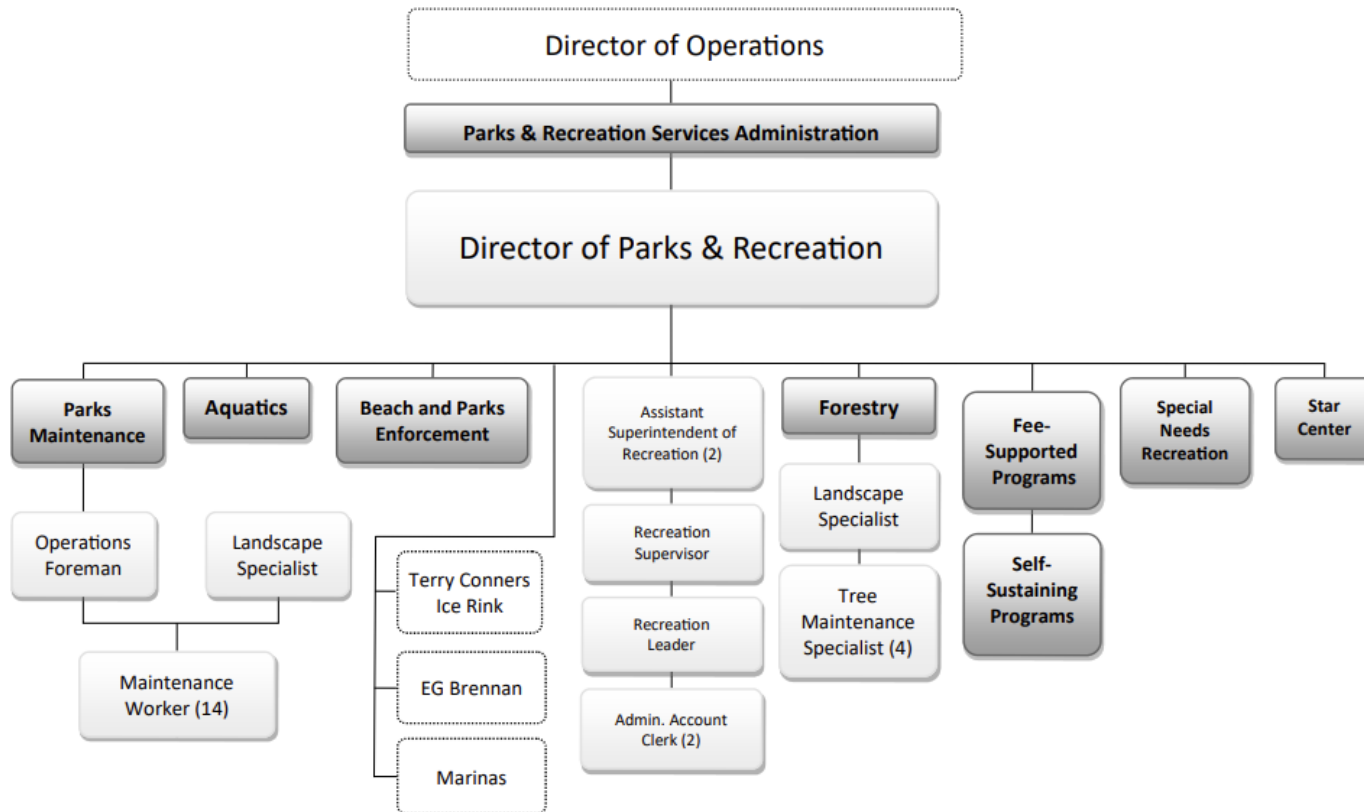


CITY OF STAMFORD
Parks & Recreation

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Director of Parks &
Recreation
3/18/2025



City of Stamford Office of Operations Parks & Recreation



*Subsidized Programs Absorbed by Special Events

Staffing/Budget Updates

- **Staffing Updates-** Parks Department, Recreation Services, Forestry, Marinas, and Beaches & Parks Enforcement
- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby time increases in all programs due to new negotiated union contracts for the MAA and Seasonal Minimum wage increases.
- Parks & recreation re-organization structure under one umbrella - **No changes with staffing.**

