



Norwalk | Veterans Park Connecticut | Master Plan

JUNE 12, 2012



Prepared for:
City of Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department



Veterans Park Master Plan

Prepared for: The City of Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department

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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
A. Request for Proposal RFP.....	3
II. <u>NEEDS ASSESSMENT</u>	
A. Meetings with City.....	3
B. Planning Standards, NRPA Guidelines.....	4
C. Community Input and Survey.....	4
D. Norwalk Seaport Association/Oyster Festival.....	6
III. <u>EXISTING CONDITIONS-INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS</u>	
Plan: Context Aerial.....	7
Plan: Existing Conditions Aerial.....	8
Plan: Site Inventory and Analysis.....	9
A. Property, context, setting.....	10
B. Zoning.....	10
C. NRPA Parking Standards for Specific Recreation Facilities.....	11
D. City Open Space and Active Recreational Facilities.....	11
E. Memorials and Public Art.....	11
F. Topography.....	12
G. Vegetation.....	12
H. Soils/Environmental.....	13
I. Coastal Resources.....	13
J. Flood Prone Areas.....	14
K. Views and Vistas.....	15
L. Utilities.....	15
M. Site Parking.....	16
N. Adjacent Land Uses.....	16
O. Structures.....	16
P. Site Furniture.....	17
Q. Existing Programs and Revenue.....	18
R. Design Challenges.....	18
S. Possible Goals.....	19
T. Potential Design Elements and Programs.....	20
IV. <u>MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT</u>	
A. Philosophy and Goals.....	22
B. Draft Master Plan.....	22
C. Master Plan.....	24
V. <u>IMPLEMENTATION</u>	
A. Short Term Improvements.....	38
B. Mid Term Improvements.....	41
C. Long Term Improvements.....	44
VI. <u>MASTER PLAN PROGRAMS AND REVENUE</u>	47
VII. <u>APPENDIX</u>	
A. NRPA Standards and Guidelines.....	48
B. Community Survey Results.....	53

I. INTRODUCTION

On March 2, 2011 the City of Norwalk issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Creation of a Comprehensive Master Plan for Veterans Park. As written in the RFP, the primary purpose of the Master Plan is to establish a clear and concise set of goals, policies, standards and objective that will offer guidance and direction to the city concerning enhancements and potential development of Veterans Park facilities, trails, programs and services for the short term (2012), midterm (2017) and the long term (2027).

The Master Plan for Veterans Park contains a needs assessment, an inventory and analysis of existing conditions, goals and recommendations. Estimated costs, revenue generating mechanisms, and phasing are presented.

II. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A. Meetings with City

The project officially began upon receipt of the signed contract on September 30, 2011. The Master Plan was developed over a period of approximately nine months which included meetings with the Veterans Park Advisory Committee, various City officials/commissions, associations and the public to gather input. The meeting dates and purpose were as follows:

- October 25, 2011: Advisory Committee initial meeting.
- November 9, 2011: Planning Department information meeting with Michael Greene, Director Planning and Zoning, Michael Wrinn, Assistant Director Planning and Zoning, and Michael Mocciae, Director Recreation and Parks.
- November 15, 2011: Public Information meeting to present site inventory/analysis, design challenges, possible goals and receive input from the community.
- December 20, 2011: Advisory Committee to obtain direction in the development of the Preliminary Master Plan.
- December 20, 2011: Norwalk Seaport Association meeting for input regarding the Oyster Festival.
- January 10, 2012: Norwalk Seaport Association and festival planner meeting.
- January 24, 2012: Advisory Committee to present Summary of Public Survey and Draft Master Plan.
- February 9, 2012: Public Information meeting to present Draft Master Plan.
- February 15, 2012: Recreation & Parks Cultural Affairs Commission of the Common Council meeting to present Draft Master Plan.
- February 21, 2012: Draft Master Plan provided to Traffic and Engineering for review and comment.
- February 29, 2012: Advisory Committee to review feedback from public meeting and Recreation & Parks meeting and to obtain direction in the development of the final Master Plan.
- March 28, 2012: Norwalk Harbor Management Commission meeting to present Draft Master Plan.
- May 8, 2012: Norwalk Planning Commission meeting to present Draft Master Plan.
- June 14, 2012: Advisory Committee to review the final Master Plan.
- June 20, 2012: Recreation & Parks Cultural Affairs Commission of the Common Council meeting to present the final Master Plan.
- June 26, 2012: Common Council meeting to present the final Master Plan.

