

Highlights as of January 2, 2019

Tom Baptist, Superintendent

Team:

Supervisor – Nicola Allen
Vincent Boyce – Gardener, Elizabeth Park
Petrel Maylor – Administration and Special Events
Elizabeth Morin – Senior Gardener
Joe Glover, Juan Mendez & Jason Sutherland – Area Leaders

Parks Division Goal – *To maintain all City parks and open spaces in attractive and excellent condition; to provide high-quality passive and active recreational opportunities and experiences for all City residents and visitors; and to enhance the urban environmental quality through effective habitat management.*

Golf Courses:

General: Both courses were significantly impacted by the excessive rainfall since June 1, 2018. According to Channel 3 News, 2018 was the fifth wettest year on record.

Goodwin Park Golf Course:

- Total revenue for the 2018 playing season through December is \$598,249.
- The number of rounds played is 23,719 through December.
- Rainfall caused complete or partial course closures 55 days since June 1.
- DPW engineering division is coordinating the project to dredge the pond on the 7th hole and design a new irrigation system.
- The golf course closed for play for the winter season on December 15.

Keney Park Golf Course:

- An Operations Committee has been formed to plan and coordinate the 2019 Girls and Boys Junior Championships to be held at Keney Park Golf Course. These tournaments are of international significance and will bring significant numbers of visitors to Hartford and its businesses. The Committee held its second meeting on December 4 and is next scheduled to meet on Tuesday, January 15 at DPW HQ.
- Total revenue for the 2018 playing season through December is \$1,014,300.
- The number of rounds played is 25,216 through December.
- Rainfall caused complete or partial closures on 50 days since June 1.
- The golf course closed for the season on December 15. The Tavern at Keney Park remains open to restaurant patrons for the winter season.

Golf Oversight Commission:

- The Commission met on November 28, 2018 and unanimously approved a resolution to recommend to the City Council rate revisions for the 2019 season. There will be no December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16.

Parks:

General:

- Tom Baptist resigned his position as DPW Superintendent effective January 4, 2019. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the team at DPW, City Hall and the many park supporters and volunteers who made important contributions to the care and upkeep of City parks.
- Four parks employees attended and successfully completed Work Zone Safety training at the UCONN Connecticut Training Institute on December 13.
- Leaf management in City Parks continues, thanks to favorable weather and the absence of snow. All major parks have been cleared of leaves, with final touch-up continuing at Hyland, Bushnell and Rocky Ridge Parks, and at Zion Hill and Northwood Cemeteries. As a result, the 2019 spring clean-up should be routine.
- Continuing the trend that began in April, excessive rainfall continues to affect the Parks Division ability to maintain parks. City vehicles routinely are getting stuck.
- In conjunction with the Mayor's office, work is progressing with the roll-out of the Parks Trust Fund Initiative. Projects completed include new gates and fencing at Keney Park, and park security cameras at Keney, Pope, Colt and Goodwin Parks. Construction of a new baseball field at Pope Park has begun.
- Four parks employees remain out on long-term disability in December, and four parks employees were assigned in December to assist the street division with the leaf removal program - leaving nineteen (19) regular full-time employees available to work in the parks. Six seasonal employees ended their service in December.
- Winter projects in parks include understory management at Keney Park along Ridgfield Street, grave site management at Zion Hill and Old North Cemeteries to remove unwanted sapling growth and to right fallen headstones.

Batterson Park:

- The Park is open for passive uses (e.g. hiking, fishing, nature study). The beach is not open for public use.

Bushnell Park:

- The Park has hosted thirty-nine (40) special events to date this year, including the Greater Hartford Jazz Festival, Monday Night Jazz in the Park (6X), Puerto Rican Day Festival, the Susan G. Komen Walk for the Cure, West Indian Day Festival, the Eversource Hartford Marathon, and the First Night Celebration on December 31 – January 1.
- Winterfest is presently underway, featuring free skating at the rink adjacent to the Pump Station and will continue through January 6.
- The Bushnell Park Foundation hosted a Holiday Breakfast on December 20 in appreciation of the care and service provided to the Park by DPW employees.

Colt Park:

- Work on \$1.5 million in repairs to the park has been postponed until the State DEEP and National Park Service enter into a contract to oversee the distribution of federal monies for the project. Funding for the project is provided by the federal government (\$750,000), State of Connecticut (\$450,000) and the City of Hartford (\$300,000). DPW is monitoring progress made in executing the contract.

