



Westport Parks Master Plan Community Forum : May 11, 2026

Introductions – BL Team



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PRINCIPAL



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PROJECT MANAGER



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KEVIN SCHUH
ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

BL COMPANIES

ARCHITECTURE
FACILITY PLANNING

PARKS, SPORTS &
RECREATION PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL
ANALYSIS

PUBLIC OUTREACH &
ENGAGEMENT

CIVIL
ENGINEERING

LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING

GIS AND MAPPING

SPORTS FACILITIES ADVISORY

Purpose of the Plan

Policy Framework

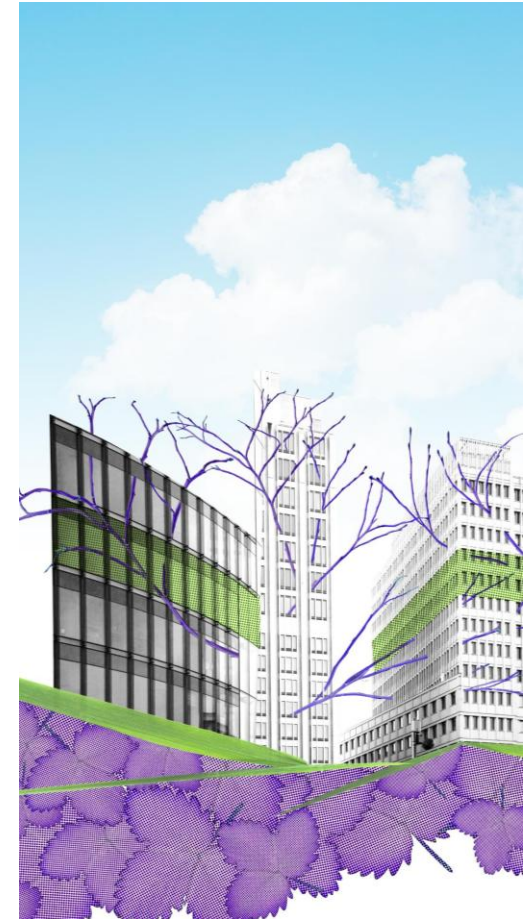
Defines long-term decision-making policies for parks, recreation, and open space management.

Implementation Guidance

Guides capital investments, environmental stewardship, and community programming over ten years.

Public Accountability

Ensures transparency and accountability in decision-making for park improvements and resource allocation.



Purpose of the Plan

Comprehensive Park Management

The plan offers a forward-looking strategy to manage 63 parks totaling 370 acres effectively.

Addressing Challenges

It responds to increased usage, evolving trends, aging facilities, and operational challenges in parks.

Ten-Year Framework

Defines a decade-long plan integrating capital improvements, staffing, maintenance, and environmental care.

Sustainable Stewardship

Supports informed policy decisions ensuring continuity and alignment with long-term community goals.

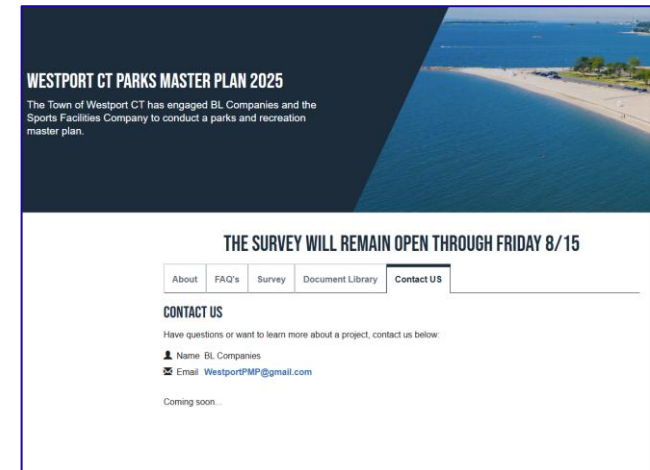


Project Timeline

☐ Site Investigation & Analysis	Complete	<i>Dec. 2024 – July 2025</i>
☐ Workshop #1	Complete	<i>April 24, 2025</i>
☐ Stakeholder Interviews	Complete	<i>April to July 2025</i>
☐ Community Survey	Complete	<i>April 24 to Aug. 15, 2025*</i>
<i>*Originally closed July 16, re-opened July 18 and closed August 15, 2025</i>		
☐ Public Workshop #2	Complete	<i>September 30, 2025</i>
☐ DRAFT Plan	Complete	<i>November 2025</i>
☐ FINAL Plan	Complete	<i>January 2026</i>
☐ Public Forum #3	Tonight	

Westport PMP Email Responses

• Emails received at the dedicated email address	56
• Emails related to the Community Garden	38
• Email related to Wakeman Park	01
• Email related to Nature based play /playgrounds	01
• Email related to Baron's south Aris Land Studio plan	01
• Email related to Compo Sidewalks	01
• Email related to Bridge Street playing field	01
• Emails solicitation/advertisements/Spam	13



Stakeholder Contact List

- 7 Structured virtual Interviews performed.
- 33 individuals involved (all individuals were contacted/invited to attend multiple times).
- 2 additional interviews via phone with concerned residents.
- All interview information was recorded.

Parks Master Plan RFP - #24-094T Stakeholder contact list			
Town Government			
Stakeholder	Contact, Primary	Email	Notes
First Selectman's Office	Jon Todori		
Parks Commission	Dave Floyd		
Parks Advisory Committee	Valma Haller		
Racquets Advisory Committee	David Kaplan		
RTM - Full (Representative Town Meeting)	Jeffrey Weser, Moderator		
RTM - Environmental	Ellen Lautenberg, Chair		
RTM - Finance	Seth Braundstein, Chair		
RTM - Health & Human services	Wendy Belloso, Chair		
RTM - Long Range Planning	Peter Gots, Chair		
RTM - Parks & Recreation	Chris Tait, Chair		
RTM - Planning & Zoning	Mathere Mendel, Chair		
Board of Finance	Lee Carney, Chair		
Planning & Zoning Commission	Paul Lebowitz, Chair		
Westport Internal Organizations			
Stakeholder	Contact, Primary	Email	Notes
Westport Police Department	Fotos Kiskinas, Chief		
Westport Conservation	Coin Kelly, Director		
Westport Public Works	Peter Rutkewich, Director		
Westport Planning & Zoning	Michelle Perillie, Director		
Westport BoE - Administration	Elo Longo, CFO		
Westport BoE - Facilities	Ted Hunyadi, Director of Facilities		
Westport BoE - PE	Christine Warner, Coordinator Health & PE		
Westport BoE - Technology	Nathalie Carrigan		
Westport Parks & Rec - Maintenance	Ed Frawley, Senior Foreman		
Westport Parks & Rec - Programs	Maxwell Robbins, Program Manager		
Westport Parks & Rec - Scheduling	Carmen Roda, Operations Mgr		
Westport Organizations			
Stakeholder	Contact, Primary	Email	Notes
06880 Where Westport Meets the World	Dan Wood		
Westport Journal	Gretchen Webster		
Westport Gardens			
Westport Arts Advisory Committee	Nancy Diamond, co-chair		
Westport Tree Board	Sara Adair		
Westport Chris (Garden Club)	Nathalie Fonteyne Gavrilovic		
Westport Community Gardens	Louis Weinberg		
Westport Rotary	Perter Helt, president - Elect		
Sunrise Rotary	Katie Augustyn		
DPHC	Randy		
Westport Athletic Organizations			
Stakeholder	Contact, Primary	Email	Notes
Westport High School	VJ Seruku, Athletic Director		
Police Athletic League	Craig Bergamo		
Westport Baseball Softball	Jeff White, Chairman		
Westport Soccer Association	Jim Wolf, President		
Community Gardens Committee			
Louis Weinberg			
Lauren Hayes			
Skate/Mini Golf			
Jess Eaton	Stake Park Renter		
Kevin Case	Mini Golf Student		

