

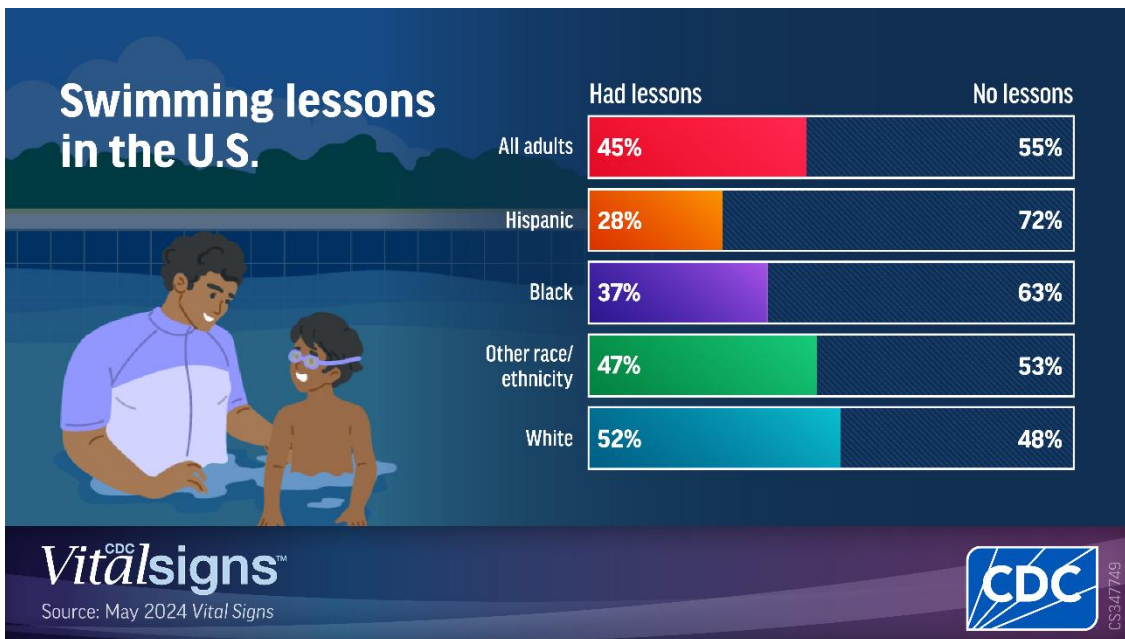
January 12, 2025

**RE: 2026-2027 Planning Board Capital Request Recommendations to Mayor Simmons**  
Parks & Recreation Commission Comments

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

According to the [Center for Disease Control, drowning deaths are on the rise](#) in the United States. **Drowning is the number one death for children 1-4 years old and the second leading cause for children 5-12. Groups at a higher risk saw the greatest increases in deaths: children 1-4 years old and adults 65 years and older of all races and ethnicities, as well as Black people of all ages.** <sup>1</sup> In 2024, the City of Stamford's lifeguards had approximately 25-30 water incidents. Due to a lifeguard shortage, beaches have 'Swim at Your Risk' signs, and the only public pool at Dorothy Heroy Park is small, outdoors, remote, and in poor condition. The West Hill High School pool may not be rebuilt. Stamford is a city on the Long Island Sound, with rivers residents swim in and many private residences that have pools. **Swimming is a lifesaving skill.** Accessible basic swimming and water safety training has proven effective in reducing drowning deaths. For Stamford to provide affordable lessons, **the lack of public indoor pool infrastructure must be addressed. A centrally located indoor pool would allow park summer camps, school students, and a broader demographic of residents to accessibility to a pool with affordable swim lessons.**

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Graphic from CDC

In addition, the City of Stamford's population continues to increase and yet, the green space for athletic field use is not keeping pace. **The Commission would like the Planning Board to reconsider recommending the full capital request submitted by the Land Use Bureau for the Overall Needs Assessment for City Fields (CP001254) which includes a needs assessment of a centrally located public pool.** Current information compiled by the Commission indicates a pressing need for more park athletic field space to accommodate sports other than baseball and softball (most existing field space that exists now). With high demand for athletic field space, a study is needed to compile the usage data

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/s0514-vs-drowning.html>

from both the City Park and Board of Education fields, informing the City and the Commission which sports require additional field space, ways to achieve more athletic field space using existing field space and/or new fields, which sports to plan to accommodate in the future, game courts, and the best use for allocated funds for athletic fields. It is imperative during the BOE school construction phase that athletic fields as a whole (city-wide) are studied to allocate field space accordingly.