Cronin Park:

- The use of the football and soccer fields has concluded for the season.

Elizabeth Park:

- The existing asphalt paths in the Park are scheduled to be removed and replaced with new material. Also, new lighting will be installed on the east side of the park. Funding for these projects is from the Parks Trust Fund.
- The \$1 million remodeling of the Brownstone Building into a visitors center and the construction of a new parking area south of the maintenance yard is awaiting approval by the State Historical Preservation Officer. DPW personnel are coordinating the project with the Elizabeth Park Conservancy, which has raised the funds for the work.
- Structural repairs to the roof supports at the Pond House are scheduled for this month and should take a week to complete.

Goodwin Park:

- Repairs to the playscape are underway, funded by the Parks Trust Fund.
- The four tennis courts are to be removed and replaced with two new courts as part of the Parks Trust Fund Initiative. Bids have been received for the work and the selection process is underway.

Keney Park:

- The park remains a target of persons who illegally dump waste, furniture, construction debris, tires, mattresses and other materials. DPW is coordinating with Hartford Police Department in monitoring security cameras and prosecuting those persons caught in the act.
- The placement of entrance gates at Keney Park Pond House was completed in October. The added security will benefit the facility.

Pope Park:

- The long-awaited gates to the parking lot at the Arroyo Community Center in Pope Park have finally been installed. This will help to rectify the major litter problem and illegal dumping there. DPW provides twice-weekly clean-up of the parking lot, which included the disposal of household garbage placed in City garbage barrels.

- Work on a new baseball field to replace the existing field is scheduled to begin this fall, depending on weather and soil conditions.
- Work on repairs to the playscape have commenced and will be completed in the spring.

Community Outreach:

- December 12 – Bushnell Park Foundation.
- December 18 – Special Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission.



Poinsettia tree, City Hall Atrium. December 13, 2018. L. to R. Donna Swarr, Kathy Krackowsky, Vincent Boyce, Christine Doty, Tom Baptist, Janice Castle, Elizabeth Morin, Walter Veselka, Nicola Allen, Michel Looney.

Parks Division Work Assignments, 2018 Dept. of Public Works

Prepared by: Tom Baptist, DPW Superintendent Rev. 12-26-2018

Staff: Nicola Allen, Supervisor; Vincent Boyce, Elizabeth Park; Angel Castro, South Parks; Mike Mendez, Cemeteries; Elizabeth Morin, Roving Gardener; Jason Sutherland, North Parks; Blight Remediation Team (BRT)

