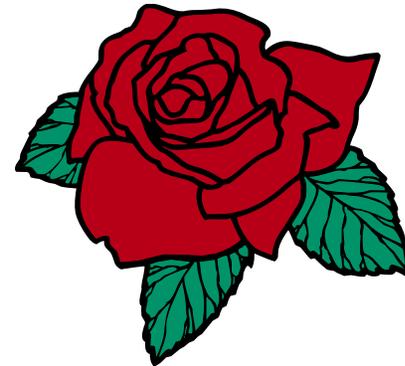




# NORWICH MASTER PARKS PLAN 2023



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This executive summary provides a high-level overview of the City of Norwich's Master Parks Plan elements, including:

- Existing Park Conditions
- Trails and Connectivity Analysis
- Park Metrics
- Community Engagement
- Recommendations
- Implementation

This Master Parks Plan was developed through research and review of numerous existing reports. The process also included on-site evaluations of all existing park facilities, as well as meetings and discussions with the Human Services Department and Department of Public Works staff, additional city staff and various community groups.

The Plan provides a holistic approach for addressing the recreational and leisure needs of the City of Norwich. It reviews current facilities and presents findings and recommendations that provide city staff with a working document that can be readily utilized as programs, services, and facilities are enhanced, improved, and promoted over the next 10 years.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Chapter 3 of the Plan provides a detailed view of each of the city's park sites that includes a park map and assessment of the condition of all park amenities.

## TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY

Chapter 4 reviews existing trails, pathways and walk routes, identifies gaps between existing park and trails facilities, analyzes roadway conditions in proximity to those areas, and makes recommendations for pedestrian, bicyclist, and riverfront connectivity.

## PARK METRICS

Chapter 5 examines several key socioeconomic indicators obtained from ERSI, National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), and Trust for Public Land (TPL) databases as a determinant of equitability. The team found that the park system generally serves the population well with equitable access and resources. The exception is the Greenville neighborhood, which needs additional park land.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chapter 6 shows how the team engaged city staff, stakeholders, and residents in the development of the Plan with a focus on a more equitable and accessible park system. Their input was solicited in a variety of ways – focus groups, an online survey, and pop-up events at community-wide gatherings. Key themes of the outreach efforts:

- Mohegan Park is the most popular park in the city
- More activities are needed for youth
- More connectivity of the park system to and from surrounding neighborhoods
- More restrooms

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 7 presents conceptual plans for thirty park sites derived from information gathered throughout the needs assessment, trend analysis, and public engagement. Potential site locations for a new signature park were also explored.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Chapter 8 recommends an implementation phasing plan, provides park by park budgetary estimates, and includes various funding mechanisms commonly used by municipal park and recreation agencies throughout the United States. Also included are recommendations for the development of alternative funding sources to reduce the reliance on general fund tax dollars.

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# INTRODUCTION



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# BACKGROUND

Norwich is a city in New London County, Connecticut, known as the “Rose of New England” or “Rose City” for its beauty and rolling hills that resemble rose petals. The Yantic, Shetucket, and Quinebaug Rivers flow into the city and form its harbor, from which the Thames River flows south to Long Island Sound.

According to the United States Census Bureau, the city has a total area of 29.5 square miles, with over 30 recreational facilities ranging in size from over 350 acres at Mohegan Park to 0.5 acres at Bean Hill Green. Based on the 2022 census, the population of Norwich is 40,009. The percentage of persons under the age of 18 and persons 65 years and over represent 20% of the population respectively.

For more than 70 years, Norwich Human Services has provided social services to Norwich residents. Our department is an umbrella agency encompassing three divisions:

- Youth, Family and Recreation Services
- Adult and Family Services
- Rose City Senior Center

The mission of the Norwich Human Services Department is to develop and administer services that help people become sustainably self-sufficient and reach their maximum potential, to offer recreational, educational, social, health, and social service programs that are designed to foster independence and community involvement for persons age 55 and older, and to promote the social, emotional, and physical health of our community through recreation, youth workforce development, education, and engagement.



2023 Norwich Winterfest Light Parade. Source: Hannah Orburn

# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 1659, Norwich was founded on the site of what is now Norwichtown by settlers from Saybrook Colony, who purchased the land from the Mohegan Sachem, Uncas. One of the co-founders of Norwich, Thomas Leffingwell, rescued Uncas from his Narragansett enemies, forging a long-term alliance with the Mohegans. In 1668, a wharf was established at Yantic Cove, and settlement was primarily in the area around Norwichtown Green.

By 1694, the public landing at the head of the Thames River allowed ships to unload goods at the harbor, known as Chelsea Landing. By the late 18th century, shipping and travel on the Thames River at the harbor became far more important than farming (due to the deep-water channel), especially when industrial mills began manufacturing on the three rivers - Yantic, Shetucket, and Quinebaug Rivers. By the early 19th century, the center of Norwich had effectively moved to the Chelsea neighborhood. The official buildings of the city were in the harbor area, and all the large 19th-century urban blocks.

The 20th century saw Norwich fall into decline for numerous well-documented reasons. Today, again in line with nationwide patterns, the town center is being rejuvenated and reused, and the riverfront is being repurposed for recreational uses.

The park system developed as most did in Connecticut and across the nation. The city greens were the first open space and set aside as common land for utilitarian purposes including the grazing of livestock and the training of the militia. Bean Hill and Norwichtown Green fall into this category, being developed in the late 17th and 18th century.

Chelsea Parade Park and Little Plain Park appear to be town greens, but were actually donated lands from the mid-19th century.

The hugely popular World Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago stimulated a great appreciation for urban aesthetics and formal/classical design. The “City Beautiful” movement was the result and led to the American Parks movement which also had its roots within the 19th century reform era. During this time, upper-class, educated people saw it as their duty to raise the masses to the level of middle-class standards. Many cities took this opportunity to develop citywide park systems, but Norwich was an exception. Norwich did, however, have wealthy benefactors in Dr. John Rockwell and others who in 1907 began deeding land to the city for a park. The city named this land Mohegan Park to recognize Uncas, Sachem of the Mohegan Tribe. This 400-acre park is Norwich’s finest and is beloved by its citizenry. More than with any other park, Norwich residents identify with the land and use the park’s facilities. Correspondingly and understandably, the park receives the bulk of available resources. In 1995, a \$2 million renovation of the park center was completed, the last major expenditure.

Many parks are primarily athletic facilities, housing sports fields and courts, serving the city’s youth and adult sports leagues and spectators. Others are neighborhood parks that provide play space for young children.

In 2023, the city is at a crossroads. While public demand for outdoor spaces and recreation is soaring as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, much is needed to upgrade and maintain parks and public spaces.



City of Norwich, 1876 created by O.H. Bailey



## PURPOSE & NEED

FHI Studio was engaged by the City of Norwich in May 2023 through a public Request for Proposal (RFP) process to produce a citywide Master Parks Plan. The plan, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), is intended to be comprehensive in nature and be implemented over the next ten years. Central to the requirements of the RFP was the need to address any inequalities in the system, and provide for a just system, accessible to all residents.

The Plan is needed. The city has never had a citywide master parks plan, with the closest thing to it being a master plan for the Recreation Complex completed by BL Companies in 1987. This plan suffered the fate of many Master Plans in that it was never implemented. Current city staff have the vision, energy, and expertise to embark on a new planning effort.

“

*If we had a medicine that delivered as many benefits as parks, we would all be taking it. Parks deliver cardiovascular benefits, fight loneliness, combat osteoporosis, counter stress anxiety, and more. And they do those things without adverse side effects and at minimal costs.*

”

Dr. Howard Frumkin, Senior Vice President at Trust For Public Land and Former Dean of the University of Washington School of Public Health

The park system appears to have evolved throughout the twentieth century primarily through land donations and small acquisitions. The improvements within the parks don't seem to be the result of design or artistic vision but instead developed on an ad hoc basis as needs and community demands arose and funds became available. If the community asked for a basketball court it was built, if land became available for a field it was developed.

In some ways, the park system has evolved much like those in other cities across the state. Town greens were the first public spaces being developed or set aside in the 17th and 18th century. Bean Hill Green and Norwichtown Green are Norwich examples.

Norwich is different in that most of the park system was developed in the mid-twentieth century. The period from 1890 to 1925 was Connecticut's Golden Age of Parks with wealthy patrons across the state donating land for park development. Norwich was no exception with the gifts of land that would become Norwich's premier park, Mohegan Park. Strong leadership and public-spiritedness gave us this asset.



We ask a lot from our parks. They should serve the mental, physical, and environmental needs of the human populations while also providing wildlife habitat. In addition, parks and open spaces are on the forefront of environmental sustainability, with the larger ones, such as Mohegan Park and the reservoirs, functioning as the “lungs of the city”.

Norwich has a parks system that attracts a wide array of users, including residents, seasonal residents, and visitors from surrounding communities. The parks system and its beaches, parks, fields, courts, and other facilities are highly utilized and require ongoing maintenance and investment to ensure that these facilities remain usable and inviting.

Many of the city's park facilities are antiquated and in need of repair, replacement, and/or restoration. They served the community well for decades and are now in need of reinvestment.

As the city's demographics and user preferences change, the parks system needs to evolve to respond to user demand. Sports that were highly popular twenty or thirty years ago, such as tennis, are giving way to games such as pickleball as the city's population ages. Additionally, youth preferences in recreation have shifted over time with sports such as lacrosse being increasingly popular while participation in tackle football has diminished. It is the responsibility of the Human Services Department, as guided by the Recreation Advisory Board, to ensure that the facilities that it provides and maintains are closely aligned with the needs of its users.

This plan provides recommendations for the development of new facilities and the renovation of existing facilities that will provide the greatest benefit to its users and the greatest value to Norwich for its investment.

It is the hope of all parties that this plan will serve as a roadmap to an improved park system that serves the needs of all of Norwich's diverse communities, and their mental, physical, and environmental needs.

# PROCESS

At the direction and guidance of the Department of Human Services and Department of Public Works, a comprehensive program of public input, research, planning, analysis and design, and implementation strategies were undertaken for this plan.



## Public Input

A survey was designed and posted on the Envision Norwich 360 site. Project team members staffed information tables at two local events, the Juneteenth celebration and the Wellness Bike and Walk Day. Meetings were held with various community organizations and city departments.



## Research

Numerous repositories were investigated including the Department of Human Services archived files and the Norwich Public Library Local History Room. Existing Databases including those of the Trust for Public Land, ESRI, and the National Recreation and Parks Association were reviewed.



## Planning

Each park was visited at least twice and analyzed using established criteria regarding accessibility, physical condition of elements, connectivity, drainage, utilities, safety, and capacity.



## Analysis and Design

Using information gleaned in the first three phases, a concept plan of improvements was developed for each park along with a trail/connectivity plan.



## Implementation Strategies

Funding sources were investigated and a phasing plan developed.

## Resources

This plan was not created in a vacuum. Many other studies and plans have contributed to the vision, and many are actively being pursued, including:

- Plan of Conservation and Development 2013
- Norwich Harbor Water Trail (Broadside)
- A Waterfront Vision – Harbor Management Commission 2011
- Uncas Leap Heritage Park Master Plan Report – Malone and McBroom, May 2018
- Norwich Greens: A Case Study by James Sexton, Architectural History Consultant
- Heritage Trails pamphlets

## Commitment to DEI

All people, no matter the color of their skin, age, income or mental / physical ability should have access to public parks and open space, as well as facilities that satisfy their recreation needs and choices. Thus, it is extremely important that this plan encompasses a robust public engagement process conducted through an equity lens.

*[the Master Parks Plan should]*  
**“consider and respect all citizens of Norwich with an equitable approach, to promote healthy living, physical health and emotional well-being for everyone.”**

Norwich Master Parks Plan RFP

# TRENDS

## General Trends

The popularity of sports and recreational activities shifts over time, with new sports and activities gaining popularity and once popular sports and activities waning. The sports and fitness industry closely monitors these trends and the most comprehensive and timely data regarding these trends is provided by the Sport & Fitness Industry Association, which publishes annual trends data in its Sports, Fitness, and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report. The report provides nationwide sports and fitness activity and participation statistics that are organized into the following activity types (and further divided into specific activities):

The following trends were identified in the most recent (2019) Topline report, which provides statistics on activity participation between 2013 and 2018:

- The participation rate in recreation and fitness activities has remained stable over the past several years at approximately 73% of people nationwide engaged in some form of activity.
- Activity rates among all age groups below age 55 have increased since 2013.
- Participation in fitness sports is at a six-year high and participation in outdoor sports has increased by 6% since 2013.
- Aerobic activities (such as cardio classes, running, and swimming), aquatic exercise and high impact/intensity training grew most in participation (4.6%) since 2013. Running participation contracted the most (-1.7%). Some of this shift can be attributed to Baby Boomers who are relinquishing running in favor of lower impact aquatic exercise.



- Conditioning activities (such as Pilates and yoga) has grown in participation in all forms with barre participation growing the most (4.2%) since 2013.
- Of racquet sports, cardio tennis (10.3% since 2013) and pickleball (9.7% since 2014) grew the most while badminton, squash, and table tennis contracted.
- Individual sports (which range from boxing to skating) experienced the greatest growth in mixed martial arts (8.9%) and trail running (8.1%) since 2013. The greatest declines were seen in skating sports with inline skating down 3.8% since 2013.
- Team sports experienced the greatest increase in roller hockey (6.9%) and rugby (5.9%) since 2013. Ultimate frisbee saw the greatest decline (-11.7%) and tackle football (-4.9%).
- Participation in outdoor sports grew most in BMX bicycling (9.8%) and day hiking (8.8%) since 2013.
- Water sports experienced the greatest increase in stand-up paddling (12.3%) and kayaking (4.8%). The greatest decreases were in water skiing (-4.3%) and jet skiing (-3.6%).

## Specific Trends

### Parks as Public Health Tools

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, outdoor recreation has been on the rise. Understandably Park uses spiked during the height of the quarantine and has leveled off, but it is reasonable to expect that other public health challenges will occur along with increases in park usage. This has been a reoccurring trend since before the development of Central Park in New York City. Central Park co-designer Frederick Law Olmsted, who had lost his first child to cholera, had theories about the health benefits of public parks. In one of his [most well-known essays](#), he declared that one purpose of parks was to provide “Opportunity and inducement to escape at frequent intervals from the confined and vitiated air of the commercial quarter” and to “supply the lungs with air screened and purified by trees and recently acted upon by sunlight.”

### Pickleball

With 2.8 million participants nationwide, this sport continues to surge and is the fastest growing sport in America. 75% of players are 55 and older but it also has a multi-generational appeal and has risen to the level of a professional sport.

### Disc Golf

- On average, 5.28 disc golf courses are built every day.
- There are estimated to be over 15,000 disc golf courses globally.
- Over 70% of all disc golf courses were built in the last ten years.
- Disc golf courses can be found in over 80 countries worldwide.

### Shade

Trees are lacking in almost all of the parks and correspondingly so is shade. As a society we are finding that lack of protection from the sun is leading to an epidemic of skin diseases, not to mention discomfort.

## Youth Sports

Participation is at an all-time high.



## Trail Recreation and Mountain Biking

In the Envision Norwich 360 survey, walking/hiking was the most popular activity. Mountain biking was also ranked highly.

## Outdoor Exercise

As a response to COVID-19, people switched from gym-related exercise to outdoor activities. As the pandemic receded, this trend continued.

## Flag Football

Flag football is a variation of football in which, instead of tackling, players “deflag” their opponents by snatching a flag worn on a belt. It was first established as a recreational game played among the military in the 1940s, and has now become a favorite for youth and, increasingly, female players. The sport is becoming extremely popular, having been adopted as an official High School sport in California. Flag football will debut as an Olympic sport in 2028.

## Therapeutic Recreation

Therapeutic recreation is a global health initiative that encourages physicians to include physical activity as a part of treatment programs, and recognizes fitness professionals as part of the health care team.

## Environmental Stewardship

Parks are increasingly used as areas for flood water storage, tree cover and wildlife habitat.

## Paddle Sports

Kayaking and paddleboarding continue to be extremely popular with all ages. The introduction of low-cost inflatable apparatus has significantly increased usage.



## Outdoor Strength Training

Outdoor fitness apparatus has come a long way since the balance beams and chin up bars of the 1970’s. Modern equipment rivals that found in indoor gyms and are typically grouped together to provide a full body workout. These are often located close to play equipment so that parents and caregivers can utilize the workout equipment as older children are playing.

## Outdoor Group Activities

Yoga, Pilates, tai chi and exercise / workout programs are popular with all age groups, but especially with Gen Y.

## Aging Populations

The Baby Boomer generation is establishing a new concept of active aging. Their sheer number and attitudes toward aging will change the face of recreation. In 1900 the percentage of U.S. Citizens over the age of 50 was 13%. In 2020, it rose to 37%.

## Cycling

Cycling continues to rank as the most popular outdoor activity.



“

*The purpose of parks is to provide 'opportunity and inducement to escape at frequent intervals from the confined and vitiated air of the commercial quarter' and to 'supply the lungs with air screened and purified by trees and recently acted upon by sunlight.'*

”

Frederick Law Olmsted



Basketball clinic at Greeneville Courts. Source: Erin Haggan

# RECREATION ACTIVITY IN NORWICH TODAY

According to data available from ESRI, 2023 participation in the following recreation activities by Norwich residents was distributed as indicated in the table to the right. Of these activities, walking for exercise (31.9%), swimming (19.0%), and hiking (14.3%) were the most popular activities participated in by residents.

Note that participation in some activities such as ice skating are influenced by the availability of facilities whereas walking and running opportunities are readily available to most residents.



Mohegan Park Road Race. Source: Erin Haggan

Activity	Resident Participation
Walking for Exercise	31.90%
Swimming	19.00%
Hiking	14.30%
Jogging/Running	12.10%
Road Biking	11.60%
Yoga	10.80%
Fishing (freshwater)	10.80%
Golf	10.40%
Canoeing/Kayaking	8.50%
Aerobics	7.50%
Basketball	6.40%
Football	5.10%
Fishing (saltwater)	4.90%
Mountain Biking	4.50%
Frisbee	4.50%
Soccer	4.20%
Baseball	4.00%
Tennis	3.80%
Zumba	3.80%
Ice Skating	3.70%
Volleyball	3.60%
Pilates	2.90%
Softball	2.30%

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# 3

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## PARK INVENTORY / ASSESSMENT



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# OVERVIEW

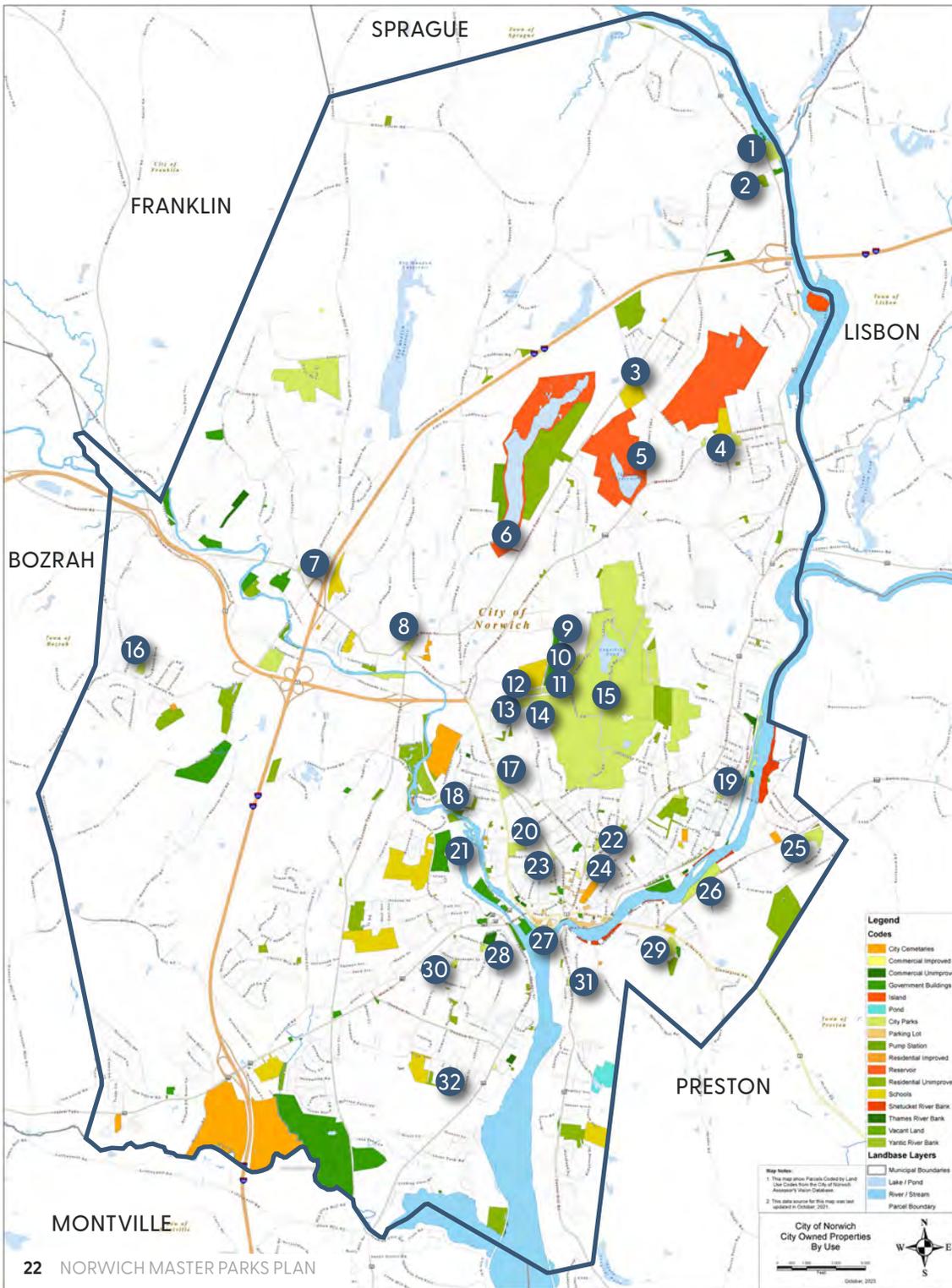
The City of Norwich currently owns and operates over 740 acres of parks and recreational facilities that range from large parks to historical sites, to active recreational sites to small neighborhood parks. They vary in size, shape, type, location, topography, recreational amenities, and park attractions.

In this chapter, our focus is on the City of Norwich's existing park system inventory and identifying the current conditions of the parks and recreation facilities. This will establish a framework for identifying both current and projected needs within the park system. On the following page is a map of the City's parks that were reviewed, in order of their geographic location.

# City of Norwich Parks

## Legend

- 1 R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park
- 2 Rev. Samson Occum Park
- 3 Moriarty Field
- 4 Taftville Park
- 5 Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park
- 6 Fairview Reservoir
- 7 Bean Hill Green
- 8 Norwichtown Green
- 9 Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park
- 10 Fontaine Field
- 11 Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts
- 12 Armstrong Tennis Courts
- 13 Luis DePina Recreation Field
- 14 Dickenman Field
- 15 Mohegan Park
- 16 Fernwood Park
- 17 Chelsea Parade Park
- 18 Yantic Falls
- 19 Greenville Playground
- 20 Washington Street Park
- 21 Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park
- 22 Lake Street Park
- 23 Little Plain Park
- 24 Columbus Park
- 25 Hamilton Avenue Park
- 26 Jennings Field
- 27 Howard T. Brown Memorial Park
- 28 Jenkins Park
- 29 Fitzgerald Baseball Field
- 30 Elizabeth Street Playground
- 31 Laurel Hill Green
- 32 Thamesville Park





# PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

This section of the Master Parks Plan focuses on the City’s existing park system inventory, identifying the existing conditions of their park and recreational facilities.

It begins with a description of park classifications to provide an understanding of their functions. An inventory of park and recreation facilities follows, including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations, as well as a summary of the findings. These components characterize the existing park system and establish a framework that helps identify current and future park system needs.

## Park Classifications

Parks were assessed based on level of development, amenities, size, and service area. The intent of park classifications is to aid in making acquisition and design decisions, the organization of recreation space, which is responsive to public need, and creating quality recreational experiences and facilities that can be effectively maintained. Park classifications are based on National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guidelines and the types of uses, size, and relative service area of each park.

The classifications established for the city parks include:

- Mini-Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Regional Parks



## MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks, also referred to “tot lots” or “pocket parks,” provide basic recreation opportunities on small lots, generally one acre or less, within residential areas. These parks are designed to serve residents in immediately adjacent neighborhoods, and provide limited recreation amenities, such as playgrounds, gardens, benches, and picnic tables for small social gatherings.

Mini-Parks	Acreage
Bean Hill Green	0.49
Norwichtown Green	1.75
Little Plain Park	0.69
Columbus Park	0.73
Elizabeth Street Playground	0.98
Laurel Hill Green	0.59



## REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks, also known as destination-oriented parks, are generally the largest in size (more than 50 acres) and serve the greatest geographical area, frequently extending beyond the town/city limits to include neighboring communities. Their focus is on providing a variety of park experiences capable of entertaining the entire family for extended time periods, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, or environmental features. Because regional parks are centered on unique terrain, extensive natural areas, scenic views, a lake, river, or cultural features, they typically attract large numbers of people from throughout the community and beyond.

Regional Parks	Acreage
Fairview Reservoir	151.60
Mohegan Park	351.80
Yantic Falls	27.58



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are an important component of the park system and provide close-to-home recreation opportunities that serve nearby residents. They typically range from 5 to 10 acres in size, offer a more complete range of recreational facilities, and accommodate the needs of a wide variety of age and user groups. Generally, they are designed with a focus on informal active and passive recreation, and may include amenities such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, toilet facilities, outdoor sport courts, sport fields, picnic tables, pathways, and multi-use open grass areas. Connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods is vital to these parks; therefore, establishing sidewalks, bike paths, crosswalks, and connections to larger trail systems are important.

Neighborhood Parks	Acreage
R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park	5.16
Rev. Samson Occum Playground	2.28
Moriarty Field (includes School)	14.00
Taftville Park	2.64
Fernwood Park	2.45
Chelsea Parade Park	4.23
Greeneville Playground	0.63
Washington Street Park	4.21
Lake Street Park	1.91
Thamesville Park	2.50



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are diverse in nature, typically 15 to 50 acres in size, able to accommodate large numbers of people, and they provide both active and passive recreation opportunities that appeal to the entire community. The focus of a community park is to meet community-based recreation, athletics, and open space needs. These parks may contain significant athletic complexes, large play structures, aquatic amenities, wooded areas and walking paths, picnic areas, scenic lookouts, botanical gardens, multiple shelters, and various other active and passive amenities depending upon community needs and site suitability. Community parks require additional support facilities, such as off-street parking for vehicles and bicycles, permanent restroom facilities, and lighting.

Community Parks	Acreage
Raymond “CIT” Ouellet Park	99.10
Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park	13.84
Fontaine Field **	-
Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts	4.70
Armstrong Tennis Courts	2.61
Luis DePina Recreation Field	3.11
Dickenman Field	4.70
Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park	14.41
Hamilton Avenue Park	5.80
Jennings Field	10.49
Howard T. Brown Memorial Park	1.73
Jenkins Park	4.91
Fitzgerald Baseball Field	5.10

\*\* Acreage for Fontaine Field is included in parcel with Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park.

# Norwich Parks Inventory

#	Park Name & Address	Acreage (City GIS Parcel)	Athletic Fields							Game Courts					Additional Recreation					Passive Recreation						Support								
			Little League Field	Baseball Field	T-Ball Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Track	Cricket Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Pickleball Court	Futsal Court	Handball/Racquetball Court	Disc Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Beach	Skate Park	Pond/Fishing	Boat Launch	Dog Park	Mountain Bike Trails	Trails/Paths	Exercise Stations	Unprogrammed Open Space	Specialty Garden	On Site Parking	Concession	Restrooms	Recreation Center/ Offices	Pavilion
1	R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park 2 Taftville-Occum Road	5.16					1								1						1	1							1		1			1
2	Rev. Samson Occum Park 15 School Avenue	2.28																							1									
3	Moriarty Field 20 Lawler Lane	14.00	1																															
4	Taftville Park 134-140 Providence Street	2.64								1																			1				1	
5	Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park 20 Old Canterbury Turnpike	99.10				2	3														1								1		2			
6	Fairview Reservoir 71 Reservoir Road	151.60																						1		1		1						
7	Bean Hill Green 191 West Town Street	0.49																								1								
8	Norwichtown Green 95 Town Street	1.75																								1								
9	Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park 8 Mahan Drive	13.84																	1									1		1				
10	Fontaine Field 8 Mahan Drive	-					1																					1		1		1		

#	Park Name & Address	Acreage (City GIS Parcel)	Athletic Fields						Game Courts				Additional Recreation					Passive Recreation					Support												
			Little League Field	Baseball Field	T-Ball Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Track	Cricket Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Pickleball Court	Futsal Court	Handball/Racquetball Court	Disc Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Beach	Skate Park	Pond/Fishing	Boat Launch	Dog Park	Mountain Bike Trails	Trails/Paths	Exercise Stations	Unprogrammed Open Space	Specialty Garden	On Site Parking	Concession	Restrooms	Recreation Center/ Offices	Pavilion	Picnic Area
11	Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts 75 Mohegan Road	4.70							3																										
12	Armstrong Tennis Courts 76 Mohegan Road	2.61							4					1																					
13	Luis DePina Recreation Field 65 Mohegan Road	3.11			2																									1					
14	Dickenman Field 75 Mohegan Road	4.70	1																											1	1				
15	Mohegan Park 19 Park Center Road	351.80							1					1	2			1		1				5	1	1	2	6	3			5	4		
16	Fernwood Park 10 Fernwood Street	2.45							1					1												1									
17	Chelsea Parade Park 2 Chelsea Parade South	4.23																								1									
18	Yantic Falls Yantic Street	27.58																						1				2							
19	Greeneville Playground 266 Central Avenue	0.63							1					2																		1			
20	Washington Street Park 188 Cedar Street	4.21			1				1					1												1		1							
21	Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park 261 Asylum Street	14.41																				1	1				1	1					1		

#	Park Name & Address	Acreage (City GIS Parcel)	Athletic Fields						Game Courts				Additional Recreation					Passive Recreation						Support													
			Little League Field	Baseball Field	T-Ball Field	Softball Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Track	Cricket Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Pickleball Court	Futsal Court	Handball/Racquetball Court	Disc Golf	Playground	Splash Pad	Swimming Pool	Beach	Skate Park	Pond/Fishing	Boat Launch	Dog Park	Mountain Bike Trails	Trails/Paths	Exercise Stations	Unprogrammed Open Space	Specialty Garden	On Site Parking	Concession	Restrooms	Recreation Center/ Offices	Pavilion	Picnic Area		
22	Lake Street Park 17 Lake Street	1.91							1						1																						
23	Little Plain Park Crossway Street	0.69																																			
24	Columbus Park Franklin Street & Boswell Avenue	0.73																																			
25	Hamilton Avenue Park 481 Hamilton Avenue	5.80	2		1				1						1																						
26	Jennings Field 200 Hamilton Avenue	10.49																		1				1													
27	Howard T. Brown Memorial Park 100 Chelsea Harbor Drive	1.73																		1	1			1											1		
28	Jenkins Park Mechanic Street	4.91			1				2	2					1																						
29	Fitzgerald Baseball Field 555 East Main Street	5.10	1																																		
30	Elizabeth Street Playground 180 Mt. Pleasant Street	0.98													1									1		1											
31	Laurel Hill Green 151 Laurel Hill Avenue	0.59																								1											
32	Thamesville Park 273 West Thames Street	2.50							1						1											1											

# PARK ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

A critical step in the master planning process is identifying how much parkland exists, where parks are located, what facilities and amenities parks provide and what condition parks are in. Park assessments identify the strengths and weaknesses of a park system by revealing areas or activities that are underserved by the system, as well as overall improvements that need to be made.

In Spring 2023, park assessments were conducted for thirty-two (32) parks in Norwich. Each assessment established a baseline understanding and a snapshot of the existing conditions of the park and amenities within the park system. In addition, the assessment supports the foundation, or reference point, from which recommendations of the Master Parks Plan were developed.

Each park assessment consists of a map noting the amenities within the park, the existence of wetlands, and any FEMA flood hazard information. An analysis is also presented in table form of the park and condition of its assets. Park assets are defined as developed amenities within parks that enhance the recreational experience of users. Specific examples include athletic fields, sports courts, playgrounds, picnic areas, shelters or pavilions, restrooms/concession, etc. The analysis also evaluates the condition of pavements, parking, circulation, accessibility, lighting, site furnishings, signage, vegetation, fencing, and stormwater management. Park and asset conditions were also rated using a scale of good, fair or poor using the methodology on the following page.





### GOOD CONDITION

Park/amenities are in good condition and feature only minor or no maintenance problems.

### FAIR CONDITION

Park/amenities are in fair condition and indicate ongoing maintenance problems.

### POOR CONDITION

Park/amenities are in poor condition and clearly show ongoing maintenance problems or pose safety concerns that ultimately may result in suspended use for repair/replacement.

# R. "RED" MCKEON OCCUM PARK



City Park Sign



View of Picnic Area and Playground



Basketball Court



View of Soccer Field and Walking Trail

## R. “RED” MCKEON OCCUM PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Soccer		✓		Field not irrigated; turf full of weeds; no field lighting; permanent goals; 2 sets of player benches; no spectator stands.
Basketball Court	✓			Court is lit; fencing on south side but not against parking lot; court surface and hoops are in good condition; no player benches.
Playground (2-12 year olds)		✓		Installed in 1997; play equipment located in mulch surrounded by asphalt path; mulch needs replenishment as grass is growing through it; play equipment is aged, rusted metal components; no accessible play equipment.
Picnic Area	✓			Organized in central location; lots of seating options.
Fishing & Boat Launch	✓			Non-motorized vessels allowed; easy access to river and close to parking area; fishing from shore line to Shetucket River; trail head located, but no rules for fishing posted.
Pavement	✓			Paved walking path around park; some cracking and puddling of water noted.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Gravel parking lot enclosed with concrete curbing; separate paved area for HCP spaces, no striping indicating how many; one HCP post sign.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved walking trail to all park amenities.
Accessibility	✓			Park is bordered by city sidewalks along Taftville-Occum Road with curb ramps and crosswalks for access to cross streets and access park; paved walks into and through park; no paved walk to basketball court; soccer field is accessible on west side.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances provide access from all street locations and to each amenity.
Site Furniture	✓			Many benches and picnic tables installed on concrete pads; no ADA companion space on bench concrete pad; ADA picnic table; trash containers; drinking fountain by basketball court; one porta toilet at end of parking lot; no bike racks.
Vegetation	✓			Mostly mature trees; new trees planted along street; pruning needed along river's edge.
Lighting		✓		Post top lighting in parking lot is not dark sky compliant; lighting sufficient at basketball court.
Fencing	✓			Ornamental fencing along street perimeter; 8ft high chain-link fence
Signage	✓			City park sign at vehicular entrance to park, somewhat obstructed from view by location under tree, also graffiti present. “No Dogs Allowed” signage posted on fencing at pedestrian entrances; one directional sign for fishing and canoe boat launch location.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; one catch basin on east side of soccer field for water collection.
Other Observations	✓			Sport-oriented park space; active and passive recreation opportunities; observation area with views to Occum Reservoir Dam.

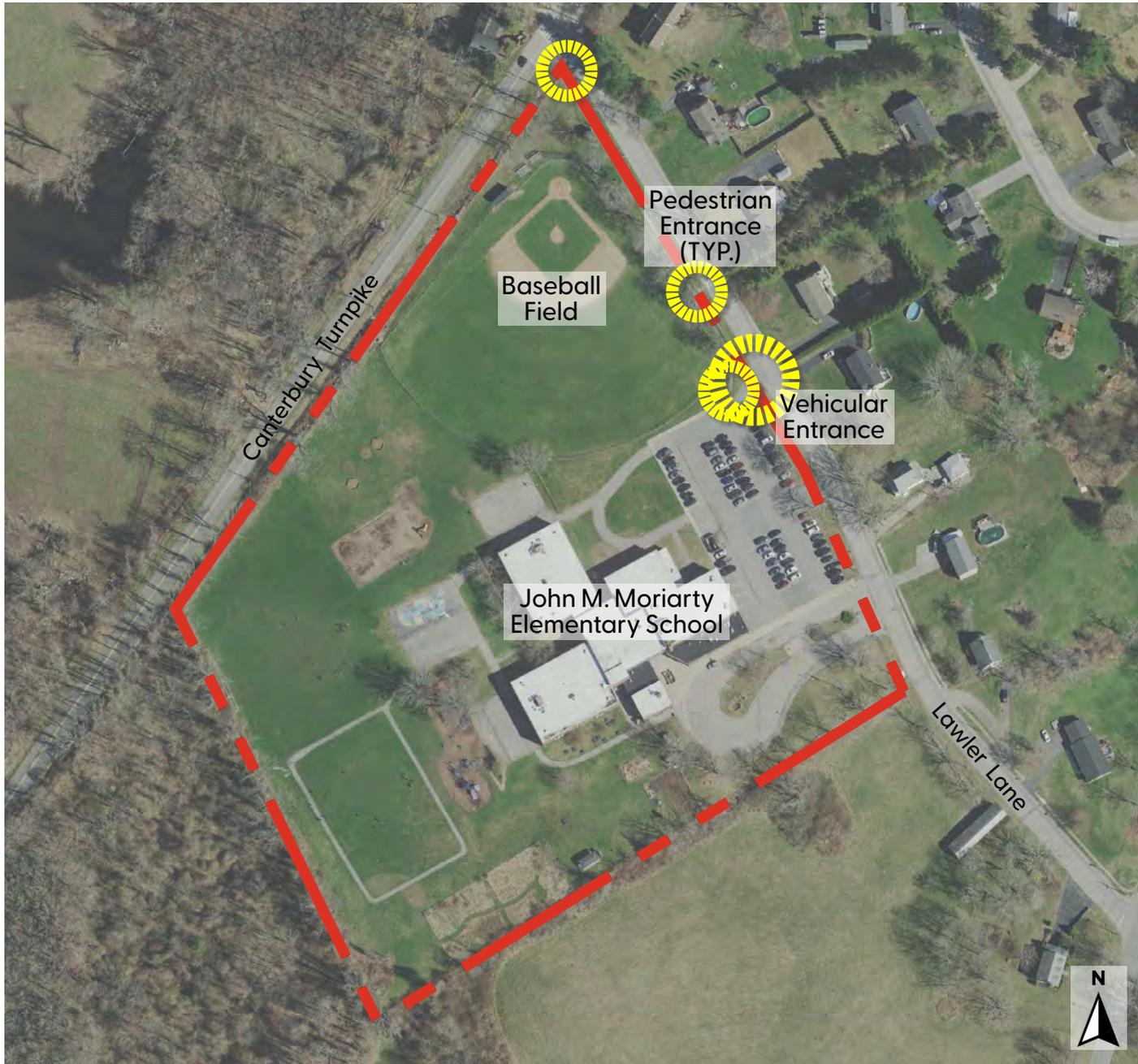
# REV. SAMSON OCCUM PARK



## REV. SAMSON OCCUM PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Little League Baseball Field			✓	Abandoned field with very rusted backstop fencing.
Open Space		✓		Large expanse of open space; turf in need of renovation.
Pavement			✓	None.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	None.
Pedestrian Circulation			✓	None.
Accessibility			✓	None.
Park Entrance/Access			✓	Entrance located on School Street with locked barrier gate to open field.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation			✓	Very mature trees located at the perimeter; very overgrown in need of significant pruning.
Lighting			✓	None.
Signage			✓	None. "Unauthorized Vehicles - Keep Out - Police Summoned Immediately" sign posted at dirt entrance with barrier gate.
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land; unknown if any drainage issues.
Other Observations		✓		With its proximity to the Bubbles to Butterfly Swim School and the city's need for athletic fields, this abandoned open space has lots of potential for future development.

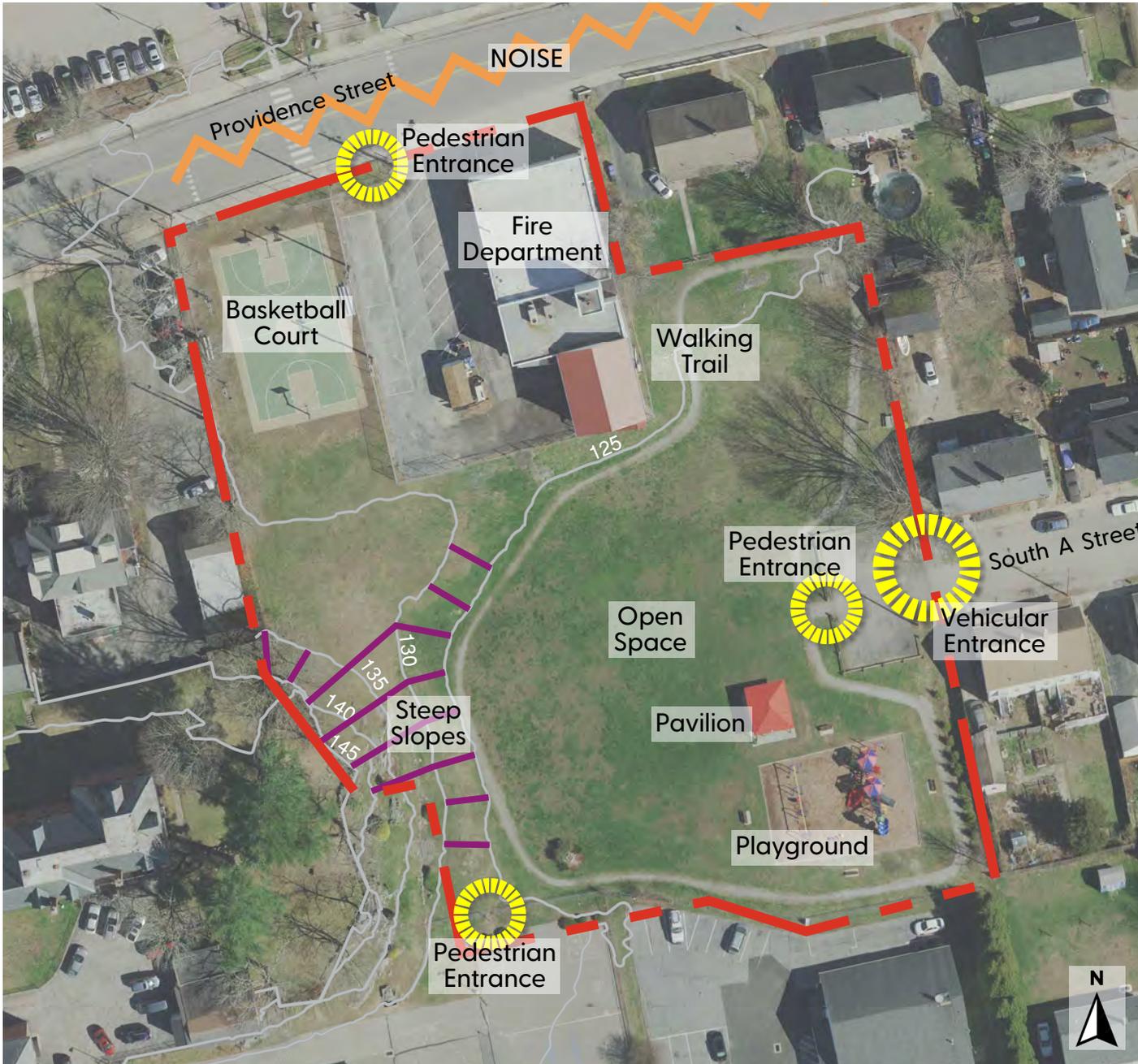
# MORIARTY FIELD



## MORIARTY FIELD

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Little League Baseball Field	✓			No lighting; turf in good condition; concrete dugouts with player benches; outfield fence; backstop fencing is rusting and needs repair; spectator stands provided on both sides, not on concrete pads; no foul poles, scoreboard, or scorer's table; no netting along baselines for protection; no batting cages or practice pitching mound.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			Parking provided at John M. Moriarty Elementary School, including ADA spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by bituminous pathway from parking lot to field along Lawler Lane; once at field by grass and facilities located at ballfield.
Accessibility		✓		Accessible route provided from parking lot; pavement has large cracks with grass growing through and uneven surfaces; crosswalks provided at corner and at student walkway from Caribou Drive; no ADA curb ramps; no companion ADA space provided at spectator stands; no accessible path to the dugouts.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances (3) from parking lot and on Lawler Lane.
Site Furniture	✓			Spectator stands and trash receptacles at field; drinking fountain on side of third base dugout accessed from spigot; one porta toilet; no bike rack or standalone drinking fountain.
Vegetation	✓			Mature consistent vegetation along Canterbury Turnpike and Lawler Lane, and in good health; significant pruning needed along perimeter fence on Canterbury Turnpike.
Lighting			✓	None at field.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link field fencing and perimeter fencing in good condition; minor repairs needed.
Signage			✓	None.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; slight drainage issue at home plate; no additional erosion or drainage issues noted.
Other Observations	✓			The field is in good condition and is well maintained; the addition of lighting could extend playing time for leagues.

# TAFTVILLE PARK



Park Signage at Basketball Court



Playground, Swings and Pavilion



Basketball Court

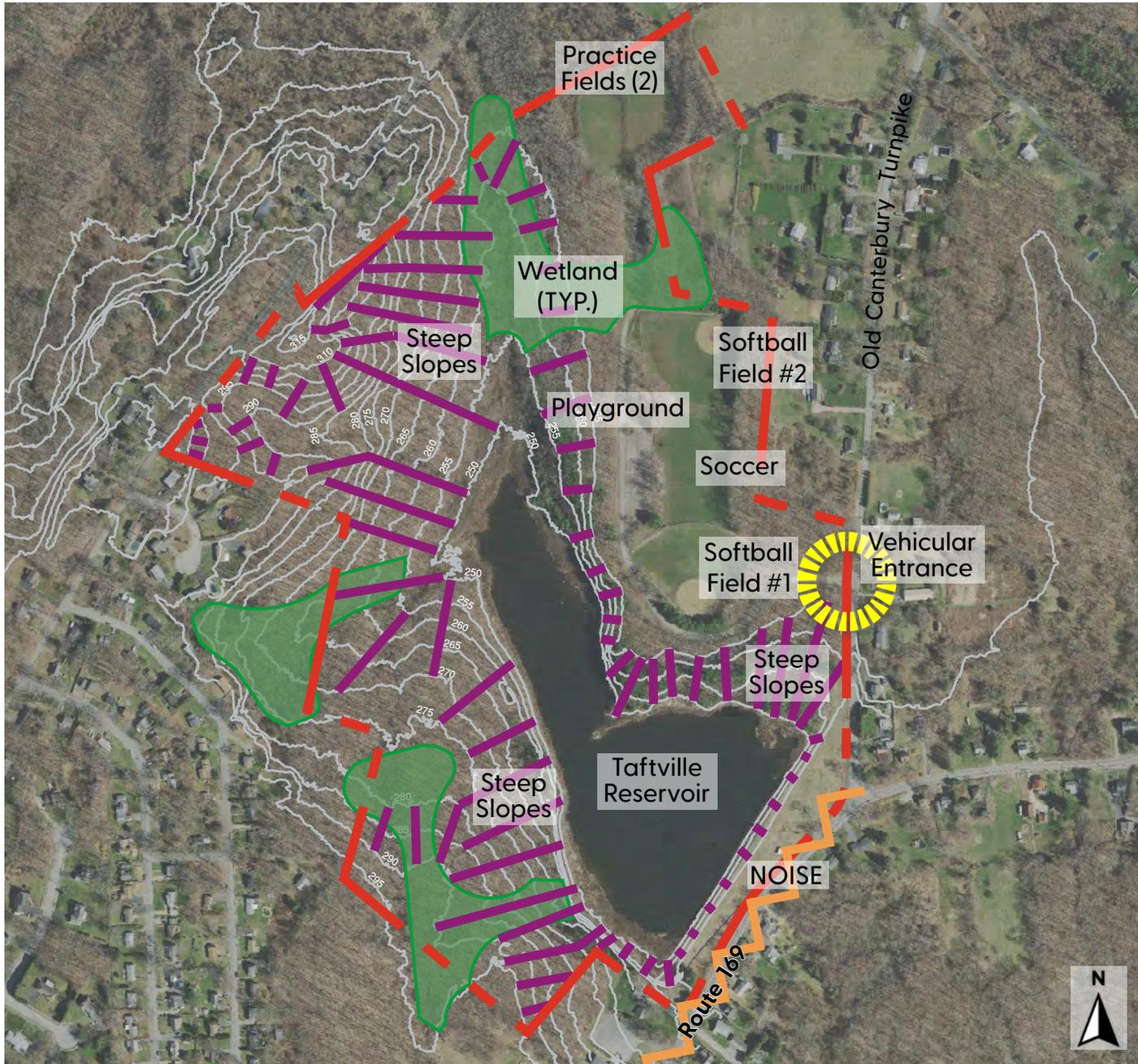


View of Northeast Corner of Park

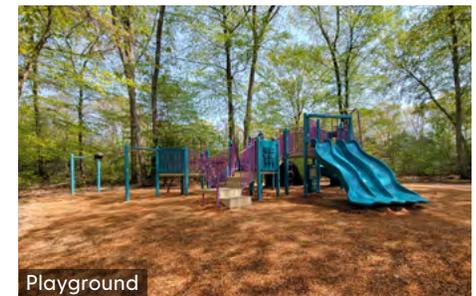
## TAFTVILLE PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Basketball Court	✓			Court is lit and fenced on 3 sides; recent installation of court surface, in good condition; 2 sets of spectator stands; turf around court is in need of renovation.
Playground (2-12 year olds)	✓			Recent installation; play equipment located in mulch contained with timber edging on all sides; mulch needs replenishment; no ADA playground components; separate swings with an ADA swing; seating provided.
Pavilion	✓			Recent installation on concrete pad with two ADA picnic tables.
Open Space		✓		Turf in need of renovation; many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted throughout.
Walking Trail		✓		Stone dust path meanders through park; in need of renovation as many areas have been overcome from turf growth.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On site small parking lot with eight spaces on South A Street surrounded by wooden guard rails; some cracking and several repair patches noted; no line striping; no ADA space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Directed by amenities within park.
Accessibility		✓		Walking trail provides access from parking lot to park, however, no paved walks to playground or pavilion; basketball court is accessed from Providence Street through break in chain-link fencing and wear path in grass.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances (3) provide access to play area, basketball court and from Sacred Heart School.
Site Furniture	✓			New benches on concrete pads by playground; no ADA companion space at bench locations; new picnic tables at pavilion; trash containers; no bike racks or drinking fountain.
Vegetation		✓		One mature tree in need of pruning; new evergreen trees planted along southeast corner.
Lighting	✓			Lighting at basketball court - 4 sets of LED lights mounted to possible creosote-treated wooden power poles with overhead wires. Two floodlights at parking lot that light playground and pavilion areas.
Fencing		✓		Chain-link fencing borders property; many areas were found to be worn or damaged with vegetation growing through; section at Providence Street is very rusted.
Signage		✓		None bearing city park name; "No Dogs Allowed" and "Park Closes at 10pm" signage present on fencing by basketball court; park and parking regulations signs posted at parking lot.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; one large catch basin on north east side of park for water collection.
Other Observations		✓		Recent improvements have been beneficial; park could benefit from the addition of more trees for shade, and park signage to provide an identity to this neighborhood park.

# RAYMOND "CIT" OUELLET PARK



City Park Sign



Playground



Lefty Dugas Softball Field #1

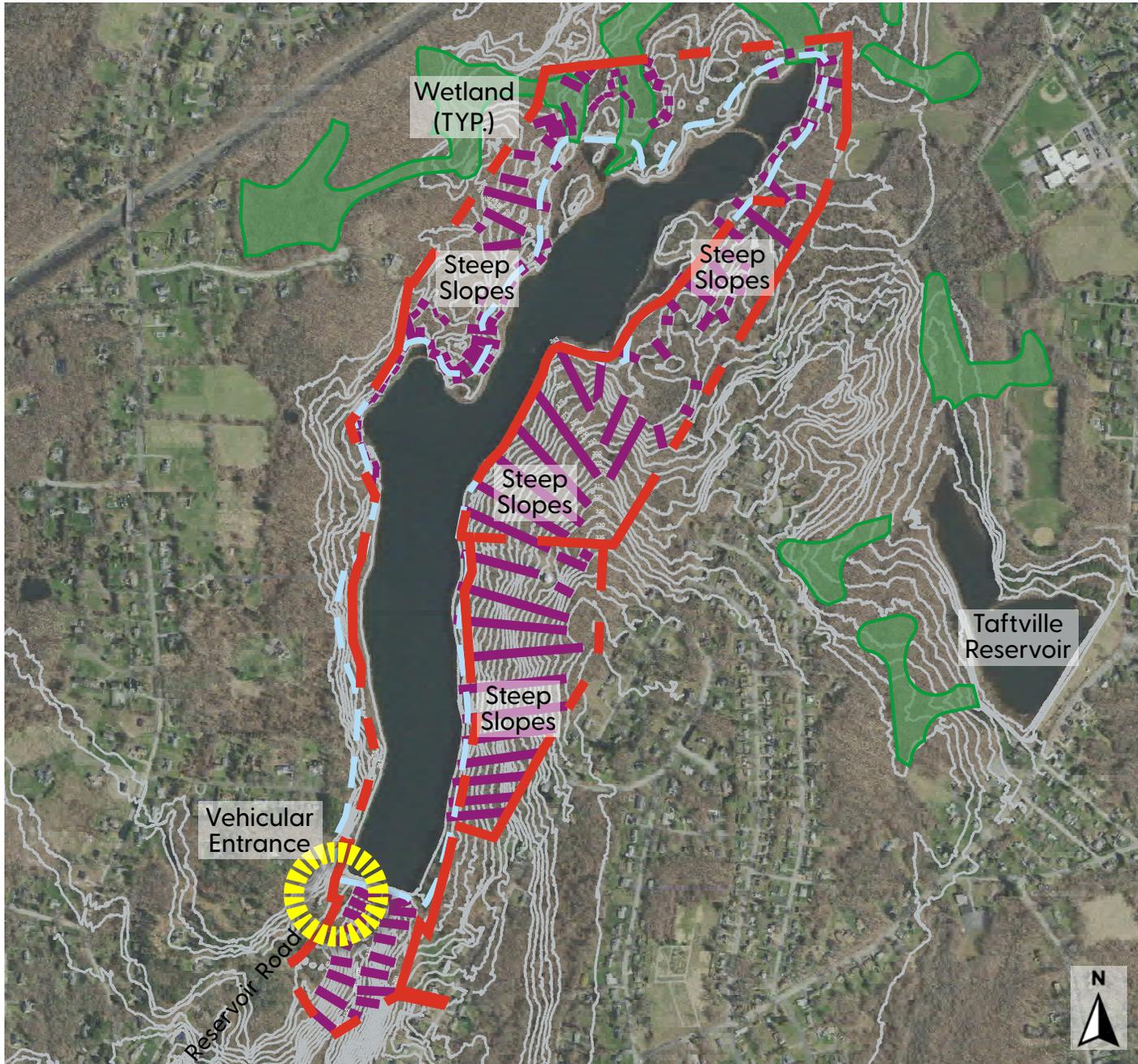


Jack Lonardelli Soccer Field

## RAYMOND “CIT” OUELLET PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Softball Field (2)	✓			Softball Field #1: Men’s Slow Pitch; Softball Field #2: Ladies’ Fast Pitch; backstops, dugouts with player benches, spectator stands and foul poles; electronic scoreboard at field #1.
Soccer		✓		Field not irrigated; turf full of weeds and brown patches; no field lighting; permanent goals; 2 sets of player benches; one small set of spectator stands.
Multi-Purpose Practice Field (2)		✓		No irrigation; turf full of weeds & brown patches; water collecting where two fields meet.
Playground (2-12 year olds)		✓		Installed in 1998; play equipment located in mulch (no curbing for containment); play equipment is aged, rusted metal components; no accessible play equipment.
Fishing (Taftville Reservoir)?		✓		Unsure if fishing is allowed at this location; possible access to river from Rt 169, but no rules for fishing posted; no signage posted; steep slopes down to Taftville Reservoir.
Pavement			✓	Large parking lot and bituminous walks need replacement as large cracks, uneven surfaces and weeds growing in cracks were noted in many locations; gravel drives and practice field parking lot need renovation.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			Large parking lot - 90 spaces, including four ADA spaces posted with signage; line striping faded and worn. Practice field parking - gravel and grass, number of spaces unknown due to no line striping, two ADA spaces posted with signage.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved pathways from large parking lot; no paved walks to practice fields.
Accessibility		✓		Accessible route from parking lot to softball field #1; possible accessible route to softball field #2 but slopes may exceed 5%; no accessible route to practice fields or playground.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Vehicular access only from Old Canterbury Tpk; gated entrance; no pedestrian entrance.
Site Furniture		✓		Wooden picnic table chained to tree at playground; drinking fountains at each field except practice fields; trash receptacles; two porta toilets; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature trees along perimeter; possible invasives growing at practice fields; no new trees.
Lighting		✓		Field lighting at Softball Field #1 only; one shoebox parking lot; park is dark otherwise.
Fencing	✓			Field fencing and parking lot guard rails found to be in good condition.
Signage	✓			City park signage located at vehicular park entrance, somewhat obstructed by large evergreen shrub; “No Parking”, “No Dogs Allowed”, and park regulations signs posted inside park.
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land with catch basins for water collection; several areas of erosion and/or drainage issues noted at Softball Field #2 and practice fields.
Other Observations	✓			Park space maximized for athletic usage with some passive recreation opportunities. Fields are also used for lacrosse, and PAL runs soccer leagues here.

# FAIRVIEW RESERVOIR



## FAIRVIEW RESERVOIR

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Trails		✓		Unable to enter during site visit; possible trail located on west side of reservoir.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Small parking area on west side of Reservoir Road; no dedicated ADA space.
Pedestrian Circulation			✓	None.
Accessibility			✓	None. Currently, no public admittance allowed.
Park Entrance/Access			✓	Entrance located on Reservoir Road with locked chain-link barrier gate.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation			✓	Heavily wooded vegetation surrounds reservoir. Unable to determine health or age.
Lighting			✓	None.
Fencing		✓		Chain-link fencing surrounds entrance, with gated entry.
Signage			✓	None. "No Trespassing" signage on gate. No public admittance allowed.
Stormwater Management			✓	Unknown.
Other Observations			✓	Reservoir could be developed for future passive use, land-based activities such as establishing a network of trails around the reservoir with seating areas for respite.

# BEAN HILL GREEN



Historic Sign on West Town Street



Single Bench on West Town Street



View of Open Space Looking East



View of Open Space Looking Northwest

## BEAN HILL GREEN

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Turf in relatively good condition, however, many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted.
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this historic park, known as “Bean Hill Plain”, was the summit of Bean Hill and open square surrounded by 18th & 19th century homes to several figures important to state and local history, and is part of the Bean Hill Historic District.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Minimal on street parking on Huntington Avenue (secondary road; less trafficked); no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass.
Accessibility			✓	Park is surrounding by curbing with no curb ramps or crosswalk for access into park for persons with disabilities. No paved walks around park or into park.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Since park is an open green, access is from any point and is not formalized.
Site Furniture		✓		Two park benches are old, outdated, and not installed on concrete bases. No ADA companion seating formalized. No trash receptacles. No bike racks. No restroom.
Vegetation	✓			Mostly mature trees along west and south park perimeter, some of which are in need of pruning; new trees planted along Huntington Avenue.
Lighting		✓		None provided inside park. Cobra street lights on north side of park on Huntington Avenue. Park may appear to be dark.
Signage		✓		No city park sign; two historic signs posted along West Town Street and Huntington Avenue displaying some historical facts.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Historic nature and significance of park should be preserved in any future improvements. Park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather. Park signage should be incorporated.

# NORWICHTOWN GREEN



State Park Sign



Bench and Trash Receptacle on Elm Avenue



Trees along Elm Avenue

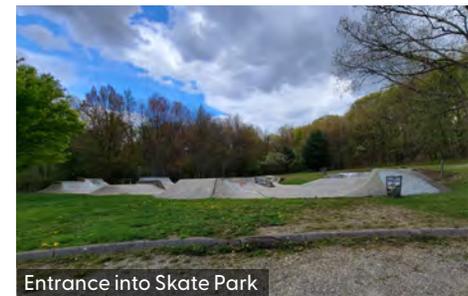


View of Open Space Looking Northeast

## NORWICHTOWN GREEN

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space	✓			Turf in good condition, however, many brown/bare areas and some weeds were noted.
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this historic park was the central green surrounded by 18th & 19th century homes, and is part of the Norwichtown Historic District.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Elm Avenue (one-way, secondary road; less trafficked); no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass.
Accessibility			✓	Park is surrounding by curbing with no curb ramps for access into park for persons with disabilities. Crosswalks noted on Town Street, East Town Street, and Elm Avenue to cross streets. No paved walks around park or into park.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Since park is an open green, access is from any point and is not formalized.
Site Furniture		✓		Two park benches and trash receptacles on individual concrete pads. No ADA companion space on bench concrete pad. No picnic tables or bike racks. No restroom.
Vegetation		✓		Mostly mature trees along park perimeter which are in need of pruning; very few new trees planted. Park and neighborhood could benefit from more trees planted.
Lighting		✓		None provided inside park. Cobra street lights on surrounding streets that border park. Park may appear to be dark.
Signage	✓			State park sign at corner of Town Street and East Town Street, appears to have sustained some damage; sign placard found on East Town Street describing the green's history and significance. No city park sign.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Historic nature should be preserved in any future park improvements. Park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather, a picnic area, and more trees. Since Town Street and East Town Street are busy roads, additional park signage should be placed at the corner of East Town Street and Elm Avenue.

