

Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06901

August 24, 2021

Representative Jonathan Jacobson
Chair, Operations Committee
Stamford Board of Representatives

Re: Proposed Ordinance Item O30.094

Dear Representative Jacobson,

On behalf of the Stamford Parks and Recreation Commission, we are writing you in support of the proposed Ordinance Item O30.094 - *Prohibiting the Use and Application of Non-Organic Pesticides, Fungicides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides or Fertilizer of City-Owned Properties.*

The Commission is in agreement that an Organic approach to turf and landscape care is beneficial to the overall health and well-being of Stamford's citizens and the surrounding environment. We hope that if approved, the transition will be successful in both the short and long term.

However, in order to be successful, the Organic care of our parks must be funded appropriately, now and in the future. The city maintains an expansive parks system with playing fields and facilities for active and passive recreation that if left inadequately funded could easily impact their functionality. The potential exists for habitats overtaken by invasive species and sports fields to be rendered unplayable.

The cost of this transition appears to be front-loaded in personnel time and training, irrigation infrastructures, and land management products and practices. That increased up-front cost should be smoothed out over time with a realized overall savings in the long term only if the program is implemented with full funding. Therefore, it is imperative that come budget time, the transition to an Organic Management of Stamford Parks Facilities must be supported financially.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Newman, Interim Chairperson
Michael Tedder, Commissioner
Melanie Hollas, Commissioner