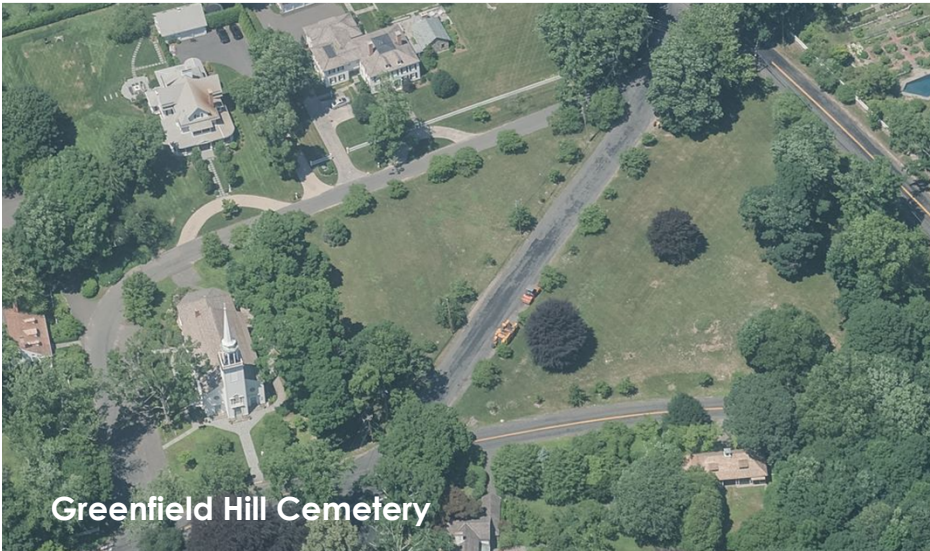




Jennings Beach – South Benson Marina



Lake Mohegan



Greenfield Hill Cemetery



Marina Skate Park





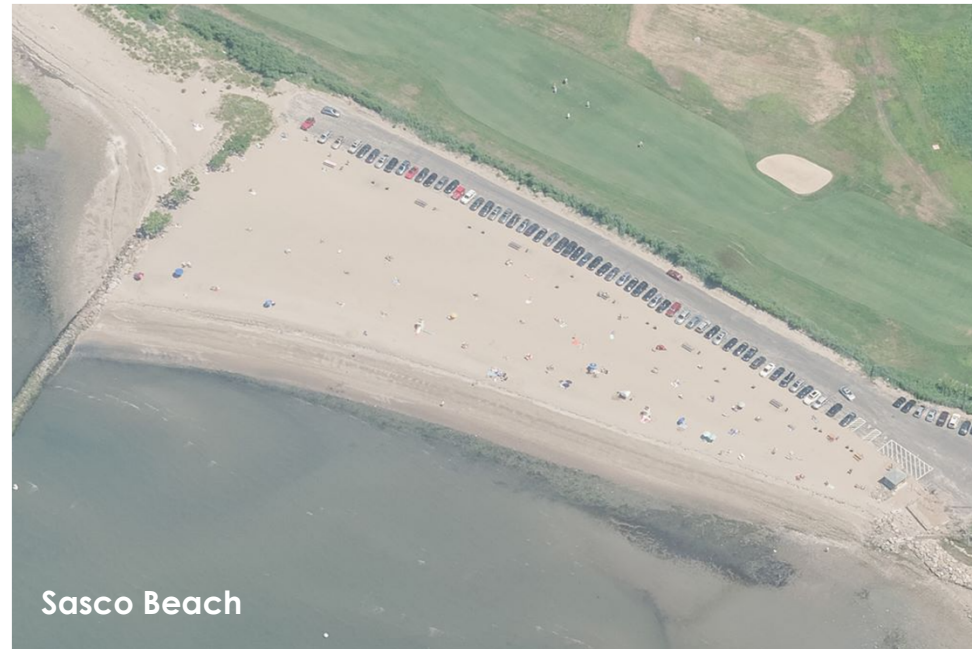
Ye Yacht Yard



Southport Beach



Fairfield West Cemetery



Sasco Beach

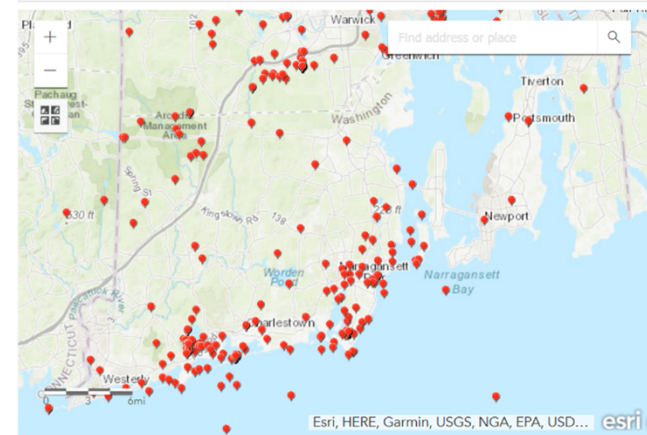


Relevant Experience | HW Group and Project Manager

Rhode Island - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Five-year update of the RI SCORP
- Per NRPA SCORP STANDARDS
- Extensive regional and focus group public outreach
- Coordination with SCORP working group committee
- Management of project website
- Recreation Director's Survey
- On-line resident survey and story map utilizing Survey 123 digital platform
- Coordination of final report with State Officials

RI SCORP Submissions



Relevant Experience | Project Manager

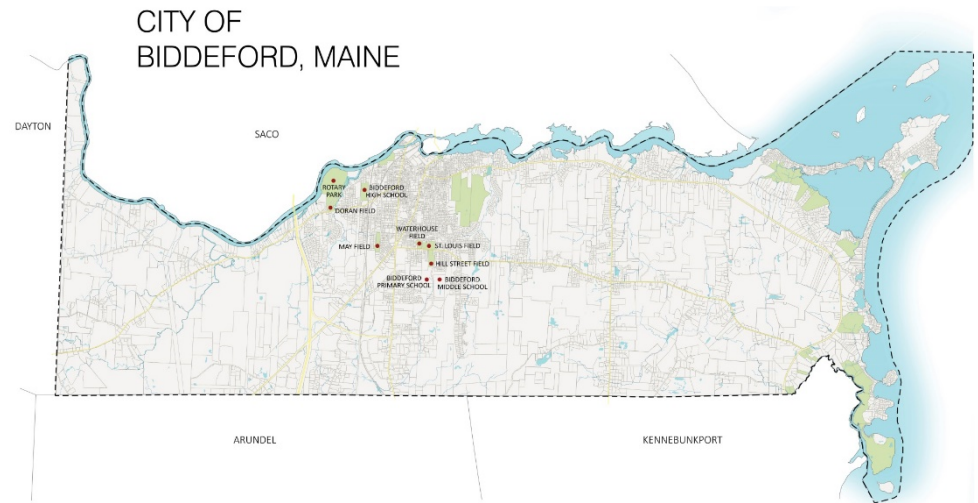
Biddeford Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Sites

- Biddeford High School
- Biddeford Middle School
- Biddeford Primary School
- Doran Field
- Hill Street Field
- May Field
- Rotary Park
- St. Louis Field
- Waterhouse Field

Basic Goals/Effort

- Assess all existing parks
- Public outreach / Community survey
- Identify and prioritize needs
- Plan and strategy for upgrading facilities
- Outline implementation process and phasing strategies



Relevant Experience | Project Manager

Nantucket Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Sites

- Tom Nevers Park
- Winter Park
- Coffin Park
- Children's Beach
- Jetties Beach
- Nobadeer Beach
- Delta Fields
- Surfside Beach
- Hulbert Ave and Easton St. Circle
- Consue Springs
- Lincoln Circle
- Fisherman's Beach
- Dionis Beach
- Mill Hill Park

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Town of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Workshop #2 - 3.30.2022



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SR. PROJECT MANAGER
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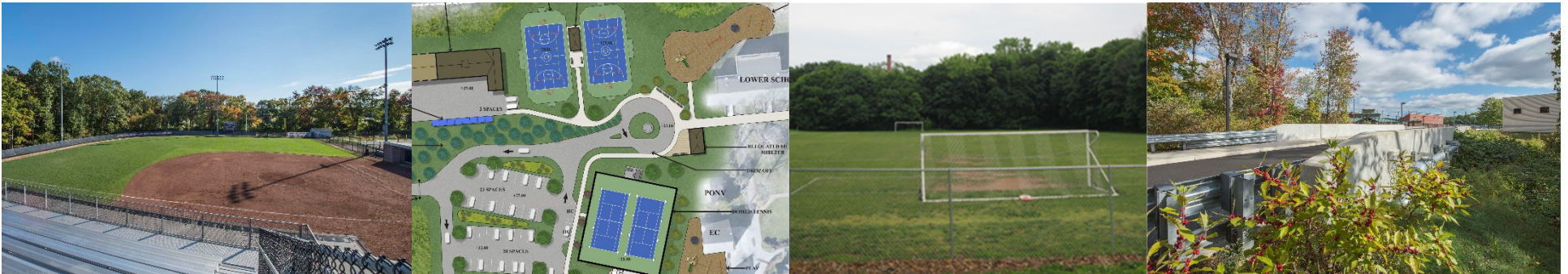
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Horsley Witten Group

COMPREHENSIVE/MASTER PLANNING

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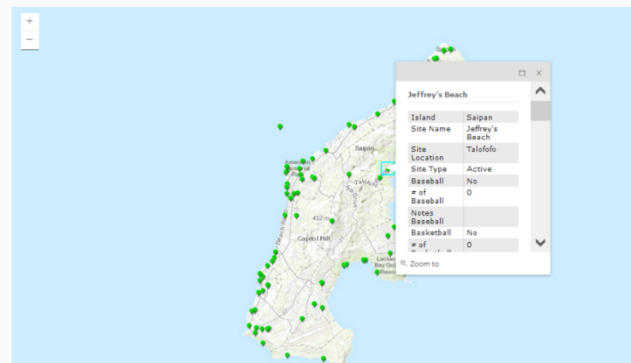
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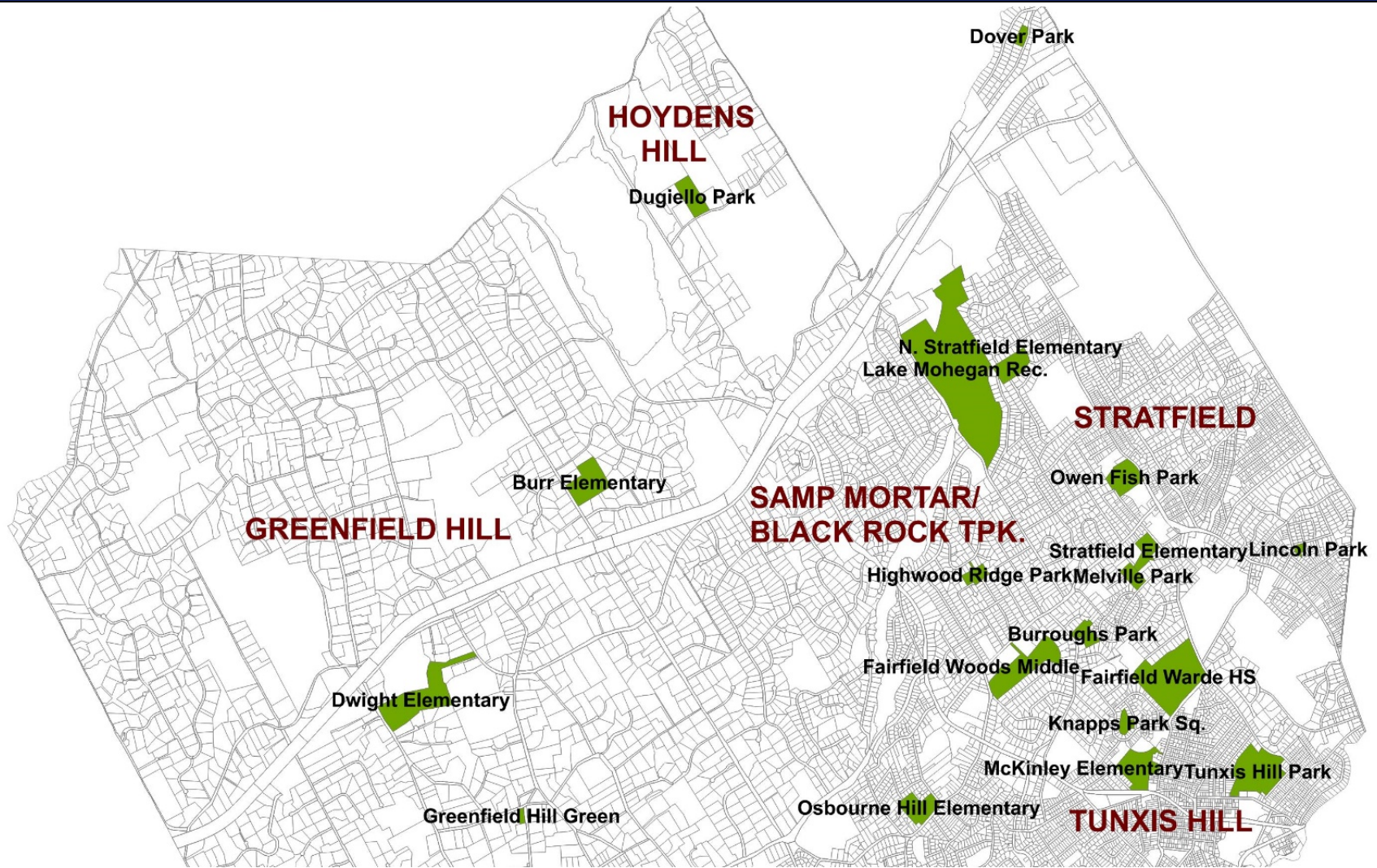


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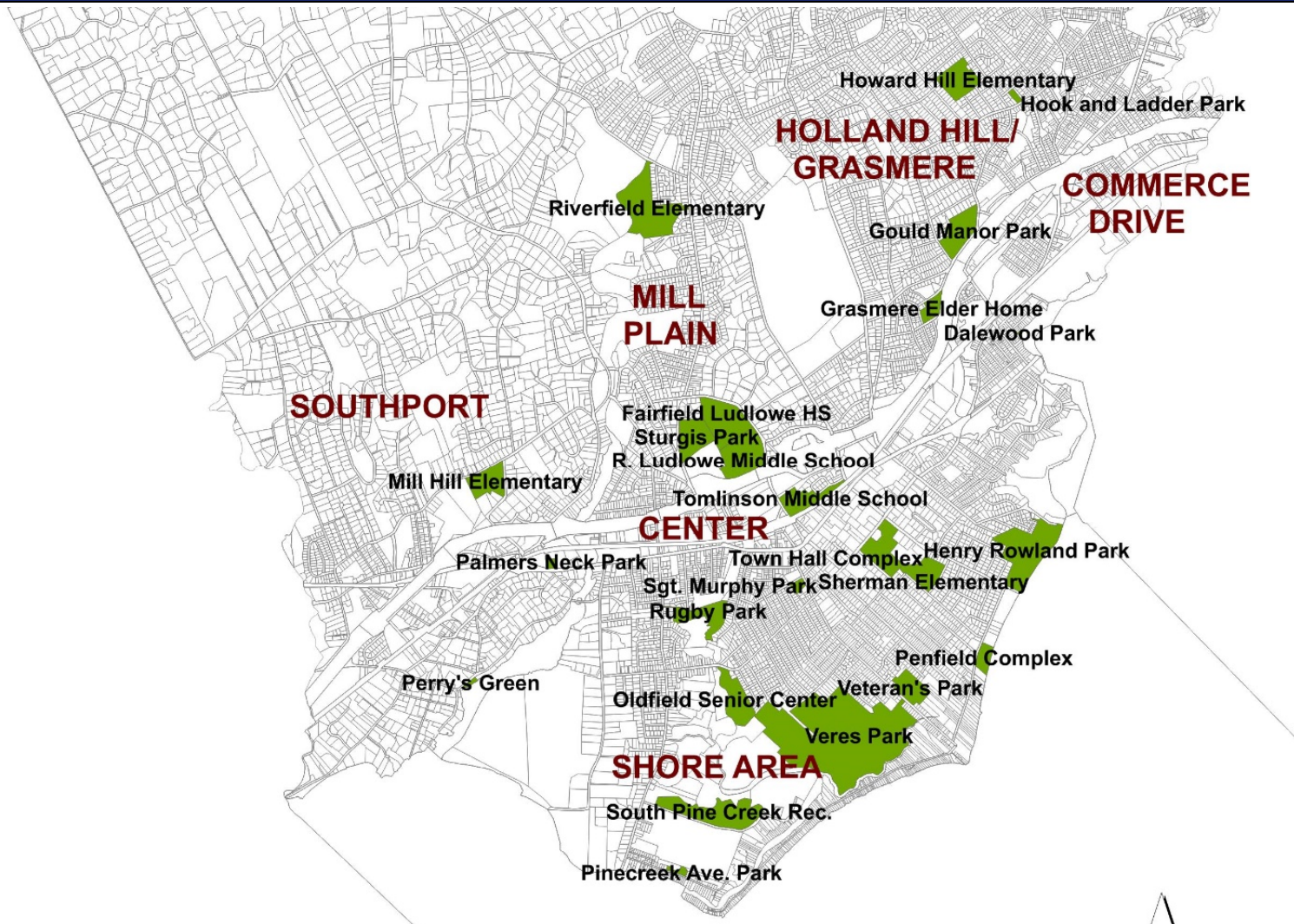
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Project Study Sites - Southern