Town of Westport, CT

Stakeholder Meetings - Notes

SFC & BL Companies

6/11/25

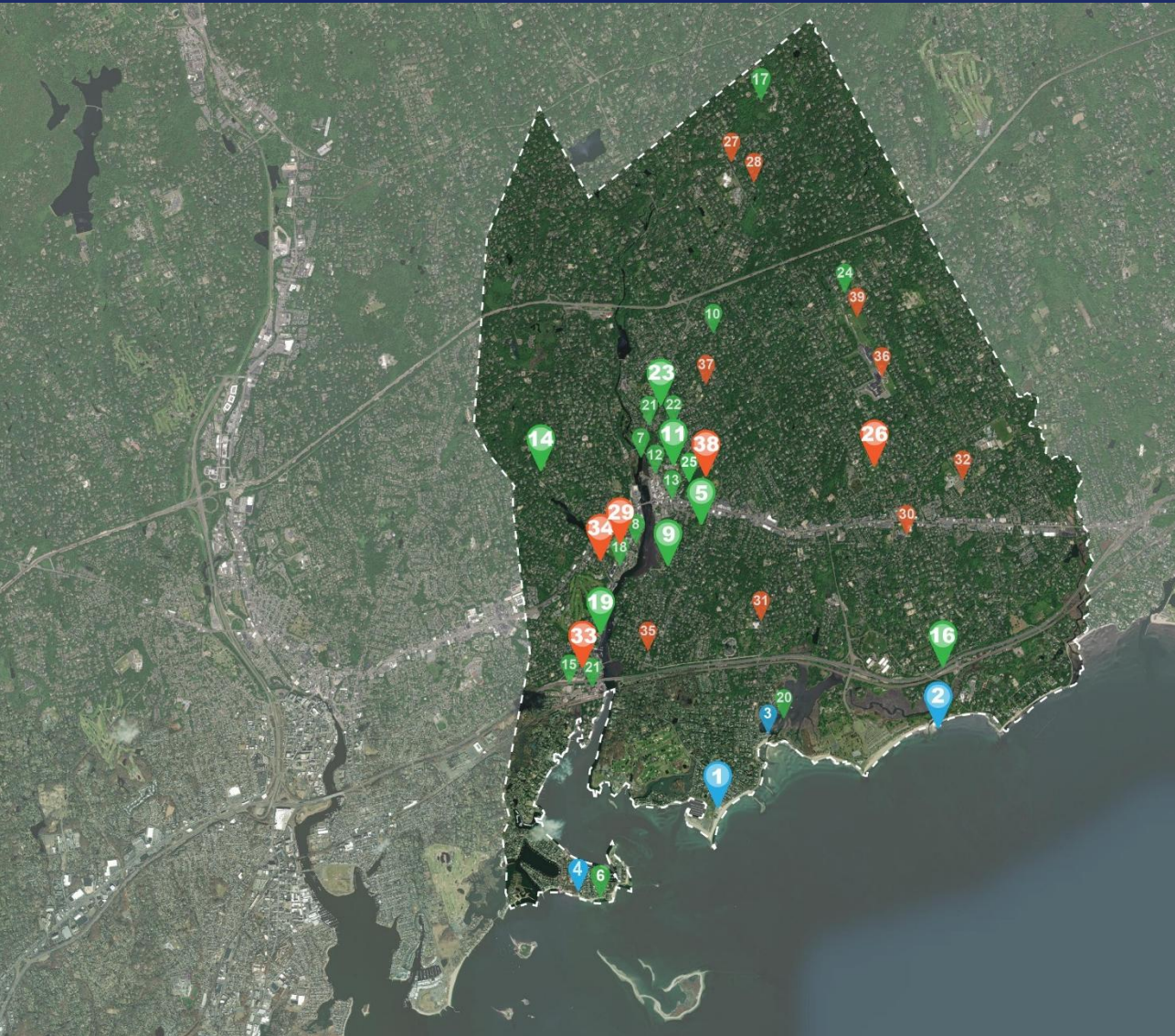
Westport Internal Organizations

- Carmen Roda
- Natalie Carrigan
- Collin Kelly
- Max Robbins
- Michelle Perillie

Notes

- Fields
 - Look at existing fields and figure out what can be used more efficiently
 - Need a balance between grass fields, turf fields, and lights
 - There is an increasing population of groups that want to use fields
 - High schools and other groups want to use fields later in the day
 - Lighting, scheduling, etc.
 - 95% of weekends this spring were lost to rainout
 - Good indicator that what is needed for the future
 - Currently have 4 turf fields, no turf baseball fields
 - Staff preps 13-18 fields on Saturday/Sunday for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, etc.
 - Need fields that are more adaptive to overall population
 - Boys, girls, and people with disabilities
 - Inequity on fields for women and fields for men
- Shared use agreements
 - BOE and P&R have longstanding working agreement
 - Parks maintains the fields and get them for rec use from 5:30 and later, high school sports get priority first, then continuing ed, then parks and rec, and outside rentals
 - Carmen and AD speak regularly on changes to using the fields for tournaments, games, cancellations, etc.
 - Lock-step relationship on how those fields are used
- 95% of cancellations are being lost
 - Going elsewhere, outside of community, etc.
 - Losing the time, not able to make up the games, or extending their season

Focused Entities– The Sites



BEACHES

1. Compo Beach
2. Burying Hill Beach
3. Old Mill Beach
4. Canal Beach

PARKS

5. Baron's South Property
6. Canal Beach
7. Canal Green
8. Eloise A. Ray Park
9. Grace K. Salmon Park
10. Hitchcock Park
11. Jesup Green
12. Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts
13. The Westport Library Riverwalk and Garden
14. Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum
15. Luciano Park
16. Machamux Park
17. Newman-Poses Preserve
18. Pasacreta Park
19. Riverside Park
20. Sherwood Mill Pond Preserve
21. Stroffolino Park
22. St. Johns Place and Myrtle Avenue Park
23. Veterans Green
24. Wakeman Field
25. Winslow Park

ATHLETIC FIELDS

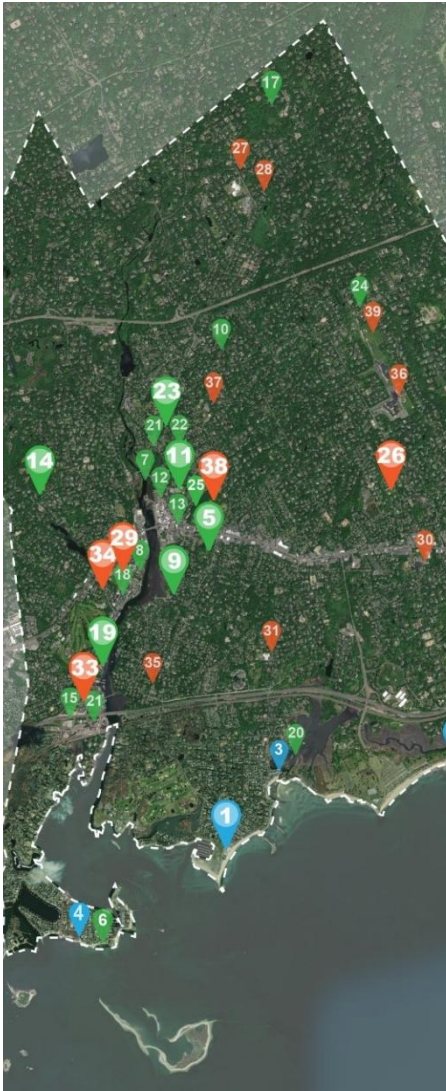
26. Burr Farms Athletic Fields
27. Coleytown Elementary School
28. Coleytown Middle School
29. Doubleday Field Complex
30. Greens Farms Elementary School
31. Hillspoint Athletic Fields
32. Long Lots Elementary School
33. Luciano Field
34. Saugatuck Elementary School
35. Saugatuck Athletic Field
36. Staples High School
37. Town Farm Ball Complex
38. Town Hall Athletic Fields
39. Wakeman Field

Focused Entities– The Sites

- Compo Beach
- Burying Hill Beach
- Barons Hill South Property
- Grace K Salmon Park
- Jesup Green
- Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum
- Machamux Park
- Veteran Green
- Winslow Park
- Burr Farms Athletic Fields
- Doubleday Field Complex
- Luciano Field
- Saugatuck Elementary School
- Town Hall Athletic Fields



Park System Overview



Diverse Park Types

Westport's parks include beaches, athletic fields, playgrounds, marinas, and natural open spaces, serving diverse recreational needs.

