



# Green Ribbon Task Force Presentation of Recommendations

***Hartford Public Library  
21 March 2011***



# Green Ribbon Task Force

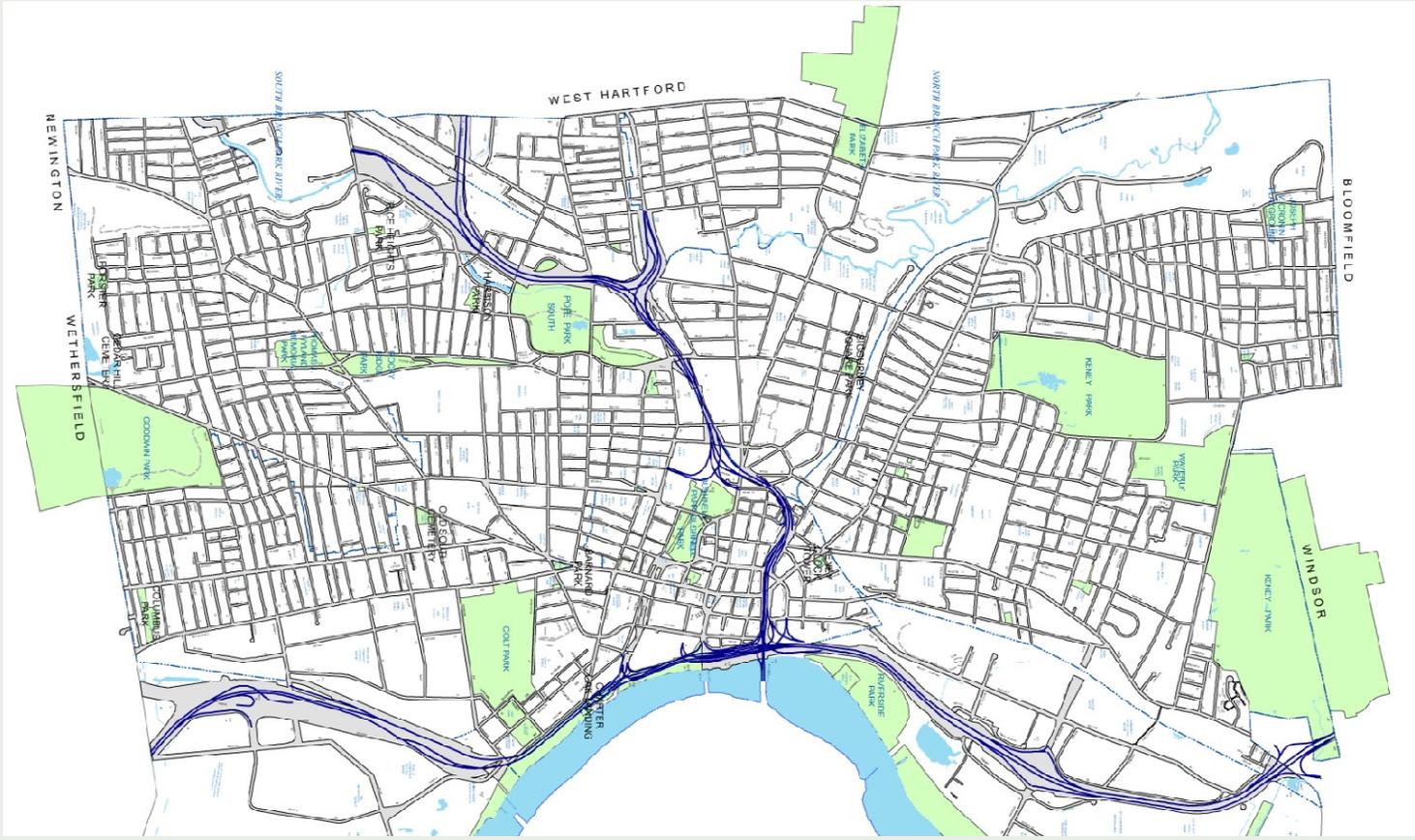


“Conventionally, neighborhood parks or park-like open spaces are considered boons conferred on the deprived populations of cities. Let us turn this thought around, and consider city parks deprived places that need the boon of life and appreciation conferred upon them.”

