

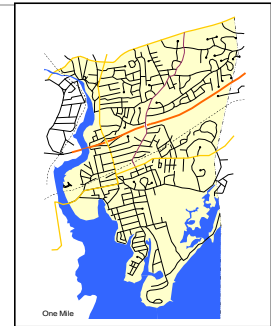
Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association, (203) 855-7668

Board Members

Laurel Lindstrom
Sarah Hunter
Diane Cece
Erik Nees
Gordon Tully
Maribeth Becker
David Park

Advisory Board

Marija Bryant
Nick Overall



City's Funding Priorities

Each year at this time the City goes through the budget process, making decisions about how to allocate funds for the next fiscal year

In past years the ENNA has identified quality of life and safety concerns that we have then translated into requests for funding from the City. And we have been successful as we led the way in support of traffic calming –first with speed humps and more recently with traffic calming measures for Strawberry Hill

Avenue and East Avenue.

We joined others in support of numerous other neighborhood quality of life items over the years.

This year the ENNA focused our efforts on the neighborhood flooding after being contacted by dozens of area residents who were suffering the consequences of repeated flooding in their homes.

In December the ENNA held a forum specific to 'Finding Solutions for

Neighborhood Flooding' that was attended by almost 100 people from flood-impacted neighborhoods throughout Norwalk.

As a result of the persistence of the affected residents the City plans to direct funds toward starting the process of fixing the problem.

But more needs to be done in future years,

Laurel Lindstrom, President, Editor of Sea to the Green

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The ENNA initiated meeting with Rec. & Parks in January to find out about the City's plans for the Park. As a result of our involvement the plans were noticeably improved. But there was a "done deal" mindset on the plans even though the public hadn't even been asked to weigh-in.

Below is a letter written by some active East Norwalk citizens who care about what happens to the Park.

We are writing this letter to express our serious concerns about the commercialization of Veteran's Memorial Park

with the planned 36-hole miniature golf course, batting cages and future construction of an amphitheatre.

The miniature golf course, which could be voted on by the Common Council before the summer and is the focus of this letter, is a bad idea for a number of reasons. The problems of visual impact, visibility to the harbor, and lack of cohesion and conflict of activities within the park, are reasons enough to be concerned. And there are more.

It is being touted as a way to keep out "troublemakers." While it's true that a few years back, residents around the park had to live with drug dealing, drag races, underage drinking, noise, shootings, criminal activity and generally disruptive behavior, things have changed. To the City's credit, they did a great job eliminating this problem from the park with tollgates, speed bumps, earlier park closings, and more effective enforcement.

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"In a city where we are trying to preserve our open spaces for the enjoyment of local residents, this move towards commercialization sets a dangerous precedent for the future."

Editor's Note:

By the end of a two-hour phone conversation that I had with Councilman Fred Bondi (Chairman of the Recreation and Parks Committee) about allowing more public input into park planning, he agreed to schedule a public meeting on parks to allow the public to present their ideas.

The public meeting will take place on:

Wednesday, May 16, 2007,
7 PM – 8 PM
Mill Hill Museum,
East Wall St.

Laurel Lindstrom

(This is not the public hearing specific to the Vets Park minigolf plan. – although it can be brought up)

Veterans Park – public input? (Cont)

Now we see this progress being reversed by what can only, at best, be called an ill-conceived project. The defenders of the miniature golf course promote it as a magnet for families that will improve the environment of the park and provide additional revenue for its upkeep. With all due respect, this reflects a wishful-thinking mindset that conveniently side steps some serious potential problems

Consider:

The Golfers – The course will be open until 10 PM during the week and reportedly until 11 PM on weekends. We question if the dominant players will be families during these evening hours. The more likely groups will be unsupervised teenagers or possibly customers from the SoNo bars and pubs who want to play a round or two after a few drinks. In other words, it's a new hangout.

Traffic – In an already dense area with its restaurants, bars, and shops, the golf course can only add to that density and increase traffic problems.

Increased Expenditures for City – With a commercial venture that attracts crowds, the City will have to consider additional security in the park, and surrounding the park,

pressing an already over extended police force. And, in the case of an injury, the majority of the liability would fall back on the city since this is still city property and the vendor's insurance liability is minimal (as stated in the City's request for proposal).

"Slippery Slope" Precedent – In a city where we are trying to preserve our open spaces for the enjoyment of local residents, this move towards commercialization sets a dangerous precedent for the future. Already, there are plans in the works to build an amphitheatre in the park for concerts and other events. We find it amazing that this idea would even be given a minute's notice given the City's experience with the Oyster Festival; namely; massive traffic jams, noise, increased demands on the police department, costly repairs to damaged park land, and lack of profitability. Just imagine a mini-Oyster Festival every summer weekend.

Lack of Transparency – Perhaps most important is the "under the radar" nature of how this project moved forward. The residents and taxpayers in the East Norwalk neighborhoods around the park will be those ones who bear the brunt of whatever impact this project has – yet there was no attempt at getting public input, involving people in the

process, or even obtaining critical market analysis to show that a project like this is appropriate. By the time citizens and taxpayers knew anything about what was happening to "their" park, the preliminary design for the miniature golf course had been reviewed by the Council's Recreation and Parks Committee and by the Planning Commission. We were told that the revised design will be ready for final review within a month and then would go to the Common Council for a vote soon after. The decisions had already been made.