Project Study Sites

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GOULD MANOR PARK

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KNAPPS PARK SQUARE

LAKE MOHEGAN

LINCOLN PARK

MELVILLE PARK

OLDFIELD SENIOR CENTER

OWEN FISH PARK

PALMER'S NECK

PENFIELD COMPLEX

PERRY'S GREEN

PINE CREEK AVE PARK

RUGBY PARK

SGT. MURPHY PARK

SHERMAN GREEN

S. PINE CREEK REC AREA

STURGES PARK

TOWN HALL COMPLEX

TUNXIS HILL PARK

VERES STREET PARK

VETERANS PARK



Project Study Sites

BEACHES AND MARINAS

JENNINGS BEACH

LAKE MOHEGAN

PENFIELD BEACH

RICKARDS BEACH

SASCO BEACH

SOUTH PINE CREEK BEACH

SOUTHPORT BEACH

PERRY'S GREEN

SOUTH BENSON MARINA

YE YACHT YARD



Project Study Sites

SCHOOL FACILITIES

BURR ELEMENTARY

DWIGHT ELEMENTARY

HOLLAND HILL ELEMENTARY

JENNINGS ELEMENTARY

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY

MILL HILL ELEMENTARY

N. STRATFIELD ELEMENTARY

OSBORN HILL ELEMENTARY

RIVERFIELD ELEMENTARY

SHERMAN ELEMENTARY

STRATFIELD ELEMENTARY

FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

ROGER LUDLOWE MIDDLE SCHOOL

TOMLINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

WALTER FITZGERALD CAMPUS

FAIRFIELD LUDLOWE HIGH SCHOOL

FAIRFIELD WARDE HIGH SCHOOL



Project Study Sites

OPEN SPACES AND CEMETERIES

ASH CREEK OPEN SPACE

BRETT WOODS OPEN SPACE

GRACE RICHARDSON OPEN SPACE

GYPSY SPRINGS OPEN SPACE

HOYDEN HILL OPEN SPACE

LAKE MOHEGAN OPEN SPACE

MARY KATONA MEMORIAL OPEN SPACE

MOUNTAIN LAUREL OPEN SPACE

MILL RIVER OPEN SPACE AREAS

OLD DAM MARSH OPEN SPACE

OLDFIELD NORTH MARSH OPEN SPACE

OLDFIELD SOUTH MARSH OPEN SPACE

PEQUOT ROAD OPEN SPACE

PERRY'S MILL POND OPEN SPACE

PINE CREEK MARSH OPEN SPACE

RICHARDS BEACH OPEN SPACE

RIVERFIELD OPEN SPACE

SAMP MORTER ROCK OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK/KIRIK OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK MARSH OPEN SPACE

SASCO CREEK POND OPEN SPACE

SOUTHGATE LANE MARSH OPEN SPACE

SPRINGER GLEN OPEN SPACE

TRILLIUM ROAD OPEN SPACE

TURNEY CREEK MARSH TRACTS OPEN SPACE

WESTWAY ROAD OPEN SPACE

WOODSIDE CIRCLE OPEN SPACE

FAIRFIELD WEST CEMETERY

GREENFIELD HILL CEMETERY

OLD BURYING GROUND CEMETERY



Town of Fairfield | Parks & Recreation System Overview

Park Land (1200 acres total)

- 2 Major Active Parks (South Pine Creek & Lake Mohegan, +/- 75 acres each)
- 30 +/- Neighborhood Parks
- 5 Beaches on Long Island Sound
- 27 Open Space / Passive Parks
- 1 Lakefront Property

Amenities

- Water Spray Park
- 31 Tennis Courts (6 lighted)
- 5 Sand Volleyball Courts
- 4 Pickle Ball Courts
- 4 Bocce Courts
- 2 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- 24 Playscapes
- 13 Baseball Diamonds
- 7 Softball Diamonds (1 lighted)
- 2 Golf Courses
- 3 Marinas
- 1 Skate Park
- ADA Compliant Playground
- Multiple Fishing Areas
- Jogging Paths
- Hiking Trails



Community Outreach: Summary of Findings

- Public Workshop #1 (November 29, 2021)
- Stakeholder Engagement (Interviews/Focus Groups/Round Robin Sessions)
- Community Survey
- On-Line Public Input



Public Workshop #1: Summary of Findings

- Programming...top priorities

Offerings

One-Off Events

Information

Policies



Public Workshop #1: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

 - Operations and Maintenance

 - Improved maintenance (fields/courts conditions)
 - Maintain/Enhance natural landscape of sites
 - Consider future-proofing (weather, climate)
 - Security (Lake Mohegan)

 - Amenities

 - Food Trucks/Concessions
 - Comfort stations (fixed, not port-a-pots)
 - Lighting
 - ADA Accessibility upgrades



Public Workshop #1: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

- What's Needed

- Restaurant on the beach/waterfront
 - Facility/Field reservations should be more transparent
 - Pickleball courts (more)
 - More ballfields
 - Rugby (needs a home field)
 - Artificial turf fields
 - Emphasis on beaches rather than buildings
 - Multi-Use/Fields complex
 - Platform/Paddle Tennis
 - Ice rink
 - Community gardens (more)
 - Public pool
 - Dog park
 - Indoor complex/Fieldhouse



Public Workshop #1: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

- Policies

- Reservation system is cumbersome
 - Facility/Field reservations should be more transparent
 - Utilize BOE 'waterfall' for equipment/facility planning
 - Better equity on fields/facilities for girl's youth sports
 - Resident preferences for tee times at golf course
 - Space management plan

Stakeholder Engagement: Summary of Findings

- **Programming**...recurring themes/needs

- Offerings

- Enhanced water sports (public/private partnerships)
 - Outdoor activities (particularly winter)
 - Program/Activate the beaches more
 - Teen center/programming (will impact transportation needs)

- One-Off Events

- Taste of Fairfield (bring back)
 - Party boat/Sunset dinner cruises
 - Adult/Empty-nesters (more)



Stakeholder Engagement: Summary of Findings

- **Programming**...recurring themes/needs

- Information

- Community-wide information (outside of individual neighborhoods)
 - Better visibility of sites/amenities on P/R website
 - Transparency with on-line field reservations (who has what reserved and when for re-scheduling)

- Policies

- Look at programming comprehensively/holistically
 - Periodically close streets and allow restaurants to spill out into streets
 - Focus new program offerings based on High School teams (feeder programs)
 - Promote boating/marina more equitably



Stakeholder Engagement: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...recurring themes/needs

- Operations and Maintenance

- Improved maintenance (fields/courts)
 - Playgrounds need upgrades
 - Landscape contractor improvements
 - Marina improvements (revisit redesign plan ramping/lighting/safety)

- Amenities

- Lighting (extended play/use)
 - Boat racks (with security)
 - Biking (racks, repair stations)
 - Water-filling taps (for water bottles)



Stakeholder Engagement: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...recurring themes/needs

- Policies

- Skate park needs better enforcement/oversight
 - Explore public/private partnerships with Fairfield U./Sacred Heart
 - Improved coordination with Conservation (beneficial adjacencies)
 - Methodology to monetize turf sites as part of development process (Cost Benefit Analysis)
 - Methodology for 501 C 3 financial contributions for improvements
 - Cease 'permit hoarding' /penalize for non-use of field reservations
 - Develop SOPs for sports leagues (equipment damage/loss)
 - Consider climate change considerations for improvements/new designs (sustainability)
 - Address noise pollution (pickleball/basketball)
 - Consider ages of play and parking/transportation (drop-off v. parents who stay/supervise)



Stakeholder Engagement: Summary of Findings

- **Access/Connectivity/Mobility**...recurring themes/needs

- ADA Accessibility/Universal Access

- ADA trails (Drew Park/Lake Mohegan/Southport/Sasco Beach)
 - ADA accessibility expanded at beaches (decking/boardwalk/mats all-terrain wheelchairs)

- Biking/Walking/Trails

- Trails/Trail connections between/linking sites
 - Inventory sites/map out potential connectivity
 - Consider Town trolley (loop system)
 - Consistent sidewalks throughout Town
 - Bike lane along Fairfield Beach Road
 - Pedestrian signals at major intersections



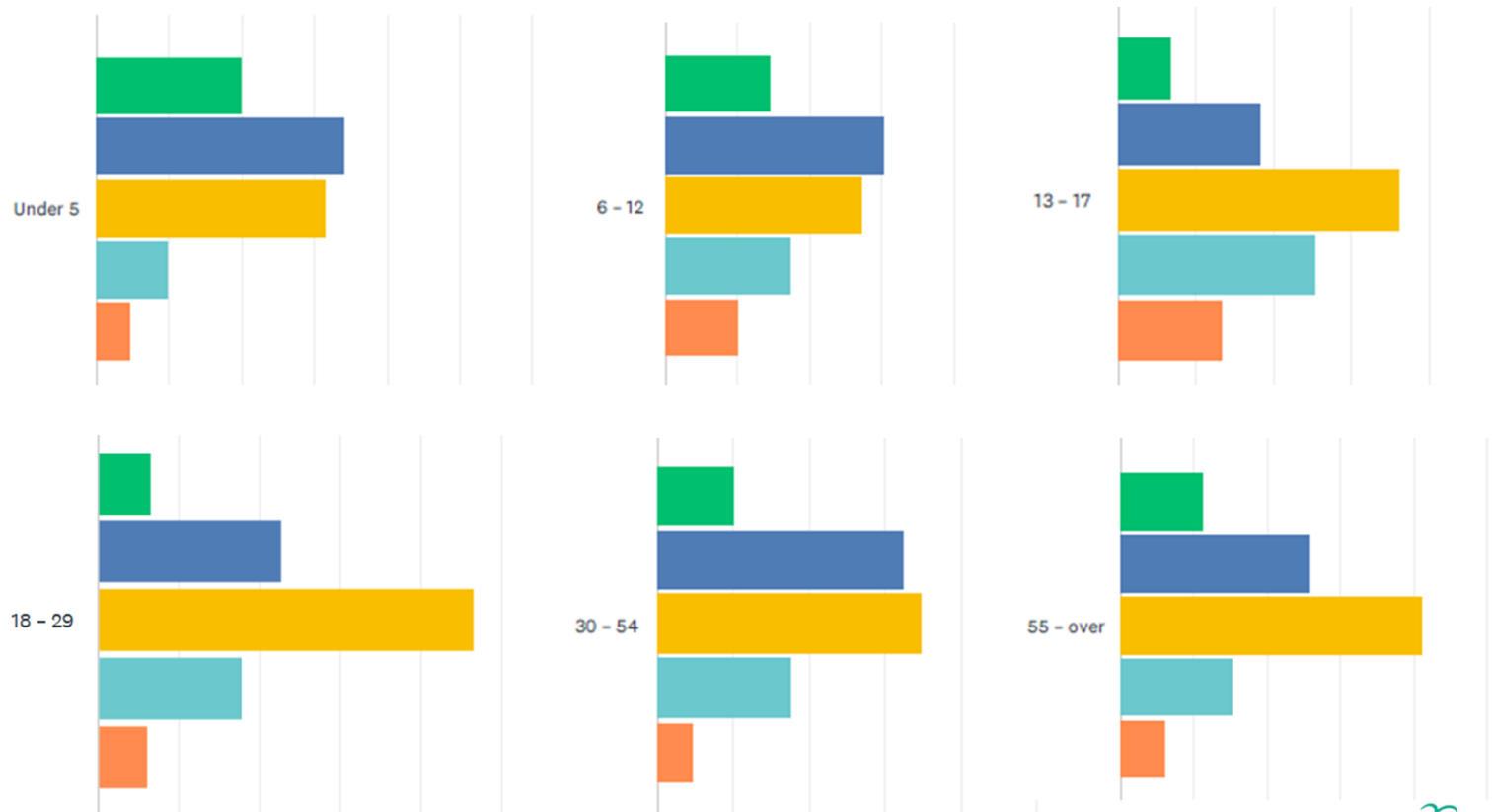
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- List three open space, recreation facilities or places that you/your family use in Fairfield...top priorities (question #1)
 - Penfield Beach
 - Beaches
 - Jennings Beach
 - Lake Mohegan
 - Sullivan Field
 - Owen Fish Park
 - Sasco Beach
 - Veteran's Park
 - Gould Manor Park
 - Sandcastle Playground
 - Tennis Courts
 - H. Smith Richardson Golf Course



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How satisfied are you with existing parks/recreation facilities for the following age groups...(question #6)



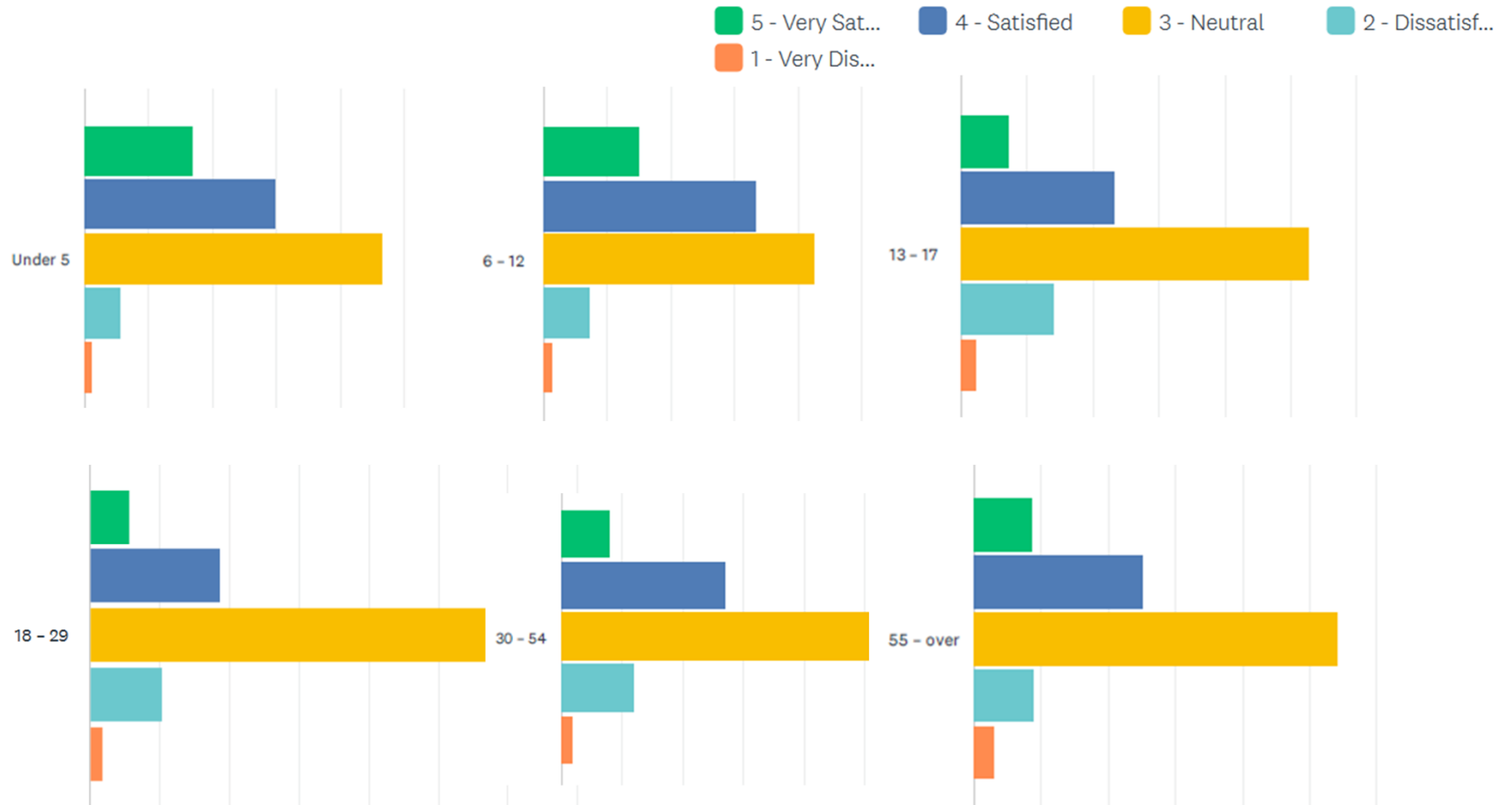
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- List three community events/programs that you/your family have attended/participated in over the past several years in Fairfield?...top priorities (question #3)
 - Christmas events
 - Music/Comedy events
 - Beach events
 - Memorial Day events
 - Town fireworks (4th of July)
 - Soccer games
 - Baseball/Softball games
 - Football games
 - Farmer's Markets
 - Parades



