



Fairfield, CT Parks and Recreation Master Plan

June 30, 2022 Public Workshop #3 Summary of Community Input

Ash Creek

- Kayak loading and storage area (open space with native high grass) is excellent spot for dog park...conservation questions. Pavilion won't be used. One boardwalk would achieve the same, or better, as there are many structures (better dog park space, especially when beaches are inaccessible in summer).
- Boardwalk in marsh impinges on local residents' property. Has there been an environmental impact statement done? Why move the picnic area away from the water? Amphitheater seems unnecessary and impinges on natural habitat. You will get the wrong kind of congregation. Pavilion...seems unnecessary and would be sited in a flood zone. The remains of Corduroy Road are an historic site. The site is a natural habitat for much wildlife...it would be unfortunate to over-develop it.
- Kayak storage? With launch areas, would be nice to have racks.
- Very difficult to launch a kayak from a dock.
- Possible area for larger concerts, stage area, somewhere around lot.
- Please put a big dog park here, we don't have any in the shore area.
- Dog Park!
- No dog park! Keep it natural.
- Redundant Jennings amphitheater 15 ¼ miles away – promote different uses. Jennings Beach is more enclosed, closer to nearby residents, it can be used more passive. The one in Ash Creek is further away from the neighborhood, we can use it as outdoor concert.
- There was one gentleman talked about the town sprayed some sort of chemicals in ash creek to prevent dogs in the area. Some people said their dogs got cancer because of that. NO DOG PARK!!
- Rising sea level, like to see more resilient design.
- DEEP has strict rules about adding docks.
- Concerned about Boardwalk connect to the neighbors.
- See no benefit of adding pavilion.
- Currently underutilized, will like to see take down the existing buildings and adding restaurant and outdoor dining, make more mixed use/business.

Burroughs Park

- Walking Track...As a former Fields Committee member (when active, they pushed for trails/loops/tracks as part of parks) the town should take a look at the condition of the track. Adjacent to senior housing development...they used it often. Fitness track 4-person wide...supposed to be an example for other parks. DPW stopped maintaining, contractor now just mows the grass, track is now overgrown and not usable. Concept plans tonight have loop trails which is great, take another look and incorporate into more parks. Town Hall concept plan is a good example...doesn't need to be paved,



- Please bring back Burroughs track. Sidewalk on opposite side of senior housing/community garden should be looked at for pedestrian connectivity. Benches are unusable.

Dougiello Park

- Golf short game is a better spot for parking and seasonal skate rink. Short game can be done at Town's par 3 course. Impervious paving for parking.
- For a dog park, it is really far for a lot of residents to access.
- Driving range with simulated green targets would be nice.

Dwight Elementary

- Why is there a walking loop around the area of the field where balls will land?
- Why not full basketball for older kids to use?

Dwight Elementary

- Is not a family-oriented residential area, why pickleball there?
- Pickleball and tennis needs to be accessible during school to make them effective additions.
- Four pickleball courts not usable during school hours!
- Separation between school and courts
- Can the courts be used during any hours?
- I thought this was a one-way road?
- The school uses the tennis courts.
- School is closing in the near future, what is the future usage for the building? Town Center? Senior Center?

Fairfield Warde High School

- Pickleball...there is a curriculum for pickleball, but no courts proposed for students to play on? Reservation system for pickleball isn't great, while others don't realize there is a reservation system and have to be asked to leave the courts by those who reserved them. No pickleball courts near the Senior Center...why not?

Giant Steps

- Dog park? Near trails to the west. Hosting tournament?

Highwood Park

- Is very close to two other off-leash locations...8 minutes to Hoyden's, 4 minutes to Lake Mohegan.
- Dog park?
- Help with noise from park to neighborhood.
- All dog parks need fences and trees.
- Dog park vs Kids? Who is going to take care of the cleanup and maintenance?



- More parking.

Jennings Beach

- Is a very small field for off-leash dogs in the beach area. Homes with the smallest yard square footage has the smallest off-leash area.
- Don't see the point or benefit of the small dog park at that location. Drive to the beach to let a dog off-leash in that little space? People can walk their dogs anywhere and get them much more exercise than in a small pen. Please think through again. Better exercise for the dog and owner too.
- No dog park!
- Need a turn-around method without entering lot (east side of site).
- Dog park at west side of site.
- Need bigger dog park.
- People may leave their dog at the dog park unsupervised and enjoy the beach by themselves.
- Skate Park using as splash pad? Water source?

Lake Mohegan

- Dogs are a bit threatening at this location (off-leash), dog parks in other areas are good, but not so much at Lake Mohegan.
- The ½ acre off-leash dog park is redundant and unnecessary. What about the rest of the area for dogs? Designated dog park area can be where there is the need.
- Particularly with ½ acre unleashed dog park...would love the trails to require and govern fully leashed walking trails or none (preferred).
- Popular area where people let their dogs off leash.