The Commission fully supports and asks **the Planning Board to reconsider and allocate full funding for CP 001281, Rosa Hartman Park trail system renovation.** The quality-of-life issues at Rosa Hartman Park could be reduced if the park was activated and maintained trails would help. Greenwich Parks Department renovated trails on their side of the park, but trails on the Stamford side are overgrown and, in some areas, impassable. As the Planning Board can see from the attached capital inventory log and adopted funding, **Rosa Hartman Park has not had a capital request proposed in the last 5 fiscal years.**

For the Parks & Recreation Department to complete the tennis courts and basketball court at Cove Island Park, the department requires full funding of item CP4000006 because of exorbitant cost increases from previous years' cost estimates. Funding that was allocated last year will be used with the additional requests 2026-2027. **The upgraded plan would also provide full accessibility to the courts.** We understand that the cost is significant; however, the department has repeatedly requested funding for Cove Island Park as seen from the attached capital inventory and adopted funding logs, but funding has been significantly reduced each fiscal year. Cove Island is one of the most used parks, yet it is receiving the least amount of money out of those parks. **The Commission asks the Planning Board to please reconsider and allocate full funding for the Cove Tennis & Basketball Courts.**

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Hollas, Chair  
Michael Tedder, Vice Chair  
Angela Adetola, Commissioner  
Benjamin Pomerantz, Commissioner  
Paul Newman, Commissioner

City of Stamford Park & Recreation Department Capital Requests 2021-2026															
Major Facilities	2021-2022 Capital Budget - Proposed: \$1,575,000	Adopted Funding: \$1,425,000	Passive / Active Recreation	2022-2023 Capital Budget - Proposed: \$7,625,000	Adopted Funding: \$1,800,000	Passive / Active Recreation	2023-2024 Capital Budget - Proposed: \$7,380,000	Adopted Funding: \$2,291,000	Passive / Active Recreation	2024-2025 Capital Budget - Proposed: \$8,150,000	Adopted Funding: \$4,000,000	Passive / Active Recreation	2025-2026 Capital Budget - Proposed: \$	Adopted Funding	Passive / Active Recreation
All Season Accessible Bathrooms							550,000	200,000	A	350,000	0	A	1,500,000	250,000	P
Barrett Park													350,000	0	A
Carpinella Park															
Carwin Park							200,000	200,000	A						
Cedar Street Playground															
Chestnut Hill Road Bird Sanctuary															
Columbus Park															
Cove Island Park							450,000	100,000	A/P	450,000	450,000	A	300,000	0	A
Cummings Park										3,300,000	1,600,000	A/P	1,600,000	1,600,000	A/P
Cummings Park-West Phase 1	500,000	500,000		2,000,000	500,000		3,300,000	1,000,000							
Czescik Park															
Daskum Park															
De Preta Park															
Dorothy Heroy Complex															
Drotar Park															
E.A. Connell Heritage Park															
Edson Park															
Edward Hunt Complex															
Fort Stamford							200,000	50,000		150,000	50,000		150,000	0	
Gerli Park															
Haig Avenue Park													300,000	300,000	A
Hatch Field Park							95,000	95,000	A						
Homer Lee Wise Memorial Park															
Hope Street Island Park															
Horan Park															
Jackie Robinson Park															
John J. Boccuzzi Park	500,000	700,000		4,327,000	2,000,000					600,000	375,000				
Kiwanis Park															
Kosciuszko Park							150,000	75,000		75,000	50,000		100,000	0	
Latham Park															
Levine Site															
Lione Park*							50,000	0	A				2,500,000	0	P
McKeithen Park															
Mianus River Park and Glen															
Nemoitin Park							50,000	0	A	50,000	0	A	850,000	350,000	A
Newman Mills/Riverwalk Park															
Northrop Park							50,000	0	A	750,000	50,000	A	800,000	75,000-G	A
Rippowam Park															
River Walk															
Rosa Hartman Park															
Rotary Park															
Saunders Park															
Scalzi Park				350,000	150,000	A	771,000	421,000	A	1,400,000	1,400,000	A	2,650,000	2,650,000	A
Scofieldtown Park	210,000	0	P	210,000	100,000	P									
Sleepy Hollow Park															
St. John's Park															
Susan Nabel Park at Chestnut Hill							75,000	0		75,000	75,000				
Veteran's Memorial Park															
Water Street Park															
Waterside Park															
West Beach*	820,000	820,000	A				1,239,000	0	A	1,300,000	75,000	A			
Wire Mill Park															
Woodley Road Bird Sanctuary															
Woodway Park															
Mill River	100,000	100,000	P												
Brennan Golf Course				1,600,000	1,600,000	A	500,000	250,000	A	250,000	50,000	A	250,000	0	A
Terry Conners Rink	680,000	680,000	A										90,000	0	A
Marina Dock Upgrades										1,000,000	0	A	1,000,000	0	A
Playground rehabilitation	225,000	225,000	A	750,000	0	A	50,000	50,000	A	100,000	100,000	A	100,000	0	A
Fencing & Guard Rails	50,000	0		50,000	0		50,000	50,000		50,000	50,000		150,000	50,000	
Paving & Drainage	100,000	0	P	550,000	0-ARP								300,000	0	
Citywide Tree Planting				50,000	50,000	P	50,000	50,000	P	50,000	50,000	P	50,000	0	P
Park Amenities Upgrades	50,000	0	A/P	50,000	50,000	A/P	50,000	0	A/P	50,000	50,000	A/P	200,000	50,000	P
Game Courts	50,000	0	A	1,425,000	200,000	A									
Athletic Fields Renovations*	100,000	0	A	2,550,000	1,000,000	A							500,000	250,000	A