Feedback from the above meetings and an online community survey has been used in the development of the Master Plan.

B. Planning Standards, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines (1990)

The NRPA guidelines provide communities with minimum goals to be achieved based on population. The following chart indicates the recommended sports facility types, recommended number of units per population, recommended number of facilities for the City of Norwalk and the number of existing Norwalk facilities:

Facility	Recommended No. of Units per Population	City of Norwalk (pop. 84,437)
Basketball	1 per 5,000	17 recom./16 exist.
Tennis	1 court per 2,000	43 recom./34 exist. (3 lighted)
Volleyball	1 per 5,000	17 rec./2 ex. lighted
Baseball, Little League	1 per 5,000 (lighted 1/30,000)	17 (3 lighted) rec./ 4 ex. Baseball (1 lighted) 22 ex. Little League
Field Hockey	1 per 20,000	5 recom./3 ex.
Football	1 per 20,000	5 reco./2 ex. lighted
Soccer	1 per 10,000	9 recom./12 exist.
Softball	1 per 5,000	17 recom./5 exist. (3 lighted)
Lacrosse	none listed	5 exist.
Bocce	none listed	3 exist. lighted
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	5 rec./1 ex. indoor

These standards are a starting point for determining the number and type of facilities. In many cases there are never enough active recreational facilities to accommodate the needs of the community. According to Michael Mocciae, Director of Recreation and Parks, Norwalk does not have enough fields for the youth and adults who want to play.

C. Community Input and Survey

During the initial public information meeting held on November 15, 2011, a survey was distributed to gather information on Veterans Park. In addition, the survey was posted on the city website from November 4, 2011 through December 9, 2011. (See Appendix for complete survey questions and results).

A summary of the key points presented by the public during the information meeting were:

- Increase water related activities
- Enhance passive uses
- Protect waterfront views
- Provide multipurpose open space fields for a variety of users
- Incorporate the Oyster Festival
- Celebrate the Veterans and provide accessibility

- Investigate the environmental condition of former landfill
- Maintain repository for flooding
- Provide aesthetic, inviting improvements
- Provide for fishing, small boat access and storage
- Do not commercialize the park
- Do not create a sports complex
- Do not provide an amphitheater/stage or other noise producing activity

151 surveys were completed. A summary of the results of the survey are:

Facilities

Most used existing facilities:

1. observe waterfront views
2. waterfront walking paths
3. Little League Fields
4. benches or lawn for relaxation

Most desired new physical improvements:

1. bike access, paths and racks
2. extended walkways
3. lighting of paths
4. concession stand
5. more Little League fields
6. lighting of ballfields
7. environmental boardwalk
8. more restrooms
9. shade trees
10. fitness trail

Programs

Most used existing programs:

1. Oyster Festival
2. Norwalk Little League
3. Cultural Festivals

Most desired new programs:

1. seasonal market
2. family oriented festivals/cultural events
3. waterfront concerts
4. canoe, kayak, paddle boat and equipment rentals
5. concessions
6. restaurant/café
7. boat tours, sunset cruises, educational trips

Highlights of Written Comments

Question 12: "If you are a neighbor of Veterans Park, please provide comments or observations regarding the park":

- noise
- monitored gates provide safety/security
- café/restaurant
- drinking
- no commercialization
- beautify/update

Question 13: "If you have other comments or questions, please note those below":

- Oyster Festival included in park plan
- grading and drainage improvements
- ball field maintenance
- drinking, do not feel safe
- boardwalk
- beautify
- farmers market
- bare/underutilized waterfront
- increase family activities
- multi-use fields e.g. football
- concessions/restaurant
- team sports and quiet time use