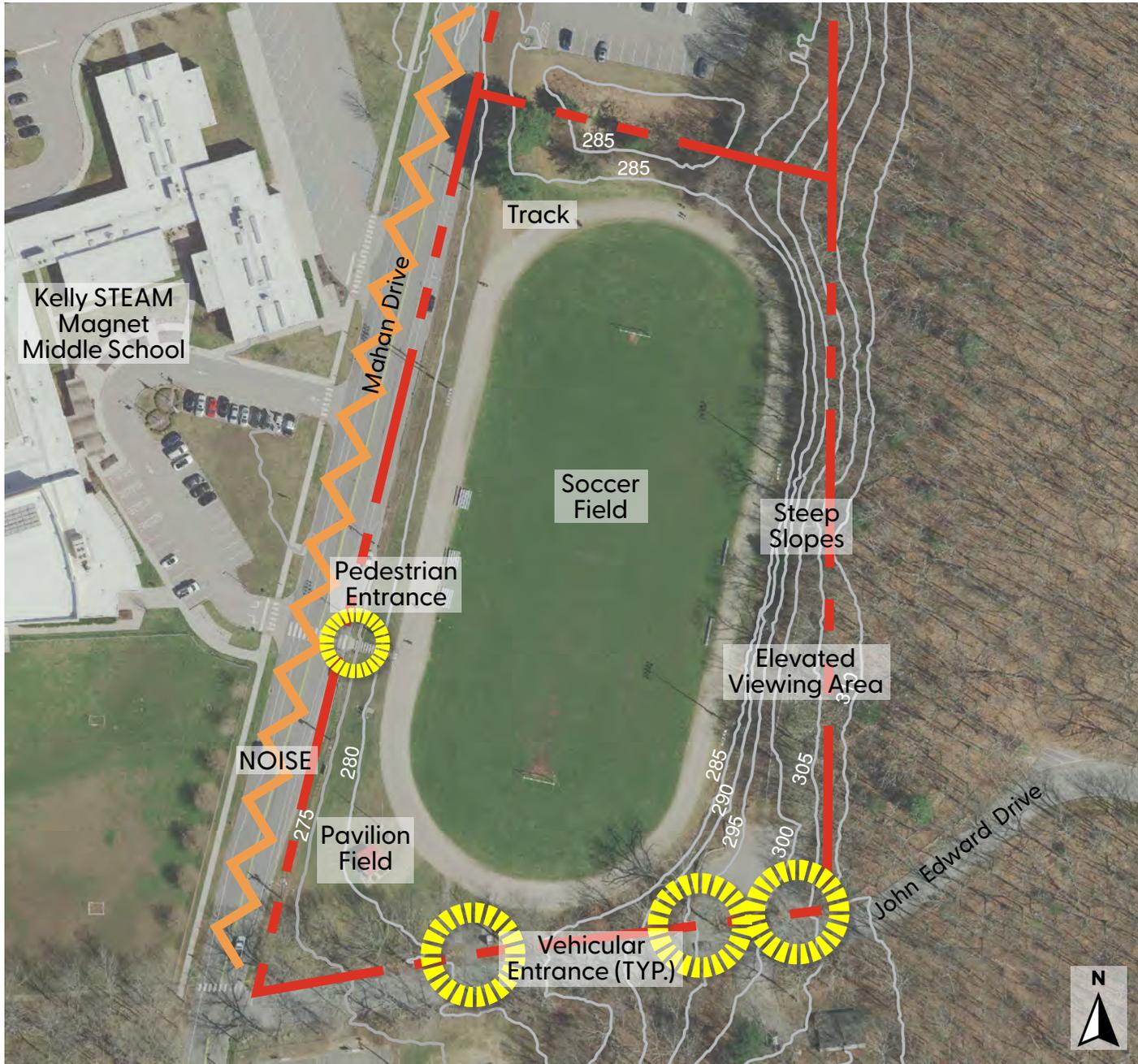
# DONALD L. ALFIERO SKATEBOARD PARK



## DONALD L. ALFIERO SKATEBOARD PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Skate Park			✓	Skate park consists of prefabricated modular fixtures with asphalt pavement between features; heavy presence of settling cracks and dangerous gaps in the pavement; very visible graffiti, some with explicit language.
Open Space		✓		Large expanse of open space in northeast section and west side of park; turf in need of renovation; many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted.
Pavement			✓	Cracking noted in asphalt entrance drive; many cracks and uneven surfaces noted in skate park asphalt pavement and concrete skate features.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	Onsite gravel parking lot enclosed with asphalt curbing; large holes and lots of grass growing in many areas of gravel lot; curbs cracked in many areas; no line striping for organized parking; no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass.
Accessibility			✓	Parking lot is surrounded by curbing with no curb ramps for access to skate park for persons with disabilities. No paved walks around park or to amenities inside park.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Vehicular access only from Mahan Drive; no dedicated pedestrian entrance.
Site Furniture		✓		No seating provided except for one aged, wooden picnic table by park sign; trash receptacles, drinking fountain and one porta toilet at far end of parking lot; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mostly mature trees around park perimeter, many in need of pruning or removal; some newer tree plantings.
Lighting			✓	None provided inside park; cobra street lights on Mahan Drive; park dark at night.
Signage		✓		City park sign at vehicular entrance to park, set back 100+ ft from Mahan Drive and somewhat obstructed from view by location under tree; very worn with peeling paint.
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land; one catch basin located in northwest corner of park; erosion and drainage issues noted in several areas in and around skate park.
Other Observations			✓	Opened in 2000; skate features include a quarter pipe, a mini ramp, a box with a couple of rails, a steep ledge, stairs, and a launch ramp, as well as a deep pool or bowl; future renovations should include continuous concrete throughout the entire site for safe, continuous flow for skateboarders; lighting and graffiti artwork should also be considered.

# FONTAINE FIELD



Park Entry from Mahan Drive



Accessible Parking and Route to Field



Soccer Field



View of Track from Elevated Area

## FONTAINE FIELD

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Soccer	✓			Field irrigated; turf in good condition; Musco field lighting; permanent goals; 2 sets of player benches; 2 sets of spectator stands.
Kelly Running Track	✓			Stone dust track; seems to be contained; no running lanes.
Pavilion		✓		Wooden structure; Eagle Scout project; built in 2015; bench seating provided.
Upper Viewing Area		✓		Steel railing in front of viewing area but does not extend to parking lot; also missing rail pieces in sections; no formalized path to seating (wear path); seating consists of 2x4 wood boards (with severely peeling red paint) affixed to 4" round concrete posts.
Pavement		✓		Concrete steps on Mahan Drive to field in good condition, railing is not code compliant and does not extend down to final steps; upper parking lot has surface cracking
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			On street parking along Mahan Drive; one ADA space is located on John Edward Drive; upper parking lot is not formalized or striped for parking spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed from paved/stone dust paths.
Accessibility		✓		No accessible entrance or route from Mahan Drive to field; one accessible entrance on John Edward Drive with accessible route to field.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances provide access from street locations and parking.
Site Furniture		✓		One ADA porta toilet at ADA parking space on John Edward Drive; trash receptacles; seating in wooden gazebo and at upper viewing area; no benches, picnic tables or bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature vegetation along south and east sides of park; no new trees planted; pruning needed along eastern edge of park.
Lighting	✓			Park is well lit with Musco lighting.
Fencing		✓		Chain-link fence along Mahan Drive; old and very rusted.
Signage		✓		No city park sign; memorial stone marker in front of wooden gazebo bears the name of field; "No Bikes Allowed" and park rules signage present on fencing along Mahan Drive.
Stormwater Management		✓		Field drains to yard drains around field; severe erosion noted from top parking lot to field due to steep slope.
Other Observations	✓			Soccer field is well maintained; running track is widely used by the public; consideration should be given to investing in a sealed/synthetic track surface system if the running track aspires to be a training ground for high school; accessibility improvements should be incorporated in any future park improvements.

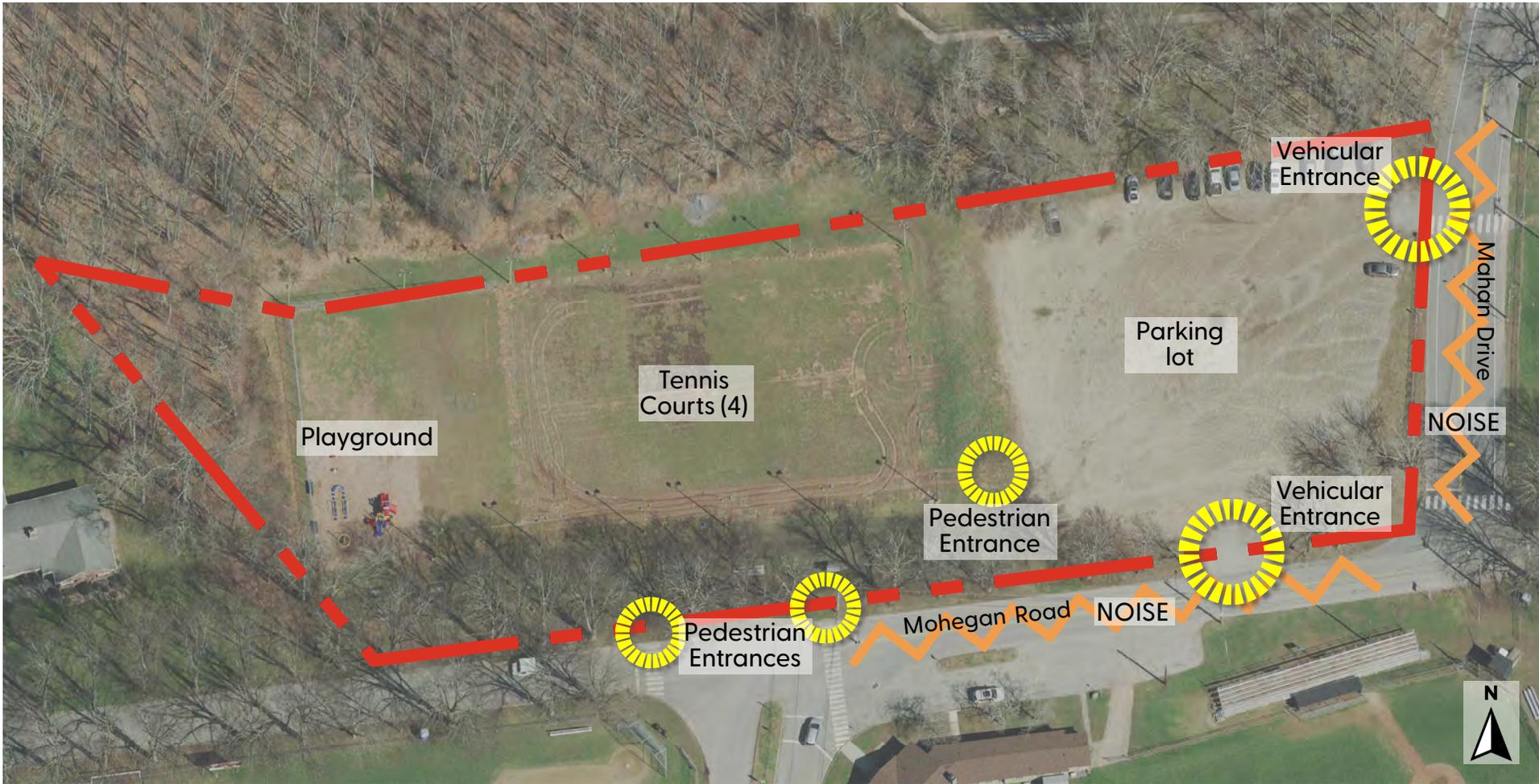
# ROBERT W. SPAYNE BASKETBALL COURTS



## ROBERT W. SPAYNE BASKETBALL COURTS

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Basketball Court (3)	✓			Courts are lit and fenced around perimeter; court surfaces are in good condition; hoop backboards are rusting; 2 sets of spectator stands along street, one set on east side court, and two picnic tables at southern court.
Pavement	✓			Court pavement in good condition; no other pavement onsite.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Located at Armstrong Tennis Court gravel/dirt lot across Mahan Drive; no designated ADA parking spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by wear paths to the amenities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	Two crosswalks on Mahan Drive provide accessible routes to pedestrian entrances but no curb ramps or accessible route to courts from there; pedestrian entrance on John Edwards Drive provides accessibility to the courts but there is no parking or an accessible route to get there.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple pedestrian entrances accessed from Mahan Drive and John Edwards Drive.
Site Furniture	✓			Spectator stands, picnic tables, drinking fountain, trash receptacles by courts; no restroom or bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature vegetation along perimeter of park; some pruning needed; no new tree plantings.
Lighting	✓			Lighting at all basketball courts - LED lights mounted to possible creosote-treated wooden power poles; lines run underground.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link fencing located along Mahan Drive and John Edwards Drive; rusting noted on top rails.
Signage	✓			City park sign located inside fence on Mahan Drive, somewhat faded; no other signage.
Stormwater Management		✓		Entire site drains to catch basin located in southwest corner of site; signs of erosion/drainage issues noted at northwest park entrance and by DPW Maintenance Garage.
Other Observations		✓		Turf is in need of renovation, many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted throughout; future park improvements should focus on accessibility to the park at all access points and to courts.

# ARMSTRONG TENNIS COURTS



Tennis Courts



Tennis Viewing Area



Playground

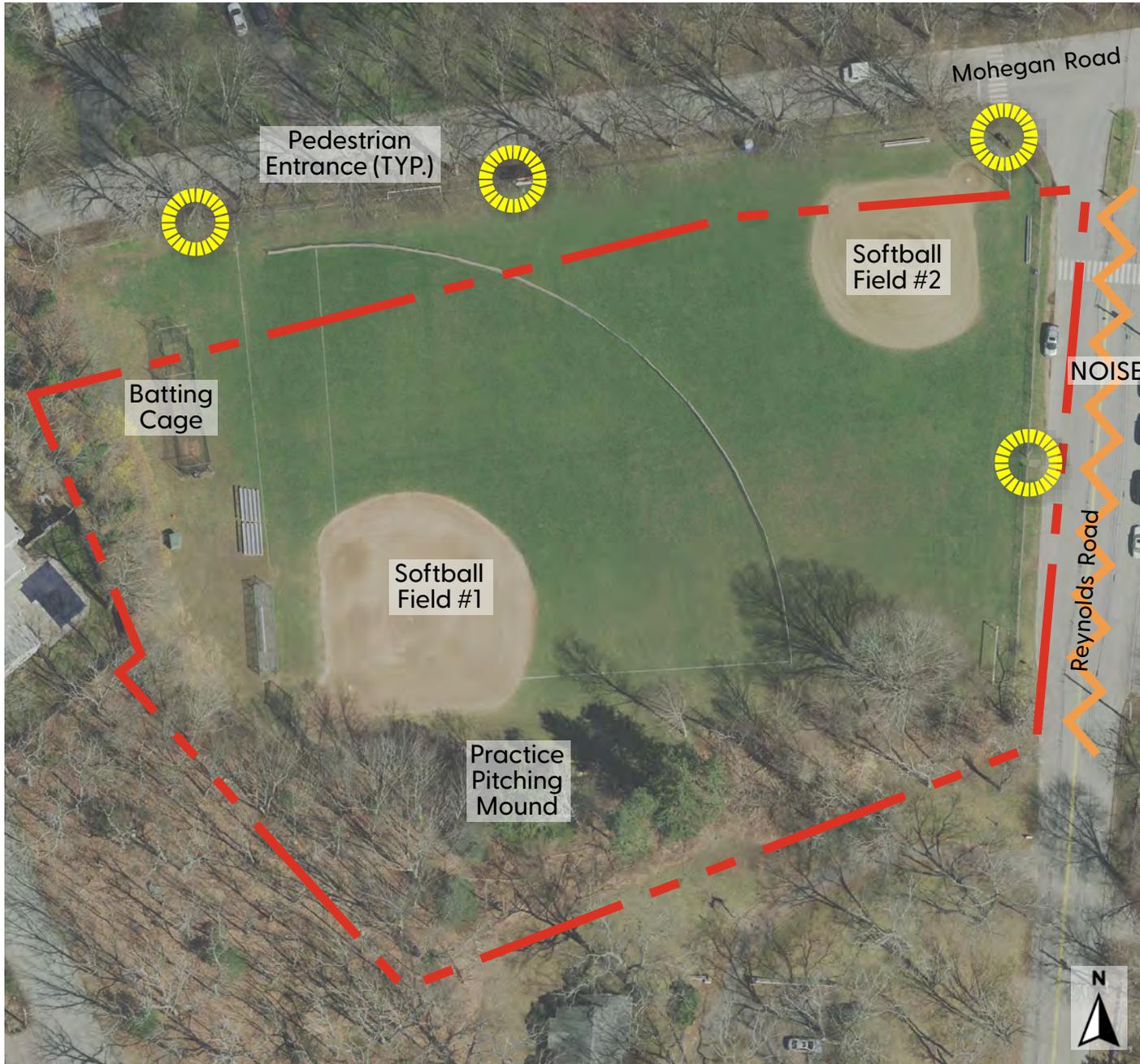


Parking Lot

## ARMSTRONG TENNIS COURTS

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Tennis Courts (4)	✓			Clay courts recently replaced by post-tension concrete courts; courts are lit; 8ft high fencing; no player benches.
Playground (2-5 year olds)		✓		Play equipment located in mulch (no curbing for containment); mulch is very sparse and needs replenishment; no play equipment for 5-12 year olds in very public area; no accessible play equipment.
Pavement			✓	None.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Large gravel/dirt lot accessible from Mohegan Road and Mahan Drive; no line striping for organized parking; no ADA dedicated spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass from parking lot and amenities within park.
Accessibility			✓	Crosswalks on Mohegan Road provide an accessible route from the Rec. Center and softball fields, but no curb ramps or paved walks to the amenities; no paved accessible route from parking lot to tennis courts or play area.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple pedestrian entrances accessed from Mahan Drive and Mohegan Road.
Site Furniture		✓		Benches at play area; 1 set of metal spectator stands at tennis courts; old wooden picnic tables at play area and tennis courts; trash receptacles; no restroom or bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature vegetation along perimeter of park and along Mohegan Road; some pruning needed; no new tree plantings.
Lighting		✓		Court and play area are lit by old, outdated, heavily rusted poles, with floodlights.
Fencing	✓			New chain-link fencing at courts; chain-link fencing at also around perimeter of play area.
Signage		✓		No city park sign. Large rock sign etched with memorial dedication, located on Mohegan Road under very overgrown, mature trees. Aged wooden trailhead by court.
Stormwater Management	✓			Natural sheet flow over land; all runoff is directed to one catch basin in southwest corner of park; no erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Turf is in need of renovation, many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted throughout; future park improvements should focus on accessibility within the park at all access points and to courts and play area; lighting should also be updated.

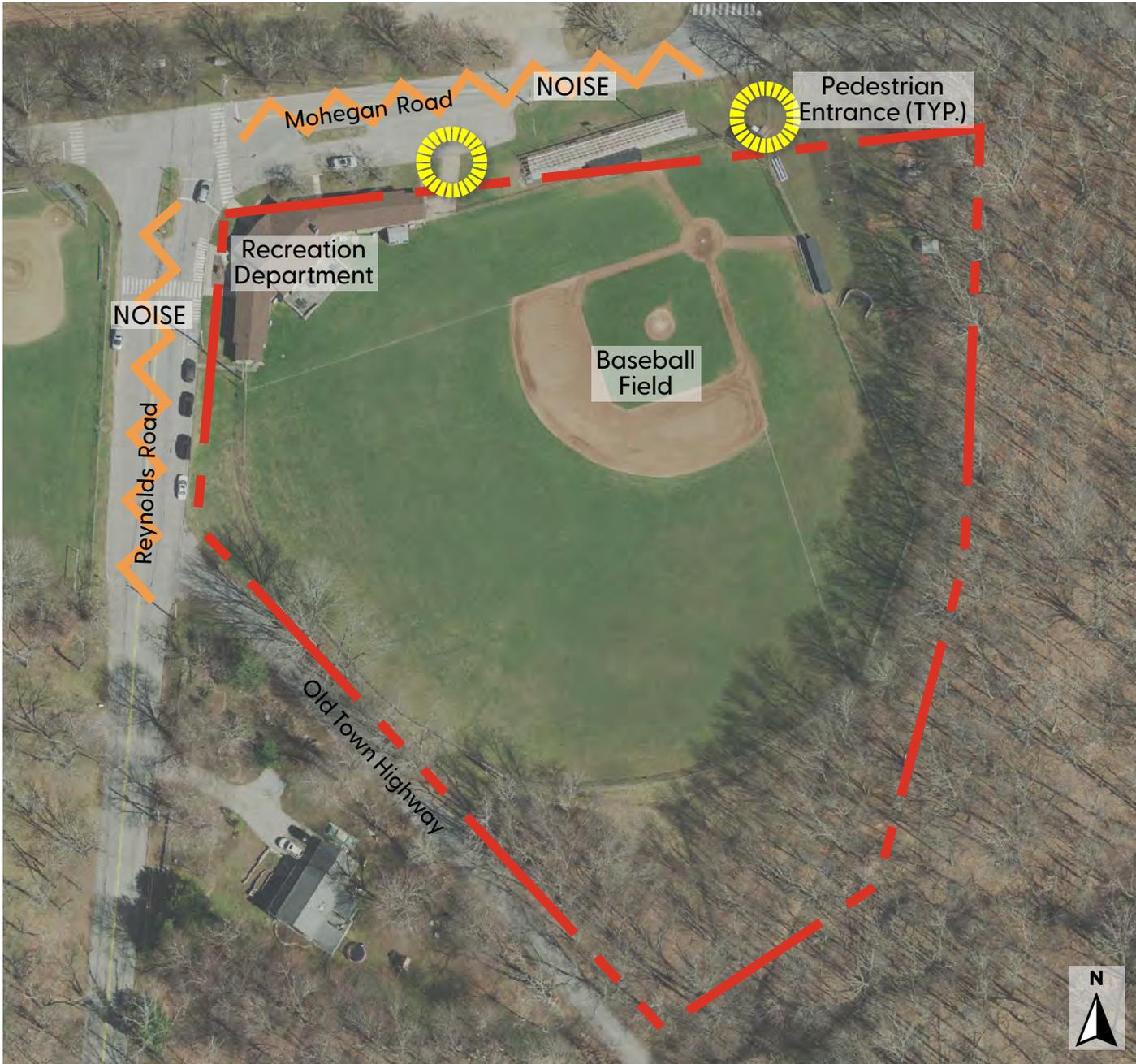
# LUIS DEPINA RECREATION FIELD



## LUIS DEPINA RECREATION FIELDS

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Softball Field (2)	✓			Softball Field #1: Ladies' Fast Pitch (backstop, dugouts with player benches, spectator stands, electronic scoreboard, temporary outfield fence, batting cage, practice pitching mound); no four poles, scorer's table or netting along baselines for protection; Softball Field #2: practice field (backstop; player benches); no dugouts, spectator stands or netting along baselines for protection; field also doubles as a soccer field, two temporary goals located; turf in good condition with some brown patches and weeds noted; no irrigation.
Pavement			✓	None.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Large gravel/dirt lot accessible from Mohegan Road and Mahan Drive; no line striping for organized parking; no ADA dedicated spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by wear paths to the amenities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	Crosswalks on Mohegan Road and Reynolds Road provide an accessible route to cross the streets to the softball fields, but no curb ramps or paved walks to enter the park or to the amenities; no paved accessible route from parking lot to the fields.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple pedestrian entrances accessed from Mohegan Road and Reynolds Road.
Site Furniture	✓			In addition to site furnishings at fields, there is a porta toilet in the northwest corner of the park and trash receptacles; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature vegetation along all sides of park except for the east side; no new trees planted; pruning needed along the perimeter edge of park, especially on the west side.
Lighting			✓	None. No field lighting for twilight games.
Fencing		✓		Chain-link fencing on north and east sides of park along streets; rusting noted on top rails and posts; damage noted on east side fencing.
Signage	✓			City park sign located at corner of Mohegan Road and Reynolds Road; park rules and "No Dogs Allowed" signage.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; no structures found for field drainage; no erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Future park improvements should include full accessibility within the park at all access points and to fields, the addition of lighting, and adding fence enclosures to batting cages and practice pitching mound.

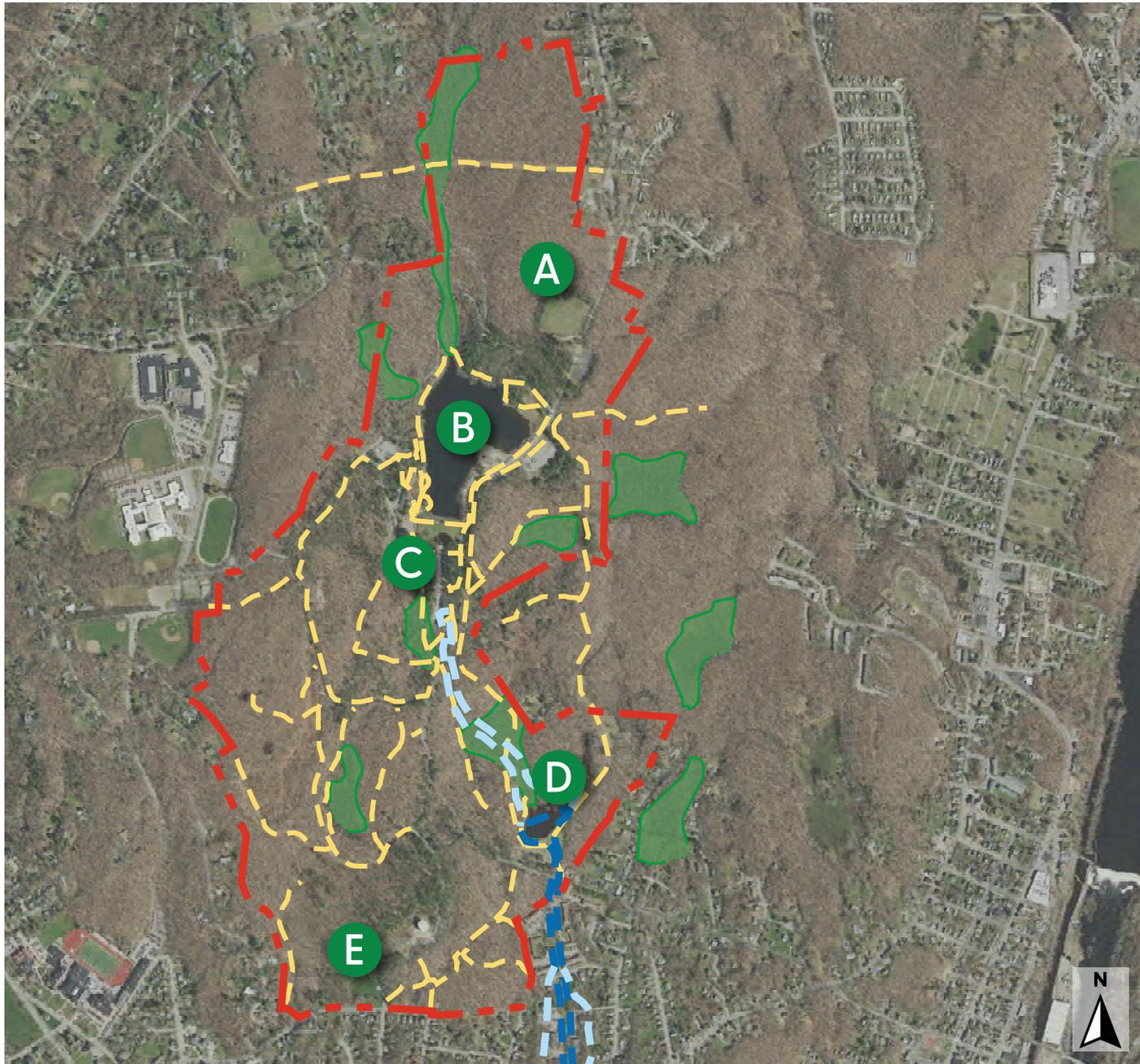
# DICKENMAN FIELD



## DICKENMAN FIELD

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Baseball Field	✓			No lighting; concrete dugouts with player benches; backstop, side fencing and outfield fencing; foul poles; large set of spectator stands on right field side, small set on visiting team side; announcer's/scorer booth; electronic scoreboard; fence enclosed batting cage; bull pen behind home plate; turf field in good condition; irrigation; no warning track or HDPE plastic safety cap on outfield fence; no netting along baselines to protect spectators and players or Rec. Center.
Pavement			✓	None. Small asphalt drive located at service gate on Mohegan Road; cracking and uneven surfaces noted.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Large gravel/dirt lot accessible from Mohegan Road and Mahan Drive; no line striping for organized parking; no ADA dedicated spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by wear paths to the amenities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	No crosswalks on Mohegan Road providing a direct accessible route to cross the street or to the field; no paved walks to enter the park or to the amenities; no ADA companion seating at spectator stands for persons with disabilities.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Two pedestrian entrances accessed from Mohegan Road.
Site Furniture		✓		Spectator stands on cinder blocks, many areas of rust noted; one porta toilet located behind home plate; drinking fountain by first base dugout accessed from spigot; trash receptacles; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature vegetation along the east and south sides of park; no new trees planted; pruning needed along the perimeter edge of park.
Lighting			✓	None. No field lighting for twilight games.
Fencing		✓		No additional fencing except at field; rusting noted at many locations at backstop and field fencing.
Signage	✓			City park sign located along Mohegan Road by right field bleachers; park rules posted on backstop fencing
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land; no structures found for field drainage; puddled water found on third base side by dugout entrance, inside dugouts and by service gates, and by first base dugout.
Other Observations		✓		Future park improvements should include full accessibility within the park at all access points and from parking lot, the addition of lighting, and fence upgrades at the backstop and spectator stands.

# MOHEGAN PARK



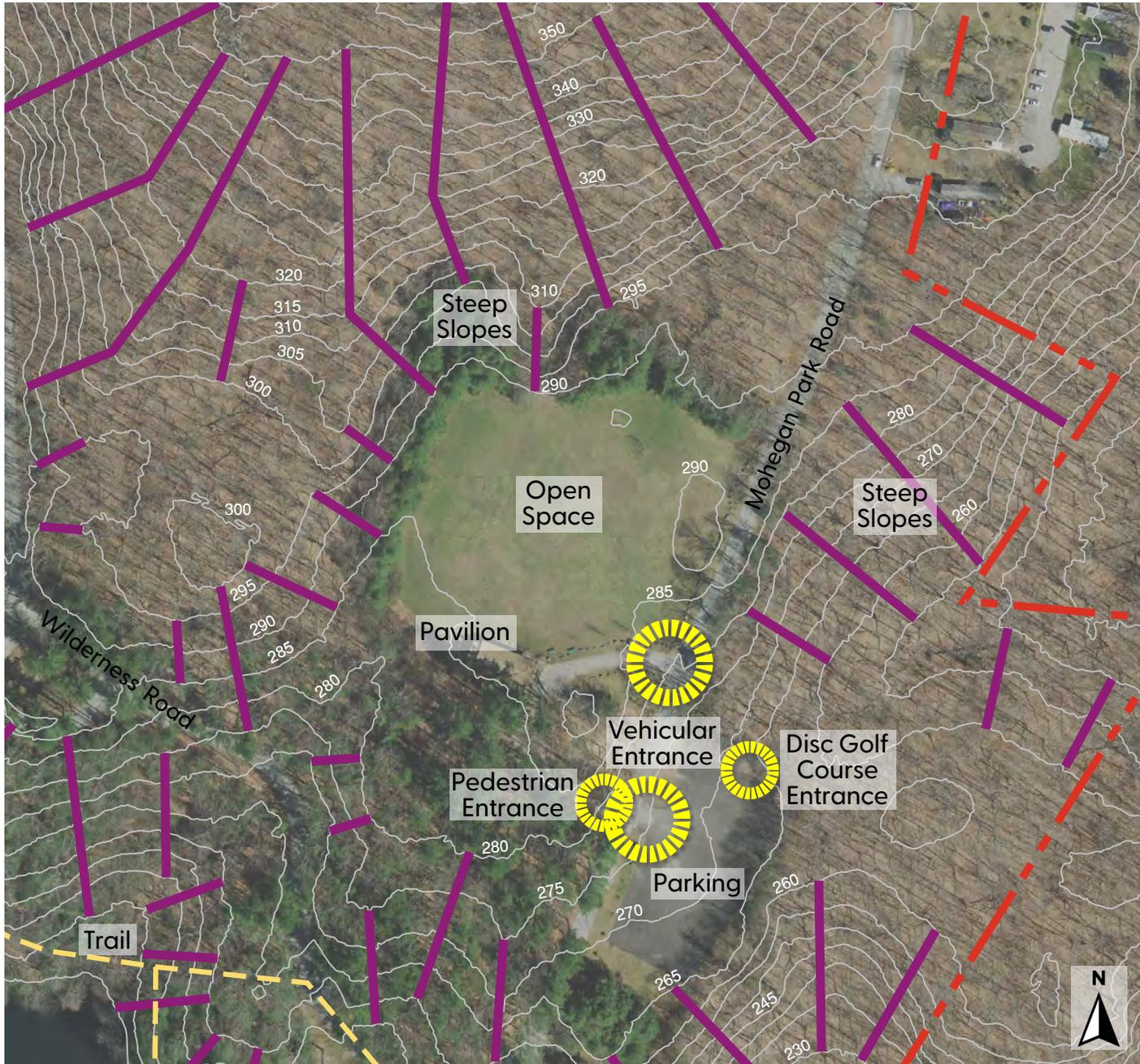
## SECTIONS OF PARK

- A** Field Pavilion
- B** Beach & Lake Pavilion
- C** Park Center
- D** Lower Pond
- E** Memorial Rose Garden

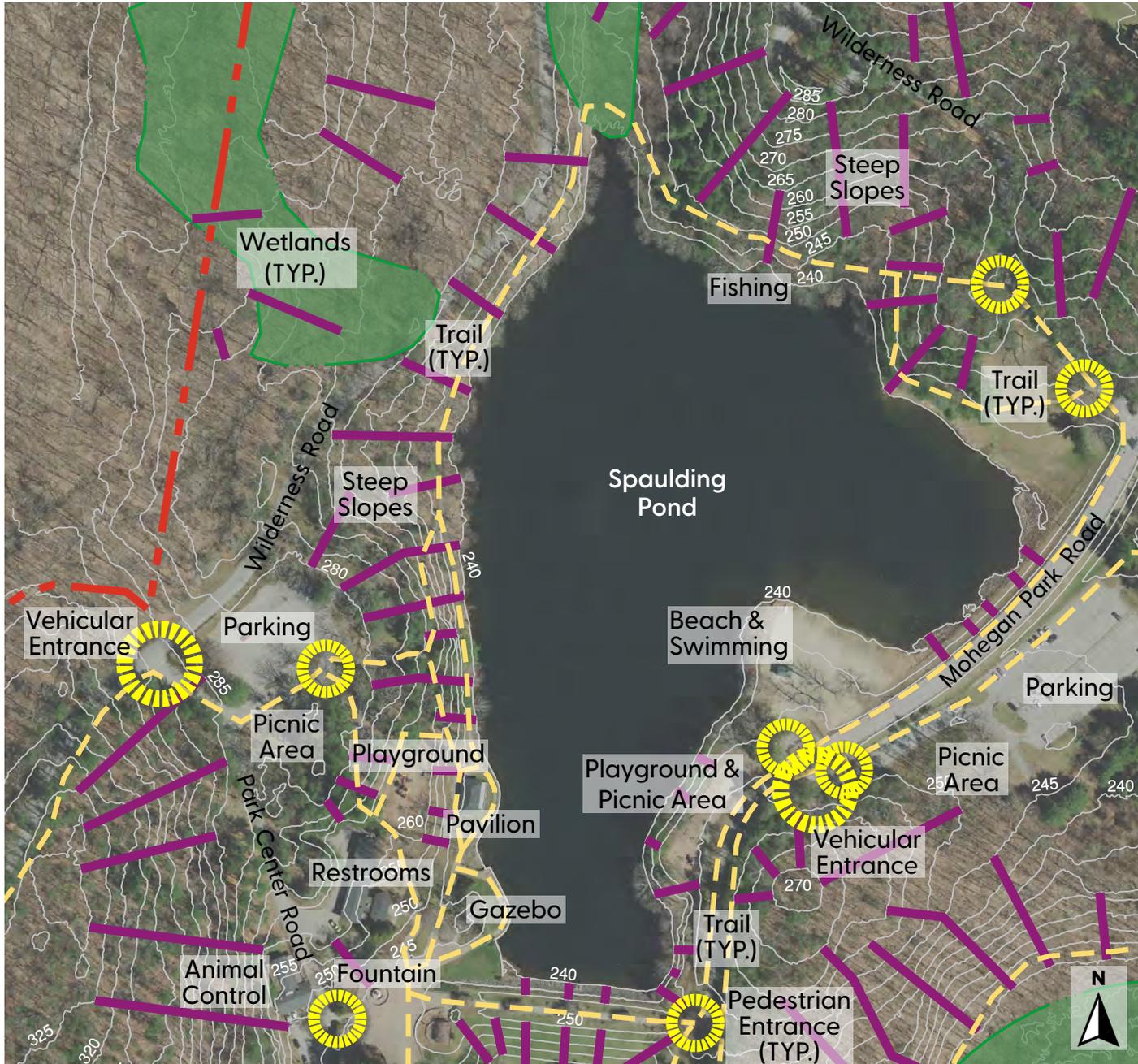
## MAP LEGEND

-  Property Line
-  Wetlands
-  FEMA Regulatory Floodway
-  Zone AE - Flood Hazard
-  Park Trails

# MOHEGAN PARK - FIELD PAVILION (A)



# MOHEGAN PARK - BEACH & LAKE PAVILION (B)



Signature City Park Sign



View of Beach and Swimming Area

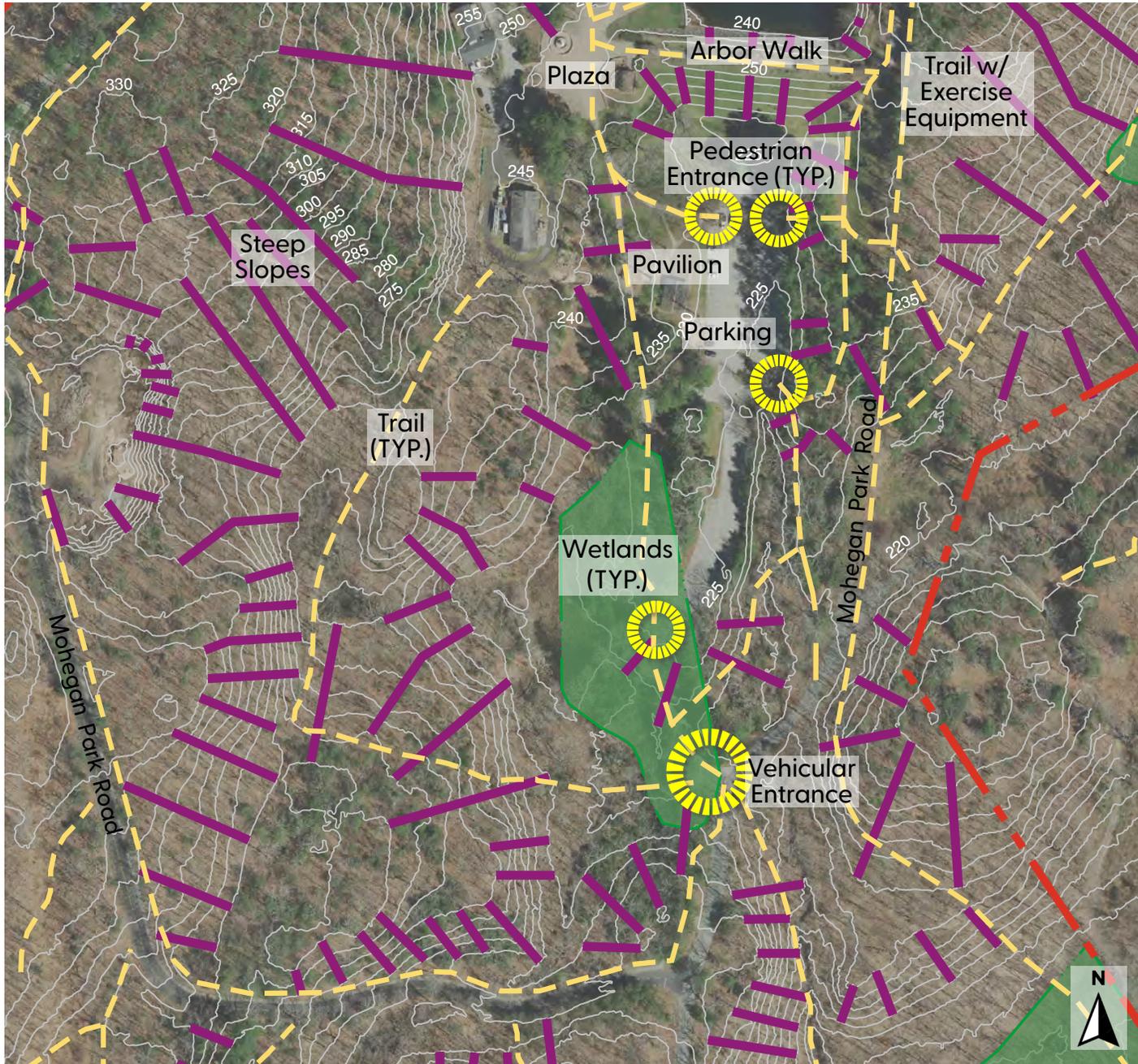


Lakeside Pavilion and Playground



Walking Trail w/ Benches and Storyboards

# MOHEGAN PARK - PARK CENTER (C)



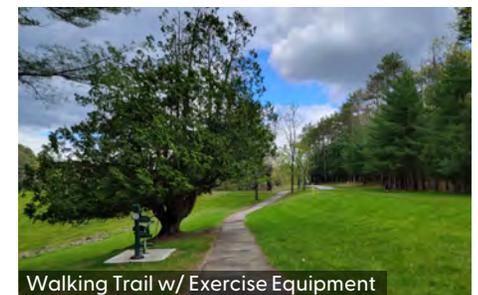
Park Signage



Arbor Walk

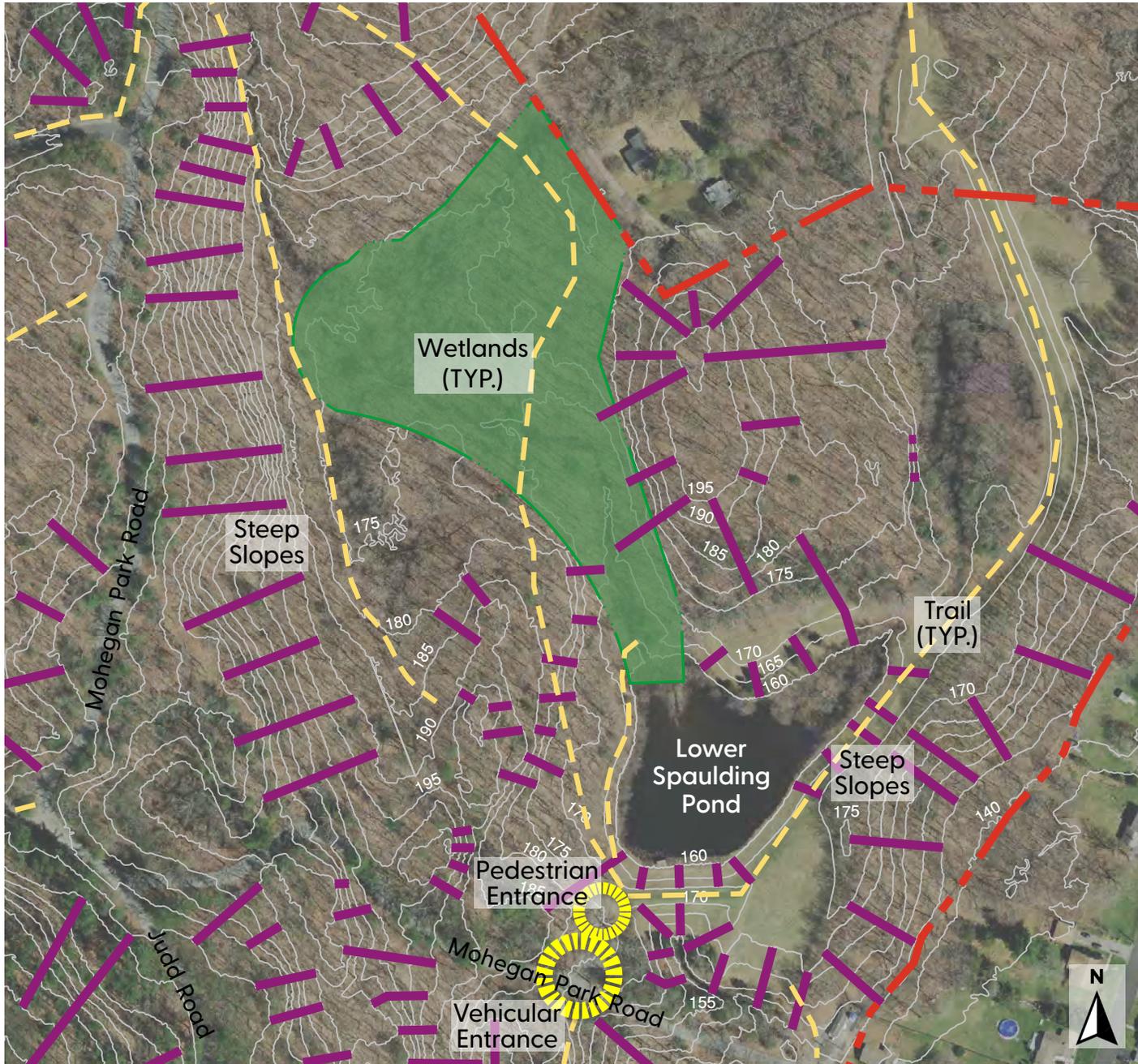


Pavilion



Walking Trail w/ Exercise Equipment

# MOHEGAN PARK - LOWER POND (D)



Trail Marker



Mowed Turf Trail around Pond

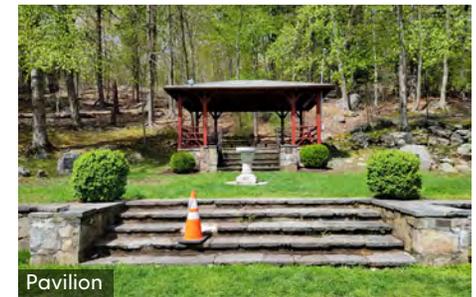
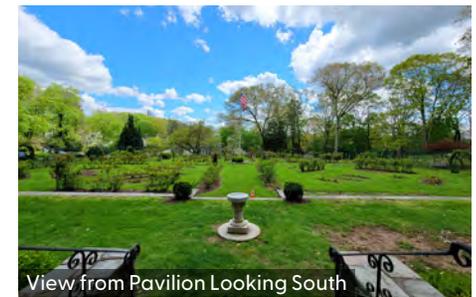
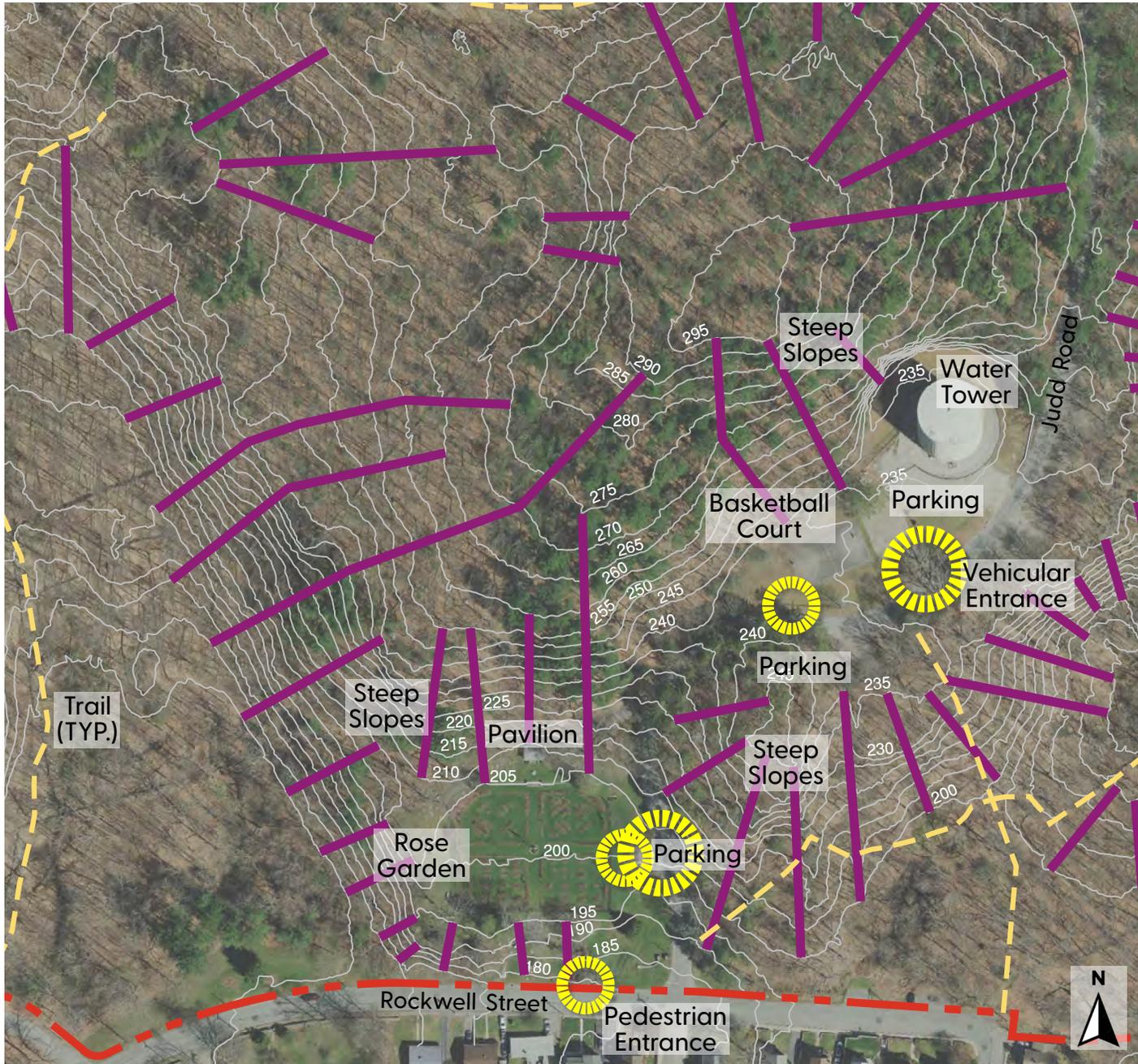


Lower Pond



Parking

# MOHEGAN PARK - MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN (E)



## MOHEGAN PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Large expanse of open space; turf in need of renovation; some brown/bare areas and many weeds noted throughout.
Field Pavilion		✓		Covered, wooden structure with open sides; facility contains picnic tables, trash receptacles, running water, electricity, lighting, and charcoal BBQ pit; porta toilets and dumpster provided; rules posted on city website, but not onsite; roof in good condition; peeling paint found on all exterior wood components; concrete pad in good condition; no flush accessible entry to pavilion or accessible route; bituminous entry drive in fair condition with lots of cracks and uneven surfaces.
Lakeside Pavilion	✓			Fully enclosed wooden cottage pavilion with outside deck overlooking Spaulding Pond; facility contains lighting, seating and tables; full restroom facilities are located in a nearby building; no cooking facilities onsite, but gas grills are allowed outside the building; rules posted on city website, but not onsite; pavilion structure in good condition; ADA access into building is provided; accessible route is from Park Center Lot.
Gazebo	✓			Open wooden structure located south of Lakeside Pavilion and east of restrooms; accessed by a set of stairs and not accessible to persons with disabilities; structure and concrete pad in good condition; benches provided; views to Spaulding Pond.
Park Center Pavilion		✓		Covered wooden structure with open sides; located west of Park Center Lot and accessed by a paved walk from lot with flush entry; pavement has lots of cracks; structure in good condition, but concrete pad has several large and long cracks; picnic tables provided.
Rose Garden Pavilion		✓		Open wooden structure located north side of rose garden; accessed by a set of stairs and not accessible to persons with disabilities; structure in good condition; some cracking noted on concrete pad; benches provided; washout from steep slopes behind pavilion are found on northeast side on concrete pad; surrounding stone walls/columns may need repair.
Disc Golf Course	✓			Entrance to course located at north end of Field Pavilion Lot; course map and rules posted at trail head; 9-hole course with 18-holes played on same course (upper and lower basket locations); lots of signage; hole locations easy to find, well-marked; loose rocks should be removed from pathways where applicable; course is not ADA accessible due to steep slopes and surface material of terrain.
Beach & Swimming Area	✓			Located on the eastern side of Spaulding Pond; unable to access due to locked gate and timing of site visit; easily accessible from Beach Lot; parking lot currently undergoing renovation; signage for rules and hours of operation are posted onsite; restroom facilities; lifeguard stations; picnic area; beach sand is groomed and clean.
Spaulding Pond/Fishing	✓			Non-motorized vessels prohibited; paved walks provide easy access to pond and are accessible from parking areas; fishing from shore line of pond; no rules for fishing posted; three fountains aerate pond water to reduce sediment buildup and control algae growth.

## MOHEGAN PARK

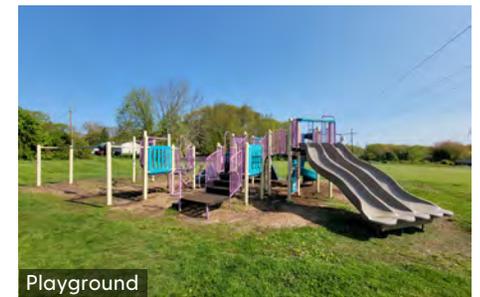
Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Playgrounds (2)	✓			Recent installations; play equipment located in mulch contained with timber edging; additional mulch needed at playground on west side of Lakeside Pavilion; ADA playground components; separate swings with an ADA swing; seating provided; accessible entrance and route to both play area locations.
Picnic Areas	✓			Several standalone picnic areas are located near the Beach Lot, Upper Lot and Park Center Lot with picnic tables, grills and trash receptacles; not ADA accessible due to slope of terrain.
Fountain, Plaza & Memorial	✓			Circular stone fountain marks the focal point of the Park Center with a seating area and memorial tribute to Chief Tantaquidgeon; paver stone plaza surrounds this area and signifies a special place.
Arbor Walk	✓			Steel arbor structure planted with wisteria; seating provided with views to Spaulding Pond.
Park Trails	✓			Paved loop trail around Spaulding Pond is well-maintained and contains storyboards and seating; recreational trails through the woods offer visitors closeness to nature; trail markers.
Fitness Equipment	✓			Recent installation; all equipment on concrete pads, stationed along paved walks and accessible.
Basketball Court		✓		Surface coating very worn and non-existent; large cracks in many locations on court pavement; hoop posts and baskets in good condition; graffiti present on backboards; no player benches.
Memorial Rose Garden	✓			Situated on 2 acres of gently sloping parkland, garden displays over 100 different varieties of roses; well-maintained garden; workers were there during site visit; small parking lot on Judd Road with accessible entrance and route to rose garden.
Pavement		✓		Many of the parking lot pavements showing signs of wear and cracking; may be in need of renovation; many of the concrete stairs had visible cracks (throughout Park Center)
Vehicular Circulation	✓			Directed by paved city roads.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			Seven parking lots support various sections of the park and provide access to the most desired amenities; most lots are paved and line striped, with designated ADA parking spaces and posted signage except at the Lower Pond Lot; no line striping, curbing or designated ADA parking spaces at Field Pavilion Lot, washout from slope present throughout western edge; basketball court contains a gravel parking lot.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved walkways; most in good condition; some cracking and uneven surfaces/ edges noted.

## MOHEGAN PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved walkways; most in good condition; some cracking and uneven surfaces/ edges noted.
Accessibility		✓		Park contains many paved walks from parking lots and throughout, however, not all amenities are accessible or have flush entries; city sidewalks are located along some of the city streets with curb ramps and crosswalks for access to cross streets and access park; no paved walk to basketball court.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple pedestrian and vehicular entrances provide access to all sections of the park.
Site Furniture		✓		Many different styles of benches; wooden benches should be replaced; many picnic tables at picnic areas; no ADA companion spaces at bench or picnic table sites; trash containers; no drinking fountains or bike racks.
Vegetation	✓			Mostly mature vegetation noted, with some new trees plantings.
Lighting		✓		Other than street lighting, restroom building lighting at beach/swimming area and at Park Center; ornamental post top lights at fountain/plaza area, arbor walk and walk from parking lot in Park Center (globes are yellowing); shoebox parking lot lights at Park Center parking lot; more lighting could be added at parking lots.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link fencing around beach/swimming area and at arbor walk; new chain-link fencing at playgrounds; wooden guardrails at locations where steep slopes exist along paved walkways and roads; most stair railings were noted with peeling paint as well as the ornamental fencing along the overlook/pier by gazebo; ornamental fencing at rose garden in good condition.
Signage	✓			Signature park signage located at points where vehicles enter park; directional road signage at intersections and parking lot exits; signage at each parking lot; signage at beach for rules and hours of operation; rules/regulation sign at Park Center walk from parking lot and at rose garden needs updating; signage with park maps and historical narratives are present throughout; signage about not feeding the ducks posted around Spaulding Pond.
Stormwater Management	✓			Runoff for most parking lot pavements is directed to catch basins; all other runoff sheet flows over land; area drain found in northeast corner of open field at the Field Pavilion site and also at playground on west side of Lakeside Pavilion; washouts noted on western edge of Pavilion Lot and at northeast corner of Rose Garden Pavilion; no additional erosion/drainage issues noted.
Other Observations		✓		Mohegan Park is the city's premier park attracting large numbers of people from throughout the community and beyond; future park improvements should focus on full accessibility within the park at all access points and from all parking lots; the addition of more lighting would enhance safety within the park.

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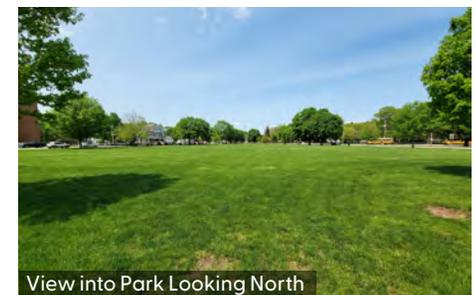
# FERNWOOD PARK



## FERNWOOD PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Basketball Court			✓	Surface coating very worn and non-existent; concrete for hoop posts is raised above ground level and are not securing posts in ground; graffiti present; no player benches.
Multi-Purpose Court			✓	Severe cracking and holes in court surface; surface coating very worn and non-existent; line striping worn off for court games.
Open Field		✓		Large expanse of open space; turf in need of renovation.
Playground (2-12 year olds)			✓	Installed in 1999; play equipment located in mulch (no curbing for containment), mulch is very sparse and needs replenishment; play equipment is aging with rusting metal components; graffiti present; no accessible play equipment.
Pavement			✓	No pedestrian paved pathways within park. Court pavements contain major cracking with grass growing in cracks.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	None.
Pedestrian Circulation			✓	None.
Accessibility			✓	None.
Park Entrance/Access			✓	None. Park located at end of cul-de-sac with no formal entry. Service access located on Beechwood Boulevard with gated entry.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation			✓	Very mature trees located at the perimeter; very overgrown in need of pruning; no new trees planted. Many stumps found. No shade by amenities.
Lighting			✓	None.
Fencing			✓	8ft high chain-link fence surrounds multi-purpose court, needs complete replacement as the posts are raised above ground level, fence is leaning in many locations and is very rusted; 4ft high fence at perimeter on south side of basketball court also needs replacement.
Signage			✓	None.
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land; one catch basin on east side of open field for water collection. Erosion/drainage issue noted in southwest corner by basketball court.
Other Observations			✓	Power lines cut through the heart of the park north-south. Major court renovations are needed. Neighborhood park is missing an identify and could benefit from the addition of formal entrance; areas to sit/gather, shade and park signage should also be incorporated.

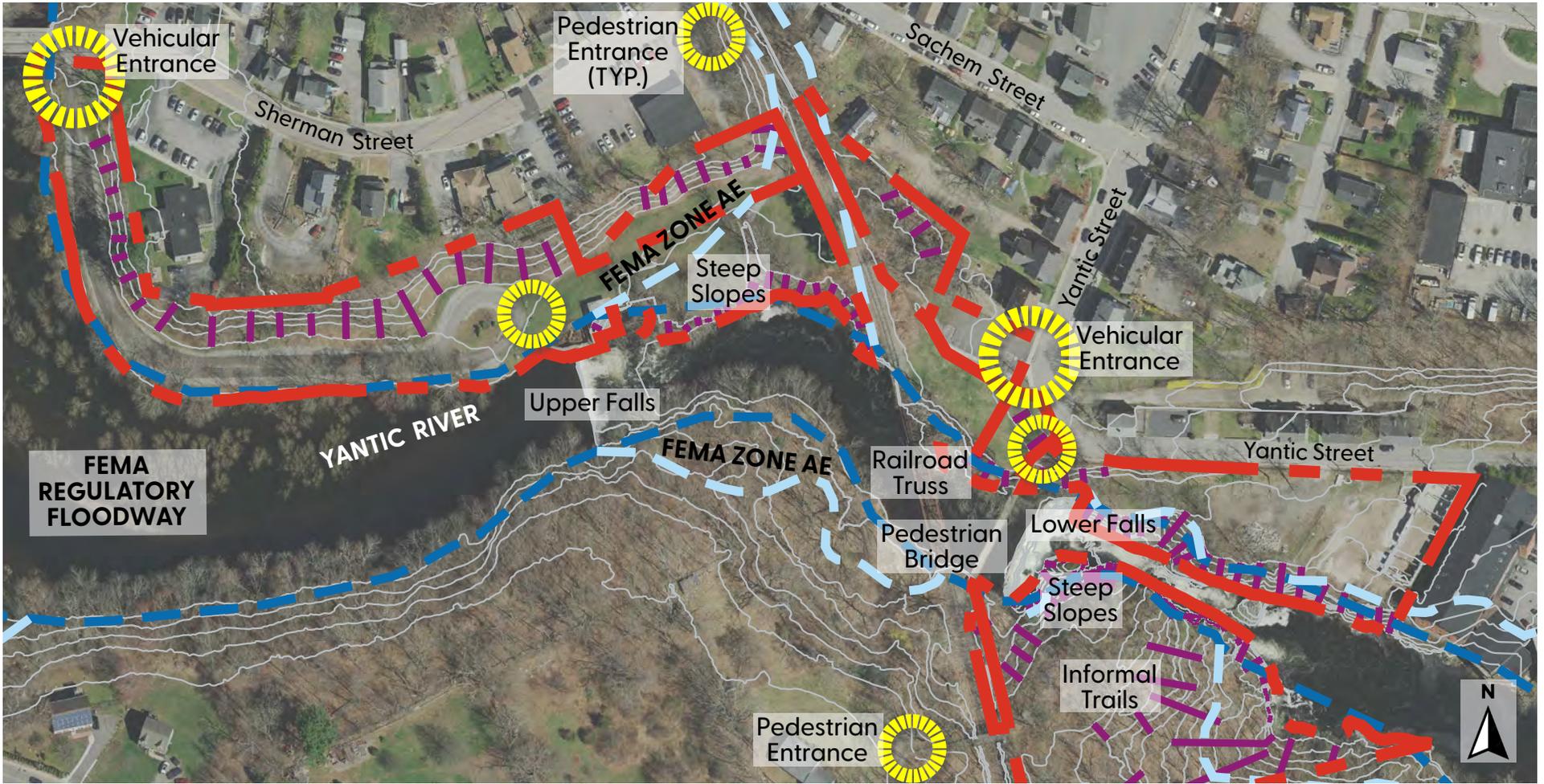
# CHELSEA PARADE PARK



## CHELSEA PARADE PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space	✓			Turf in good condition; some brown/bare areas were noted.
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the historical triangular park, with its range of war monuments of different eras, ornamental watering trough, and broad, open expanse of lawn lined at the edge with trees, forms the visual focal point of the district, and is part of the Chelsea Parade Historic District.
Pavement		✓		City sidewalks are in good condition. Walk along west side and south sides of east triangle parcel is cracked, heaved, and uneven.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Washington Street only. No ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by city sidewalks around the perimeter and wear paths through the park.
Accessibility		✓		Park is surrounded by city sidewalks with curb ramps and crosswalks for access from Washington Street, Broadway, and Chelsea Parade to cross streets. No paved walks into or through park, but wear paths are visible. East triangle parcel does not contain a crosswalk at the tip to cross Crescent Street.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Since park is an open green, access is from any point and is not formalized.
Site Furniture	✓			Four park benches and trash receptacles on individual concrete pads. No ADA companion space on bench concrete pad. No picnic tables or bike racks. No restroom.
Vegetation	✓			Mostly mature trees along the park perimeter, some of which are in need of pruning; some new trees planted along the perimeter as well.
Lighting	✓			None provided in park. All lighting is from cobra street lights on surrounding streets that border park.
Signage		✓		No city park sign. Large rock sign etched with historical information on deed transfer, located at corner of Broadway and Chelsea Parade South.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Park is located in a very visible and busy area being near Norwich Free Academy and Slater Museum. Historic nature and significance of park should be preserved in any future improvements. Park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather. Park signage should be incorporated.