- **Parks Maintenance 2134 Increases**
- Parks Maintenance 2134 Increases- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby Time increases in all programs due to newly negotiated union contracts for the MAA and Seasonal Minimum wage increases.
- Parks Maintenance/Electric is up 11.7% which is a \$44,400 for park properties
- Park Maintenance/Sewer Utility is up 41.3% which is \$9,360 increase

- **Parks Maintenance 2134 Decreases**
- Park Maintenance/Gasoline- 27.5% decrease/\$11,400
- Park Maintenance/Diesel Fuel- 27.4%/\$11,300
- Park Maintenance/Natural Gas- 2.6%/\$1,000

- **Budget Adjustments 2134**
- Parks Maintenance/Contracted services- \$130,000 moved to 2536 Beaches and Park Enforcement. This is to assist the Park Police and Park Ranger Program.

Staffing/Budget Updates

➤ **Forestry 2127**

- Forestry 2127 Increases- Salary/Seasonal/Differential and Standby Time increases in all programs due to new negotiated union contract for the MAA.
- Tree Maintenance specialist position vacant position to be filled

➤ **Forestry 2127 Decreases**

- Forestry Gasoline 56% decrease/\$5,100
- Forestry Diesel Fuel 70.6% decrease/\$12,000

➤ **Marinas 2138 Increases**

- Charge back to Parking fund 4.1%/\$67,555
- Marinas Social Security 94% /\$9,750
- Marinas Medical & Life 3.9%/\$954
- Marinas Unemployment 112.9%/\$5,874
- Employee Benefits which covers pension fund and OPEB service cost- 42.8%/\$5,643
- Payments to insurance fund 79.2%/\$2,580
- Marinas/Electric Utility- 17.8% increase/\$1,600

➤ **Marinas 2138 Decreases**

- Marinas Diesel Fuel 9.1% decrease/\$200

Staffing/Budget Updates

- **Beach & Parks Enforcement 2536**
- Permanent Part-time Increase of \$158,735 within budget that includes additional (2) full-time Park police officer and (15) Park Rangers to assist with park patrolling and assisting with of quality life issues citywide 7 days per week.
- (3) Park Police officers will work scheduled coverages
- (15) Park Rangers will be on April 1st to November 1st annually
- Beach enforcement Clothing allowance increase of 33%/ \$2,000 –to assist with added Officers and Rangers
- Social security 42.2% increase/ \$10,767 – increase of employees
- Vehicle Maintenance 76.4% increase/ \$1,732- additional vehicles for patrolling

Staffing/Budget Updates

- **Recreation Services Increases**
- **Salary/Seasonal** increases in all programs due to UAW Minimum wage increases.
- **2531 Aquatics/BOE Custodial Overtime** 9.6% increase Minimum wage /\$2,293
- **2534 Camps Fee Supported/Seasonal** .5% increase of Minimum wage/\$3,105
- **2534 Fee Supp/Busing** 1.6% increase/\$1,200- Added (1) adult trip
- **2534 Fee Supp Contracted services** 18.2% increase/\$43,475- Participants growing and new contractors for all programs
- **2528 Star Center/Seasonal**- 34.3% increase/\$80,050- kept year-round programs in place per participants and summer camp services that was removed last budget season by administration but reconsidered per popularity
- **2528 Star Center/Overtime** 100% increase/\$2,040- supports after hour supervision of all programs
- **2528 Star Center/Busing** 100% increase/\$5,000- added back in for summer camp
- **2528 Star Center/Contracted Services** 11.4% increase/\$19,133- growth of participants and added contractors to support programs
- **2528 Star Center/Facility Rental** 0.8% increase \$1,877- increase per agreement contract w Church
- **2528 Star Center/Electric Utility** 7.2% increase \$2,354
- **2535 Recreation Leagues(self-sustaining)/BOE Custodial Overtime**- 15.4% increase \$4,920