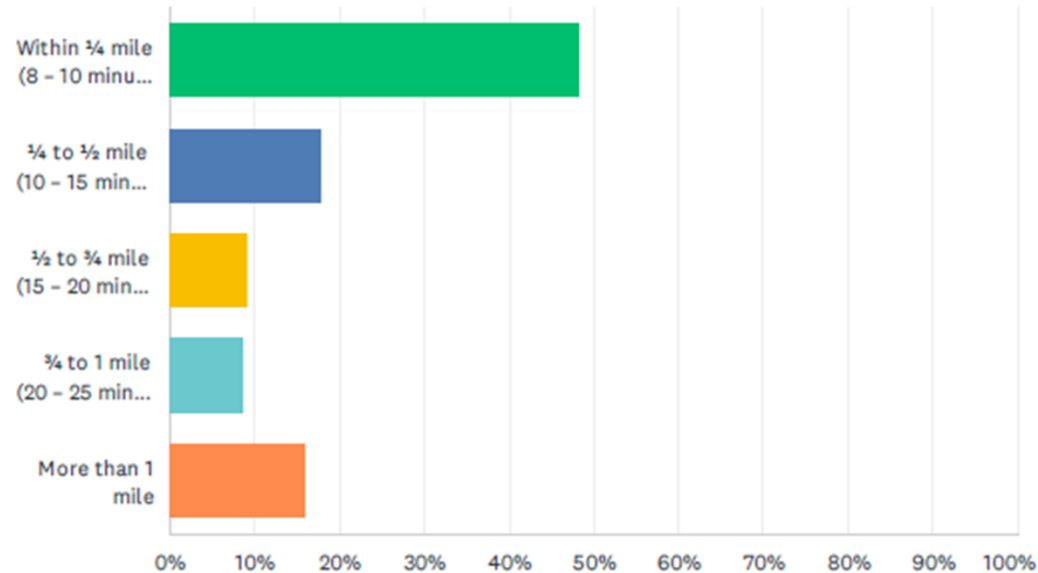
Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How satisfied are you with recent community events/program offerings in Fairfield for the following age groups...(question #7)



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

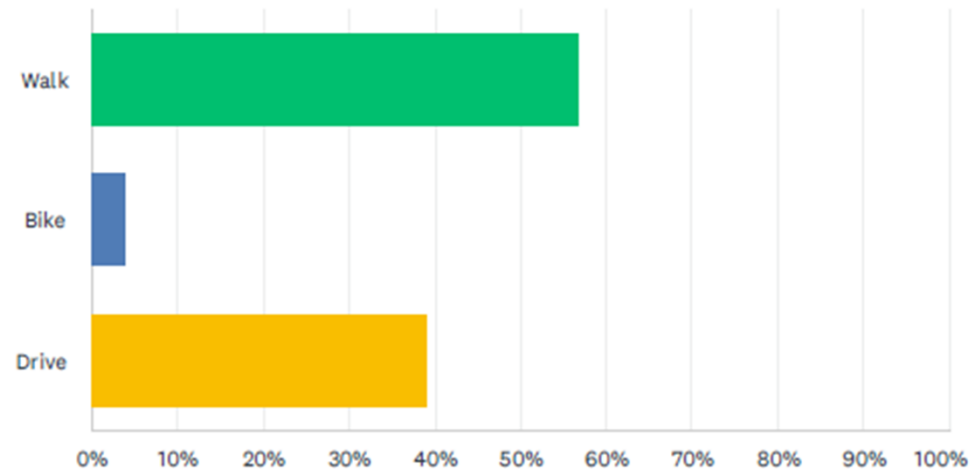
- How far is the closest park or recreation facility from your home...(question #12)



Within 1/4 mile:	48%
1/4 mile – 1/2 mile:	18%
1/2 mile – 3/4 mile:	9%
3/4 mile – 1 mile:	9%
More than 1 mile:	16%

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

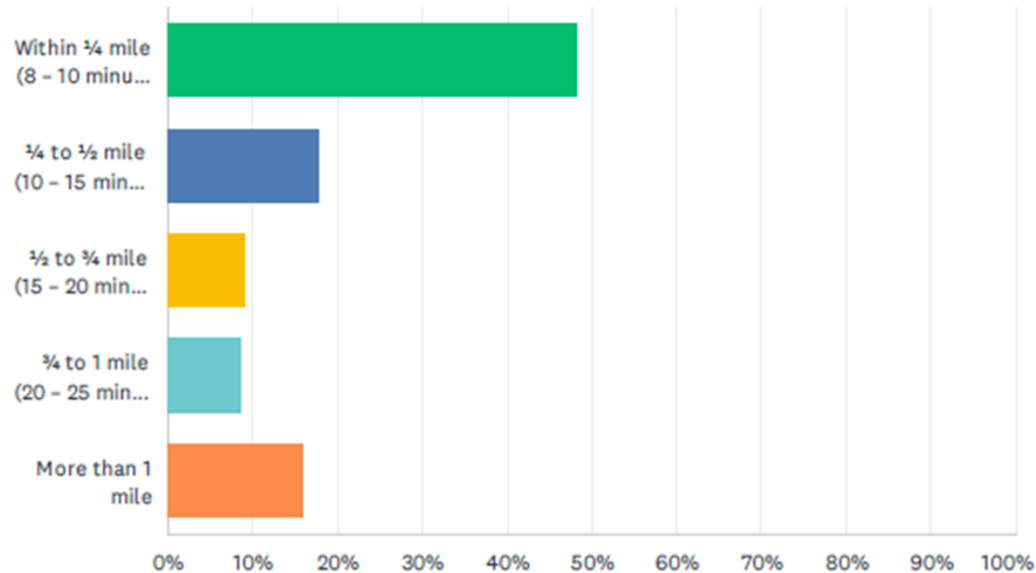
- How do you usually get there?... (question #13)



Walk: 57%
Bike: 4%
Drive: 39%

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- How often do you visit parks or recreational areas in Fairfield...(question #14)



Every day:	12%
3 times a week:	40%
Once a week:	28%
Twice a month:	10%
Once a month:	7%
2 or 3 times a year:	3%



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Programming**...top priorities/needs

- Offerings

- Swimming programs
 - Accessibility/Adaptive recreation programming
 - Adult programming (more)
 - Water sports/boating programs (more)
 - Winter activities

- One-Off Events

- Add more/enhance existing community events (general)
 - Music events (more concerts)
 - Holiday events (more)

- Information

- Increase visibility of sites/amenities on P/R website

- Policies

- Equitable focus/offerings (girls youth sports)

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

 - Operations and Maintenance

 - Improved maintenance (fields/courts conditions)
 - Enhance natural landscape of parks

 - Amenities

 - Boat rentals
 - Comfort stations
 - Trash receptacles/recycling
 - Shelter from weather/sun
 - Food trucks/Concessions
 - Field amenities (lighting, scoreboard, backstop)
 - Parking

Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Facilities**...top priorities/needs

- What's Needed

- Public pool
 - Pickleball facilities (more)
 - Rugby (home field)
 - Artificial turf fields
 - Dog park
 - Ice rink
 - Indoor complex/Fieldhouse
 - Basketball courts
 - Baseball fields (more)
 - Paddle courts
 - Multi-Use Fields/Complex
 - Restaurant on the beach/waterfront

- Policies

- Safety/Security
 - Dog enforcement (leash/unleash, waste pick up)



Community Survey: Summary of Findings

- **Access/Connectivity/Mobility**...top priorities/needs

ADA Accessibility/Universal Access

- ...

Biking/Walking/Trails

- Bike/Walking paths/trails
- Walking/Hiking paths



Recently Constructed Projects

- Penfield Pavilion – 2017
- Tomlinson MS Turf Replacement – 2017
- Owen Fish Park Tot Playground – 2017
- Roger Ludlow MS Field Renovation – 2017
- Sherman Elementary Soccer Field Renovation – 2017
- Veterans Park Volleyball Remodel - 2021
- H. Smith Richardson Clubhouse - 2021
- Tomlinson MS Tennis Courts - 2021
- Pine Creek Playground - 2021



Current | Planned Projects

- Gould Manor Little League Fields – 2021
- Gould Manor Playground – 2021
- Gould Manor Outdoor Fitness Park – 2021
- Gould Manor Tennis Courts – 2021
- Gould Manor Pickleball and Basketball Courts - 2021
- Mill Hill Little League Infield Rebuild – 2021
- Dover Park Playground – 2022
- Highwood Park Playground – 2022
- Lincoln Park Playground – 2022
- Melville Park Playground – 2022
- Tunxis Hill Playground – 2022
- Lake Mohegan Splash Pad – 2022
- Jennings Beach Concession Building Façade - 2022



Proposed Concepts

Proposed – Early Thoughts

- Tunxis Hill
- Dover Park
- South Pine Creek Recreation Area
- Highwood Park
- Owen Fish Park
- Dougiello Park



Tunxis Hill Park Concept

Town Input

1. Playground replacement (2022)
2. Pickleball rebuild (Future)

Public Input

1. Pickleball courts (need more)
2. Rebuild pitching mounds
3. Year-round dog park
4. Trash receptacles
5. Preserve wooded areas
6. Repair/resurface pickleball courts

Site Assessment Summary

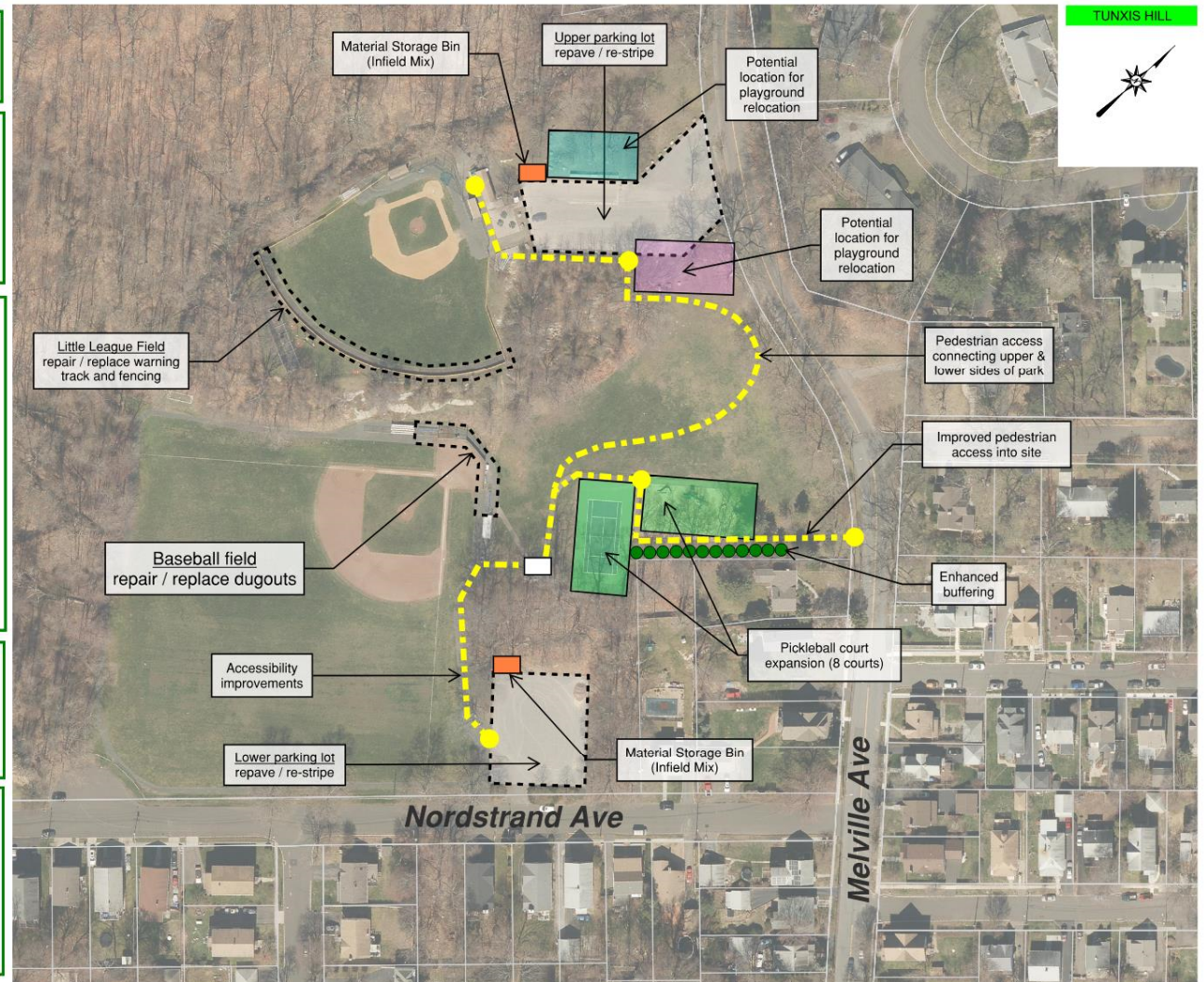
1. **Baseball field / Soccer field (lower)**
 - 1.1 dugout fencing needs repair
 - 1.2 dugout benches in below average condition
2. **Little League field (upper)**
 - 2.1 warning track gravel needs refresh
 - 2.2 outfield fence barrier needs repair
3. **Pickleball courts (4)**
 - 3.1 upcoming project to replace courts
4. **Playground**
 - 4.1 poor condition (replacement planned for 2022)
5. **Parking areas (2)**
 - 5.1 moderate cracking throughout parking areas
 - 5.2 re-striping needed
6. **ADA accessibility**
 - 6.1 improvements needed between parking areas and site amenities
 - 6.2 accessible seating options needed
 - 6.3 lower field restroom requires accessibility improvements

Existing Site Usage

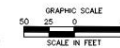
Use	Annual Hours (all groups)	Use Level
Baseball Field	800	High
Soccer Field	230	Moderate
Little League Field	290	Moderate
Pickleball Courts	5,400	High

Proposed Site Improvements Summary

1. Playground relocation
2. Pickleball court expansion
3. Baseball field dugout repair
4. Little League field warning track repair
5. Parking area improvements
6. Material Storage Bins
7. ADA / Circulation improvements



