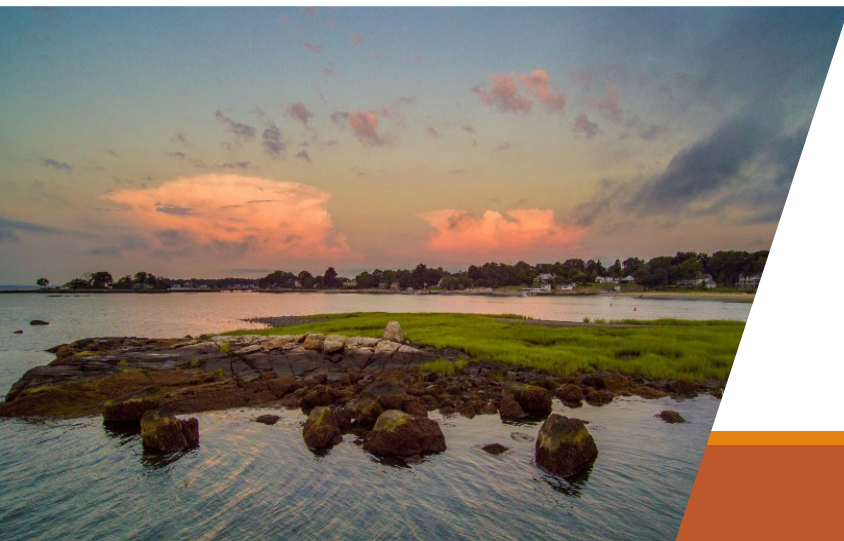




STATE OF THE CITY

JULY 6, 2026

MAYOR CAROLINE SIMMONS



Vision and Priorities

FY2026-2027 Budget

Economic Prosperity

Infrastructure

Responsive Government

Public Safety

State/Federal Funding

Agenda

Vision and Priorities

Vision for the City of Stamford:

To build a more inclusive, vibrant, affordable, and innovative City where everyone can thrive.

Top Priorities:

- Advancing Economic Prosperity
- Investing in our Infrastructure
- Making Government More Responsive to Residents to Enhance Quality of Life

Economic Snapshot & Financial Health

- Total Population: 140,509.
- Commercial Vacancy Rate down from 28.4% to 23%; 94% apartment occupancy rate.
- 15th most diverse city for our size in the country.
- Ranked one of the safest cities in New England.
- Have the second highest grand list in the state and one of the lowest mill rates of any city in Connecticut.
- Only city for our size in Connecticut with a AAA bond rating.
- Robust businesses, nonprofits, arts and cultural institutions, a nationally ranked hospital, a growing UConn Stamford campus, and excellent K-12 schools.

FY2026-2027 Budget

My administration's priority has been to deliver responsible budgets that invest in critical services and infrastructure projects to enhance quality of life. The adopted FY2026-2027 budget is \$726 million and delivered the following key outcomes:

- Made strategic investments to critical public infrastructure, including schools, roads, sidewalks, pedestrian safety, public safety, parks and sustainability, and senior housing.
- Stays within our safe debt limit and includes responsible funding for our long-term pension obligations, which combined are 87% funded.

This year's budget process included rising fixed costs that that made it a challenging fiscal environment. Increased contractual obligations, higher pension and OPEB obligations, and increasing healthcare premiums and insurance costs have put pressure on city finances.

We continue to limit major spending increases and ensure a balanced budget that reflects our values and community needs.

Advancing Economic Prosperity

Economic Development Priorities

Small Business Support

- Continue to host small business resource events and information sessions that offer networking opportunities and connect entrepreneurs with local, state, and regional organizations that provide access to capital and support services.
- Over 100 businesses have attended these events this year.