City of Stamford Park & Recreation Department ADOPTED Capital Requests 2021-2026									
Major Facilities	2021-2026 Capital Budget TOTAL Adopted Funding	General Maintenance	Passive / Active Recreation	Notes					
All Season Accessible Bathrooms	250,000		P						
Barrett Park	200,000		A						
Carpinella Park									
Carwin Park	200,000		A						
Cedar Street Playground									
Chestnut Hill Road Bird Sanctuary									
Columbus Park									
Cove Island Park	550,000		A						
Cummings Park	3,200,000		A/P	Masterplan Implementation					
Cummings Park-West Phase 1	2,000,000			Masterplan Implementation					
Czescik Park									
Daskum Park									
De Preta Park									
Dorothy Heroy Complex									
Drotar Park									
E.A. Connell Heritage Park									
Edson Park									
Edward Hunt Complex									
Fort Stamford	100,000	M							
Gerli Park									
Haig Avenue Park	300,000		A	Additional Funding from ARP					
Hatch Field Park	95,000		A						
Homer Lee Wise Memorial Park									
Hope Street Island Park									
Horan Park									
Jackie Robinson Park									
John J. Boccuzzi Park	3,075,000			Masterplan Implementation, Phase 1					
Kiwanis Park									
Kosciuszko Park	125,000	M							
Latham Park									
Levine Site									
Lione Park*			A	Funding allocated under ARP Funding / See Athletic Field Renovations					
McKeithen Park									
Mianus River Park and Glen									
Nemoitin Park	350,000		A						
Newman Mills/Riverwalk Park									
Northrop Park	850,000		A						
Rippowam Park									
River Walk									
Rosa Hartman Park									
Rotary Park									
Saunders Park									
Scalzi Park	4,621,000		A						
Scofieldtown Park	100,000		P						
Sleepy Hollow Park									
St. John's Park									
Susan Nabel Park at Chestnut Hill	75,000	M							
Veteran's Memorial Park									
Water Street Park									
Waterside Park									
West Beach*	895,000		A	See Athletic Field Renovations for additional funds					
Wire Mill Park									
Woodley Road Bird Sanctuary									
Woodway Park									
Mill River	100,000		P						
Brennan Golf Course	1,600,300		A	Special Revenue Fund					
Terry Conners Rink	680,000		A	Special Revenue Fund					
Marina Dock Upgrades				Grant Funding					
Playground rehabilitation	375,000	M	A						
Fencing & Guard Rails	150,000	M							
Paving & Drainage		M		Funding allocated through ARP					
Citywide Tree Planting	150,000		P						
Park Amenities Upgrades	150,000		A/P						
Game Courts	200,000		A						
Athletic Fields Renovations*	1,250,000		A	West Beach and Lione before capital requests were itemized by park					