# YANTIC FALLS



Lower Falls, Pedestrian Bridge & Railroad Truss



Upper Falls



State Park Sign



Yantic Street Parking

## YANTIC FALLS

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Yantic Falls Historic District, this historical site is one of natural beauty, with water crashing over large boulders in a 40ft descent, Central Vermont Railroad truss bridge, and iron pedestrian bridge providing access to the river's other side. Legend has it, this site was the last great battle between the Narragansetts and the Mohegans.
Trails	✓			Informal trails found on south side of lower Yantic Falls.
Pavement	✓			City sidewalks and paved walks inside park in good condition.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			Small parking lot on Yantic Street - 6 spaces including an ADA parking space; Sherman Street lot was not accessible due to bridge work over the Yantic River and construction vehicles.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Directed by paved walks at lower falls; upper falls accessed from wooden staircase to sloped bituminous concrete curbed walk to grass.
Accessibility		✓		Lower falls accessed from Yantic Street parking lot; sloped walk to pedestrian bridge is not flush with city sidewalk and may exceed 5% slope; no accessible route to upper falls.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple pedestrian and vehicular entrances to access upper and lower falls.
Site Furniture			✓	None except trash receptacles; no seating.
Vegetation	✓			Mature vegetation; some new trees planted at Yantic Street parking lot.
Lighting			✓	None provided inside park; street lights on Yantic Street and Sherman Street.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link fence in front of Yantic Street parking lot at top of retaining wall; ornamental fencing at lower falls pedestrian bridge; steel tube railings from pedestrian bridge to rail crossing bridge; ornamental fencing also at upper falls.
Signage		✓		State park sign at Yantic Street entrance; no city park sign; no signage on Sherman Street.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land.
Other Observations	✓			Master Plan for Uncas Leap Heritage Park completed May 2018; construction documents released March 2023; groundbreaking ceremony set for August 10, 2023; anticipated completion of park Summer 2024.

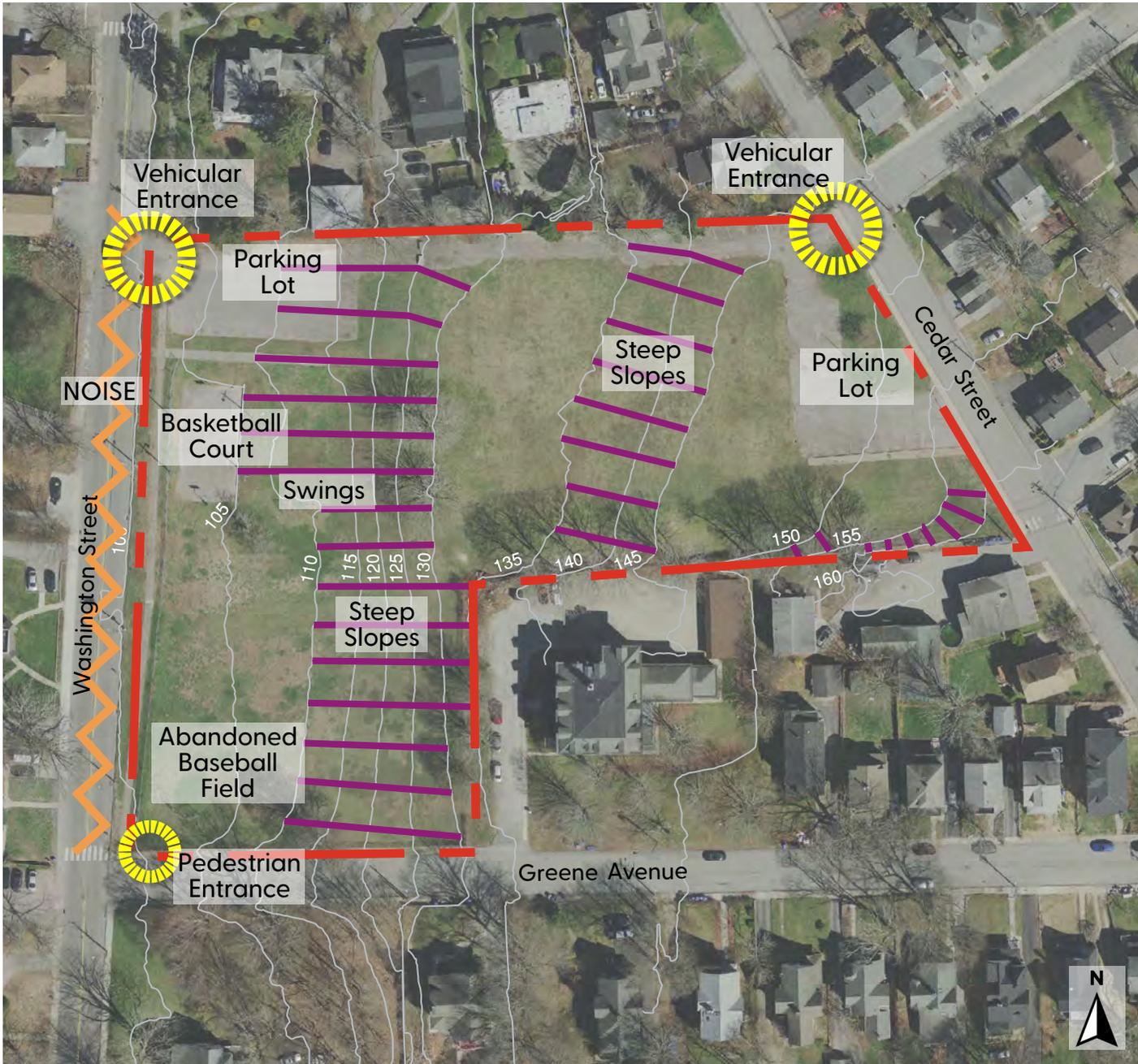
# GREENEVILLE PLAYGROUND



## GREENEVILLE PLAYGROUND

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Basketball Court	✓			Located at top of hill at corner of Prospect Street and 7th Street; no lighting directly on court but cobra street lights may provide some illumination; court is fenced; court surface is showing signs of wear and minor surface cracking; no player benches.
Playground (2)			✓	2-5 year old playground installed 2007; 5-12 year old playground installed 1993; play equipment located in mulch contained with timber edging on all sides; mulch needs replenishment; timber edging rotting in many places; play equipment is aged, rusted metal components; no ADA playground components; separate swings with no ADA swing.
Pavilion	✓			Structure over 10 years old and in good condition; bituminous patching repairs noted on concrete pad.
Pavement	✓			City sidewalks surround park; concrete walk to pavilion and from main entrance on Central Avenue with stairs up to large play area; no other paved surfaces besides basketball court.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on all sides of park; no designated ADA space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Directed by paved pathways to pavilion and play areas; grassed areas between amenities.
Accessibility			✓	Curb ramp at corner of Central Avenue and 7th Street is not ADA compliant; upper stairs to court missing railing; there are two flush entrance points on 7th Street but no accessible route to them; entrance on Central Avenue is accessed by a set of steps; no accessible route to play equipment or basketball court.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances provide access from three streets surrounding park;
Site Furniture		✓		Many old style/outdated benches at both play areas and at pavilion; one picnic table and two game tables on south side of 2-5 year old play area; trash receptacles; drinking fountain; no bike racks or restroom.
Vegetation			✓	None.
Lighting		✓		None on site; cobra street lights may provide some lighting inside park.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link fencing surrounds park along perimeter.
Signage			✓	No city park sign; only "No Dogs Allowed" signage on fencing.
Stormwater Management		✓		Court drains to the southeast corner to a bituminous concrete channel directed to grass and perhaps to neighboring property; rest of park sheet flows over land; minor erosion noted at upper stairs by court.
Other Observations		✓		Accessibility is an issue at this park due to its steep slopes; park offers many amenities but is in need of upgrades.

# WASHINGTON STREET PARK



## WASHINGTON STREET PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Little League Field			✓	Abandoned field with very rusted backstop fencing.
Basketball Court		✓		Court is lit and fenced on Washington Street side only; no surface coating over asphalt; large amount of washout on southwest corner of court pavement; no player benches; hoops are in fair condition.
Open Space			✓	Turf in need of renovation; many brown areas and lots of weeds noted throughout.
Playground (Swings)			✓	Very old; rusting steel structure with peeling paint; missing swing; no mulch area provided.
Pavement			✓	Park bordered by bituminous city sidewalks on Washington Street and concrete walks on Cedar Street; single concrete walk runs along Washington Street parking area but doesn't lead to any amenity; parking lot pavements are in poor condition with large cracks and gaps with grass growing through and uneven surfaces.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	On site parking at Cedar Street (upper) and Washington Street (lower); 48 spaces; no dedicated ADA parking spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation			✓	Single paved path along lower parking lot but no other pedestrian circulation inside park.
Accessibility			✓	None.
Park Entrance/Access				Two vehicular entrances on Cedar Street and Washington Street; pedestrian access at corner of Washington Street and Greene Avenue on south side of park.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation			✓	Very mature trees; very overgrown in need of significant pruning.
Lighting		✓		Lighting at basketball court - four floodlights mounted to possible creosote-treated wooden power poles with overhead wires. No additional lighting inside park.
Fencing			✓	Fencing along Washington Street is rusting and damaged in several areas.
Signage			✓	None.
Stormwater Management	✓			Runoff from parking lot directed to catch basin on Washington Street; sheet flow over land.
Other Observations	✓			Future development efforts are underway to renovate Washington Park to include a new skate park and playground; Norwich Community Development Corporation has submitted a grant application for funding.

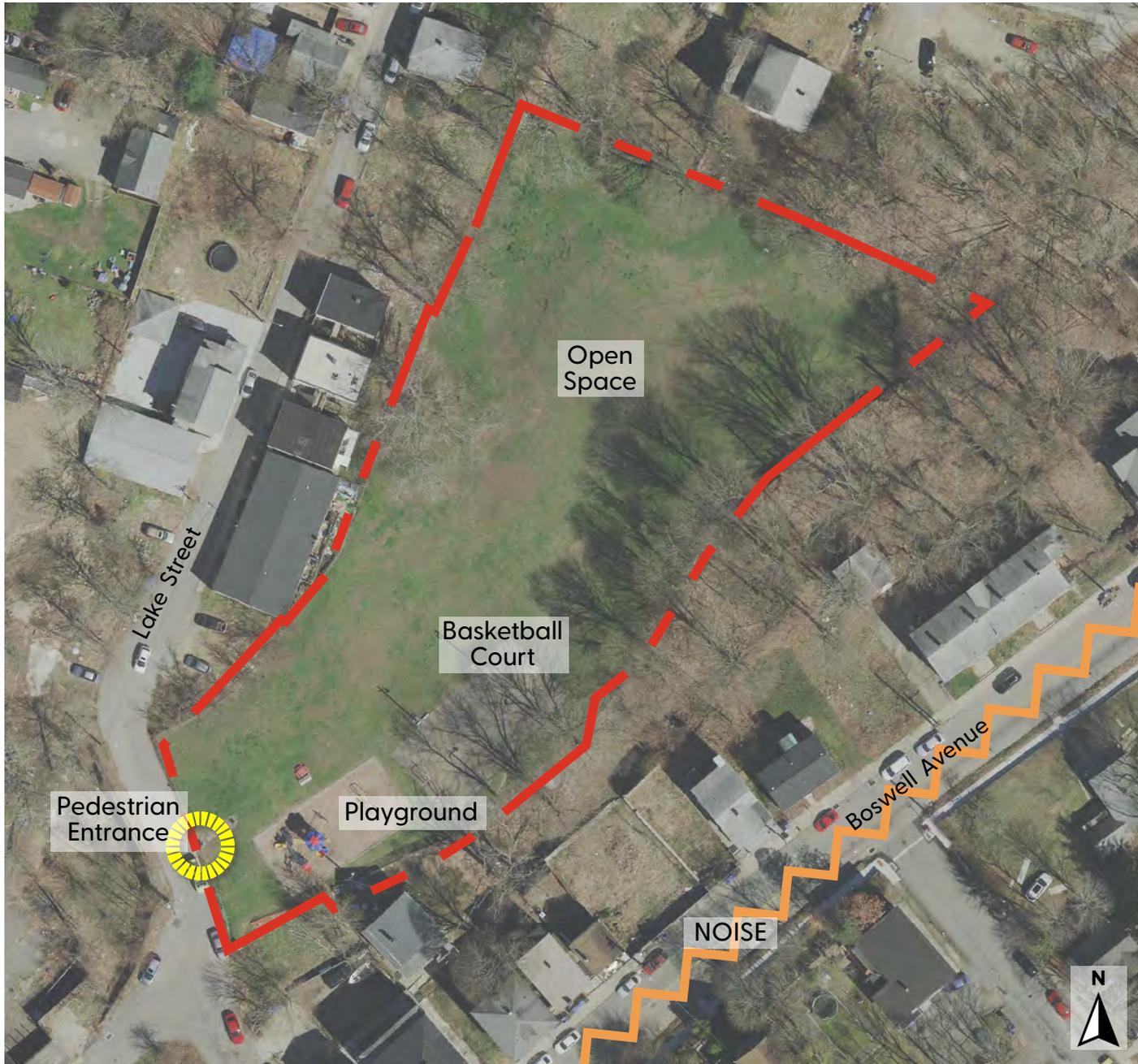
# ESTELLE COHN MEMORIAL DOG PARK



## ESTELLE COHN MEMORIAL DOG PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Dog Park	✓			Double gated entrance and separate small and large fenced in dog areas; rules posted at entrance; each play area has waste stations, bench seating and play equipment; a gated and fenced in dog-free zone is also provide; dog bags located at many points along the walking trail; turf in need of renovation; mulch needs replenishment.
Picnic Area		✓		There is a separate mulch area with one picnic table and one bench that could be more organized with more tables and trees for shading.
Trails	✓			Stone dust walking trail in good condition; no washout/erosion noted.
Pavement	✓			Paved areas consist of stonedust/gravel, with the exception of the initial drive into the parking lot and where the porta toilet is located; parking lot has some uneven surfaces.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On site stonedust/gravel parking lot surrounded by wooden guard rails; no line striping to determine number of spaces; no designated ADA space.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by stonedust/gravel pathways; individual dog/non-dog areas are grassed or mulched.
Accessibility	✓			Accessible routes provided by paved/natural stone surfaces to dog park and walking trail.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Park entrance is through vehicular drive off Asylum Street.
Site Furniture	✓			Wooden picnic tables and bench seating is provided throughout park; trash receptacles; one porta toilet located just outside parking lot; no bike racks.
Vegetation	✓			Good compliment of mature and young tree plantings; many evergreen trees on north side of park are browning and appear to be stressed; south side of park could use more shade.
Lighting		✓		One wooden pole light with two flood lights; none in parking lot.
Fencing	✓			Chain-link fencing surrounds dog/non-dog areas.
Signage	✓			City park signage located at gated entrance to dog park (somewhat faded and in need of a refresh); rules, regulations, and dog/non-dog area signage posted on fencing.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; no erosion noted.
Other Observations	✓			As the only park dogs are allowed in, it is well maintained and offers dogs and owners many options for play activities; the walking trail is a nice feature for non-dog owners who frequent the park.

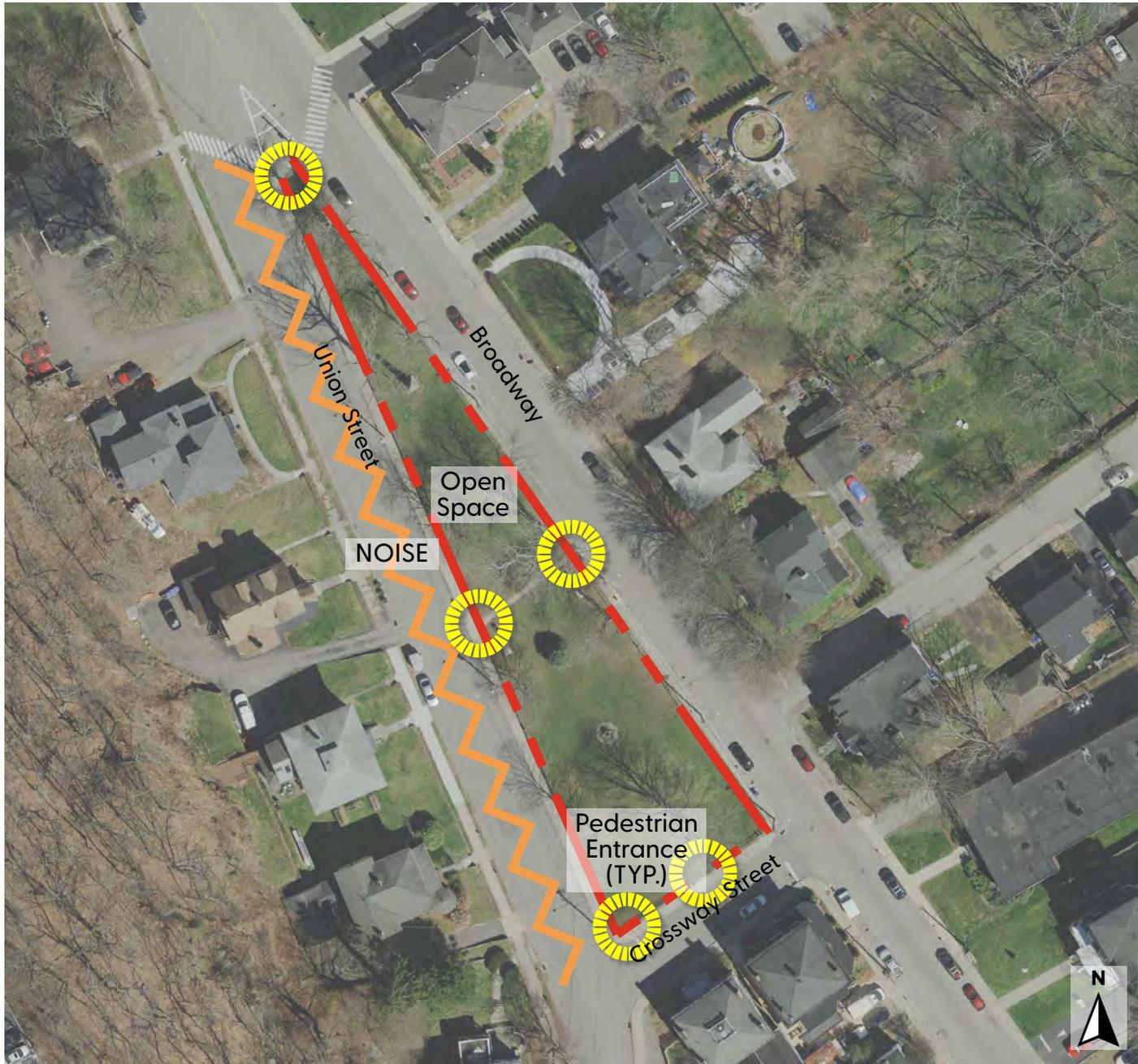
# LAKE STREET PARK



## LAKE STREET PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Large open area; turf in need of restoration; brown areas and weeds noted throughout.
Basketball Court			✓	Court is not currently lit or fenced; no surface coating over asphalt; large cracks, holes and uneven surfaces in pavement; no player benches; hoops are in fair condition; possible creosote-treated wooden power poles recently installed for future lighting.
Playground (2-12 year olds)	✓			Recent installation of playground; play equipment located in mulch contained with timber edging on all sides; no ADA components; separate swings with no ADA swing.
Pavement			✓	Pavement remnants at entrance (perhaps to direct drainage to catch basin?), uneven, cracks in between remnants with grass growing through, and various sizes; no other paved surfaces besides basketball court.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	None.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass inside park. No signs of wear patterns.
Accessibility			✓	None.
Park Entrance/Access		✓		One entrance between fence posts on Lake Street, one-way travel lane from Broad Street.
Site Furniture		✓		One park bench on concrete, no companion ADA space; one picnic table chained to bench; one trash receptacle; no restroom; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Very mature trees located at the perimeter; very overgrown in need of significant pruning; no new tree plantings.
Lighting			✓	None currently inside park; two cobra street lights near park on Lake Street; park may appear to be dark.
Fencing		✓		6ft high chain-link fencing surrounds park; in fair condition, rusting with many bent pieces.
Signage			✓	None bearing city park name, only "No Dogs Allowed" signage with graffiti on it at gate entrance.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; two catch basins found onsite, one recently installed by basketball court.
Other Observations		✓		Park offers active and passive recreation, but is in need of site improvements. A large expanse of open space is present on the north side of the park that could be earmarked for possible future development. Park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather, a pavilion and trees for shade, and park signage to provide an identity to this neighborhood park.

# LITTLE PLAIN PARK



Park Entry at Northern Tip



Historic Ornamental Fence



Midpoint Entry on West Side

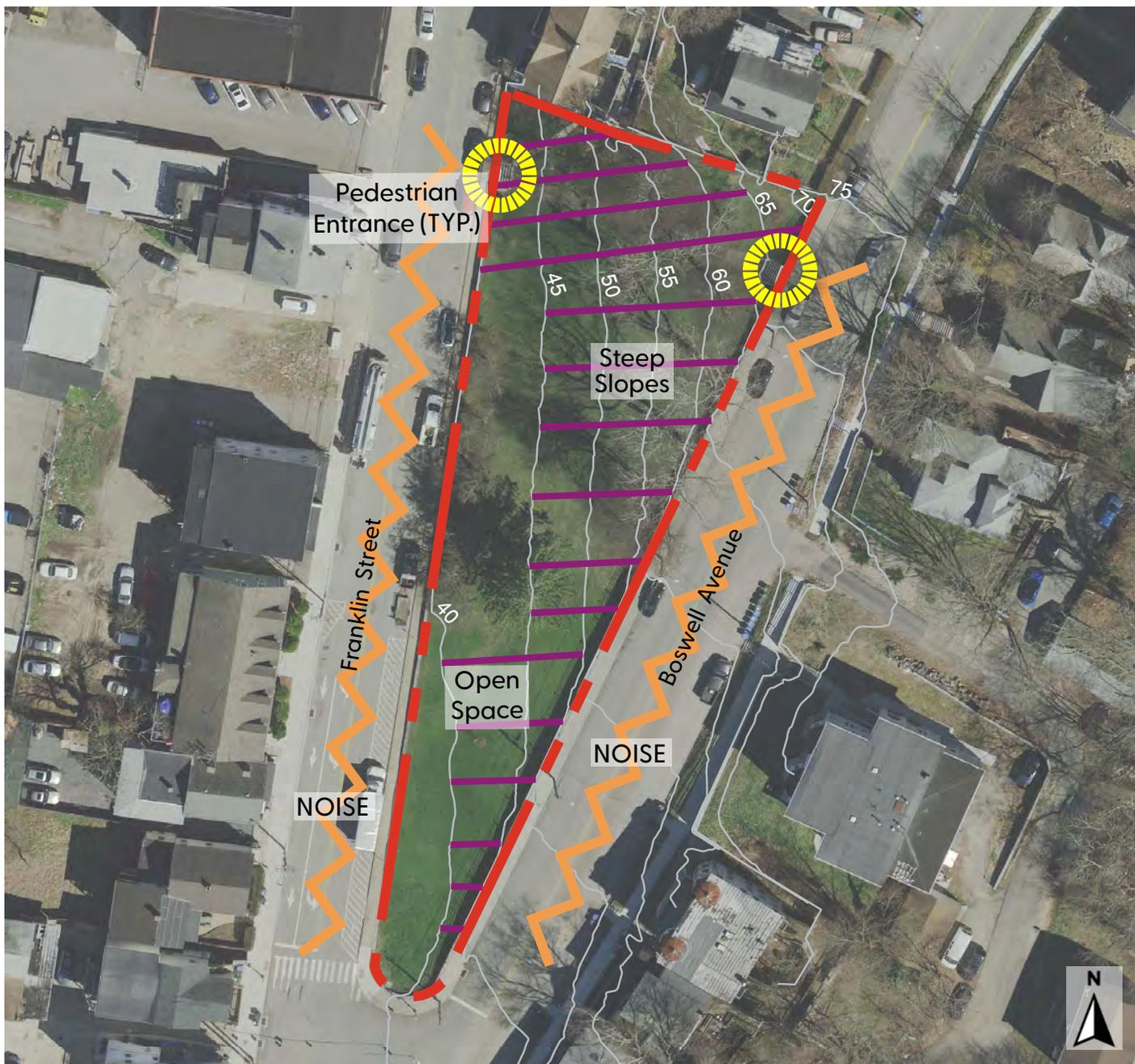


Civil War Monument

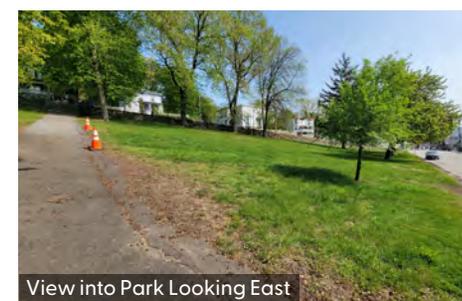
## LITTLE PLAIN PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space	✓			Turf in mostly good condition; many brown/bare areas and some weeds were noted.
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this historical triangular park is situated within a fine residential neighborhood developed in the mid-18th century to late 19th century, and is part of the Little Plain Historic District. The focal point is the Civil War monument dedicated to the 28th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. At the southern end is a pink stone fountain honoring the two park founders, Hezekiah Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington. The most interesting park feature is the fence, comprised of metal stiles between stone rails, which makes the open space more formal.
Pavement		✓		City sidewalks are worn and grass is growing along granite curbs and at joints; curb ramp at corner of Crossway Street and Broadway is damaged along curb line; walk through park at midpoint of park has cracks, patched repairs, and grass growing through joints; concrete pavement at fountain needs to be replaced.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Union Street and Broadway. No ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by city sidewalks around the perimeter, and one paved pathway at the midpoint.
Accessibility		✓		Park is bordered by city sidewalks on all sides with curb ramps; curb ramps may not be ADA compliant; crosswalks on Union Street and Broadway at northern tip only for access to cross streets and access park; paved walk at midpoint of park is flush with adjacent walks.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances provide access at all street corners and at midpoint of park.
Site Furniture	✓			Two benches on concrete pads, no ADA companion space at either; one trash receptacle; no bike racks.
Vegetation	✓			Very mature trees along the park perimeter, some of which are in need of pruning.
Lighting	✓			None provided in park. All lighting is from cobra street lights on surrounding streets.
Fencing			✓	Significant repair is needed to restore the historic cast iron ornamental fence
Signage			✓	No city park sign; one historical sign by civil war monument.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. One yard drain near fountain for overflow. No erosion noted.
Other Observations	✓			Park is located in a very visible and prominent area. Historic nature and significance of park should be preserved in any future improvements. Restoration of the historic fence is a must. Park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather. Park signage should also be incorporated.

# COLUMBUS PARK



Park Entrance on Franklin Street



View into Park Looking East



City Sidewalk and Fencing on Boswell Ave



View of Open Space Looking North

## COLUMBUS PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Turf in fair condition; many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted throughout.
Pavement			✓	City sidewalks bordering park need to be replaced; asphalt walk between granite stair sets has significant cracks and uneven surfaces.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Franklin Street and Boswell Avenue. No ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation			✓	Directed by granite stair sets and asphalt walk at north end of park; no additional circulation provided at south end of park.
Accessibility			✓	Park is surrounded by retaining walls due to steep slopes making it difficult to access for persons with disabilities; one curb ramp and crosswalk located on Franklin Street at corner.
Park Entrance/Access		✓		Park is situated on a steep slope; entrances on east and west side by stairs only.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation	✓			Mostly mature trees along the park perimeter, some pruning needed; some new trees planted at corner and near east entrance.
Lighting				None provided inside park. Cobra street lights on surrounding streets that border park. Park may appear to be dark.
Fencing			✓	Fencing along Boswell Avenue is a mismatch of materials, some ornamental-like, some chain-link style, posts and rails are metal; paint peeling. Stair railings are not code compliant. Cracking noted in many areas of the existing retaining wall.
Signage			✓	None.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; no erosion noted.
Other Observations			✓	This park has no identity, and has the feel of a leftover, unusable space at a visible, busy intersection. Park could benefit from the addition of an access point at the corner with a meandering path and areas to sit/gather. Park signage should also be incorporated.

# HAMILTON AVENUE PARK



City Park Sign at T-Ball Field



Baseball Field #1



Basketball Court

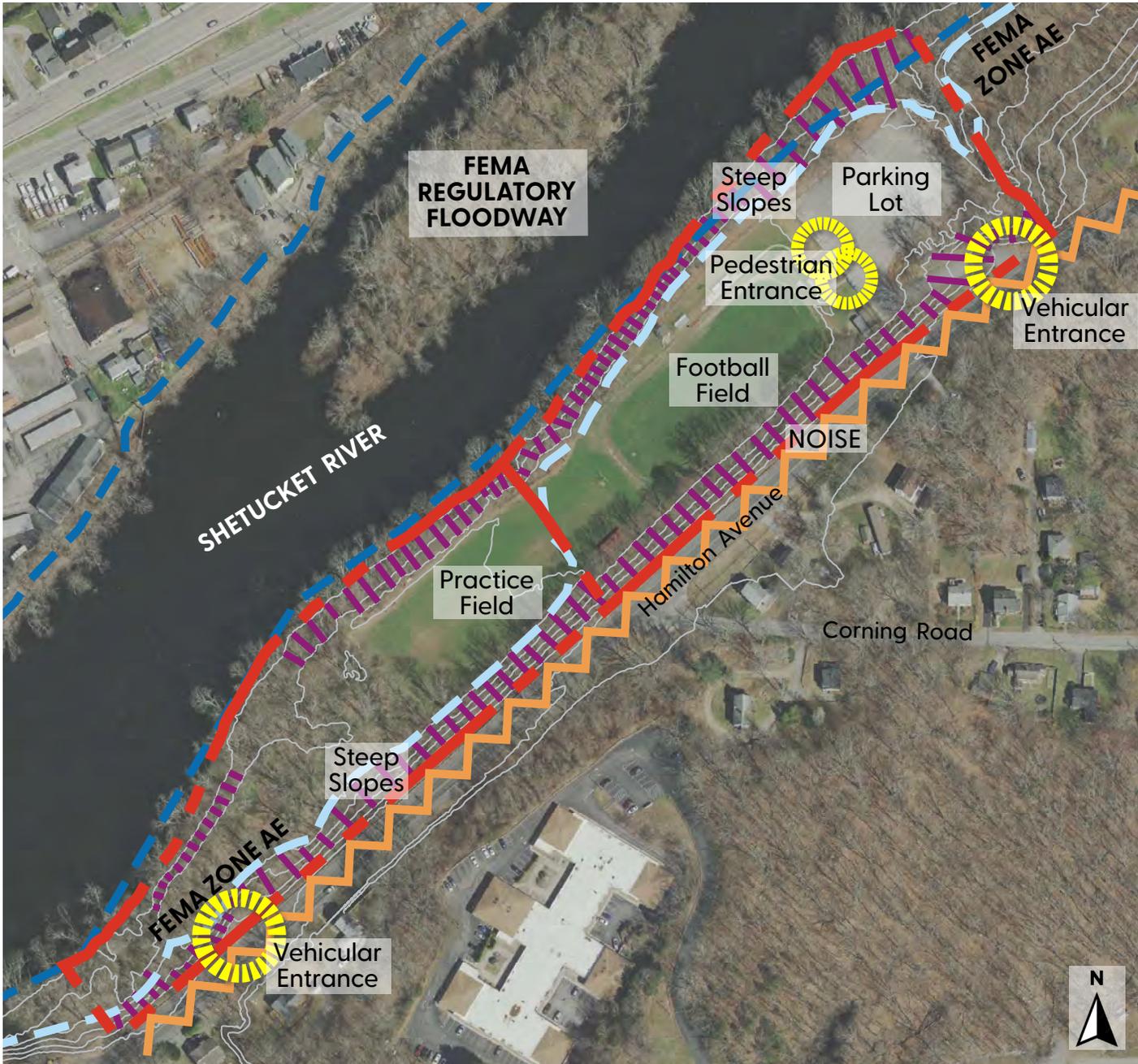


Playground

## HAMILTON AVENUE PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Little League Baseball Fields (2)		✓		No lighting; turf in need of rehabilitation, lots of weeds; outfield fence, foul poles, and electronic scoreboard at Field #1 only; damage noted at metal player benches and spectator stands; no netting along baselines for protection; no shade.
T-Ball Field		✓		Turf in fair condition, lots of weeds; fencing in good condition; left field spectator stands not behind fencing; metal player benches and spectator stands; no shade.
Basketball Court	✓			Court is not lit or fenced; court surface coating recently installed; no player benches; spectator stands located under tree.
Playground (2-12 year old)		✓		Installed in 2001; two playgrounds for 2-5 and 5-12 years old in same play area; play equipment located in mulch with no edging for containment; play equipment is aging with rusting metal components; no accessible play equipment.
Pavement		✓		Parking lot has many areas of surface cracking, perhaps an indication of a drainage issue or an unstable base; line striping faded and worn.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On site parking - 61 spaces; no ADA parking spaces marked or posted with signage.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass and by facilities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	No paved walks into park or between amenities.
Park Entrance/Access		✓		No formal entrance into park, but access is gained from any point along the parking lot and from Quarto Road.
Site Furniture		✓		No seating at playground; metal stands at basketball court and all three baseball fields; two aged, wooden picnic tables in left field of T-Ball field; two drinking fountains need to be replaced at T-Ball field and Baseball Field #1; trash receptacles; one ADA porto-toilet; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Very mature trees on south side of park and on north side of parking lot; in need of pruning; no new trees planted.
Lighting	✓			Cobra street lighting in parking lot; no field lights.
Fencing	✓			Field fencing in mostly good condition; some areas of damaged noted.
Signage	✓			City park sign and "No Dogs Allowed" sign located on T-Ball field fence facing parking lot.
Stormwater Management		✓		Sheet flow over land; several area drains near fields to catch runoff; erosion/drainage issue noted on north side of parking lot and possibly in right field of Baseball Field #2.
Other Observations		✓		Police Athletic League (PAL) runs youth baseball/softball at this park for kids aged 4-9; park could benefit from the addition of more areas to sit/gather, a pavilion and more trees; additional park signage should also be incorporated.

# JENNINGS FIELD



City Park Sign



Handicap Parking at Field



View of Field and Home Team Sideline

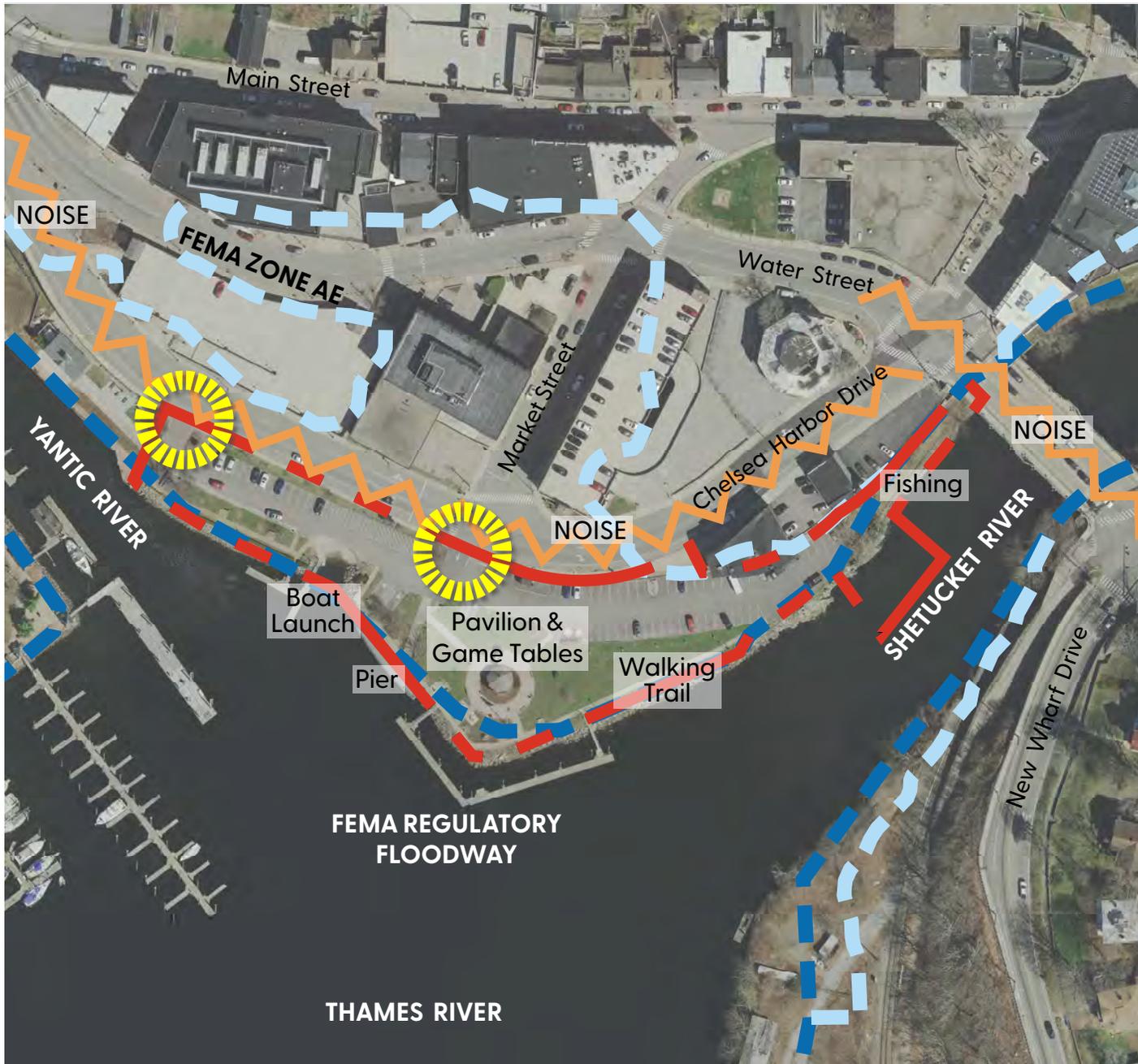


View of Walking Path Looking Southwest

## JENNINGS FIELD

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Football Field	✓			Field is lit; turf is irrigated and in good condition; field amenities include announcers booth, goal posts, electronic scoreboard, player benches and spectator stands on both sides; ADA companion seating located at spectator stands on home field side only; renovation needed at south end of field where end zone and goal post have been adjusted; some areas of turf around walking path need renovation.
Practice Field		✓		Field is lit; no irrigation; turf very worn and full of weeds; some trash noted along sidelines.
Concessions	✓			Located between field and parking lot; locked, wooden building.
Walking Path		✓		Compacted dirt path around football field; inconsistent width and could use some grooming; needs to be adjusted based on the southern end goal post relocation.
Pavement	✓			Concrete walks in good condition; parking lot has some surface cracking; line striping faded and worn.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			On site parking - 92 spaces, including four ADA parking spaces posted with signage.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved walks and compacted dirt path; no directed path to spectator stands on visiting team's side.
Accessibility	✓			Accessible routes from parking lot to amenities inside park and to seating on home field side.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Vehicular access only from Hamilton Avenue; gated entrance; no pedestrian entrance.
Site Furniture		✓		In addition to field stands, one picnic table found by concessions; many trash receptacles located along parking lot fencing; no restrooms; no bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Very mature trees located around the perimeter; in need of pruning; no new tree plantings.
Lighting		✓		Consistently spaced field lighting located at both fields and on both sides of each field; two cobra style street lights illuminate the parking lot which may not be adequate.
Fencing	✓			Chain link fencing between parking lot and field, around football field and along northwest perimeter of field's edge to Shetucket River.
Signage	✓			City park signage located at vehicular park entrance. "No Pets", "No Parking", "No Dogs Allowed", "No Smoking", and "No Dumping Allowed" signs posted inside park.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land; no erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Unsure if fishing is allowed at this location; no access points or signage; steep slopes down to Shetucket River; space maximized for athletic usage.

# HOWARD T. BROWN MEMORIAL PARK



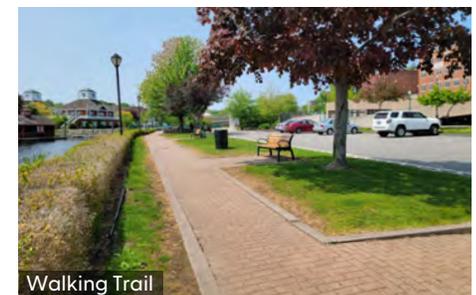
City Park Sign



Pavilion



Boat Launch

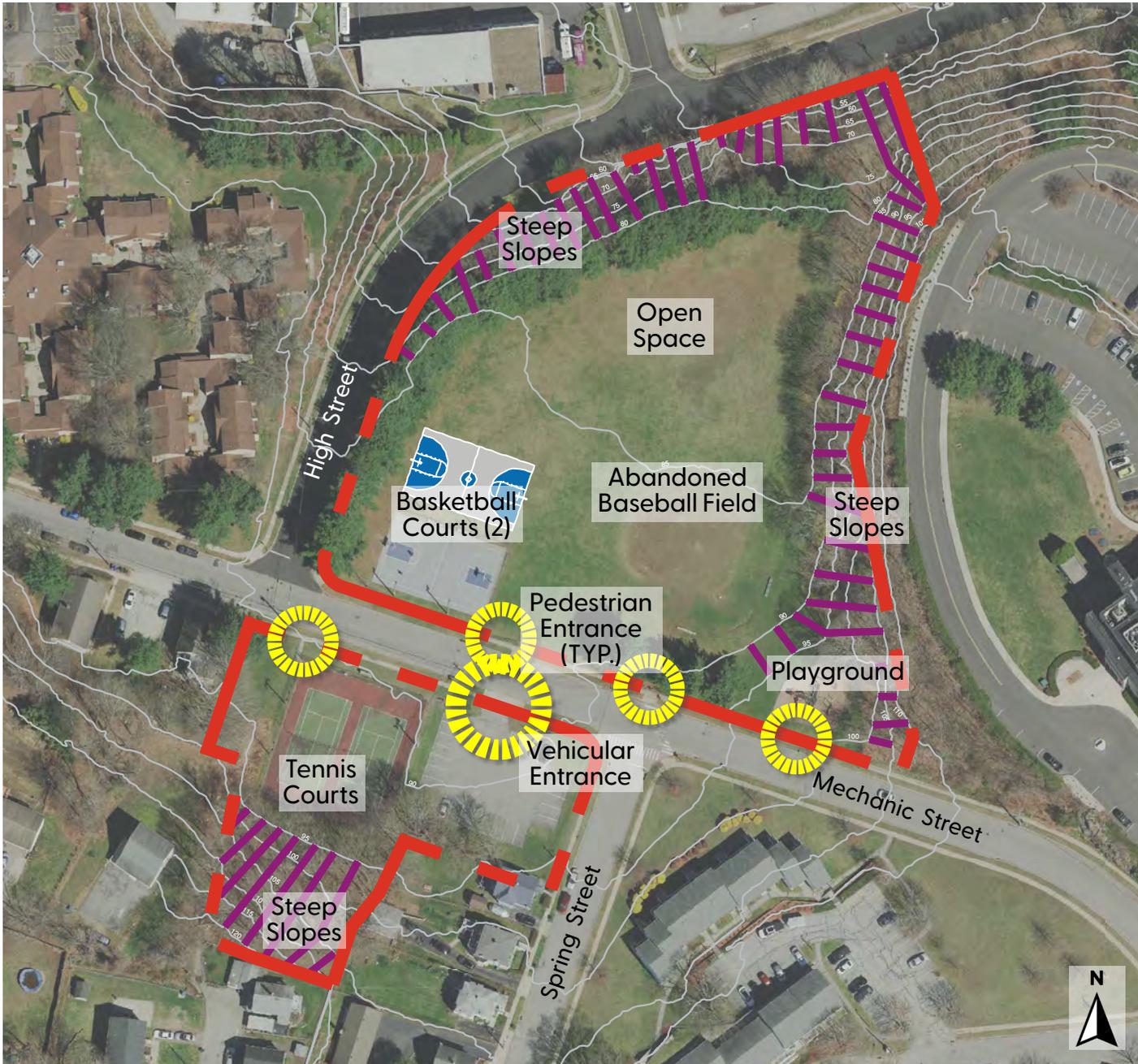


Walking Trail

## HOWARD T. BROWN MEMORIAL PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Turf in fair condition; many brown/bare areas and weeds were noted throughout.
Boat Launch & Fishing	✓			Fishing from pier and park edge; boat launch in good condition.
Pavilion	✓			Wooden structure in good condition; no seating inside structure.
Trails	✓			Walking and water trails provided.
Pavement	✓			All pavements and walking surfaces are in good condition.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			More than enough parking for this small park, 72 spaces including three ADA spaces.
Pedestrian Circulation	✓			Directed by paved walks throughout the park.
Accessibility	✓			Accessible routes to all amenities within park; curb ramps from parking lot; crosswalks and curb ramps on Chelsea Harbor Drive; no ADA companion seating at single benches along walking trail.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Vehicular and pedestrian access to park from Chelsea Harbor Drive; pedestrian access also from Shoreline Pass on Washington Street.
Site Furniture	✓			Lots of benches, game tables, trash receptacles, two porta toilets in parking lot; drinking fountain may need to be replaced.
Vegetation	✓			All in good health; could use more shade along east end of parking lot.
Lighting		✓		LED post top ornamental lights provide lighting inside the park; damage noted at several lights, missing and yellowing globes, worn and peeling paint on posts.
Fencing		✓		Ornamental fencing, wooden guardrail posts with chains between posts, and hedgerows provide barrier between park and water; some posts need repair/replacement and chains were missing; no barrier at east end of parking lot.
Signage	✓			City park signage located at vehicular park entrance. Additional signage inside park.
Stormwater Management	✓			Stormwater runoff from parking lot drains to catch basins; sheet flow over land.
Other Observations	✓			This waterfront park is fully accessible and offers passive recreation; interpretative and memorial signage provides opportunities to learn about the City's history, harbor and important figures.

# JENKINS PARK



Memorial Park Sign at Tennis Courts



Playground



Basketball Courts (2)

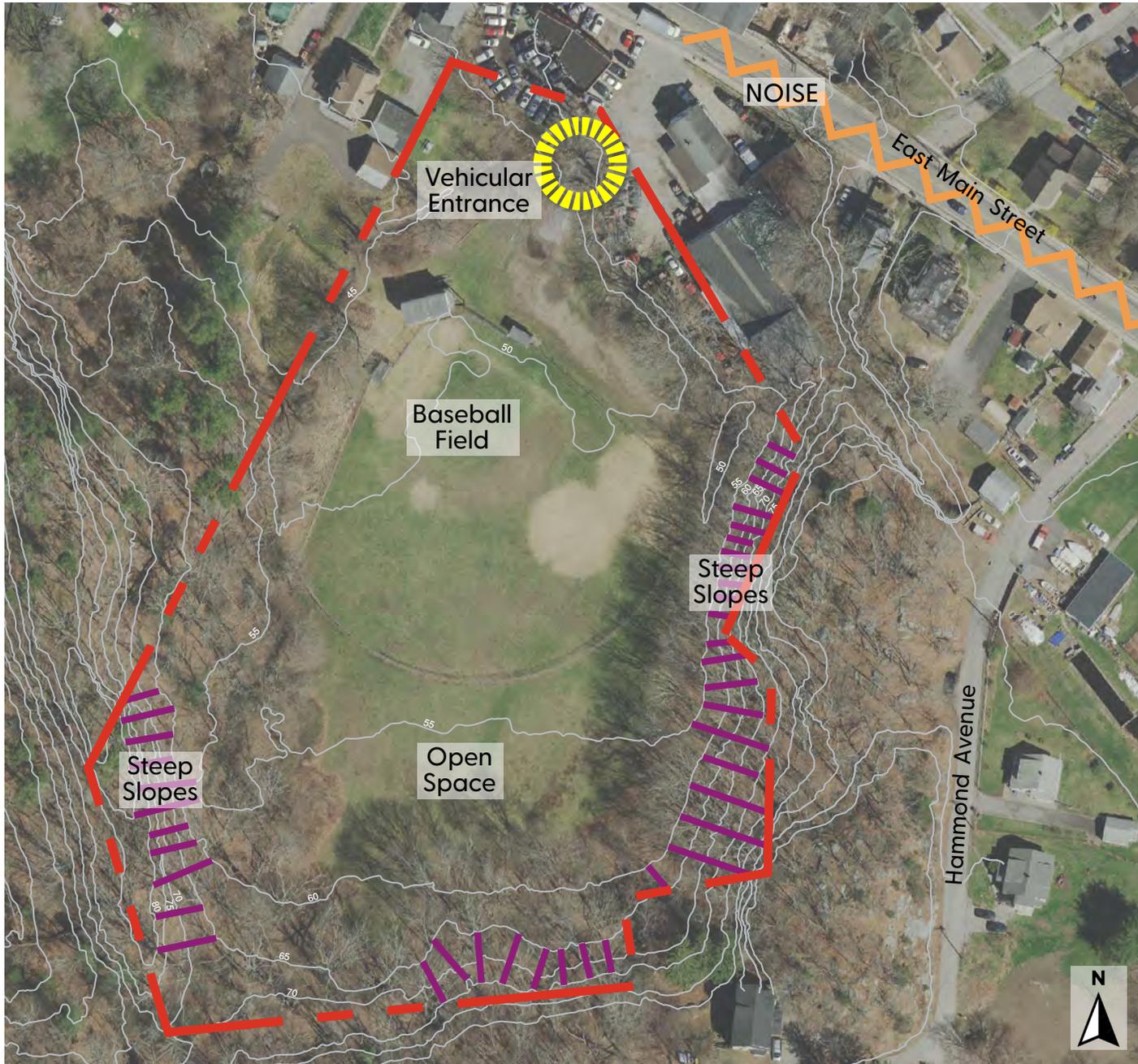


Tennis Courts

## JENKINS PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Large open area; turf in need of restoration; many brown areas and weeds noted.
Basketball Court (2)	✓			One court currently lit; new court recently installed; one hoop netting at new court has come loose; existing court is showing signs of wear and surface cracking.
Tennis Court (2)			✓	Courts are lit; pavement is in rough shape: major cracking, grass growing in cracks, surface coating is very worn and peeling; posts for nets are leaning; fencing is old and rusting; no player benches; two entrances into courts are in awkward locations.
Playground (2-12 year olds)			✓	Installed in 1996; play equipment located in mulch with timber edging for containment; mulch needs replenishment; play equipment is aging with rusting metal components; lots of graffiti present; no accessible play equipment.
Pavement		✓		City sidewalks in good condition; parking lot has lots of surface cracking, some large.
Parking & ADA Spaces	✓			On site parking at tennis courts - 23 spaces, including one ADA parking space (not a van space). On street parking available on High Street.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Directed by city sidewalks along Mechanic Street; no paved pathways inside park.
Accessibility		✓		Crosswalks and curb ramps provided to city sidewalks to access park on both sides of Mechanic Street. No paved walks into park or between amenities.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances provide access from all street locations and to each amenity.
Site Furniture		✓		Player benches at basketball courts; no other benches. Two trash receptacles at basketball courts, one at playground. Restroom at tennis courts. No bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature trees along park perimeter, overgrown and in need of pruning; no new trees planted.
Lighting		✓		Lighting at basketball court (1) and tennis courts - LED lights mounted to possible creosote-treated wooden power poles with overhead wires. Lighting is planned for summer 2023 for recently installed basketball court. No additional lighting inside park or at parking lot.
Fencing	✓			Perimeter chain link fencing on north side of park along Mechanic Street and High Street.
Signage		✓		One park memorial sign located in front of tennis courts. None on north side of park.
Stormwater Management	✓			Runoff from parking lot and tennis courts directed to catch basin; sheet flow over land.
Other Observations		✓		Park offers many opportunities for active recreation. Some amenities are in need of renovation or replacement. LL ball field removed, and a large expanse of open space is present on the north side of the park for possible future development.

# FITZGERALD BASEBALL FIELD



Park Entrance from East Main Street



View of Outfield Looking South



View of Infield and Announcer's Booth



View of Open Space Looking North

## FITZGERALD BASEBALL FIELD

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
LL Baseball Field			✓	Abandon field and facility.
Open Space		✓		Past the outfield fence is an open grass area in need of restoration; many brown areas and weeds noted.
Pavement			✓	Only paved area is a small section of asphalt once inside the gated entrance. Very poor condition - cracked, deep holes, and weeds growing through.
Vehicular Circulation			✓	Not apparent once through gate. No paved areas.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		Once through gate, parking is on site in grassy area but may not be evident to park visitors. No ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass and by the facility within the park.
Accessibility			✓	No paved walks into or inside park.
Park Entrance/Access			✓	Vehicular and pedestrian access to park is through a locked gate between two auto businesses making it difficult to find.
Site Furniture			✓	None.
Vegetation			✓	Mature trees along perimeter of ball field, very overgrown and in need of pruning; no new trees planted. Possible invasive species growing due to no maintenance.
Lighting			✓	None.
Fencing			✓	Ball field fencing is old, rusting and in need of replacement.
Signage			✓	None.
Stormwater Management	✓	✓		Sheet flow over land.
Other Observations			✓	Due to the park's location, difficulty in accessing, and minimal maintenance, this ball field has fallen on hard times. However, with a complete renovation, this 5+ acre park could be transformed into a premier field with additional amenities.

# ELIZABETH STREET PLAYGROUND



Park Entrance on Benjamin Street



Park Entrance on Mt. Pleasant Street



Playground



View of Circular Drive Looking South

## ELIZABETH STREET PLAYGROUND

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Playground (2-5 year olds)			✓	Installed in 2001; play equipment located in mulch with timber edging on three sides; mulch needs replenishment as grass is growing through it; play equipment is aging with rusting metal components; no accessible play equipment. One funnel hoop located by circular drive.
Open Space		✓		Turf in need of restoration; many brown areas and weeds noted.
Pavement		✓		Wide, circular asphalt drive on southern end of park. Unsure of its purpose.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Benjamin Street only (secondary road; less trafficked); no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass and by facilities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	Curb ramps provided at corner of Elizabeth Street and Mt. Pleasant Street but may not be ADA compliant. Crosswalk provided in the middle of Mt. Pleasant Street adjacent to set of steps at entrance but no curb ramps to city sidewalks on either side. No paved walks into park or between amenities.
Park Entrance/Access		✓		Multiple park entrances (3) provide access from three streets surrounding park. Only possible accessible entrance is on Benjamin Street. Entrances on Elizabeth Street and Mt. Pleasant Street are accessed by a set of stairs.
Site Furniture			✓	Two wooden benches by play equipment are very old, possible rotting, and not installed on concrete bases. One trash can noted. One bike rack found but is unusable. No restroom located on site.
Vegetation		✓		Mature trees along eastern border, overgrown and in need of pruning; no new trees planted. Many stumps found. No shade by amenities.
Lighting		✓		None provided inside park. One cobra street light on corner of Elizabeth Street and Mt. Pleasant Street.
Fencing		✓		Chain link fence along park perimeter; many chipped areas noted along rails and posts.
Signage			✓	None bearing city park name, only "No Dogs Allowed" and "Park Closes at Dusk" signage present.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Park appears to cater to young children, but is in need of site improvements. A large expanse of open space is present on the north side of the park that could be earmarked for possible future development.

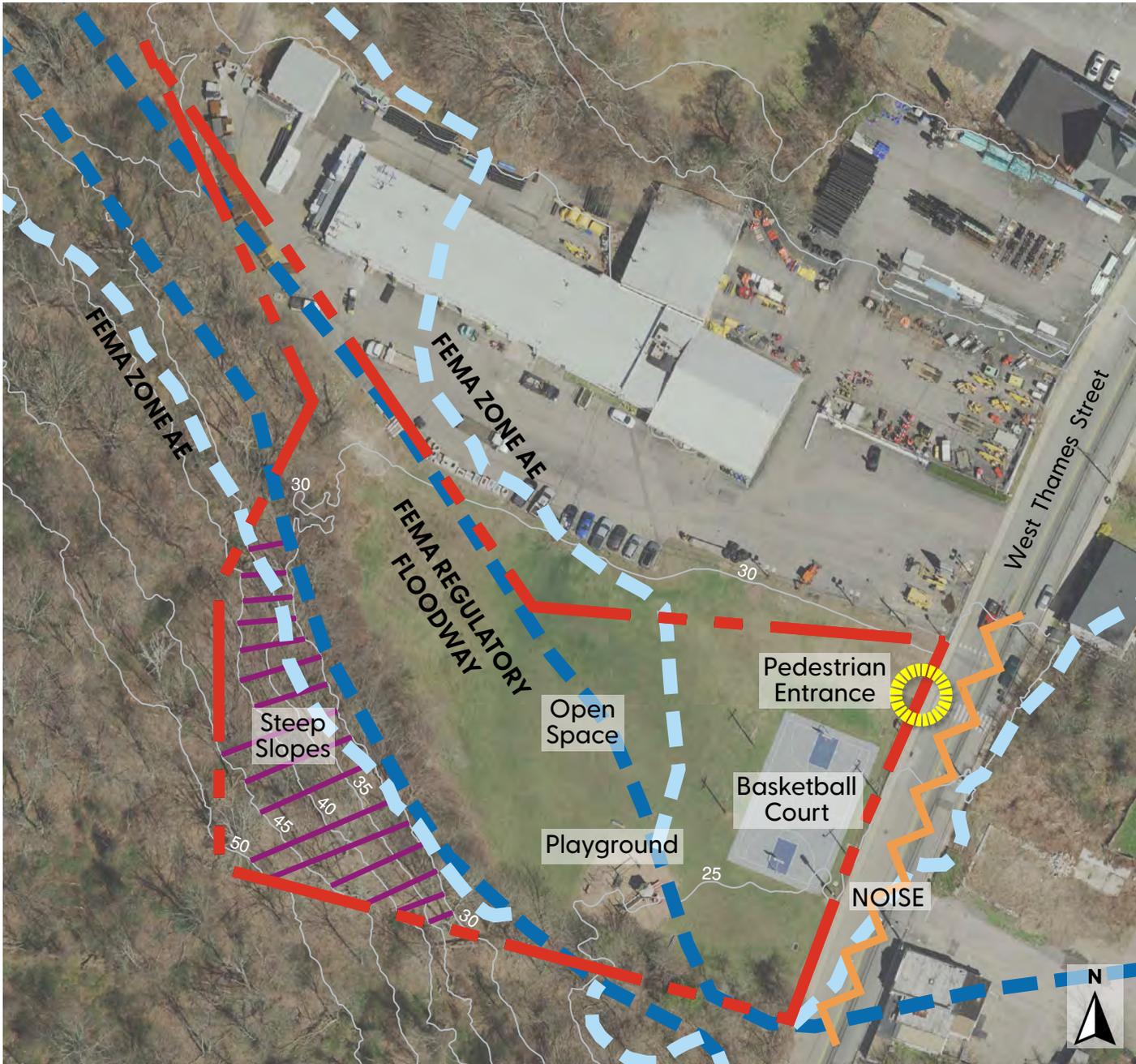
# LAUREL HILL GREEN



## LAUREL HILL GREEN

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Open Space		✓		Turf in need of restoration; many brown areas and weeds noted.
Historical Significance	✓			Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this historic park was gifted in 1875 by Henry Bill, a prominent American book publisher, and is part of the Laurel Hill Historic District.
Parking & ADA Spaces		✓		On street parking on Center Street and River Avenue (secondary roads; less trafficked); no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass inside park. No signs of wear patterns.
Accessibility			✓	New curb ramps at adjoining cross streets at corner of Center Street and Laurel Hill Avenue. Curb ramp at corner of park may not be ADA compliant. No crosswalks at cross streets where curb ramps provided. City sidewalk on Center Street and Laurel Hill Avenue sides of park, but no paved walks into or inside park.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Multiple park entrances (5) provide access from all street locations.
Site Furniture			✓	Two park benches and one picnic table located along Laurel Hill Avenue side of park. Furnishings are very old, outdated and cracked concrete side noted on one bench. No trash receptacles. No bike racks. No restroom.
Vegetation		✓		Scattered mature trees along park perimeter, overgrown and in need of pruning; no new trees planted. Minimal shade provided.
Lighting			✓	None provided inside park. Two cobra street lights on Laurel Hill Avenue. None on River Avenue that border park.
Fencing		✓		Chain link fence along park perimeter; many chipped areas noted along rails.
Signage			✓	None bearing city park name, only "No Dogs Allowed" signage present.
Stormwater Management	✓			Sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations			✓	This historic park has no identity, and has the feel of a vacant lot with a large camper parked on River Avenue.

# THAMESVILLE PARK



## THAMESVILLE PARK

Description	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments
Basketball Court			✓	Court is lit; surface coating very worn; cracking of asphalt at hoop posts and depressed areas noted; graffiti and tire marks noted in several locations; one hoop post may be damaged as it is leaning toward court; no player benches.
Playground (2-12 year olds)			✓	Installed in 1994; play equipment located in mulch (no curbing for containment); play equipment is aging with rusting metal components; lots of graffiti present; no accessible play equipment.
Parking & ADA Spaces			✓	No onsite parking; only on busy street with no ADA dedicated space.
Pedestrian Circulation		✓		Not directed by paved pathways but by grass and by facilities within the park.
Accessibility			✓	Crosswalk and curb ramps provided to gain access across West Thames Street. No paved walks into park or between amenities.
Park Entrance/Access	✓			Single park entrance located on West Thames Street at crosswalk. Bollard in middle to deter motorized vehicles from entering park.
Site Furniture			✓	Two benches by play equipment (one wooden, one metal) are very old, graffiti present all over, appear to be unstable and not installed on concrete bases. One trash can noted. No restroom located on site. No bike racks.
Vegetation		✓		Mature trees along south and west border, overgrown and in need of pruning; no new trees planted. No shade by amenities.
Lighting		✓		Lighting at basketball court - four floodlights mounted to possible creosote-treated wooden power poles with overhead wires. No additional lighting inside park.
Fencing		✓		Fencing located along West Thames St and on the southern perimeter of park. Fencing is very old and rusted. Stone wall along street is damaged in many areas.
Signage		✓		Wooden park sign posted facing West Thames St behind fence; not consistent with other park signage; graffiti present.
Stormwater Management	✓			Two drainage structures capture runoff from sheet flow over land. No erosion noted.
Other Observations		✓		Park offers active and passive recreation, but is in need of site improvements. A large expanse of open space is present on the west side of the park that could be earmarked for possible future development, although it is partly located in a floodplain.



## SUMMARY

The City of Norwich possesses a rich diversity of parks, recreation and open space facilities that form the public park system, each with its own distinct character. This network provides numerous and different recreational opportunities and benefits to residents throughout the city. Several signature sites such as Mohegan Park, Howard T. Brown Memorial Park, Norwichtown Green, Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park, and Yantic Falls possess unique features and celebrate the history and culture of the Norwich community. Other parks within the system are heavily focused on sports and active play, while some display opportunities for passive recreation.