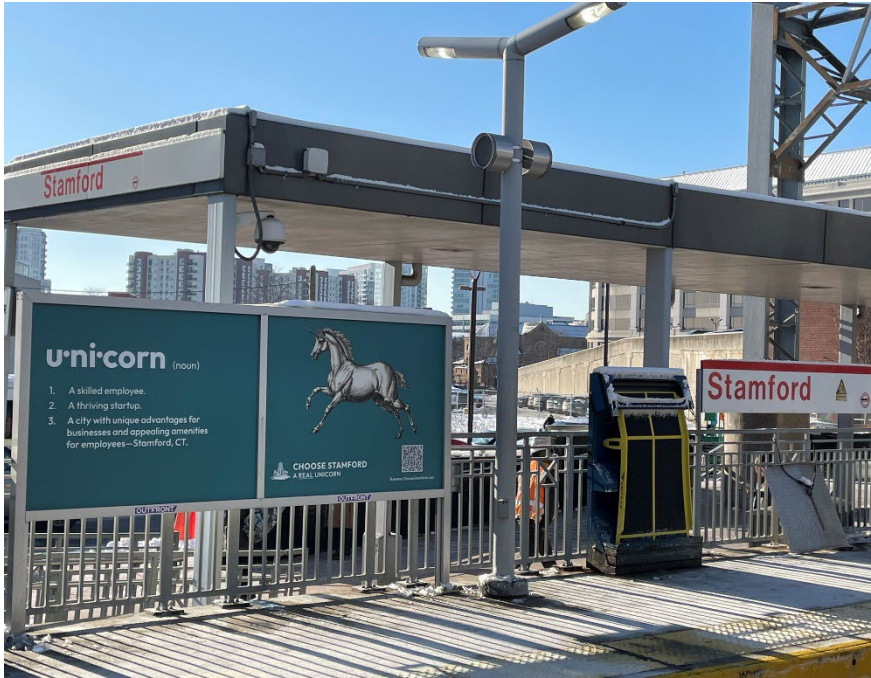
Business Recruitment

- Launched “Stamford is a Unicorn” marketing campaign at the Stamford Transportation Center and in New York City.

Workforce Development

- Since launching last year, the Stamford Tech Hub has trained hundreds of residents at its headquarters at Charter Communications.
- Participants receive free technology training in fields such as software development, cybersecurity, data analytics, and digital media.
- Continue to support the Mayor’s Youth Employment Program.

It's Not Make Believe...It's Stamford!



The "Stamford is a Unicorn" campaign was at the train station from December 2025 - February 2026.

Stamford Tech Hub

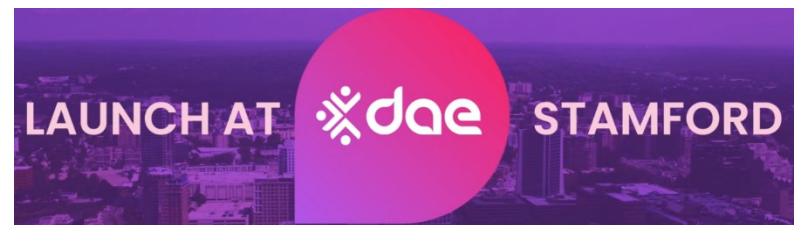
In April 2025, the City of Stamford Office of Economic Development launched the Stamford Tech Hub in partnership with Charter Communications, the Stamford Partnership, and DAE.

With a \$5 million investment from Charter and support from Webster Bank, this initiative provides free, hands-on tech training, plus mentorship, career coaching, and flexible learning options.

For more details on these programs, visit stamford.mydae.org or email adminsupport@mydae.org.



3-Week Program Graduating Class



Affordable Housing Executive Order Updates

In 2023, I signed Stamford's first Affordable Housing Executive Order, setting a goal to create or renovate 1,000 affordable units by 2025. To date, more than 700 units have been completed or are underway.

Key initiatives include:

- Increased the Below Market Rate (BMR) housing requirements from 10% to 14% in certain districts.
- **Converting City-Owned Property to Housing:** Approval of the sale of 41 Main Street (Midas property) for 55 units of affordable housing.
- **Supporting Deeply Affordable Housing:** Renovation of Stamford Manor, a 215-unit complex for seniors and individuals with disabilities; Charter Oak Communities property Oak Park, redevelopment replacing mid-century WWII-era housing with 61 new, affordable residential units across eight buildings, funded with support from the city's capital budget, state funding, and the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- **Creating Pathways to Homeownership:** Housing Development Fund Washington Crossing property; 22 condo-style homes located at 287-297 Washington Boulevard.



Affordable Health Care - HUSKY Stay Covered Task Force

In March, we launched the HUSKY Stay Covered Task Force, a community initiative in partnership with Stamford Health to help educate Stamford residents about upcoming changes to Medicaid (HUSKY) resulting from the passage of federal legislation last summer.

The goal of the Task Force is to proactively communicate these new requirements to residents to prevent unnecessary coverage loss.