- Jane Jacobs, *Death and Life of Great American Cities*



# Hartford Parks – 2000+ Acres





# Hartford Parks Legacy



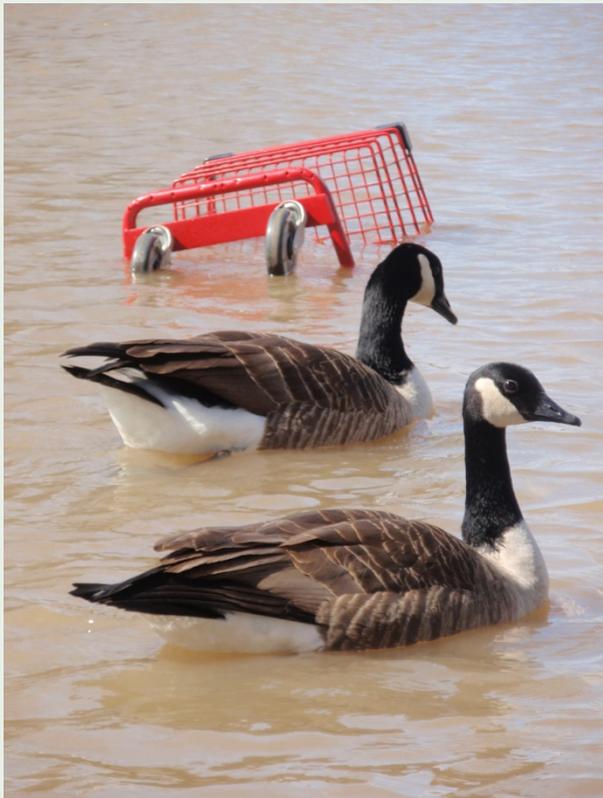


# Hartford Parks Today





# Hartford Parks Today





# One City, One Plan



## Top Ideas from Theme Sessions

1. Reduce automobile reliance
2. Improve connectivity & walkability downtown
3. Create “complete” neighborhoods with centers
4. Make Downtown streets vibrant, active & interesting
- 5. Create a stewardship program to maintain parks**
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  - 
  -
- 12. Establish a Green Renovation Blueprint or “Greenprint” for vacant and underused buildings and surface parking lots Downtown**
- 13. Intensify Environmental Education**



# Green Ribbon Task Force



## August 19, 2010 – Mayor Segarra Convenes Task Force

Tyler Smith & Bernadine Silvers – Chairs

Carl Bard

Jill Barrett

Charmaine Craig

Whitney Hatch

Penny Leto

Nancy Macy

Joe Marfuggi

Jack Hale

Mary Rickel Pelletier

Michael Zaleski

*It has become clear that improvements need to be made if Hartford's system of parks is to live up to the expectations of citizens and businesses of the neighborhoods, the City, and the region at large.*

*- GRTF Mission Statement*

**Maintenance**

**Finance**

**Governance**



# Green Ribbon Task Force



**Seven Months of Work – 45 meetings**

**9 Public Meetings**

**200+ Public Participants**

**Input from Friends, City Staff, PRAC**

**1500+ Estimated Volunteer Hours**

*“Over the course of the 375-year history of our fair city, it has always been the collective effort of dedicated individuals that has identified challenges, uncovered opportunities, and devised solutions to bring us prosperity.”*

*- Mayor Pedro Segarra’s Task Force Solicitation Letter*



# Guiding Principles



- Parks help to make cities livable
- Parks should provide settings for people in passive group and active recreational pursuits
- Parks are the green spaces of the city
- A park outing of any kind should be a high quality experience
- Hartford's parks are valuable cultural resources, places for the gathering of the city's people, or for the enjoyment of individuals
- Parks are valuable natural resources, improving city life through the provisions of green spaces and places for plants and animals
- Parks are the core of Hartford's public outdoor recreation space



# Five Major Recommendations



- Reunite Parks and Recreation Services
- Hire a Highly Qualified Parks Director
- For now, keep Parks & Recreation within DPW
- Strengthen and Restructure the Hartford Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
- Establish a Department of Environmental Services



# Implementation Plan



## Year One

- ✓ Parks Administrator, Grant Writer, Extra Crew, Landscape Architect hired
- ✓ Prioritize Report Recommendations
- ✓ Put Resources into Place

## Year Two

- ✓ Build Workforce
- ✓ Draft Ordinance to define Parks & Recreation Commission
- ✓ Form 501(c)3 to receive gifts to Parks
- ✓ Electronically coordinate event permitting, scheduling, invoicing, and maintenance

## Year Three

- ✓ Continue to rebuild workforce
- ✓ Engage Friends groups, expand volunteerism
- ✓ Fully Activate Parks and Recreation Commission
- ✓ Evaluate creation of Dept. of Environmental Services

## Years Four-Five

- ✓ Workforce at full strength
- ✓ Expanded volunteer training
- ✓ Dept. of Environmental Services in place

## End of Year Five

- ✓ Parks & Rec. Commission fully established
- ✓ Dept. of Environmental Services established



# Green Ribbon Task Force



## LET'S TALK

**Copies of the Recommendations will be Available at  
Library Branches and**

**[www.hartford.gov/oneplan](http://www.hartford.gov/oneplan)**

Thank you very much