## Key Findings

- Mohegan Park, Taftville Park, Armstrong Tennis Courts, Columbus Park, Greenville Playground, and Jenkins Park are the newest park upgrades in the city. Dickenman Field, Luis DePina Recreation Field, Fontaine Field, Raymond “CIT” Ouellet Park, and Jennings Field contain the city’s premiere baseball, softball, soccer, and football fields.
- In general, park facilities are in good working order because the city has consistently maintained them.
- Urban tree canopy is lacking in many Norwich parks.
- Consistent signage is needed at all parks.
- Improvements to parking lots, walks, and sports courts are needed in many of the parks to address accessibility, drainage, and safety concerns.
- There are no outdoor pools or splash pads in the city. Spaulding Pond in Mohegan Park is the only location for swim activities.
- Many of the city’s playgrounds are aged and in need of replacement. Playground surfacing consists of mulch and timber edging which is in need of repair, replenishment or maintenance.
- Stronger connections and access to trails and other amenities (parks, municipal, medical, school, etc.) are needed as important links of the park system.
- Some of Norwich’s parkland is designated in historic districts and/or listed on the National Register of Historic Places but may not be known to the general public. Bean Hill Green, Norwichtown Green, Chelsea Parade Park, Yantic Falls, Little Plain Park, and Laurel Hill Green serve a unique role in understanding the values and stories that underpin the community and should be promoted in programmed historic interpretation, on the city’s website, and in park signage. Preservation of the park’s historical character, monuments, memorials, and materials is essential in any future park improvements.

- Site lighting should be added or upgraded across all parks to improve safety.
- More restroom facilities are needed.
- More pavilion shelters are needed for picnicking and covered gathering spaces.
- Site furnishings such as benches, picnic tables, game tables, and bike racks are minimal or non-existent at numerous parks. Some existing site furnishings are aged and not of a consistent vernacular throughout the parks. There is also a noticeable lack of drinking fountains.



## Recommendations

### Trees

With the exception of preserved areas, tree cover is noticeably missing throughout the park system. Trees have always been an important component of park design providing shade, scale, and indications of seasonal change, but in this era of climate change it is important to provide trees for their environmental attributes as well. Increasing the tree canopy in all parks will grow the urban forest and provide much needed environmental, health, economic, and social benefits to the community. The use of native and other drought tolerant vegetation can enhance park design and support the ecological systems unique to the region. Existing, mature vegetation should be evaluated by a certified Arborist, pruned as needed, and any exotic/invasive understory plants and trees should be removed.



### Accessibility

For the most part, the accessibility guidelines of the American Disability Act (ADA) have not been addressed in the park system. The ADA mandates not only accessible parking but also a “firm, stable surface (paved) path to a park facility.”

## Water Access

Norwich is a river city with the Shetucket, Yantic, and Thames Rivers but there is a surprising lack of access to these resources. Kayaking, fishing, nature immersion and hiking (all very popular activities) could all be developed along these corridors.

Norwich has outstanding river frontage and the dramatic and historic convergence of the Thames, Yantic, and Shetucket Rivers in the downtown district. This asset should be utilized and monetized to the greatest extent possible. The Norwich Harbor Water Trail (Harbor Management Commission) is a great asset which could be embellished with additional small boat launches and amenities along the route. Many Connecticut towns have done an admirable job of attracting vendors along the waterfronts to rent small boats.

A more ambitious program would be to establish a series of connected parks along the waterfronts. This study endorses the recommendations of The Norwalk Harbor Management Commission in their 2011 “Waterfront Vision” which includes acquisition of properties along the waterfronts, upgrades to Howard T. Brown Memorial Park, and development of the northern portion of Hollyhock Island as a park that would include a pedestrian bridge across the east Yantic River linking to the Heritage Riverfront Walkway. Other improvements include a Shetucket River walkway connecting to the Heritage Riverfront walkway.

Development of a riverfront park and trail system should begin within the ten-year time frame of this plan. Precedents are established, the most prominent being Hartford’s Riverfront Recapture. Development of this system was begun over 40 years ago in 1981 with a vision and a dream.



## Connected Trail System & Public Walks

Norwich has an outstanding heritage trail system with the Heritage, Freedom, Uncas Leap, Benedict Arnold, and Millionaire Triangle routes. In addition, Mohegan Park has excellent trails throughout the park. These trail resources can be supplemented and expanded through a concentrated effort of property/easement acquisition, agreements with utility companies, and construction of facilities on existing park land. Ideally, parks can be connected with walk and bicycle routes so that residents that don't drive or have access to an automobile are afforded safe and comfortable access to parks. Additionally, these facilities may themselves constitute a recreation asset serving walkers, runners, and bicyclists. Multi-use trails have proven to be tremendously popular, and Norwich would benefit from expanding this asset.

Nice trails exist but are not connected into a comprehensive system. Some parks are isolated with non-existent, inadequate or ill-maintained walks to them.



## Consistent Signage and Wayfinding

Park signs should be added at vehicular and pedestrian entrances where none currently exist. Wayfinding signage is needed at larger parks to identify and direct users to attractions and trails. Interpretive signage should be provided at locations of natural, cultural, and historic resources in parks and along trails to provide educational opportunities. This effort would bring a cohesive vision to the whole of Norwich's parks. Recommended sign features to include:

- Universal Symbols
- QR Codes
- Rules
- Park Maps

## Water Play

Norwich does not have a community aquatic facility or a splash pad. As temperatures rise, the opportunities for water-based recreation are now more important than ever. Splash pads encourage family interactive play, and are intentionally designed with features to cultivate cognitive skills like planning, imaginative thinking, focus, problem solving and self-control as children interact with moving water.



## Turf Field

A turf field and all-weather track is badly needed in the city to help with demand and maintenance challenges. Turf fields have become a standard feature in our cities and towns from Hartford to East Haddam. Experience has demonstrated that these facilities are highly used by not only sports teams but causal walkers as well.

A turf field has been proposed at least since the Recreation Facility Master Plan of 2008. With advances in materials and durability, the time is now to build this facility.

## Play Areas

Most of the play structures and equipment are beyond their useful life and outdated. In addition, the prevailing design has changed from post and platform to a freeform style of arching supports, nets, swings, and climbers, and that is what users are expecting. A playground audit should be conducted by a Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) to determine safety hazards. This is typically not a large expense. A comprehensive replacement / upgrade program can then be initiated with work being done as each park is renovated or as a standalone program.



## Playground Surfacing

All of the play areas are surfaced with wood fiber. While this material (if maintained) does meet all accessibility and safety codes/guidelines, typically the material needs to be replenished every year and maintained throughout the year (typically raking). Most municipalities in Connecticut are switching to a “unitary” rubberized surface, known as “Poured-in-Place” or P.I.P. While this surface is initially much more expensive than wood fiber, it has a life span of 10-15 years. Installing concrete curbing around resilient playground surfacing will help prevent shifting, constant maintenance, and may enhance the longevity of the play environment.

# PARK DESIGN GUIDELINES

When developing design principles for parks, it is important that each park be programmed, planned, and designed for use and facilities to meet the needs of its service area within the overall park and recreation system. The following park design guidelines provide baseline standards to ensure that existing and future parks are designed in a way that promotes enjoyment, safety, accessibility, comfort, and sustainability.



## Site Furnishings

The selection of site furnishings should be based on an established city standard. Benches, tables, water fountains, trash/recycle receptacles, shade structures, and bike racks used in the parks should be consistent with those used in urban environments. Consistency in site furnishings will help establish an identifiable city image, through the use of repeatable aesthetic elements, for Norwich and the park system as a whole. These furnishings should offer comfort, aesthetic beauty, and be of formidable stature to prevent vandalism.

- **Benches and Tables:** Seating should be made from a material that is comfortable both in winter and the heat of summer while being able to withstand vandalism. Benches and tables should be provided to offer places of rest, opportunities to experience views, and offer social gathering spaces.
- **Water Fountains:** Drinking fountains should be available at a ratio of 1 per acre with the exception of small parks (typically smaller than 1-acre), which should have one. Drinking fountains should be complementary to other site furnishings, such as benches and tables.
- **Shade:** Many park visitors have a desire for more shade at parks. Accordingly, shade should be provided in the form of trees and structures throughout Norwich parks adjacent to facilities such as seating areas and playgrounds. Wherever possible, shade should be provided through the addition of trees; however, fabric structures will be necessary in many areas.
- **Trash/Recycle Receptacles:** Just like people judge a book by its cover, they also judge a community by its appearance. There is a major difference between a city/town whose streets are lined with flowers and one lined with debris. An adequate supply of commercial receptacles is critical to provide people opportunities to dispose of their trash in an acceptable manner. Keep America Beautiful, an organization that has dedicated the last 60 years to organizing volunteers to clean up litter, has a very useful Community Appearance Index. Whether you are a city planner, park manager, business owner, or concerned community member, it's essential to put in the extra effort to keep your community pristine. Keep America Beautiful found that a strong contributor to littering behavior is the existence of litter; therefore, the first step in prevention is to find and add an adequate number of quality commercial receptacles. Placement is critical to help your park and recreation facility prevent litter and boost cleanliness.

- **Bike Racks:** When setting out to create spaces intended for bike parking, the key outcome should be an area that allows cyclists to easily park their bikes with a reasonable expectation of security and protection for the short term. The primary feature of a bike parking rack is that it should allow both the frame and at least one wheel to be secured to the rack using a u-style lock. U-racks and Post and Ring bike racks are commonly used in these applications. Grid racks and others that only hold the wheel leave bikes susceptible to theft as the frame can easily be removed from the wheel.

## Signage

Signage at parks provides opportunities to make a first impression and can assist in promoting the image of the City of Norwich. To improve user experiences throughout the park system, a comprehensive, cohesive signage system should be developed that uses consistent design standards for gateway, regulatory, wayfinding, and educational/historical/environmental signs, branding elements, and inclusion of multiple languages. Design standards should also consider modularity of signs (the ability to update signage over time), security and vandal-resistance, illumination and visibility, scale and intended audience, and installation costs.

## Lighting

To improve safety, energy efficiency, and aesthetic character of the parks, standardized site lighting shall include:

- LED light fixtures, full cutoff, dark sky friendly
- Standard neutral white (3000K)
- Post top mounted
- Architectural grade fixtures and poles, black powder coated with textured finish



## Restrooms

Restrooms are an important public amenity and, in particular, help to extend park visits, and they should be a priority at the largest and most-used parks. The components, design, and placement of restrooms structures are important decisions to consider when specifying facilities. Restroom facilities should be safe, easy to maintain, and consistent for the park system. Portable toilets can be used in smaller park settings.

Composting toilet systems are an environmentally sound, practical alternative to flush, vault, and portable facilities. There's no water wasted for flushing, pollution caused by sewers and septic systems is reduced, and composting toilet systems allow nutrients back where they belong.

4

# TRAILS & CONNECTIVITY



# EXISTING FACILITIES

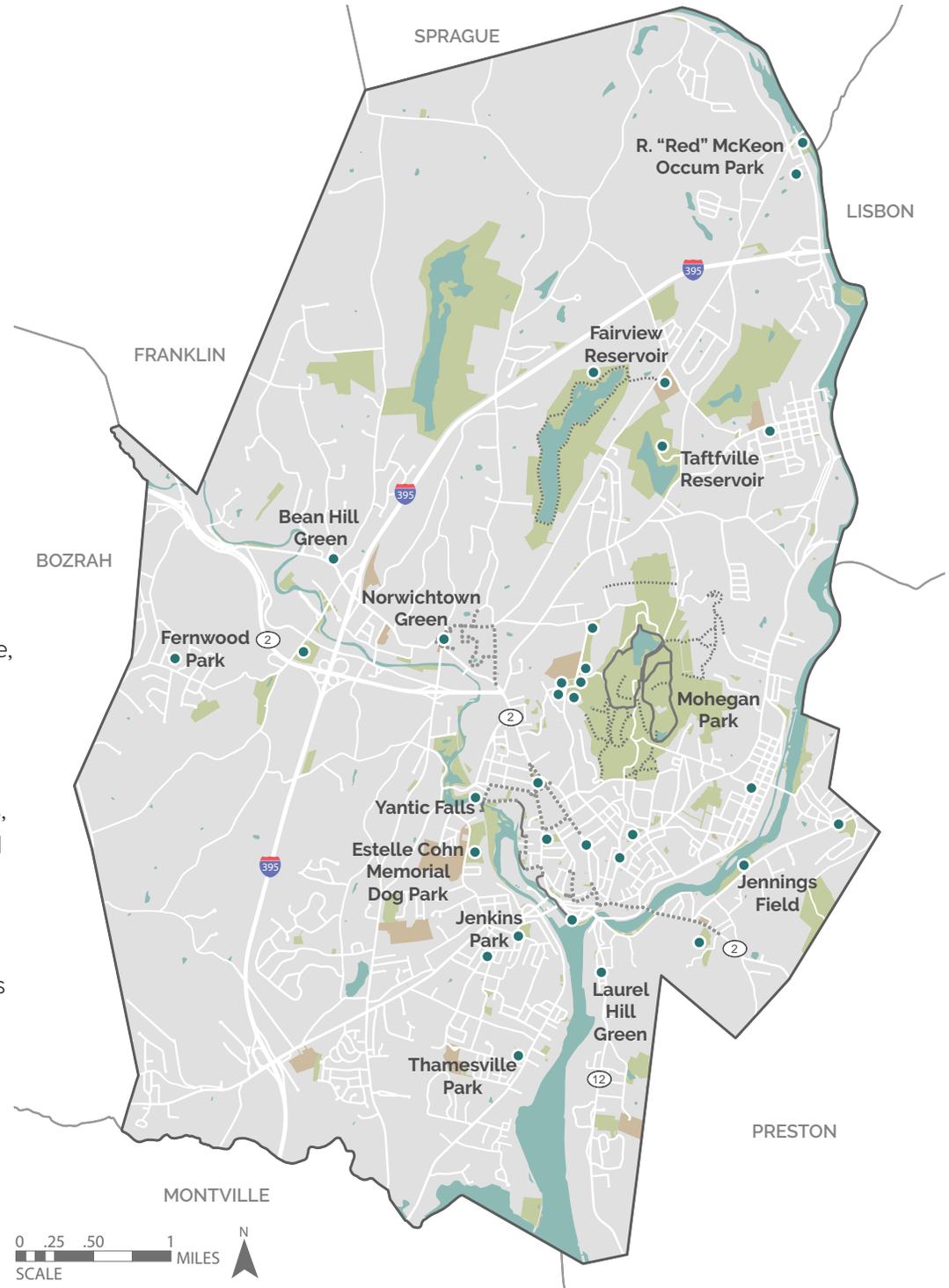
- Open Space
- School Grounds
- Water Body
- Existing Pathways
- Existing Trails
- Parks
- Walk Norwich Routes

## Map Summary

The Existing Facilities Map locates existing public park, open space, and trail amenities within the City of Norwich.

The Open Space layer is defined by DEEP’s 2011 Open Space Mapping Set, as well as parcels identified by the City of Norwich as vacant, residential unimproved, commercial unimproved, parks, riverbanks, or schools. Locations of named parks and recreational fields are distinguished by the symbol listed in the map legend. Existing trails were obtained from the City’s Mohegan Park Trail Map and informed by online resources such as AllTrails.com. The Walk Norwich Routes were similarly drawn from the organization’s online trail map.

This base map identifies missing connections between existing park and trail facilities and analyzes roadway conditions in proximity to those areas. This map will help to guide recommendations for pedestrian and cyclist connectivity throughout the park network.



# TRAIL VS. PATHWAY



## PATHWAY

An off-road, paved surface that is accessible to a wide array of users.

### Pathways of Significance

- Mohegan Park Loop Trails
- Heritage Trail
- Uncas Leap and Yantic Falls



## TRAIL

An unpaved surface, either maintained or informal that receives frequent use.

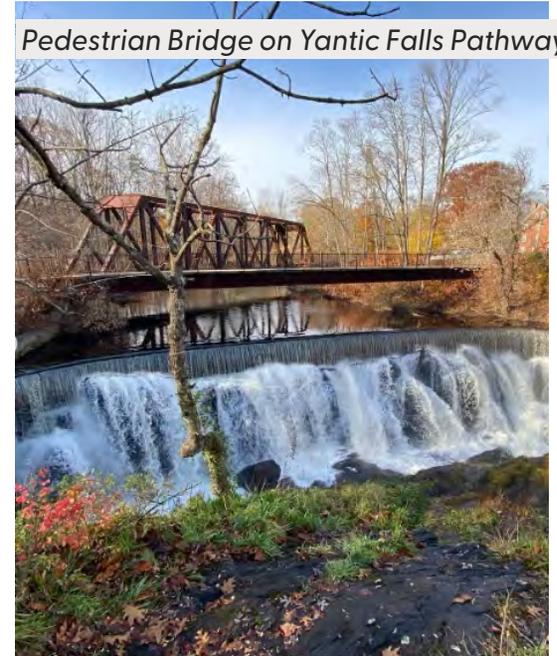
### Trails of Significance

- Mohegan Park Trails
- Fairview Reservoir Trail

Pathway at Mohegan Park



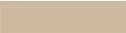
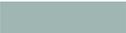
Pedestrian Bridge on Yantic Falls Pathway



Trail at Fairview Reservoir



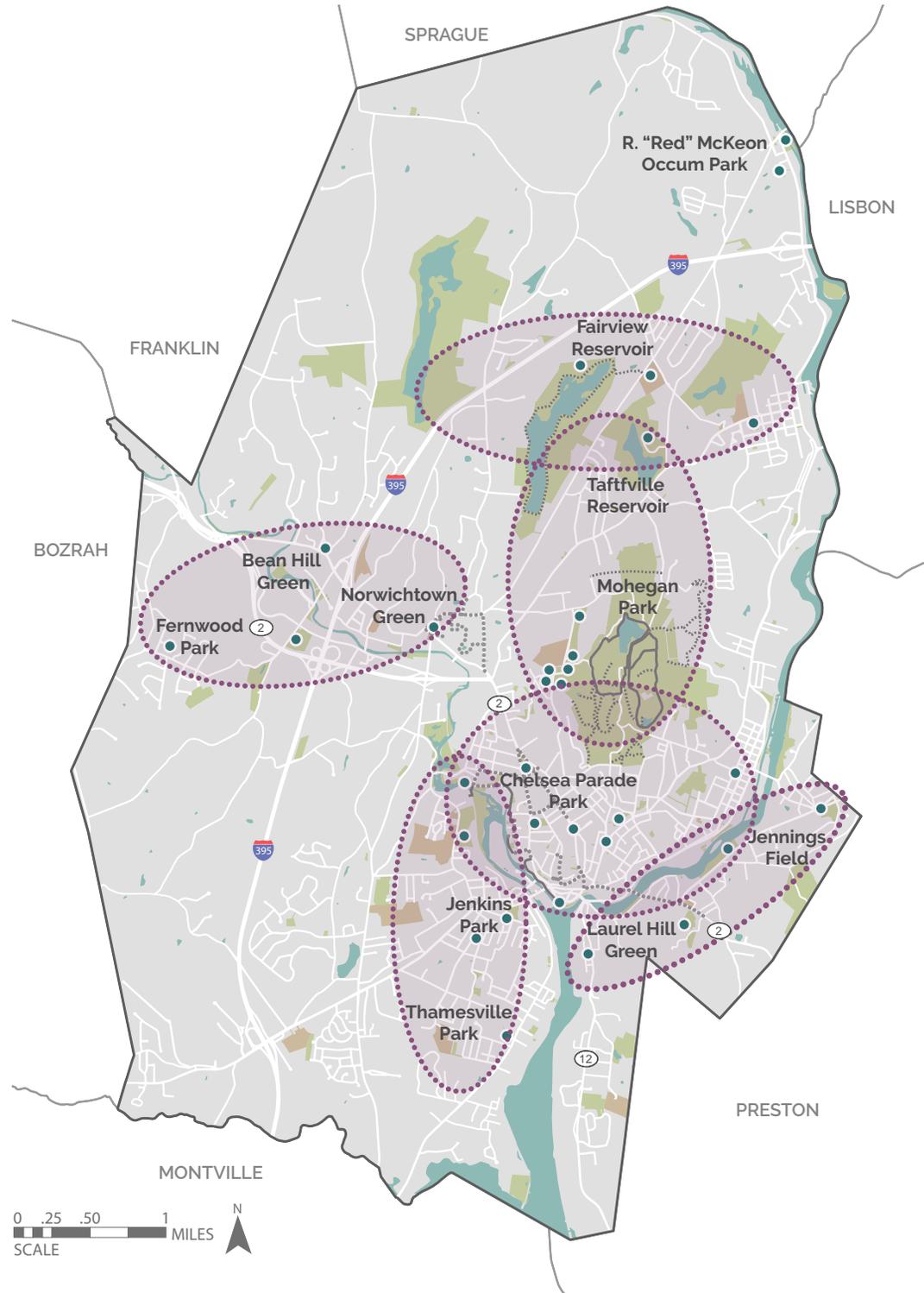
# GAP ANALYSIS

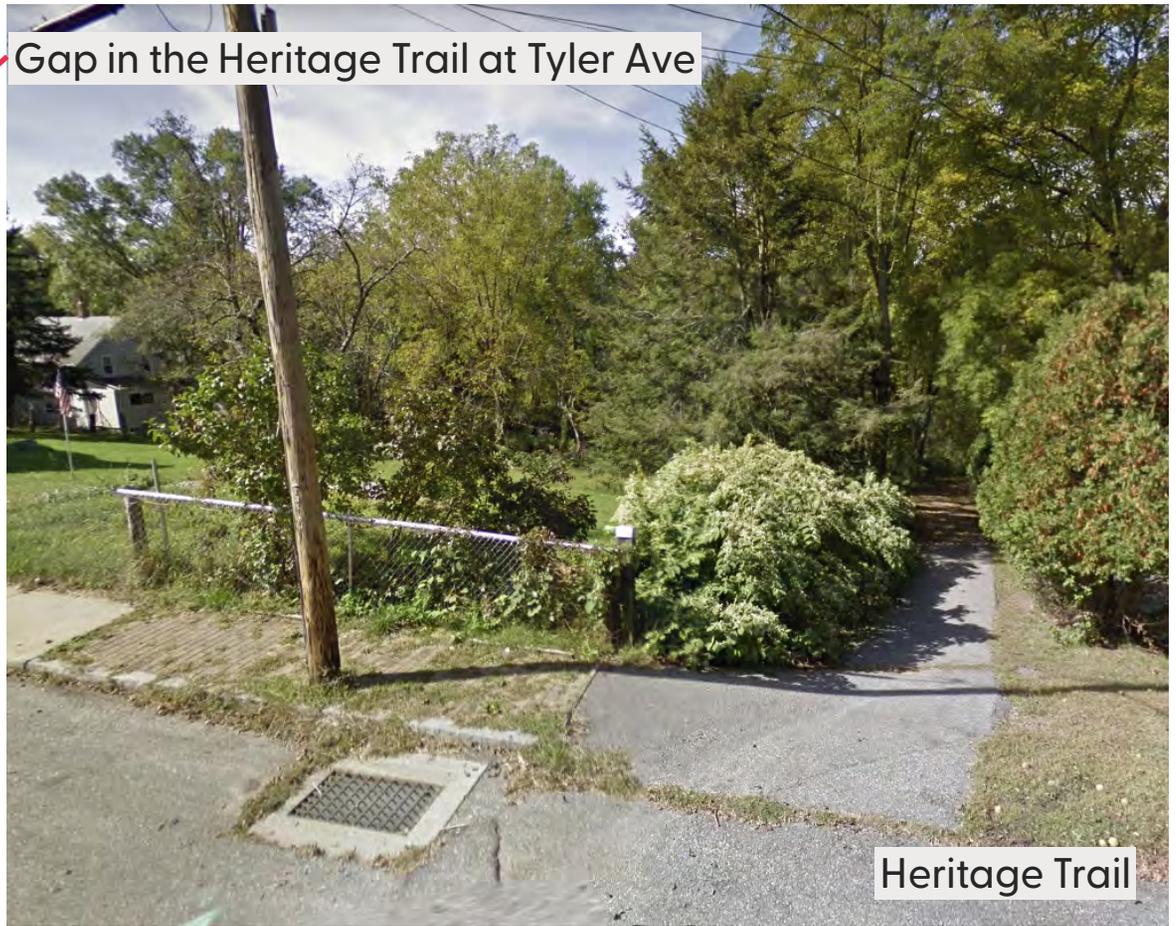
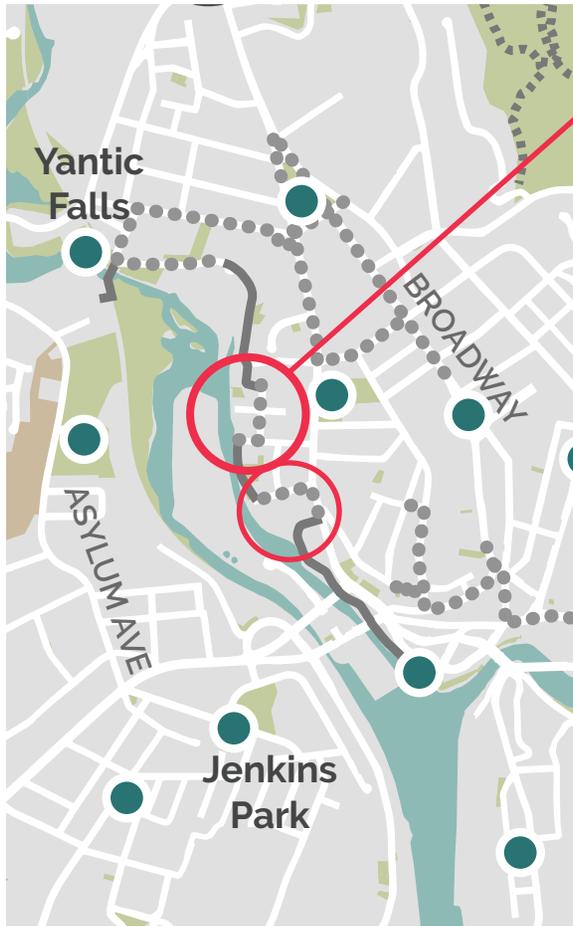
-  Facility Gap
-  Open Space
-  School Grounds
-  Water Body
-  Existing Pathways
-  Existing Trails
-  Walk Norwich Routes
-  Parks

## Map Summary

The Gap Analysis Map highlights areas in the existing park network that lack connectivity. This includes gaps in connections between parks, between trails, or between parks and trails.

The map was created by identifying clusters of park and trail facilities. Facilities in those clusters have relative proximity to one another, but lack designated cyclist and pedestrian connections. This map demonstrates that there are multiple opportunities to connect well-established areas, like Mohegan Park, to other areas such as Fairview Reservoir and numerous parks downtown. This map identifies areas of potential need for new pathways, trails, and other bicycle and pedestrian facilities within and between parks.





Gap in the Heritage Trail at Tyler Ave

Heritage Trail



## Missing Connections

Identifying gaps from...

- park to park
- park to trail
- trail to trail

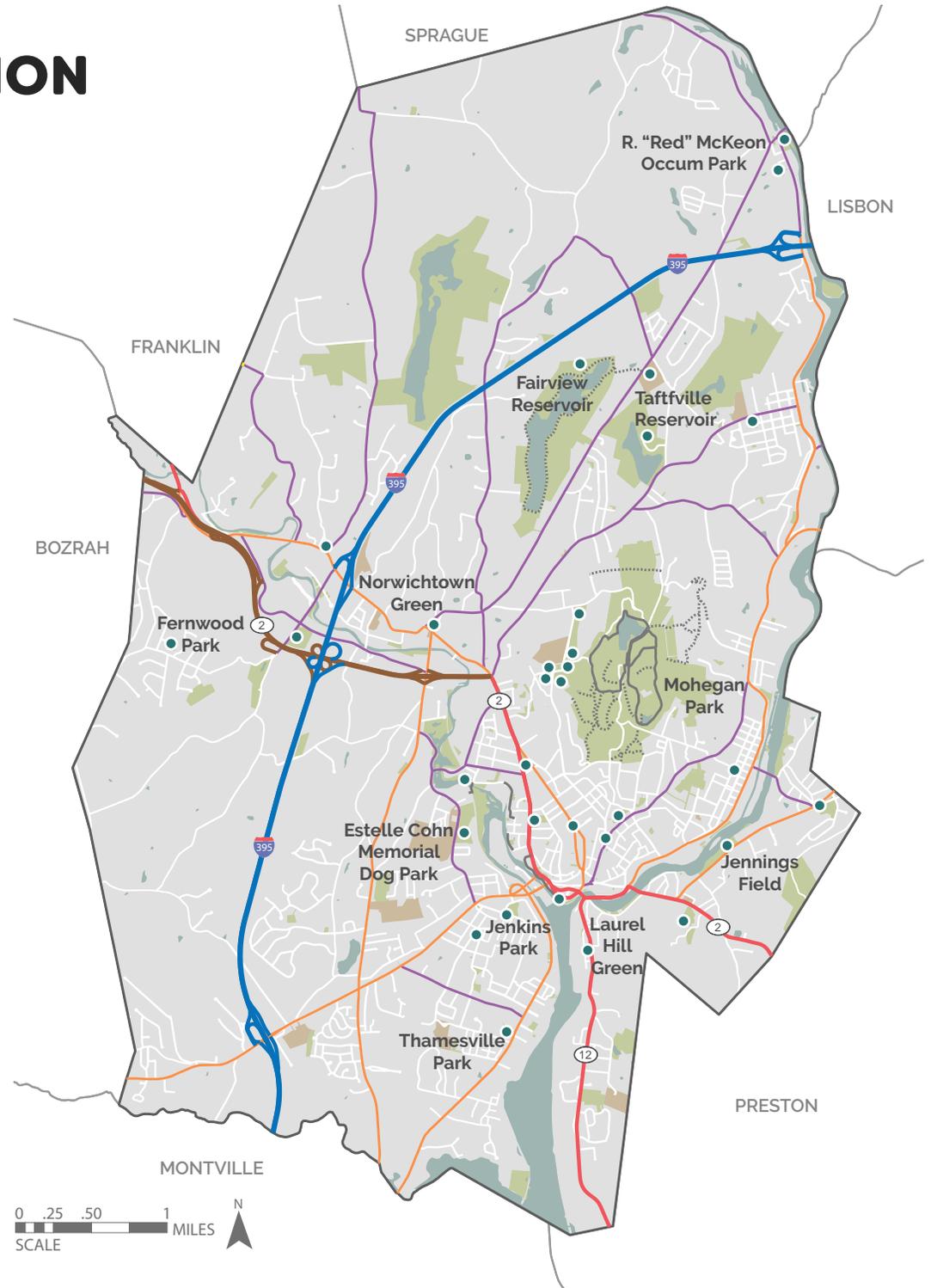
# ROADWAY CLASSIFICATION

## Roadway Classification

-  Interstate
-  Freeway/Expressway
-  Principal Arterial
-  Minor Arterial
-  Major Collector
-  Local Road

## Existing Facilities

-  Open Space
-  School Grounds
-  Water Body
-  Existing Pathways
-  Existing Trails
-  Parks



## Map Summary

This map categorizes the functional classification of roadways within the city using the Roadway Classification and Characteristic Dataset, made available by CTDOT.

This map is useful in determining, at a broad level, which roadways are suitable or unsuitable for network linkages. Generally, collector and local roads are ideal corridors for pedestrians and bicyclists, while interstates, freeways, expressways, and arterial roads are best avoided.



**Bicycle and pedestrian facilities are generally prohibited along interstates, freeways, and expressways.**



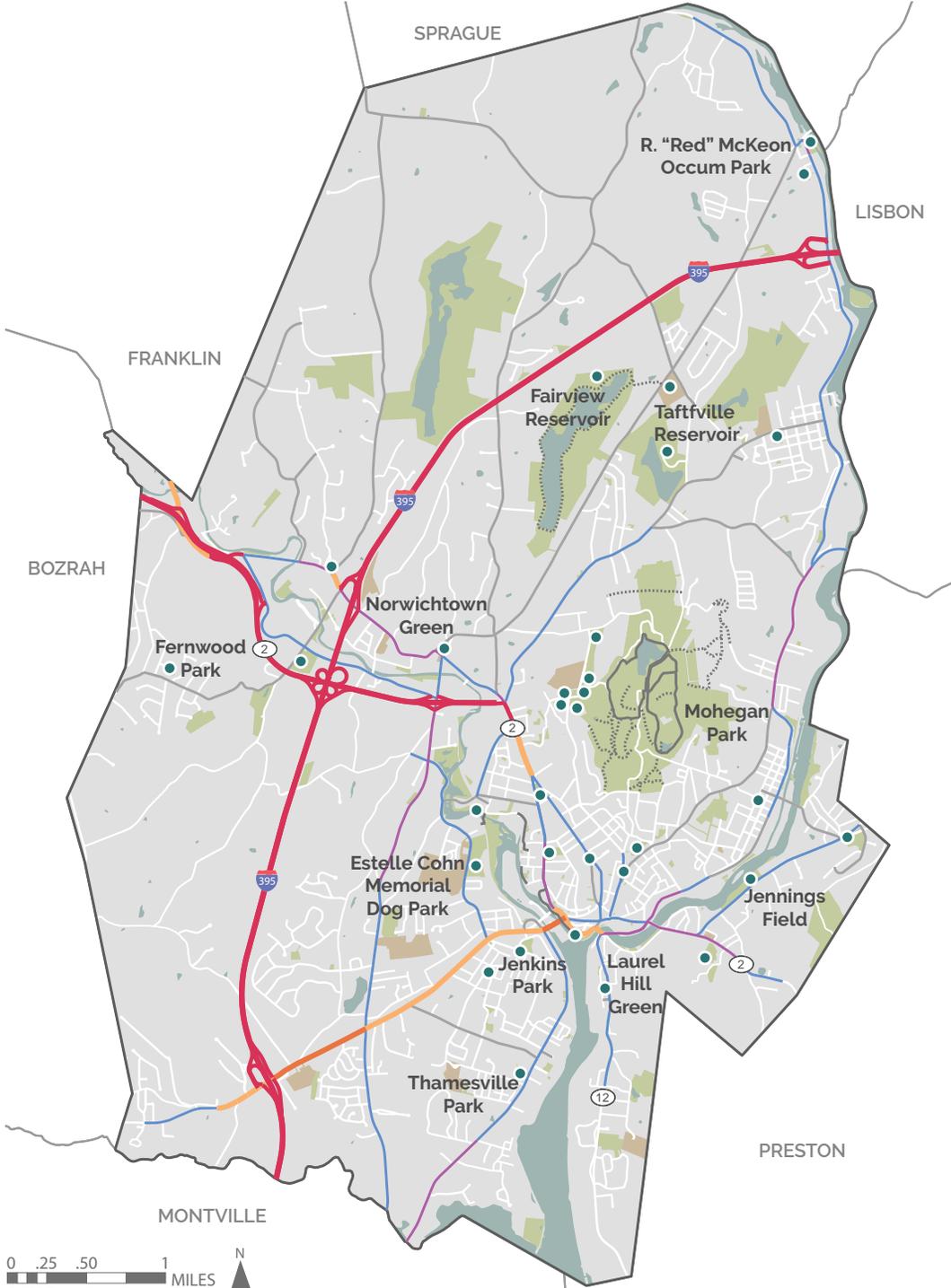
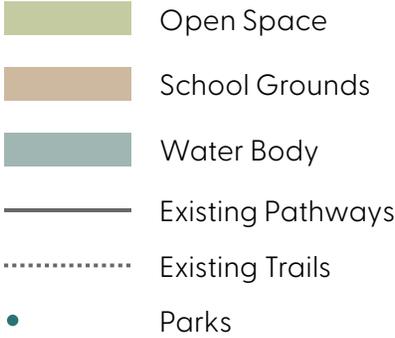
**Local roads, collector roads, and low-volume arterial roads are generally preferred for bicycle facilities.**

# TRAFFIC VOLUMES

## Average Daily Traffic Volumes



## Existing Facilities



# Map Summary

The Traffic Volume Map identifies the average daily traffic (ADT) count of roadways within the city.

The traffic volumes are sourced from the Traffic Monitoring Dataset, made available by CTDOT, and are categorized into six groups based on intervals of 5,000.

The selection matrix below from CTDOT 2023 Complete Streets Controlling Design Criteria and Justification Process provides guidance on the selection of appropriate bicycle facilities for traffic volume conditions. The facilities recommended in this plan were selected based upon this guidance and other factors surrounding conditions along the corridors.

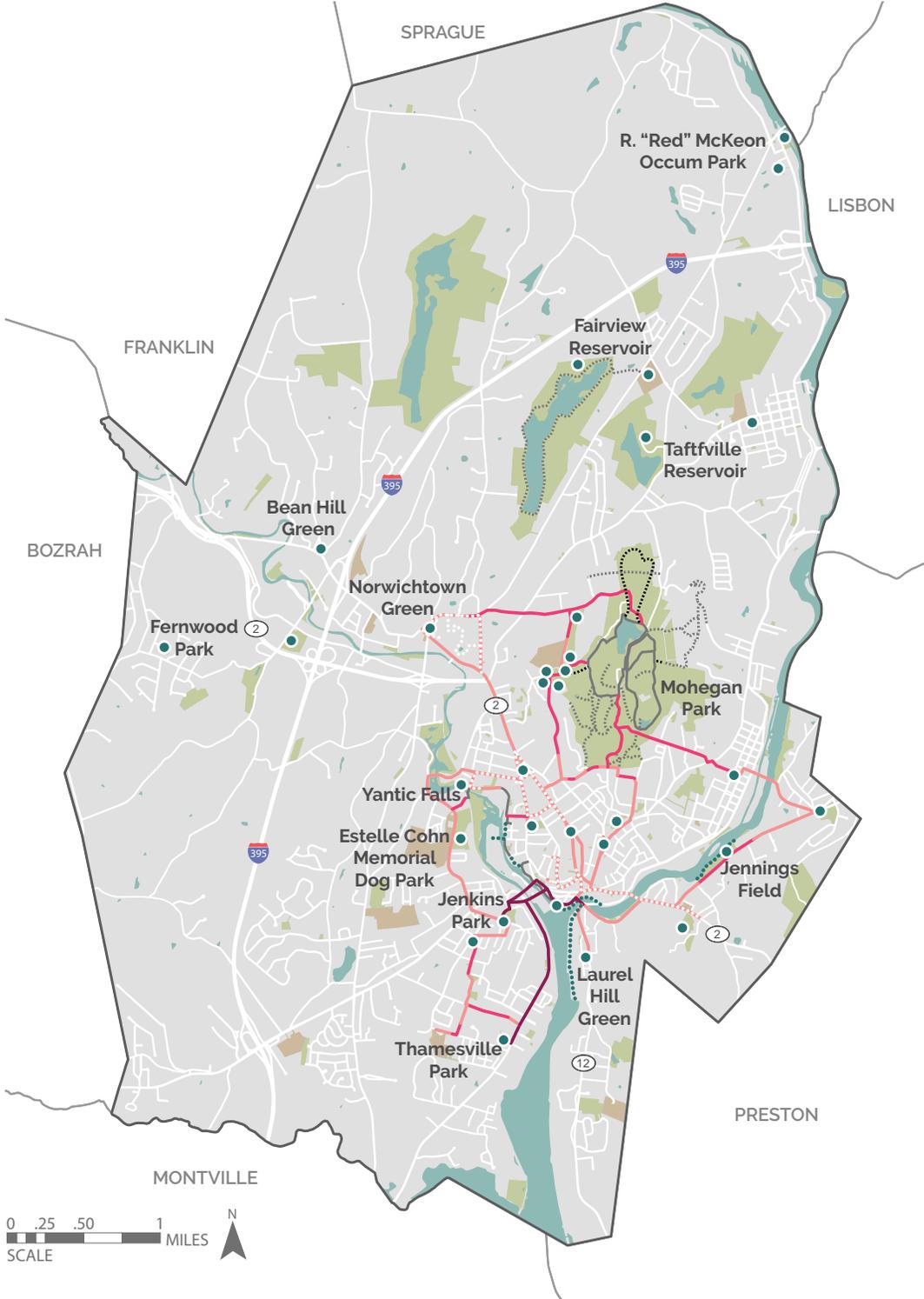
## Bike Facility Selection Matrix

	Traffic Volume (ADT)					
	0 - 5,000	5,000 - 10,000	10,000 - 15,000	15,000 - 20,000	20,000 - 25,000	25,000 +
Shared Roadway	Recommended	Acceptable				
Bike Lane	Recommended		Acceptable			
Buffered Bike Lane	Exceeds	Recommended			Acceptable	
Separated Bike Lane	Exceeds Recommendation			Recommended		
Side Path	Exceeds Recommendation		Recommended			

# PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY

## Pedestrian Connectivity

- Existing Sidewalk
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Proposed Side Path
- Existing Pathway
- ⋯ Proposed Riverfront Pathway
- ⋯ Existing Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Trail
- ⋯ Walk Norwich Routes
- Parks



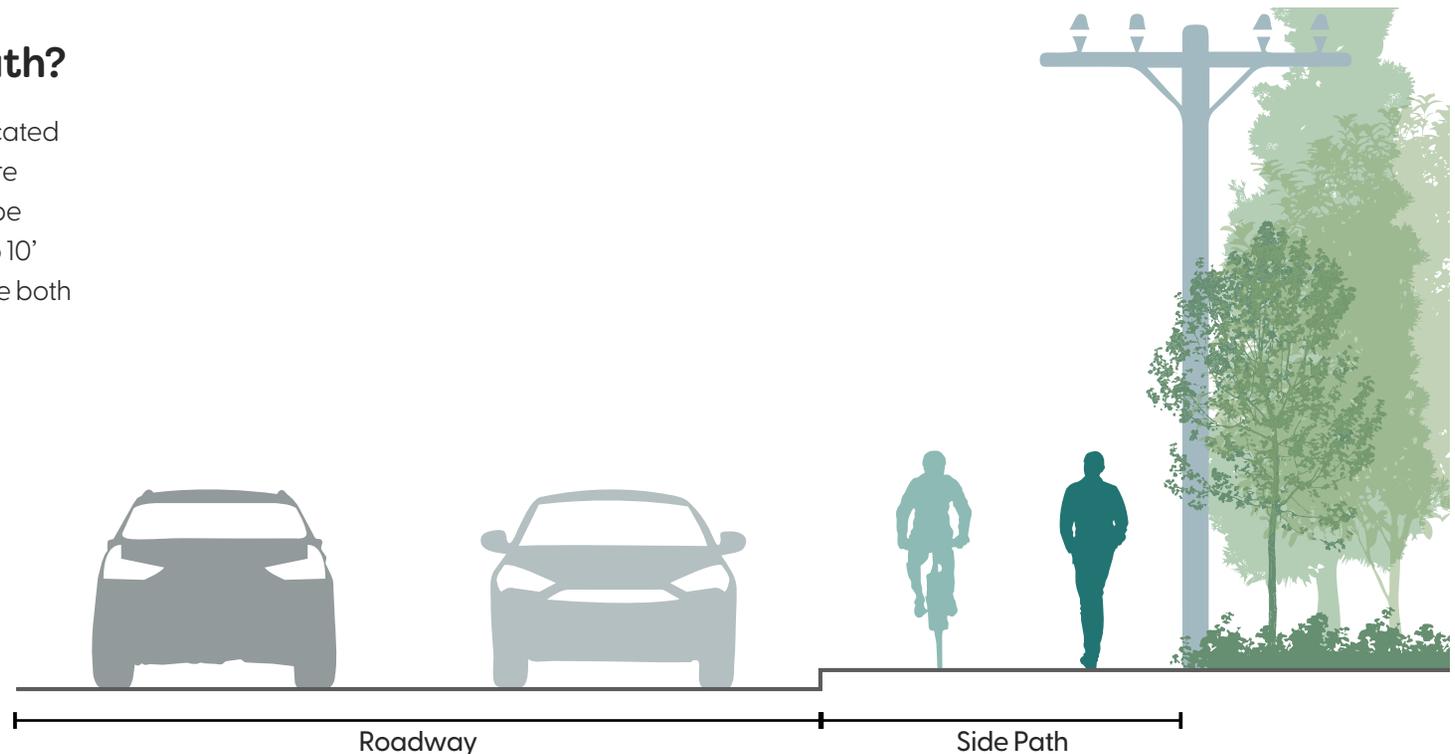
## Map Summary

This map shows a proposed network for pedestrian connectivity. It was informed by the existing facilities, gap analysis, roadway classification, and traffic volume analysis. Aerial mapping was also utilized to obtain approximate measurements of road widths when considering the viability of proposed facilities.

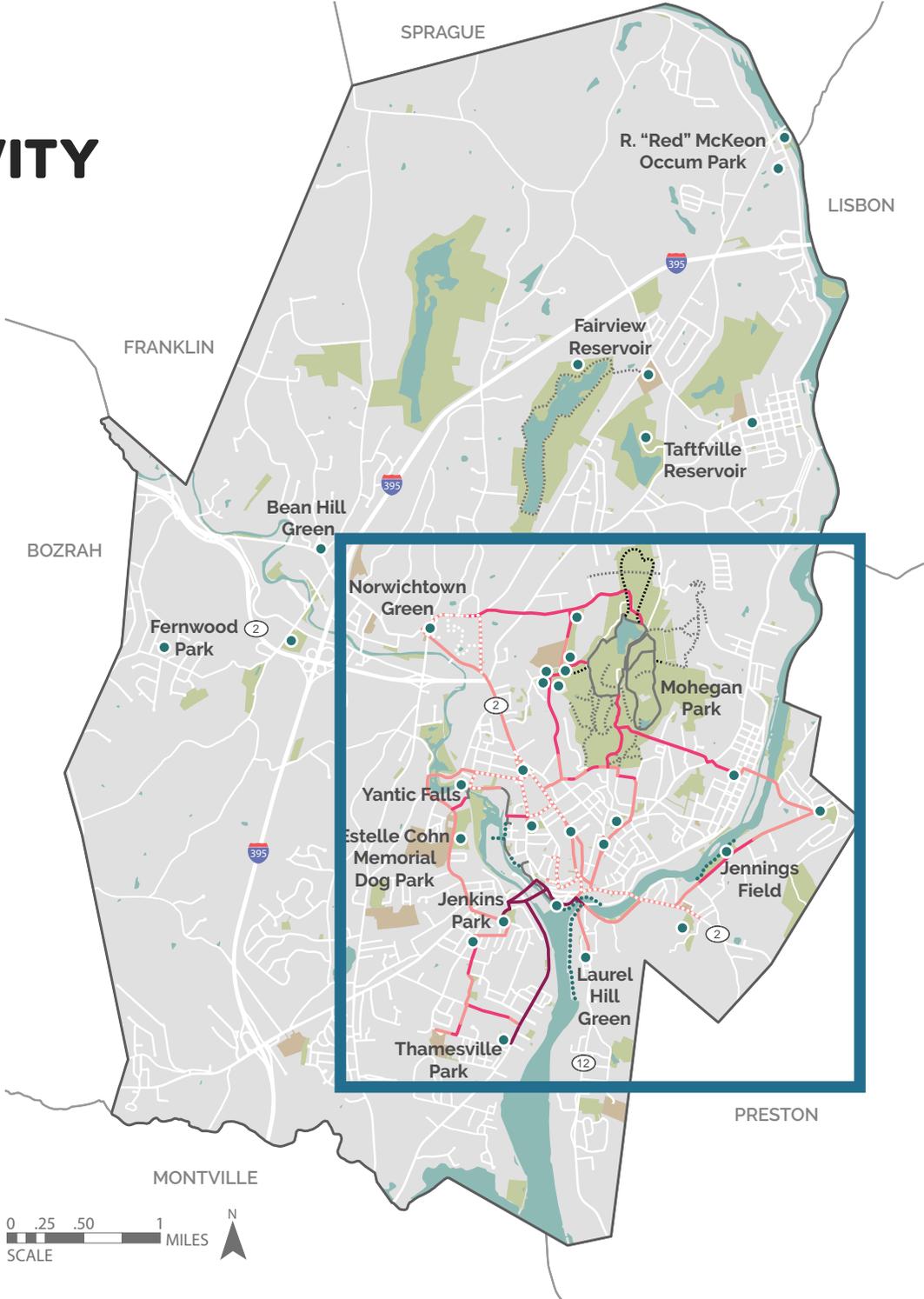
A preferred pedestrian network was mapped and divided into segments of existing and proposed sidewalks, pathways, and trails. Proposed sections of the riverfront pathway aim to close current gaps in the Heritage Trail, as well as expand this valuable amenity further south and east. In areas where appropriate, a side path is recommended as a means of accommodating both bicyclists and pedestrians.

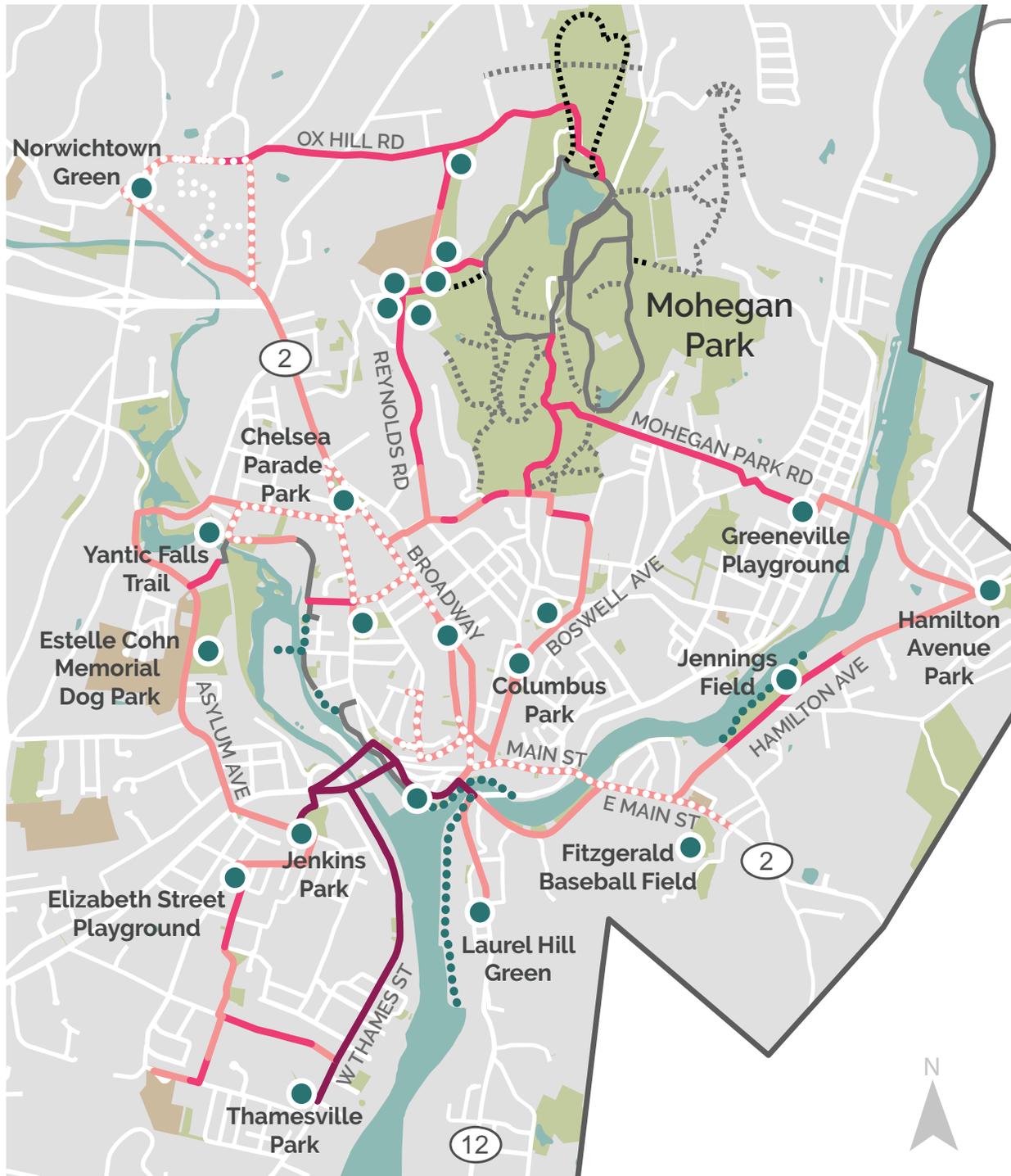
## What is a Side Path?

Side paths are pathways, located adjacent to a roadway where a sidewalk might otherwise be located, that are at least 8' to 10' wide and that accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians.



# PROPOSED DOWNTOWN PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY PLAN ENLARGEMENT





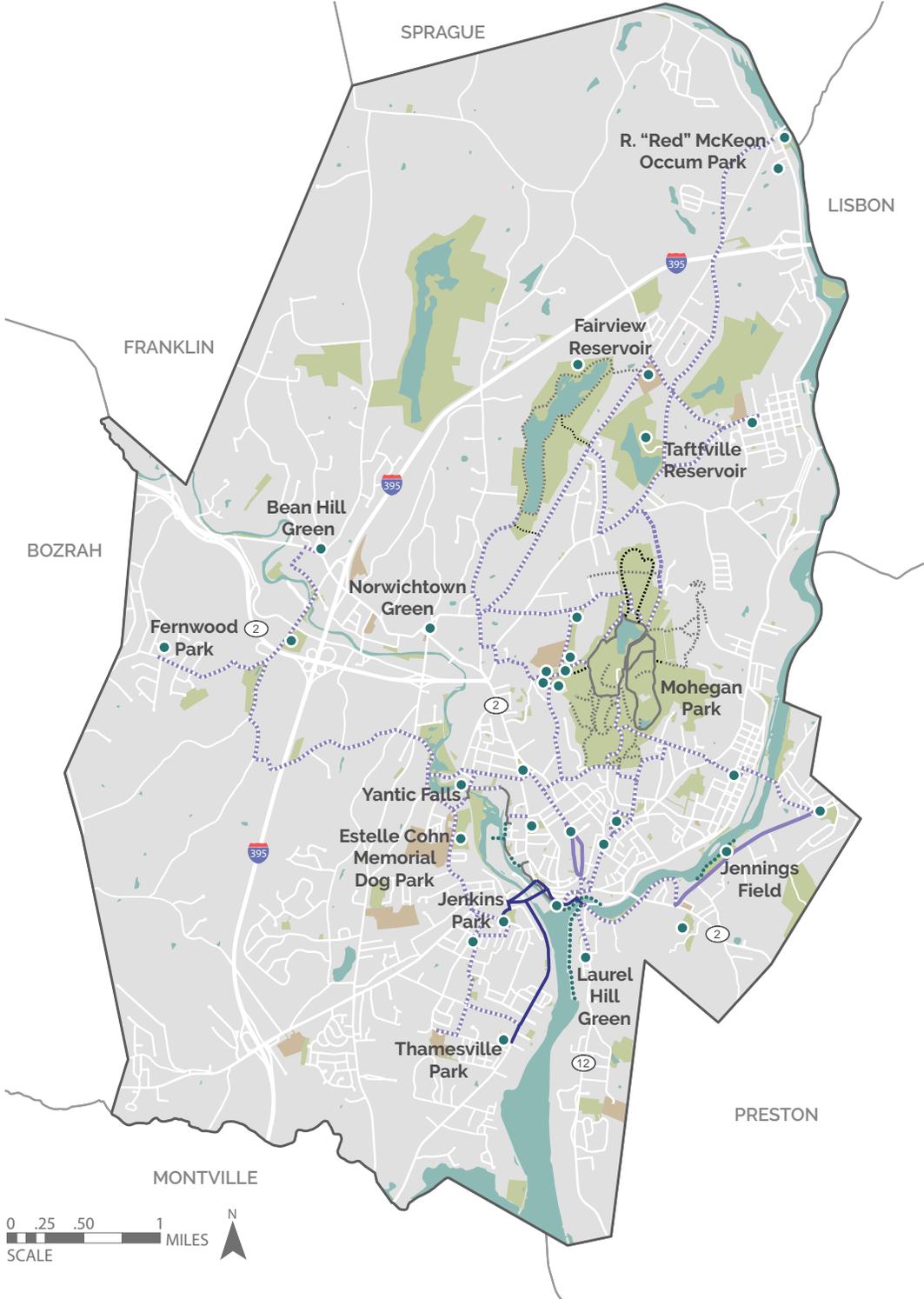
### Pedestrian Connectivity

- Existing Sidewalk
- Proposed Sidewalk
- Proposed Side Path
- Existing Pathway
- ⋯ Proposed Riverfront Pathway
- ⋯ Existing Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Trail
- ⋯ Walk Norwich Routes
- Parks

# PROPOSED CYCLIST CONNECTIVITY

## Cyclist Connectivity

- ⋯ Proposed Shared Lane
- Proposed Bike Lane
- Proposed Side Path
- Existing Pathway
- ⋯ Proposed Riverfront Pathway
- ⋯ Existing Trail
- ⋯ Proposed Trail
- Parks



# Map Summary

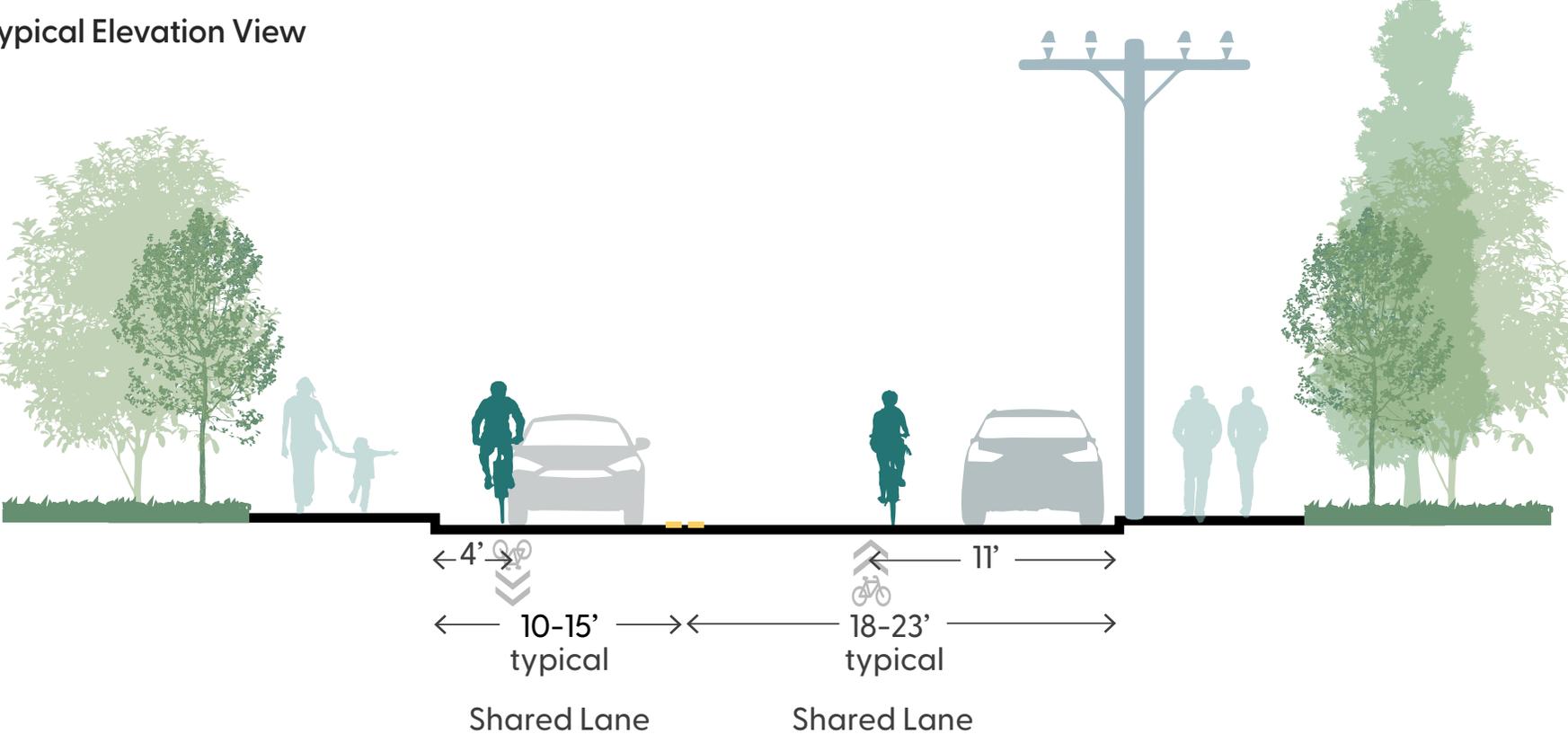
This map shows a proposed network for cyclist connectivity. It was informed by the existing facilities, gap analysis, roadway classification, and traffic volume analysis. Aerial mapping was also utilized to obtain approximate measurements of road widths when considering the viability of proposed segments.

A preferred cyclist network was mapped and divided into segments using the bike facility selection matrix shown above. The segments consist of shared roadways, designated bike lanes, proposed side paths, and trails.

Most of the proposed cyclist network requires minimal intervention to the existing roadway conditions. The implementation of shared roadways can contribute significantly to cyclist connectivity within the city, without changing existing curbs.