Infrastructure

Infrastructure Priorities

- Schools
- Roads and Pedestrian Safety
- Parks
- Sustainability
- Train Station



Westhill High School Groundbreaking

On June 2, we were joined by Lieutenant Governor Susan Bysiewicz, Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Administrative Services Eleanor Michael, and members of the state delegation, Board of Representatives, Board of Finance, and Board of Education for the groundbreaking of the new Westhill High School.

Designed to accommodate up to 2,458 students, the new Westhill High School, scheduled to be completed in 2029, will feature nearly 100 classrooms, including general education, science, special education, and specialized learning spaces designed to support the school's many career pathway programs, as well as an indoor pool. 80% of the project cost will be reimbursed by the state.

To stay up-to-date with all the school enhancement projects across Stamford Public Schools, visit: spsbuilds.com.

Stamford Transportation Center



The City of Stamford continues to work with the Connecticut Department of Transportation on the redevelopment of the Stamford Transportation Center and the vacant parcel directly across the street.

The RFP process was completed in early 2026, and we anticipate a finalist selection by Fall 2026 for the rebuild of the station.

Infrastructure Projects

Animal Shelter



Cummings Park Pavilion



Haig Avenue Tot Playground



Smith Street Mural



Bedford/Forest Street Sidewalks



Jackie Robinson Park



Climate and Sustainability Executive Order Updates

In April 2023, I signed Stamford's first Executive Order on Climate Change and Sustainability. Since then, we have made significant progress to promote energy efficiency, green infrastructure, and completed a citywide Climate Action Plan. Additional projects include:

- **Completed Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Phase 1 of Stamford's Climate Action Plan:**
 - 90 actions underway to cut emissions, reduce waste, & advance environmental justice.
- **Installation of six solar projects:**
 - Strawberry Hill School rooftop solar installation underway; Westover rooftop solar installation will be in 2027; Stamford High and Rogers Elementary solar projects are upcoming.
 - Terry Conners and vehicle maintenance building solar project RFPs expected to be issued this summer.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging and LED Streetlights:**
 - Six new EV chargers are installed and open to the public at Bell Street Garage; 20 EV chargers are in the Government Center garage; 38 EV chargers are in train station garage.
 - Converted 3,000 out of 12,000 streetlights to high-efficiency LED.