Year-round Community Use

These parks are heavily used by residents of all ages throughout the year, supporting recreation and community gatherings.

Operational and Environmental Needs

Each park type has unique operational, capital, and environmental requirements that must be managed effectively.

System-wide Planning Approach

The Master Plan emphasizes a comprehensive system-wide approach rather than isolated project decisions for effective park management.

Vision Statement

Balanced Park System

The vision aims to balance recreation with conservation and access with preservation for sustainable park management.

Commitment to Equity

Ensuring parks are accessible to users of all ages and abilities highlights the plan's focus on equity and inclusion.

Sustainability Focus

Prioritizing durable materials and environmentally responsible practices supports long-term sustainability in park operations.

Guiding Community Outcomes

The vision guides all projects to collectively advance broad community benefits beyond isolated efforts.



Strategic Policy Objectives



Quality of Life

Focuses on equitable recreational opportunities that improve health, social bonds, and overall well-being for the community.

Environmental Responsibility

Promotes stewardship of natural resources through resilient design, shoreline protection, and ecological management.

Operational Sustainability

Aligns facilities, staffing, and maintenance with service demands to ensure long-term cost efficiency and reliability.

Public Engagement and Transparency

Ensures community input, data analysis, and clear performance measures guide transparent decision-making.

Key Findings – Facilities

Athletic Field Shortages

Shortages in athletic fields limit programming and create scheduling conflicts for users.

Outdated Playgrounds and Skate Park

Many playgrounds and the skate park lack modern safety, accessibility, and durability standards.

Insufficient Amenities

Lack of dog-friendly spaces and inconsistent amenities reduce user comfort and experience.



Key Findings – Operations



Staffing Shortfalls

Maintenance staffing is at minimum of NRPA standards, causing challenges in system upkeep and increased overtime costs.

Facility Limitations

Current maintenance facilities lack adequate space for staff, fleet, and equipment, limiting operational efficiency. Need to have a safe and functional operating environment for staff, storage, and fleet.

Operational Impact

These operational constraints lead to deferred maintenance, higher reliance on contractors, and increased long-term costs. Full time staff trained to accommodate the tasks to be performed.

Sustainability Importance

Addressing staffing and infrastructure is critical alongside capital improvements to ensure sustainable and successful operations.

Key Findings – Access and Programming

Accessibility Gaps

Inconsistent ADA compliance limits access for users with disabilities across park facilities.

Inclusivity Challenges

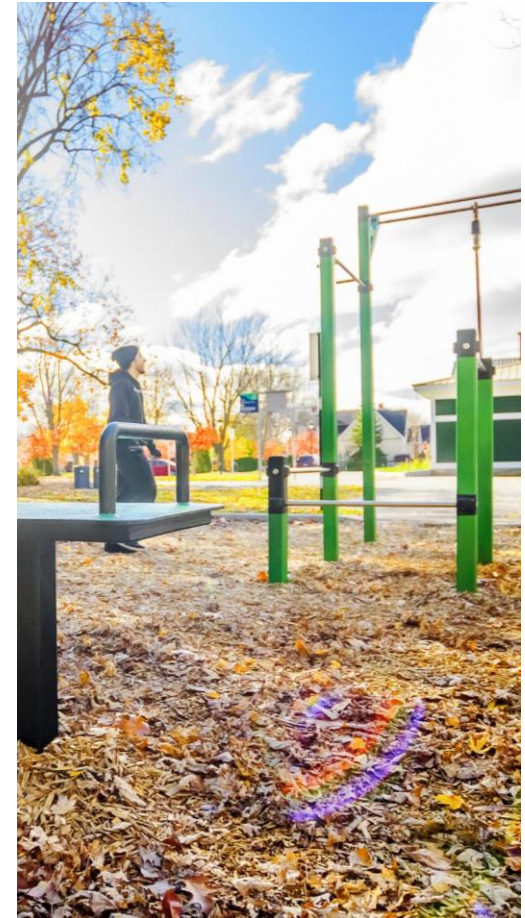
Universal design principles are not uniformly applied, reducing inclusivity for all users.

Underserved Populations

Programming gaps were found for teenagers and multi-generational users in the park system.

Community Garden Relocation

Displacement of the community garden highlights need for a permanent site, with Burr Farms preferred.



Strategic Recommendations – Capital Improvements



Durable Skate Park Reconstruction

Reconstruct the skate park using concrete to ensure long-lasting durability and reduced maintenance needs.

Synthetic Turf Fields Expansion

Add and renovate synthetic turf fields to increase capacity and provide consistent playing surfaces year-round.

Playground Modernization

Modernize playgrounds to improve safety features and enhance inclusivity for all children.

Trail Expansion and Signage

Expand trails and improve signage to boost connectivity and enhance user navigation and experience.

Strategic Recommendations – Operations

Centralized Scheduling and Management

Centralizing scheduling and facility management improves utilization and increases operational transparency.

Increased Maintenance Staffing

Boosting maintenance staffing aligns resources with service demands, reducing deferred maintenance and outsourcing.

Standardized Amenities and Practices

Standardizing amenities and maintenance enhances service quality, consistency, and predictability across the system.

Expanding In-House Programming

Expanding in-house programs with grants and partnerships improves service delivery while controlling costs.



Strategic Recommendations – Environmental Initiatives



Native and Pollinator Plantings

Planting native species and pollinator-friendly plants supports biodiversity and ecosystem health in the town's green spaces.

Invasive Species Management

Expanding efforts to control invasive species helps protect native habitats and maintain ecological balance.

Shoreline Stabilization Projects

Shoreline stabilization and beach replenishment combat coastal erosion and mitigate climate change impacts.

Open Space Maintenance

Enhanced maintenance of open spaces ensures long-term protection of natural assets and reduces repair costs.

Implementation Strategy

Phased Implementation Approach

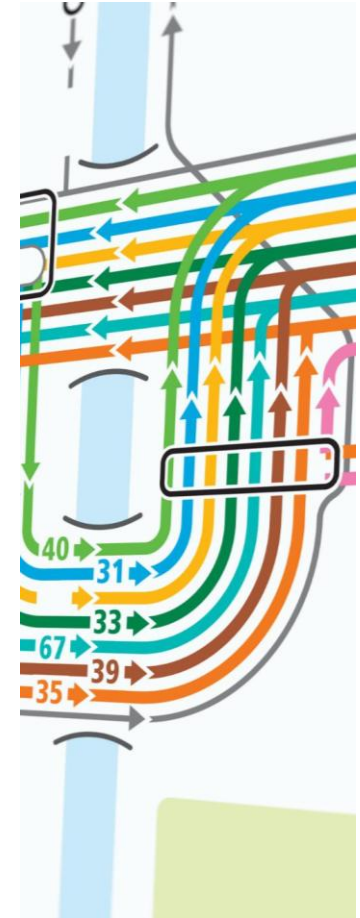
The Master Plan uses phased implementation to align projects with funding, staffing, and readiness, reducing disruptions.

Project Prioritization Criteria

Projects are prioritized based on facility condition, demand, risk, and potential operational efficiencies.

Flexibility and Momentum

The strategy provides flexibility for elected officials while maintaining momentum toward long-term goals.





These are Programming Concepts—nothing is set. Each park will need its own design process.

They were developed to categorize feedback, engage direction and inform potential expenditure.

Based Upon Input and Themes to date

Phase I Priorities



Infrastructure Upgrades

Phase I includes building a new maintenance facility and upgrading and adding lighting (PJ Romano, Doubleday) and synthetic turf at key sports fields (Doubleday, Staples).



Community Garden Restoration

Restoring the community garden (Burr Farms) revitalizes local green spaces and encourages community engagement.



Park Enhancements and Beach Replenishment

Enhancements at local parks (Winslow, Burr Farms) and beach replenishment at Compo Beach improve recreational spaces and natural habitats.