## Shared Roadway

### Typical Elevation View



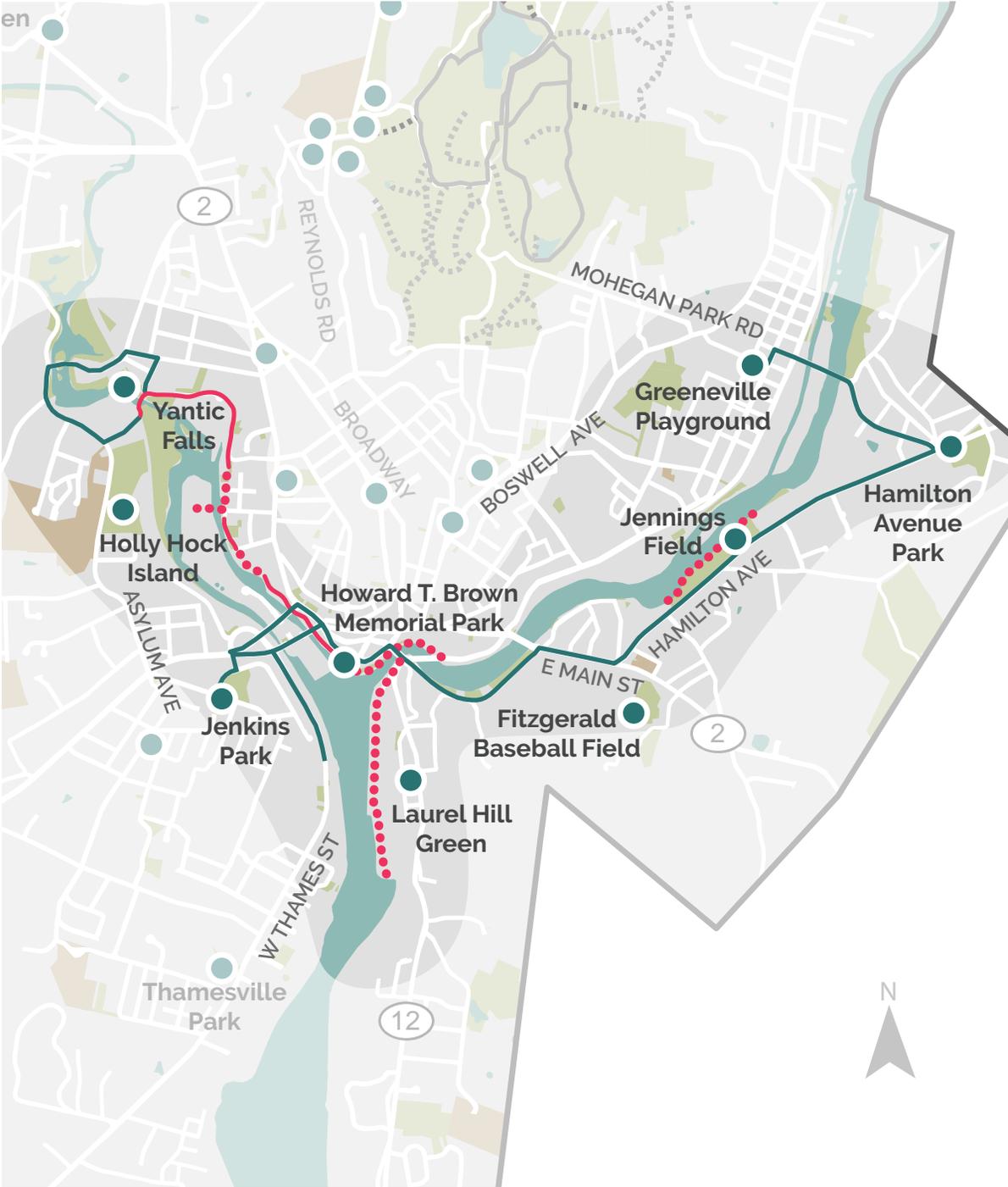
# RIVERFRONT CONNECTIVITY

## Riverfront Network

- Existing Riverfront Pathway
- ⋯ Proposed Riverfront Pathway
- Proposed Roadside Connectivity  
*Includes sidewalks, side paths, shared roadways, and designated bike lanes. See bicycle and pedestrian connectivity maps*

## Existing Facilities

- Open Space
- School Grounds
- Water Body
- Parks





**Thames St**  
Proposed side path



**Talman St**  
Proposed shared roadway



**New Wharf Rd**  
Proposed riverfront pathway

## Map Summary

This map shows the proposed network of on- and off-road connectivity along the Yantic, Thames, and Shetucket Rivers. Stretches of pink signify an off-road, riverfront pathway that accommodates cyclists and pedestrians. Blue lines highlight the supporting on-road network, which facilitate river crossings and offer water views. Key proposals include closing gaps along the Heritage Trail, extending the Heritage Trail beyond Howard T. Brown Memorial Park, building a pedestrian bridge to Holly Hock Island, and creating new pathways off of New Wharf Road along the Thames River as well as behind Jennings Field on the Shetucket River.



**Extending Heritage Trail beyond Brown Memorial Park**



**New pathway on New Wharf Road**



**New pathway behind Jennings Field**



**Closing gaps along Heritage Trail**



**Pedestrian Bridge to Holly Hock Island**



## SUMMARY

Norwich has an outstanding heritage trail system with the Heritage, Freedom, Uncas Leap, Benedict Arnold, and Millionaire Triangle routes. In addition, Mohegan Park has excellent trails throughout the park. These trail resources can be supplemented and expanded through a concentrated effort of property/easement acquisition, agreements with utility companies, and construction of facilities on existing park land. Ideally, parks can be connected with walk and bicycle routes so that residents that don't drive or have access to an automobile are afforded safe and comfortable access to parks. Additionally, these facilities may themselves constitute a recreation asset serving walkers, runners, and bicyclists. Multi-use trails have proven to be tremendously popular, and Norwich would benefit from expanding this asset.

“

*Connect the trail system.*

”

Response from the Norwich Master Parks Plan Survey

5

# PARK METRICS



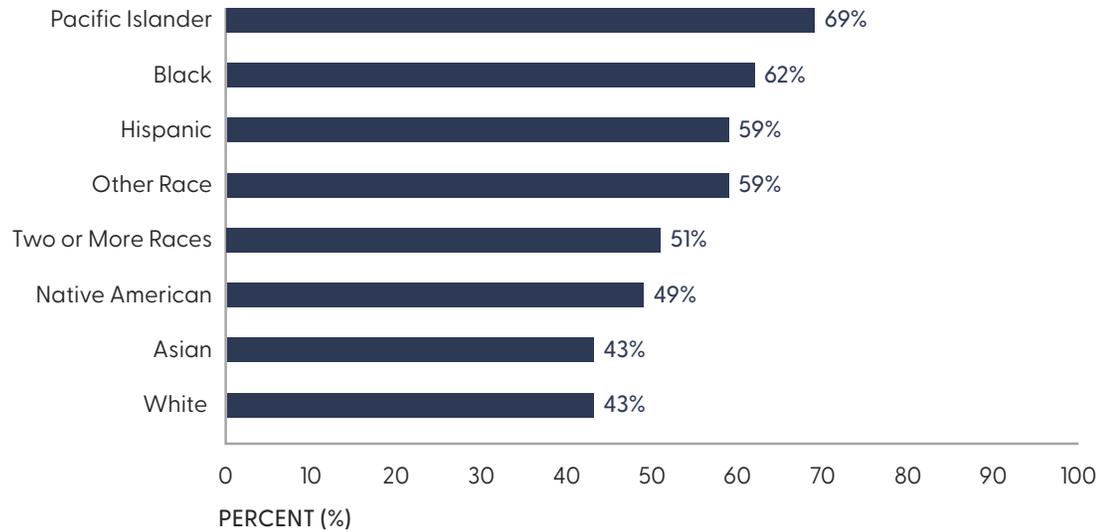
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# PARK METRICS

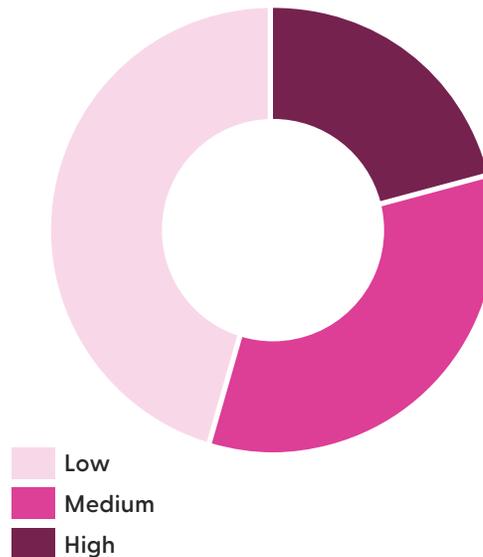
The following data has been extracted from ERSI and the National Recreation and Park Association Databases.

Metrics indicate that parks in the Norwich park system are largely within a 10-minute walk (a widely accepted metric) of a large part of the population and available to most. This was also confirmed through public outreach and interviews. The connectivity plan in this report would also improve the accessibility of the park system. Metrics also indicate that the system is widely equitable without any large gaps in service.

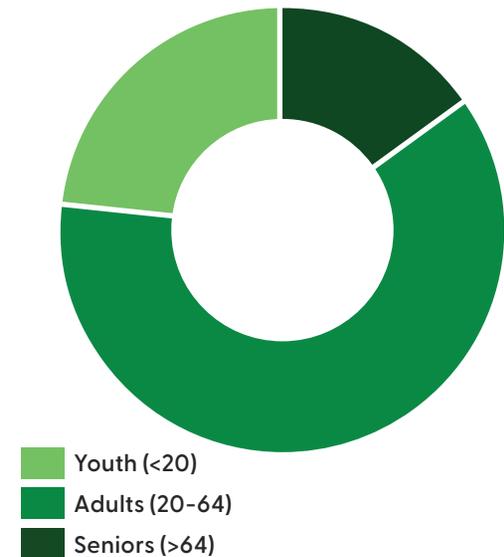
### 10-Minute Walk by Race



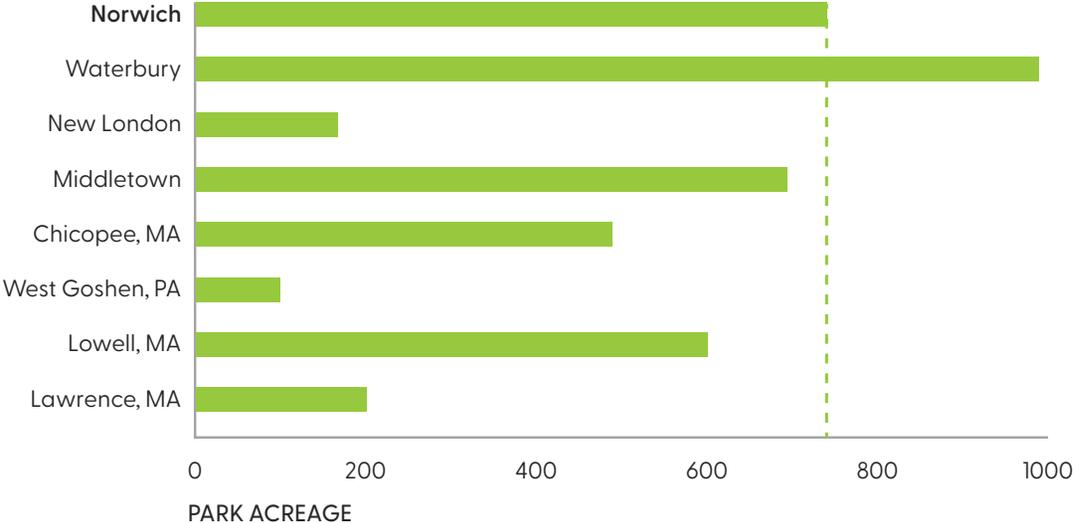
### 10-Minute Walk by Income



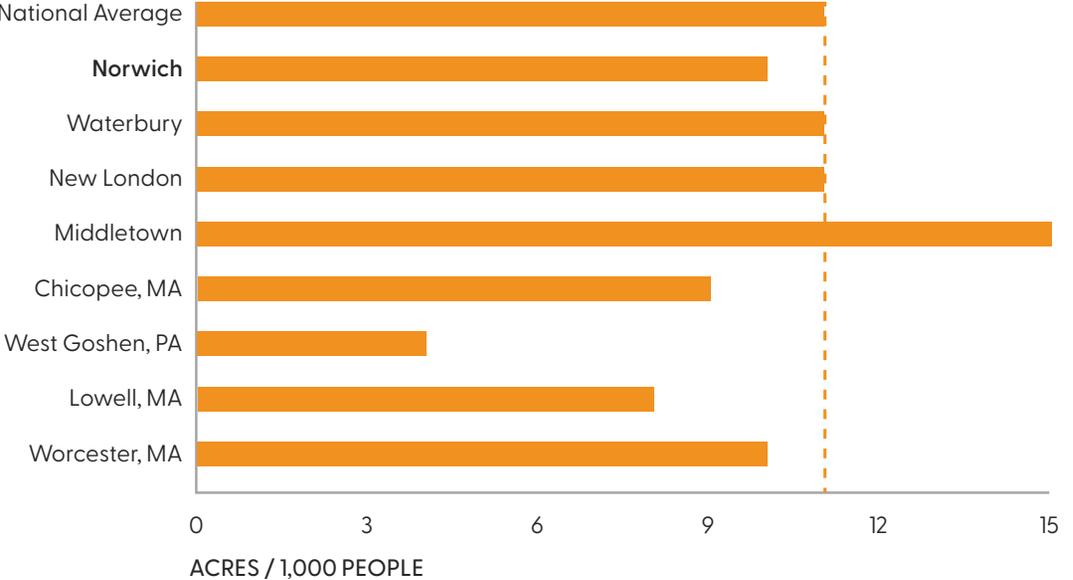
### 10-Minute Walk by Age



### Park Acreage by City

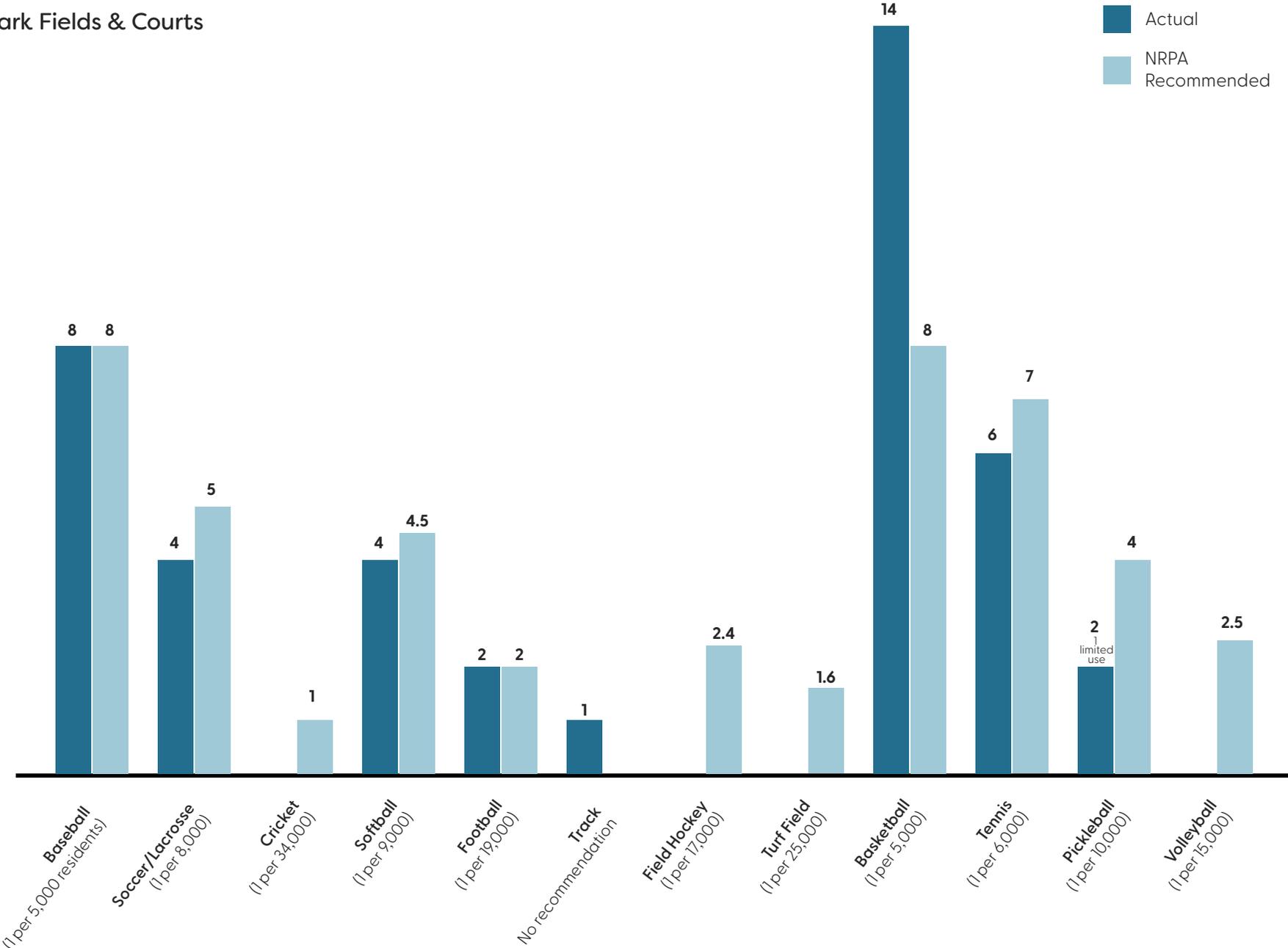


### Acres / 1,000 People by City



# Park Fields & Courts

Actual  
NRPA Recommended



## Park Access

### 10-Minute Walk Service Area

Represents a walkable half-mile service area from the park's access points (estimated as a 10-minute walk).

Data Source: Esri Street Network Premium 2023

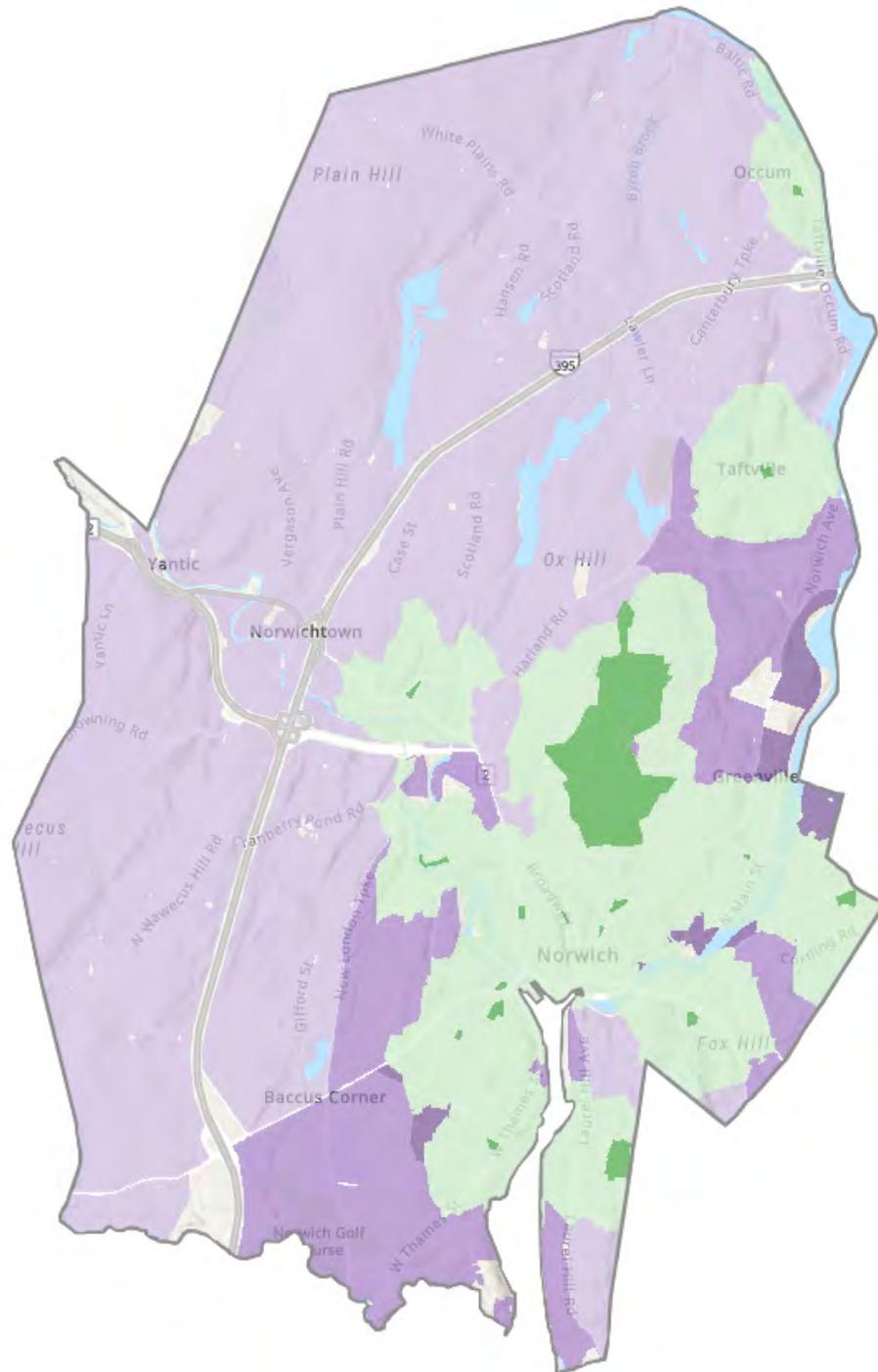
- Park With Public Access
- 10-Minute Walk Service Area

### Priority Areas for New Parks

Areas in a city outside of a 10-minute walk to a park are prioritized based on six equality-weighted factors: population density, density of low-income households, density of people of color, air pollution respiratory hazard, urban heat islands, and health (mental and physical activity).

Data Source: TPL ParkServe

- Priority Level**
- Very High
  - High
  - Moderate



Map Source: Trust for Public Land

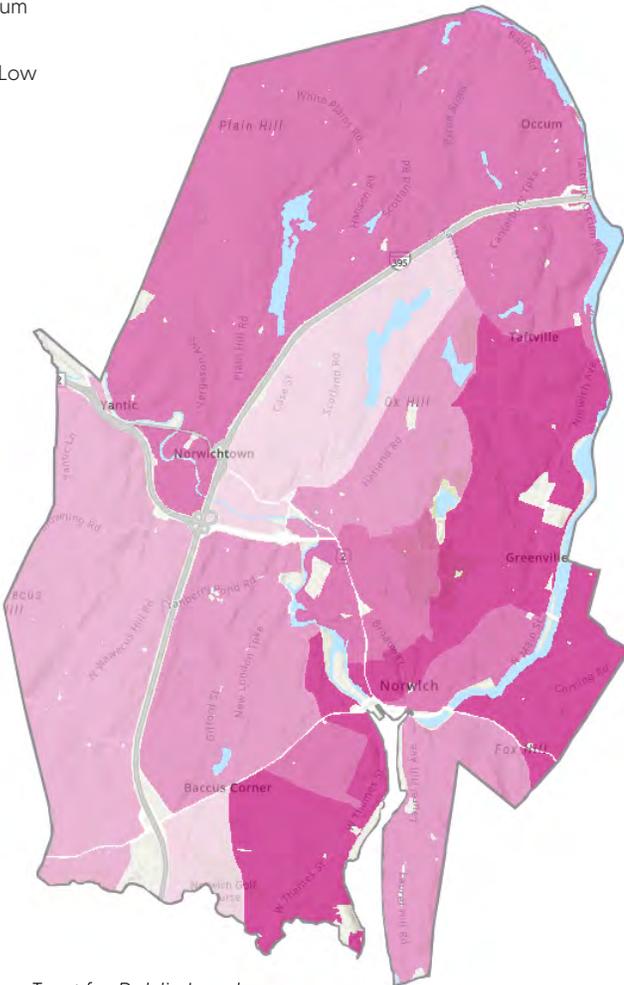
# Demographics

## Low Income Households

Percent of households with less than 75% of the urban area median household income.

Data Source: Esri 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



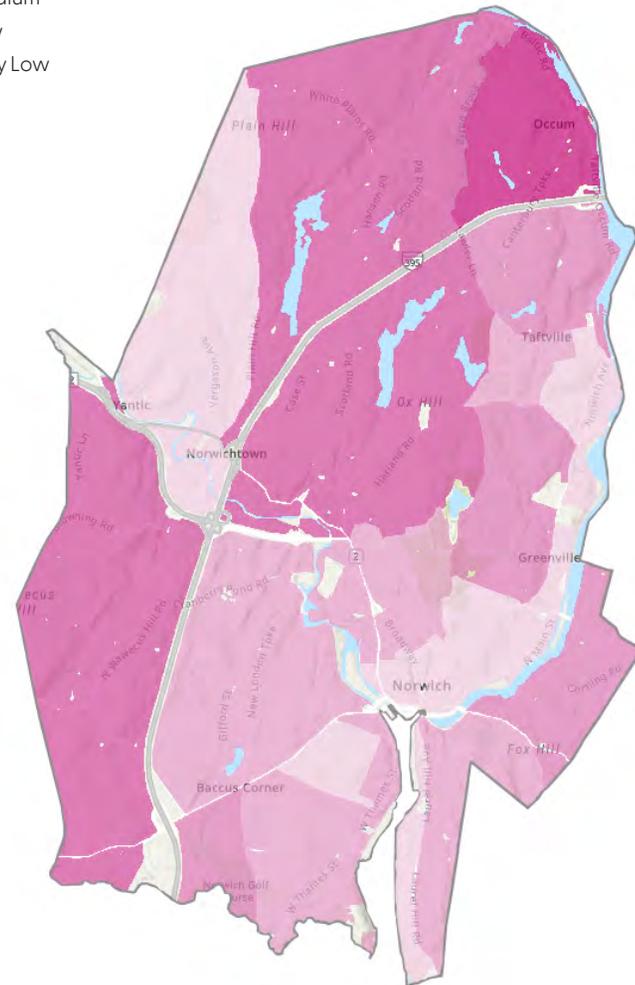
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

## Individuals Over Age 64

Percent of individuals over age 64.

Data Source: Esri 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



# Demographics

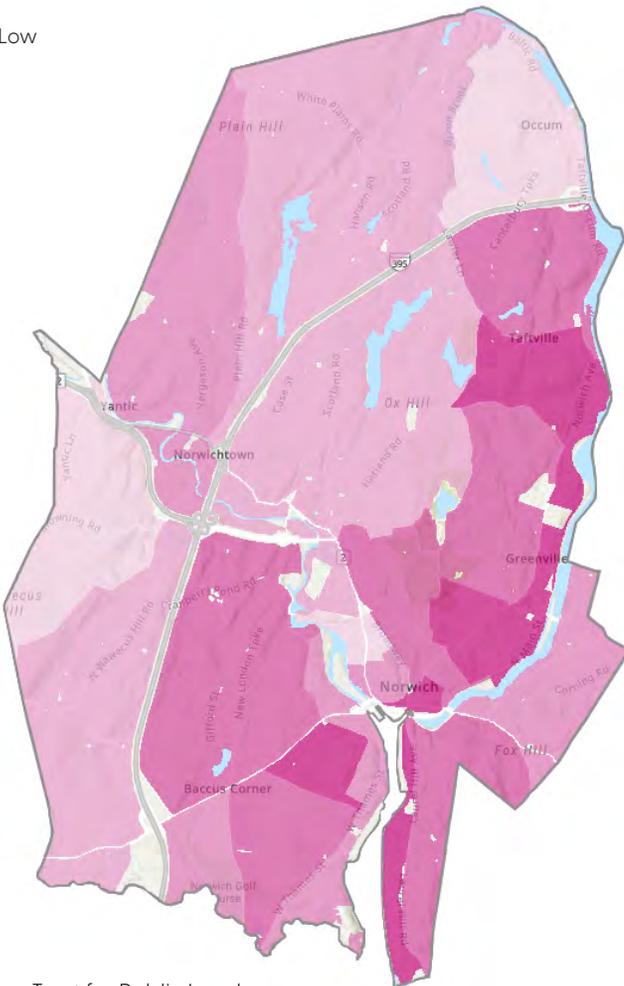
## Children Under 19

Percent of individuals under age 19.

Data Source: Esri 2022

Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



Map Source: Trust for Public Land

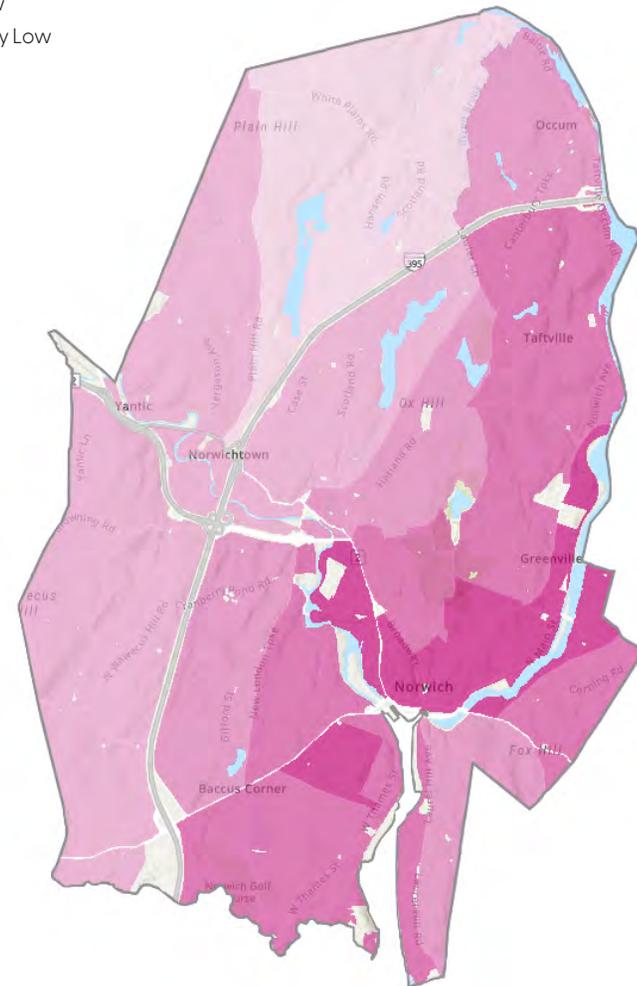
## Population Density

Number of individuals divided by acres of the block group.

Data Source: Esri 2022

Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



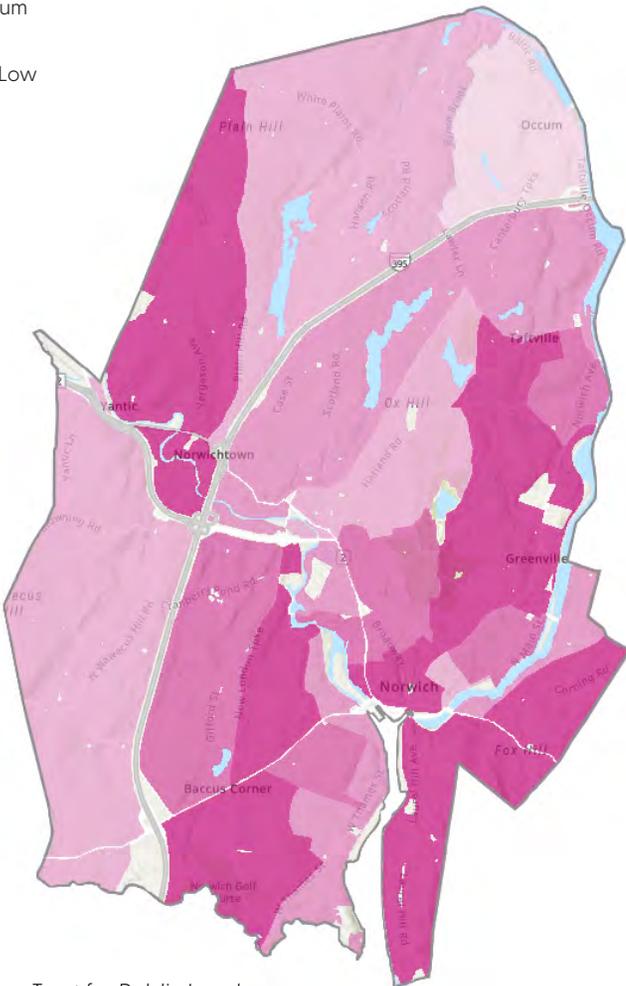
# Demographics

## Adults With Less Than High School Education

Percent of people age 25 or older in a block group whose education is short of a high school diploma.

Data Source: EPA EJScreen 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



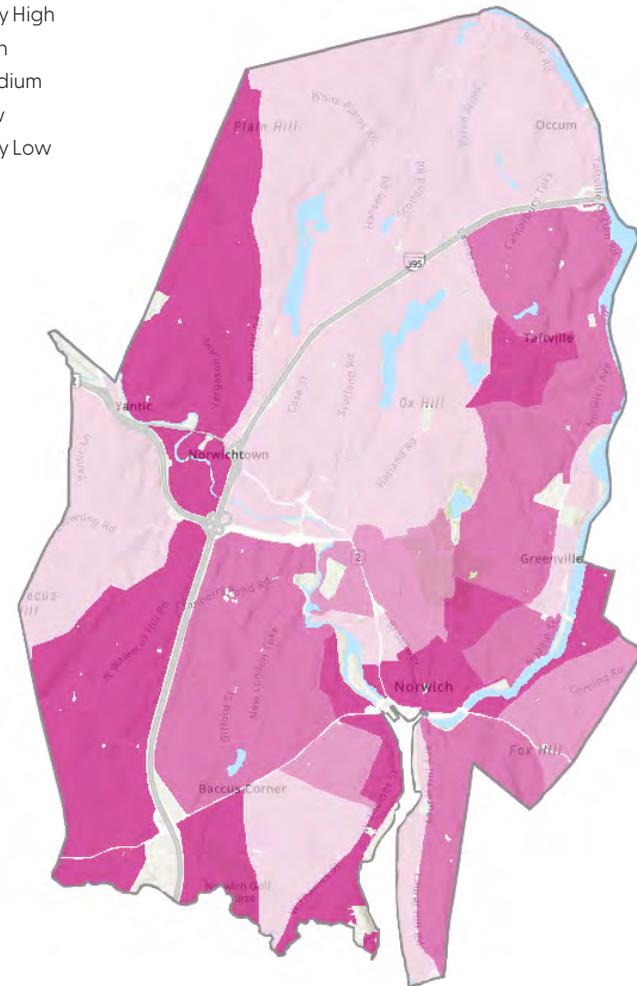
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

## Limited English Speaking

Percent of people in a block group living in limited English-speaking households. A household in which all members age 14 years and over speak a non-English language and also speak English less than “very well” (have difficulty with English) is limited English speaking.

Data Source: EPA EJScreen 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



# Health

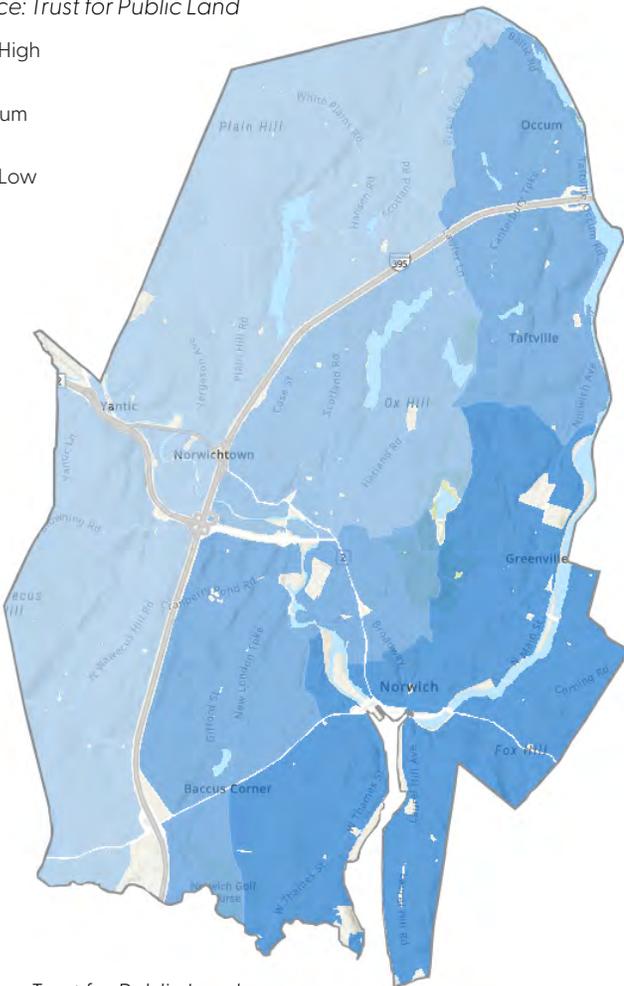
## Physical Inactivity

Percent respondents aged  $\geq 18$  who answered “no” to the following question:

“During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?”

Data Source: CDC PLACES 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



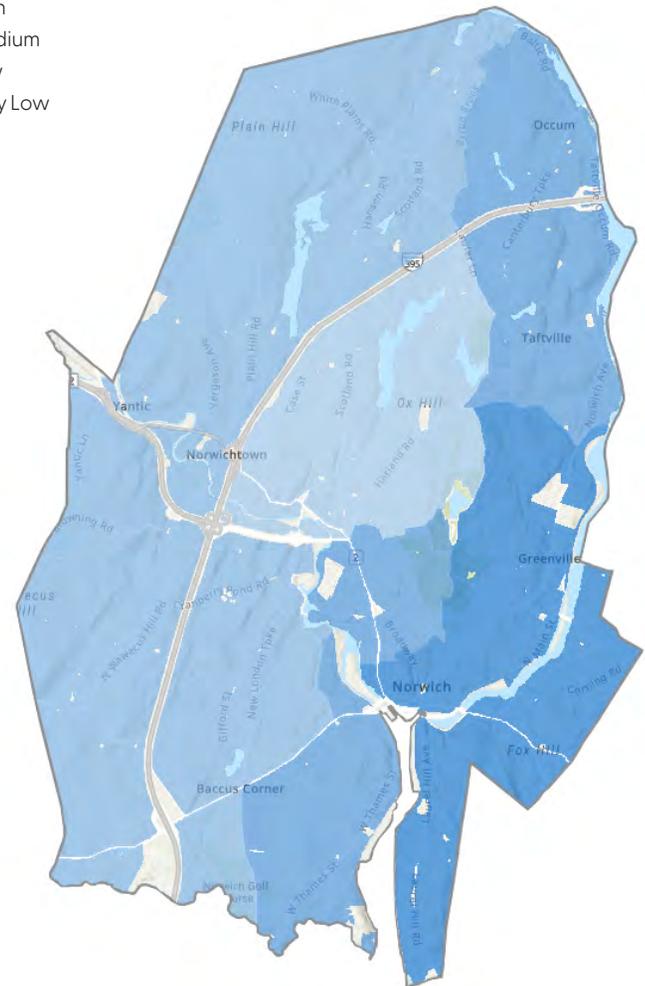
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

## Poor Mental Health

Percent of respondents aged  $\geq 18$  years who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental health was not good.

Data Source: CDC PLACES 2022  
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
- Very Low



Map Source: Trust for Public Land

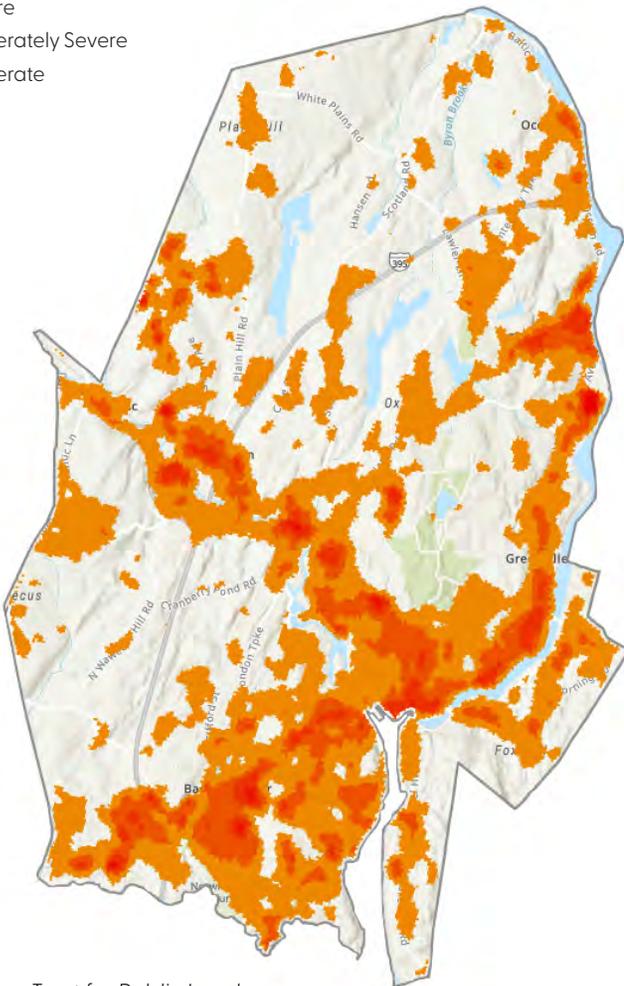
# Climate/Environment

## Urban Heat Island – City

Areas where thermal reflectance values are 1.25 degrees hotter than the selected city boundary.

Data Source: Trust for Public Land's urban heat islands dataset, derived from Landsat 8 satellite imagery from summer 2022.

- Extreme
- Very Severe
- Severe
- Moderately Severe
- Moderate



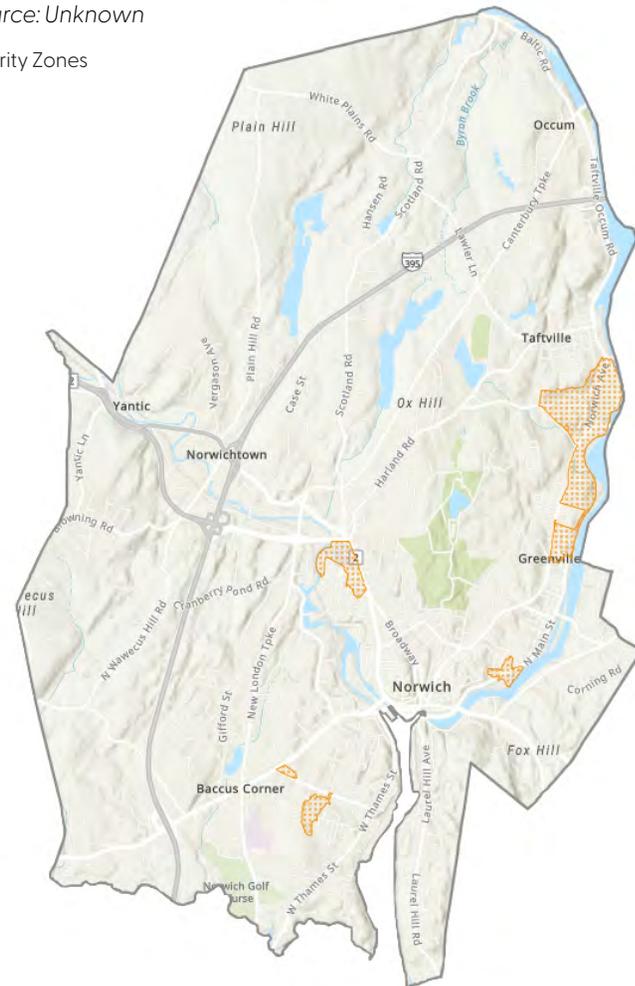
Map Source: Trust for Public Land

## Heat Risk Priority Zones

Areas where relatively high land surface temperatures coincide with high densities of people outside of a 10-minute walk of a park. The top five areas with highest population count are labeled (or fewer if there are less than five priority zones in the city). These areas represent where a new park and/or tree canopy cover could help mitigate heat risks.

Data Source: Unknown

- + Priority Zones



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6

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



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## OVERVIEW

A critical goal of the Master Parks Plan is to meet the needs and reflect the vision of the City of Norwich’s residents. Throughout the development of this plan, the City of Norwich engaged a diverse group of stakeholders to learn about the needs and desires of residents in Norwich. The stakeholder engagement process was focused on creating a more equitable and accessible park system that serves all residents across the city of Norwich. To reach a wide range of residents across Norwich, an online survey was developed and distributed to learn how residents use the park system, as well as their ideas on how to improve it. Community members also participated in focus group sessions with an open discussion format that provided valuable feedback on how community members use the parks and ways they would like to see the parks improved. To further engage Norwich residents in the planning process, interactive boards were displayed at two community festivals to invite community members to share their ideas and vision for parks across the city of Norwich.

## Stakeholder Focus Group Sessions

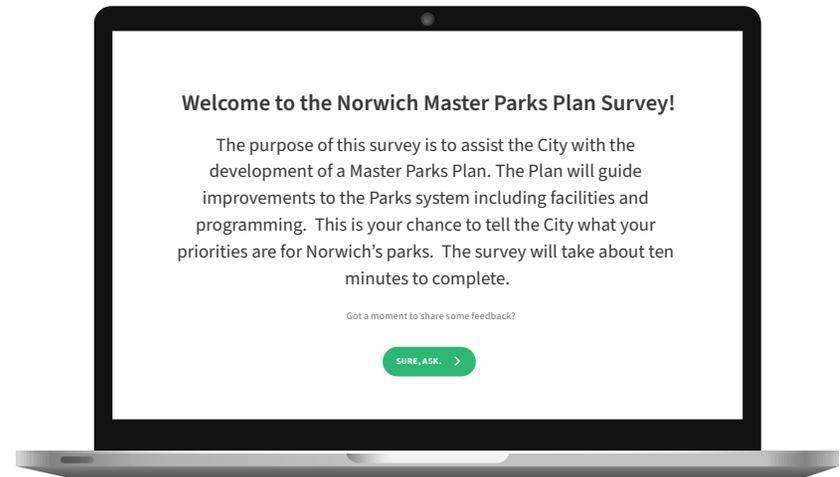
Focus group sessions were conducted with a diverse range of stakeholders to gain insight into the experiences and perspectives of Norwich residents while using the park system. One-hour focus group meetings were held with the following groups:

- Greenville Neighborhood Committee
- Norwich Police Department
- The Arc Eastern Connecticut
- Madonna Place
- Blooming into Greatness
- Rose City Senior Center



## Online Survey

An online survey was conducted to get a sense of how residents in Norwich feel about their park system, how they use the parks, and their ideas for improving them. The survey was distributed at town facilities, to community groups, on the city's social media platforms. The in-depth survey, consisting of 25 questions yielded responses from 174 community members, which provided valuable information to help inform the development of the Master Parks Plan.



## Sample Survey Responses

Full community engagement results can be found in Appendix A and B.

What do you like best about Norwich's Parks?



## Survey Comments



## How do you use Norwich parks?



## What would be your priority for investing in parks?

- 1 New facilities in existing parks
- 2 Maintenance
- 3 Trails and Bikeways
- 4 Protection of natural resources
- 5 Programming
- 6 New parks

## Pop-Up Events

In order to meet residents where they are, interactive boards were set-up at two community festivals to give community members the opportunity to provide feedback and ideas for improving the park system.

### Community events with interactive boards:

- Wellness Walk & Bike Safety Event (May 20, 2023)
- Juneteenth Community Cookout (June 19th, 2023)

### Stakeholder Acknowledgment Names:

- LaShawn Cunningham, Blooming Into Greatness
- Blooming into Greatness Youth
- Luan Cadahia, Madonna Place
- Deputy Chief Corey Poore, Officer Neal Carmody and Officer Liz Harsley, Norwich Police Department
- Denise Tift, The Arc Eastern Connecticut
- Michael Wolak, Rose City Senior Center
- Nancy Procko and Judith Post, Greenville Neighborhood Committee



# SUMMARY

The planning team spoke with a variety of residents and found that they are generally happy with the park system, only speaking of the need for minor improvements. By far the most popular park is Mohegan Park, with users expressing a genuine pride in the facility. Teenagers were the most vocal group, expressing a desire for additional activities, restrooms, and better biking and pedestrian access from the neighborhoods.

Throughout the outreach efforts, the following recurring themes emerged:

- There is a critical need to keep people cool during warm days. Parks need splash pads.
- Mohegan Park is the city's gem, but other parks throughout the city need improvements.
- Parks lack furniture and amenities to enjoy.
- Parks need to be suited to host more community programs.
- Lighting is needed throughout the park system to enhance safety.

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7

# RECOMMENDATIONS

THE VISION



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## OVERVIEW

The Master Parks Plan includes recommendations to guide system-wide improvements, along with more specific recommendations for existing park sites. Together, the goals, objectives, system-wide recommendations, and site recommendations provide direction for how the City or Norwich can develop, program, and manage the Rose City Park system to better meet community needs.

The project recommendations and improvements described in this section of the report represent the vision of the community and the Norwich Recreation Department, and will guide the city's efforts to improve and enhance park and recreation opportunities in Norwich over the next 10+ years.

This chapter describes specific actions that are suggested for improvements to existing park and recreation facilities. These recommendations are presented with detailed cost estimates in Chapter 8 for the particular recommended project. Based upon evaluations of thirty-two (32) park and recreation facilities, public engagement input, and input from city staff, a series of conceptual improvement plans for thirty parks were developed to guide the long-term implementation of future investments in the Rose City Park system, as well as potential site locations for a new signature park.

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## Concept Plans

The following park concept plans are presented in order of their geographic location within the City of Norwich.

R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park	156	Chelsea Parade Park	194
Rev. Samson Occum Park	158	Yantic Falls	196
Moriarty Field	160	Greeneville Playground	198
Taftville Park	162	Washington Street Park	200
Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park	164	Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park	202
Fairview Reservoir	166	Lake Street Park	204
Bean Hill Green	168	Little Plain Park	206
Norwichtown Green	170	Columbus Park	208
Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park	172	Hamilton Avenue Park	210
Fontaine Field	174	Jennings Field	212
Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts	176	Howard T. Brown Memorial Park	214
Armstrong Tennis Courts	178	Jenkins Park	216
Luis DePina Recreation Field	180	Fitzgerald Baseball Field	218
Dickenman Field	182	Elizabeth Street Playground	220
Mohegan Park	184	Laurel Hill Green	222
Fernwood Park	192	Thamesville Park	224

## R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park

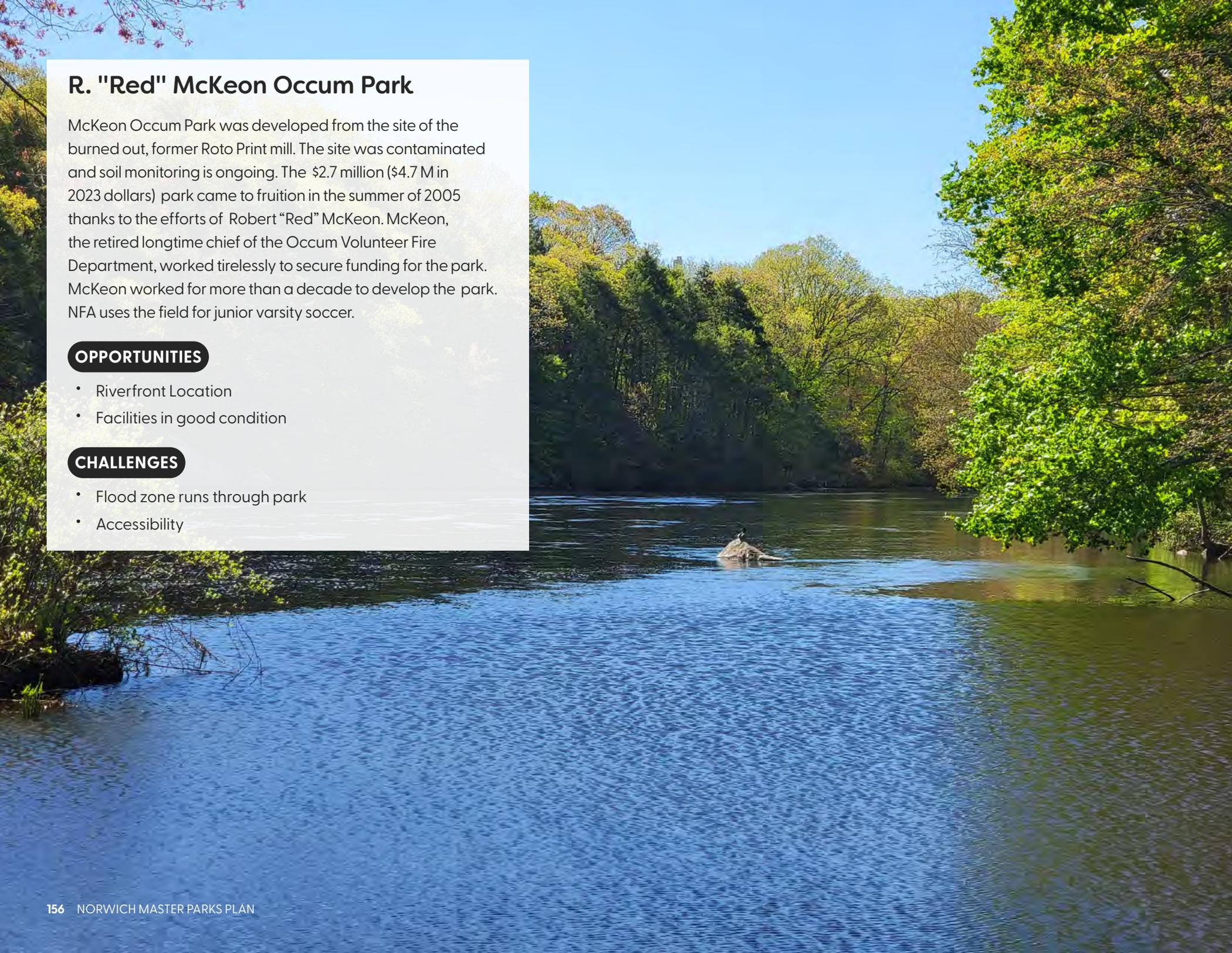
McKeon Occum Park was developed from the site of the burned out, former Roto Print mill. The site was contaminated and soil monitoring is ongoing. The \$2.7 million (\$4.7 M in 2023 dollars) park came to fruition in the summer of 2005 thanks to the efforts of Robert "Red" McKeon. McKeon, the retired longtime chief of the Occum Volunteer Fire Department, worked tirelessly to secure funding for the park. McKeon worked for more than a decade to develop the park. NFA uses the field for junior varsity soccer.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Riverfront Location
- Facilities in good condition

### CHALLENGES

- Flood zone runs through park
- Accessibility

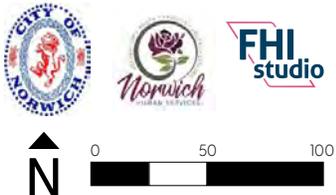


# R. "RED" MCKEON OCCUM PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Pavilion
- 2 River Trail
- 3 Renovate Multi-Purpose Field
- 4 Expand Play Area
- 5 Interpretative Signage for Occum Dam & Reservoir
- 6 Kayak Launch
- 7 Accessible Walk
- 8 Reconfigure Parking Lot
- 9 Add Shade Trees
- 10 Replace Existing Lighting with Dark Sky Friendly Light Fixtures and Add New Lighting Where Needed



## Rev. Samson Occum Park

This park is in the northeast part of the city in the Occum Neighborhood off of Taftville–Occum Road. Located behind the Bubbles to Butterfly swim school, the park is underused due in part to its visual inaccessibility from adjacent roadways.

Samson Occum (1723–1792) was a member of the Mohegan nation, who became a Presbyterian cleric. Occum was the second Native American to publish his writings in English and the first Native American to write his autobiography. Occum became one of the foremost missionaries who cross-fertilized Native American communities with Christianized European culture.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Level topography
- Access

### CHALLENGES

- Visibility



# REV. SAMSON OCCUM PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Berm and Planted Buffer
- 2 Multi-Purpose Field
- 3 Parking
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 Establish Pedestrian Entrance on Taftville-Occum Road
- 6 Accessible Walk
- 7 Add Shade Trees
- 8 Add Security Lighting



## Moriarty Field

This baseball field is on the grounds of the John M. Moriarty Elementary School, and is used and maintained by the City of Norwich.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Connection to Raymond "CIT" Ouellete Park

### CHALLENGES

- Competition with Moriarty Elementary School for use



# MORIARTY FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Establish Accessible Route to Dugouts and Bleachers
- 2 Regrade and Replace Clay at Home Plate to Eliminate Low Spot
- 3 Repair/Replace Backstop
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 New Multi-Use Trail
- 6 Existing Trail



## Taftville Park

Taftville Park is small 2.7-acre neighborhood park located behind the non-descript Taftville Fire Station. In 2017, the little league field was replaced by a playscape and other features.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Proximity to dense residential neighborhood
- Facilities in good condition
- Use by Sacred Heart School

### CHALLENGES

- Visibility
- Small size



# TAFTVILLE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Community Gardens
- 2 Splash Pad
- 3 Expanded Parking
- 4 2-5 Year Old Play Area
- 5 Vegetate Site
- 6 Shade for Existing Playground
- 7 Site Furniture Throughout
- 8 Evergreen Screen
- 9 Security Lighting
- 10 Renovate Existing Walking Path and Add New Accessible Walk
- 11 Establish Park Entrance on Providence Street
- 12 City Park Sign



## Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park

Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park (previously known as Taftville Reservoir Park) was developed in 1996 to plans by FMA Partnership Landscape Architects. Facilities include two softball fields, (Frank Delgado and Lefty Dugas Fields) a full-sized soccer field (Jack Lonardelli Field), two youth soccer fields (P.A.L. Fields), a playground and parking. The playground was constructed in 1998. Fields are irrigated and lighted. The park is adjacent to the Taftville Reservoir and Moriarty Elementary School and an informal trail connects the properties. This is one of Norwich's largest parks and along with Fontaine Field, the city's premier athletic fields.

An undated master plan depicts extension development west of the reservoir and a trail around it.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Premier Fields
- Adjacent to Taftville Reservoir and Moriarty School

### CHALLENGES

- Location is away from population centers
- Accessibility



# RAYMOND "CIT" OUELLET PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Renovate Existing Fields
- 2 Renovation Play Area
- 3 Add Picnic Area
- 4 Renovate Existing Parking Lot
- 5 Pave Drive to & Parking Lot at Practice Field
- 6 Renovate Practice Fields
- 7 Add Security Lighting
- 8 Add Shade Trees
- 9 Add Restroom

## MAP LEGEND

- Property Line
- Zone AE - Flood Hazard
- Existing Park Trails
- Proposed Multi-Use Park Trails



## Fairview Reservoir

Located in the Norwichtown neighborhood, Fairview Reservoir is a backup reservoir for the City of Norwich. As such, there is a large buffer of woodlands of deciduous and coniferous trees that surrounds it. A water tank is also on the property. The property is currently posted as off limits to the public.

The Fairview Reservoir Plan of Development was adopted in 1990 and includes recommendations for the establishment of public trails.

### OPPORTUNITIES

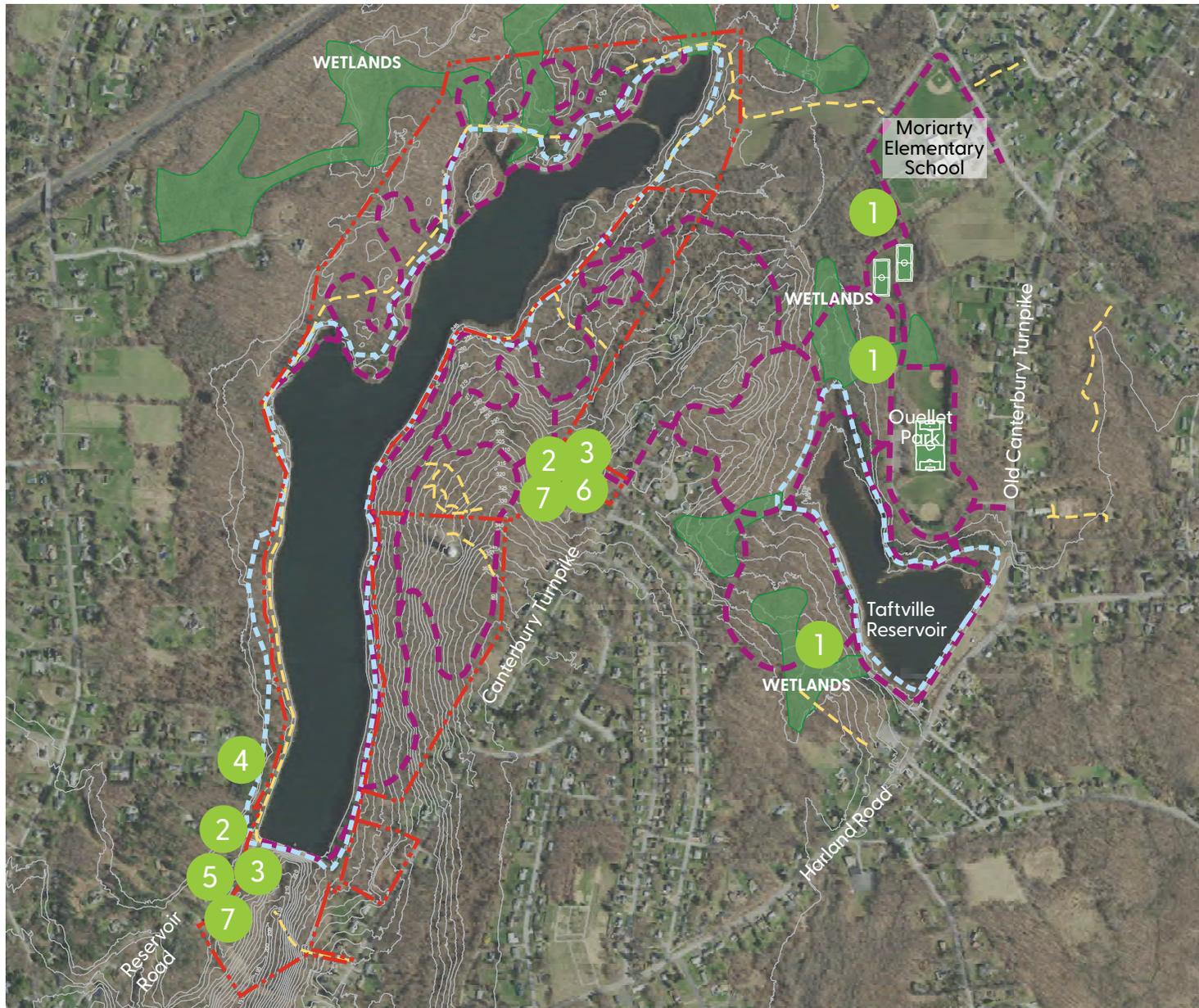
- Large open space and water body
- Desirable trails location

### CHALLENGES

- Protection of public water supply
- Location



# FAIRVIEW RESERVOIR CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Proposed Trail Connections to Ouellet Park, Taftville Reservoir & Moriarty Field
- 2 Trail Head & Entrance Feature
- 3 City Park Sign
- 4 Kayak Launch
- 5 Formalize Reservoir Road Parking Lot
- 6 Locate New Parking Lot on Canterbury Turnpike
- 7 Add Security Lighting in Parking Lots

## MAP LEGEND

-  Property Line
-  Zone AE - Flood Hazard
-  Existing Park Trails
-  Proposed Multi-Use Park Trails



## Bean Hill Green

In the Bean Hill National Register Historic District, Bean Hill Green is one of the city's historic greens. Today, the Bean Hill neighborhood is a mix of residential, commercial, and manufacturing uses, and continues to maintain its historical integrity.

Historically the green was the center of the neighborhood and served as a gathering space to hear the latest news, speeches or sermons.

The name “Bean Hill” comes from several stories and legends; one version states that the residents cultivated baked beans.

The small green space is well documented in many historic studies and documents. In 1998, the landscape architecture firm, Landscapes, made recommendations for the revitalization of the three city greens.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- History
- Location

### CHALLENGES

- Unappreciated as a historic resource
- Small size

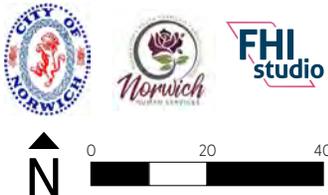


# BEAN HILL GREEN CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Add Shade Trees
- 2 ADA Curb Ramps and Crosswalks
- 3 New Accessible Pedestrian Walk with Benches
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 Ornamental Park Lights



## Norwichtown Green

The Norwichtown Green, located within a National Register and local historic district, is a long triangle of about 1.75 acres, dating back to the 17th century.

Historically the green was the center of the neighborhood and served as a gathering space to hear the latest news, speeches or sermons.

