Green Ribbon Task Force Presentation of Recommendations

Hartford Public Library
21 March 2011

Green Ribbon Task Force

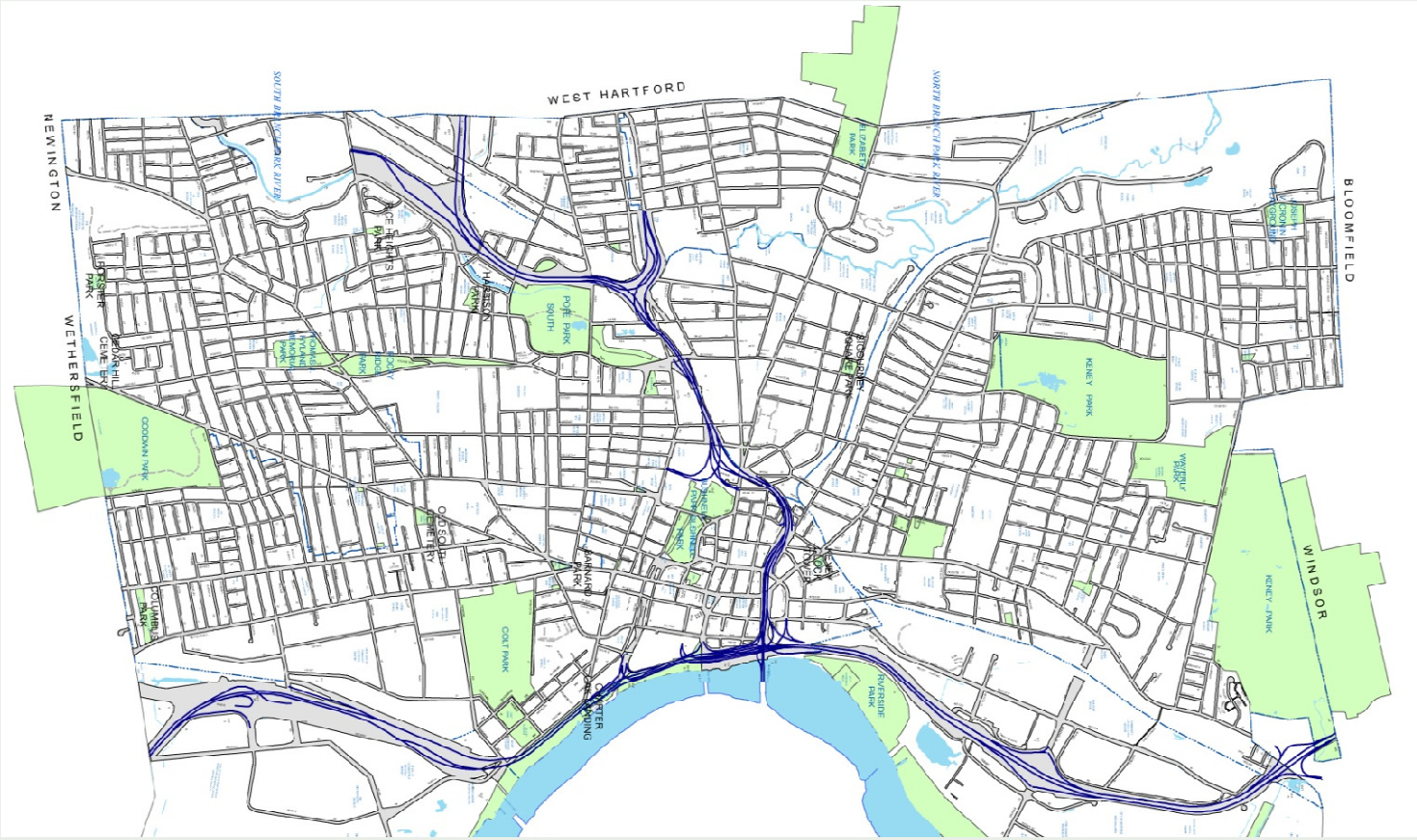
"Conventionally, neighborhood parks or park-like open spaces are considered boons conferred on the deprived populations of cities. Let us turn this thought around, and consider city parks deprived places that need the boon of life and appreciation conferred upon them."