TUNXIS HILL PARK, 225 MELVILLE AVENUE
CONCEPT PLAN



Dover Park Concept

Town Input

1. Playground replacement (2022)

Public Input

1. Turf field improvements

Site Assessment Summary

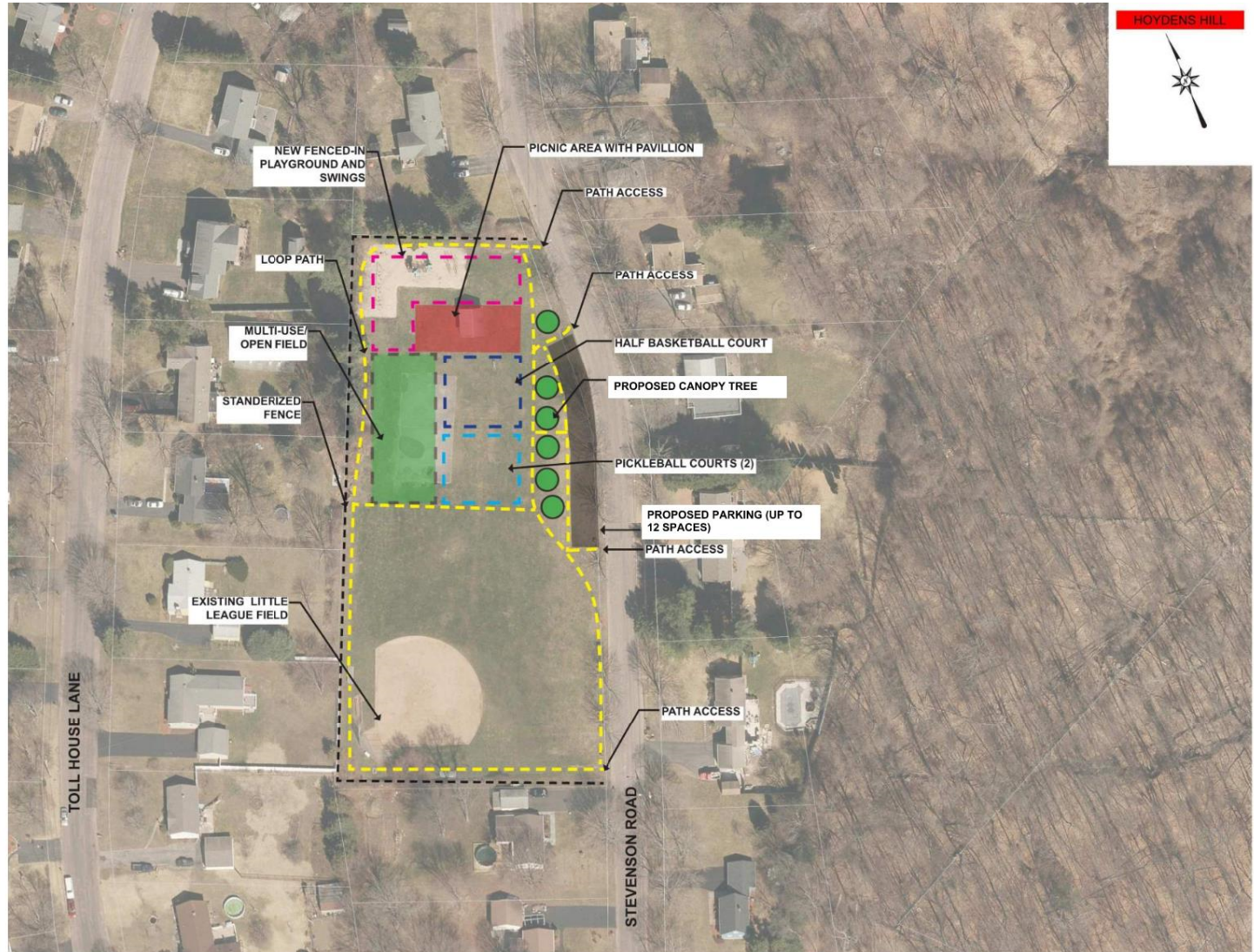
1. **Little League Field**
 - 1.1 Infield and turf in good condition
 - 1.2 benches/seating needs upgrading
 - 1.3 No field fencing exists - could be considered
 - 1.4 No ADA seating options
2. **Playground**
 - 2.1 poor condition (replacement planned for 2022)
3. **Picnic area**
 - 3.1 Existing pavilion needs repair or replacement
4. On-street parking only
5. ADA / accessibility improvements needed
6. Former basketball area on-site should be repurposed

Existing Site Usage

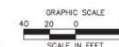
Use	Annual Hours	Use Level
Little League Field	230	Low

Proposed Site Improvements Summary

1. Little League Field perimeter fencing
2. Pickleball Courts (2)
3. Half basketball court
4. Multi-Use Small Open Field (conversion from former volleyball area)
5. Picnic area pavilion replacement
6. Canopy trees along Stevenson Rd
7. Playground replacement (2022)



DOVER PARK, 140 STEVENSON ROAD
CONCEPT PLAN



South Pine Creek Recreation Area Concept

Town Input

-Turf Fields scheduled to be built in 2023

Public Input

-Artificial turf (Sullivan Field)
 -Cross walks
 -Traffic/ safety improvements
 -Trail safety improvements

Site Assessment Summary

1. Softball Field- Outfield has bare patches in turf. Backstop is low and does not seem like it will stop many foul balls, chainlink fence is in need of repair.
2. Soccer Field- chain link fence is in poor condition, lawn is very patchy and uneven, field is currently in a poor orientation (East-West), the field is not ada accessible.
3. Football Field- Turf is very patchy and uneven, lights are inefficient and dated on telephone poles.
4. Baseball Field- Outfield has bare patches in turf.

Existing Site Usage

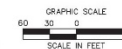
1. Soccer Field (Medium Use)
 - FUSA: 469.5 hours annually
 - FLHS: 12 hours annually
 - Total of 481.5 hours annually
2. Football Field: Sullivan Field (High Use)
 - FYF: 1074 hours annually
3. Baseball Field: Kiwanis Field (High Use)
 - FLHS: 216 hours annually
 - Rage: 93 hours annually
 - Legion: 267.5 hours annually
 - Batting Cage: 36
 - Total of 612.5 hours annually
4. Softball Field: Haydon Field (Medium Use)
 - Adult Softball: 157.5 hours annually
 - FLLGSB: 254 hours annually
 - Total of 411.5 hours annually

Proposed Improvements Summary

- Soccer Field: Re-orient soccer field (200'x360'), provide spectator viewing area, provide accessibility pathway to field.
- Sullivan Field: Re-orient football field, provide spectator viewing area, provide accessibility pathway to field, consider new lighting
- Parking Lot: - Reconfigure parking lot striping and layout
- Provide accessible pathways to soccer/football fields from parking lot.
- Propose additional parking/ picnic facilities
- Provide ada accessibility to all buildings on site.
- Softball Field: rectify dusty infield conditions, grade low spots in outfield to provide an even playing surfaces, consider a new backstop. Provide accessible viewing area, provide accessible route to softball field, replace chainlink fence.
- Baseball: seed all bare patches in turf, provide accessible route to baseball field, provide shade shelter near baseball field, propose 2 new bullpen areas and relocate batting cage.
- Dog park opportunities



SOUTH PINE CREEK RECREATION AREA, 210 OLD DAM ROAD
 CONCEPT PLAN



Highwood Park Concept

Town Input

- Current Project:
 - Highwood playground improvements

Public Input

- upgrade playgrounds
- walking path upgrades

Site Assessment Summary

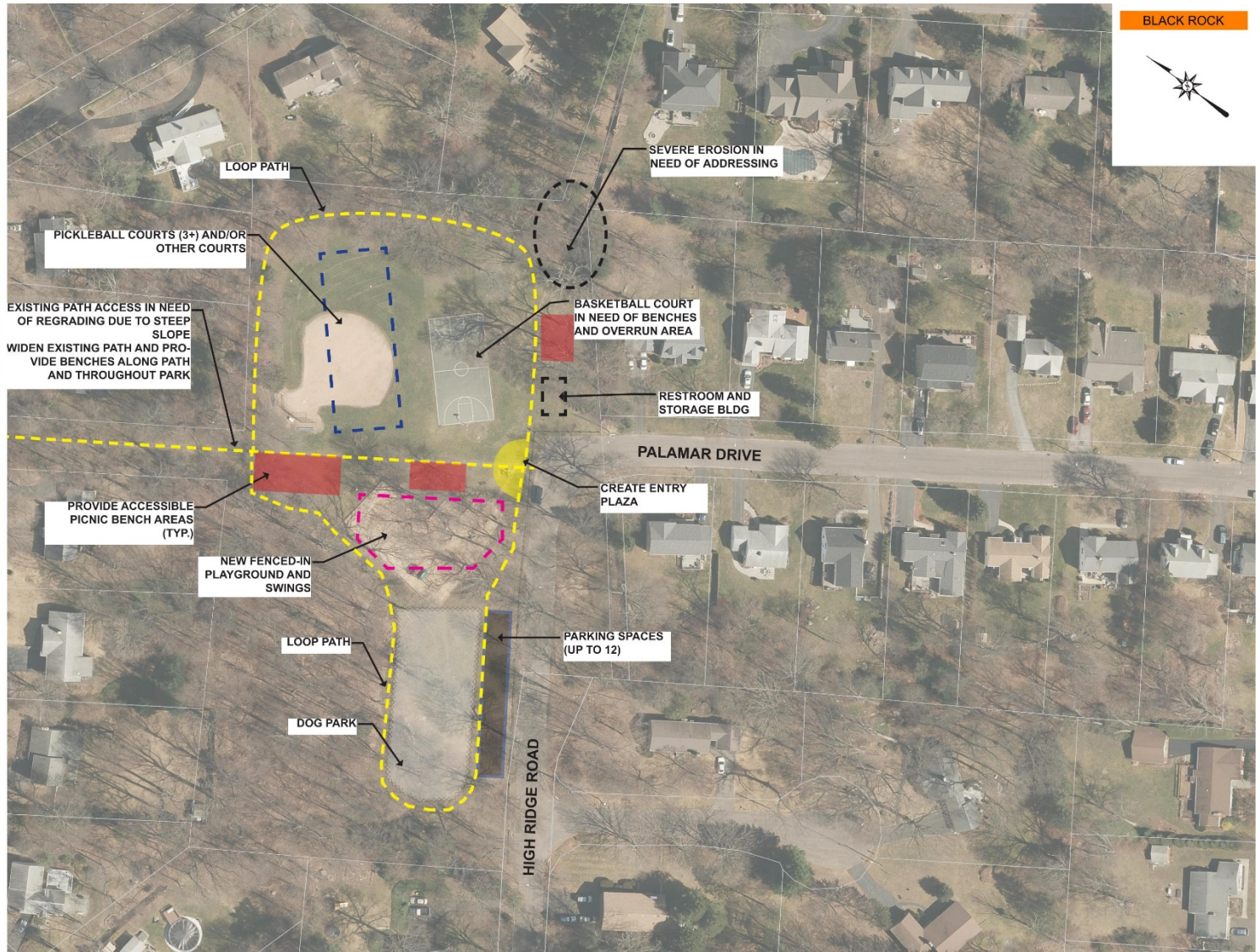
- Parking: No striping or HC signage on street, Flush conditions from street to park and pathway.
- Pathways: Path is largely flat but cracked except at entrance to Lakeview Dr. where there is a 9% slope of the path.
- Benches: eclectic range of style and ages, two could use replacing and more in total number are needed.
- Picnic Facilities: Tables appear to get dragged around park as needed.
- Playground facilities: some of the play equipment and one swing may be ADA compliant but the wood chip ground is not an accessible surface.
- Little League Field: looks to be in good condition, absence of spectator seating areas and dugout fencing.
- Basketball court sufficiently good condition for casual play, large crack down center nets and poles in fair/good condition
- Overall: park is lacking enough seating or gathering areas. Patrons observed using the ball field benches as gathering area.

Existing Site Usage

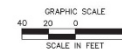
- Little League Field (Low Use)
 - FNLL: 151 hours annually

Proposed Improvements Summary

- Accessible pathway enhancements
- Propose accessible picnic bench areas
- New fenced-in playground and swings
- Propose loop path
- Propose new entry plaza
- Propose new restroom and storage building
- Propose sediment and erosion control remedies on site.
- Due to low use, consider removing little league field and replacing with 3+ pickleball and/or other courts.
- Dog park



HIGHWOOD PARK, 330 PALAMAR DRIVE
CONCEPT PLAN



Owen Fish Park Concept

Town Input

- Recently Added:
 - Owen Fish Tot Playground
 - Owen Fish Restrooms

Public Input

- Half marathon based out of park
- Upgrade playground
- Club house for teens
- Rebuild pitching mounds
- Field upgrades
- Repair/replace benches
- Fence in Playground

Site Assessment Summary

- Softball Field- Field (lawn, clay mix), and surrounding elements appear to be in fair condition.
- Baseball Field- backstop and bleachers are in poor condition
- Tennis Court- Pavement is in fair condition. Fence around tennis court has been damaged by some falling tree limbs.
- Playground- there are no accessible pathways to accessible oriented play equipment

Existing Site Usage

- Softball (Low Use)
 - FNLL: 130 hours annually
 - Rec Softball: 17.5 hours annually
 - Total of 147.5 hours annually**
- Baseball (High Use)
 - FLHS: 216 hours annually
 - Babe Ruth: 401 hours annually
 - Rage: 86 hours annually
 - Total of 703 hours annually**
- Tennis (High Use)
 - Permits 4/1-11/30: **1,001 total hours annually**

Proposed Improvements Summary

- Consider widening driveway and enhance visibility in and out of site.
- Pave and stripe parking lot- provide ada defined spaces
- Pave pathways from parking lot to playground to allow for a safe accessible route.
- Provide new benches in playground.
- Provide accessible path to the accessible oriented equipment.
- Fence in playground
- Re-orient baseball, upgrading bleachers and backstop
- Eliminate softball field on site to provide a larger baseball outfield.
- Consider selective pruning of branches that overhang tennis court.
- Replace chainlink fence around tennis court.
- Propose multi-use field



Horsley Witten Group

OWEN FISH PARK, 1443 2-STRATFIELD ROAD
CONCEPT PLAN



Dougiello Park Concept

Town Input

1. Softball parking lot paving (2022)
2. Softball Field lights (2023)

Public Input

1. Field Lighting
2. 2nd softball field
3. Artificial turf (for soccer and softball)
4. Basketball courts
5. Baseball field
6. Ice skating

Site Assessment Summary

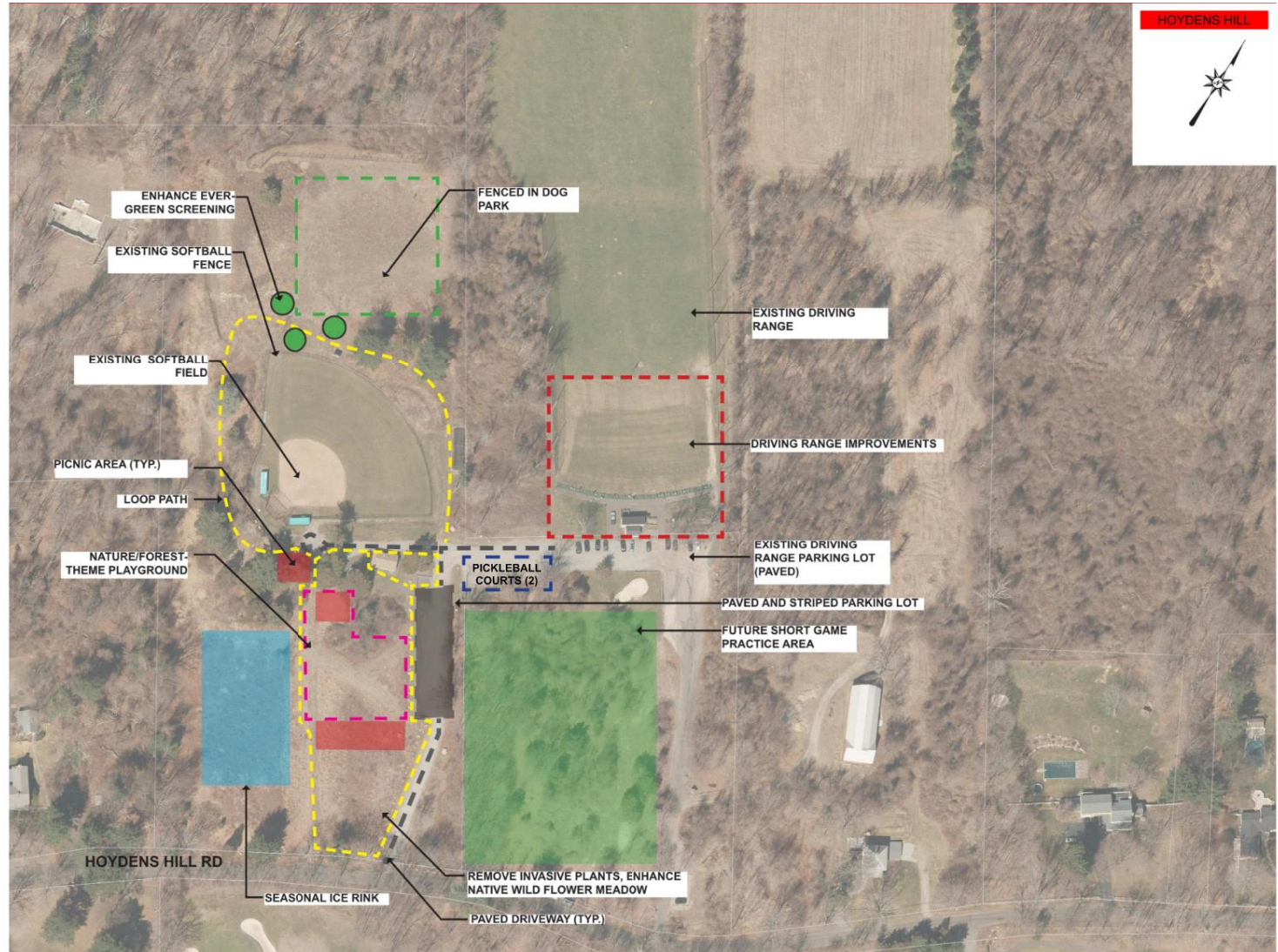
- 1. Softball field**
 - 1.1 accessible seating not available
 - 1.2 field turf and infield in good condition
- 2. Concession stand**
 - 2.1 average-good condition
- 3. Announcers box**
 - 3.1 good condition
- 4. Batting cage**
 - 4.1 average-good condition
- 5. Storage shed**
 - 5.1 good condition
- 6. Parking and driveway**
 - 6.1 gravel surfacing not currently accessible

Existing Site Usage

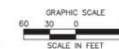
Use	Annual Hours	Use Level
Softball Field (FLLGSB)	630	High

Proposed Site Improvements Summary

1. Accessible loop path and connections to ADA parking
2. Paved and striped parking lot and paved driveway and drop off loop.
3. Forest themed playground
4. 2 Pickleball Courts
5. Fenced-in dog park
6. Enhanced picnic area
7. Enhanced evergreen buffer and wildflower meadow.
8. Seasonal ice rink.
9. Future short game practice area.
10. Driving range improvements.



