

City of New Haven
Parks Commission
Deputy Director, Parks & Public Works, Report
April 19, 2023

- **Budget Update:** The Dept. of Parks & Public Works, Chief Administrative Office and Office of Management and Budget Meeting held with the Board of Alders on March 30, 2023.
 - **Parks Maintenance Division & Tree Division, Dept. of Parks & Public Works**
 - (1) Added Parks Foreperson Position
 - (4) Added Caretaker Positions
 - Increase in Part Time and Seasonal Maintenance
 - Increases to Budget lines such as Services in General Fund Line Items
 - Mayor's Proposed Capital Budget include Park Infrastructure Improvements, General Park Improvements (ARPA), and Street Trees.
- **Parks & Public Works Training** continues including Trailer and Vehicle Safety, Lyme Disease and Heat, and Flagger Training. In addition, there is athletic field preparation training being planned in the next few weeks by the Assistant Superintendents.
- **Parks & Public Works Event Support** to the Cherry blossom Festival this past Sunday, April 16, 2023, with great attendance. Events each week are increasing in number and size. Upcoming large events include "Wake the Green" on May 6, 2023.
- **Parks & Public Works Spring Cleanup** efforts in and on streets around parks, with efforts at Long Wharf and the Green in addition to Easter Egg hunts held earlier this month, among other park areas as well as supporting various volunteer-based community cleanups.
- **Parks Maintenance Activities:**
 - Pardee Sea Wall Timber Guardrail preliminary quotes received. Full replacement matching vehicle-rated guardrail in the process of being quoted to make area uniform.
 - Soil spreading has been completed along overlaid asphalt paths on the New Haven Green in preparation for hydroseeding along paths which started today.
 - Mowing specific areas has started today.
 - Field preparation and maintenance ongoing at all fields and in coordination with RecTrac and Board of Education Athletics Schedule.
- **Equipment Repair and Replacement** is ongoing with help from the Public Works Fleet Vehicle Maintenance. Mower and Field groomer repairs are ongoing, as well as Tree Division Equipment. (2) New Zero Turn Mowers have been added to fleet to replace outdated ones. Additional landscaping equipment is being identified for repair/replacement.
- **Water Activation** with assistance from the Engineering Dept. and the on-call Plumbing Contractor and Regional Water Authority has started at various parks for public restrooms, water fountains, splash pads and irrigation. Sites visited and that are in progress include Pop Smith Fields in the Bowen area (in preparation for opening day scheduled for this weekend), the Holocaust Memorial at Edgewood Park on Whalley, and the New Haven Green. We are also looking at continuing tomorrow at Lighthouse Park and Fairmont (in preparation for another league opening day).
- **Personnel** Two Full-Time Caretakers to fill current vacancies have started this week. Seasonal Applicants are expected to start in the next few weeks to help bolster spring operations.
- **Grant Funding for Additional Urban Forestry Programs** such as stump grinding and tree planting are in process- continuing to strive to increase tree canopy in the Elm City. Stump grinding for tree planting sites continues in coordination with Urban Resources Initiative.
- **Coordination with the Engineering Dept. and Recreation and Youth Services** in preparation for the peak season and to continue to provide services to the New Haven community and all its residents and visitors