- Jane Jacobs, *Death and Life of Great American Cities*

Green Ribbon Taskforce

Partnerships for Hartford's Parks

Hartford Parks – 2000+ Acres



Green Ribbon Taskforce

Partnerships for Hartford's Parks

Hartford Parks Legacy

Green Ribbon Taskforce

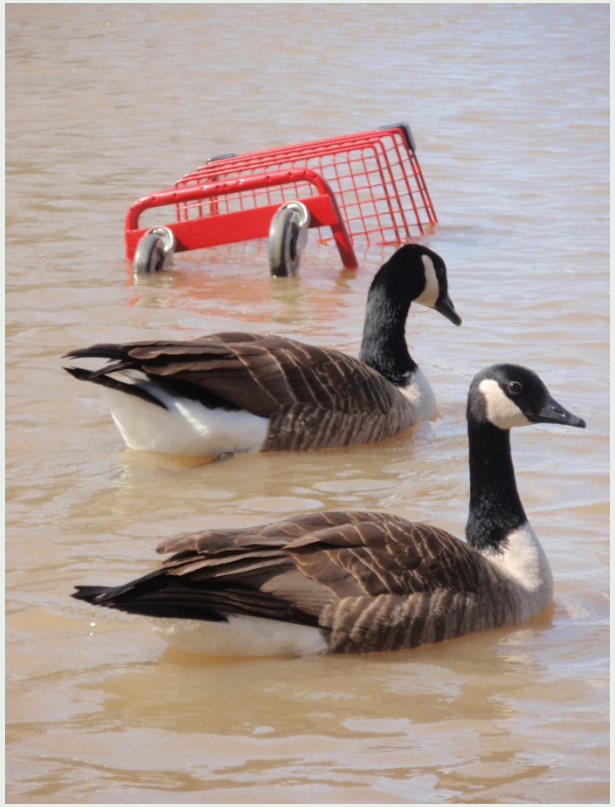
Partnerships for Hartford's Parks

Hartford Parks Today

Green Ribbon Taskforce

Partnerships for Hartford's Parks

Hartford Parks Today



One City, One Plan

Top Ideas from Theme Sessions

1. Reduce automobile reliance
2. Improve connectivity & walkability downtown
3. Create “complete” neighborhoods with centers
4. Make Downtown streets vibrant, active & interesting
5. **Create a stewardship program to maintain parks**

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12. **Establish a Green Renovation Blueprint or “Greenprint” for vacant and underused buildings and surface parking lots Downtown**
13. **Intensify Environmental Education**

Green Ribbon Task Force

August 19, 2010 – Mayor Segarra Convenes Task Force

Tyler Smith & Bernadine Silvers – Chairs

Carl Bard	Nancy Macy
Jill Barrett	Joe Marfuggi
Charmaine Craig	Jack Hale
Whitney Hatch	Mary Rickel Pelletier
Penny Leto	Michael Zaleski

It has become clear that improvements need to be made if Hartford's system of parks is to live up to the expectations of citizens and businesses of the neighborhoods, the City, and the region at large.

- GRTF Mission Statement

Maintenance **Finance** **Governance**

Green Ribbon Task Force

Seven Months of Work – 45 meetings

9 Public Meetings

200+ Public Participants

Input from Friends, City Staff, PRAC

1500+ Estimated Volunteer Hours

"Over the course of the 375-year history of our fair city, it has always been the collective effort of dedicated individuals that has identified challenges, uncovered opportunities, and devised solutions to bring us prosperity."

- Mayor Pedro Segarra's Task Force Solicitation Letter

Guiding Principles

- Parks help to make cities livable
- Parks should privide settings for people in passive group and active recreational pursuits
- Parks the green spaces of the city
- A park outing of kind should a be a high quality experience
- Hartford's parks are valuable cultural resources, places for the gathering of the city's people, or for the enjoyment of individuals
- Parks are valuable natural reources, improving city life through the provisions of green spaces and places for plants and animals
- Parks are the core of Hartford's public outdoor recreation space

Five Major Recommendations

- Reunite Parks and Recreation Services
- Hire a Highly Qualified Parks Director
- For now, keep Parks & Recreation within DPW
- Strengthen and Restructure the Hartford Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
- Establish a Department of Environmental Services

Implementation Plan

Year One

- ✓ Parks Administrator, Grant Writer, Extra Crew, Landscape Architect hired
- ✓ Prioritize Report Recommendations
- ✓ Put Resources into Place

Year Two

- ✓ Build Workforce
- ✓ Draft Ordinance to define Parks & Recreation Commission
- ✓ Form 501(c)3 to receive gifts to Parks
- ✓ Electronically coordinate event permitting, scheduling, invoicing, and maintenance

Year Three

- ✓ Continue to rebuild workforce
- ✓ Engage Friends groups, expand volunteerism
- ✓ Fully Activate Parks and Recreation Commission
- ✓ Evaluate creation of Dept. of Environmental Services

Years Four-Five

- ✓ Workforce at full strength
- ✓ Expanded volunteer training
- ✓ Dept. of Environmental Services in place

End of Year Five

- ✓ Parks & Rec. Commission fully established
- ✓ Dept. of Environmental Services established

Green Ribbon Task Force

LET'S TALK

Copies of the Recommendations will be Available at Library Branches and

www.hartford.gov/oneplan

Thank you very much