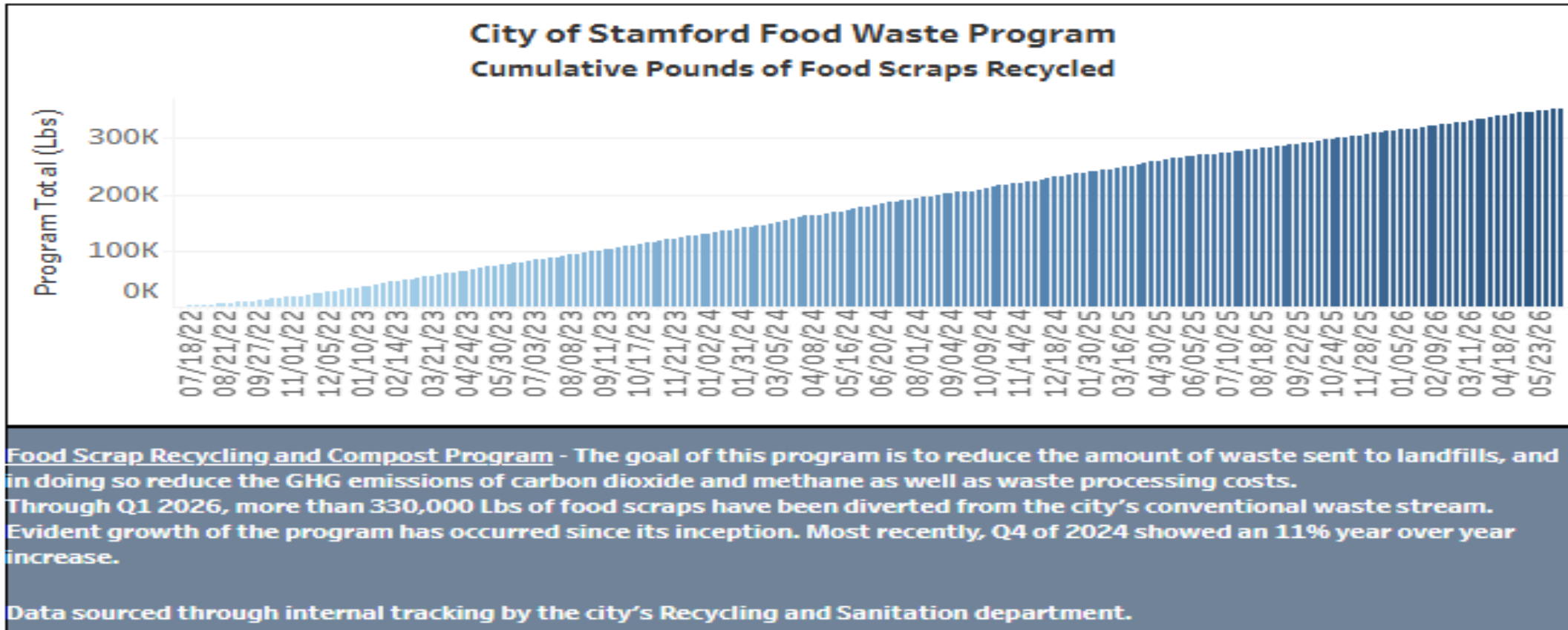
City bioswale



Food Scraps Program

Climate and Sustainability Executive Order Updates

- **Tree Planting:**
 - This fall, Stamford's first mini-forest will be installed in Nemoitin Park next to Hart School as part of the playground renovation.
 - This month, an RFP for a Stamford Tree Canopy Assessment will be issued.
 - Launched a citywide GIS tree inventory to plant 400 new trees.
- **Heat & Coastal Resilience Planning and Flood Mitigation:**
 - Secured state funding for resiliency initiatives, including the COOLER Stamford Heat Resilience Plan (West Side, Waterside, Downtown), Toilsome Brook Flood Plan, and Cummings Pond Flood and Ecological Resiliency Plan.
 - Stamford's Coastal Resilience Plan will be presented to public on July 22.
 - Continuing citywide drainage improvements and bioswales.
- **Sustainable CT Certification:**
 - Achieved silver certification with Sustainable CT, recognizing our efforts to be a resilient and sustainable city. We are aiming to be Gold and Climate Leader certified by next year.
- **Stamford Parks Community Partnership:**
 - Completed the first round of microgrants to community organizations for green public space projects; round two awards have been distributed, and projects are now underway around the city.



Since the inception of the Food Waste Program, we have doubled the amount of food scraps recycled. As of June 13, 2026, 352,729 pounds of food scraps have been recycled this year.

Residents can pick up a free compost kit at the Cashier's Office at the Government Center, Monday - Friday from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm or the Scale House near Katrina Mygatt, Monday - Saturday from 6:00 am - 2:00 pm.



Seastreak Ferry to Citi Field

This spring, a new Seastreak ferry service from Stamford to Citi Field launched, offering residents a convenient way to get to 24 games across select weekends this season.

Our Office of Economic Development worked closely with the New York Mets, Seastreak, and the Village to bring this service to Stamford.



Responsive Government

Responsive Government Initiatives

My administration is committed to making government work better and be more responsive to residents' needs. Key initiatives include:

- **Fix It Stamford:**
 - Enhanced the Fix It Stamford dashboard; year-to-date, the Citizen's Service team has fielded 2,625 calls and received 9,758 Fix It requests. 7,888 of the requests have been completed or addressed in the system.
- **City website upgrades:**
 - Made the Stamfordct.gov website accessible in over 100 languages.
- **Walk-In Permitting Center:**
 - Established a permanent walk-in permitting center on the 7th floor of the Government Center; reduced the average permitting wait time from two years to 90 years. The Walk-In Permitting Center is open weekly on Wednesdays from 8:30 am - 10:30 am.
 - Reduced wait time for a permit from two years to 90 days.
- **Veteran's Resource Center:**
 - Created the Stamford Veterans Resource Center, a place for veterans and their families to be connected to resources and services. The Veterans Resource Center has helped over 300 veterans, providing lifesaving support services. Veterans Resource Center is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
- **ADA & Disability Resource Center:**
 - In March, we opened the ADA and Disability Resource Center, creating a space where residents can access accessibility resources, services, and support. The Center is on the 7th floor of the Government Center and open Mondays from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and Wednesdays from 1:00 - 5:00 PM.