The small green space is well documented in many historic studies and documents. In 1998, the landscape architecture firm, Landscapes, made recommendations for the revitalization of the three city greens.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- History
- Location

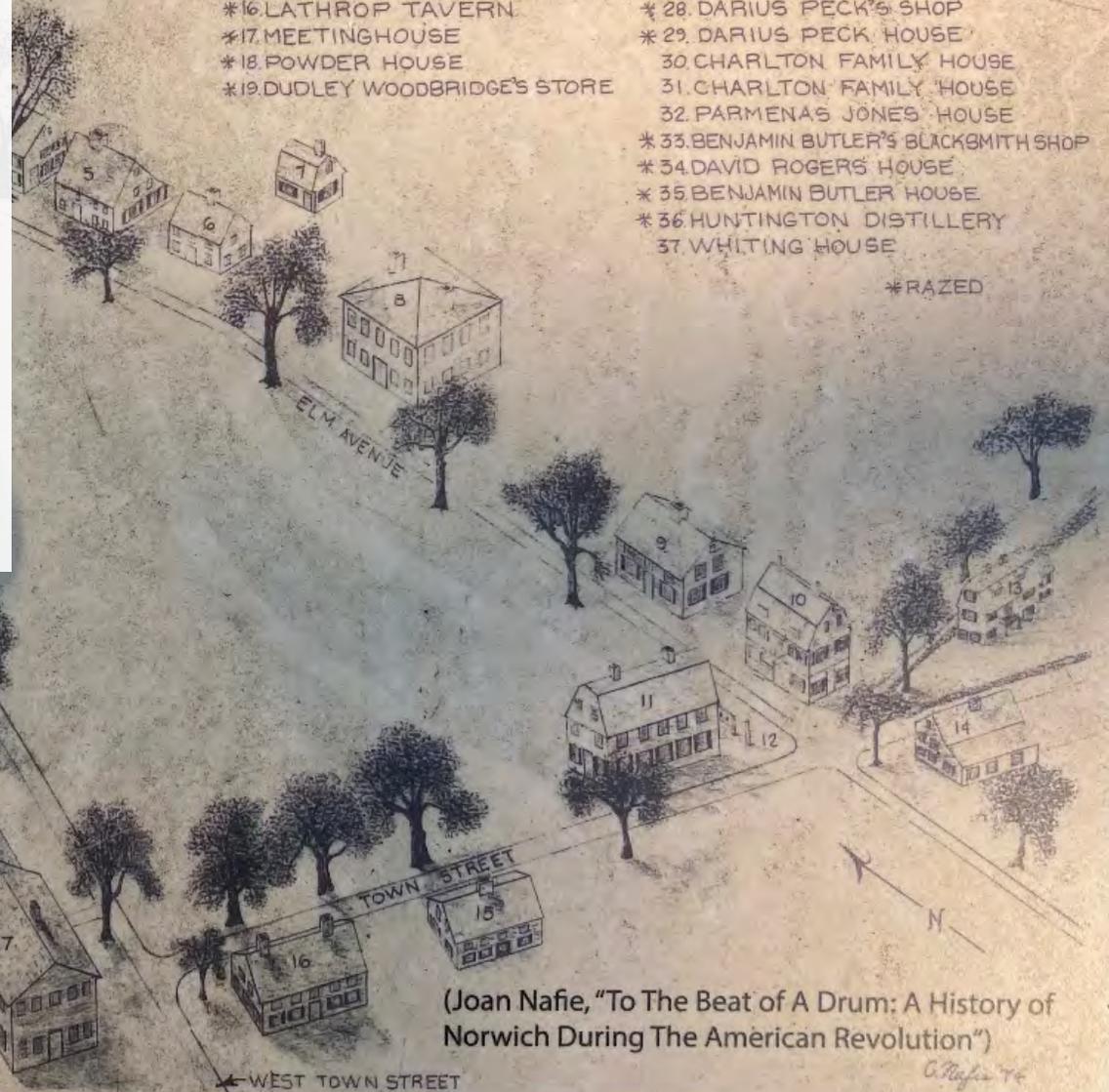
### CHALLENGES

- Under appreciated as a historic resource
- Roadway encroachments

## HISTORIC NORWICHTOWN GREEN 1775-1784

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 8. AZARIAH LATHROP HOUSE        | * 20. DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE HOUSE           |
| * 9. JOHN PERIT HOUSE           | 21. BROWN'S TAVERN                      |
| * 10. JOHN PERIT'S STORE        | * 22. JOSEPH CARPENTER SILVERSMITH SHOP |
| * 11. COURTHOUSE                | 23. SCHOOLHOUSE                         |
| * 12. WHIPPING POST AND PILLORY | * 24. SETH MINER HOUSE                  |
| 13. DIAH MANNING HOUSE          | * 25. JAIL                              |
| 14. LORD TAVERN                 | * 26. NATHANIEL PATTEN BOOKSTORE        |
| * 15. REV. BENJAMIN LORD HOUSE  | * 27. WILLIAM LAY'S SHOP                |
| * 16. LATHROP TAVERN            | * 28. DARIUS PECK'S SHOP                |
| * 17. MEETINGHOUSE              | * 29. DARIUS PECK HOUSE                 |
| * 18. POWDER HOUSE              | 30. CHARLTON FAMILY HOUSE               |
| * 19. DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE'S STORE | 31. CHARLTON FAMILY HOUSE               |
|                                 | 32. PARMENAS JONES HOUSE                |
|                                 | * 33. BENJAMIN BUTLER'S BLACKSMITH SHOP |
|                                 | * 34. DAVID ROGERS HOUSE                |
|                                 | * 35. BENJAMIN BUTLER HOUSE             |
|                                 | * 36. HUNTINGTON DISTILLERY             |
|                                 | 37. WHITING HOUSE                       |

\* RAZED



(Joan Nafie, "To The Beat of A Drum: A History of Norwich During The American Revolution")

C. Nafie 74



# NORWICHTOWN GREEN CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 City Park Sign
- 2 New Shade Trees
- 3 Rehabilitate Lawn
- 4 Accessible Concrete Walk with Benches
- 5 ADA Curb Ramps and Crosswalks
- 6 Ornamental Park Lights



## Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park

The Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park was started with a group of young Norwich residents with help from the City of Norwich, and opened in 2000. The skate park has evolved over the years and features a quarter pipe, a mini ramp, a box with a couple of rails, a steep ledge, stairs, and a launch ramp, as well as a deep pool or bowl. In 2007, the skate park was used to teach the sport of skateboarding by a group of volunteers through the city's parks and recreation department.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Transitions to concrete skate features
- Green space for pavilion and seating

### CHALLENGES

- Significant renovation needed
- Accessibility
- Isolated location and no lighting



# DONALD L. ALFIERO SKATEBOARD PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Complete Renovation of Skate Park
- 2 Parking Lot Renovation, including ADA parking
- 3 Relocate City Park Sign Closer to Mahan Drive
- 4 Add Accessible Walk
- 5 Pavilion with Picnic Tables
- 6 Add Shade Trees
- 7 Add Site Lighting to Parking Lot



## Fontaine Field

Fontaine Field is the city's premier multi-use field and is used extensively for youth soccer and lacrosse games, and practice. Surrounding the field is a gravel track that is used recreationally. The facility is irrigated and lighted. Drainage is limited with no underdrainage.

Constructed in 1980, the facility has been the continued focus of discussions regarding use and upgrades. The 2008 Recreational Complex Master Plan was the first study to recommend that the field be converted to synthetic turf and the track an all-weather synthetic surface.

### OPPORTUNITIES

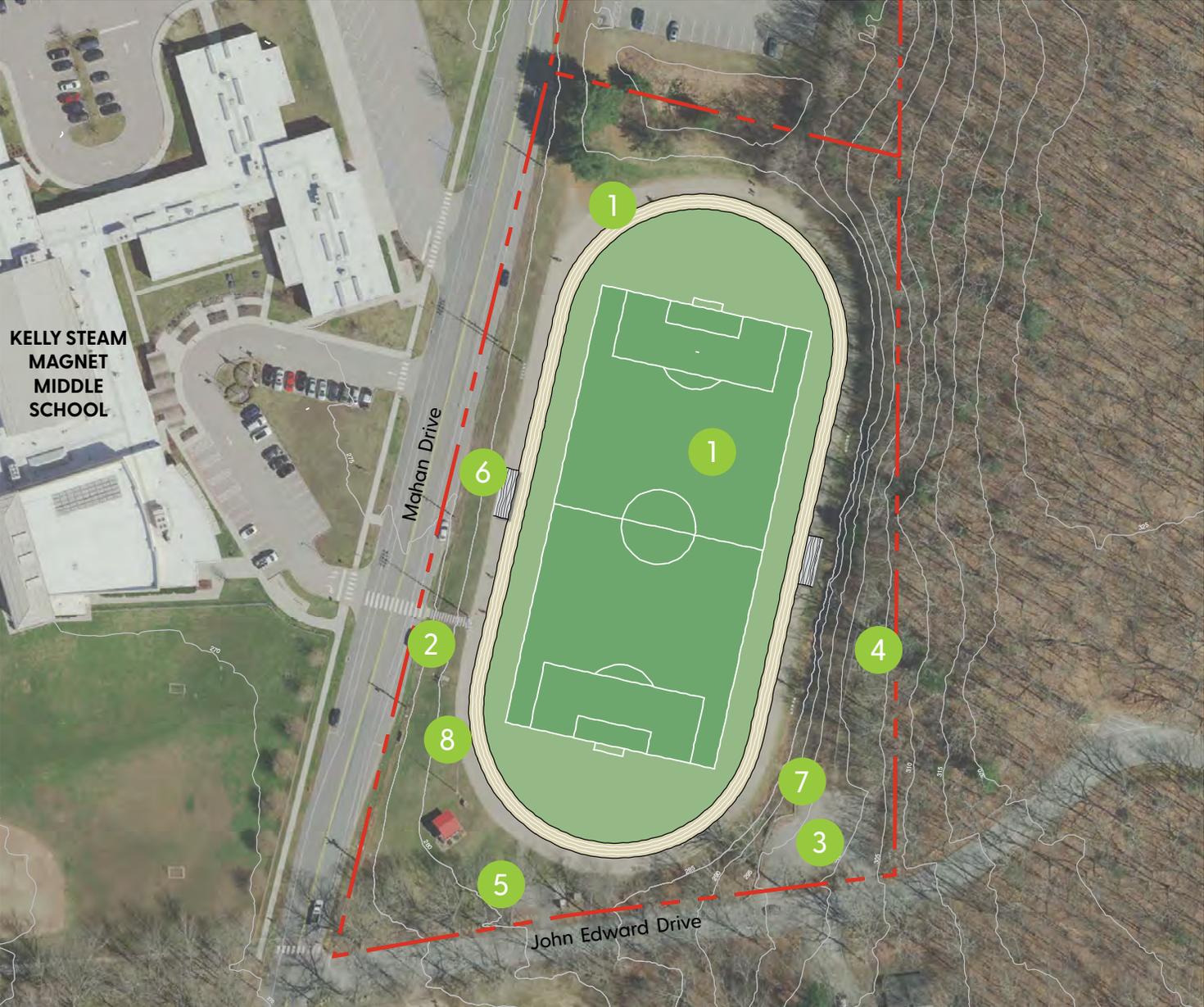
- Location
- Reputation / Legacy
- Much infrastructure in place

### CHALLENGES

- Use
- Drainage
- Elevated location / Accessibility



# FONTAINE FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



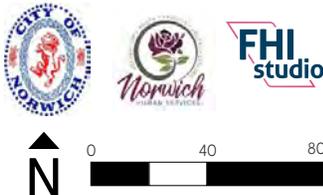
KELLY STEAM  
MAGNET  
MIDDLE  
SCHOOL

Mahan Drive

John Edward Drive

## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Replace Turf Field and Add 4-Lane Synthetic Track
- 2 City Park Sign
- 3 Remove Upper Parking Area
- 4 Remove Viewing Area
- 5 Enlarge Accessible Parking on John Edward Drive
- 6 Add Spectator Stands
- 7 Replace Guard Rail at Top of Hill
- 8 Add Drinking Fountain



## Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts

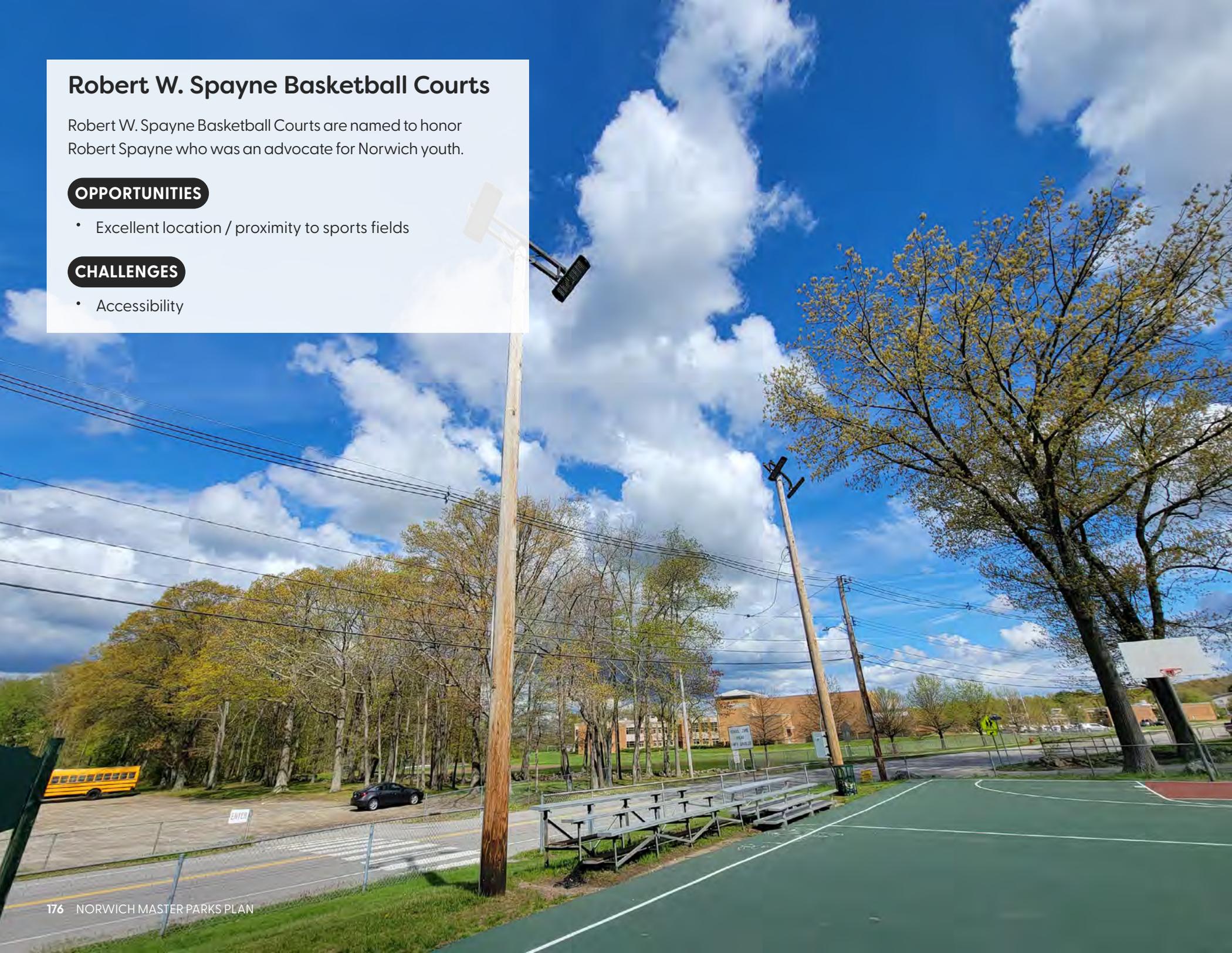
Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts are named to honor Robert Spayne who was an advocate for Norwich youth.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Excellent location / proximity to sports fields

### CHALLENGES

- Accessibility



# ROBERT W. SPAYNE BASKETBALL COURTS CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Kevin's Kourt Inclusive Basketball Court
- 2 Accessible Route and Walks
- 3 Accessible Parking
- 4 Add Evergreen Tree Screen
- 5 Street Tree Planting
- 6 Update City Park Sign



## Armstrong Tennis Courts

Armstrong Tennis courts was named for Steven Armstrong and first constructed in the 1950's. The courts were reconstructed as post tensioned concrete in 2023.

On August 7, 1967, the courts were named in honor of Steve Armstrong, who was the driving force behind the construction of the courts.

His passionate daily care of the clay courts began in 1951 and would continue well into the 1980's.

In 1952, Steve was named to the newly formed Recreation Advisory Board, a tenure that would last for over 30 years. Because of Steve persistence, many improvements occurred. The court surfaces received a major upgrade, the parking lot next to the courts was constructed, and night lighting and bleachers were installed.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- State of the art courts

### CHALLENGES

- Demand



# ARMSTRONG TENNIS COURT CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Provide Accessibility to Basketball Courts
- 2 Add Restroom
- 3 Provide Accessible Routes to All Facilities
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 Universally Accessible Play Areas Age 2-5 & 5-12, and Small Pavilion with Tables
- 6 Add Drinking Fountain
- 7 Add Lighting to Parking Lot



## Luis DePina Recreation Field

Luis DePina Recreation Field at the Recreational Complex is the home of the Norwich Free Academy's girls softball team.

According to Title IX requirements, facilities for boys and girls are required to be equal in quality and amenities. The softball field falls short in amenities (dugouts, bleachers, bullpen, and batting cage).

The facility does not meet ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) which require that an accessible path be provided from parking to both dugouts, all amenities and the playing field.

### CHALLENGES

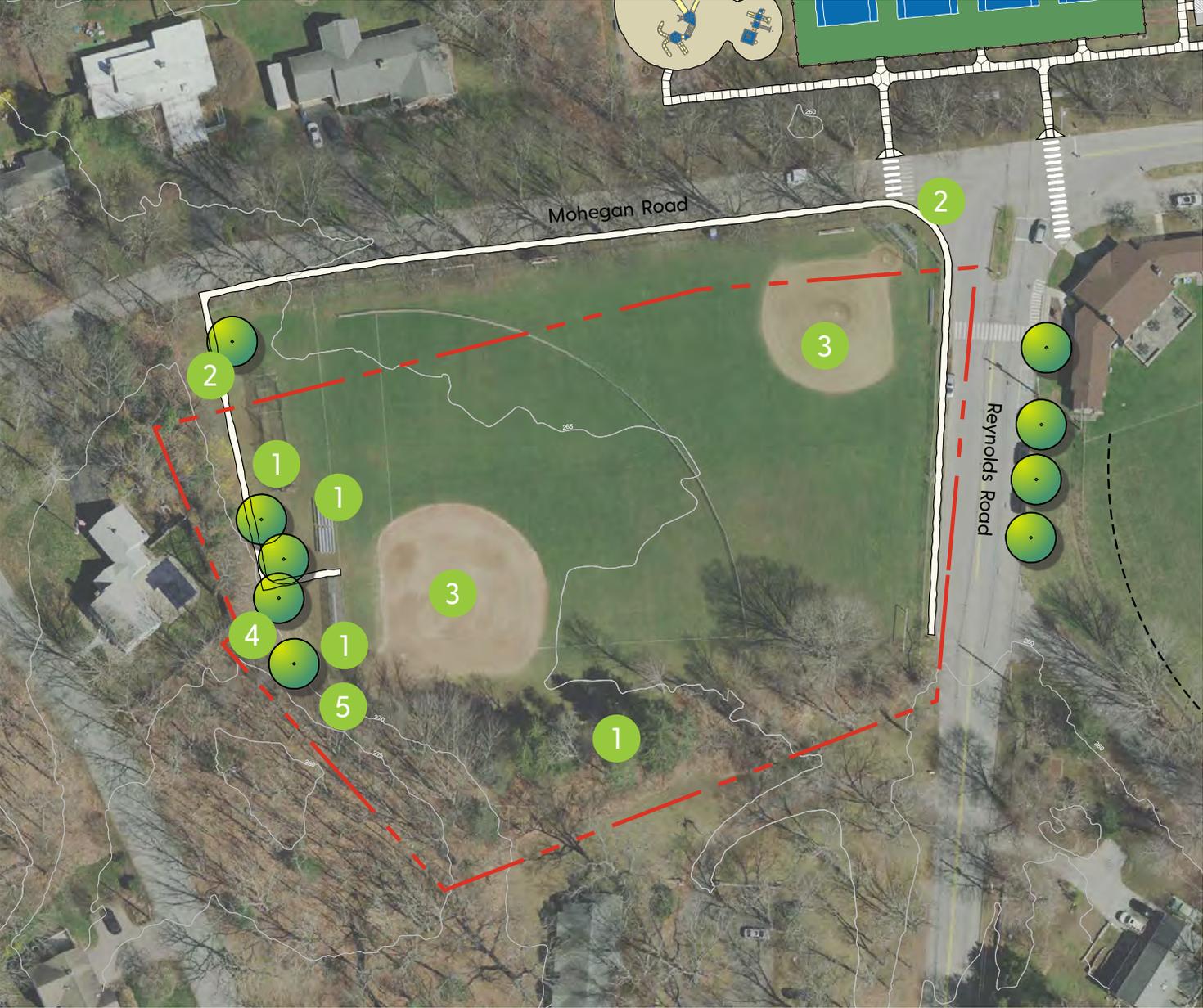
- Parking
- Amenities

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Location
- Legacy

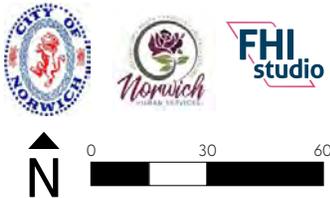


# LUIS DEPINA RECREATION FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 New Accessible Bleachers, Practice Pitching Mound, Batting Cage & Dugouts
- 2 Accessible Route
- 3 Renovate Softball Fields
- 4 Add Shade Trees
- 5 Add Drinking Fountain



## Dickenman Field

Dickenman Field at the Recreational Complex is the home of the NFA's Boys Baseball Team and local American Legion League. The field has covered dugouts, home team bleachers and a small press box. All of the geometrical requirements for the level of play are met, and the field appears to be well maintained and in good condition. The field would benefit from standard field maintenance items such as regrading the lip between the infield and outfield and periodic regrading and reseeding of the outfield.

### CHALLENGES

- Parking
- Proximity of first base line to Recreation Building
- Ongoing maintenance

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Well-maintained
- Location
- Reputation / Legacy

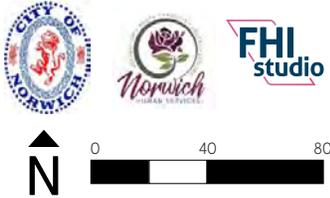


# DICKENMAN FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Retrofit Bleachers for Accessibility
- 2 Visitors Bleachers
- 3 Warning Track
- 4 Accessible Walks
- 5 Batting Cage
- 6 Accessible Parking
- 7 Replace Infield Clay
- 8 Water Service & Fountains
- 9 Underdrainage - Left Field
- 10 Street Tree Planting



## Mohegan Park

Mohegan Park is the city's premier facility. The almost 400-acre park was developed during the American urban parks movement in the late 19th and early 20th century reform era, when wealthy citizens were attempting to address social issues resulting from urban industrialism. Seventeen land owners donated the properties to establish the park from 1907 to 1934. The park's name honors Uncas, the beloved Sachem of the Mohegan Tribe.

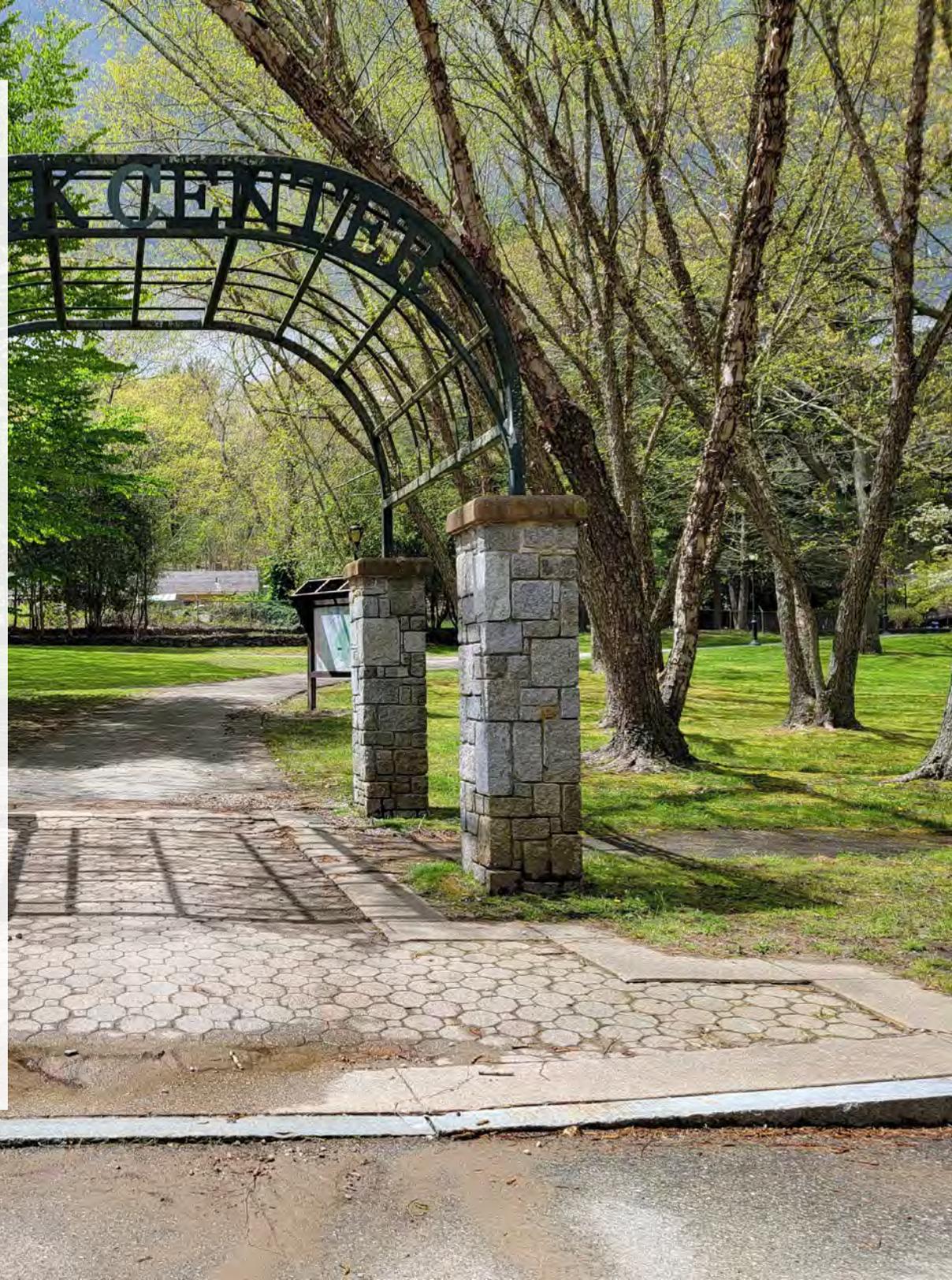
In 1963 the Spaulding Pond dam suddenly burst, killing six people. In response, the dam was rebuilt in 1964 and the lower Spaulding Pond dam was built in 1968. The Memorial Rose Garden was constructed in 1947 to a design by landscape architect Thomas Desmond of Simsbury. In 1948 the garden was dedicated to World War II veterans. The Park Center area was designed by Johnson and Richter Landscape Architects in 1990 to provide a central feature to the amorphous and rambling park. The park at one time had a small zoo.

### OPPORTUNITIES

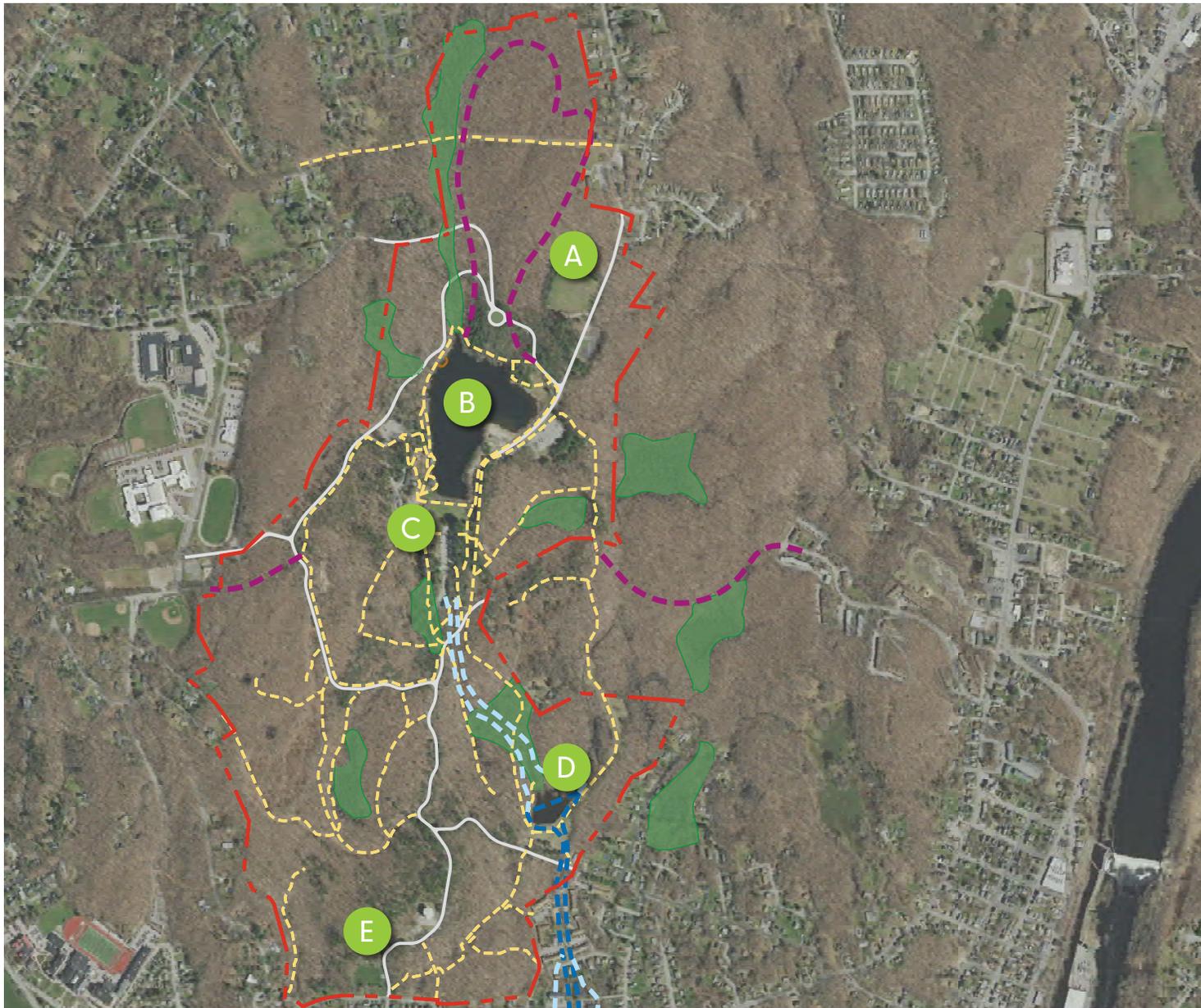
- A beloved and well-known park
- Ample area
- Central Norwich location

### CHALLENGES

- Topography
- Maintaining the bucolic passive recreation focus of the park
- Maintenance



# MOHEGAN PARK CONCEPT PLAN KEY MAP



## SECTIONS OF PARK

- A** Field Pavilion
- B** Beach & Lakeside Pavilion
- C** Park Center
- D** Lower Pond
- E** Memorial Rose Garden & Water Tower

## MAP LEGEND

Property Line

Wetlands

FEMA Regulatory Floodway

Zone AE - Flood Hazard

Existing Park Trails

Proposed Multi-Use Park Trails



# MOHEGAN PARK - FIELD PAVILION CONCEPT PLAN (A)



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Remove Backstop
- 2 Add Shade Trees
- 3 Dedicated ADA Parking Space
- 4 Accessible Walk from Parking Lot and Around Field
- 5 Formalize Parking Lot; Add Accessible Parking Spaces and Trees
- 6 Access to Disc Golf Course
- 7 Existing Park Trail
- 8 New Multi-Use Trail
- 9 Add Security Lighting in Parking Lot

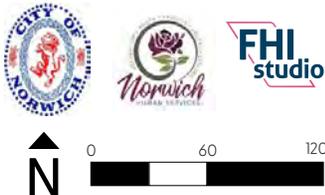


# MOHEGAN PARK - BEACH & LAKESIDE PAVILION CONCEPT PLAN (B)



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Replenish Beach Sand
- 2 Renovate and Upgrade Lakeside Pavilion
- 3 Fishing Pier
- 4 Vegetate Parking Lots
- 5 Existing Park Trail
- 6 New Multi-Use Trail
- 7 Add Security Lighting in Parking Lots



# MOHEGAN PARK - PARK CENTER CONCEPT PLAN (C)



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Screen Views of Animal Shelter
- 2 Existing Park Trail
- 3 Replace Accessible Walk from ADA Parking Spaces
- 4 Repair/Replace Internal Walks
- 5 Add Shade Trees in Parking Lot
- 6 Add Security Lighting in Parking Lot

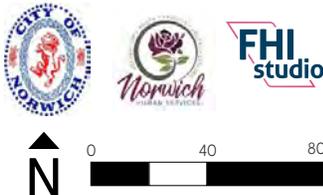


# MOHEGAN PARK - LOWER POND CONCEPT PLAN (D)



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Expand and Formalize Parking Lot
- 2 Existing Park Trail



# MOHEGAN PARK - MEMORIAL ROSE GARDEN & WATER TOWER CONCEPT PLAN (E)



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Refresh Rose Garden Structures and Plantings
- 2 Existing Park Trail
- 3 Resurface Basketball Court
- 4 Accessible Concrete Walks
- 5 Renovate Parking Lot
- 6 Add Shade Trees



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## Fernwood Park

Fernwood Park is a small neighborhood park that is surrounded by residential properties, with no parking. Lots of unused or underutilized land area provides opportunities for new features. The challenge is locating these features essentially in neighbor's back yards, as well as in a utility easement.

The basketball court and original tennis court were built in 1974. The existing playscape was installed in 2018.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Neighborhood Park
- Room for additional amenities / facilities

### CHALLENGES

- Parking
- Vehicular access
- Large undefined paved area
- Location – adjacent residential properties



# FERNWOOD PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Relocated Basketball Court
- 2 Walking Path with Workout Stations along Trail
- 3 Extend Path for Connection to Beechwood Boulevard
- 4 Add Parking
- 5 Remove Court Surfaces and Convert to Lawn
- 6 Community Garden
- 7 Replace Existing Play Equipment; Expand for Ages 2-5 and Add Swings
- 8 Add Shade Trees
- 9 City Park Sign (2)
- 10 Add Security Lighting



## Chelsea Parade Park

Chelsea Parade Ground anchors the Chelsea Parade Historic District and provides green space within a dense neighborhood.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Excellent location and visibility
- Connection to Norwich's past

### CHALLENGES

- Accessibility
- Monuments appear crowded and cramped
- Historic and dignified nature of the space limits its use



# CHELSEA PARADE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 City Park Sign
- 2 Rehabilitate Lawn
- 3 Add Accessible Walks Through Park
- 4 Add Shade Trees
- 5 More Benches
- 6 Replace Cracked City Sidewalks and Curb Ramp
- 7 Add Crosswalk
- 8 Ornamental Park Lighting



## Yantic Falls

Yantic Falls is a dramatic and beautiful 1.2 acre site with much historic value to the city. Sometimes called Uncas Leap, the falls is a sacred part of the Mohegan tribe's history as the location of the culmination of the Battle of Great Plains between the Mohegans and Narragansett Tribes. During the battle, many warriors fell over the falls to their death while the Mohegan Chief, Uncas was able to leap over it. Plans for a park have been underway for at least a decade and should come to fruition in 2024. The Heritage Trail begins at the park and continues to Howard T. Brown Memorial Park.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- History
- Dramatic location
- Much infrastructure in place
- Heritage Trail

### CHALLENGES

- Visibility



# UNCAS LEAP HERITAGE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



Uncas Leap Heritage Park Master Plan

## Master Plan Components

1. Proposed parking lot – approximately 9-10 spaces
2. Three flagpoles - USA flag, CT State flag and Mohegan Tribe flag
3. City to acquire small parcel
4. Improved walk access to the Yantic River pedestrian bridge. The walkway provides a great opportunity for a time line exhibit along the path demonstrating the significance of the site.
5. Direct stair access to the park
6. Observation deck providing a unique overlook to the Yantic River and falls. Provide educational and interpretive signage at overlook with content related to Yantic Falls and Uncas Leap
7. Informal picnic area with granite block seats
8. Lawn area
9. Trail access formalized with boulders and stepping stones
10. Midslope lookout and respite area
11. Personal watercraft tie-down area. Install large flat boulders. Provide steel pins with marine rope and carabiner for tie-down.
12. Overlook provides a unique elevated vantage point along the banks of the Yantic River. Provide educational and interpretive signage with content related to the former mills and nearby Mohegan landing.
13. Formal paths on site can be aggregate surfaces that provide an accessible surface, natural aesthetic, and pervious material
14. Bus pulloff
15. Three on-street parking including two accessible spaces
16. Public restroom building
17. Story circle utilizing granite from the granite building.
18. Flexible plaza space with Native American symbology to allow for formal and impromptu gatherings
19. Accessible walkway to story circle
20. Sloped lawn at lower level
21. Paved area for gathering and picnicking with granite block stepping stones and seating.
22. The granite building foundation is to remain with selected wall sections to be removed. Sections to remain will be restored. The northern third of the building will have a renovated roof
23. Improvements to pedestrian bridge including new railings and lighting
24. Bicycle racks (6)
25. Existing decorative iron fence to be renovated and ornamental street lights added to Yantic Street



Plan Prepared By:



## Greeneville Playground

The development of Greeneville Playground predates 1974 when a tennis court replaced the existing basketball court. In 1993 the park was developed similar to what we see today. The small park is in fair condition and is heavily used.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- History
- Location

### CHALLENGES

- Small size
- Steep slope
- Accessibility



# GREENEVILLE PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Accessible Path
- 2 Replace Chain Link Fence with Ornamental Picket Fence
- 3 City Park Sign
- 4 Shade/Tree Cover



## Washington Street Park

This new park is the site of the former Buckingham Elementary School. A parking lot and a lighted basketball court are on the sloping property. The Norwich Community Development Commission (NCDC) has also developed a concept for the property.

### OPPORTUNITIES

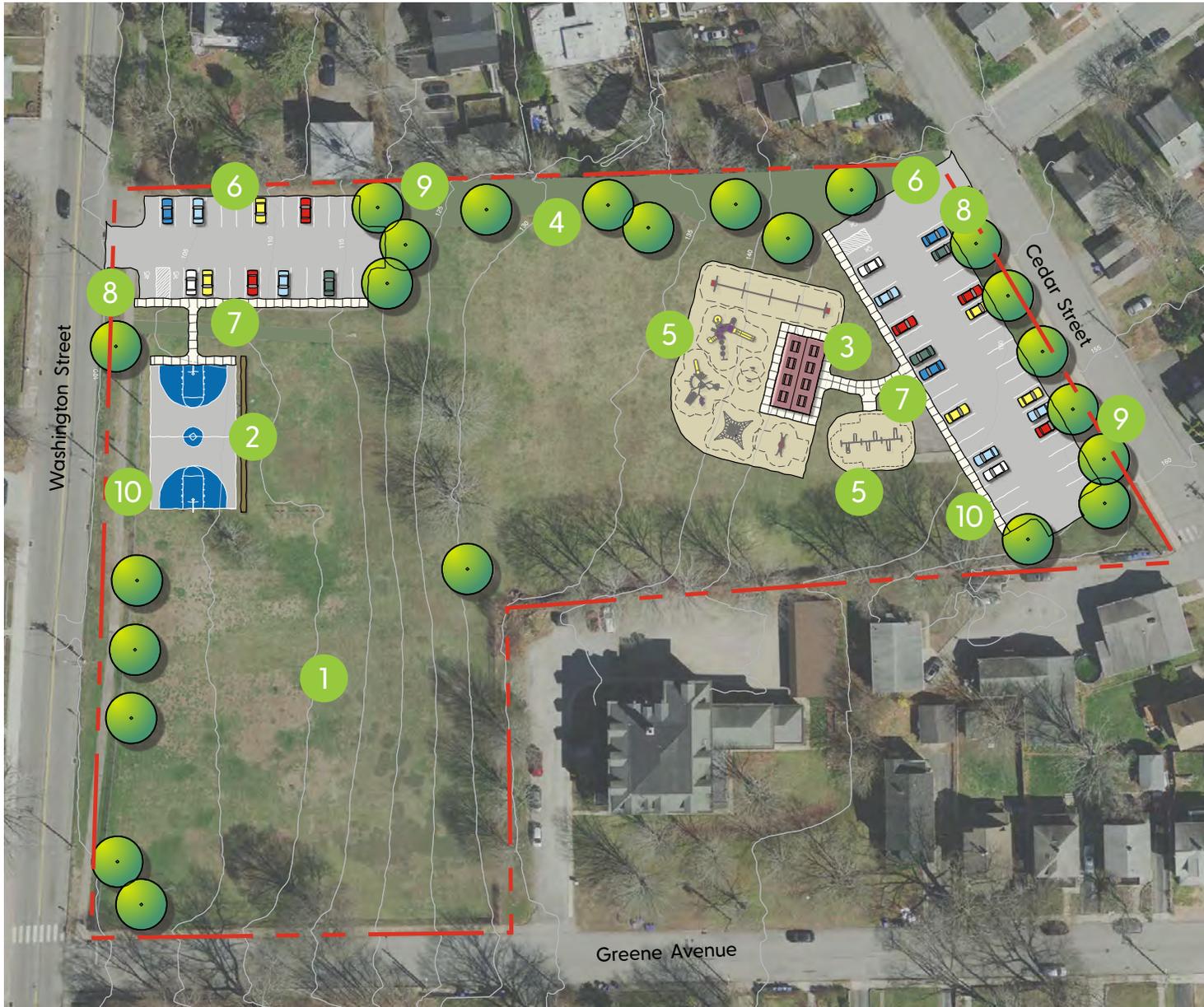
- Central Location
- Connectivity

### CHALLENGES

- Topography
- Access



# WASHINGTON STREET PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Maintain Sledding Hill
- 2 Renovate Basketball Court
- 3 Pavilion
- 4 Remove Asphalt and Replace with Lawn
- 5 Playground and Swings
- 6 Parking
- 7 Accessible Walks
- 8 City Park Sign
- 9 Shade/Street Trees
- 10 Add Security Lighting



## Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park

The Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park was developed with funding provided by Alfred Cohn to honor his wife, Estelle. Together, they built and operated the Dairy Kreme and Charco-Broil Restaurant in Taftville. The park was designed by FMA Landscape Architects in 2004.

The dog park is well maintained and very popular with heavy use.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Excellent location

### CHALLENGES

- Parking lot needs a refresh
- Accessibility



# ESTELLE COHN MEMORIAL DOG PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Add Shade Trees
- 2 City Park Sign
- 3 Upgrade Dog Park Signage
- 4 Add Lighting to Parking Lot
- 5 Add Designated ADA Parking Spaces



## Lake Street Park

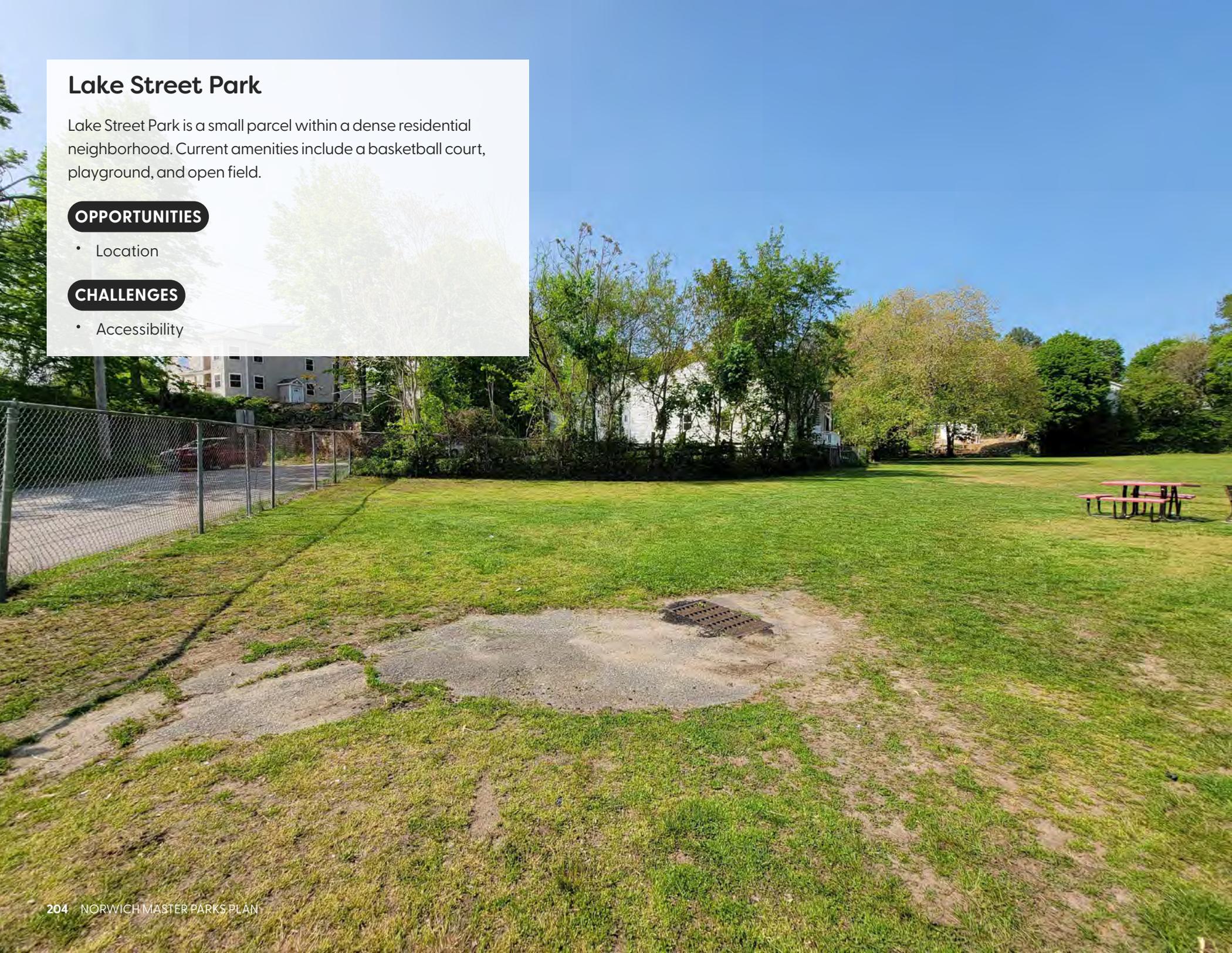
Lake Street Park is a small parcel within a dense residential neighborhood. Current amenities include a basketball court, playground, and open field.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Location

### CHALLENGES

- Accessibility



# LAKE STREET PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Add Parking including Accessible Spaces
- 2 Resurface Basketball Court (Under Construction)
- 3 New Green Space
- 4 Accessible Walking Path
- 5 Small Pavilion with Tables
- 6 City Park Sign
- 7 New Park Entrance on Boswell Avenue with Crosswalk, Curb Ramp and Accessible Walk
- 8 Extend City Walk to Corner with Additional Entry to Park
- 9 Shade Trees Throughout
- 10 Security Lighting



## Little Plain Park

The property, to become Little Plain Park, was purchased by Hezekiah Perkins and Deacon Jabez Huntington in 1811 and deeded to the city on the condition that it only be used as a park. The impetus for the purchase was in part the creation of its sister park to the north, Chelsea Parade, purchased 14 years earlier and donated to the city as a "Public Parade." Little Plain Park, located within a National Register and local historic district, is a long and narrow triangle bounded by a sidewalk, mature trees and a handsome fence. The 0.69 acre greensward is situated within a fine residential neighborhood developed between the mid-18th century and the last quarter of the 19th century. A paved path cuts across it at about midpoint. The focal point is the Civil War monument, a stone obelisk, at the northern tip, dedicated to the 28th Regiment of the Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. Toward the southern end is a pink stone fountain honoring the two founders of the park. The most interesting feature is the ornate cast iron fence, probably erected during the second half of the 19th century, and comprised of metal panels between stone posts, which makes the open space more formal than the other Norwich greens. The fence is currently being renovated to plans by TO Design Landscape Architects.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- History / Memorials
- Location

### CHALLENGES

- Unappreciated as a historic resource
- Small size



# LITTLE PLAIN PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Maintain/Repair Monument
- 2 Repair/Replace Historic Fence (Under Contract)
- 3 New Walks & Benches
- 4 New Trees
- 5 Recondition Lawns
- 6 Ornamental Park Lighting



## Columbus Park

Columbus Park is a small neighborhood green in the City Center Neighborhood of Norwich. It does not have historic roots and apparently is named for Christopher Columbus. In light of recent historical events, a name change with appropriate acknowledgments should be considered. Rededicating the park could be a very positive community and citywide event.

The parkland is sloped and defined by retaining walls on both the bottom and top boundaries. A sidewalk and stairs connect Franklin Street to Boswell Avenue, providing connectivity.

### CHALLENGES

- Topography
- Size

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Pleasant neighborhood green space
- Provides connectivity between residential streets
- “Lungs” of the neighborhood
- Opportunity for shade and tree planting



# COLUMBUS PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Replace City Sidewalks
- 2 Replace Walk/Pavers
- 3 Add Trees Throughout Park
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 Repair Walls
- 6 Accessible Path & Benches
- 7 Memorial Sculpture to Honor Native Americans
- 8 Ornamental Park Lighting



## Hamilton Avenue Park

Fields were constructed in 1998 to plans by FMA Partnership Landscape Architects. The facility which includes two little league fields and one T-Ball field. A basketball court was built in 1993, and a playground added in 2001. The Police Athletic League (PAL) also operates a concession and storage building. The fields are irrigated.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Clustered Little League and T-Ball facilities
- Operation by PAL

### CHALLENGES

- Maintenance
- Accessibility
- Poor drainage

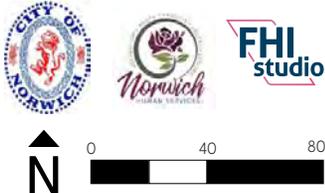


# HAMILTON AVENUE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Renovate All Ball Fields and Add Under Drainage
- 2 Accessible Concrete Walks
- 3 Add Parking on Quarto Road
- 4 City Park Sign
- 5 Add Crosswalk
- 6 Shade Trees
- 7 Upgrade Existing Play Equipment
- 8 Add Security Lighting
- 9 Renovate Existing Parking Lot



## Jennings Field

The park acreage was purchased by the City in 1994. In 2006 the VFW Post 594 made an effort to build a banquet hall in the park. In 2008, BL Companies produced a master plan that was largely implemented in 2009. The site has a football field and practice field, concession building, an informal “desire path” riverfront trail, and a large parking lot used by Norwich Youth Football League.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Riverfront location
- Concession building
- Room for expansion

### CHALLENGES

- Visibility
- Flooding



# JENNINGS FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Kayak Launch
- 2 Trail Along River
- 3 Scenic Overlook to River / Fishing Platform
- 4 Vegetate Parking Lot
- 5 Multi-Purpose Field
- 6 Continue Walk
- 7 New Entrance with Parking
- 8 Pavilion and Picnic Area
- 9 Expand Width of Field to 160ft and Add Irrigation
- 10 Accessible Walk
- 11 Security Lighting
- 12 City Park Sign



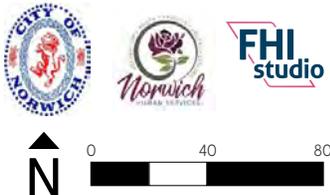


# HOWARD T. BROWN MEMORIAL PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Maintain Boat Launch
- 2 Extend Existing Walking Trail to Transportation Center and Add Wayfinding Signage
- 3 Remove Parking and Direct Towards Parking Garage Across Street; Enhance Pedestrian Access
- 4 Permanent Stage
- 5 Provide Offsite Parking
- 6 New Tree Plantings
- 7 Add Restroom
- 8 Update and Add Site Lighting



## Jenkins Park

Jenkins Park is one of the busiest and most popular parks, known as "The Park" to Norwich youth. While interviewing a group of youth at the park, we were told the youth from all over the City come to Jenkins Park to spend their summer days.

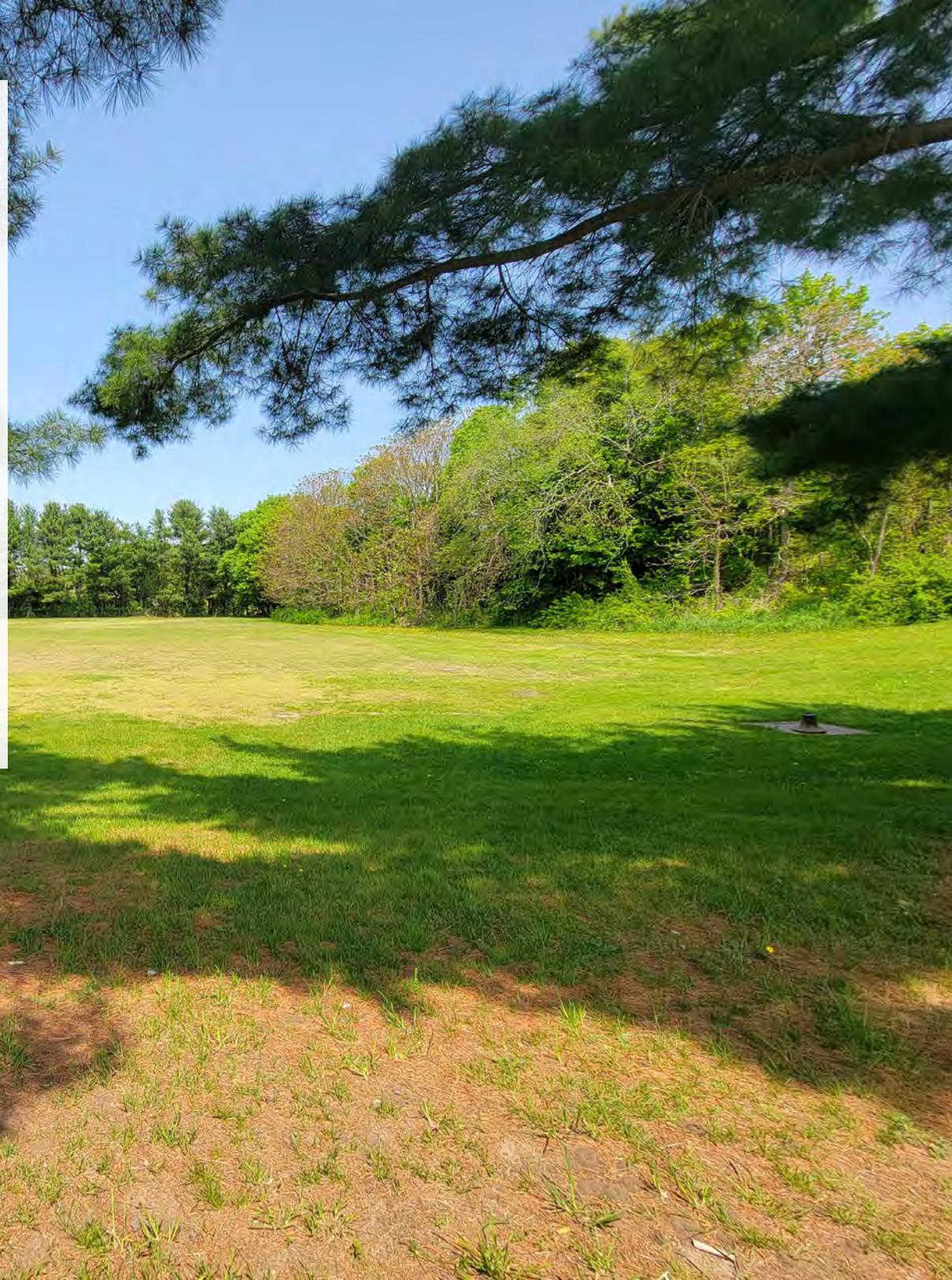
The Miracle play structure was installed in 1996. The extremely popular Night Flight basketball league is held here on summer evenings. Tennis courts are largely unusable and unsafe.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Night Flight Basketball
- Popular location
- Parking
- Space for additional field

### CHALLENGES

- Tennis courts in poor condition
- Significant topography



# JENKINS PARKS CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Reconstruct Courts for Tennis & Pickleball
- 2 Restroom
- 3 Pavilion Shelter with Tables
- 4 Splash Pad
- 5 Multi-Purpose Field
- 6 Universally Inclusive Play Area Age 2-5 & 5-12, and Swings
- 7 5' x 10' Community Garden Plot
- 8 New Recognition Memorial and City Park Sign
- 9 Walk and Steps at High Street Gate Entrance
- 10 Remove Portions of Fence
- 11 Accessible Path & Walking Trail



## Fitzgerald Baseball Field

This small park sits behind two auto repair facilities and has no parking. The baseball field is not currently used.

### OPPORTUNITIES

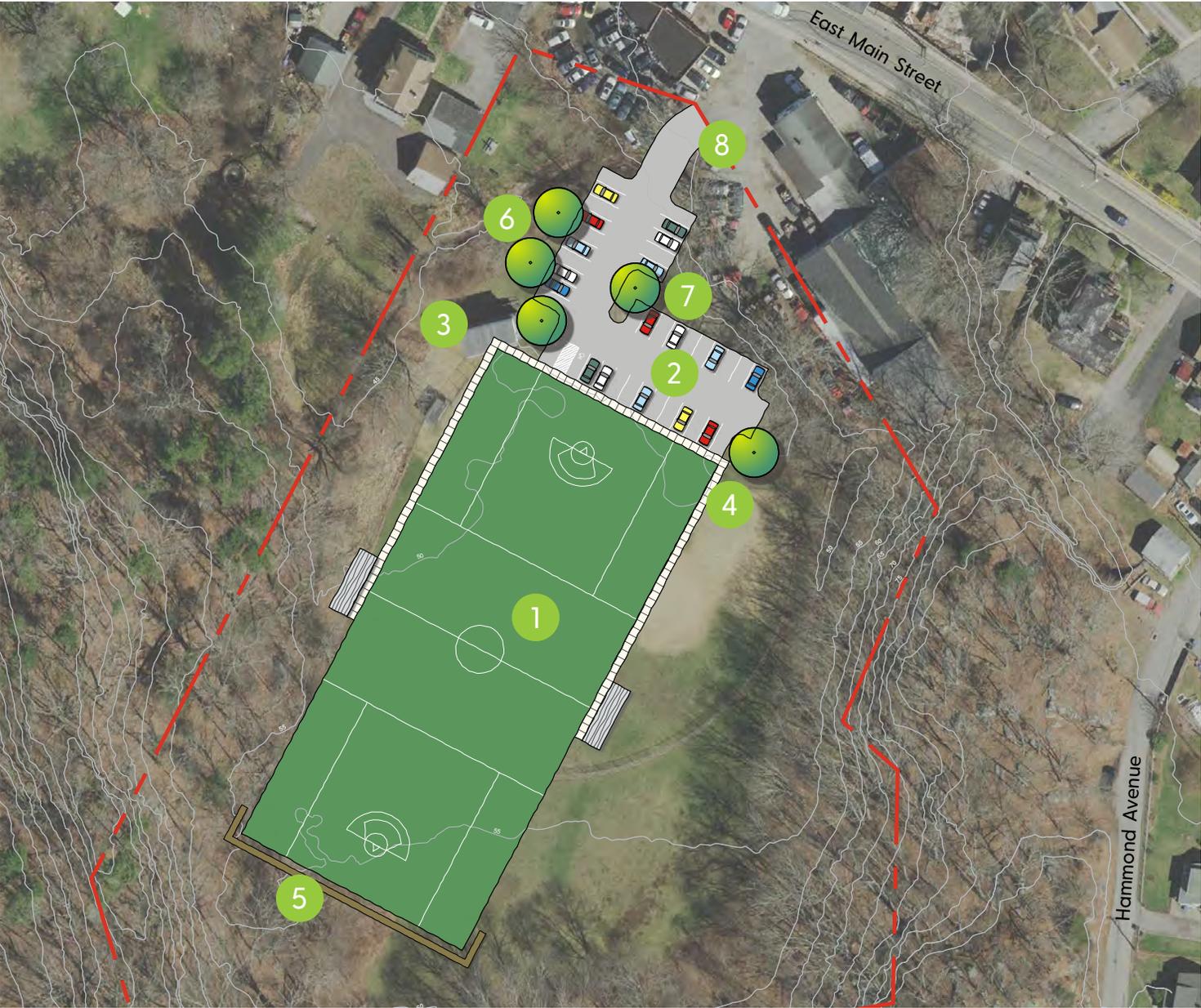
- Presently not utilized
- Easily accessed location

### CHALLENGES

- Awkward location behind commercial businesses
- Limited visibility from street
- Wet soils



# FITZGERALD BASEBALL FIELD CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Multi-Purpose Field with Spectator Stands
- 2 Parking
- 3 Remove Concession Building
- 4 Accessible Concrete Walk
- 5 Retaining Wall
- 6 New Shade Trees
- 7 Security Lighting
- 8 City Park Sign



## Elizabeth Street Playground

This small, underutilized park has a small play structure.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Location in a residential neighborhood

### CHALLENGES

- Accessibility

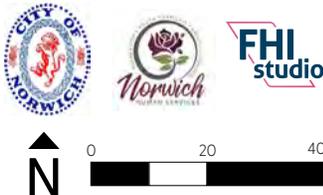


# ELIZABETH STREET PLAYGROUND CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Accessible Walk
- 2 Onsite Parking
- 3 Repair Wall
- 4 New Community Play Area
- 5 Remove Paved Loop
- 6 Open Lawn for Farmers' Market and Other Events
- 7 Shade Trees
- 8 City Park Sign



## Laurel Hill Green

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Laurel Hill Historic District, this historic park is a small open space in the Laurel Hill neighborhood and was gifted in 1875 by Henry Bill, a prominent American book publisher.

Because of its difficult terrain, Laurel Hill was largely undeveloped before 1850. In 1850, a consortium of developers purchased most of the land in the area, laid out Laurel Hill Avenue, and began promoting it as a residential suburban area in the country style advocated by Andrew Jackson Downing.

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Topography
- Location

### CHALLENGES

- Small size



# LAUREL HILL GREEN CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 City Park Sign
- 2 Shade Trees Throughout
- 3 Crosswalk & Curb Ramps
- 4 Accessible Concrete Walk
- 5 Circular Paver Plaza with Flagpole and Benches
- 6 Replace Chain Link Fence with Ornamental Metal Picket Fence
- 7 New Playground Area



# Thamesville Park

Thamesville Park is a small neighborhood park that is exhibiting signs of deferred maintenance and lack of reinvestment.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Open space
- Good connectivity

## CHALLENGES

- In need of a “refresh”
- Awkward geometry and location next to commercial facility
- No shade / tree cover
- Parking



# THAMESVILLE PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PLAN COMPONENTS

- 1 Resurface Court and Repair Hoop
- 2 New Playground & Swings
- 3 Evergreen Screening
- 4 Accessible Path
- 5 Parking
- 6 Shade Trees
- 7 New Park Sign
- 8 Add New Curb Ramp and Crosswalk
- 9 Security Lighting



# NEW PARKS

Norwich is a vital and growing city, and as such, the needs and expectations of the population change. Currently, the city has two large parks, Mohegan Park and Raymond “CIT” Ouellet Park. An additional multi-use park that could accommodate a variety of uses, including multi-use sports fields, trails, and passive recreation, would be desirable.