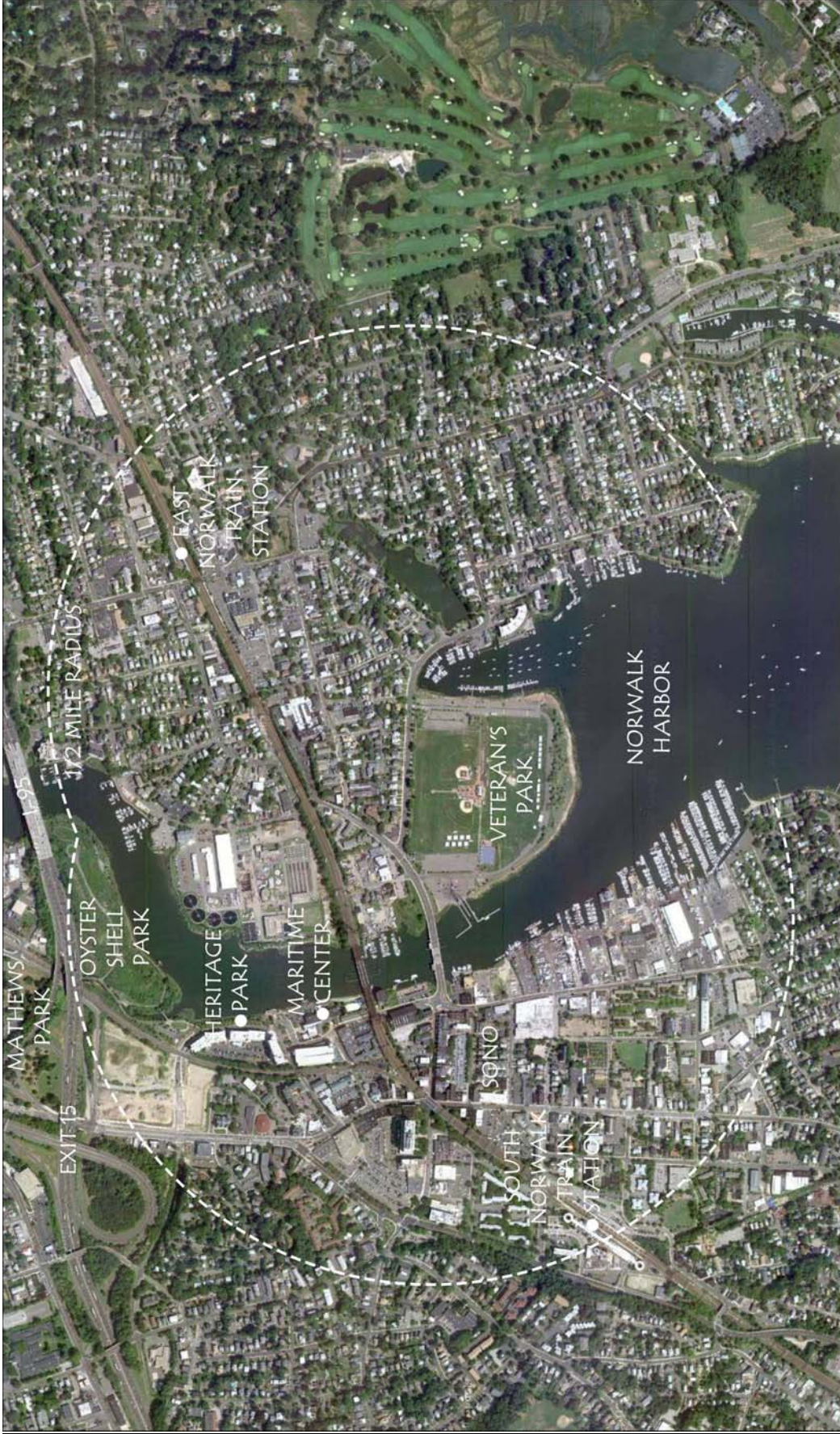
D. Norwalk Seaport Association/Oyster Festival

Two meetings were held with representatives of the Norwalk Seaport Association to discuss the Oyster Festival as a major user of the park. The following is a summary of those meetings:

- The festival changes over the years
- Flooding impacts festival planning and use of waterfront areas
- Concentrated areas of walking causes majority of lawn damage
- Location of power and potable water defines vendor locations
- Children's rides vendor is adaptable to space given
- New vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns can be designed to permit access by service trucks and emergency vehicles
- new underground utilities, such as water and electric, can be provided to permit flexible use by all festivals
- grading and drainage improvements can improve usability and durability of fields and waterfront areas
- Seaport planner is experienced fitting festivals into any space
- festival planning should attempt to locate high impact uses on paved areas
- The master plan will recognize the festival as a user of the park

III. EXISTING CONDITIONS-INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The following section contains two aerial photographs entitled Context Aerial and Existing Conditions Aerial followed by the Inventory and Analysis Plan.