Doubleday Field Complex



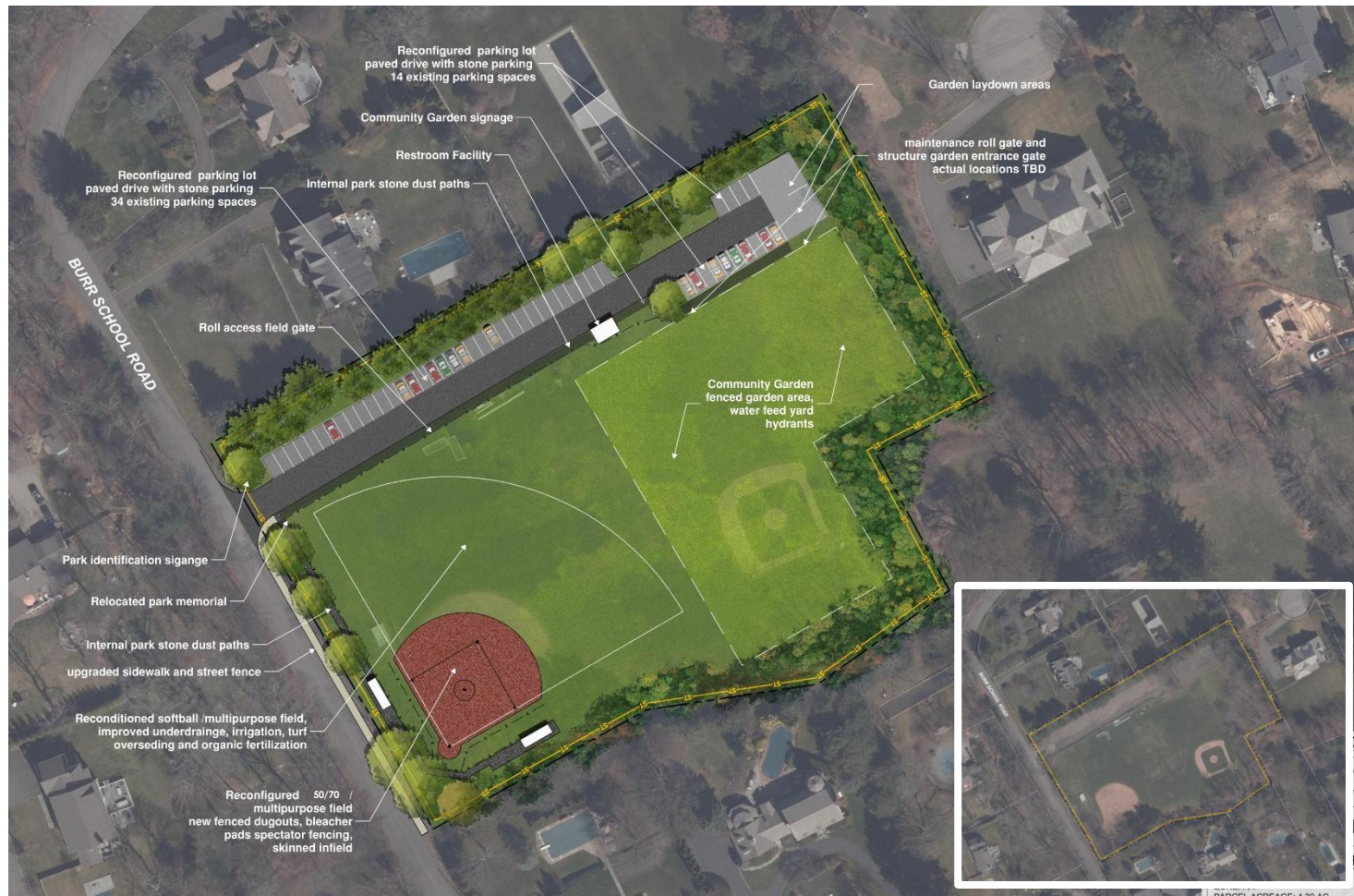
- Multipurpose field renovation
- Drainage Improvements
- Upgraded accessibility
- Field Lighting
- New fencing and backstops
- Defined outdoor use areas

Saugatuck Elementary School



- Redefined parking
- Track upgrade
- Athletic lighting
- Filed Improvements (as needed)
- Upgraded accessibility
- Upgraded/ relocation of athletic building (with defined entry)

Burr Farms



- Community Garden Introduction
- Revised 50/70 Field. /multi purpose field
- Clean blending of use areas
- Upgraded parking area with clearly identified park signage
- Upgraded pedestrian linkage
- Restrooms facility and utilities

Winslow Park



- Structured dog park
- Upgraded trails system (accessible)
- Upgrade parking facilities and entry points
- Defined park boundaries
- Park appropriate boundary fencing (safety)
- Increase in passive program areas

Compo Beach



- Upgraded Pickleball
- Reconfigured internal circulation
- Relocated skate park
- Vegetation introduction
- Shoreline mitigation (beach replenishment)
- Unified benches and amenities – clear park identification

Phasing Strategy

- Suggested action plan Based upon facilities reviewed.
- Ten-year implementation plan.
- Can be adjusted(used as a guide).
- Overall recommendations can be performed adjacent with larger park-based implementation

PRIORITIES AND PHASING STRATEGIES

Outlined below is the suggested action plan or implementation strategy list in priority order for the facilities reviewed as part of the master planning process. The level of implementation for each effort will greatly depend on available funding and the requirements of the funding source. All proposed improvements should be in accordance with the preferred master plan for each site. All other improvements identified are of a lower priority and should be added as budget allows, added if dedicated donor funds become available or added in future phases.

Phase	Site	Estimated Cost
PHASE I PRIORITY	New Maintenance Building	Cost TBD (under separate project)
	Doubleday Field Complex (Artificial Fields, Lighting)	\$ 6,250,000
	Staples High School (Artificial Field)	Cost TBD (under separate project)
	PJ Romano at Saugatuck Elementary School (Lighting)	\$ 2,500,000
	Burr Farms (Community Garden and Field Renovation)	\$ 2,700,000
	Winslow Park	\$ 2,300,000
	Compo Beach (Beach Replenishment)	\$ 5,320,000
PHASE II PRIORITY	Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum	\$ 2,300,000
	Baron's South	\$ 5,300,000
	Grace Salmon Park	\$ 1,200,000
	Veterans Green	\$ 1,200,000
PHASE III PRIORITY	Town Hall Athletic Fields	\$ 900,000
	Machamux Park	\$ 1,300,000
	Luciano Park	\$ 1,400,000
	Jesup Green	\$ 1,300,000
	Burying Hill Beach	\$ 938,000

Phase II Priorities

Key Project Locations

Phase II focuses on improvements at Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum, Baron's South, Grace Salmon Park, and Veterans Green.

Focus on Accessibility

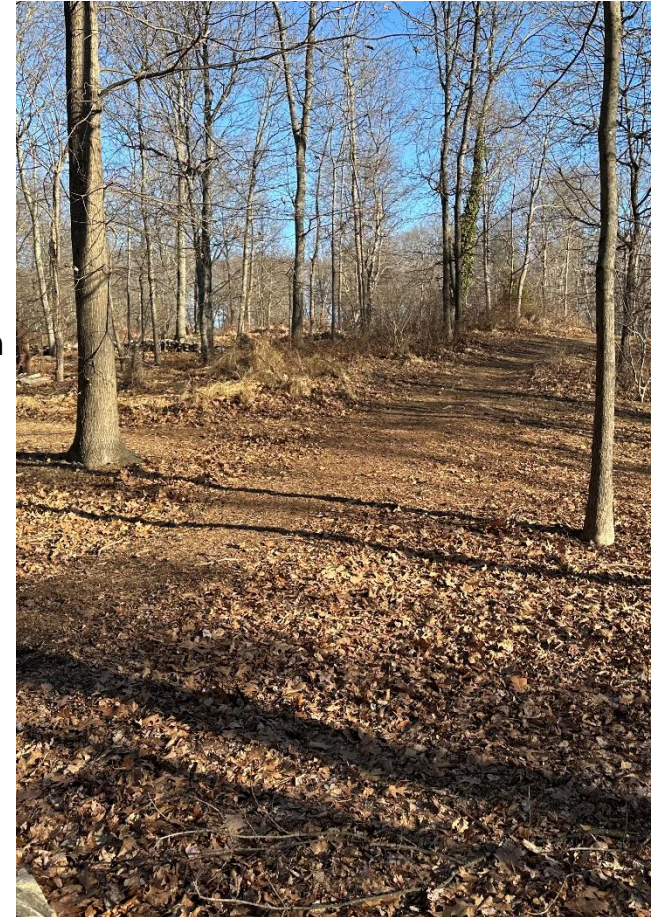
Projects emphasize improving accessibility to ensure all visitors can enjoy the facilities comfortably and safely.