## North End of Hollyhock Island

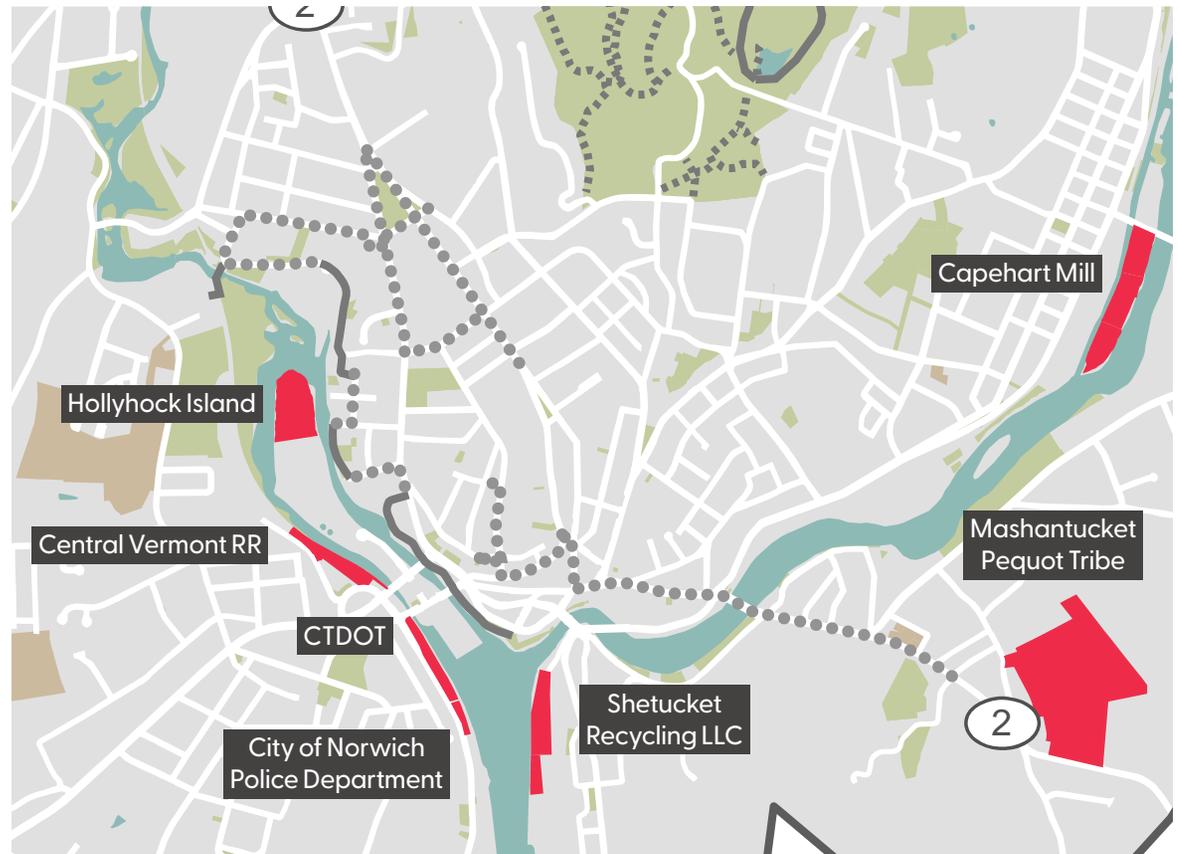
This undeveloped portion of the island is another site that has long been considered as a park. The 2011 Waterfront Vision Plan calls for pedestrian bridges across the Yantic River to the Heritage Trail and passive recreational uses along with waterfront access for the park.

## Police Department Site

The site on Thames Street on the west bank of the Thames River would be another amazing riverfront park if the Police facility is moved. Along with other new properties on the water, a dynamic riverfront park system could be established.

## Yantic River West Side

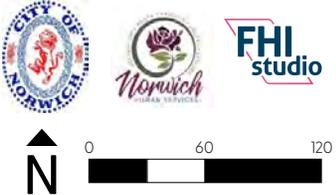
Several underutilized properties are along the west bank of the Yantic River and should be monitored and explored for availability.



# NEW PARK - SHETUCKET RECYCLING



The Shetucket Recycling site on the east bank of the Thames River could be a part of the riverfront park system and is of a size to accommodate many 21st-century activities. This site has been targeted for acquisition as far back as 2011 in the Norwich Harbor Management Commission's "Waterfront Vision" Plan. Development of this property into a waterfront park would signal that the city is on the rise to attract business and development in the Laurel Hill Neighborhood.



# NEW PARK - CAPEHART MILL



The abandoned Capehart Mill Property is another hidden gem that could make an outstanding waterfront park. The Greenville neighborhood has long suffered from the effects of the abandoned, burned-out mill. The City of Norwich secured an initial site assessment from GZA Engineers. This assessment revealed a number of challenges. NCDC has done preliminary planning and submitted a CIF funding application in early 2023 but did not receive a grant in that round.



# NEW PARK - MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT PROPERTY



There may be an opportunity to acquire the Mashantucket Pequot parking lot in the southeast area of the city off Rt 2. This 337+ acre park could be developed over time as funding and grants become available.

This block contains three logos in a row: the official seal of the City of Norwich, the Norwich logo featuring a rose and the text 'Norwich', and the FHI studio logo. Below the logos is a north arrow pointing upwards and a scale bar with markings at 0, 100, and 200 feet.

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# 8

# IMPLEMENTATION

## THE PATH



# PHASING

The total cost of proposed Rose City Park improvements that are a focus of this plan is up to \$31.2 million. Given the substantial investment that would be required to realize the proposed improvements, it is not expected that all improvements would occur as planned. Additionally, improvements would likely be implemented over a period of ten years as funding becomes available through capital improvement budgeting, grant awards, fundraising, and private donations, and revenue generation from the park facilities.

It is the goal of this plan to recommend a sequence of improvements that addresses the most pressing needs of the community and its park facilities. Improvements that are prioritized by this plan will also provide the highest value for the investment.

Two different approaches are possible, completing the recommendations by type of improvements throughout the system (for instance playscapes) or park-by-park. Through the course of the plan development, stakeholders and Parks & Recreation Commissioners expressed a strong preference for “seeing projects through”. The master planning team has taken the park-by-park approach. This means conducting a wide array of improvements at a park in one sequence rather than taking a piecemeal approach over several years. While funding will limit the extent of work conducted in any park at one time, improvements should be planned and implemented with the intention of providing all of the improvements needed and planned at a park in unison, as feasible.

Over the next ten years, significant improvements to the Rose City Park system are achievable. This plan lays out the following recommended path for these improvements:

- Early “wins” to generate enthusiasm, pride, and confidence.
- Legacy wins that will impact the future legitimacy of the system.
- Equity wins that will bring improvements to disenfranchised neighborhoods.
- Custodial wins that will satisfy the city’s obligation to continue the care of historic properties.



## Phase 1

The first phase of improvements is already underway with the recent work at Armstrong Tennis Courts, Little Plains Park, Columbus Park, Greeneville Playground, and the upcoming construction of Yantic Falls Park.

## Phase 2

While smaller projects are under way, Phase 2 planning can begin for the Legacy win of a turf field and new track at Fontaine Field. This will be a large expenditure but will be well worth the investment through public appreciation and use. The field and Track will be of benefit to everyone in the community. Phase 2 includes:

- Fontaine Field
- Lake Street Park
- Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park
- Jenkins Park

**PROBABLE COST: \$6,803,400**

## Phase 3

Phase 3 of projects could combine early wins with equity wins to demonstrate that the administration is serious about outdoor recreation and environmental health for all its citizens. Phase 3 includes:

- R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park
- Greeneville Playground
- Norwichtown Green
- Hamilton Avenue Park
- Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park
- Howard T. Brown Memorial Park
- Armstrong Tennis Courts
- Jennings Field

**PROBABLE COST: \$9,010,800**

*Note: The probable costs value for each phase is based in 2023 dollars and has not been adjusted for inflation.*

## Phase 4

Apart from the new park at Washington Street, Phase 4 would be projects to address deferred maintenance and minor upgrades. Phase 4 includes:

- Rev. Samson Occum Park
- Luis DePina Recreation Field
- Moriarty Field
- Dickenman Field
- Taftville Park
- Little Plain Park
- Donald L. Alfiero Skateboard Park
- Washington Street Park

**PROBABLE COST: \$4,989,000**

## Phase 5

Phase 5 includes:

- Fairview Reservoir
- Fitzgerald Field
- Bean Hill Green
- Elizabeth Street Playground
- Fernwood Park
- Laurel Hill Green

**PROBABLE COST: \$7,057,200**

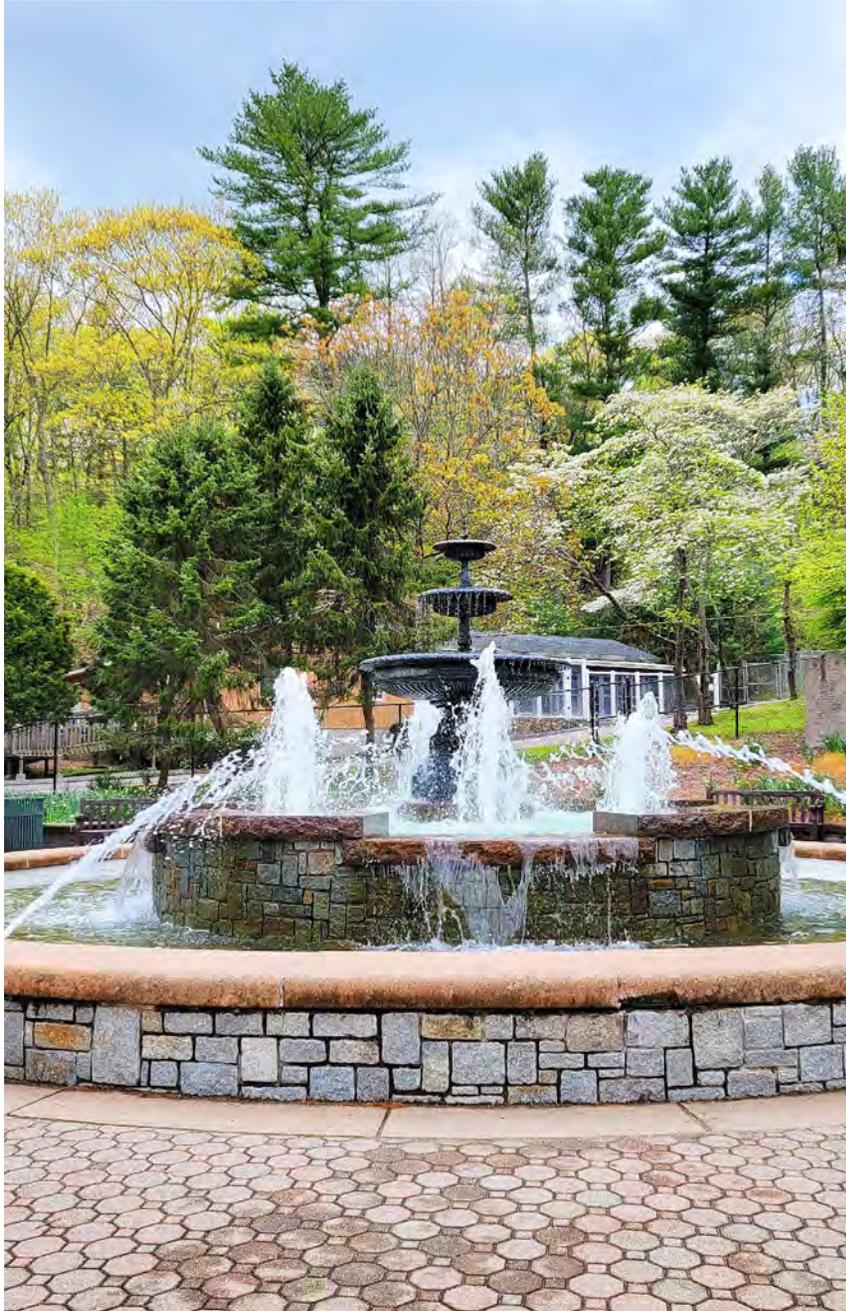
## Phase 6

Phase 6 includes:

- Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts
- Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park
- Mohegan Park
- Columbus Park
- Chelsea Parade Park
- Thamesville Park

**PROBABLE COST: \$3,346,800**

**TOTAL PROBABLE COST: \$31,207,200**



# PROBABLE COST OF IMPROVEMENTS

The budgetary cost estimates provided herein are intended:

- to provide guidance on the probable cost of providing improvements envisioned by the plan, and
- for planning purposes to support budgeting and procurement of grants.

There are multiple variables that could impact these estimates including discovery of site issues that would need to be resolved such as utility infrastructure improvements and environmental compliance requirements. Additional variables may include modifications to the plan, materials selection, inflation and cost escalation, variance in construction bids, etc. The probable cost analyses are based upon information known to the consultant and professional judgment and expertise.

The line item budgetary cost estimates by park represent the typical or average cost in 2023 dollars, and are provided in the tables on the following pages.

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**R. "RED" MCKEON OCCUM PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Pavilion	\$200,000
River Trail	\$70,000
Renovate Multi-Purpose Field	\$500,000
Accessible Walks	\$85,000
Add Set of Spectator Stands	\$15,000
Expand Play Area and add PIP safety surfacing	\$200,000
Interpretative Signage for Occum Dam and Reservoir	\$30,000
New Parking Lot	\$80,000
Remove Existing Parking Lot and Replace with Lawn	\$18,000
Bike Racks	\$5,000
Replace lighting with Dark Sky Friendly Light Fixtures	\$60,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,263,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$252,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,515,600</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**REV. SAMSON OCCUM PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Establish Right-of-Way from Taftville-Occum Road	\$20,000
Create Vehicular Entrance on School Avenue & Parking Lot	\$50,000
City Park Sign (2)	\$30,000
Multi-Purpose Field	\$700,000
Planted Berm along Eastern Edge by Auto Business	\$25,000
Add Shade Trees	\$10,000
Add Site Furnishings	\$20,000
Add Security Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$905,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$181,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,086,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**MORIARTY FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Establish Accessible Route to Dugout and Bleachers (Both Sides)	\$20,000
Regrade and Replace Clay at Home Plate to Eliminate Low Spot	\$20,000
Repair/Replace Backstop	\$15,000
Bike Racks	\$5,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$90,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**TAFTVILLE PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Expand Existing Parking Lot and Add Designated ADA Parking Space	\$20,000
Establish Park Entrance on Providence Street	\$10,000
Add Community Gardens	\$3,500
Splash Pad	\$350,000
Add New 2-5 year old Play Area and Swings	\$250,000
Add New Shade Tree Plantings	\$15,000
Add Evergreen Screen by Fire Station	\$5,000
Renovate Existing Walking Path and Add New Section	\$50,000
Add Shade Sails/Structure for Existing Play Area	\$25,000
Add Security Lighting	\$50,000
Add City Park Signage at Both Entrances	\$30,000
Bike Racks, Benches, Drinking Fountain	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$858,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$171,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,030,200</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**RAYMOND "CIT" OUELLET PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Refresh Fields, Regrade and Reseed	\$250,000
Replace Play Structure and Surfacing	\$500,000
Add Picnic Area by Play Equipment	\$100,000
Renovate Existing Parking Lot	\$200,000
Add Shade Trees to Existing Parking Lot	\$10,000
Pave Drive to Practice Fields and Formalize Parking	\$100,000
Add Restroom	\$250,000
Renovate Practice Fields	\$150,000
Add Security Lighting	\$100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,660,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$332,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,992,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**FAIRVIEW RESERVOIR**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails Around Reservoir	\$1,250,000
Add Trail Connections to Ouellet Park, Taftvill Reservoir and Moriarty Field	\$1,000,000
Trail Head and Entrance Feature	\$25,000
Kayak Launch	\$50,000
Formalize Existing Parking Lot on Reservoir Road	\$25,000
Locate New Parking Lot on Canterbury Turnpike	\$50,000
City Park Signage	\$30,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$30,000
Site Lighting at Parking Lots (2)	\$50,000
Composting Toilets (2)	\$100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,610,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$522,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,132,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**BEAN HILL GREEN**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Street Trees on Huntington Avenue	\$10,000
Add ADA Curb Ramps at All Corners w/ Crosswalks	\$30,000
Add City Park Sign and Interpretative Historic Signage	\$20,000
Establish On Street ADA Parking Space	\$10,000
Add New Walk System Around Park	\$35,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$15,000
Ornamental Park Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$34,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**NORWICHTOWN GREEN**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add ADA Curb Ramps at All Corners w/ Crosswalks	\$35,000
Add New Pedestrian Walk	\$75,000
Establish On Street ADA Parking Space	\$15,000
Rehabilitate/Renovate Existing Lawn	\$25,000
Add Significant Shade Trees Inside Park and along Streets	\$25,000
Add City Park Sign and Interpretative Historic Signage	\$30,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$15,000
Incorporate New Ornamental Site Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$270,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$54,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$324,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**DONALD L. ALFIERO SKATEBOARD PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Remove and Replace Skate Park	\$250,000
Accessible Walks	\$10,000
Add Pavilion with Picnic Tables	\$150,000
Renovate Parking Lot; Add ADA Parking	\$50,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$20,000
Signage	\$10,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$490,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$98,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$588,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**FONTAINE FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Turf Field and Add synthetic Track	\$1,500,000
Add 2 Sets of Spectator Stands	\$30,000
Remove Existing Parking Area on John Edwards Drive; Replace with Lawn	\$17,500
Remove Elevated Seating Area	\$10,000
Remove and Replace Guard Rail at Top of Hill	\$25,000
Expand Existing ADA Parking Area	\$35,000
Add City Park Sign	\$15,000
Bike Racks, Benches, Drinking Fountain	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,682,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$336,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,019,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**ROBERT W. SPAYNE BASKETBALL COURTS**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Kevin's Kourt Inclusive Basketball Court	\$100,000
Add Designated ADA Parking to Existing Armstrong Parking Lot	\$10,000
Add Accessible Walkway to all Courts	\$20,000
Add Evergreen Screening on Eastern Edge Between Courts & DPW Building	\$6,000
Add Street Trees	\$5,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$20,000
Update City Park Sign	\$10,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$171,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$34,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$205,200</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**ARMSTRONG TENNIS COURTS**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Establish Designated ADA Parking and Accessible Route to Basketball Courts	\$20,000
Add Accessible Routes to all Amenities and Facilities	\$25,000
Add Site Lighting at Parking Lot	\$250,000
Add Restroom	\$60,000
Universally Accessible 2-5 and 5-12 Play Areas	\$350,000
Small Pavilion with Tables	\$125,000
Add City Park Sign	\$15,000
Bike Racks, Benches, Drinking Fountain	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$895,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$179,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,074,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**LUIS DEPINA RECREATION FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Establish an Accessible Route and Entry to Park Facilities	\$10,000
New Accessible Walk	\$50,000
New Accessible Bleachers at Field #1	\$15,000
New Practice Pitching Mound and Batting Cage at Field #1	\$15,000
Remove and Replace Existing Dugouts at Field #1	\$30,000
Add Shade Trees	\$3,000
Bike Racks, Drinking Fountain	\$30,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$153,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$30,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$183,600</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**DICKENMAN FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Retrofit Existing Bleachers on Home Team Side for Accessibility	\$25,000
Add Visitor's Bleachers	\$25,000
Add Warning Track to Outfield	\$25,000
Establish Accessible Walkway	\$20,000
Replace Batting Cage	\$30,000
Add Designated ADA Parking Spaces	\$5,000
Replace Clay Infield	\$25,000
Add Water Service and Drinking Fountain	\$30,000
Add Underdrainage to Left Field	\$50,000
Add Street Trees	\$7,000
Bike Racks	\$5,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$247,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$49,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$296,400</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**MOHEGAN PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
<b>Field Pavilion</b>	
Remove Backstop	\$10,000
Add Shade Trees	\$10,000
Dedicated ADA Parking Space at Pavilion	\$1,500
Accessible Walk from Parking Lot and Around Field	\$75,000
Formalize Parking Lot	\$115,000
<b>Beach &amp; Lakeside Pavilion</b>	
Replenish Beach Sand	\$50,000
Renovate and Upgrade Lakeside Pavilion	\$50,000
Add Fishing Pier	\$150,000
Vegetate Parking Lots	\$15,000
Add Security Lighting in Parking Lots (2)	\$100,000
<b>Park Center</b>	
Screen Views of Animal Shelter	\$4,000
Replace Accessible Walk from ADA Parking Spaces	\$8,000
Repair/Replace Internal Walks (by Parking Lot Pavilion)	\$25,000
Add Shade Trees in Parking Lot	\$10,000
Add Security Lighting in Parking Lot	\$50,000
<b>Lower Pond</b>	
Expand and Formalize Parking Lot	\$50,000

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**MOHEGAN PARK**

<b>Memorial Rose Garden &amp; Water Tower</b>	
Refresh Rose Garden Structures and Plantings	\$50,000
Resurface Basketball Court	\$50,000
Accessible Walk	\$3,500
Expand and Formalize Parking Lot	\$20,000
Add Shade Trees	\$5,000
Proposed Parkwide Multi-Use Trails	\$450,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,302,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$260,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,562,400</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**FERNWOOD PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Parking Area Accessed from Fernwood Street	\$30,000
Add Accessible Walking Path with Routes to all Amenities, and Extend to Beechwood Boulevard	\$70,000
Add Fitness Equipment Stations (7) to New Walking Path	\$45,000
Remove Existing Court Surfaces and Replace with Turf	\$85,000
Relocate and Replace Basketball Court (New)	\$100,000
Expand Playground; Add 2-5 Year Old Play Equipment and Swings	\$350,000
Add Community Gardens	\$2,500
Add City Park Sign (2)	\$30,000
New Plantings Throughout	\$25,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$752,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$150,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$903,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**CHELSEA PARADE PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
City Park Sign (2)	\$30,000
Renovate Lawn	\$10,000
Add Accessible Walks Through Park	\$45,000
Street Trees	\$5,000
Add More Benches throughout Park	\$15,000
Replace Cracked City Sidewalks around Small Triangle Park	
Add Crosswalk	\$5,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$22,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$132,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**GREENEVILLE PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Accessible Walks to all Amenities	\$20,000
Replace Chain-Link Fence with Ornamental Steel Picket Fence	\$60,000
City Park Sign (2)	\$30,000
Add Shade Trees Throughout	\$7,000
Benches, Drinking Fountain	\$30,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$147,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$29,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$176,400</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**WASHINGTON STREET PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Maintain Sledding Field	\$30,000
Renovate Basketball Court	\$100,000
Retaining Wall	\$15,000
Pavilion	\$250,000
Playground & Swings	\$500,000
City Park Sign (2)	\$30,000
Two Parking Lots with Designated ADA Parking Spaces	\$150,000
Accessible Walks	\$50,000
Site Furnishings (Benches, Tables, Bike Racks, Drinking Fountain)	\$50,000
Site Lighting	\$100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,275,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$255,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,530,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**ESTELLE COHN MEMORIAL DOG PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Shade Trees	\$15,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
Upgrade Signage Inside Dog Park (Rules)	\$20,000
Add Site Lighting at Parking Lot	\$50,000
Add Designated ADA Parking Spaces	\$10,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$22,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$132,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**LAKE STREET PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
New Parking Lot with Designated ADA Parking Spaces	\$20,000
Add Accessible Walking Path with Routes to all Amenities	\$80,000
Add Small Pavilion	\$100,000
Add New City Park Signs	\$45,000
New Entrance on Boswell Avenue	\$50,000
Add Curb Ramp and Crosswalk on Boswell Avenue	\$10,000
Renovate Lawn Throughout Park and on Additional Parcels	\$20,000
Bike Racks, Benches, Picnic Tables, Drinking Fountain	\$40,000
Vegetate Park	\$30,000
New Site Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$445,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$89,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$534,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**LITTLE PLAIN PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Maintain / Repair Monument	\$80,000
New Accessible Walks	\$25,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$15,000
Street Trees	\$4,000
City Park Signage	\$15,000
Rehabilitate Lawn	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$154,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$30,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$184,800</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**COLUMBUS PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Replace City Sidewalks on Franklin Street and Boswell Avenue	DPW
Replace Walk between Stair Entrances	\$7,500
Add a Mix of Shade and Ornamental Trees	\$10,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
Repair Walls on Boswell Avenue (300 LF)	\$30,000
Add Accessible Entrance and Walk at Corner	\$15,000
Add Memorial Sculpture	\$200,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$20,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$297,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$59,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$357,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**HAMILTON AVENUE PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Renovate Ball Fields (3)	\$1,400,000
Accessible Walks from Parking Lot to All Amenities	\$80,000
Renovate Existing Parking Lot	\$40,000
Add Parking on Quarto Road	\$35,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
Add Crosswalk on Quarto Road	\$5,000
Upgrade Play Equipment	\$50,000
Vegetate Site	\$20,000
Site Furnishings (Bike Rack, Benches, Drinking Fountains)	\$40,000
Site Lighting	\$100,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,785,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$357,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,142,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**JENNINGS FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Kayak Launch	\$15,000
Establish Trail System along Shetucket River	\$150,000
Add Scenic Overlooks Areas / Fishing Platforms to Shetucket River (3)	\$500,000
Vegetate Parking Lot	\$9,000
Renovate Multi-Purpose Field	\$500,000
Continue Existing Walk to Visitors Side of Field and West	\$60,000
Site Lighting to Parking Lot	\$100,000
Bike Racks, Drinking Fountain	\$35,000
Expand Width of Football Field to 160ft and Add Irrigation	\$100,000
Add New Entrance and Parking Lot on Southwest Side of Park	\$200,000
Accessible Walks at Southwest Parking Lot	\$50,000
Small Pavilion and Picnic Area	\$150,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,884,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$376,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,260,800</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**HOWARD T. BROWN MEMORIAL PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Extend Existing Walking Trail to Transportation Center	\$15,000
Wayfinding Signage	\$50,000
Remove Existing Parking and Replace with New Green Space	\$75,000
New Pedestrian Walk	\$25,000
Permanent Stage	\$200,000
Add Restroom	\$250,000
Tree Plantings	\$40,000
Update and Add Site Lighting	\$100,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$20,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$775,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$155,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$930,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**JENKINS PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Reconstruct Tennis Courts	\$200,000
Add Restroom	\$250,000
Universally Inclusive 2-5 and 5-12 Age Play Area, and Swings	\$400,000
Pavilion and Picnic Tables	\$150,000
Splash Pad	\$350,000
Multi-Purpose Field	\$300,000
City Park Sign (north side)	\$15,000
Park Recognition Memorial Sign (south side)	\$30,000
Community Gardens	\$2,000
Entrance from High Street (Walk and Steps)	\$50,000
Remove Portions of Fence along Mechanic Street	\$5,000
Accessible Walks to all Amenities and Trail Path	\$100,000
Bike Racks, Benches, Drinking Fountain	\$30,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,882,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$376,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,258,400</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**FITZGERALD BASEBALL FIELD**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
New Multi-Purpose Field with Spectator Stands	\$750,000
New Vehicular Entrance and Parking Lot	\$65,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
Remove Concession Building, Dugouts and Fencing	\$50,000
Accessible Walk to Field	\$30,000
Retaining Wall at South End of Field	\$250,000
Bike Racks, Drinking Fountain	\$35,000
New Site Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,245,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$249,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,494,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**ELIZABETH STREET PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Add Onsite Parking, Including ADA	\$16,000
Add Accessible Walking Path from Parking Lot to Amenities	\$30,000
Repair Stone Walls along City Sidewalks	\$45,000
Add New Play Structure	\$350,000
Remove Existing Bituminous Circular Drive	\$7,500
Renovate Open Lawn for Community Events	\$25,000
Add Street Trees	\$10,000
Bike Racks, Benches	\$15,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$513,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$102,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$616,200</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**LAUREL HILL GREEN**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
City Park Sign; Historical Signage	\$30,000
Add Street Trees on Laurel Hill Avenue and River Avenue	\$12,000
Add Crosswalks and Curb Ramps at Center Street Corners	\$15,000
New Accessible Walk System Inside Park	\$30,000
Central Circular Plaza with Pavers	\$5,000
Flagpole	\$8,000
Benches, Bike Racks	\$25,000
Remove Chain-Link Fence and Replace with Ornamental Steel Picket Fence	\$65,000
Universally Inclusive 2-5 and 5-12 Age Play Area, and Swings	\$350,000
Add Ornamental Site Lighting	\$50,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$590,000</b>
20% Contingency	\$118,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$708,000</b>

Norwich Master Parks Plan  
Capital Improvement Costs

**THAMESVILLE PARK**

Description of Master Plan Item	Budgetary Estimate
Resurface Basketball Court and Repair Hoop	\$50,000
Add Evergreen Screen along Northern Bank	\$7,500
Add Accessible Walk System	\$25,000
Add Curb Ramp and Crosswalk at Parking Lot	\$7,500
New Playground & Swings	\$350,000
City Park Sign	\$15,000
Add Parking On Site	\$50,000
Add Shade/Street Trees	\$10,000
Bike Racks, Drinking Fountain, Benches	\$30,000
Site Lighting	\$250,000
Porta Toilets (2)	\$3,500
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$798,500</b>
20% Contingency	\$159,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$958,200</b>

# FUNDING AND REVENUE STRATEGIES

This section of the Master Parks Plan provides examples of funding and revenue strategies used by systems throughout the United States. Park and recreation agencies draw on many sources of revenue to help them acquire park land, develop parks and facilities, maintain parks, and offer recreation programs from a variety of revenue options. Some of the sources relate to operating dollars, some to capital dollars, and the rest can be used for either/ both capital and operating budgets.

**Enterprise Funds:** These funds are used for services provided to the public on a user charge basis, similar to the operation of a commercial enterprise. An enterprise fund establishes a separate accounting and financial reporting mechanism for municipal services for which a fee is charged in exchange for goods or services. Under enterprise accounting, the revenues in expenditures of services are separated into separate funds into their own financial statements, rather than commingled with the revenues and expenses of all other government activities from a general fund. Water and sewage utilities and golf course operations are common examples of government enterprises.

**Land Leases/Concessions:** Land leases and concessions are public/private partnerships in which the municipality provides land or space for private commercial operations that enhance the park and recreational experience in exchange for payments to help reduce operating costs. They can range from vending machines and food services to boat rentals and golf course operations. Some agencies enter into a contract with a soft drink company for the right to sell just their line of products. For this benefit, the soft drink company will provide additional dollars as part of the agreement.

**Scholarship Programs:** Most agencies have some level of scholarships available to financially disadvantaged households, including the Town. Funding typically comes from general fund support, corporate support, and other programs' fees and charges. Another mechanism is to develop a relationship with a retailer. Some agencies provide an

opportunity for residents to add a contribution fee to their program registration, with that money going to support the scholarship program.

**Maintenance Endowment Fund:** This is a fund dedicated exclusively for park maintenance, funded by a percentage of user fees from programs, events, and rentals. For example, a \$1 surcharge can be added to a golf course green fee, with the \$1 dedicated toward maintenance improvements at the course.

**User Fees:** User fees are fees paid by participants of programs or recreational facilities to offset the costs of services provided by the municipality. The fees are set by the municipality based on cost-recovery goals and the level of exclusivity the user receives compared to the general taxpayer. This does not necessarily imply the need for increasing fees, but rather having a sophisticated approach to the charging of fees.

**General Obligation Bond:** A general obligation bond is a municipal bond secured by the taxing and borrowing power of the municipality issuing it. Many communities seeking to utilize bonds for development require that voter approval be given before issuing debt.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** A TIF is a public financing method that is used as a subsidy for re-development, infrastructure, and other community-improvement projects. Using a TIF, municipalities typically divert future property tax revenue increases from a defined

area or district toward an economic development project or public improvement project in the community.

**Real Estate Transfer Fee or Tax:** This form of funding is being used by several agencies and states to acquire and develop park land. The transfer of real estate from one owner to another generates the money, with the municipality retaining a percentage of the value of the property (typically 0.5 percent) at the time of sale. The proceeds can be dedicated to acquiring land or for other green space purposes.

**Conservation District:** Conservation Districts operate like a land trust, but they are set up to protect specific property areas with high green space value, such as watersheds or sensitive natural areas. The Conservation District's role is to provide landowners with tax benefits to allow their properties to be preserved as part of the district.

**Facility Authority:** A Facility Authority is used by park and recreation agencies to improve a specific park or to develop a specific improvement such as a stadium, large recreation center, large aquatic center, or sports venue for competitive events. Repayment of bonds to fund the project usually comes from sales taxes. The City of Indianapolis has created several recreational facilities to meet local needs and national competition venues as an economic development tool. The Facility Authority is responsible for managing the sites and operating them in a self-supporting manner.

**Governmental Funding Programs:** A variety of funding sources are available from federal and state government for transportation, water, green space, and sustainability projects. For example, the Land and Water Conservation Fund provide funds to state and local governments to acquire, develop, and improve outdoor recreation areas. AmeriCorps grants can be used to fund support for park maintenance. Federal Housing Grants can be used to develop recreation-related facilities to support social needs of housing

residents. Also, the federal government oversees the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants, which assist with reducing energy usage. A listing of federal and state resources is included at the end of this document.

**Revolving Fund:** This is a dedicated fund to be used for various purposes that is replenished on an ongoing basis from various funding sources.

**Improvement District:** An improvement district allows for special assessments on property owners to support acquisition, development, and/or maintenance costs. There are various types of improvement districts that apply to parks and green spaces. Landscape and Lighting Districts are used by California communities to fund park development and ongoing maintenance. Park Benefit Districts establish assessments on properties based on the benefits and costs of acquisition and development associated with a park land improvement. Benefit Districts are typically applied to regional parks, large community parks, event plazas, signature parks, and attractions located in downtown areas or areas slated for redevelopment. In Park Maintenance Districts, the assessments are earmarked to fund park maintenance within a designated area (similar to Landscape and Lighting Districts).

**Lease Back:** Lease backs are a source of capital funding in which a private-sector entity, such as a development company, buys the land and develops a facility such as a park, recreation attraction, recreation center, pool, or sports complex. After the purchase, the development company leases the facility back to the municipality to pay off the capital costs over a 30- to 40-year period. This approach takes advantage of the efficiencies of private sector development, while relieving the burden on the municipality to raise upfront capital funds. Capital Source is a private banking company that provides municipalities this option without going to the voter for approval and/or using municipal bonds to support park and recreation needs.

**Capital Improvement Fee:** A capital improvement fee can be added to the admission fee of a recreation facility to help pay back the cost of developing the facility. This fee is usually applied to golf courses, aquatic facilities, recreation centers, ice rinks, amphitheaters, and special use facilities such as sports complexes. The funds generated can be used to either pay back the cost of the capital improvement or the revenue bond that was used to develop the facility. Columbia, Missouri, has successfully used this fee for years. Virtually all of its program and rental fees have a capital improvement fee attached to the cost of the service.

**Sports Tourism:** Many agencies throughout the United States have developed sports complexes and venues as a means for creating revenue through sports tournaments and special events. Economic impact can be significant when including hotel room stays and restaurant visits.

Greenville South Carolina County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (GCPRT) generated more than \$10 million in economic impact across the county in 2014. Similarly, the city of North Augusta, Georgia hosts the annual Nike Peach Jam basketball tournament, an elite men's and women's basketball showcase that generates more than \$4.5 million for the local community and generates positive press through coverage by ESPN and other new outlets. The continued success of the event over 20 years has led to increased funding for facility development and improvements. Other agencies noted for sports tourism include Mecklenburg County, North Carolina; Aiken, South Carolina; Rockford, Illinois; and Schaumburg, Illinois. The Park District in Waukegan, Illinois, developed an outdoor sports complex by repurposing an 18-hole golf course.

**Corporate Naming Rights:** In this arrangement, corporations invest in the right to name an event, facility, or product within a parks system in exchange for an annual fee, typically over a 10-year period. The cost of the naming right is based on the impression points the facility or event will receive from newspapers, TV, websites, and visitors or users. Naming rights for park facilities are typically attached to sports complexes, amphitheaters, recreation centers, aquatic facilities, stadiums, and events. These can be looked into particularly for some of the special use facilities or signature arts facilities.

**Corporate Sponsorships:** Corporations can also underwrite a portion or all of the costs of an event, program, or activity based on their name being associated with the service. Sponsorships typically are title sponsors, presenting sponsors, associate sponsors, product sponsors, or in-kind sponsors. Many cities seek corporate support for these types of activities. Illinois park districts that have leveraged good success from the corporate sector include Naperville, Schaumburg, and Rockford.

**Gift Catalog:** This can be a web-based shopping list for individuals to “buy” a gift for the city park and recreation department. This consists of having a list of amenities the public can buy to help fund park development.

**Individual Contributions:** Some agencies provide residents with the opportunity to provide donations to the agency. Many times, this is accomplished from having a contribution opportunity attached to program registration forms.

**Public/Nonprofit Partnership:** The private nonprofit Forest Park Forever entered into a partnership with the city of St. Louis in 2013. Forest Park Forever agreed to raise \$100 million in endowments for the park and buy \$30 million in city bonds that would pay for capital improvements. The city will pay the group back, with interest, over the course of 30 years with money made from existing taxes and park revenue.

**Conservancy or Friends Organization:** This type of nonprofit is devoted to supporting a specific park. Hartford has had great success with conservancies. Typically, the conservancy manages a large park and is autonomous from City government, and instead is managed by a board.

**Business Improvement District (BID):** A defined area within which businesses are required to pay an additional tax (or levy) in order to fund projects within the district's boundaries. The BID is often funded primarily through the levy but can also draw on other public and private funding streams. BIDs may go by other names, such as business improvement area (BIA), business revitalization zone (BRZ), community improvement district (CID), special services area (SSA), or special improvement district (SID). These districts typically fund services that are perceived by some businesses as being inadequately performed by government with its existing tax revenues, such as cleaning streets, providing security, making capital improvements, construction of pedestrian and streetscape enhancements, and marketing the area. The services provided by BIDs are supplemental to those already provided by the municipality.

**Land Trust:** Land trusts are nonprofits focused on preservation. A landowner can donate, sell, or exchange part of their land rights to a trust, in cooperation with a city. There is a tax incentive to donate the land as a charitable gift, although it is the responsibility of the landowner to pursue the tax deduction. Collaborating with land trusts and landowners takes considerable time and effort.

**Parks Foundation:** Established to support system-wide park and recreation needs or individual parks, park foundations have helped many cities across the nation to acquire land and develop parks. These are foundations that are based within a city for the sole purpose of raising funds for that city's park and recreation system. For example, the Parks Foundation of Houston, Texas raises \$5 million

annually, on average, for land acquisition and park improvements. The River Legacy Park Foundation in Arlington, Texas raised \$5 million for a nature center. Foundation members are typically community leaders who are committed to the park and recreation agency. A foundation requires park and recreation staff time as a liaison to the group.

**Greenway Foundations:** Greenway foundations focus on developing and maintaining trails and green corridors on a citywide basis. The City of Indianapolis, Indiana Greenway Foundation develops and maintains greenways throughout the city and seeks land leases along the trails as one funding source, in addition to selling miles of trails to community corporations and nonprofits. The development rights along the trails can also be sold to local utilities for water, sewer, fiber optic, and cable lines on a per-mile basis to support development and management of these corridors. King County in the Seattle, Washington area has done a very good job in accessing this funding source for greenway development.

**The Foundation Center:** This organization maintains a comprehensive database of United States and global grant-makers and their funding opportunities. It also operates research, education, and training programs designed to advance knowledge of philanthropy at every level.

**KABOOM! Play Grants:** Since 1996, KABOOM! has collaborated with partners to build, open or improve more than 16,700 playgrounds across the country. Their work is community-driven; which means that the projects seek to build trusting relationships, center community voices, and engage diverse stakeholders. They do this by working hand in hand with kids and adults to design, plan for, and build community playspace.

## Federal and State of CT Resources/Grants

### **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**

**(CFDA):** The authoritative source of federal grant programs can be found in the CFDA. This catalog lists all the available funding programs to all levels of government, nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, and other entities. [Search Grants](#) within Grants.gov allows you to search, filter, and apply for specific opportunities to receive funding from one of these programs.

**CT Open Space Grants:** The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program, which is administered by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), awards grants that assist local governments, land trusts, and water companies in purchasing open space using funding from the Community Investment Act and state bond funds. This grant program requires a match by the grant recipient and requires the open space land be protected by a conservation and public recreation easement, ensuring that the property is forever protected for public use and enjoyment.

**Urban Forestry Program:** This program provides opportunities for municipalities, organizations, and individuals to become

engaged in effective urban forestry activities. An important goal of the program is improved care and maintenance of the urban forest. Urban forests consist of those trees most closely associated with the human-developed part of the environment. These forests exist in all communities in CT, from the smallest village to the most densely populated city. The trees of the urban forest are those that people encounter most on a regular basis. They are woven into and around our built infrastructure, provide benefits directly to the communities within the state, and have a substantial impact on people's lives.

**State Wildlife Grant Program:** These grant funds may be used to address a variety of conservation needs such as research, fish and wildlife surveys, species restoration, habitat management, and monitoring throughout CT.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds:** Proposed CDBG projects must be consistent with broad national priorities for CDBG activities that benefit low- and moderate-income people, the prevention or [elimination of slums](#) or blight, or other community development activities to address an urgent threat to health or safety.

CDBG funds may be used for community development activities (such as real estate acquisition, relocation, demolition, rehabilitation of housing and commercial buildings), construction of public facilities and improvements (such as water, sewer, and other utilities, street paving, and sidewalks), construction and maintenance of neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings, senior centers, public services, and economic development and job creation/retention activities. CDBG funds can also be used for preservation and restoration of historic properties in low-income neighborhoods. The City of Arlington, Texas used CDBG funds to renovate a recreation center and senior center in an underprivileged area.

**Grants for Aquatic Invasive Species Control on Lakes, Ponds, and Rivers:** CT DEEP provides funding for projects to reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive species on inland waters of CT. Municipalities, state agencies, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive grants through this program.

### Community Investment Fund 2030

**(CIF):** The fund is a statewide program authorized in Section 32-285a of the Connecticut General Statutes to foster economic development in historically underserved communities across the state. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), the CIF Board and Office of the Governor, and the State Bond Commission work together to award CIF grants. Eligible municipalities and not-for-profit organizations / community development corporations that operate within them can apply. Eligible projects include:

- Promote economic or community development in the municipality where the project is located.
- Consistently and systematically advance fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved and marginalized communities; members of religious minorities; persons comprising the LGBTQ+ community; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

**Bikes Belong:** The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry, and its goal is putting more people on bikes more often. They seek to assist local organizations, agencies, and citizens in developing bicycle facilities projects that will be funded by Federal Highway Administration Enhancement Grants. Bikes Belong Coalition will accept grant applications for projects up to \$10,000.

**Partners in Preservation Grants:** These grants are offered by the CT State Historic Preservation Office and municipalities, and nonprofits are eligible. These grants are for projects that advance the goals of the State Historic Preservation Office through historic preservation, education, awareness, promotion, outreach, and visioning initiatives. These grants are part of CT's commitment to provide increased funding for open space, farmland preservation, historic preservation, and affordable housing.

**Justice 40 Initiative:** For the first time in our nation's history, the Federal Government has made it a goal that 40 per-cent of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.



*Justice 40 areas of Norwich.*

**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Grants:** These grants encourage the use of old railroad lines as “linear parks,” and eligible grantees include nonprofit organizations; state, regional, or local government agencies, and other organizations. Eligible grant projects include planning and design efforts, legal assistance, brochures, or other educational materials, ecological assessments, and buying land. The Trail Grants Program, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) emphasizes strategic investments that support significant regional and community trail development goals.

**The Outdoors for All Act:** The *Outdoors for All Act* codifies the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program in federal law and ensures that funding will go towards the communities without adequate access to local parks. As our cities grow and the effects of climate change intensify, the Outdoors for All Act would allow for equitable access to the benefits of local parks—from job creation, to shade and tree cover, to clean air. ORLP improves and funds new trails, green spaces, playgrounds, cultural gathering spaces, and more, bringing nature’s benefits to urban residents’ doorsteps.

**The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC):** This organization provides financial assistance to local government for the development of local urban and community forestry programs. These activities must help to establish, manage, conserve, and preserve the urban and community forests from inner city to associated public lands. The Council develops annual grant categories and makes recommendations for funding through the Forest Service’s National Urban Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. NUCFAC seeks innovative grant proposals for program development, study, and collaboration.

**Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development and Land & Water Conservation Programs:** Local units of government can apply for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas.

**Federal Recreational Trails Program:** Federal, state, and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private operators of recreational facilities open to the public can apply for funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.

**Recreational Grants-in-Aid Programs:** These include federal Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), boating access, and trails programs such as bikeway, snowmobile, off-highway vehicle, and federal recreational trails grants.

## CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Requests Proposals for Recreational Trails Grants

This grant provides funding for:

- Planning and design of trails
- Construction of new trails (motorized and non-motorized)
- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails (motorized and non-motorized)
- Access to trails by persons with disabilities
- Purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Acquisition of land or easements for a trail, or for trail corridors
- Operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection as related to recreational trails

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Grants

These provide [grants](#) for assessment and cleanup of brownfields through an annual competitive process. The EPA publishes guidance for applying for brownfields grants annually on its [How to Apply for Grants](#) webpage. The EPA provides the following types of grants:

- **Area-Wide Planning (AWP) Pilot Program:** Provides funding for grantees to develop an area-wide plan and implementation strategy for key brownfield sites. Such plans will help the assessment, cleanup, and reuse of brownfields properties and promote area-wide revitalization. Funding is directed to specific areas, such as a neighborhood, downtown district, local commercial corridor, or city block, affected by a single large or multiple brownfield sites.
- **Brownfields Assessment Grants:** Provide funding for a grant recipient to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfield sites.
- **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grants:** Enable states, political subdivisions, and Indian tribes to make low-interest loans to carry out cleanup activities at brownfields properties.
- **Brownfields Cleanup Grants:** Provide funds to carry out cleanup activities at a specific brownfield site owned by the applicant.
- **Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT):** Provide funding to recruit, train, and place predominantly low-income and minority, unemployed, and under-employed residents of communities affected by pollution with skills needed to secure employment in the environmental field. Nonprofits and other organizations may apply for these grants.
- **Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants:** Provide funding for eligible organizations to provide training, research, and technical assistance to facilitate brownfields revitalization.
- **The Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program:** Helps states, tribes, and municipalities, especially those without EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilots/ Grants, minimize the uncertainties of contamination often associated with brownfields.

# APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

ihstudio | Norwich Parks Master Plan Survey

## Default Report

Explore the data behind your survey responses. Gain a better perspective of your survey data and uncover insights for further planning.

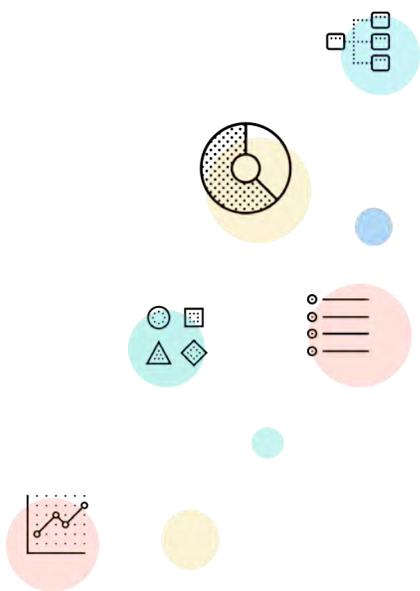
 Visited  
**694**

 Started  
**181**

 Avg. Time to Complete  
**15m**

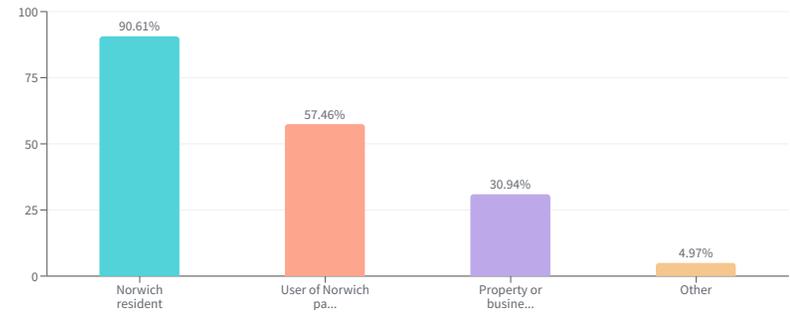
 Completed  
**181**

 Completion Rate  
**100.00%**



**QUESTION 01 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**  
Are you a \_\_\_\_\_? Please fill in the blank with a choice below  
select all that apply

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Norwich resident	164	90.61%
User of Norwich parks	104	57.46%
Property or business owner in Norwich	56	30.94%
Other	9	4.97%

QUESTION 02 | TEXT

Which area of Norwich do you think has the most parks?

Answered: 125 Skipped: 56



<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan park area	10 Days ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Norwich town	11 Days ago
<b>Anonymous</b> West side.. or Taftville there aren't that many	11 Days ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan Park area	22 Days ago
<b>Anonymous</b> NorthEast quadrant	1 Month ago
<b>Anonymous</b> The area up from down city	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Norwichtown	2 Months ago

<b>Anonymous</b> Norwichtown	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> East side - outside of schools, there's isn't really anything besides Mohegan Park	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Unsure	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Chelsea	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Downtown	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan Park	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Maybe by Kelly?	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan Park	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Eastern Norwich	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> What are we defining as a park? I do not consider the town green or the one in bean hill to be parks. Mohegan is really all that I feel qualify.	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan park/taftville — the more rural sides of town	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Kelly Middle School area	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Greeneville	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Not sure, Mohegan Park?	2 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mohegan	2 Months ago

<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
The center, near the marina.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Nfa side	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Taftville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
They are scattered throughout Norwich	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Everywhere	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Mahan Drive area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Don't know	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
City	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Not sure. Mohegan park is most prominent but the small parks are lovely	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Mohegan Park area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Dk	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
West side	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Mohegan Park	

<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
The parks are pretty much spread out	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Don't know	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park is it I think	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
East side	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
East Side (Mohegan Park)	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwich	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Taftville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Greenville?	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Downtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I'm not sure. They seem to be spread throughout the town.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
City	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Greenville	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Injniwnm	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park, yantic falls area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Downtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
No idea	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park or by Kelly middle school	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
NFA area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Greenville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I'm not sure, but Mohegan Park is great	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Well, the Mohegan park area is the largest	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
If you count the greens and wetlands I would say Norwichtown.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan Park Area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan Park area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The area of Mahan Dr and Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan Park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Central	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan Park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
West side	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Parks- I think of Mohegan and uncas leap and the town green areas	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Greenville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
They are fairly spread out	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Nowhere	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The unwelcoming areas	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I think the only one of any size is Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwichtown	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan Park area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwich	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Norwich needs more. We have Mohegan park and Howard T brown.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Taftville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I don't know	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Taftville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
More on the east side but short driving distances make them accessible to anyone who drives	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Parks near 75 Mohegan Rd	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
West side	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Central/north	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
City	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Near Mohegan Park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Greenville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan Park/The Rec	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Norwichtown	

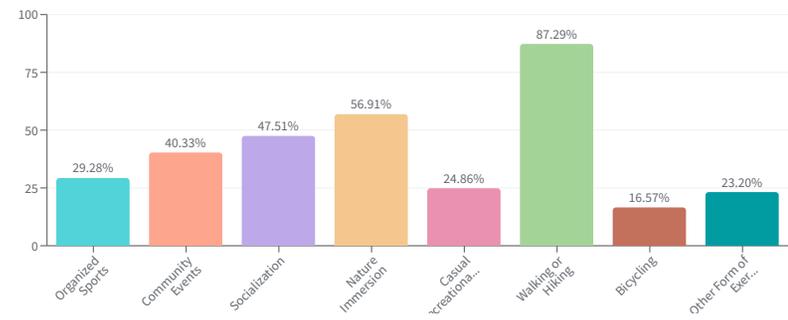
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Center	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Greenville	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Don't know	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I mainly go to Westside parks and Mohegan so not familiar with other parts other than the ones at schools.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Brown, Mohegan, Dan jenkins	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Norwichtown	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Mohegan Park	

<b>Anonymous</b> Norwictown	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> None	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> The Mohegan Park area	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Greenville	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> West side area	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> East side	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> Mahan Drive/Mohegan Park area	5 Months ago
<b>Anonymous</b> ?	5 Months ago

**QUESTION 03 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

## How do you use Norwich Parks?

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**

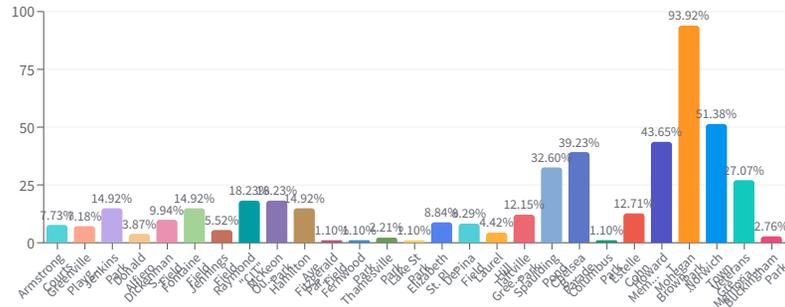


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Organized Sports	53	29.28 %
Community Events	73	40.33 %
Socialization	86	47.51 %
Nature Immersion	103	56.91 %
Casual Recreational Sports	45	24.86 %
Walking or Hiking	158	87.29 %
Bicycling	30	16.57 %
Other Form of Exercise	42	23.20 %

QUESTION 04 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which parks or park areas have you visited in the last 12 months?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 0



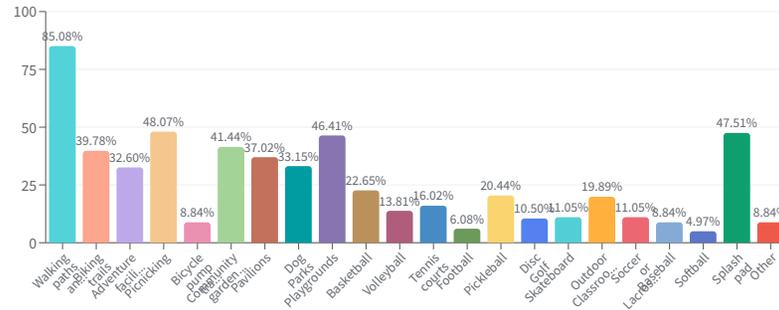
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Armstrong Courts	14	7.73 %
Greenville Playground	13	7.18 %
Jenkins Park	27	14.92 %
Donald Alfiero Skate Park	7	3.87 %
Dickenman Field	18	9.94 %
Fontaine Field	27	14.92 %
Jennings Field	10	5.52 %
Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park	33	18.23 %
McKeon Park	33	18.23 %
Hamilton Ave Park	27	14.92 %

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Fitzgerald Field	2	1.10 %
Fernwood Park	2	1.10 %
Thamesville Park	4	2.21 %
Lake St Park	2	1.10 %
Elizabeth St. Playground	16	8.84 %
DePina Field	15	8.29 %
Laurel Hill Green	8	4.42 %
Taftville Park	22	12.15 %
Spaulding Pond Beach	59	32.60 %
Chelsea Parade	71	39.23 %
Columbus Park	2	1.10 %
Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park	23	12.71 %
Howard T. Brown Memorial Park	79	43.65 %
Mohegan Park	170	93.92 %
Norwich Town Green	93	51.38 %
Veterans Memorial Rose Garden	49	27.07 %
Buckingham Park	5	2.76 %

**QUESTION 05 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Please select the facilities that you or members of your household have a need for:

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Walking paths and trails	154	85.08 %
Biking trails	72	39.78 %
Adventure facility	59	32.60 %
Picnicking	87	48.07 %
Bicycle pump track	16	8.84 %
Community gardens	75	41.44 %
Pavilions	67	37.02 %
Dog Parks	60	33.15 %
Playgrounds	84	46.41 %
Basketball	41	22.65 %

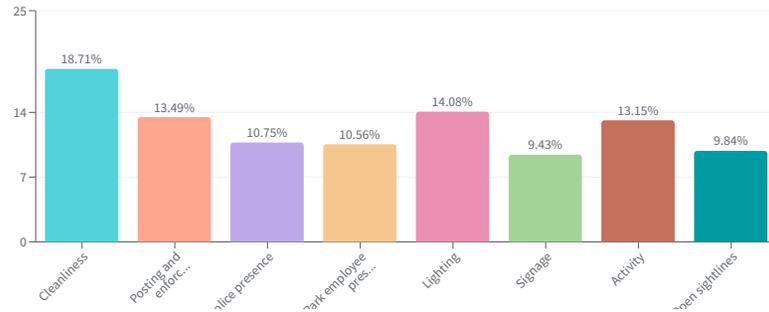
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Volleyball	25	13.81 %
Tennis courts	29	16.02 %
Football	11	6.08 %
Pickleball	37	20.44 %
Disc Golf	19	10.50 %
Skateboard	20	11.05 %
Outdoor Classroom	36	19.89 %
Soccer or Lacrosse	20	11.05 %
Baseball	16	8.84 %
Softball	9	4.97 %
Splash pad	86	47.51 %
Other	16	8.84 %

**QUESTION 06 | RANK ORDER**

Rank the items that make you feel safe and comfortable in a Norwich park

1 is most important and 9 is least important \*The items can be ranked by dragging them into place or ranked by adjusting the number\*

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**

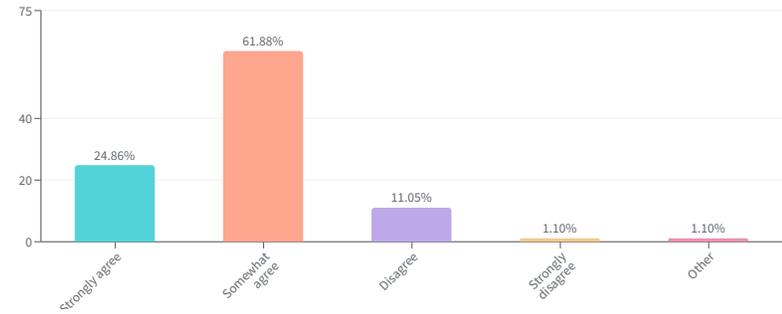


ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Cleanliness	153.04	18.71 %
Posting and enforcement of rules	110.36	13.49 %
Police presence	87.93	10.75 %
Park employee presence	86.38	10.56 %
Lighting	115.21	14.08 %
Signage	77.12	9.43 %
Activity	107.55	13.15 %
Open sightlines	80.53	9.84 %

**QUESTION 07 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

How much do you agree with the statement "I feel welcomed, respected, and safe in Norwich Parks?"

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**

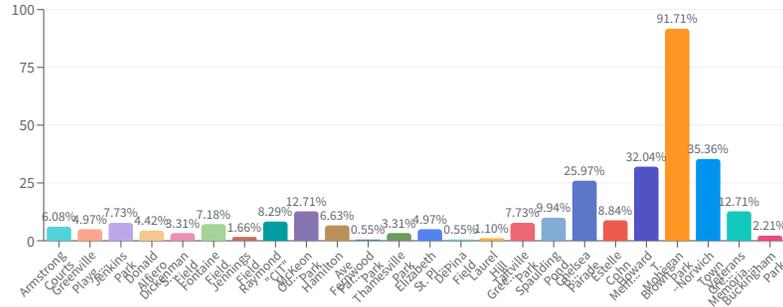


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	45	24.86 %
Somewhat agree	112	61.88 %
Disagree	20	11.05 %
Strongly disagree	2	1.10 %
Other	2	1.10 %

QUESTION 08 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

Which three parks or park areas do you use the most?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 0



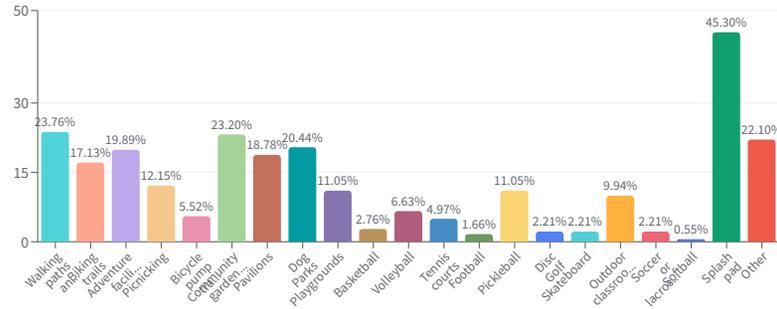
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Armstrong Courts	11	6.08 %
Greenville Playground	9	4.97 %
Jenkins Park	14	7.73 %
Donald Alfiero Skate Park	8	4.42 %
Dickenman Field	6	3.31 %
Fontaine Field	13	7.18 %
Jennings Field	3	1.66 %
Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park	15	8.29 %
McKeon Park	23	12.71 %
Hamilton Ave Park	12	6.63 %
Fernwood Park	1	0.55 %

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Thamesville Park	6	3.31 %
Elizabeth St. Playground	9	4.97 %
DePina Field	1	0.55 %
Laurel Hill Green	2	1.10 %
Taftville Park	14	7.73 %
Spaulding Pond Beach	18	9.94 %
Chelsea Parade	47	25.97 %
Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park	16	8.84 %
Howard T. Brown Memorial Park	58	32.04 %
Mohegan Park	166	91.71 %
Norwich Town Green	64	35.36 %
Veterans Memorial Rose Garden	23	12.71 %
Buckingham Park	4	2.21 %

**QUESTION 09 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Of those three parks what additional facilities are most needed that are not currently available in those parks?

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Walking paths and trails	43	23.76 %
Biking trails	31	17.13 %
Adventure facility	36	19.89 %
Picnicking	22	12.15 %
Bicycle pump track	10	5.52 %
Community gardens	42	23.20 %
Pavilions	34	18.78 %
Dog Parks	37	20.44 %
Playgrounds	20	11.05 %
Basketball	5	2.76 %

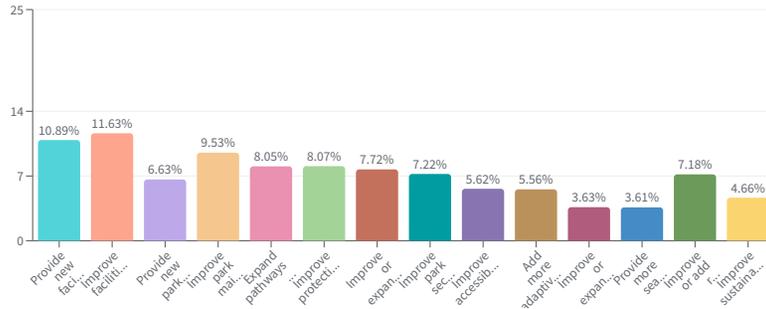
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Volleyball	12	6.63 %
Tennis courts	9	4.97 %
Football	3	1.66 %
Pickleball	20	11.05 %
Disc Golf	4	2.21 %
Skateboard	4	2.21 %
Outdoor classroom	18	9.94 %
Soccer or lacrosse	4	2.21 %
Softball	1	0.55 %
Splash pad	82	45.30 %
Other	40	22.10 %

**QUESTION 10 | RANK ORDER**

If you were the Youth, Family, & Recreation Manager or the Public Works Director, what would be your priority for investing in parks? (Rank in order)

1 is highest and 14 is lowest \*The items can be ranked by dragging them into place or ranked by adjusting the number\*

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Provide new facilities in existing parks	147.82	10.89 %
Improve facilities in existing parks	157.83	11.63 %
Provide new parks	90.00	6.63 %
Improve park maintenance	129.32	9.53 %
Expand pathways and bikeways	109.24	8.05 %
Improve protection of natural resources	109.53	8.07 %
Improve or expand parks programming	104.80	7.72 %
Improve park security	98.07	7.22 %
Improve accessibility of parks	76.34	5.62 %
Add more adaptive/inclusive features	75.49	5.56 %

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Improve or expand parking facilities	49.32	3.63 %
Provide more seating	49.04	3.61 %
Improve or add restrooms	97.48	7.18 %
Improve sustainability of parks and environmental practices	63.22	4.66 %

QUESTION 11 | TEXT

## What do you like best about Norwich's Parks?

your response is optional

Answered: 131 Skipped: 50



Anonymous

10 Days ago

Nature

Anonymous

10 Days ago

They provide a place to gather as a community

Anonymous

11 Days ago

Many of them, open space, grass area, playground

Anonymous

11 Days ago

Trees

Anonymous

11 Days ago

The diversity I watch and the quiet beauty of the city and its inhabitants. Oh and the plants ☐

Anonymous

22 Days ago

Greenery and open spaces

Anonymous

1 Month ago

open green space

Anonymous

2 Months ago

There are so many!