CONTEXT AERIAL
VETERAN'S PARK
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT



Aerial and topographic base information
provided by the City of Norwalk
Department of Public Works





OCTOBER 26, 2011



AERIAL IMAGE PROVIDED BY BING.COM



EXISTING CONDITIONS AERIAL
VETERANS PARK
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT





TPA
 DESIGN GROUP
 1000 Main Street
 Norwalk, CT 06854
 (203) 841-1100
 www.tpa.com

NO.	DATE	REVISION
1	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
2	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
3	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
4	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
5	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
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99	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
100	11/11/11	ISSUE FOR PERMITS

VETERANS PARK
 SEAWAY AVENUE
 NORWALK, CONNECTICUT
 INVENTORY AND SITE ANALYSIS

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2011
 SCALE: 1" = 40'
 DRAWN BY: [Name]
 CHECKED BY: [Name]
 DESIGNED BY: [Name]
 PROJECT NO.: [Number]



NOTE: HTL: NOT AVAILABLE
 DATUM FOR ELEV.: NAD - 88
 HPT 2011: 9.1
 HIGHEST PREDICTED TIDELINE: 5.12

Park Zone: AAA Residence
 Located within the Coastal Area
 Management Boundary

Aerial and topographic base information
 provided by the City of Norwalk
 Department of Public Works

BOAT TRAILER
 110
 348 N.B HC 356
 104
 144 4 HC
 2
 7 HC
 2 HC

LIBERTY SQUARE
 BEAVER INTERSECTION
 SEAWAY AVENUE
 FORT POINT STREET
 GOLDSTEIN PLACE
 STATER STREET
 MAGNASTON STREET
 TIDEAL KETTLERS
 UNDESIGNED VISITORS DOCK DOCK

12' DEPTH HALL FEDERAL CHANNEL BOUNDARY
 VISITORS DROP OUT FACILITY
 GUEST MOORINGS
 MATTRESS MOORINGS
 VENTAGE CONDOMINIUMS
 OVERTONS
 MILL POND
 PASTURE MARINA
 EAST NAIVE
 VENTAGE CONDOMINIUMS

A. Property, context and setting

Veterans Park consists of 35± acres of waterfront land with access from Washington Street and Seaview Avenue. Water access is gained at the public boat launch, visitor's dock and marina. The park is located on a peninsula adjacent to the Norwalk River, Norwalk Harbor, East Norwalk Basin and Historic South Norwalk. The property was designated as a park in 1911 though it was a very marshy and wet habitat. The park served as a landfill prior to being designated as a park and was filled with dredged material from Cove Marina. In 1981 a Phase One / 1981-1985 Plan was prepared by The Landplan Partnership of Southport, CT. In 1981 the grade in the park was raised up to 2 ½ feet in some locations, the center restroom was built, softball fields designed and a stone wall was built along Seaview Avenue. (source: Request for Proposal, March 2, 2011). Today, the park is used mostly for active ballfield recreation and waterfront access.

According to Michael Moccia, there are no deed restrictions for the park. The only description is that it is to be used for recreation purposes.

B. Zoning:

City zoning identifies uses permitted, restrictions and defines standards for development. The following are identified as relevant park planning zoning standards:

1. The park is zoned AAA Residence. Principal uses and structures: single family dwellings, parks and playgrounds. A full-service, all-season restaurant shall be permitted in a public park having thirty (30) acres or more which adjoins Long Island Sound by Special Permit. Athletic field facilities are subject to the following conditions: (1) All lighting shall be shielded and a photometric plan provided to confirm that no illumination shall exceed 0.3 foot candles at the property line; and (2) All lights shall be directed away from surrounding residential properties; and (3) All audio systems shall be limited to the broadcast of athletic field events and half time shows only; no pre game or post game music shall be permitted; and (4) All lighting and audio systems shall be turned off by 10:00 p.m. and not turned back on until 7:00 a.m.
2. Maximum building height: 2 ½ stories & 35 feet, maximum of 40 feet to peak.
3. Helicopter landing sites shall be prohibited in all residence zones (Article 90 Section 118-920).
4. Off-street parking requirements:

Boats:

Marinas-1 space per mooring or dock space/1 space per 3 boat rack storage spaces

Sight-seeing boats: 1 space per 4 passengers based on USCG rating

Fishing party boats: 1 space per 2 passengers based on USCG rating

Parking stall dimensions (Article 120):

8.5' x 19': angled parking

7' x 22': parallel parking

8.5' x 24' aisle: 90 degree parking

9' x 23' aisle: 90 degree parking

9.5' x 22' aisle: 90 degree parking

All off-street parking and loading areas of twenty (20) or more spaces shall be provided with planting islands. Said planting islands shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet six (6) inches in width and nineteen (19) feet in length, and shall be landscaped with trees and shrubs.

C. NRPA Parking Standards for Specific Recreation Facilities:

In addition to City Zoning requirements, the National Recreation and Parks Association provides guidelines for parking quantities specific to community parks:

Community Park: a minimum of 5 spaces per acre; add spaces for major facilities.
Athletic field: 5 to 8 spaces per acre depending upon spectator seating accommodation or 3.5 passengers per car.
Picnic area: 1 space for 4 patrons

D. City Open Space and Active Recreational Facilities

As noted in the Plan of Conservation and Development, the City of Norwalk has achieved a standard of twelve (12) acres of open space per one thousand (1,000) residents as a guideline for acquiring parkland. A complete listing and map of the City of Norwalk Public Parks & Open Space by the Norwalk Planning Commission Dated April 1, 1994 and Public Recreational Opportunities in Norwalk's Parks is available at the Recreation & Parks Department.

Veterans Park active recreation includes two fenced, single use Little League fields with bleachers and score boards (northeast and northwest orientation), two soccer fields (east-west orientation), three lacrosse fields (north-south orientation), two underutilized basketball courts (north-south orientation) and a nautical theme playground with mulch surfacing, swings and benches.

According to Michael Moccia, field hockey is not a use at Veterans Park as it is difficult to maintain a high playing level without a turf field. In addition, football is not a use at the park due to the visual impact of permanent goal posts and portable football goals would have to be stored and there is not a suitable location on or off site.

Veterans Park passive recreation includes walking paths, benches, sculpture and memorials. Shoreline fishing is permitted. Fishing is not permitted from the boat docks. Waterfowl hunting is permitted by the State of Connecticut DEEP.

E. Memorials and Public Art:

Memorials and dedications at Veterans Park consist of:

- Veteran's sculpture located at Seaview Avenue opening in stone wall (plaque missing)
- Military Veteran's flagpole with plaque 2004 (between soccer fields)
- Norman and Jeanne Bloom Memorial Flagpole with plaque 2002 (waterfront)
- 911 Memorial with granite benches and granite stone marker (waterfront)
- David S. Dunavan Boating Center Memorial (building mounted plaque)
- Chamber of Commerce Tree Sponsor thank you plaque 1990 (between Little League fields)
- Concrete foundation - plaque missing (waterfront)

Public art consists of five (5) temporary monumental sculptures made of scrap and recycled metal by Connecticut artist Carole Eisner placed on earth berms adjacent to the passively used waterfront.



F. Topography

The topography of the park ranges from elevation 11.5± at the central restroom building to elevation zero at the waters edge. Elevation 5.12 is the highest predicted tide line. The ballfields to the north range in elevation from 7.5-9.5 and the ballfields to the south are at elevation 7. The berms along the southern waterfront rise to elevation 8.5. The site high point at elevation 15 is at the top of a sloping embankment adjacent to the Stroffolino Bridge abutment. The site is flat with slopes less than 1% with the exception of the waterfront edge with slopes of 15% to 40% at the rip rap areas. (Source: aerial photograph and topographic base map information provided by the City of Norwalk Public Works Department-datum for elevation: NAD-88).



