



Partnerships for Hartford's Parks



GREEN RIBBON
PARKS TASK FORCE

HARTFORD 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*



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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**



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MISSION

Green Ribbon Parks Task Force

Mission:

Through the public process of *One City, One Plan*, necessary reduction in City budget, by direct observation, and with input from the report by the Trust for Public Land, 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.

The mission of this task force of community leaders is to identify the challenges of the parks system, brainstorm short and long term strategies for reform, and make a set of pragmatic and achievable recommendations for moving forward.

Areas Being Addressed:

Finance: The purpose is to identify and understand the financial resources available - and the limitations - to our parks. This information will allow us to understand the level of spending in relationship to other City departments, peer cities and nationally, and most importantly the need.

Governance: The purpose is to make recommendations on how the governance structure might be improved or re-structured for the betterment of our park system. Who has the authority and responsibility to make decisions concerning our parks, and what are the checks and balances? What say do Friends groups as well as citizens have in the decision making process? When may the State or Federal government have input?

Maintenance: The purpose is to determine the maintenance needs of our parks in relation to the work force and equipment available to maintain the parks. Does the city have or have access to the needed skill sets? Is the staff and equipment appropriate for the tasks? Is the proper training being provided? Who selects and approves park furniture? How does the city establish a knowledge base and institutional memory of its parks? How do we use volunteers and contract workers to the augment the work of city employees to the benefit of our parks?



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

What are Our Assets?

35 Parks – Over 2011 Acres (912 acres outside city limits)

Keney Park	– 670 acres (133 acres in Windsor)
Batterson Park	– 585 acres (all in Farmington)
Goodwin Park	– 236 acres (110 acres in Wethersfield)
Colt Park	– 108 acres
Elizabeth Park	– 102 acres (84 acres in West Hartford)
Pope Park	– 77 acres
Riverside Park	– 52 acres
Charter Oak Landing	– 45 acres
Hyland Park/Rocky Ridge	– 41 acres
Bushnell Park	– 33 acres
25 Other Parks	– 62 acres



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Keney Park – 670 acres (133 acres in Windsor)



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Batterson Park – 585 acres (all in Farmington & New Britain)



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Goodwin Park – 236 acres (110 acres in Wethersfield)



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Colt Park – 108 acres



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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Elizabeth Park – 102 acres (84 acres in West Hartford)



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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Pope Park – 77 acres



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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Riverside Park – 52 acres



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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Charter Oak Landing – 45 acres



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Hyland Park/Rocky Ridge – 41 acres



Mission

Current Condition

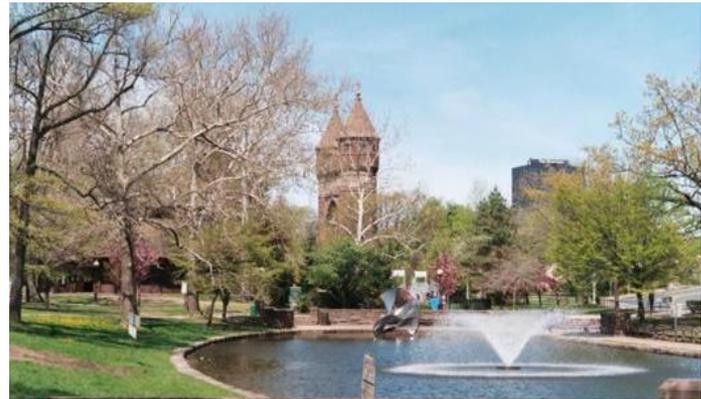
Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

Bushnell Park – 33 acres



Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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25 Other Parks – 62 acres

Public Squares, pocket parks, cemeteries, other civic spaces



Sigourney Square



Keney Clock Tower Square



Columbus Park



Old North Cemetery

Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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THE PARKS SYSTEM

How are These Assets Cared For?

Department of Public Works: Parks Program – maintenance of parks

General Fund Expenditures:	\$2,093,444
General Fund Revenue:	\$127,000
General Fund Positions:	29

Department of Public Works: Streets Program – supplemental maintenance of parks

General Fund Expenditures:	\$2,385,316
General Fund Revenue:	\$7,500
General Fund Positions:	46 (up to 25 assisting parks during peak season)

Department of Health and Human Services – athletic programming & social services

Part-Time Personnel:	\$1.8M
Contractual Personnel:	200K
Full-Time Personnel:	300K

Mission

Current Condition

Summary



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How are These Assets Cared For?

Capital Improvements Projects: FY10 -11 – \$2.45M

Old North Cemetery Improvements:	\$750,000 (bond sales)
Batterson Park Infrastructure Improvements:	\$1,000,000 (bond sales)
Hyland Park Spraypools & Playgrounds:	\$600,000 (CDBG)
iQuilt/Bushnell Park:	\$100,000 (bond sales)



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How are These Assets Cared For?

“Friends” Organizations

- Coordinate supplemental maintenance
- Serve as booster organizations
- Assist in Planning & implementing physical improvements
- Undertake fundraising initiatives
- Sponsored by corporate and private donations

Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission

- Established as advisory body to Dept. of Parks & Recreation, and City Council
- Make studies and recommendations concerning use of parks, park management, park policies, and recreation programs.
- Seek working relationships with schools, community, and civic organizations
- Point of contact for the public to express opinions



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How are These Assets Cared For?

Knox Parks Foundation

- Founded in 1966
- Provides volunteer services – cleanup and flower, shrub & tree planting

Hartford Parks Trust Fund – 200K budgeted for FY10-11

- Established in 1988 with sale of land at Batterson Park to West Hartford
- Investment income funds capital improvements, acquisition, & beautification
- 25% of investment income may be used for maintenance



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SUMMARY

MISSION

Identify challenges

Brainstorm short/long term strategies for reform

Make a set of pragmatic and achievable recommendations

MEETING SCHEDULE

Public Meetings

- Panel Discussion: August 25th @ Mark Twain House
- Discussion with PRAC & Friends: December 16th @ Parker Memorial Community Ctr.
- Presentation of Recommendations: February/March @ TBD

Task Force Meetings

- Monthly (third Thursdays)
- 12:00 – 1:30 pm @ City Hall
- Committee Updates and Integration

Committee Meetings

- Bi-Weekly, scheduled by members
- Participation from Resources (staff, department heads, etc, as needed)