Environmental Stewardship

Improvements incorporate sustainable practices to protect and enhance the natural environment within the parks.

Phased Capital Spending

Phasing allows measured capital spending while maintaining steady progress across the park system.



Lillian Wadsworth Arboretum



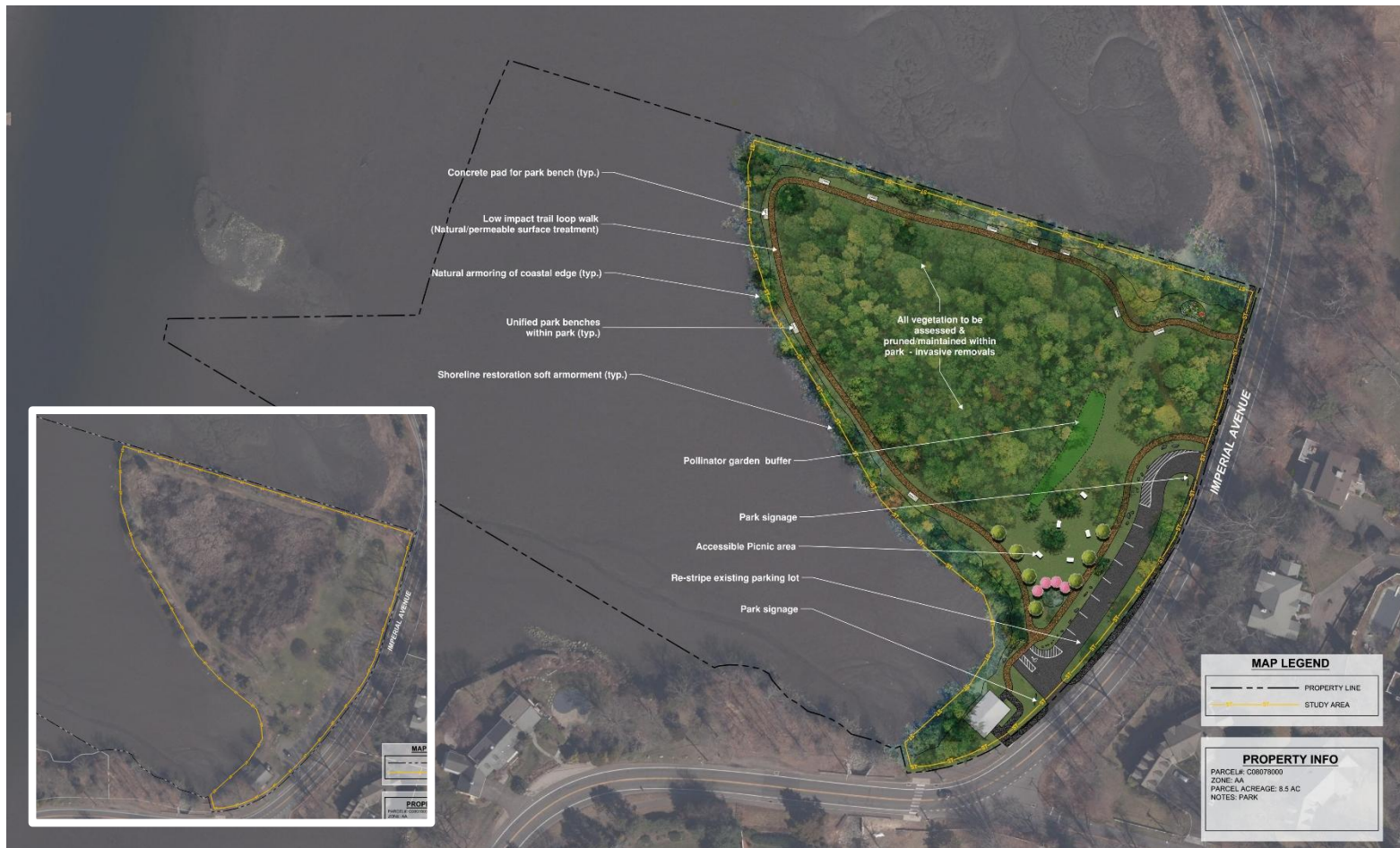
- Upgraded improved low impact parking area
- Improved walking paths
- Clearer naturalized sign definition
- Overall Invasive management and removal, forest maintenance
- Successional tree implementation
- Upgrade site amenities (rustic benches, tables, kiosk, signage)

Barons South Property



- Upgraded and defined access paths
- Vegetation management and invasive removals
- Restorative vegetation restoration around primary
- Environmental (educational) signage
- Low impact parking nodes within site (future acquisition)
- Small percentage semiactive recreation space

Grace K Salmon Park



- Durable walk surface path (width to vary)
- Pollinator buffer
- Vegetation management and invasive removals
- Environmental signage (educational)
- Upgraded accessibility
- Clearly defined entrance sequence

Veterans Green



- Perimeter upgrade and definition
- Defined memorial loop path
- Upgrade turf area and irrigation
- Cultural and Historical Signage
- Memorial upgrades
- Managed and increased tree and shrub zones

Phasing Strategy

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- Ten-year implementation plan.
- Can be adjusted(used as a guide).
- Overall recommendations can be performed adjacent with larger goals.

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Phase III Priorities

Completion of Priority Sites

Phase III focuses on finalizing improvements at key locations like athletic fields and community parks.

Ten-Year Improvement Program

This phase completes a decade-long program aimed at upgrading all major system components.

Adaptive Management Approach

Investments in Phase III are guided by lessons learned and outcomes from earlier phases.