G. Vegetation

The vegetation in the park is primarily open mowed lawn. The lawn berms along the southern waterfront are planted with Sycamore trees. The park edge along Seaview Avenue is lined with mature maple trees. Groups of trees are scattered through the site but are declining and have not matured to provide a significant canopy. Accent landscape plantings occur at the boating center building and at the secondary park entrance.



H. Soils/Environmental

Indicated on a plan titled “Veterans Memorial Park-Test Boring Plan” dated 12-17-80 by The Landplan Partnership, Southport, CT, 32 test borings were performed throughout the park area to a depth between 6.5 feet and 15.0 feet. Water was found at depths of 3-5 feet. A general note indicates that the entire park area south of Seaview Avenue is landfill (miscellaneous materials such as refuse, ash, rock, gravel, etc.) at a depth of 10-20 feet. Landfill has been placed over tidal marsh with bedrock at depths of 80-90 feet. The nature, degree and extent of landfill materials have not been established.

I. Coastal Resources:

Intertidal flats surround the park waterfront along the west (Norwalk River) and south sides. Tidal wetlands surround the waterfront edges on all sides. (Source: Norwalk Harbor Management Plan 2009 Amendments, Figure 4-3: Intertidal Resources in the East Norwalk Basin-Veterans Park Management Unit and the Southern Portion of the Upper Harbor Management Unit). The tidal wetlands have not been flagged by a Soil Scientist and therefore, have not been field located or verified. The southwest side of Veterans Park faces the Norwalk River. Existing tidal wetlands and intertidal flats extend from 150 to 300 feet from the shorefront. The federal navigation channel in the Norwalk River is located 200 to 260 feet offshore and is 250 feet wide through this reach of the river; in one area, the intertidal flat appears to extend into the channel. In other areas, a strip of navigable water ten to thirty feet wide is present.

Intertidal flats are considered to be valuable and fragile coastal resources. The Norwalk Shellfish Commission and shellfishing industry are very protective of these resources, and there are significant permitting obstacles to any activity that might result in damage to the wetlands or flats.



J. Flood Prone Areas

The entire park is within the Special Flood Hazard areas subject to inundation by the 100 year flood. There are three different Base Flood Elevations within the park: Flood Zone VE (also identified as a Coastal High Hazard Area) elevation 14 generally located from the perimeter park drive to the shoreline, Flood Zone AE elevation 12 from the park center building south, east and west to the park drive and Flood Zone AE elevation 11 from the center building north to Seaview Avenue. (Source: FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map, Fairfield County, Connecticut, Panel 531 of 626 Map Number 09001C0531F June 18, 2010).

Flood Zone VE (Base Flood Elevation 14):

All new construction shall be located landward of the reach of mean high tide. All new construction and substantial improvements shall be elevated on adequately anchored pilings or columns, and securely anchored to such piles or columns so that the lowest portion of the lowest horizontal structural members of the lowest floor (excluding the pilings or columns) is elevated to or above the base flood level. No use of fill for structural support of buildings shall be permitted.

Flood Zone AE (Base Flood Elevation 12):

All new construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood level.

Flood Zone AE (Base Flood Elevation 11):

All new construction and substantial improvements of nonresidential structures shall have the lowest floor (including basement) elevated to or above the base flood level.



Floodway:

In the floodway designated on the Flood Insurance Rate Map the following shall additionally apply:

Encroachments, including fill, new construction, substantial improvements and other development that would result in any (0.00 feet) increase in flood levels within the community during the occurrence of the base flood discharge shall be prohibited.

(Source: Article 110 Flood Hazard Zone, Building Zone Regulations of the City of Norwalk, CT amended October 28, 2011).

K. Views and Vistas

There are distant views down the Norwalk Harbor of Long Island Sound, views across the Norwalk River of SoNo which are dominated by marinas and views across the East Norwalk basin which includes marinas, moorings, restaurants and the 4 story Vantage Point condominiums with residential homes along the shore further south. Some tall buildings in SoNo and a transmission tower at the railroad bridge dominate the urban view to the northwest. A line of residential homes elevated above Seaview Avenue define the views to the north. Views to the park from offsite are of a wide open flat landscape dominated with overhead utility poles, wires, flood lights and chain link fence. Mature sycamore trees along the south shoreline provide a softer vertical relief to the view.