Reduced Budget Adjustments Across All Budget Programs

- **Parks Maintenance** - A reduced budget would prevent us from continuing to upkeep and maintain 25 facilities within the parks, 92 lawns and medians, 58 park properties, 3 major beaches, and 80 sports fields/game courts, to which we provide a clean, safe, and sanitary environment for the City's residents and visitors.
- **Forestry** - A reduced budget will affect our operation, which covers 330 miles of roadway, and be able to efficiently act upon removals and citizen requests, which responds to all tree hazards and or emergencies.
- **Marinas** - A reduced budget will eliminate the upkeep and maintenance of our (2) public marinas and (2) boat ramps.
- **Recreation Services** - A reduced budget would take away the ability of general administrative support to all leisure programs, long and short-range planning and eliminate youth and adult recreation sports, programs and the demand of summer camps and after school programs.

Parks and Recreation Department Overview

- To enhance the quality of Life in our City by providing and maintaining quality parks, trails, and green space and by offering enriching recreational activities and facilities for people of all ages and abilities.

- **Department Initiatives:**
 - Maintaining and protecting 58 City Parks
 - Managing/operating 25 seasonal facilities, 92 lawns/medians, which includes 3 major beaches, 30 baseball/softball fields, 15 soccer fields, 3 synthetic fields, 26 Tennis Courts, 12 Basketball courts, and 1 swimming pool.
 - Managing/operating (1) municipal golf Course- EGB Brennan
 - Managing/operating (1) municipal Ice Rink- Terry Conner's
 - Managing Recreation and Youth Engagement, Leagues, Afterschool Programs, Outdoor Recreation, Aquatics Programs, and summer camps.
 - Managing Forestry Department, which handles the all-tree emergency and non-emergency maintenance, storm, and planting needs throughout the city.
 - Management of the Marina Division, which is responsible for assisting boaters with docking, maintaining docks, ramps and slips to ensure they are safe and secure for all boaters.
 - Utilizing Parks and Recreation spaces for active and passive activities/programs which builds a collective environment to build a sense of community and motivates people from diverse backgrounds to work together and achieve shared visions.

Capital Project Submissions 2025-2026

- **CP6810 Cummings Park-** \$1,600,000- Approved ORLP grant for a matching grant of up to 10 million project , which the city will need to fund \$5,000,000.
- **CP6809 Scalzi Park-** Tennis Court(s) Upgrade- \$2,650,000 request
- **001411 All Season Accessible Park Bathrooms-** \$1,500,000
- **C56079 Parks Fencing-** \$50,000 Citywide Park fencing upgrades.
- **CP4000034 Northrop Park-** \$75,000 design and concept plan for playground upgrade and Basketball court upgrade.
- **CP0122 Park Amenities-** \$50,000 Citywide picnic table, grills, sports bleachers, and signage upgrades.
- **001283 Nemotin Park/Phil Giordano Playground -** \$350,000 Playground upgrade
- **001412 Baseball/Softball Infield Upgrades-** \$250,000 phased project to turf infields citywide
- **001432 Haig Avenue Park-** \$300,000 Playground install

Expanded Services/Programs

➤ **Beach & Park Enforcement-** Increase of \$171,034 within Budget that includes additional (2) full-time Park police officer and Park Rangers to assist with Park patrolling and assisting with of quality life issues citywide. This program is designed for creating a safe, fun and enriching park- going experience and to monitor park use for active and passive gatherings.

- Focuses on enforcing park rules and regulations
- Monitoring of gatherings, special events, athletic permits within City Parks.
- Providing informational services to visitors and programs
- Emergency Response Resource
- Oversight of Facilities, grounds, trails and other recreational areas

➤ **Star Center 2528-** increase of \$116,734 which includes seasonal employees, overtime, busing and contracted services

Star Center Summer Camp and programming was removed from FY 24-25 budget but after discussions with the administration and the impact it would have for the Stamford residents, which is a valued preferred destination it was approved to continue the service of offering the after-school programming and summer camp.