Burying Hill Beach



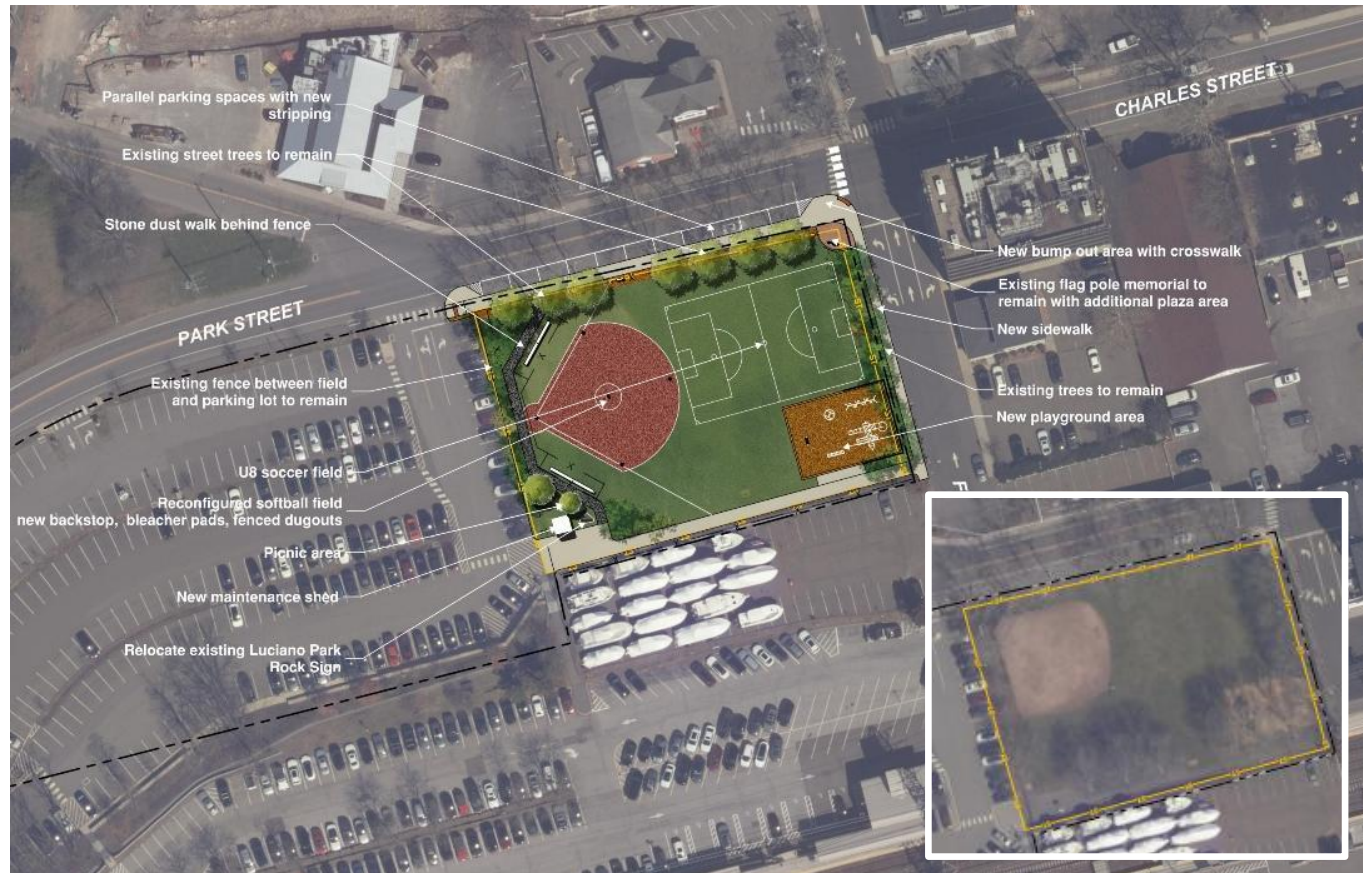
- Combine parcels
- Accessible circulation
- Safety mitigation
- Paving upgrade
- Vegetation additions
- Defined use areas

Machamux Park



- Improved parking
- Defined use areas
- Accessible picnic area
- Increase in shaded areas
- Cultural and Historical upgrades
- Alternative park useability

Luciano Park



- Upgrade surrounding sidewalk system
- Upgraded playground area
- Field Renovation (natural or synthetic)
- Defined seating areas (park and spectator)
- Upgraded accessibility and storage
- Upgrade monument areas

Jesup Green



- Improved universal accessibility (park boundary)
- Defined park, pedestrian and vehicle circulation
- Clean blending of adjacent use areas
- Additional areas for public art
- Renovated "Open Green" area (irrigation, drainage and turf health)
- Increase in vegetation areas (raingarden, pollinators and trees)

Town Hall Athletic Fields



- Upgrade playscape area
- Improved overall multiuse field
- Accessible use area pathways
- Upgraded fencing and additional dugout fencing
- Defined restroom (porta) area
- Additional Bleacher areas

Phasing Strategy

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Seasonal Demand Characteristics

Peak Season Demand

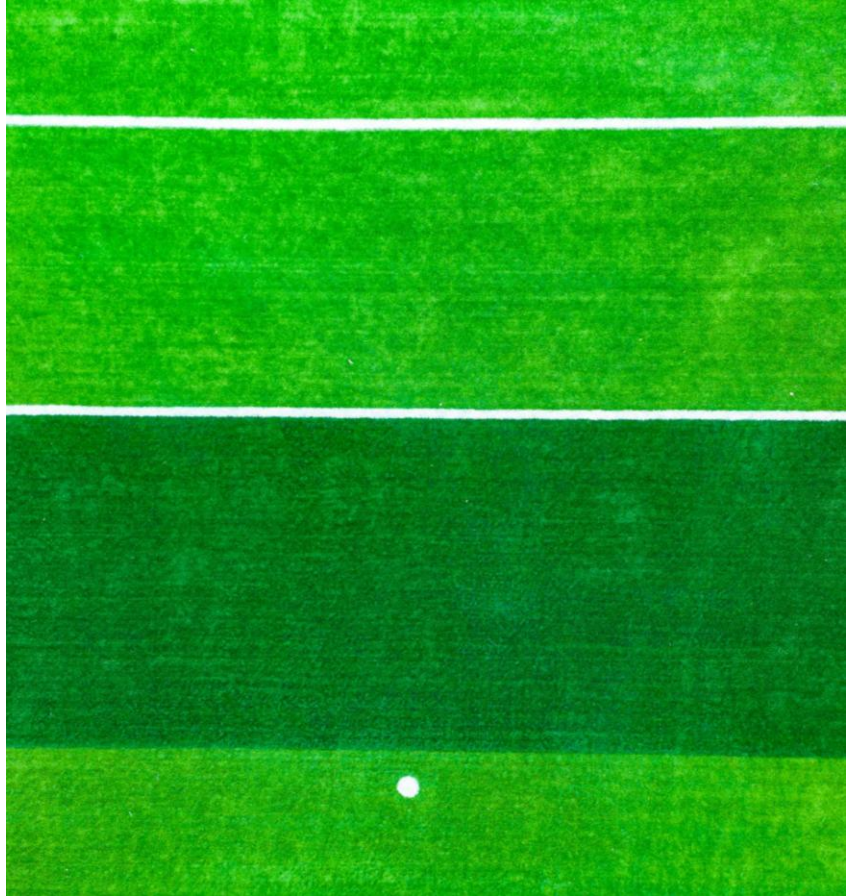
Spring and fall are peak seasons with high demand from youth, scholastic, and adult sports programs, requiring full field availability.

Off-Peak Season Opportunities

Summer and winter offer reduced demand, allowing for field maintenance, program adjustments, and improved system efficiency.

Strategic Seasonal Planning

Aligning field use with seasonal demand helps maximize asset value and supports better scheduling and investment decisions.



Real-World Capacity Constraints

Impact of Weather

Rain events reduce field usability, especially on natural grass, requiring recovery time to prevent damage.

Maintenance Activities

Regular maintenance like mowing and aeration temporarily takes fields offline, decreasing available playtime.

Scheduling and Capacity Gap

Real-world constraints create a gap between theoretical and actual field capacity, impacting scheduling flexibility.

Planning Based on Reality

Incorporating real constraints improves field usage planning, investment prioritization, and performance expectations.



Methodology for Calculating Field Usage

Standardized Usage Calculation

Field capacity is calculated by multiplying daily usable hours by scheduled activity days per week.

Industry Benchmarks for Field Use

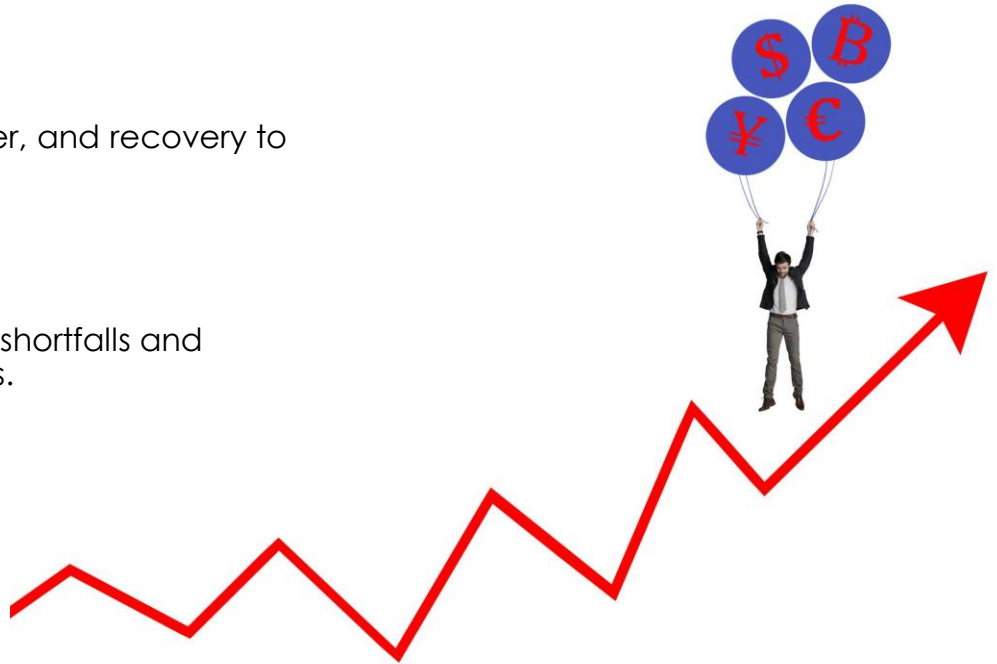
Synthetic turf supports about 3,000 hours annually; natural grass supports 680 to 800 hours with maintenance.