Lincoln Park

- Please no basketball. We live across the road and the noise of the bouncing balls can be heard inside our house.
- Parking...route for Fire Station No. 2 is a problem. No basketball...noise, vibration, group control. No unsupervised sports...noisy, damage to neighboring property, garbage bins are already overflowing. Climbing, passive equipment is great. Gag pit...lots of noise, violent behavior, unsupervised ball play too near road and houses. What is the expectation for the pavilion...more noise!
- Love that suggestions were incorporated. Preserves quiet nature of neighborhood and respectful of neighbors that live adjacent. Thank you! Needs to be prioritized in years 1 – 3. Love the sand area, historically a beloved feature of this park. Love the swings and climbing structure...recent playground renovation removed one and a number of swings. Need more shade trees. Need more benches around the whole park. Caution for less pavement...some is great but not half the park.
- Concerns about look and environmental impact of playground surfacing.
- Sidewalk and parking?



Old Field

- Seniors don't carpool with others, why reduced parking spaces.
- There is a fence blocking access to the trail at the moment, please address that.
- Dog park for seniors who are close to the town center?

Owen Fish

- The community garden impacts ballfield spectators. Baseball field puts road in play.
- There are not enough full-size baseball fields in town. By placing a soccer field here you will limit the time the baseball field can be used. No soccer field!
- Do not remove shade trees. This is the best for shade with kids. Ball field is a liability with hitting balls into roadway.
- Connect loop path to assisted living area?
- You say the upper field is currently used for soccer, but it is not.
- That is a shady spot for community gardens.
- Balls will get hit into street with this reconfiguration of the ball field.

South Pine Creek

- Adding lights for more playability? Longer play time? Different season?
- Currently used for football (does that fit?).
- Dog park? A round loop?
- Dog park on/at South Pine Creek Playground?
- Right now is underutilized.

Town Hall Complex

- Walking trails are perfect, they're going to flood, but perfect.
- Town Hall is expanding? Need parking all around this area.
- Love that public boardwalk idea. Will need more parking after Town Hall expansion.
- We need dog parks in the shore area. Please add fenced-in dog parks to: Veteran's Park; South Pine Creek; Town Hall.
- Goat yoga? Any pedestrian connection to the lower right corner?
- People are thinking about the improvement done in the Town Hall will increase the resale value.
- Possible cooperation with the school.

Veteran's Park

- Water fountain, rugby practice field and safe boxes are needed.

General Comments:

- When GE moved out of town, Sacred Heart purchased the property...a missed opportunity. Any potential for partnership opportunities with Sacred Heart/Fairfield University?
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- The National Realtor's Association offers \$5,000 grants for pocket parks to communities. I didn't see any bike repair stations on the plans. Perhaps the Town can identify 3-4 sites appropriate for bike repair stations and see if the NRA would fund?
- I only saw one gaga ball pit on the plans...kids love them, and we need more in town
- Any chance we can get back the town golf course (Wheeler)?
- Dog Parks...There is only one in shore area (Jennings Beach) which is small...need one in the Shore area. On the north side of town, there are three within 4 minutes of each other. Mona Terrace would be perfect for a dog park...seniors need somewhere to walk their dogs.
- Any additional basketball courts? Softball/little league fields are not allocated evenly...the girls receive less access. Please look into this and address if needed.? Any additional volleyball courts (non-beach courts)? Dog parks to be located where off-leash dogs are restricted. Add 3-4 gaga pits. Locate 3-4 areas for bike repair stations.
- Roger Ludlowe Middle School...I know this isn't being addressed tonight, but the turf plan must include a full-size baseball field, not a little league field.
- Jennings Marina...more kayak storage and easier kayak launch points.
- Please add some outdoor exercise equipment in parks. Please add markers (signs/plaques) celebrating our town's history...it's a learning opportunity. Consider a consistent brand for all signs at town parks, open spaces, moorings, etc. Add lights to synthetic fields. Consider skating rink for beach area (seasonal that can be roller hockey in summer). Add beach volleyball courts. A community pool should be a must over the long term. The four pillars: Green to Gray; Outdoor Learning + Social; Health + Wellness; and Bike Improvements are all awesome...keep these top of mind.
- Love to see implementation of permeable pavement.
- Community gardens, especially raised beds are welcomed.
- Any EV charger?
- Fire pit near shore area?
- Can we partner with Fairfield hotel to get funding on promoting skating/hockey team, tournament?
- The public is concerned about where is the money coming from? And how long it is going to take?
- More shade/trees around dog parks area, protection for their feet, especially in the shore area. (Do we need more dog parks in the shore area?)