Anonymous

2 Months ago

They're free and located pretty much all over the city.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Natural beauty

Anonymous

2 Months ago

I like access to the river and available trails through Mohegan park. Leashed dogs would be a bonus on the trails only.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Mohegan park

Anonymous

2 Months ago

There are an abundance of parks in Norwich

Anonymous

2 Months ago

There are so many to choose from

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Everything

Anonymous

2 Months ago

I like Mohegan Park's paved trails. However the dog ban prevents me from using them.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Nature

Anonymous

2 Months ago

How close they are

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Trees, plants, landscaping

Anonymous

2 Months ago

their History

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Free and close

Anonymous

2 Months ago

That we have so many to choose from!!

<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Free, welcoming	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
That there are a lot of them	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
They are beautiful	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
The walking trails	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
The scenery	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
That for the most part it is safe for my family to have a safe space to go to for recreational purposes and that it's clean and fun	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
The beauty of nature and exercise	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Family time	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Accessible throughout Norwich	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
That dogs are not allowed	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Family friendly	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Hiking trails and swimming beach	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Basketball	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Water	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Mohegan Park is a gem. Beautiful, well maintained. Thank you Norwich!	

<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
The sidewalks and well kept cleanliness	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Number and variety	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
There is plenty of them	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Not sure yet	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Mohegan park is protected and cannot be modified so do not change the one park we should be proud of! Build fucking sidewalks so pedestrians don't get killed walking through town! Stop wasting our money! Piece of shit officials	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
They include some beautiful places and are generally clean and safe. I'd love to see that botanical garden proposed years ago to be created. And an adventure park for kids would be wonderful.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The variety of activities that can be done at each park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Free	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Free, easy to find one close to where we are, good play structures for grandkid	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Safe	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Nature	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Clean, beautiful and that some allow dogs while others dont. I like having a dog free option	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
There are a lot of them to choose from	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Activities for the youth, things for them to do to get them out of the house and exercising, keep them out of trouble, and off their phones and connected to nature.	

<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
They're very well kept. Clean and pretty.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
The three parks that I visit are well maintained and are pretty.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Can't really haven't been to a majority of Norwich parks due to lack of interest.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Free	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Variety and inclusiveness	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Mohegan park is great, needs more bike paths and norwich needs to be connected to the rail trail	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Availability	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Multiple options	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
There are many options	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Local, easy to get to,	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Different parks with different features to choose from	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Not sure	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Being close to home and fun for my toddler	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
only that they are close to my home but because I cant bring my dog unfortunately I usually leave Norwich. I am close to retirement and am looking forward to spending more time in our parks. I would recommend that there be advertising that includes all the parks and place " features" at each. I'd like to see bocce courts placed up near the senior center or perhaps in front of the skate park...	

<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Clean	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Cleanliness, easily accessible, safe, and fun for my kids	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
The trails and nature	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Keeps my kids active	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
It's so important to have access to natural areas and open space both for recreation and the health of the local environment and residents	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
They tend to be very clean. Your crews can't be everywhere at once but I feel they do a really nice job. My absolute fav part of Mohegan is the fountain near the old monkey house. Would love to see more art.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
The parks that actually have playing fields for athletic practices and games	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Availability	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Protecting natural resources in Mohegan Park. I love that in the middle of this city, there is a beautiful park full of trees and walking paths.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Quantity	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Nature	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
They're free and not crowded	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
I am happy they don't allow dogs except at the dog park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	<a href="#">4 Months ago</a>
Places to walk, make accessible for families with young kids- stroller friendly and bike friendly. Include maps showing the different trail options. Include historical aspect of space.	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Being able to walk, would like more places to be able to walk with dogs, I like the new exercise equipment at Greenville and more picnic areas	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I love mohegan park. It is my favorite. It is very well taken care of and maintained.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Being so close to home, spread across the towns and cities ect.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Their potential and history	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
They are well maintained from what I see, although I have been told that some of them have playground equipment in dire need of replacement.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Rose garden is beautifully maintained	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
How pretty they are and being around nature.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The updated playground for the kids.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Fresh open air, things for my kids to do	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Good maintenance	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I like that there is one close by to my house. I don't have a car and it is nice to have one close so my daughter can play and meet other children.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The views	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
There are many different 'natural' spaces in place	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The fact that there are so many to choose from	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Socializing with friends	

<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Enough parking	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I like the ones that have NO DOGS & enforce the rule.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Size, natural beauty	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Playground areas	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
We have a lot of parks in our town which will help keep our children occupied and off of the streets.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I don't really go to the parks as much due to the condition of the games, and also due to not feeling safe and other people not following the no dogs int he park rule at Mohegan Park.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Nature views	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Location	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
The beauty of Mohegan park	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I like that youth sports events take place there. I like that there are many parks in Norwich although many are not safe.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Cleanliness	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Most neighborhoods have a park convenient to them.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Being able to watch other people & relax.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Maintenance and Accessibility	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I like the number of programs offered through youth, family, and recreation.	

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Beauty

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Unfortunately some on list i wouldn't consider parks , Buckingham has a basketball court no park.nothing but grass.hamilton st the metal is chipping and really a risky situation using.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
They are not all the same. We go to various parks because of variety of activities, 3 slides at one, a bridge at another.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Mohegan park is beautiful

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
They are open spaces and provide an opportunity to connect to the environment, explore nature, interact with community and beautify our city!

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
There are so many and are accessible by foot or car

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Family friendly and used by young & old alike.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Close to home. Safe space for family

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Grassy areas & cleanliness

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
kids play area for my 2 year old

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Offer good spaces to get outside, play with my kid, etc

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Free.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Beautiful trees

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Mohegan park offers alot for families except dogs aren't permitted, and with a disability my dog accommodates for my needs so he is with me. Many people are rude and inconsiderate of that. I feel like we'll mannered dogs on leah SHOULD be allowed,as they are family too!

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Seeing wildlife in the woods

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
They are usually maintained fairly well. At most times, I feel safe there. It is wonderful to have so many parks in the City - each neighborhood has their own.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Clean, very well maintained

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Constant attention to, maintenance and a range of activities.

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Various usage of fields

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Scenery

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
spread out

---

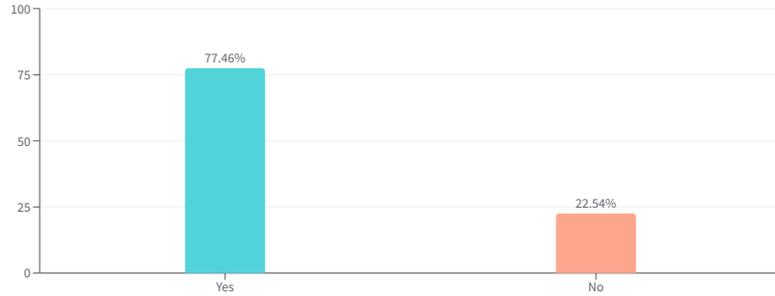
**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
x

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QUESTION 12 | YES OR NO

Is there a park or open space within a ten minute walk of your residence?

Answered: 173 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Yes	134	77.46 %
No	39	22.54 %

QUESTION 13 | TEXT

How would you improve the park system and recreational offerings?

Answered: 147 Skipped: 34



- Anonymous** 10 Days ago  
Add public indoor and outdoor pools
- Anonymous** 10 Days ago  
Less restrictions, especially if there is an insured host. Need a better building where people can hold activities in the colder months. A closed gym of some kind. A community center for teenagers to offer organized recreation, dances, positive outlets. Also the ability to rent spaces at our local parks. Reserving a pavilion or picnic table at our local park is appealing
- Anonymous** 11 Days ago  
Provide more recreational activities at more Park, especially the ones that are near families in disadvantaged areas or where people don't have access to transportation or can't afford to travel, offer lower cost activities in the places that need it.
- Anonymous** 11 Days ago  
Greater diversity of natural habitats. Like meadows, wetlands, rocky areas, evergreen forests etc...
- Anonymous** 22 Days ago  
Permanent restrooms @ dog park, H T Brown memorial and any other park that has heavy regular usage or hosts eventsl

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
I'd have a staff or police presence at parks that are known for drug dealing and/or homeless camps

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
I would add things the community had been asking for like a splash pad and a swimming pool.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Offer more & advertise offerings more on community pages

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Allow leashed dogs on wooded trails and in parks.  
It would be nice to allow trail use in Fairview Reservoir.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Provide our community with a multi-sports complex. Community clubs/organizations are fighting for permits and space every season. We need facilities such as these to attract families to our town. Norwich has fantastic programs but mediocre fields with holes that can lead to injuries. Also, hire more staff so Parks and Rec & Public Works can support the requests for the organizations & clubs; please!

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Allow dogs at Mohegan Park

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
We need a YMCA

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Allow dogs on leash, particularly at Mohegan park

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Make them dog friendly and have bathrooms

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Turf fields

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Leashed dogs should be allowed in any park that has walking available. Mohegan Park having the pound in the middle but a ban on volunteers exercising those dogs on leash on the trails is a disgrace.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
More Funding for youth and activities

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Enforce posted rules at Mohegan park.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Maintenance, toddler specific playgrounds, signage (I don't know many of the parks by name!)

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Make them available for public events of all types. Keep open after dusk

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
There needs to be more parks that have paths where people can walk dogs on a leash and children can safely ride a bike. More pickleball courts too.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Improve parks and rec communication and offerings so there are more opportunities to participate. Make 1 day or drop in events so it isn't such a huge time commitment. Plan for more than just kids and old people.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Affordability. If you look at surrounding cities, their recreation programs are substantially cheaper. I could've sent my child to a summer camp in another town and paid less money as a non-resident then it would've cost me to send my child to summer camp with Norwich Rec as a Norwich resident.

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Volleyball

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Have more events at each park. DJ, food, flea/ craft market monthly to engage norwich as a whole, not just a neighborhood

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
I feel like the first renovated park at Mohegan was kinda of unsafe for smaller kids. But right now, I think we're headed in the right direction

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
I think you are doing a good job! Keep up the good work!

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
adding more gardens and plant life

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
I would definitely provide more police presence also have tournaments with teens against police officers. Basketball games, baseball games even football. Teens will definitely play.. gives the police to a chance to build a relationship with the kids..

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Maybe more things to do, Movies in the park, concerts, bands, fall festival

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Maintenance and security

**Anonymous** [2 Months ago](#)  
Cleanliness of parks and facilities

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
It's great already

---

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Better playgrounds, improve trash cans with lids that animals cannot get into overnight. There is trash everywhere always. Post signs and rules. Be proud of our parks! A lot more open space to walk ride bikes while children play in the middle and walk run fly a kite.

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
More safety

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Splash pad for kids at Mohegan Park. This is a wonderful park that I've been attending since I was a child when there was a zoo! For a bit of nostalgia, bring back the lion water fountain.

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Have designated park for dogs, so that people don't bring them into Mohegan Park. Enforce rules in park for those that bring dogs to park

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Add more adult activities such as pickle ball

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Listening to the community and acting upon

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Public Pool - a dog park that has walking trails through woods. Mohegan Park is 385 acres there is plenty of room to make a dog park with trails near a water source.

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Add water elements for kids like floor fountains to run through, or misting poles when it's hot

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
More adapted equipment for all ages, summer programs for all ages, splash park, and more fenced in parks for those who need another safety measure

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Better communication.

---

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Have offerings that the tax payers won't have to pick up. A splash pad absolutely not! We had a private company want to put in a botanical garden and splash pad the citizens of Norwich ran them out of town. Find a private company to put in a splash pad if not please don't put one in one word money pit. I know city workers typically don't live in Norwich the taxes are through roof enough is enough

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**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)  
Rail trails

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Preserve open space. Start a land conservancy

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
More activities

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
No place to bicycle here. Restrooms ,more and supervised for cleanliness! Elderly or handicap need safe places to enjoy outside besides the marina.

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
How about starting with sidewalks for the town

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
More places to sit and picnic tables; volleyball and pickleball courts; more gardens!

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Keep loud and illegal motorcycle dirt bike out of Mohegan Park.

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
No answer

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Ninja type structures for tweens/teens

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
More for families including dogs, provide more garbage bins, disposable poop bags, better bathrooms, make a slash park for kids

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
A pool

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Better social media presence and outreach

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**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Permanent restrooms with plumbing

---

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

By adding more activities that appeal to older youths, teens, and adults. The new playscapes at Mohegan Park are awesome, but Norwich needs more for the older youths and teens since there's no longer a YMCA in Norwich. A mini golf with an indoor arcade would be a wonderful idea. Maybe an indoor facility for youth and teens that had pool tables, shuffle boards, chess tables, etc. Norwich youths and teens NEED facilities and activities that are in their own town to keep them busy and out of trouble. Aside from basketball courts and tennis courts there's nothing in this town for our youth, yet we pay a ton in taxes as residents. It's very sad.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

I would implement more walking and biking trails if possible. As far as recreation something for the children ages 8-16 implemented would be nice. Perhaps another skate park or something along those lines.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

I feel community events such as band events would do well at Mohegan Park near the fountain area. That would be a great environment vs Howard Brown Park which is dirty.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Monitor with police to keep out graffiti

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Better protection of the natural scenery and more flora.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Improve access to toilets, lighting and get live music

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Safer walking and biking trails

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Giving more access for dogs to existing parks. Perhaps some designated dog trails. I currently have to take my dogs out of town to walk trails.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

By thoroughly evaluating the current parks and doing what needs to be done to either fix them or making new ones

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Upgrade parks and provide bathrooms

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Needs more bike accommodations, we have no sidewalks and the hills every where make running and biking very dangerous

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

No one enforces the rules. I walk at Mohegan Park daily, and it is clearly marked "No Pets". Every day I see people with dogs, and every day I almost step in dog poop. I have almost been run off the path several times by people on bikes. There should be a separate bike path.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Turf field and soccer nets open year round  
My son travels to other towns to play soccer

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

More security

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Splash pad, multi-age entertainment in one location. Playgrounds suited for both young toddler and young child

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Make use of the river front. Monetize our river front. How does Norwich not have a commercial boardwalk??? Why can't I rent kayaks?

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Add walking and biking trails to reservoir areas

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Create an attraction that links all parks, like Anchorage, AK with a scale of the solar system. You can walk to each planet and they're at different locations.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Invest in improving infrastructure of existing parks. Starting first with safety in mind. Making the parks more community oriented (maybe more events) may draw more users.

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Better maintained playgrounds

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

advertising that lists specific features...

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Splash pad

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

Build a public pool

**Anonymous**[4 Months ago](#)

A Saturday open farmers market. Some food vendors. Like in Mohegan park. A small zoo of some sort would be nice

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Emphasize the maintenance of natural habitats and open spaces, conservation efforts to support and co-exist with wildlife

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

I would love to see a more prominent comprehensive schedule of events. I don't know if you have one, but I don't think I've ever come across one on the city's page or community forum. Minor, but the trash cans on Chelsea parade no longer have their tops, when it gets windy, the bags flip inside out and trash goes everywhere. Also there are no trash cans on the columbus monument side of the green so there's always junk on the side of the road from high schoolers. NFA really should have trash cans at the entrance/exits... which is really the problem. But it affects the green. It's always the same institutional packaging (juice boxes and whatnot)

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Catch Norwich up to all the surrounding areas that have beautiful athletic complexes for a variety of sports programs to expand in our city. To be able to promote provide and sustain recreational programs for our youth to participate in

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

More landscaping, the greens are often just open and too easily visible to traffic

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Keep the parks clean. Allow dogs in Mohegan Park (which is the only place with walking trails in Norwich) but provide signage, waste bins and poop stations so hopefully people will clean up after their dogs. Enforce leash laws so everyone can have a fun, safe time walking their dogs there. Love that you're adding tennis courts, we have needed these for years. Would love to see Howard Brown park cleaned up so people can use it for kayaking, it is always filled with trash when we put our boats in.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Enforce dog rules in all parks, in particular mohegan park

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Do community outreach. Many residents have no idea of the limited programs available. Increase recreational staff to do community outreach and increase programs

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

More dog friendly (on leash) places. Add more trash bins and have them emptied regularly.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

More park/recreation facilities for the Laurel hill neighborhood, clear brush/trash/decrepit fences at existing parks, add more interpretation at historic parks

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Splash pad for Norwich residence only

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Create simple bike/walk around paths at each park for children learning bike riding/roller skating. More covered seating for parents and eating. Trash bins that are picked up regularly.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Communicate what parks are out there and what each park has to offer

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

The basketball courts needs more clean ups

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

For example in Mohegan Park I would use the existing building as a nature center providing info on the wildlife and fauna within the park. Teaching children with a handon experience about nature. Also having something lile a wildlife rehab program would be amazing. Something like Dennison nature preserve does.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Maintenance is required, inclusive activities for all ages, add more safety features, more community based activities

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Enforce rules and hours to parks. Remedy the litter and trash issue.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Allow the thousands of taxpayers residents to enjoy the beautiful trails in Mohegan Park

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Cleanliness, enforced rules, provide an open wooded area for dogs to roam off leash without issue.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Mohegan park needs more security presence.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

I think there should be a separate trail,or fenced in area for dogs.especially service animals

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Adding some new features. A splash pad would be great for kids. Adding more gardens and even a community garden.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Enforce rules, esp no dogs

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

A labyrinth at Mohegan Park would be great

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
Bathroom and swings at the park also someone to check on the parks cleanliness and equipment regularly

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
They are ok but everything in the world can be improved

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
More programming for families/youth

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
Make it safer, less vandalism

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
By adding new areas for families to enjoy. For example, a splash pad would be a great addition.

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
Pesticides during spring and summer

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Creating safer parks for running and exercising. Cameras and call help buttons.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Keep dogs out & encourage more nature spaces that don't have activities that destroy nature & prevent people from quiet enjoyment. Too many loud cars/music.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Dogs should be allowed on outer trails of Mohegan Park. We live very close to the park and are limited with options for walking our dog. I would not want to see dogs in the pavilions, playgrounds, or at events. But the wooded trails would be fine!

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Need a park that has most things. Like a big playground, splash pad, walking trails, and sports fields. Then you can keep it clean and staffed because it's in one location but meets the needs of the whole family. You can spend most of the day.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Making them more secure, and adding more activities for kids and families to enjoy.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
1) Add parking for the DePina softball field so all cars are off Mohegan Road ( two cars cannot pass); also, sightlines are non-existent. 2) Stop scheduling softball games before 10 am on Saturday and Sunday. Yelling and PA system can be heard inside nearby homes. ( Note: the residents were living there long before installation of the electric scoreboard, increased High School use and AAU games.)

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Security guard or police patrolling

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Have dog friendly trails for leashed dogs.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Create a new park that brings in the youth of the community to have something to be part of and keep busy. Youth in this community has very limited positive areas to get together and socialized at. If we want Norwich to be more safe and positive. Invest in the youth in this community. Give them a place that they can be outside doing things that they find interesting. A bike pump track would be great. As I see many children riding bikes on side walls but no true place to ride them safely.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Offer more summer camp opportunities for youth. Help to increase youth sports in the town.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Expand on recreational offerings

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
The parks need to be more handicap adaptable.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
???

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
More bathrooms / picnic area

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
I wish there were some playgrounds that allowed dogs. It would be nice to take my child and our dog to the same playground.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Improve whats there, actually make the ones you say are parks more than pieces of grass put swings playgrounds ,splashpads so we dont have to bring our children to other towns to play

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Change from wood chips to recycled rubber mats. Add a swing option to every park. Replace worn out equipment.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Scholarships are available, but costs for programs should be low across the board, not free for low income

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
1. Took a walk around Mohegan park Sunday with my family. All you could smell was marijuana, everywhere. If there were staff/police enforcing rules... fine for drugs, fine for fishing without license or littering. Clean up tint just the trash but the illegal activities that are happening in the parks to make it more family friendly.

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Add a botanical garden or a community garden space.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Offer more group activities for adults, ie yoga, pickle call, disc golf, etc.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Provide more recreational program. I rarely use ours and pay more for other towns rec programs

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Be sure each park has activities abs facilities

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
just add a few clean and safe equipment

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Walk dogs

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Add a splash pad and/or town pool!  
Replace playground equipment at neighborhood playgrounds that need repair (including equipment specifically for a younger kids),

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Remove graffitti.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Swimming pools also a dog park where a dog could swim. Mohegan park is 350+ acres. Make a dog park near a pond so dogs can swim. Add a few trails where dogs can walk with their owners unleashed if they are behaved like Copp Family Farm in Groton.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Possibly a free splash pad for all of the children. It would also give the older kids an activity in the area to encourage them to participate in family outtings and take trips to the near by parks,and stay out of trouble.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Adult swim lessons at Spaulding pond

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
This City needs a Community Center. Our parks and open spaces are wonderful, but we desperately need a place for activities in off season.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Nature classes, enforce the no dog policies.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Need playgrounds in every park to invite families to use the parks and some kind of welcome sign. Also need some law enforcement or park Enforcement so it's safer and family environment can be maintained.

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Better communication system for residents to know what's happening. Signage, improve facilities

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
signage

---

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
more inviting with new park additions

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**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
x

QUESTION 14 | TEXT

What do you think are the challenges to maintaining and improving Norwich's parks and recreational programming?

Answered: 151 Skipped: 29



**Anonymous** 10 Days ago

Security

**Anonymous** 10 Days ago

Limited funding. Coming to an agreement on where the most need is

**Anonymous** 11 Days ago

The recreational programming is not inclusive and diverse so the enter community isn't interested so that's a challenge, not many people working in the department

**Anonymous** 11 Days ago

Trash pickup, funding

**Anonymous** 11 Days ago

Giving people what they whine about and balancing that with maintaining the NATURAL beauty of our city

**Anonymous** 22 Days ago

Funding

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Money and staff

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

The expense

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Money and the priorities of our elected officials

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Public works will mow a lawn no matter what! Even when the grass is still short and the ground is dry and dusty from lack of rain, we'll see them mowing and blowing, kicking up a dust cloud. Seems unnecessary, and indicative that they don't really have strong leadership when it comes to deciding how to maintain the parks.

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

The cost and public disrespect

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Tax dollars are spent in the wrong places

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Not enough Public Works staff

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Lack of care for the community

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Engaging the public & users of the parks to take an interest in keeping them free of trash & dog waste

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

People not respecting the property

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

The cost of upkeep

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Norwich does not have a park and rec complex like many other towns.

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

The people and the beauracracy

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Visitor behavior. Visitors from outside Norwich using facilities.

**Anonymous** 2 Months ago

Budget priorities

<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Lack of creative thinking. Too many rules	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Financial	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
People suck. But seriously, there is never anyone in authority around so there is no supervision when there are bad actors. Maintain the facilities so that families want to come.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
No idea	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Not enough staff, underpaid staff	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Staffing maybe?	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Safety	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
People not respecting them.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Funding	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
Maintenance and security	
<b>Anonymous</b>	2 Months ago
people's lack of respect and responsibility of caring for the parks.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Funding	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Money, people not expressing interest in improving our parks and Rec. there are many basketball courts other courts but the playgrounds are not up to date at all and they are dirty and there is trash and there is graffiti. I think money and staffing are challenges	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
People not respecting the facilities	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Cost and "manpower" to maintain/clean the parks	

<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Money allocation	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
people littering and breaking things around the parks	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Funding and complacency	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Not everyone follows rules.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Financial!	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Budget, limited staff, vandalism	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Vandalism...	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
When some ruin the new or cleanliness for all	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Access during the school day	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Absolutely you just listed how many parks norwich has. Look at the poor skeleton crew they have maintaining all of them very sad. We need more staff. It's very silly to have the rec department and human resources family services join together you need staff who know about recreation. Not just social work please fix this. Hiring a nurse for 55 an hour? What for to pass meds meds? Camps have been trying leadership rolls at camp and counselors to get med certified. We continue to waste tax payers money. Erin does a fantastic job. The need is there for someone with a rec background also more diversity within the department.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	3 Months ago
Pedestrian friendly	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Revenue	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Volunteers	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Get sofewaljs	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
People littering, abusing playground equipment, breaking rules; funding issues	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Budget, staffing	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
People who have no regard for wildlife in Mohegan Park.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money, people	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money, staffing and irresponsible patrons	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Workers, pay	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Community involvement	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Lack of staff and funds	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Likely funding is the number one issue, but the city can find the funds for what they want it seems; to paint murals, add roundabouts, and reconstruct bridges, but they can't seem to find funding to restore the YMCA, or add anything beneficial for the youth and teens of Norwich. They are OUR FUTURE and the future of this city, it's time to invest in them!	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding I would imagine. This city always claims we're out of money, which is ironic considering how much we pay in taxes compared to the rest of the country.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Depending upon the park, there are vagrants and the parks aren't well maintained. Who would feel safe visiting Howard Brown Park alone?	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Keeping homeless people from overtaking	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Keeping them clean and safe	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Budget and maintenance	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money and staff	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I'm not sure but norwich should be connected to the rail trail system	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Rarely see park employees. They should have someone patrolling and enforcing rules.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Probably money to hire people	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
\$\$\$\$	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Inconsiderate users. Out of Norwich users of facilities.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Keeping them clean.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding and time. I am not certain of the statistics but I assume not as many people use the parks as much as they used to. That may "justify" a cut to funding.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
People quit or leave and all progress stops. Ex. Skatepark never got lights it should have had because the city bought shrubbery with money youth raised to hide the park. Poor money management of parks.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
money, naysayers in Norwich, an example is that certain people need to pass away before changes will happen in Norwich. You can walk your dog in Central Park (certain areas) but not at Mohegan Park?	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Making everyone happy	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Miney	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
I don't know	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
People dumping trash and keeping the parks clean. Security too. A lot of them you see none	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Respectful citizens of the town.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Probably funding and staffing shortages	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Keeping the people happy. I'm sure they either think you have spent too much on something.... Or not enough is being invested. I don't play disc golf, but I'm happy those who do, have a place to play. Others might say it was a waste if its not their cup of tea. I love variety.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
City Council especially the Republican members and the mayor who do not make our youth and recreation a priority.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Budget, imagination	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Budget and unfortunately, so many people don't respect the space and clean up after themselves	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Cost	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Lack of funding and support from the city manager, mayor, and most of the city council	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
the people in Norwich complain too much	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
People following the rules	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
The biggest challenge is from people who do not use a park for its primary use. People who do not care and leave garbage around. I also feel it is hard to get parents to bring children out due to fear of others or laziness. Have to provide programs for the children to make them want to come out.	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Misuse and disrespect of property.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
More people out there maintaining the area	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Finding instructors	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding, vandalism	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
If working through a volunteer staff it would be helpful and save town money once established. Also having a actual park rangers would bring a sense of security and knowledge. Using the existing buildings would also save money in the long run. But again money would have yo he budgeted to make improvements. Our parks are important	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding, budgeting, staffing	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Lack of oversight and attention/upkeep of the parks.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Vandalism, people leaving trash, not picking up after their pups or kids, not taking pride in the resources the city offers.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Lack of respect from the community, it seems nobody cares about how beautiful this town can be	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Lack of employees to maintain (funding)	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding, upkeep, vandalism	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Irresponsible visitors, no accountability due to no one around to enforce rules	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Cleaning up litter and maintaining gardens and turf	

<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Probably financial	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Litter	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
An integrated vision and money to implement it	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Vandalism, lack of security	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Funding	
<b>Anonymous</b>	4 Months ago
Not sure	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Lack of funding. Destruction of property.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
People not respecting communal spaces & nature.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Funding, keeping the parks clean and maintained	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Cost	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
The communication line is broken. We need to learn the point people that are responsible for the upkeep of the parks so that things are cared for during the off season.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Cost	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
People following the park conduct rules and employees enforcing them.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Not enough supervision	

<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
The city's budget.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Lack of funds to make improvements when all the money is being spent on giving free stuff to people who don't work and contribute. People not appreciating parks and no consequences for their actions of not keeping clean or vandalizing parks.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Lack of imagination and funding	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
People respecting the parks & helping to take care of them.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Cost and security	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
I would think funding (for improvements, maintenance, staff, etc) would be the biggest challenge.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Staffing/money	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Unfortunately not enough funding goes there,	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Vandalism. There should be someone who has the job of correcting unwanted graffiti. Art is one thing, but words are another. I'd be all for adding art and music.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Budget	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
We have a beautiful green in Norwich town which should be a hub for community events and it rarely gets used. Too much expense? Red tape? Why aren't there more community events? The unhealthy practices of chemical herbicides and pesticides are also a big problem for the safety of the many people who use the open spaces. A more sustainable approach to land management can be more cost effective and healthier for the people and pets that use the space. There had been an effort to make changes but to no avail. Shouldn't be that hard.	
<b>Anonymous</b>	5 Months ago
Funding, marketing to bring people together to the parks , limited staff for maintenance	

- Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Cutting of budget and pricing

---
- Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
No comment

---
- Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Funding/staffing

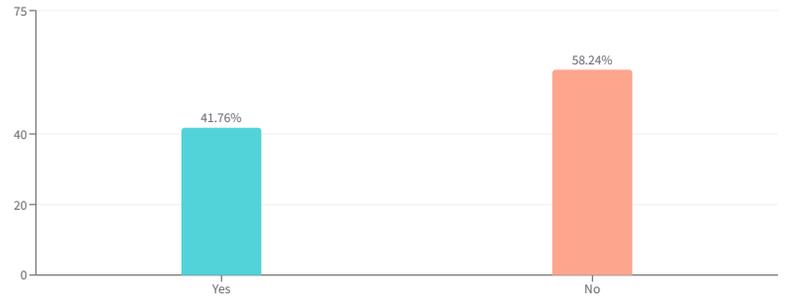
---
- Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
x



**QUESTION 15 | YES OR NO**

## Is there anything that prevents you from using Norwich's parks and programs?

Answered: **170** Skipped: **4**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Yes	71	41.76 %
No	99	58.24 %

QUESTION 16 | TEXT

# What prevents you from using Norwich's parks and programs?

Answered: 68 Skipped: 3



Anonymous

10 Days ago

Public smoking

Anonymous

10 Days ago

lack of programs for teenagers. Lack of transportation options for those who have working parents

Anonymous

11 Days ago

They are boring for adults.

Anonymous

11 Days ago

Parking usually

Anonymous

22 Days ago

mobility issues and disinclination

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Feeling unsafe/uncomfortable

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Behaviors at some parks

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Having to leave my dog at home to use wooded trails in Mohegan park

Anonymous

2 Months ago

No dogs allowed in most parks

Anonymous

2 Months ago

I like to take my dogs when I go to a park

Anonymous

2 Months ago

I don't know of any programs for adults

Anonymous

2 Months ago

The dog ban. I can go to Bozrah or countless other towns and bring my dogs on leash along with me on trails. In Norwich this isn't an option.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Visitor behavior. Safety issues.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Too hard to get permission to do activities in the parks

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Time mainly- the programs are several weeks long and it is hard to be that consistent with time. Also, I never seem to find out about the programs until they have already started so I can't plan ahead so communication is another.

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Lack of sidewalks in order to walk there

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Safety

Anonymous

2 Months ago

violence

Anonymous

2 Months ago

Funding

Anonymous

3 Months ago

The playgrounds are not up to date. There is a way better facility 15 minutes for most people who live in norwich with a large open space a walking trail and a great up to date playground. There are signs and there are facilities there. It's Preston community park. I went there every day when my daughter was a bit younger and still is my playground of choice for her. It's very clean and bright and open.

Anonymous

3 Months ago

Sometimes I am hesitant to use park alone for safety reasons.

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)

I don't quite feel safe, too many shootings and kidnappings.

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)

Most are not fenced in and or right near water which is a safety concern for younger children especially special ed children. There should be more water options as well

**Anonymous** [3 Months ago](#)

Citizens not following the rules

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Can't safely walk there

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Loitering and disrespectful youth.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Program times

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Some parks are in unsafe areas of town. There's no point in investing into the parks in these areas aside from making safe playground equipment for the children that reside in those areas. No offense, but no one that doesn't reside there is going to bring their children to play in Greenville, or Lake Street playground. Those areas are unsafe due to high crime rate and shootings. I wouldn't bring my kids to the Laurel Hill green due to the issues that Greenville and Lake Street areas have, however I think that it would be nice if they could add a playscape in that green because the kids that live in that area play there often. The Hamilton Ave playground equipment definitely needs replaced I've seen pictures of exposed sharp metal and dilapidated stairs in that play scape and there's a lot of kids that live in those apartments back there.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

See previous answer.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Homeless people living there

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Isolated areas do not feel safe at times

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

My dogs aren't allowed.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Lack of security and enforcement of rules.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Usually I cant bring my dog without violating rules. I dont want to put myself in that arena so I leave town.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

I walk alone alot and my husband is worried with the lack of security in the parks.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Most of my use of outdoor spaces involves my dog. So there are certainly parks that I can't go to. I understand why is has to be that way. They can't all be dog friendly. But many times I'm unsure if I'm allowed to take my dog to certain spaces, so I just avoid them. A map of dog friendly spaces would be nice. I think having people walking dogs around makes a space feel safer. I take my dog downtown for this reason. I think the more presence of people help keep out some of the troublemakers.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Quiet, natural areas

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Trash (needles, I have kids and pets and it can be downright dangerous to walk through some of the parks here). Lack of police presence and park rules enforcement allow some people to use the parks for illegal activities (again, not something I need to expose my kids to when we're trying to enjoy the park).

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Lack of pickle ball courts and programs. Basketball rims and nets are not maintained.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

lack of knowledge

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Not handicap accessible

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Groups that bully and refuse to respect and share the space. The cleanliness is an issue. People in from surrounding towns say the parks are disgusting.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Not being able to bring my dogs.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

"Thug like" community, drug use in park areas, trash scattered about no matter how hard public works tries to maintain it

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)

Places like Greenville and taftville are unsafe, lots of smoking in and around the parks or playgrounds, littering

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
Transportation

---

**Anonymous** 4 Months ago  
Safety

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
I don't always feel safe, unless it's the middle of the day or there's other people around.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
The inclusion of dogs everywhere (including cemeteries) & non-enforcement of the no-dogs rules. It's ridiculous.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Lack of dog friendly options. When I want to take a quick hike with my dog I need to go elsewhere.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Some feel unsafe if you aren't from that neighborhood

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Our football field is currently not up to AYF standards. It's not legal and the City of Norwich is aware. Two seasons ago we had to have all of our game away because of this. Last season we tried to have games at home but we kept running into issues because the field is still technically not the correct length. It looks like we are going to schedule away games again because the city has failed us again. Nothing has changed.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Cost

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
People smoking marijuana in the parks, people bringing their dogs to the park when not allowed, not enough activities for the amount of people in the park, unfinished projects, safety.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Area around pond is too crowded

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Current crime in city

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
I can't bring my dog.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Nothing much to do at the parks. Beside walk. There are over 5 ball parks that are not being used or maintain.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Handicapped accessibility. Not able to push a wheelchair onto the fields or push through gravel parking lot. No handicapped parking areas or signs. Can't park close because of this. Playgrounds aren't wheelchair accessible.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Time is limited

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Cleanliness, safely and lack of things to do at the parks

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Cost. Do not qualify for scholarships, but multiple kids so \$\$\$\$. Can not afford all they want to do

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Mostly conflict with Scheduling and lack of available programs. For instance I drive to a different city to do yoga on the green in the summers on the weekend etc...

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Lack of adult activities.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Program because there isn't much my kids do that would help them excel. Parks. Because of all the crime lately and drug use going on.

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Some parks don't feel safe

---

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
trash and rusty equipment

---

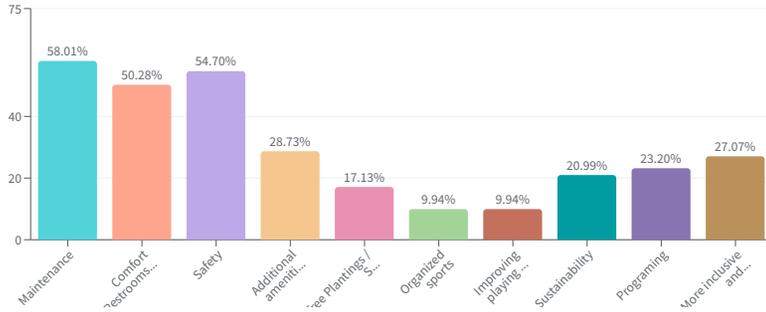
**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Program fees. No financial aid for middle class.

---

QUESTION 17 | MULTIPLE CHOICE

What do you think are the top three issues that the City should focus on it for its park system?

Answered: 181 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Maintenance	105	58.01 %
Comfort (Restrooms, benches)	91	50.28 %
Safety	99	54.70 %
Additional amenities	52	28.73 %
Tree Plantings / Shade	31	17.13 %
Organized sports	18	9.94 %
Improving playing fields	18	9.94 %
Sustainability	38	20.99 %
Programing	42	23.20 %
More inclusive and adaptive features	49	27.07 %

QUESTION 18 | TEXT

How can we make parks and programs that are for all residents and users regardless of age, race, income, or ability?

Answered: 107 Skipped: 74



- Anonymous** 10 Days ago  
Better outreach
- Anonymous** 10 Days ago  
Make it easier for residence to hold organized events at their local park
- Anonymous** 11 Days ago  
Surveys like this, research, asking other cities that have successful and sustainable park programs
- Anonymous** 11 Days ago  
Scatter parks throughout the city. Add paved walking trails
- Anonymous** 11 Days ago  
Make them all free. Norwich residents pay a ridiculous amount in taxes... take away the cost to residents and who is going to complain about something being offered for free that benefits everyone? We have money for problems like Stringfellow but not a public pool or community center??? Make it make sense...
- Anonymous** 22 Days ago  
Is there a directory of parks and rec facilities and their offerings

**Anonymous**

1 Month ago

Be sure survey distribution and response rates are inclusive

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Make visitors to the parks feel safe. Have a focus on kicking out the riff raff that plagues our beautiful city; there's open drug use, public fornication, public intoxication, and homeless living at our parks. For anyone interested in seeing what I am speaking of from La Stella Pizzeria in downtown you are able to see all of what I spoke about in one nights time. It's hard to attract the 'best' to our town when these things are not being dealt with, and are just seen as being a way of life in Norwich.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Create accessibility, provide safety through presence and lighting, create a marketing campaign that highlights the Norwich Park system and offerings.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Hire people with knowledge of parks and recreation

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Idk

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

I don't see any issues related to the above question

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Pave existing paths, provide lighting, bathrooms, be inviting!

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Bu including the community in the building, maintenance and security of the parks

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

I don't know, other than keep up on the maintenance, especially the condition of the playground equipment

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Unfortunately it comes down to money- if you have more funding you could create a park and Rex complex and buildings to serve all ages and abilities

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

By lifting the ban on leashed dogs

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Soliciting public input in easy ways like this!

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Have community events in various parks making everyone feel included. Not just certain areas.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

I think there is already a good selection of Norwich Rec activities for a reasonable price. Just need more places for kids to ride bikes and people to walk dogs

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Really great question, IDK. Variety comes to mind. You used to do rowing and kayaking- Brown park is not particularly accessible for those activities. What happened to the tennis courts? There used to be the free camp, but the courts were not maintained other than that one week. You need to do better. Most residents have given up on Norwich parks and rec and go to Montville or Groton for programs. Make some public/private partnerships- Karate, Dance those are popular park and rec programs in other towns that we have businesses that may be willing to expand their programs in. And we need a pool/splash pad. It is ridiculous that we don't have any way to cool off in summer but the beach in Mohegan- that Lou Dipina himself told me not to use because there are nicer places to go.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

I am not really sure why this question is in a survey for residents when you can easily consult other municipalities to see how they've implemented similar programs

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Ways to get there, sidewalks, accessible features, real and clean bathrooms

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

More lighting, more presence of families not just dropping your children off. Hire professionals to do workshops. Have local business owners have a booth or presence at discount rate to help the population of residents feel welcomed.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Not sure.

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

Look at who is actually using the programs now and speak to them!

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

make them free

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

How? Include the community!!! Again, have tournaments, bbqs, back to school giveaways. A lot of parents can't afford to give kids what they need.. a community BBQ fun time giveaway will help the families tremendously

---

**Anonymous**

2 Months ago

get everyone of age, race, income and ability to voice their opinion and go from there --listening at least helps, then doing what needs to be done to provide the best and safest parks possible

---

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

You're already doing good

---

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

Multi use sites, walking trails, benches, up to date playscapes, shade, basketball court, tennis court, open green space, restrooms! Make it visually appealing for any resident to go and enjoy nature no matter if it's a picnic or a walk or taking child on playground.

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

Set program for specific age groups.

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

offer same amount of programs for all ages. There are more kids programs than adults.

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

Add water features to walk through- any age, race, or income can cool off in the heat

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

Incorporate educators

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

You already do. I think human and family services rec senior center ect. Needs to be more diverse. By that I mean diverse is a number of things not just black and white. Young old different degrees difference of opinion. Different ideas do well

**Anonymous**

3 Months ago

Make more pedestrian friendly

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Get fucking sidewalks on the way to all parks what's wrong with this town

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Ranger or peace officer in the park to keep illegal motor vehicles out.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

You can't, someone will always br unhappy.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Surveys such as this, asking people at the parks

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Charity events, work on community building, volunteers

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Its already a great job. More community outreach and facebook community involvement would spread the news.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Surveying those groups and having disabled people come to parks and evaluate accessibility themselves

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Invest in the youth, they are our future and the future of this city. Give them fun things to do that get them outside, off their phones, and keeps them out of trouble.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Cleanliness, safety, and events

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

By preserving the beauty of the natural scenery and maybe adding a few flowers and other plants to add some vibrancy.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Volunteer work and events that bring people together in a wholesome manner

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

I think there are plenty of activities for people to choose from that are offered. I think the sports fields should have better upkeep and show the pride of Norwich. Some fields do not even have a reference to the Norwich sports teams that primarily use those fields for home games.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Connect to the rail trail, paved rail trail in town would be great for running and biking

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Enforce the rules. There are adult exercise machines in Mohegan Park, and there are two excellent children's playgrounds. I often see children playing on the adult machines, (With parents watching), and no one to enforce the rules. I hope they don't wait for a child to be killed or seriously injured before the rules are enforced.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Advertise offerings more

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Add more variety

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Keep it free, add it to bus lines, create a bike rental / citi bike program, hold free courses

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Make them stops on local transportation system.

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Don't cater solely to tennis

**Anonymous**

4 Months ago

Schedule events appropriately

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Make certain programs free for all Norwich residents. Build a public pool to encourage Norwich youth to learn how to swim

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Police or security presence

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Ensuring access for people with disabilities or mobility issues. Continuing with free public access

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
I think you do a really good job at this. So I don't have an option myself. I have read on the community forum that the summer program was too much money for some families, But have no firsthand knowledge. I'm unsure if you have a sliding scale or grants but do hope they have options.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Plenty of playing fields that can accommodate many recreational activities that also provide pavilions walking trails restrooms and playgrounds

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Reduce panhandling

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Include outdoor programs through the rec dept (so many great indoor programs already). Organized hikes through parks (I know there are some through historic parks in Norwich, but how about everyday walks?) Yoga in the park? Organized bike rides? There definitely aren't enough biking options in Norwich. Cost will always be an issue, but I feel like local businesses are always looking for opportunities to help with community events

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
They already are

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
work with key stakeholders (disability advocacy groups, NAACP, etc.) and address their specific concerns

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Norwich residents only

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Walking groups, weekly outdoor exercise(easy movement) programs

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Have features for all age groups available- playground and splash pad for little kids. Bike paths for older kids, walking trails for all. And recreation for all

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Teaching programs about natural habitat, flora and furnace.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Keep them safe, inclusive, ect. For example add shade, seating and swings at the Hamilton ave park. It would be a great spot for the elderly community to sit and people watch since there are multiple elderly communities near by. Maybe add out door chessboard. Swings and play ground equipment safe for all age groups including infants. Add a walking path.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
We already have them, but this survey is a great start to reaching all groups to be inclusive

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Perhaps adding adaptive playground equipment & allowing dogs on leash & under handlers control

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Police enforcement

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
I think Norwich already does a good job

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
We also need some more autism friendly parks/places and include some with in the bus route.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Accessibility, well-enforced rules, no smoking

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Add a bathroom/changing area for children and adults.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Closer parking for disabled people and more ways people with disability's can access things more efficiently

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Improve on existing facilities including adaptive features for those with mobility problems; heightened programming -- could we have a stage somewhere for performance showcasing?

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Making them free for all residents and creating more programs for a wider range of age groups.

**Anonymous** [4 Months ago](#)  
Not sure

**Anonymous** [5 Months ago](#)  
Programming is not necessary to enjoy nature. The mix of paved/unpaved paths at Mohegan Park give great accessibility.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Accessibility, signage, community events

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
If you have a general safe and clean space that is accessible then many people will occupy and create diversity

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Drop in programs like art or scavenger hunts photos contest

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Asking the community.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
More parking, better maintenance

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Build a bike track.. or something similar that brings in the community.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Make all the parks wheelchair accessible. Add handicapped parking areas and signs. Please add a wheelchair swing for kids and adults to enjoy! Boy Scouts often build them for their Eagle Scout project.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Copy some of the programs available in other cities

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Most programs-sports are expensive when have multiple children, not all families can afford them.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Continue the neighborhood playgrounds tradition, it's working.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Eliminate scholarships. Use the scholarships to bring the cost down for all

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Have a safe, sustainable and clean space with a wide variety of programs that encourage all residents to want to participate. Music, dance, sports, health, history, food, games, nature conservation, bird watching, outdoor movie nights etc... outdoors is the best classroom, community hall their is.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
There should be no barrier to entry, no need to need a car to get to a park - proximity. Facilities should be inclusive. SAFETY.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Have less parks.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Provide better rec programs. YMCA would be nice.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
build and safety

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Ask the people what they need (which you're doing here), offer a variety of parks, amenities, etc in all neighborhoods

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Swimming pools

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
All welcome♥ playground,walking paths,benches in shady spots for elderly/infants, picnic tables,dogs on leash/potty area (pick up a must by owner) & pups welcome to walk were families go! I can see families and communities coming together, to celebrate birthdays, holidays and cook outs. It would be beautiful!

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Adult swim lessons besides kids

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
The City does a good job. We need one space that house many things, like a Community Center.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
Need playground area for kids, need walkways for adults ,need some benches and table for elderly or some kind of covered area.  
Need some kind of park enforcement to maintain Sanity of park. Put some instructions in multi lingual languages or put those multilingual welcome signs.  
Take a tour of parks in niantic and other areas and see what they doing is different than us.  
We should have kids play area in Howard t brown park and something in Norwichtown area.

**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
accessability

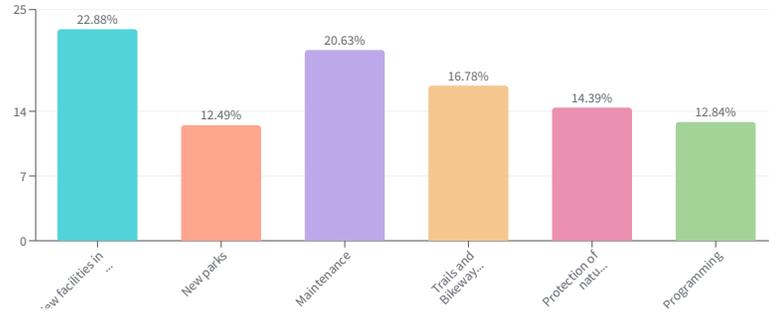
**Anonymous** 5 Months ago  
x

**QUESTION 19 | RANK ORDER**

## Please rank your priorities for investing in the Parks system

\*The items can be ranked by dragging them into place or ranked by adjusting the number\*

Answered: **181** Skipped: **0**



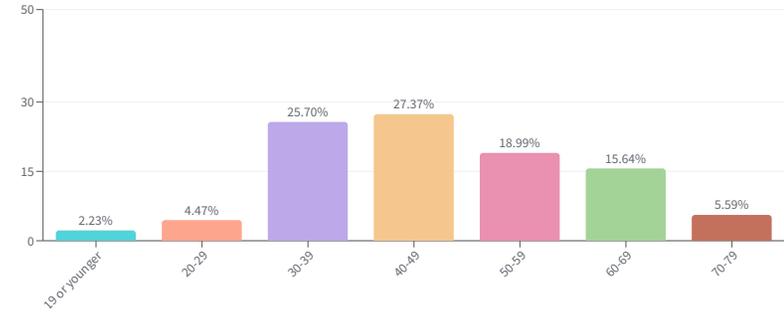
ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
New facilities in existing parks	144.92	22.88 %
New parks	79.12	12.49 %
Maintenance	130.66	20.63 %
Trails and Bikeways	106.27	16.78 %
Protection of natural resources	91.19	14.39 %
Programming	81.34	12.84 %

**QUESTION 20 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

## What is your age?

Your response is optional

Answered: **179** Skipped: **2**



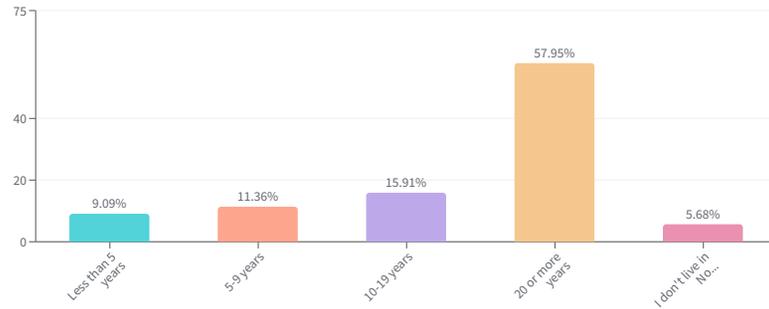
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
19 or younger	4	2.23 %
20-29	8	4.47 %
30-39	46	25.70 %
40-49	49	27.37 %
50-59	34	18.99 %
60-69	28	15.64 %
70-79	10	5.59 %

**QUESTION 21 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

If you are a Norwich resident, how long have you lived in Norwich?

Your response is optional

Answered: **176** Skipped: **5**



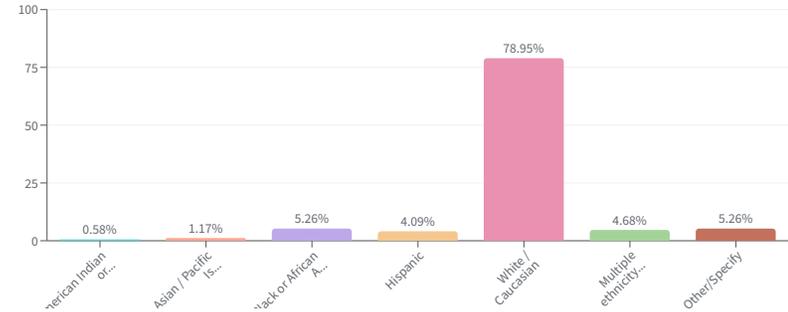
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Less than 5 years	16	9.09 %
5-9 years	20	11.36 %
10-19 years	28	15.91 %
20 or more years	102	57.95 %
I don't live in Norwich	10	5.68 %

**QUESTION 22 | MULTIPLE CHOICE**

Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

Please choose only one

Answered: **171** Skipped: **10**



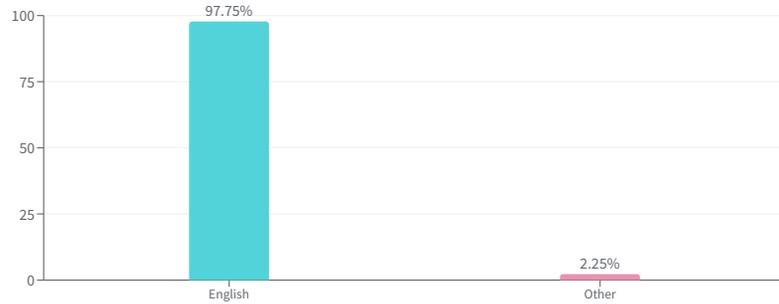
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1	0.58 %
Asian / Pacific Islander	2	1.17 %
Black or African American	9	5.26 %
Hispanic	7	4.09 %
White / Caucasian	135	78.95 %
Multiple ethnicity or Multiracial	8	4.68 %
Other/Specify	9	5.26 %

**QUESTION 23** | MULTIPLE CHOICE

### What is your primary language?

Your response is optional

Answered: **178** Skipped: **3**

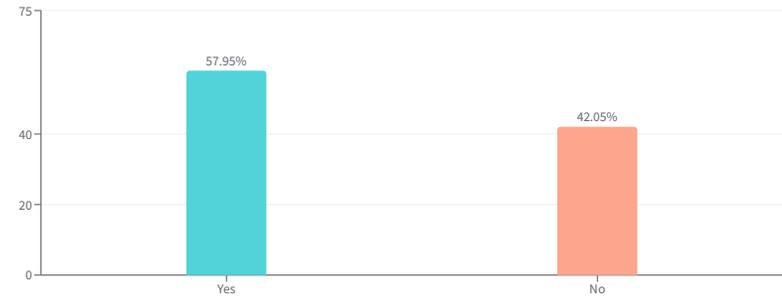


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
English	174	97.75 %
Other	4	2.25 %

**QUESTION 24** | YES OR NO

### Would you like to be notified of other opportunities to participate in the Norwich Master Parks Plan planning process?

Answered: **176** Skipped: **0**



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	RESPONSE PERCENTAGE
Yes	102	57.95 %
No	74	42.05 %

# APPENDIX B: FOCUS GROUP AND POP-UP EVENT RESULTS

## Public Meeting #1 Summary

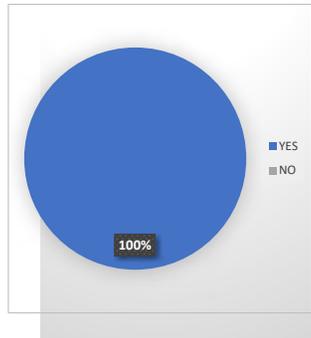
Date: 05/20/2023

Location: Norwich Wellness Walk



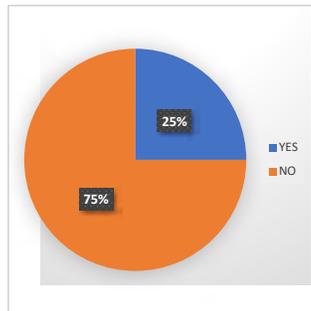
### Is there a Park in your Neighborhood?

YES	14
NO	0



### Are your needs met by the Norwich Park system?

YES	6
NO	1

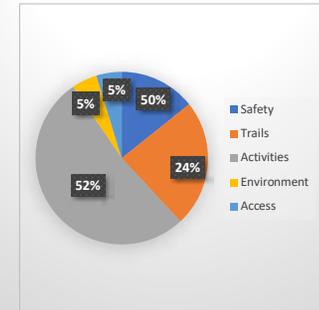


## Public Meeting #1 Summary

www.fhstudio.com

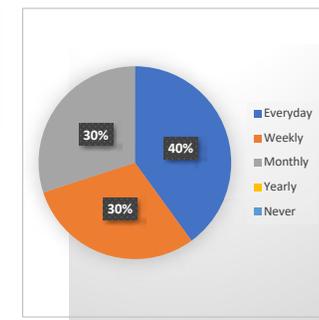
### What would make you visit the parks more often?

Increase sense of Safety	3
Better Trails	5
More Activities	11
Pristine Environment	1
Better Access/ A park closer to my residence	1



### How often do you visit Norwich Parks?

Everyday	4
Once a week	3
Once a Month	3
Once a Year	0
Never	0



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## Public Meeting #1 Summary

www.fhstudio.com

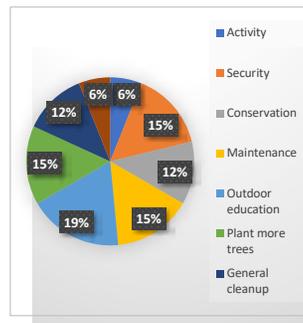
### How do you currently use the park?

Walking/Exercise	9
Biking	5
Walking your dog	3
Sports	4
Nature Study Immersion	2
Solitude	2
Playground	10
Socialization	4



### How would you like to see the parks improved (Pick 2)

More Activities	2
Better security	5
Conservation	4
Improved Maintenance	5
Outdoor Education Elements	6
Plant more trees	5
General Cleanup	4
More Parking	2



## Public Meeting #2 Summary



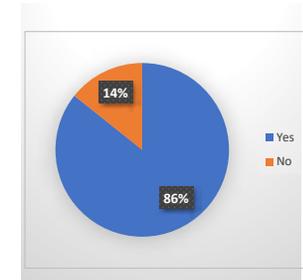
Date: 05/24/2023

Location: Norwich City Hall

Event: Norwich Recreation Advisory Board

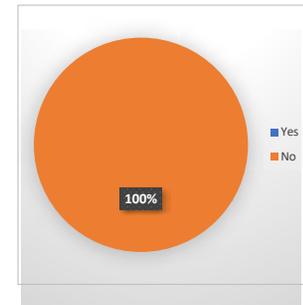
### Is there a Park in your Neighborhood?

YES	6
NO	1



### Are your needs met by the Norwich Park system?

YES	0
NO	11



### Additional Comments

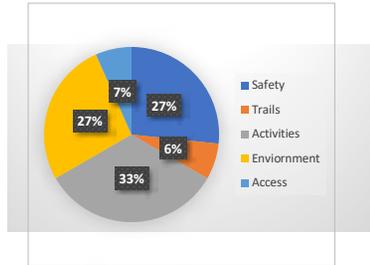
- Leagues need more space.
- Proposing a Community Center Pool
- A pool is needed for the community.
- Better surfaces for the players (Maintained lawn or Turf)
- More storage/base for dedicated use

## Public Meeting #2 Summary

www.fhstudio.com

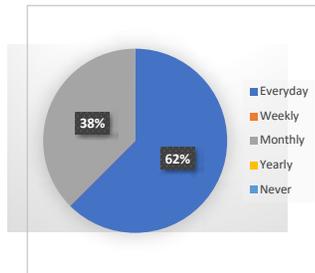
### What would make you visit the parks more often?

Increase sense of Safety	4
Better Trails	1
More Activities	5
Pristine Environment	4
Better Access/ A park closer to my residence	1



### How often do you visit Norwich Parks?

Everyday	5
Once a week	0
Once a Month	3
Once a Year	0
Never	0



## Public Meeting #2 Summary

www.fhstudio.com

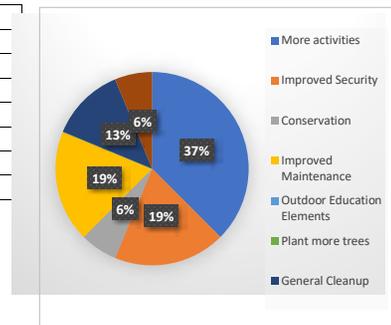
### How do you currently use the park?

Walking/Exercise	6
Biking	0
Walking your dog	1
Sports	8
Nature Study Immersion	0
Solitude	0
Playground	1
Socialization	2



### How would you like to see the parks improved (Pick 2)

More Activities	6
Better security	3
Conservation	1
Improved Maintenance	3
Outdoor Education Elements	0
Plant more trees	0
General Cleanup	2
More Parking	1



# Juneteenth Pop Up Event Summary

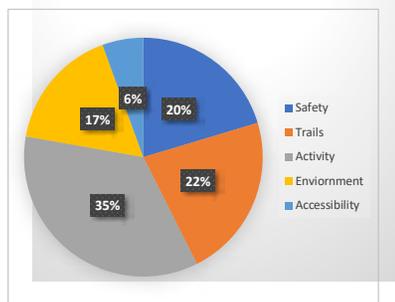
Date: 06/05/2023

Location: Juneteenth



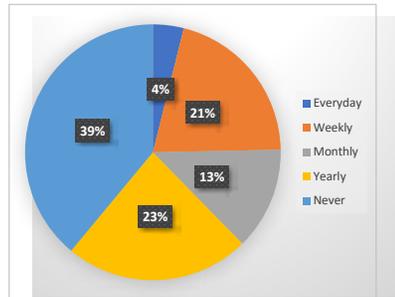
## What would make you visit the parks more often?

Increase sense of Safety	11
Better Trails	12
More Activities	19
Pristine Environment	9
Better Access/ A park closer to my residence	3



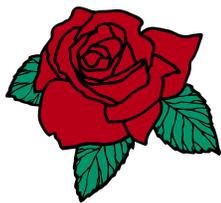
## How often do you visit Norwich Parks?

Everyday	3
Once a week	16
Once a Month	10
Once a Year	18
Never	30



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# 2023 NORWICH MASTER PARKS PLAN





Norwich Master Parks Plan - Budgetary Estimate by Park

11/14/2023

Description	Budgetary Estimate	Probable Cost Total by Phase
PHASE 1	In Process	-
PHASE 2		\$ 2,538,600
Fontaine Field	\$ 2,019,000	
Lake Street Park	\$ 519,600	
PHASE 3		\$ 8,215,200
Greenville Playground	\$ 776,400	
Howard T. Brown Memorial Park	\$ 540,000	
Jenkins Park	\$ 2,228,400	
Norwichtown Green	\$ 258,000	
Jennings Field	\$ 2,050,800	
R. "Red" McKeon Occum Park	\$ 1,611,600	
Armstrong Tennis Courts	\$ 750,000	
PHASE 4		\$ 5,961,000
Taftville Park	\$ 1,030,200	
Washington Street Park	\$ 2,604,000	
Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park	\$ 132,000	
Luis DePina Recreation Field	\$ 177,600	
Dickenman Field	\$ 296,400	
Rev. Samson Occum Park	\$ 1,446,000	
Moriarty Field	\$ 90,000	
Little Plain Park	\$ 184,800	
PHASE 5		\$ 7,027,200
Fairview Reservoir	\$ 3,132,000	
Bean Hill Green	\$ 174,000	
Fernwood Park	\$ 903,000	
Fitzgerald Field	\$ 1,494,000	
Elizabeth Street Playground	\$ 616,200	
Laurel Hill Green	\$ 708,000	
PHASE 6		\$ 7,300,800
Raymond "CIT" Ouellet Park	\$ 1,692,000	
Robert W. Spayne Basketball Courts	\$ 205,200	
Mohegan Park	\$ 1,580,400	
Chelsea Parade Park	\$ 132,000	
Columbus Park	\$ 357,000	
Thamesville Park	\$ 1,456,200	
Hamilton Avenue Park	\$ 1,878,000	
<b>TOTAL PROBABLE COST FOR ALL PHASES \$</b>		<b>31,042,800</b>