Realistic Usage Assumptions

Methodology accounts for maintenance, weather, and recovery to estimate realistic usage limits.

Benefits of Accurate Assessment

Accurate usage estimates help identify capacity shortfalls and evaluate alternative field management strategies.



Weekly Use Scenarios – Synthetic Turf Fields

Theoretical Maximum Usage

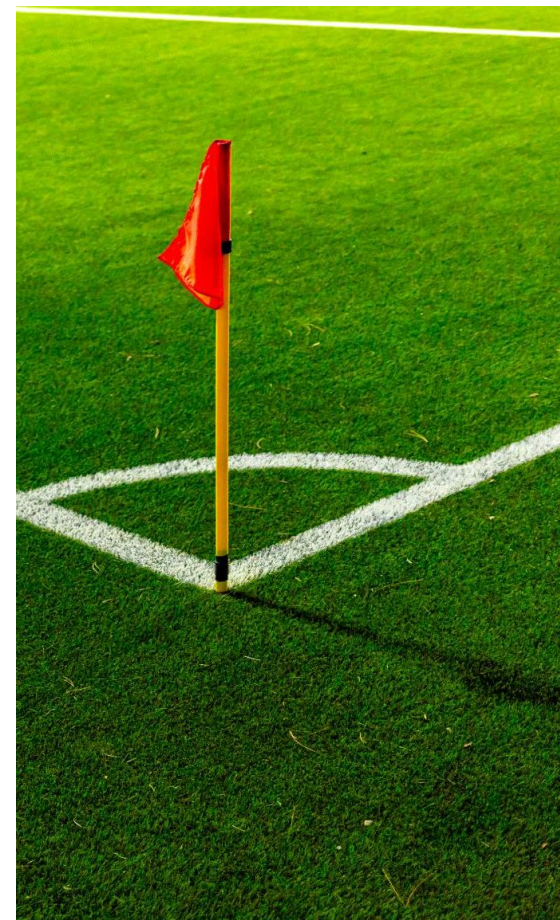
Synthetic turf fields can theoretically support up to 42 hours of use weekly, scheduled six hours daily.

Weighted Actual Usage (Based on Synthetic Fields currently on school grounds)

Realistically, fields support about 15 weekday hours and 12 weekend hours, totaling 27 hours weekly use.

Capacity Management Importance

Managing use within limits prevents surface wear, maintains performance, and extends field lifespan.



Weekly Use Scenarios – Natural Grass Fields

Theoretical Maximum Usage

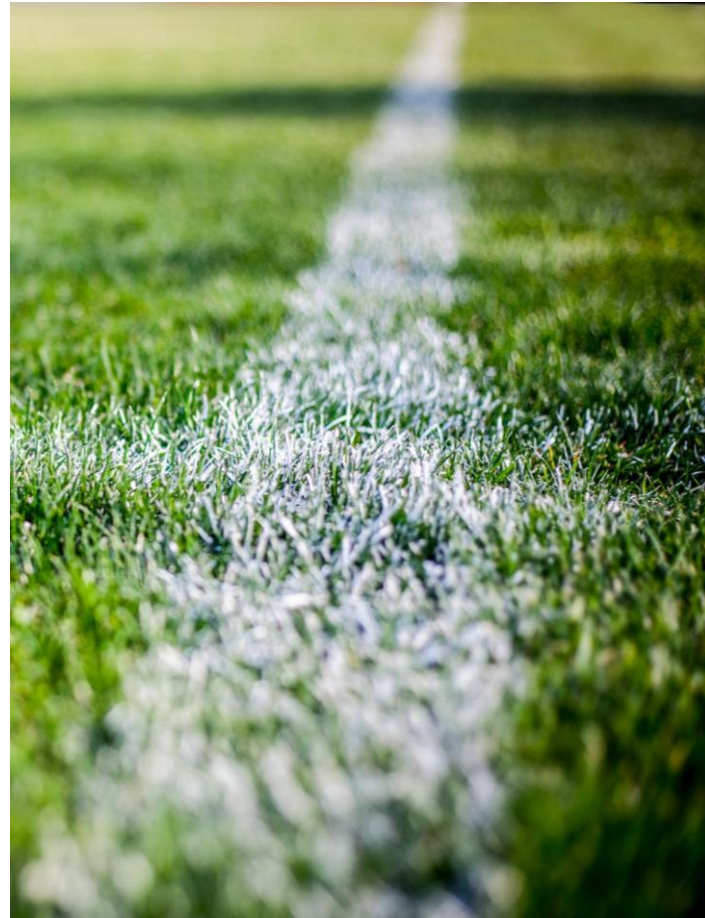
Natural grass fields could theoretically support 35 hours of use weekly but this is unsustainable due to rapid turf degradation.

Weighted Use Scenario

A balanced approach limits weekday use to 3 hours and weekend use to 8 hours per day, totaling approximately 31 weekly hours.

Importance of Field Recovery

Adequate downtime is critical to maintain turf quality, reduce maintenance costs, and ensure player safety on natural grass fields.



Field Inventory and Program Demand

Field Inventory Details

The athletic field inventory includes 35 fields: synthetic turf, diamond, and rectangular natural grass types.

Diverse Programming Demand

Around 90 user groups engage in various sports and community programs requiring about 10 hours weekly each.

Capacity and Scheduling Challenges

Finite fields and high demand cause scheduling challenges during peak seasons due to limited usable hours.

Data-Driven Capacity Analysis

The analysis helps identify capacity gaps and guides strategies to balance field supply with programming demand.

The table, titled "Monthly Program", is a detailed inventory and demand matrix. It lists 35 fields on the left, categorized by type: Synthetic Turf, Diamond, and Rectangular Natural Grass. Each field entry includes its name, location, and size. The main body of the table consists of columns for each month of the year (January to December). Within these monthly columns, there are sub-columns for different program types (e.g., Soccer, Baseball, Softball, Football, Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball, etc.). The cells are color-coded: green typically indicates available capacity, red indicates full capacity or conflict, and yellow indicates partial availability or specific program requirements. The table provides a comprehensive view of how the 35 fields are utilized throughout the year across various sports and community programs.

Natural Grass Fields – Features

- Cooler playing conditions

Traditional surface feel, Carbon absorption and environmental value,
Biodiversity and habitat benefits, Flexibility for non-sport uses



- Essential component of a balanced field inventory

Supports diverse programs and community events

Complements high-use synthetic turf facilities

Natural Grass Fields – Limitations

- Requires frequent rest and recovery
 - Irrigation, aeration, pest, and nutrient management
 - Sensitive to wet weather conditions
 - Periodic downtime for major maintenance
 - Fewer playable hours than synthetic turf



Recommended Natural Grass Improvements

- **Regrading (drainage) for improved drainage and playability**

Install or upgrade irrigation systems

Aeration to mitigate compaction

Enhanced turf maintenance programs

Additional staffing



- **Current staffing levels limit field readiness**

Reduced recovery during spring,
summer, and fall

Staffing directly affects usable field
capacity



Synthetic Turf Fields – Features

- Modern synthetic turf systems emphasize performance and sustainability
 - Multi-fiber yarns for enhanced realism
 - Improved drainage and durability
 - Cooling technologies and lighter-colored infill
 - Non-PFAS materials and reduced microplastic migration
 - Optional sensors to monitor field playability
- Consistent surface quality
 - Rapid recovery after weather events
 - High-use capacity for year-round programming
 - Extended scheduling potential with athletic lighting