*Abandoned
Services/Programs
and Key
Department
Challenges*

- Staffing Needs within our Park Maintenance and Forestry Staff to fill vacant positions.
- Facility overuse within all park infrastructure, beaches, and fields, which is a (7) day operation starting April through October annually.
- Declining infrastructure and game court upgrades are needed throughout our City Parks
- Lack of Space for Recreational Programs within City Facilities
- Recruiting and retaining seasonal staff includes lifeguards, counselors, directors, and paraeducators throughout park and recreation programs.
- The rising cost of minimum wages and custodial union wages
- Lack of active athletic field space that includes lighted fields and game courts.
- Seasonal bathrooms incorporates high rental rates for (Porto Jon's) citywide within the parks.

Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Continuation of the growth of Parks and Recreation Division , which included merging of Parks Maintenance and Recreation services under one umbrella, has been very positive with organizational and planning efforts.
- Lione and West Beach soccer/cricket turf upgrades completed. Fields open for permits play
- Organic Turf Maintenance Program is going into year #4, which promotes healthier athletic fields.
- Completed Cummings Park Phase 2- Beach Promenade upgrade shade includes new shade canopies and bathroom upgrades.
- Completed Barret Park Playground/drainage upgrades
- Scalzi Park Bocci court upgrade- Opens by April 1st, 2025
- Cove Marina Dredging phase 2 is scheduled for Opening April 2025
- Kosciuszko Park- Decorative Park Light upgrades in progress/design and deep approval
- Playground Rehabilitation- Continuation of annual reporting via certified inspection report.

Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Working with our administration and Grants department to obtain state and federal funding opportunities to coincide with the Capital campaign to improve our park infrastructure and amenities.
- Creation with the City of Stamford Parks Community Partnership 501 C to enhance, protect and sustain the parks and open spaces through Strategic funding and community engagement
- Continuation of a volunteer program for residents to clean beaches and parks and beautification upgrades.
- Cataloging Park Locations for park vending concessions
- The process of installing safety Blue Light surveillance cameras as a test pilot has begun @ Dorthey Heroy, Lione and Scalzi Park(s)
- Installation of remote barrier gate @ Riding Stable RD @ Dorthey Heroy Park to enforce park curfew.
- Continuation of Northern Park Attendant program to assist with quality-of-life issues and monitoring until December.
- Courtland Avenue Dog Park upgrade- The design and concept plan are being finalized.
- Scofield Town Park Dog Park upgrade- Finalizing Design and concept plan.

Parks & Recreation Highlights

- Continuation of the Invasive Management Plan being performed by our Forestry and Land Use Departments.
- Continuation of the Domus work program which concentrates on (35) park easements and illegal dumping locations for continuous maintenance and debris removals.
- Continuation of extending seasonal bathrooms @ (7) locations into the off-seasons.

Highlights- Recreation Programs

2024 Recreation Season	Star Center Revenue Collected	Non-Star Center Revenue
Winter	\$142,100	\$19,147
Spring	\$108,485	\$25,509
Summer Camps/programs	\$187,348	\$77,852
Summer Camp		\$583,850
Fall	\$144,718	\$34,221



Highlights- Recreation & Leagues

Leagues:	
Adult Leagues	412
Aquatics Participants	425
Tournaments	30

Adult Leagues – Managed by Recreation

Basketball

Beach Volleyball

Kickball

Indoor Volleyball

Softball

Flag Football

Pickleball (Indoor and Outdoor)

Adult Independent Permitted Leagues

Soccer- Woman's, Coed, Men's

Over 30 Baseball - Men's

Cricket

Bocce

Budget Highlights- Recreation

Year	Season	NON Star Center # Participants	Star Center # Participants
2024	Winter	283	1046
2024	Spring	227	1041
2024	Fall	870	902
2024	Summer Programs	290	785
2024	Summer Camps	895	140
2024	Totals	2565	3914