DOUGIELLO PARK, 520 HOYDENS LANE
CONCEPT PLAN



Summary of Public Input

Summary of Public Input

- Dog Parks
- Pickleball Courts
- Synthetic Turf Multi-use fields
- Field improvements
- Basketball Courts
- Ice Skating Rink
- Community Garden Area
- Walking Trails | Loop Paths
- Picnic Areas
- Additional Parking Areas



Summary of added facilities (these five sites only)

- + 3 Dog Parks
- + 11 Pickleball Courts
- + 2 Synthetic Turf Multi-use fields
- + 5 Field Improvements
- + ½ Basketball Court
- + 1 Ice Skating Rink
- + 1 Playground
- + 1 Community Garden Area
- + 3 Walking Trails | Loop Paths
- + 6 Picnic Areas
- + 4 Additional Parking Areas
- 2 Underutilized Ball Fields

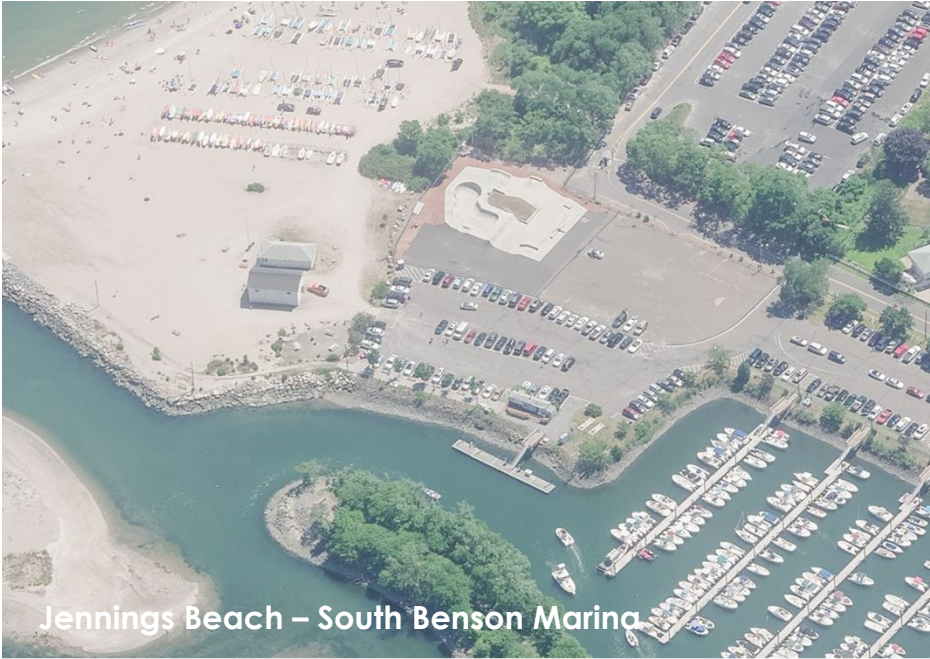


Public Visioning Session

Outreach Engagement Stations

- Proposed Concepts
- Programming
- Facilities
- Access/Connectivity/Mobility

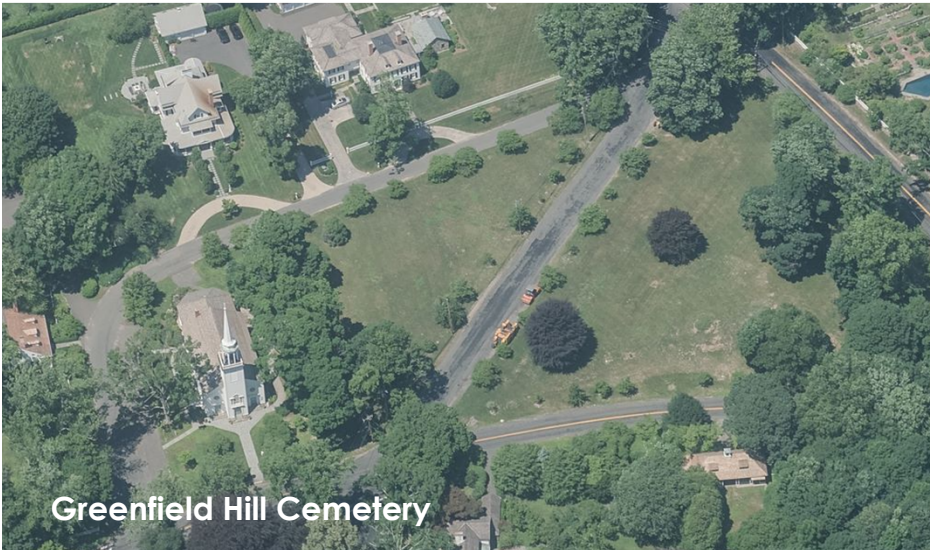




Jennings Beach – South Benson Marina



Lake Mohegan



Greenfield Hill Cemetery



Marina Skate Park





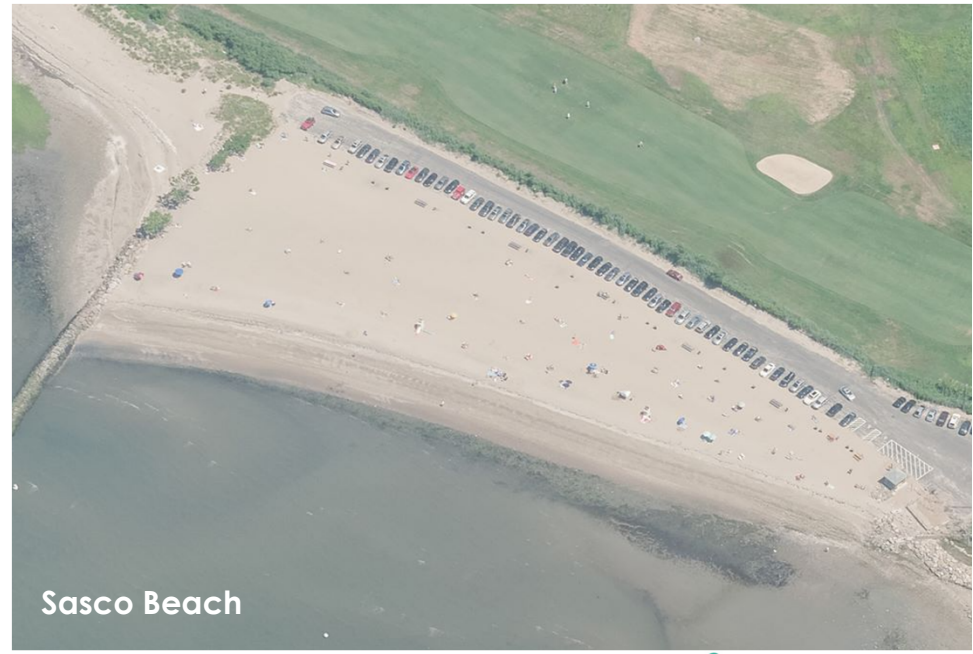
Ye Yacht Yard



Southport Beach



Fairfield West Cemetery



Sasco Beach

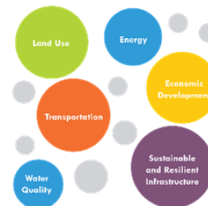
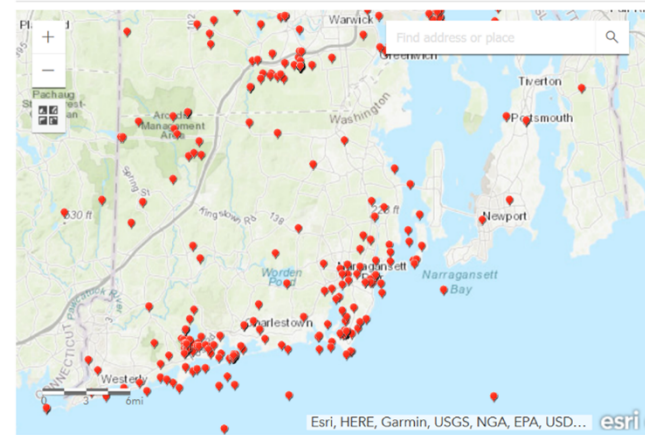


Relevant Experience | HW Group and Project Manager

Rhode Island - Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- Five-year update of the RI SCORP
- Per NRPA SCORP STANDARDS
- Extensive regional and focus group public outreach
- Coordination with SCORP working group committee
- Management of project website
- Recreation Director's Survey
- On-line resident survey and story map utilizing Survey 123 digital platform
- Coordination of final report with State Officials

RI SCORP Submissions



Relevant Experience | Project Manager

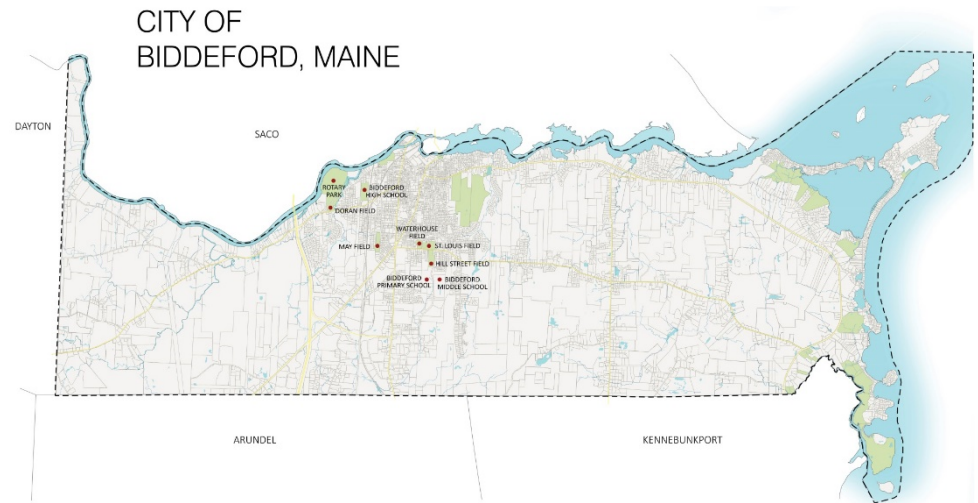
Biddeford Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Sites

- Biddeford High School
- Biddeford Middle School
- Biddeford Primary School
- Doran Field
- Hill Street Field
- May Field
- Rotary Park
- St. Louis Field
- Waterhouse Field

Basic Goals/Effort

- Assess all existing parks
- Public outreach / Community survey
- Identify and prioritize needs
- Plan and strategy for upgrading facilities
- Outline implementation process and phasing strategies



Relevant Experience | Project Manager

Nantucket Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Project Sites

- Tom Nevers Park
- Winter Park
- Coffin Park
- Children's Beach
- Jetties Beach
- Nobadeer Beach
- Delta Fields
- Surfside Beach
- Hulbert Ave and Easton St. Circle
- Consue Springs
- Lincoln Circle
- Fisherman's Beach
- Dionis Beach
- Mill Hill Park

Basic Goals/Effort

- Assess all existing parks
- Public outreach / Community survey
- Identify and prioritize needs
- Plan and strategy for upgrading facilities
- Outline implementation process and phasing strategies





Town of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Master Plan Public Workshop #3 - 6.30.2022



BL Companies, Inc. • Horsley Witten Group, Inc. • Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Introductions – BL and HW Team



DOMINICK CELTRUDA, PLA
SR. PROJECT MANAGER
BL COMPANIES



WAYNE VIOLETTE, PLA
SR. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
BL COMPANIES



CRAIG PEREIRA, CFM, NCI
SENIOR PLANNER
HORSLEY WITTEN GROUP



Project Update

- Site Investigation & Analysis Completed
- Neighborhood Meetings Completed
- Public Outreach Meeting #1 Completed *Nov. 29, 2021*
- Public Outreach Meeting #2 Completed *Mar. 30, 2022*

- **Public Outreach Meeting #3 Jun. 30, 2022**
- **Deadline for Public Input July 15, 2022**

- DRAFT Master Plan August 2022
- FINAL Master Plan September, 2022



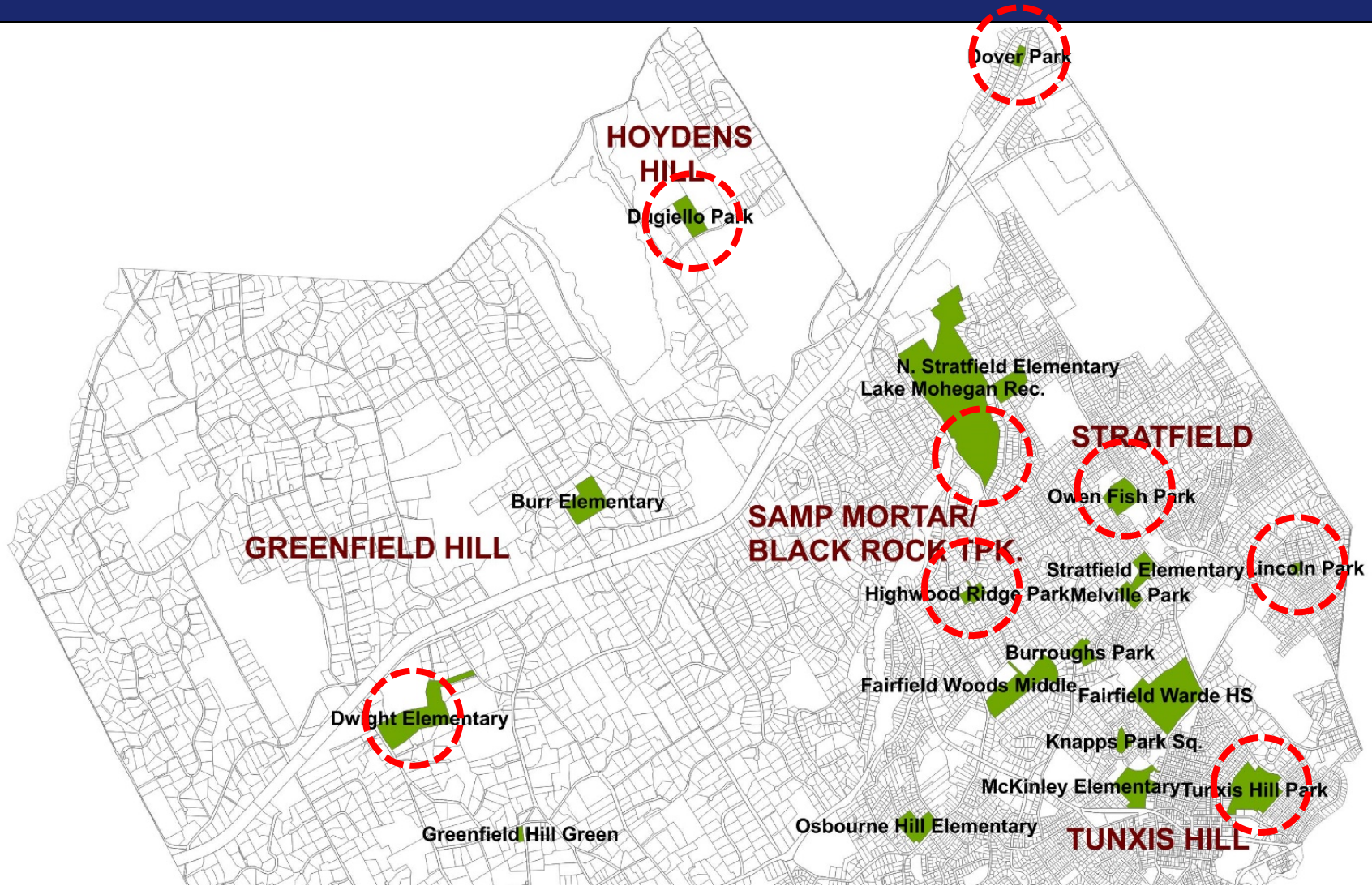
Goals for Public Workshop #3

- Present and review Concept Plans (15 sites)
- **Collect input from attendees**
- Review next steps