Synthetic Turf – Environmental Considerations

- Industry has responded to infill, PFAS, and microplastic concerns

Alternative and PFAS-free infill systems

Field-edge containment to reduce migration

Improved recycling and end-of-life practices

Emerging infill-free (Hybrid) systems further reduce risk



Synthetic Turf Program Enhancements

- Maintain existing fields at optimal condition
 - Plan timely replacement using modern systems
 - Designated snow staging areas
 - Incorporate outdoor athletic lighting
- Addition of a minimum of 2 synthetic fields
 - Provides buffer during rain events
 - Supports expanding sports programs
 - Improves system reliability
 - Reduces peak-season scheduling pressure



Site and Facility Recommendations

ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

- Universal ADA access to parking, amenities, and activity areas
- Organized parking with drop-off zones
- Bike-friendly parks with racks, routes, and support amenities

RECREATION & PROGRAMMING

- Dog-friendly parks (off-leash and pet-friendly zones)
- Multi-generational park amenities
- Reimagined playgrounds (nature-based, adventure, climbing)
- Permanent community garden location

ATHLETIC FACILITIES

- Improve and maintain natural grass fields
- Add synthetic turf fields to expand seasonal use
- Priority locations: Double Day Fields & Staples HS
- Industry-standard field and court maintenance

ENVIRONMENT & AMENITIES

- Restrooms, shade trees, shade structures
- Consistent amenity palette and maintained memorials
- Native, pollinator plantings and green infrastructure
- Coastal resilience and beach nourishment strategies

Programmatic Recommendations

GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

- Town-led ownership of parks, maintenance, and scheduling
- Centralized, transparent scheduling software
- Unified oversight of park use and improvements

OPERATIONS & BUDGETING

- Increased maintenance budget aligned with demand
- Centralized Parks Maintenance Building for efficiency

SCHEDULING & USE POLICIES

- One town-controlled system for all park resources
- Clearly defined park, field, and court hours
- Scheduled rest periods for maintenance

BRANDING & COMMUNICATION

- Consistent 'Westport Parks and Recreation' branding
- Standardized entry and interior signage

PLANNING & FUTURE GROWTH

- Parks Master Plan referenced in all projects
- Formal review of deviations
- Plan updates every 10–15 years
- Strategic land acquisition to expand parks

Financial Considerations

Budget Alignment and Staffing

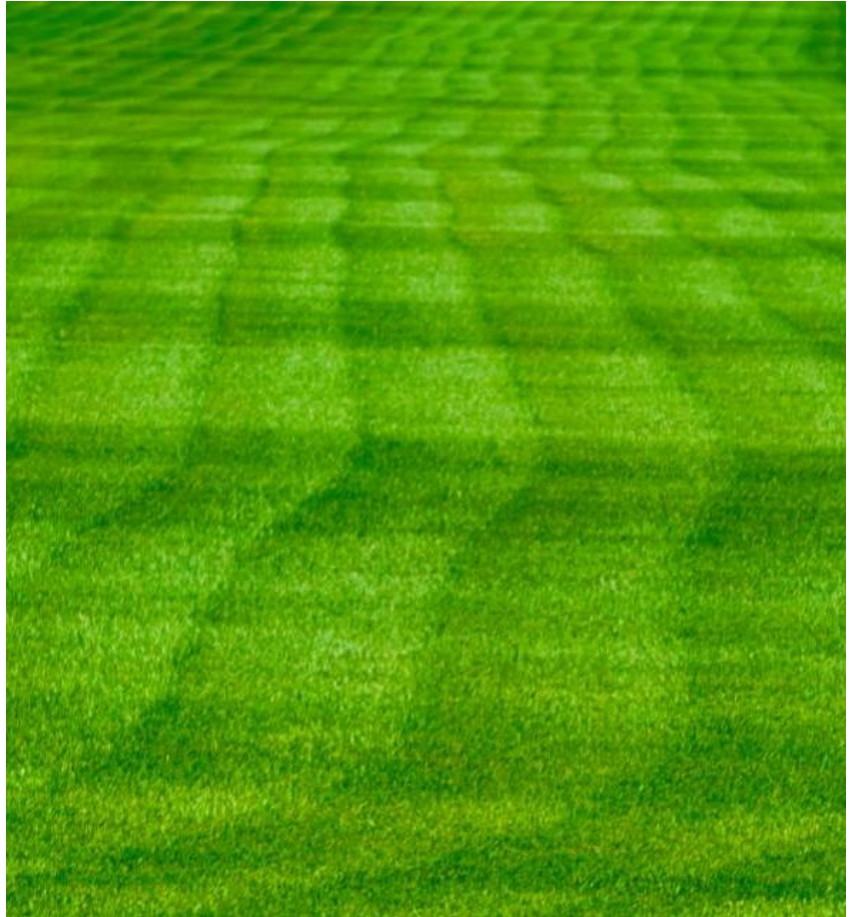
The Town's parks budget matches national standards but staffing is insufficient to meet service demands.

Lifecycle Cost Analysis

Investing in durable materials and illuminated fields helps reduce future maintenance and operational costs.

Sustainable Turf Management

Improved natural turf care combined with selective synthetic turf use enhances sustainability and programming.



Funding Approach

Diversified Funding Sources

The plan relies on multiple funding channels including capital appropriations, grants, and sponsorships to ensure steady financial support.

Phased Capital Appropriations

Funding through the Capital Improvement Program is phased to manage resources effectively and support project timelines.

Financial Stability Management

Diversifying funding sources helps minimize fiscal impact and protects the Town's financial health during implementation.



Outcomes and Benefits

Improved Access and Safety

Master Plan implementation will enhance access and safety for all park users, ensuring inclusive and secure environments.

Enhanced Service Delivery

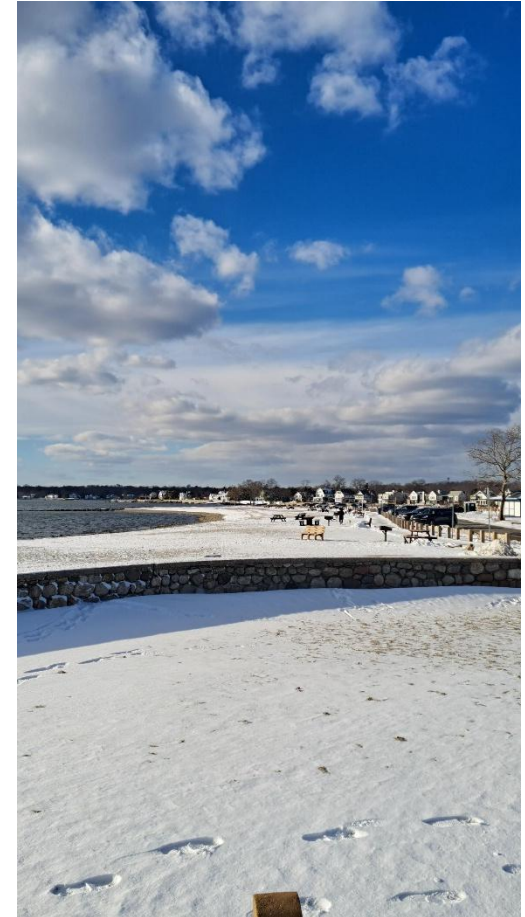
Increased programming capacity and operational efficiency will lead to more effective and diverse park services.

Environmental Protection and Resilience

Environmental initiatives will safeguard natural assets and improve resilience to environmental challenges.

Long-Term Quality of Life

Collective outcomes will strengthen community quality of life and protect long-term investment in parks and recreation.



Conclusion

Strategic Framework

The Master Plan offers a clear, strategic framework to guide public parks investment responsibly.

Community Alignment

Aligns community priorities with operational capacity and environmental stewardship effectively.

Sustainability and Fiscal Responsibility

Ensures sustainable park development with fiscal responsibility and transparency for future generations.



Project Website

www.engage.sportsfacilities.com/westport-master-plan-2025



Thank You

Email your feedback to the Project Team below:

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