NAME	STREET	ASSETS	ASSIGNED TO:	Est. MANHOURS *
PARKS / FACILITIES				
Garbage barrel pick-up	All parks	55-gallon barrels (est. 250 City-wide, 22 playscapes, 14 splashpads)	All units	96
Annie Fisher School	Mark Twain Hw	1 Artificial Turf Field w/lights, lawns	North	8
Batterson	Farmington	715 acres, lawns, beach, flood control berm	South	24
Blue Hills Rec Center	Tower Avenue	1 Basketball, lawns	North	6
Brackett Park	Westland Street	4 basketball, lawns	North	15
Buckingham Square Park	Main Street	Lawn	South	2
Bushnell	Trinity Street	Lawns, pavilion, pond, carousel, playscape	South	40
City Hall	Main Street	Lawn, shrubs, flower beds	Morin	7
Colt Park	Wethersfield Avenue	11 fields, lawns, pool, playscape (2), flower beds, pool	South	48
Columbus Park	Franklin Avenue	2 fields, 1 basketball, lawns, flower beds, community center, playscape	Morin, South	12
Cronin Park	Granby Street	1 football, 1 soccer, lawns, splash pad, playscape	North	40
Elizabeth Park West	Prospect Avenue	1 baseball, 9 tennis, 2 lawnbowling, lawns, shrubs, ponds, gardens, greenhouses	Boyce, North	40
Elizabeth Park East	Whitney Street	2 baseball, 2 basketball, lawns, shrubs, playscape	Boyce	6
Forster Park	Harvard Street	Playscape, lawns	South	6
George Day Park	Orange Street	Playscape, 1 basketball	Boyce	6
Goodwin Park	Maple Avenue	3 fields, playscape, splash pad, lawns, flower beds, pool, ponds	South	16
Hyland Park	New Britain Avenue	1 artificial turf, 3 baseball, playscape, lawns, comm. Center	South	8
Keney Park Barbour	Barbour Street	2 basketball, 2 cricket, lawns, flower beds,	North	8
Keney Park Waverly	Waverly Street	4 baseball, playscape, splash pad	North	24
Keney Woodland	Woodland St.	2 basketball, 1 football, lawns, pool, pond house	North	40
Keney Clock Tower	Main Street	Lawn	North	6
Lozada Park	Seyms Street	1 tee-ball, 1 playscape, lawns, playscape	North	9
Marcus Garvey Park	Granby Street	Lawn	North	2
North End Senior Ctr.	Coventry Street	Lawns, flower beds	North	8
Police Substation	Affleck Street	Lawn	Mendez	6
Police substation	Albany Avenue	1 Basketball	BRT	8
Pope Park	Park Terrace	3 fields, lawns, flower beds, community center, pool, pond, playscape, splash pad	South	16
Pope Park North	Russ Street	1 playscape, lawns, flower beds, splash pad	Mendez	6
Public Safety Ctr	High Street	Lawn, flower beds	Morin, North	18
Quirk School	Albany Avenue	1 artificial turf field, lawns	North	18
Roberta Jones Park	Chatham Street	Lawn, shrubs	North	6
Rocky Ridge	Zion Street	1 football, 1 baseball, lawns, playscape, roadsides	South	16
Sigourney Square	Sigourney Street	2 basketball, playscape, lawns	North	9
South End Senior Center	Maple Avenue	Flower beds	Morin	1
Stone Field Monument	Gold Street	Large boulders, ten planting beds	South	4
Willie Ware Park	Windsor Street	1 basketball, lawns	North	15
Wexford Park	Trumbull Ave.	Skate park	North	6
TOTAL PARKS/FAC.			36	606
CEMETERIES				
Northwood	Windsor	23.04 acres; 13,188 graves; 8,370 headstones	Mendez	96

Old North	Main Street	17.05 acres	Mendez	48
Old South	Maple Ave	2.53 acres	Mendez	4
Zion Hill	Zion Street	24.01 acres	Mendez	96
TOTAL CEMETERIES			4	244
Traffic Medians/ Islands	Central	Broad/Farmington	North, Morin	6
		Flatbush/Brookfield	BRT	8
		Park River	South	8
		Main/Trumbull	North	2
		North Chapel	North	2
		Columbus/Layfayette	South	3
		Trumbull St. median	Morin, Boyce	8
	South	Park Terrace	Mendez	5
		Park Street median	South	3
		Fairfield	South	1
		Grandview Terrace	South	4
		Grandview Terrace @ Newbury Street	South	2
		Chandler St	BRT	8
		Campfield Memorial	South	6
		Bond Street	South	3
		McMullen Green	BRT	8
	North/West	Farmington Ave./Woodland	Boyce	6
		Scarborough median – Length: 0.6 miles	Boyce	8
		Sisson Ave	Boyce	4
		Main St. (Albany/Pavillion)	Morin	4
		Westerly Terrace – Length: 0.3 miles	Boyce	3
		West Blvd.	Boyce	4
		Westbourne Pkwy (Albany/Ridgefield): 0.5 miles	North	12
TOTAL TRAFFIC MEDIANS			23	117
Misc. City properties	Central	Boce Barlow Way	North	8
		Congress Street Park	Mendez	2
		Porter Park	Mendez	3
		707 Asylum Ave.	Mendez	4
		2-14 Garden Street	North	4
		Homestead and Garden	Morin	3
		Pugliese Park	Mendez	6
		Washington/Retreat	Mendez	3
		Maple/Franklin	Morin	3
		Pratt Street	Morin	4
	South	Charter Oak Monument	South	2
		Goldfarb Park	Mendez	2
		South Green	Mendez	6
		Pulaski Circle	South	3
		Pulaski Mall	South	6
		McKinney Shelter	South	6
	North/West	Mark Twain Drive	North	8
		40 and 50 Jennings Road	North	20
		Love Lane	North	8
		Liebert Road	North	16
		Tower Avenue	North	16
		Turning Point Park	North	6
		Weston Street	North	4
		West Service Road	North	8
		48 Evergreen Avenue	North	4
TOTAL MISC. PROPERTIES			25	5
TOTAL		ACREAGE: 2,259.5		1,168*
		PARKS DIVISION SITES: 88		MANHOURS

Man-hours include travel time to and from sites