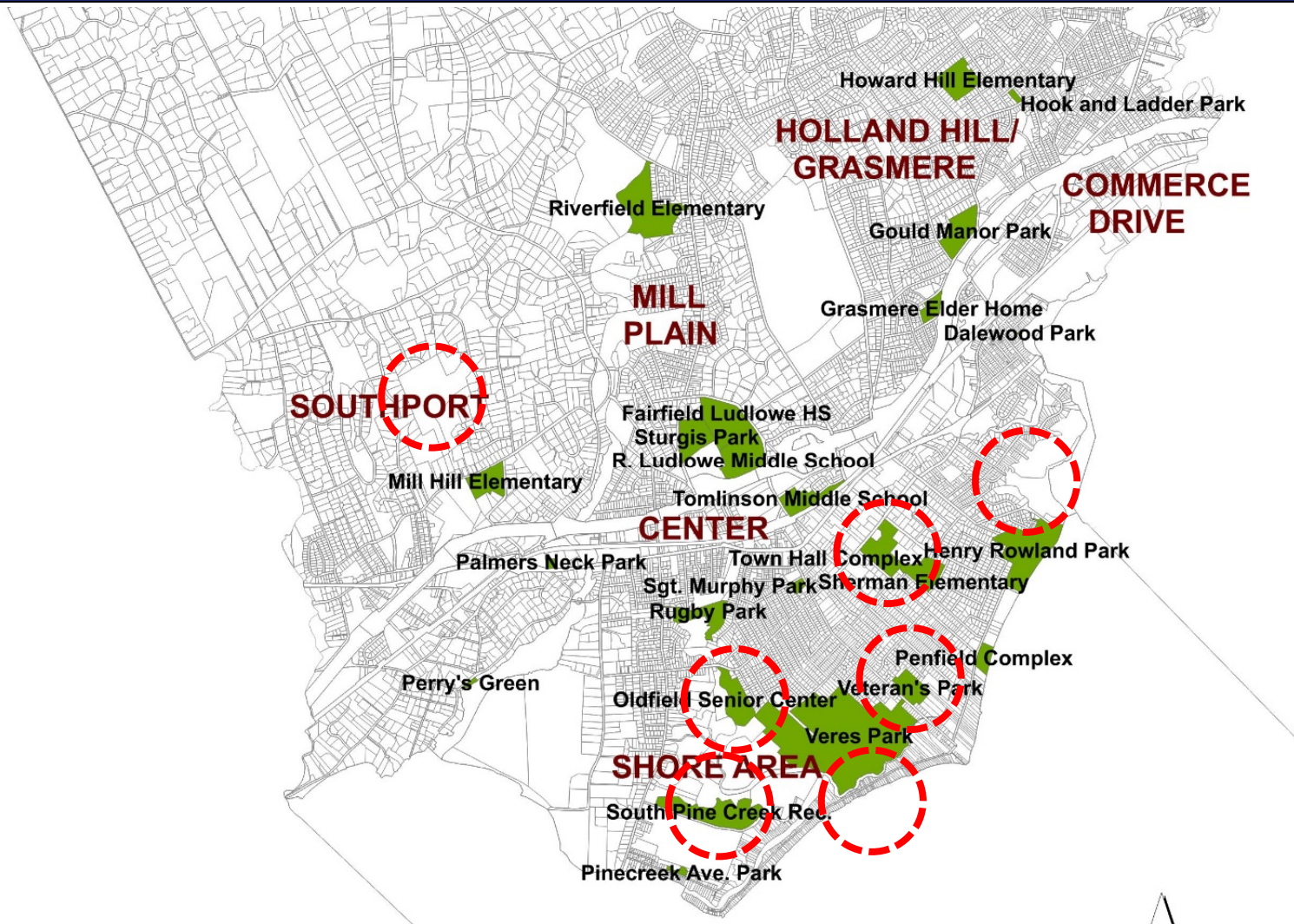
Concept Plans (15 Sites)

Park	Neighborhood
Tunxis Hill Park	Tunxis Hill
Dover Park	Hoydens Hill
Dougiello Park	Hoydens Hill
Owen Fish Park	Stratfield
South Pine Creek	Shore Area
Veterans Park	Shore Area
Highwood Park	Samp Mortar / Black Rock Tpk
Giant Steps	Southport
Lake Mohegan	Stratfield
Lincoln Park	Stratfield
Jennings Beach	Shore Area
Old Field	Shore Area
Dwight School	Greenfield Hill
Town Hall Complex	Center
Ash Creek	Shore

Project Study Sites - Northern



Project Study Sites - Southern



Parks & Recreation Project (Recent & Upcoming)

Recently Completed

- Veterans Park (volleyball)
- Tomlinson MS (tennis)
- Pine Creek (playground)
- Gould Manor (baseball, playground, fitness park, tennis)
- Mill Hill (baseball)
- Dover Park (playground)
- Lincoln Park (playground)
- Tunxis Hill (playground)

Upcoming

- Highwood Park (playground)
- Melville Park (playground)
- Lake Mohegan (splash pad, storm damage repair)
- Jennings Beach (concessions building)
- Dougiello (parking)
- Tunxis Hill (pickleball)
- Dwight School (tennis)
- Fairfield Tennis Center (lights)
- Roger Ludlowe MS (turf fields)
- H Smith Richardson (driving range)
- Fairfield Woods MS (tennis)
- S Pine Creek (turf fields)



Concept Plan Themes / Trends

- Increase & Improve Amenities
- Circulation Improvements (vehicular & pedestrian)
- Enhance Arrivals & Gateways
- Maintain & Enhance Existing Site Features (embrace natural landscape)

Parks as Role Model for Fairfield / Region

- Establish Pollinator-Friendly Habitats (Pollinator Pathway)
- Green Infrastructure Improvements (“Green the Gray”)
- Outdoor Learning & Social Spaces (Amphitheater / Pavilion)
- Community Health & Wellness (Fitness Trails)
- Bike user improvements (Storage & connectivity)



Summary of added facilities (15 sites)

- + 4 Dog Parks
- + 6 Pickleball Courts
- + 4 Syn. Turf Multi-use fields
- + 1 Softball Field
- + 1 Rugby Field impmnts
- + ½ Basketball Court
- + 1 Seasonal Skating Rink
- + 1 Playground
- + 3 Comm Garden Area
- + 7 Walking Trls | Loop Paths
- + 6 Picnic Areas
- + 7 Additional Parking Areas
- + 2 Natural Amphitheaters
- + 1 Splash Pad
- + 1 Fitness Trail
- + 2 Boardwalk systems
- 1 Underutilized Ball Field



Meeting Breakout Stations

Station #1

- Jennings Beach
- Dwight School
- Dover Park
- Lake Mohegan
- Ash Creek
- Lincoln Park
- Highwood Park
- Owen Fish

Station #2

- South Pine Creek
- Giant Steps
- Veteran's Park
- Old Field Senior Center
- Tunxis Hill Park
- Town Hall Complex
- Dougiello Park

**45 Minutes per
Breakout Station
(90 Minutes Total)**

***Additional General Comments
station available during
breakout groups***



Master Plan Input & Feedback

Website for Master Plan Updates
fairfieldparksandrecplan.com

email your feedback to the Project Team:

- Dominick Celtruda – dceltruda@blcompanies.com
- Wayne Violette – WViolette@blcompanies.com
- Craig Pereira – cpereira@horsleywitten.com



Next Steps

- Finalize concept plans with public feedback
- DRAFT / FINAL Master Plan report (Summer 2022)
- **Town of Fairfield Parks & Recreation Master Plan – Recommendations for the next 5-10 years**

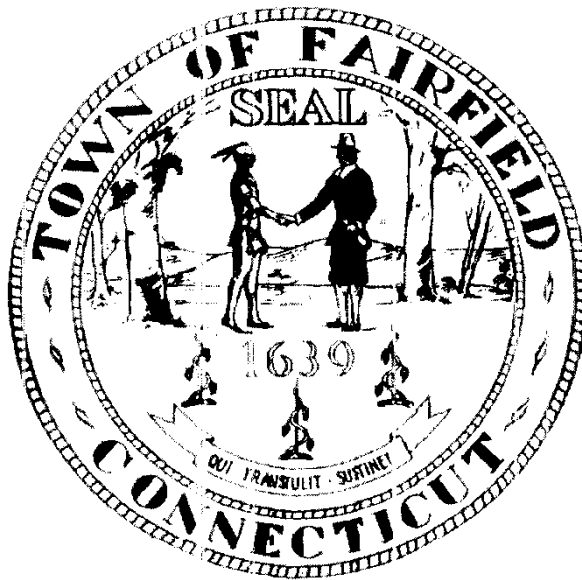


APPENDIX H

Fairfield Rules and Regulations

FAIRFIELD BEACHES, WATERWAYS, CHANNELS,
MARINAS, PARKS, FIELDS, AND OPEN SPACE AREAS
OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

RULES AND REGULATIONS



These rules and regulations are in addition to such prohibitions and penalties as are provided by the laws of this State and Ordinances of the Town.

Fairfield, Connecticut

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For these Rules and Regulations the following definitions are used:

General Resident of Fairfield: Any person occupying a dwelling place within the Town of Fairfield, including summer residents and university and college students residing in the Town during the regular school year.

Permanent Resident of Fairfield: Any person domiciled within the Town of Fairfield which is generally considered the principal place of abode.

Adult: Any person 18 years or older.

Swimming Season: That period from Memorial Day weekend to and including Labor Day.

Boating Season: That period from April 15 through midnight, the third Sunday of November.

Rules and Regulations pertaining to Open Space are included, but not limited to items within the *Parks and Open Space* Section.

BEACHES

Jennings Beach	880 South Benson Rd. & Beach Rd.
Lake Mohegan	960 Morehouse Highway
Penfield Beach	323 Fairfield Beach Road
Rickards Beach	255 Fairfield Beach Road
Sasco Beach	1401 Sasco Hill Road
South Pine Creek Beach	1424 South Pine Creek Road
Southport Beach	1505 Pequot Avenue

Section 1 – All beaches shall be open year round from dawn to 11:00 p.m. or such later times as specifically approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 2 – (a) The operation of motorized vehicles is prohibited on any beach, park, or open space area. Exceptions are 1) official vehicles engaged in maintenance or emergency activities and 2) vehicles in those areas designated for such purpose and deemed appropriate by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission. Bicycles are not allowed on the deck areas of the beaches.

(b) No person shall park or store any motorized vehicle, bicycle, boat trailer, or personal property at any public beach, boatyard, marina, or open space area of the Town of Fairfield except in those areas set aside and designated for such purpose and deemed appropriate by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission.

Section 3 – (a) Seasonal and temporary parking permits issued annually by the Parks & Recreation Department are required for entry to all Town beaches and marinas from the Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day. The Exception is Jennings Beach, which may require permits on weekends, starting with the first weekend in April through Labor Day. For marinas, annual permits will be required from April 1 through the third weekend in November.

b) Seasonal parking permits for all Town beaches, marinas and the Transfer Station will be issued to vehicles registered as paying taxes to the Town of Fairfield. Tax Town (051) must be on the vehicle registration. Resident rates will be set by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Any South Benson Slip occupant shall receive a free sticker that gives them access to a designated area in the Marina from the Saturday before Memorial Day through Labor Day.

(c) Fairfield Residents and or Residential Real Property Taxpayers paying vehicle taxes to a Town other than Fairfield, may, at the time of registration complete a “Change of Address Card for Operators License and Vehicle Registrations Application” which will be mailed to the DMV in order to qualify for resident rates. If unable to do so, that vehicle will qualify for Non-Resident rates. (Sole Proprietors, businesses, partnerships and Limited Liability Corporations are not eligible for beach parking permits)

(d) Non-Resident categories are as follows and

- Residential Real Property Taxpayers with vehicles paying taxes to a Town other than Fairfield for access to All Beaches and the Marina
- Non-resident for access to Jennings and Penfield Beaches ONLY
- Town of Fairfield employee and any honorably retired former Town employee for access to All Beaches and the Marina

The rates for Non-Resident categories will be set by the Parks and Recreation Commission

(e) Beach stickers will be withheld from those who are delinquent in their taxes to the Town.

(f) Seasonal and temporary motor vehicle parking permits must be permanently affixed and properly displayed on the left front of the windshield of the vehicle. RVs may park at Jennings Beach only.

(g) Only fishermen, boat owners, and their guests shall be allowed vehicular entry into the South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard between 11:00 p.m. and dawn.

(h) The Parks & Recreation Commission may suspend or revoke any official permit if the person to whom it is issued violates any provision of these regulations or shall cease to be qualified to hold such a permit.

(i) The Parks & Recreation Commission may charge a daily parking fee at Jennings Beach and Penfield Pavilion for the parking of any vehicle, which does not display a valid parking sticker. At Lake Mohegan a charge will be

made at the beach entrance for any person who does not hold a season pass. Daily parking passes are not offered at other beaches.

(j) Beach stickers are permitted for combination vehicles.

(k) Groups wishing to enter any Town beach or Lake Mohegan must secure prior written permission from the Parks & Recreation Department and will be assessed a fee to be paid in advance.

(l) Bonfires must be reserved and paid for in advance, only by persons at least 21 years of age, and only for approved locations as determined by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Any location exceptions must be made by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Bonfires may only be permitted between May 1 and September 30. A fee, determined by the Parks & Recreation Commission, will be assessed for each bonfire. No person shall light, kindle, or use any fire on any Town beach, park, marina, or open space except in receptacles installed for this purpose, or by the authority of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.

Section 4 – (a) No person shall dress or undress in any portion of any public beach except in buildings designated for such purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The removal of outer garments placed over proper swimming attire shall not be considered a violation of the provisions of this section.

(b) Nudity by persons using Town beach facilities and swimming in designated areas is prohibited

Section 5 – (a) Children under 12 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, a person aged 16 or older who has custody or control or is providing supervision of a child. Anyone who knowingly leaves such a child unsupervised is in violation of Public Act 97-298.

(b) Swimming at the public beaches shall be confined to those areas designated by the Parks & Recreation Commission and its agents, and swimming outside those areas, including the designated boat launch areas.

(c) Swimming to or from a boat from or onto a Town beach is prohibited.

(d) The use of U.S. Coast Guard Approved floatation devices is permitted at all beaches.

(e) The use of boogie boards, kick boards, stand up paddle boards, and snorkel equipment is permitted in areas of Jennings and Penfield Beach designated by the Waterfront Director. Skim boarding is not permitted in any of the Town's swimming areas except for a conditional skim boarding area at Jennings Beach. No ramps or any other hard objects can be brought into that area and the area can be closed to skim boarding at any time by representatives of the Fairfield Recreation Department and Waterfront staff for reasons of safety and crowd management. Swimming may also take place in that area. The use of skim boards in that area should be considered at the participant's own risk and individuals participating in these activities in what is considered a reckless manner by the beach staff, can be excluded from the skim boarding area by representatives of the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department and Waterfront Staff.