It took an editorial in the Norwalk Hour and perseverance by the Eastern Norwalk Neighborhood Association to bring this out into the open. Only then was there an offer to hold a public hearing which is yet to be scheduled.

We are very interested in hearing from other concerned citizens and from members of the Council about their views on this project. Please contact us. We hope that at the very least the City would hold a public hearing to listen to what citizens have to say about what the City does with public space.

Laurel Lindstrom (855-7668)
Theodore J. van de Kamp
(857-4887)
Nancy Firooznia (854-1794)

Spring Cleanups – April 21 & April 28

The ENNA is organizing two cleanups this spring – a Neighborhood Cleanup on April 21 and a Shoreline Cleanup on April 28.

Although we plan to focus our efforts on the areas shown on the map, the success of the cleanup effort will depend on how many volunteers participate.

So please bring your family, friends and neighbors.

And if you see a spot with litter that is outside the cleanup areas shown on our map, please come get bags from us and then head for that spot.

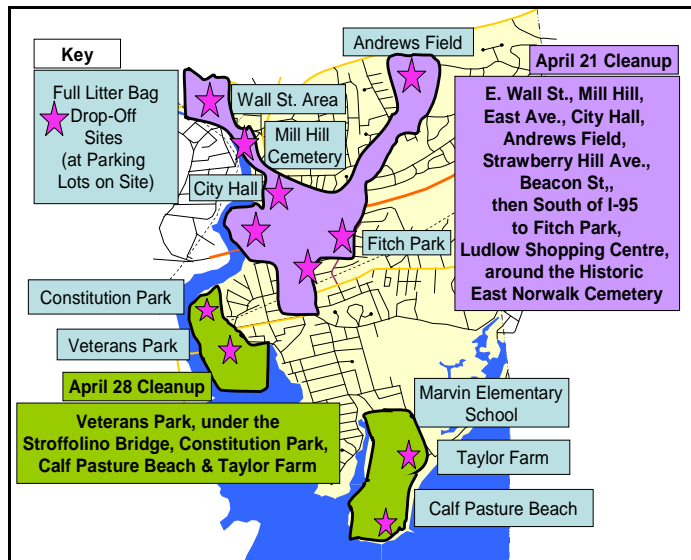
Or you can just focus your efforts cleaning your own street, If you get your neighbors out to help, so much the better.

Neighborhood Cleanup – Saturday, April 21, 2007
8:30 AM to 12 Noon
Meet at City Hall to pick up bags and gloves

Shoreline Cleanup – Saturday, April 28, 2007
8:30 AM to 12 Noon
Meet at Veterans Park to pick up bags and gloves

Litter bags only – No large items at Drop-Off Sites, please

Participant in Keep Norwalk Beautiful campaign



ENNA

Volunteer Opportunities

We need member contributions to print flyers and newsletters, purchase supplies for neighborhood cleanups, create poster displays for our events – and any number of other activities that have an associated cost. We ask for a contribution annually of \$25 per household. If you haven't contributed this year please consider doing so. Our level of achievement is only as great as your generosity.

To Volunteer, Join or Contribute to the ENNA please complete the information below and mail to: ENNA, 37 Olmstead Place, Norwalk, CT 06855.

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Check enclosed _____ Volunteer _____

Interests or Special Skills:

All contributions are fully tax-deductible.
Information kept confidential, for ENNA use only.

*For every talent, skill
and interest we have
a volunteer job
to match.*



ENNA
20 Raymond Terrace
Norwalk, CT 06855

Phone
(203) 855-7668

E-mail
Sea.to.the.green@sbcglobal.net

*From the Sea to the Green
...and everywhere
in between*

Message from the Norwalk Fire Dept.

The City of Norwalk currently has an ordinance which requires a minimum of a 3-inch number to be located on a building or a mobile home. The numbers must be Arabic and be in a color contrasting to the area it is affixed to. They shall be located on the top or sides of

the main entrance of the building facing the street to which the numbers relate.

If the building or mobile home is more than 50 feet from the street, the owner must also number the two sides of the mailbox, post or fence located in close

proximity to the street. The numbers must be visible from the street to traffic moving in both directions.

Remember that the time wasted by the Fire or Police Department in trying to locate an address number on a building could be a matter of life or death.

About Our Organization

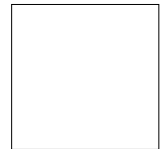
The ENNA is organized and operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes:

To foster and preserve the residential character, natural and historic resources and quality of life in the eastern Norwalk community;

To encourage the residents of eastern Norwalk to actively participate in achieving the purpose set forth above;

To provide assistance to governmental and not-for-profit organizations with purposes similar to, or with activities in furtherance of, the purposes set forth

EASTERN NORWALK
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
20 RAYMOND TERRACE
NORWALK, CT 06855



MEMBER NAME
STREET ADDRESS
ADDRESS 2
CITY, ST ZIP CODE



We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.eastnorwalk.org