StamFORWARD

In November 2024, we launched StamFORWARD, the city's first microtransit service. Stamford was awarded \$2.5 million from the Connecticut Department of Transportation and was one of nine transit districts and municipalities to pilot a two-year program for on-demand microtransit services.

StamFORWARD has been an incredible success, completing 83,521 rides in FY2026, and 128,589 total rides since the program launch, making a difference in the lives of residents and expanding connectivity across our city. There is a 4.8 out of 5-star average rating with 20% of completed rides leaving ratings.

An individual ride costs \$1.75, with \$0.85 for additional passengers. Seniors aged 62 and over and ADA eligible riders can ride for \$0.85.

Visit city.ridewithvia.com/stamford or call (203)-204-9782 to book a ride.



Public Safety

Public Safety Investments

- **Technology Infrastructure Enhancements and Upgrades:**
 - Added blue light cameras, parks and coastline camera enhancements.
 - Emergency Communications Center hardware and software upgrades.
- **Personnel Investments:**
 - Civilianized the 911 Emergency Operations Center for staffing efficiency.
 - Added five additional police officers and additional Fire Deputy Chiefs.
 - Opened the Stamford Regional Police Academy at the Stamford Police Department.
- **Public Safety Capital Investment Projects**
 - \$4.3 million for fire apparatus - three new fire pumper apparatus.
 - \$620k new 33' full cabin police patrol boat.
- **Cybersecurity Enhancements** - implemented comprehensive cybersecurity upgrades and launched a Secure Cyber City initiative.
- **School Safety Communications** - improved emergency communications for school safety, including a monthly emergency test text message.



Drone as a First Responder Program

In October 2025, we launched the Public Safety Drone as First Responder Program. This innovative initiative - developed through a collaboration between Stamford's 911 Emergency Communications Center, the Stamford Fire Department, and the Stamford Police Department - marks a major step forward in leveraging cutting-edge technology to improve emergency response and public safety in Stamford.

- **Faster Response:** Drones will be deployed from strategically located sites in North and South Stamford, providing citywide coverage with a response time of under 90 seconds.
- **Real-Time Awareness:** Live video feeds from drone cameras will be streamed directly to command staff and field personnel, improving coordination and decision-making.
- **Enhanced Safety:** Drones will help assess threats, monitor unfolding incidents, and support safer responses for both first responders and the public.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Early visual assessments will allow emergency services to better determine the appropriate level of response for each incident.

The DFR program is critical for monitoring remote areas such as the rural terrain in North Stamford and the expansive coastline of the Long Island Sound, where traditional emergency response times can be more challenging. Drones do not film private areas without legal justification; all operations follow strict privacy policies.



State & Federal Funding

State & Federal Funding

In partnership with Governor Ned Lamont and Stamford's state and federal delegations, the City secured funding for the following projects:

- **\$2 million** for Charter Oak Communities to complete Phase 2 of the Charter Oak Park redevelopment project.
- **\$2 million** for renovations to the basketball court and playground at Hatchfield Park
- **\$1.2 million** to install safety measures along Washington Boulevard, including ADA-compliant sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and a raised crosswalk.
- **\$1.09 million** to replace aging culverts and installing tidal controls on stormwater outflow pipes, which will expand the city's stormwater management capacity.
- **\$1.03 million** to support the design and construction of a new public safety complex to enhance emergency response capabilities.
- **\$250,000** to rehabilitate the Glenbrook Community Center.

Since the Trump administration took office, the federal funding landscape has dramatically changed. We continue to work closely with our federal lobbyist to navigate these impacts, and we will continue to seek out funding to invest and support the City of Stamford.

Building on Our Progress

- The City of Stamford is strong, but our work is not finished.
- As we continue to navigate rising costs, economic uncertainty, and evolving challenges, my administration remains focused on investing in the priorities that matter most: infrastructure, housing, public safety, and education.
- We look forward to continuing to work together on these issues to move Stamford forward and ensure our community remains a place where everyone can live, work, and raise a family.

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Sign-up for the **Your City at Work: From the Mayor's Desk** weekly newsletter:

www.stamfordct.gov/ycaw

Citizen's Service Bureau Phone Number: (203)-977-4140

Have a question? Email: fixit@stamfordct.gov.



Thank You!