Section 6 – (a) Water Skiing in the Ash Creek Channel, Southport Harbor, South Pine Creek Channel or within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area is prohibited, nor shall any boat be operated above the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area. A boat cannot be moored within 100 feet of any Town-designated swimming area.

(b) Jet skiing or kite skiing in or over designated swimming or boating areas is prohibited.

(c) Scuba diving in designated swimming and boating areas is prohibited, except by agents of the Town in the performance of their duties. Scuba diving shall only be permitted in the Marina during the performance of emergency repairs to boats at dockside.

(d) The cleaning of any boat or vessel below the water line is prohibited in the Marina and all beaches.

(e) In accordance with EPA and DEEP Regulations – Pressure washing of boats in or out of the water is prohibited. This includes in-water bottom cleaning, hull scraping, or any process that occurs underwater to remove anti-fouling paint on the boat hull.

Section 7 – Loitering on the beaches, and patio areas of the Jennings, Penfield, or Lake Mohegan pavilions is prohibited after hours.

Section 8 – Amusement machines on the beach are prohibited.

Section 9 – Fishing or the cleaning of fish in any Town designated swimming area is prohibited.

Section 10 – (a) Firearms are prohibited on any town beach, marina, park, or open space, except when carried by law enforcement officers in the execution of their duties.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection (a) of this section, loaded firearms on any open space area are permitted when performed pursuant to a permit issued by the Fairfield Conservation Commission.

Section 11 – (a) No person, or persons, or organization shall construct tents, stands, benches, shelters, or other structures of a temporary or permanent nature; camp overnight; nor hold any sponsored gathering or function on any Town park, beach, marina or open space without the express permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, or their designee, as appropriate.

(b) No alcoholic beverages are allowed on Town parks, beaches, marinas, or open space without the express written permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.

(c) Smoking and vaping is prohibited on all Town beaches, including the concession areas.

Section 12 – No person shall engage in any athletics, games, or contests at any Town beach, except swimming in areas designated for that purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 13 – (a) No glass containers or glass utensils shall be carried into or used on any public beach or parking area. This section shall not prohibit a concessionaire from using glass containers in the operation of his business, provided no food or refreshments are sold or dispensed in glass containers or glass utensils.

(b) No person shall discard or cast any litter, refuse, paper, cans, or other trash in/or upon a public beach, parking area, sailboat storage areas, or marinas except in containers designated for that purpose by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Section 14 - (a) Dogs or horses may enter beaches, open space areas, and marinas only under the following conditions:

(i) Dogs and horses accompanied by a person responsible for them shall be permitted to enter any Town beach only during the period from October 1 to March 31. At all other times dogs and horses are forbidden to enter any Town beach, including the parking areas for such beach.

(ii) When permitted to be on a Town beach, dogs must be leashed at all times, except while on the premises of Jennings Beach only. At Jennings Beach dogs may be off leash provided they are under the control of the person responsible for them. Dogs shall be prohibited from boardwalks, pavilions and playgrounds. Persons responsible for dogs and horses must clean up after their animals while they are on the beach or in the parking areas.

(iii) Leashed dogs may be permitted in the parking area of the Town Marina year-round. Leashed dogs may enter the dock area to enter or leave boats. Dogs in the dock area shall be the responsibility of the boat slip owner.

(iv) No dog shall be permitted to roam at large in any park, play lot, beach, open space area, or marina. No dog shall be permitted in any park or play lot at anytime.

(v) Leashed dogs only are permitted in Ash Creek Open Space Area but not in the picnic area or play area.

(b) The following rules shall apply to all open space areas other than Ash Creek:

(i) All dogs must be leashed, or if unleashed, kept under the control of the person responsible for them at all times.

(ii) All dogs must be leashed within one hundred feet (100-ft.) of a parking area or picnic area, or such other areas as may be designated by the Conservation Commission.

Persons with dogs in their vehicles shall park in areas to be designated by the Conservation Commission.

(iv) All persons shall remain on designated trails as marked by the Conservation Commission.

(v) All persons walking dogs shall endeavor to remain on designated trails as marked by the Conservation Commission.

(vi) No more than three (3) dogs may be walked by a person on any open space area.

(vii) No domestic animals, including dogs and horses, are permitted in the Metro Center Conservation easement.

Section 15 – Luminaries or sky lanterns are not permitted.

MARINAS

South Benson Marina	471 Turney Road
Ye Yacht Yard	985 Harbor Road, Southport
Perry's Green	701 Harbor Road, Southport

Section 16 – (a) South Benson Marina boat slips/Ye Yacht Yard dock space will be issued only to permanent residents of the Town of Fairfield. No family residing in one dwelling may have more than one boating assignment in the water until all on the waiting list are satisfied. The Marina Manager will make dock space available at Ye Yacht Yard to all boaters with a Southport Harbor mooring permit.

(b) Applications for boat slips in Town marinas shall be submitted only by permanent residents of the Town of Fairfield. Renewal applications along with, non-refundable payment and the following documents, Vessel Registration, Liability Insurance, Proof of Residency must be received in the Public Works Administrative Office by the close of business on the third Wednesday of February. If any items, other than the check and application, are missing from the packet a \$250 late fee will be assessed. Any application packet that is not complete and received in the office by the close of business on April 15 will result in the loss of slip. No slips or stickers will be made available until all fines are paid. If payment is not received as stated above, the Parks & Recreation Commission or its designee reserves the right to allocate slip to the next eligible applicant on waiting list. The penalty for falsifying any documents shall result in the loss of slip. Appeals can be heard by the standing Appeals Committee.

(c) The Parks & Recreation Commission or its designee shall approve applications for boat slips from holders of slips in the preceding year. Marina slips will not be renewed until all previous fees and fines are collected. When vacancies occur, the Commission or its designee shall approve applications drawn from appropriate waiting lists compiled by the Commission or its designee from approved applicants on a first-come, first-served basis. The Commission or its designee shall allow a one-time deferral for anyone who is on the waitlist as of September 16, 2015. Anyone who is placed on the waitlist after September 16, 2015 will have twelve (12) months from the date they are notified to put a boat in the water, with the requirement that they pay the pro-rated portion of the year left within ten (10) business days and pay by the renewal time the following year. The pro-rated portion will be based upon the minimum size for the category applied for. Anyone on the waitlist as of September 16, 2015 may take advantage of the policies in effect as of that date.

(d) Commercial fishing vessels owned and operated by a Fairfield resident (not to exceed 36 feet in length with a draft not to exceed four feet), are permitted to load and unload their catch at the South Benson Marina during the off-season, as is determined by the Parks & Recreation Department. Under no circumstances shall any commercial fishing or boating activities be permitted during the boating season as is determined by the Parks & Recreation Department. No exceptions. An annual fee for this permit will be charged and set by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Payment of such fees shall be made within 30 days of due date prescribed by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Failure to do so and violation(s) of relevant Commission rules and regulations pertaining to proper use of those Town facilities shall result in prohibition of use of those facilities and/or fines and/or impounding of the offending vessel.

(e) No motorboat shall be launched from Town property, except in areas designated by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

(f) No person shall anchor, moor, or launch any vessel in the South Benson Marina, Ye Yacht Yard, or Perry's Green without a valid sticker or plate issued annually by the Parks & Recreation Commission. Such sticker or plate shall be placed at the upper left corner of the transom.

(g) No vessel shall occupy any dock within the Marina to include: boat slips, transient docks, or launch ramp docks without written permission from the Marina Manager.

(h) No vessel may be operated within the confines of the South Benson Marina, Ye Yacht Yard, Pine Creek, Ash Creek, or Mill River with speeds in excess of six (6) miles per hour, or at a lesser speed which results in a harmful wake being created.

(i) A legal spouse of a deceased holder of a boat slip may retain it provided the spouse of the deceased is a permanent resident at the time of death. Upon divorce, slip/mooring holder may transfer slip to former spouse, provided that the former spouse remains a permanent resident.

(j) Boat owners assigned slips/moorings at Town marinas, and who have not utilized same by July 15 in the year for which the slip has been assigned, shall be notified by the Parks & Recreation Commission or its designee that their use of the assigned slip/mooring is in jeopardy. Owners must respond within ten (10) days of the notification or forfeit the slip.

(k) A permanent resident of Fairfield may purchase a ramp tag for South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard for a fee to be determined annually by the Parks & Recreation Commission.

(l) A non-resident of Fairfield who has a business establishment in Fairfield, but not corporations per se, and pays taxes on furniture, fixtures and/or inventory in Fairfield, may purchase a ramp tag for South Benson Marina in order to use the boat ramp to launch a motorized vessel. In addition, the first 50, per season, non-resident, non-Fairfield tax-paying individuals may purchase a ramp tag for launching at South Benson Marina. Non-Residents with non-powered vessels on a trailer may apply for a per-diem ramp tag to launch a vessel at Ye Yacht Yard.

(m) A fifteen (15) minute time limit is established to launch a vessel from designated launch ramps at South Benson Marina and a thirty (30) minute time limit at Ye Yacht Yard.

(n) All sailboats are required to be under power with sails lowered when entering and exiting the South Benson Marina Channel.

(o) No craft, using sails only as the sole means of propulsion, may be launched from flotation docks or ramps at South Benson Marina. They may be launched from Ye Yacht Yard.

(p) South Benson Marina slip occupants must provide and sign for the names of their invited guests, repair, or service personnel at the guardhouse prior to their use of marina parking facilities or docks. Repair or service personnel will provide proof of general insurance to the Town of Fairfield for the amount to be determined by the Risk Management Department. Repair or service personnel must state destination, type of work to be performed, and sign out at guard shack. .

(q) The consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on Town marina gangways, platforms, and parking lots.

(r) Slipholders who have not made arrangements for in-water winter storage at South Benson Marina must remove their vessels and portable floating docks/boat lifts by midnight of the third Sunday in November. Any slipholder whose vessel and/or portable floating docks/boat lift remains after the deadline will be fined \$100 per day and any slipholder whose vessel remains after the fourth Sunday of November will forfeit their slip.

(s) Hovercraft are prohibited in the South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard.

(t) Live-aboards on vessels in slips are permitted only during the boating season.

(u) There shall be no heaters and/or air conditioners operating while the vessel is unattended.

(v) All persons 8 years of age and younger must wear a Personal Flotation Device on all Town Docks.

(w) For the purpose of assigning slips, measurements are based on overall length from the factory installed attachment point on stern to furthest forward projection. In the "large boat" category the overall measurements stated as the (footprint) per application includes outboard motors in the "up" position.

(x) Private and permanent portable floating docks/boat lifts at the Town marinas will be permitted on a case by case basis as determined by the Director of Public Works or Director of Parks & Recreation or their designee. The size of the vessel, the size and type of lift, and the particular slip location in the marina are some of the relevant factors in the decision process. A boat lift shall not require any additional utilities, storage space, or the use of stairs or plank to access the vessel. Boat lifts are not to exceed the permitted size of the slip or infringe upon neighboring vessels. The boat slip holder shall be responsible for any damage that the unit creates to the Town of Fairfield docks, pilings, or other vessels. The boat slip holder must remove the boat lift at the end of the boating season as determined by the Town of Fairfield, unless arrangements have been made for in-water winter storage. The Town of Fairfield reserves the right to have the boat lift removed, at the owner's expense, for any reason, should the boat lift begin to adversely affect the operations of the Marina or infringe upon the rights of other boat slip owners.

(y) The Parks & Recreation Commission and/or police shall remove, or cause to be removed and stored at the expense of the owner, any vessel moored or anchored in violation of Section 16.

Section 17 – (a) Swimming at South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard is prohibited.

(b) Fishing from the docks, ramps, and banks bordering the South Benson Marina is prohibited, except that area posted for fishing.

- (c) Fishing from the docks at Ye Yacht Yard is prohibited.
- (d) No person shall engage in the cleaning of fish at South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard, including the docks and floats of said Marina and Yard, including any vessels while located within said Marina or docked at said Yard, except at designated fish cleaning stations. The throwing of fish entrails into the water is prohibited.
- (e) The storage of lobster pots is prohibited on the docks or floats of the South Benson Marina and Ye Yacht Yard.
- (f) The discharge of waste of any vessel while docked/moored at any Town marina is prohibited.
- (g) The use of outdoor grills, hibachis, or ovens on any vessel while said vessel is within the confines of the South Benson Marina or Ye Yacht Yard is prohibited.
- (h) No person shall add, remove, modify, or relocate any fitting, fixture, or material to any dock or piling, without authorization of the Parks & Recreation Commission, or its designee.
- (i) Docks must be kept completely free of gear. Skiffs, dinghies, windsurfers, and any additional watercraft are not allowed in allocated slip space.
- (j) There will be no filling of vessel fuel tanks from vehicles or containers brought to the marina.
- (k) There is no overnight tie up at the fuel dock or launching ramp dock except for emergency situations. The marina manager or concessionaire must be advised of the emergency situation at the time of the tie up.
- (l) Regulations for the Sailing Center at Ye Yacht Yard will follow the same regulations as Penfield and Jennings Beach as set forth in Section 19.

WATERFRONT RECREATION

Section 18 – (a) Sailboats and unpowered sailing craft 15 feet in length or less may be only launched west of the jetty at Sasco Beach.

(b) Sailboats more than 12 feet in length and not more than 22 feet in length may only be launched at the designated area at the easterly end of Jennings Beach. Sailboats 15 feet in length or less may be launched by special permit on the westerly end of Jennings beach, the number of which may not exceed twenty (20).

(c) Sailboards may only be launched outside designated swimming areas at any Town beach .

(d) No sail craft or boat trailer may be left overnight on Town beaches, except in designated areas and only with the permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

(e) The use of watercraft, except those used by Town agents in performance of their duties or approved in writing by the Conservation Commission, is prohibited on Lake Mohegan.

(f) Permits for using the Beach Road launch site are restricted to owners of sailfish who are residents within one 1 mile of the launch site. No small vessels may be brought in by car or truck.

Section 19 – *Sailing Centers at Penfield Pavilion, Jennings Beach, and Ye Yacht Yard*

(a) Catamarans shall be properly secured in assigned storage areas at Jennings Beach.

(b) Catamarans shall have identification tags placed on the mast.

(c) Halyards shall be properly tied off.

(d) Sails stored in the sail house must be tightly furled and confined to the assigned space.

(e) No power boats, including personal watercraft and jet skis, are allowed inside the sailing areas for any reason, including but not limited to anchoring, beaching, launching, or picking up or dropping off of passengers.

(f) (1) There must be a Parks & Recreation approved identification on each vessel.

(2) Only one boat may be permitted in any rack at Ye Yacht Yard. No more than two “boats” will be permitted per rack in Penfield and Jennings Beach racks. Boats shall be defined as paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, sailboards, and sailboats. For safety purposes, no more than one sailboat may occupy a rack.

(g) All sailfish, sunfish, windsurfers, catamarans, and other craft stored in the racks or on the beach beyond the termination date of the contract will be removed by the Town. They will be considered abandoned vessels after thirty (30) days and disposed of at the discretion of the Town of Fairfield which will file vessel liens in accordance with State Statutes.

(h) Sails stored in the sail house will be removed after the termination date and will be considered abandoned after thirty (30) days and disposed of at the discretion of the Town of Fairfield.

(i) Transient launching is only permitted Monday through Friday at Penfield Beach.

(j) Sailfish, sunfish, canoe, or kayak size may not be more than 16 feet long or weigh more than 130 pounds.

(k) No catamarans may be stored on “over the road” trailers while on the beach. Trailers must be removed from the beach.

The Town of Fairfield is not responsible for damage to sails as noted above. A minimum of \$30.00 or \$5.00 per day beyond the termination date of the contract, whichever is larger, will be charged sail owners who claim their sails after the sail abandonment date 30 days later.

OPEN SPACE

Ash Creek
 Brett Woods *
 Grace Richardson
 Gypsy Springs
 Hoyden Hill
 Lake Mohegan **
 Mary Katona Memorial
 Mill River Areas

Mountain Laurel
 Old Dam Marsh
 Oldfield North Marsh
 Oldfield South Marsh
 Pequot Road Marsh
 Perry's Mill Pond

Pine Creek Marsh
 Rickard Beach ***
 Riverfield
 Samp Mortar Rock
 Sasco Creek Marsh
 Sasco Creek Pond
 Sasco Creek/Kirik
 Southgate Lane Marsh
 Springer Glen
 Trillium Road
 Turney Creek Marsh tracts
 Westway Road
 Woodside Circle

* excluding 10 acres
 ** excluding beach area
 *** exclusive of bathing area

Riverside Dr. & Turney Road
 North Street
 Congress Street & Morehouse Hwy
 Grace Street
 Hoyden's Hill Lane & North Street
 Morehouse Hwy., Eastfield Circle
 Katona Drive
 Congress St. Drake Lane, Dudley Dr,
 Flower House Dr & Millspaugh Rd
 Mountain Laurel Road
 Old Dam Road
 Rugby Rd.
 Salt Meadow Road
 Pequot Road at Sasco Creek
 Perry St, Sturges Rd, Doreen Dr, Partridge Lane
 & Lakeside Drive
 Old Dam Road
 Fairfield Beach Road
 off Duck Farm Road
 Springer Road
 Kings Highway West at Sasco Creek
 Hulls Highway & Arbor Dr
 Wakeman Lane
 Southgate Lane at Sasco Creek
 Stillson Road & Pheasant Lane
 Trillium Road (off Mtn. Laurel Road)
 Shoreham Terr, Riverside Dr. & Cambridge St.
 Oxford Rd at Sasco River
 Woodside Circle (off Brookview Ave)

PLAYGROUNDS, PARKS AND FIELDS

PARK FACILITIES		Playground Equipment	Ball Diamonds			Grass Playing Fields			Tennis Courts	Bathroom Facilities	Total Acreage
			L. League	Baseball	Softball	Full Field	Sm Sided	Grass Area			
Burroughs Park	940 Burroughs Rd					1	1		x	5.13	
Dalewood Park	10 Dalewood Ave									0.07	
Dougiello Park	520 Hoyden's Lane			1					x	9.42	
Dover Park	140 Stevenson Rd	x	1							2.4	
Drew Park	180 Melville Drive									4.5	
Gould Manor Park	655 Holland Hill Rd	x	2					1	x	13.2	
Grasmere Eldercare	224 Colony Street	x	1							5.05	
Greenfield Hill Green	910 Old Academy Rd										
Henry Rowland Park	880 S Benson Rd	x								27	
Highwood Park	330 Palamar Drive	x	1							4.5	

PARK FACILITIES		Playground Equipment	Ball Diamonds			Grass Playing Fields			Tennis Courts	Bathroom Facilities	Total Acreage
			L. League	Baseball	Softball	Full Field	Sm Sided	Grass Area			
Hook and Ladder Park	309 Rakoczy Ave.	x								.11	
Karolyi Park	20 Hunyuadi Avenue									0.15	
Knapps Park Sq	6 Park Square Crt									3.32	
Lake Mohegan	960 Morehouse Hwy	x							x	118.6	
Lincoln Park	455 Jackman Ave	x								1.26	
Melville Park	180 Melville Drive	x	2						x	4.51	
Oldfield Sr. Center	100 Mona Terrace	x				1				12	
Owen Fish Park	1443 Stratfield Rd	x	1	1				1	x	11.1	
Palmers Neck	2566 Post Road									1.1	
Penfield Complex	323 Ffld Beach Rd	x							x	3.53	
Perry's Green	701 Harbor Road									0.65	
Pine Creek Ave Park	155 Pine Creek Ave	x								1.5	
Rugby Park	3 Rugby Road	x								11.28	
Sgt. Murphy Park	140 Reef Road	x								1.55	
Sherman Green	1451 Post Road									1.41	
S Pine Creek Rec Area	210 Old Dam Road			1	1	2			x	78.47	
Sturges Park	550 Mill Plain Road				1	1				12.5	
Town Hall Complex	725 Old Post Road						1			14.26	
Tunxis Hill Park	225 Melville Avenue	x	1	1				1	x	25.57	
Veres Street Park	275 Veres Street	x			1					3.58	
Veterans Park	909 Reef Road	x			1			2	x	8.23	
SCHOOL FACILITIES											
Burr Elementary	1960 Burr Street	x					1			15.75	
Dwight Elementary	1680 Redding Rd	x			1			4		29.13	
Holland Hill Elementary	105 Meadowcroft Rd	x					1			12.5	
Jennings Elementary	1115 Ffld Wds Rd	x					1			22.43	
McKinley Elementary	60 Thompson St	x					1			15.36	
Mill Hill Elementary	635 Mill Hill Terr, Spt	x	1						x	9.76	
N. Stratfield Elementary	190 Putting Green	x					1			9.6	
		Playground Equipment				Grass Playing Fields			Tennis Courts	Bathroom Facilities	Total Acreage
			L. League	Baseball	Softball	Full Field	Sm Sided	Grass Area			
Osborn Hill Elementary	760 Stillson Rd	x	1							9.77	
Riverfield Elementary	1625 Mill Plain Rd	x	2							30	
Sherman Elementary	250 Fern Street	x			1			1		9.7	
Stratfield Elementary	1407 Melville Ave	x						1		6.76	
Fairfield Woods MS	1115 Ffld Wds Rd		1			1		4		22.43	
Roger Ludlowe MS	689 Unquowa Rd					2				18.3	
Tomlinson MS TMS Tennis Courts	200 Unquowa Rd 270 Hillcrest Rd					1 (T)		4		9	
Fairfield Ludlowe HS	785 Unquowa Rd					1+1(T)		6	x	19.43	
Fairfield Warde HS	755 Melville Ave			1	1	1+1(T)		8	x	39.7	
(T) Turf Field											

Section 20 – (a) All Town parks shall be open from sunrise to sunset, except those parks that have sports lighting, which may be open from sunrise to 11:00 pm. Veteran’s Park parking is available from 3:00 am until 11:00 pm only. Exceptions will be made for storm emergencies.

(b) All open space areas shall be open from sunrise to one hour after sunset, except by authority of the Conservation Department.

(c) The operation of a motorized vehicle is prohibited on any Town park or open space, except in those areas designated by the Parks & Recreation or Conservation Commission, and except for official vehicles involved in maintenance or emergency operations.

Section 21 – The display of banners at Sherman Green is permitted only with the express permission of the Office of the Board of Selectmen and the Parks & Recreation Commission, and will be suspended only in that area designated by the Commission.

Section 22 – No camping is allowed in any park or open space area, except by permit issued by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Department as appropriate.

Section 23 – (a) No person shall pick any flowers, foliage or fruit, or shall cut, break, dig up, or in any way mutilate or injure any tree, shrub, plant, grass, turf, railing, seat, fence, structure, or anything in any park, play lot, open space, and beach, or cut, carve, paint, mark, or paste on any tree, stone, fence, wall building, monument, or other object therein, any bill, advertisement, or inscription whatsoever unless approved in writing by the Conservation Department or the Parks & Recreation Commission, as appropriate.

(b) No person shall swim in the pond or Ash Creek from the Metro Center conservation easement area.

(c) No person shall climb on the protective fences around the railroad or United Illuminating catenary towers within the Metro Center conservation easement area.

Section 24 – (a) No stone or other projectiles shall be thrown or rolled from, into, within, or upon any park or open space area. This section does not prohibit the use of a ball in designated playing area.

(b) Hunting, trapping, and discharging of firearms on or into any park or open space area is prohibited. Hunters crossing open space to gain access to State property may proceed through that open space only with an unloaded firearm.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this section, hunting and discharging of firearms on any open space area are permitted pursuant to a permit issued by the Fairfield Conservation Commission.

Section 25 – Threatening, abusive, boisterous, insulting, or indecent language or gesture in any beach, marina, park, or open space area is prohibited.

Section 26 – (a) No person shall expose any article or thing for sale in any Town beach, marina, park, or open space area unless a permit is issued by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission.

(b) No person shall destroy, injure, or disturb any form of wildlife or its habitat on any Town Beach, marina, park or open space excluding fishing, shell fishing and related activities.

Section 27 – No person shall discharge or set off firecrackers, torpedoes, rockets, or any other fireworks within any Town beach, park, or open space area, except under special permit issued by the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission, as appropriate.

Section 28 – No person shall dig up or remove any dirt, sand, stones, rock, or the like, make any excavation, quarry any stone, or lay or set off any blast, or cause or assist in doing any such things, within any Town park, beach, or open space area, except under special permit issued by the Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, or other duly authorized agency of the Town of Fairfield.

Section 29 – (a) No bottles, broken glass, waste paper, or other rubbish shall be left in any Town beach, park, marina, or open space area, except in containers designated for that purpose.

(b) No person shall deposit solid waste in any Town beach, park, marina, or open space area trash receptacle if the solid waste has been brought from outside a Town beach, park, marina, or open space area.

Section 30 – Golfing in Town beaches, parks, and open space areas is prohibited without the express permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission, or their designee, as appropriate.

Section 31 – Ice skating will be allowed in a Town park, or open space area, where a body of water has been posted as “Safe” by the Parks & Recreation Commission, or their designee, as appropriate.

Section 32 – Mountain bikes or other non-motorized bicycles may be used on Conservation Department designated open space trails only. At no time may mountain bikes be taken off the trails.

Section 33 – No dumping is allowed on beaches, parks, and open space property, and is subject to fines as stated in the Code of the Town of Fairfield.

Section 34 – The feeding of any waterfowl is strictly prohibited.

Section 35 – (a) A refusal to obey the rules and regulations of the Parks & Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, Police or Fire Departments or any other authorized agent of any of these Commissions, shall be considered a violation of these Rules and Regulations.

(b) Any person who violates any of the rules or regulations of the Parks & Recreation Commission or Conservation Commission may be subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00.

The Park Ordinance, 35 (b) above, was adopted by the Representative Town Meeting on December 17, 1979.

SCHEDULING AND FEE RULES FOR USE OF FIELDS AND PARKS

RESIDENT, for the purposes of field or recreation program usage, shall be understood as any permanent resident and or taxpayer of the Town of Fairfield.

Section 36 - The scheduled use of Town of Fairfield fields will be made available to the organizations listed below according to the regulations listed, with priority granted in the following order, as long as space is available.

- a) Fairfield Parks and Recreation Department sponsored activities.
- b) Fairfield Public School sponsored activities.
- c) Permanent Resident youth and adult leagues and activities that consist of all Fairfield residents.
- d) General Resident youth and adult leagues and activities that consist of all Fairfield residents
- e) Any other youth and adult leagues and activities at the discretion of the Parks & Recreation Commission or their designee.

A new league wishing to use Town fields must first get approval from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Section 37 - Park Properties will be made available according to the regulations and usage fees listed for the following:

Special Events

- Fairs
- Festivals
- Programs
- Specialty Shows

Special Athletic Events

- Camps
- Clinics
- Lessons/Specialty Coaches
- Tournaments

Section 38 – (a) A field may be declared closed by the Parks & Recreation Director or Parks Maintenance Department at any time for all or for certain activities.

(b) Fields may be closed on an individual basis. Fields will be posted with signs indicating whether the field is playable. The Parks & Recreation Department will have field availability information on its website under “Field Closures”. Updates will be posted weekdays after 3:00 P.M. and weekends after 8:00 A.M. Where there is a discrepancy between the website and the sign posting, the sign takes precedence.

(c) Melville Field is to be used by 12 year olds and under with the exception of League players who may be 13 but are playing under adult supervision.

Section 39 – Season Permits for Teams and Organizations: 100% of the players must be Fairfield residents and the team/organization must first be approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Once approved, an official League Roster, a signed copy of the Town of Fairfield’s Hold Harmless Agreement and a Certificate of insurance, naming the Town of Fairfield as an additional insured, with limits as designated by the Risk Management Department must be provided to the Parks and Recreation Department in order to receive a Season Blanket Permit. .

Section 40 – Team, League and Tournament play on Town of Fairfield fields is permitted only on a reservation basis.

Section 41 – Persons not having a permit for the use of a field must give way to permit holders.

Section 42 – A field may be reserved only in the name of an adult who is a Fairfield resident and who agrees to be responsible for the use of the field in accordance with the Fairfield PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS. If that reservation is for use by a group, that adult must provide the organization's Insurance Certificate, and Hold Harmless Agreement, and the permit assigned to that group.

Section 43 – A violation of these policies, PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS, or Town Ordinances will result in forfeiture of permits and fees.

Section 44 – Priority will be given to school sponsored programs at all times on school fields.

Section 45 – (a) Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on Town or school fields and will result in cancellation of the permit.

(b) Smoking and vaping is prohibited at all Town parks and school fields.

Section 46 – Costs to clean up or repair fields that are damaged are the responsibility of the permit holder. Littering or damage to the fields will result in cancellation of the permit.

Section 47 – Fees for functions listed in Section 37 will require payment at the time the reservation is made.

Section 48 – The Parks & Recreation Commission or its designee may require the user to have police or other services. This cost will be paid by the user.

Section 50 – Requests for the use of Town fields not made via phone (203-256-3191) or email (recsupport@fairfieldct.org). Checks should be made payable to the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department.

TOWN CEMETERIES

The following cemeteries are under the jurisdiction of the Parks & Recreation Commission:

Old Burying Ground	430 Beach Road
Fairfield West Cemetery	2011 Post Road
Greenfield Hill Cemetery	Bronson Rd.

Section 51 – No individual and/or group will trim or plant shrubs, flowers, or trees; mow grass; move or restore headstones without the permission of the Parks & Recreation Commission. Tours should be scheduled through the Parks & Recreation Office.

JENNINGS BEACH SKATE PARK

Jennings Beach Skate Park located at the end of South Benson Rd.

Section 52 Users of the Skate Park must adhere to the following rules:

- Park open under staff supervision only.
- Skating not permitted when surface is wet and or frozen
- Only skateboarders and in-line skaters permitted inside park (no bicycles and/or scooters)
- No motorized apparatus may be used in the facility.
- Skaters must wear a helmet. Elbow pads and kneepads are highly recommended.
- Shirts are required at all times
- No pets allowed in skate park area
- Spectators are not allowed in the skate area
- No destroying or defacing public property
- No glass bottles permitted inside the skate area
- Trash should be placed in appropriate trash containers
- No smoking, alcohol, drug use or weapons permitted
- No unauthorized pieces of equipment obstacles or apparatus may be brought into the skate area
- Skating is a hazardous activity. Skate at your own risk. When you enter this facility you assume all risks and responsibilities that are inherent to extreme sports activities which could result in serious physical injury or death to yourself, others, and /or property.
- Violations may result in loss of skate privileges

AGE WARNING

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under 10 not use skateboards without close adult supervision and that children younger than 5 not use them at all.

These rules and regulations were approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission on November 20, 1989 and the Conservation Commission on December 19, 1989, and by the Parks & Recreation Commission December 19, 1989, and by the Parks & Recreation Commission at Public Hearings on November 14, 1990; August 14, 1991; December 9, 1992; July 14, 1993 and June 8, 1994, October 12, 1994; November 15, 1995; April 10, 1996; October 9, 1996; April 9, 1997; April 16, 1998; October 8, 1998; February 11, 1999; January 12, 2000; April 12, 2000, May 9, 2001, March 13, 2002, August 17, 2004; November 17, 2005 Conservation Commission, Mar. 19, 2008, Aug. 20, 2008; Nov. 19, 2008, November 18, 2009, November 19, 2009 Conservation Commission, December 16, 2009 March 24, 2010; June 16, 2010; Sept 15, 2010. January, 2011, Sept, 2012, January 16, 2013, Oct 16, 2013 (16-d), Nov 20, 2013 (16z), February, 19, 2014 (Marina Rules Revision), Conservation Commission, March 24, 2014 Section 14 b (vii), Section 23(b,c), May 21, 2014 (47, 48) Oct 15, 2014 (3b,16 g, p / 19 (f, j, k), Sept. 2015 16(b,c), June, Aug, 2018 Section 5 (d,e), June19, 2019, Sections 11(c), 45 (b)

By order of the FAIRFIELD PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

2019 Commission

Jamie Benton
Alexa Mullady
Scott Walker

Christopher McCoy
Brian Nerreau
David Weber

Bridget McBride
Mary von Conta
Jessica Gerber (BOE)

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