L. Utilities

The site is serviced by public water, sanitary sewer, telephone and both overhead and underground electric). Storm drainage structures are located in the fields, parking and driveways which discharge to the Norwalk Harbor and East Norwalk Basin. During extreme high tides, these drainage structures are often filled with water. The water service meter vault is located at the stone wall raised step approximately 75 feet east of the Veterans statue along Seaview Avenue (source: South Norwalk Electric and Water-Tom Villa). The sports fields are irrigated. The park is primary metered with a second primary meter used only for the Oyster Festival (source: Third Taxing District-George Leary). Flood lights mounted to wood poles provide general lighting at various locations throughout the park. Flood fixtures for the marina cast light across the Norwalk Basin toward residential properties.



M. Site Parking

Designated for specific use:

- Combined vehicle with boat trailer: 110 (10'x40') spaces plus 5 handicapped - (allowed from May 15-Oct. 15)
- Boating center comfort station: 2 plus 2 handicapped
- Main gate house: 7 (for employees)
- Marina: 91 plus 2 handicapped (requires parking permit)

General park users (total 248):

- Waterfront area: 104
- Fields area: 144 plus 4 handicapped

Total Park Spaces: 348 standard and 8 handicapped
110 vehicle/boat trailer and 5 handicapped



N. Adjacent Land Uses

Seventeen (17+/-) residential homes abut the park across Seaview Avenue on the north, with one retail water-related business at the intersection of Seaview Avenue and Fort Point Street. Historic Liberty Square commercial area and Constitution Park are located at the northwest corner. The remainder of the park is surrounded by water with marina/restaurant and residential uses to the east and marina/mixed uses to the west.



O. Structures

- Central Restroom Building: +/- 2,600 s.f. one story brick restroom for the general public with pitched metal seam roof, storage garage occupied by the city carpenter workshop and a full service concession space (finished floor elevation 11.8 based on plan titled Veterans Park-Site Improvements – Roadway, Parking, & Field Construction Grading and Drainage Plan dated 3/2/89 by Grumman Engineering Associates, Norwalk, CT).
- Boating Center Comfort Station: +/- 800 s.f. one story brick with pitched shingled roof with restrooms, showers, and laundry specific for visiting boater use and attached +/- 400 s.f. pump station building.
- David S. Dunavan Boating Center: +/- 640 s.f. pre-fabricated temporary office and visitor center for transient boaters.

- Marina Comfort Station: +/- 1,100 s.f. one story brick with pitched shingled roof with restrooms and showers specific for marina use.
- Gate Houses: two (2) pre-fabricated fee collection booths.
- Boat Ramp and Docks: 3 bituminous bays with concrete floating docks for large vessels, including fire boat and visitors, with pump station. Launch Season Pass: \$140.00, Out of Town Residents: \$25 per launch weekend and \$20 per launch weekday.
- City Marina: Two piers with locking gangways and concrete floating docks for 90 boats (20' and under) and 45 dinghy spaces (10' and under) for access to City moorings.
- Stone Walls: accentuate the park frontage along Seaview Avenue.



P. Site Furniture

Most site furniture is in need of replacement.

- Bench: stained wood slats with metal posts which have deteriorated from waterfront exposure and flooding.
- Trash Receptacle: standard City of Norwalk residential plastic, automatic arm collected
- Bike rack: decorative black, black powder coat metal, matches racks at other City parks
- Lighting: no decorative style lights as seen at other nearby parks. Flood lights mounted to wood poles provide general lighting at marina, boat launch, parking areas, flagpoles, field areas.
- Timber guide rail: park style, brown stained wood posts and rails
- Fence: chain link
- Gate: painted white metal vehicle swing gates. Prohibit vehicular access to park after hours and to designated use areas (trailer parking).
- Drinking fountain: exposed aggregate at marina only
- Park Identification Sign: nautical motif with Plexiglas cover located at secondary park entrance
- Miscellaneous park information signs: painted, horizontal wood slats on timber posts



Q. Existing Programs and Revenue (2011)

1. Gatehouse Parking Fees	\$32,000
2. City Marina Fees	\$40,000
3. Visitor Dock/Mooring	\$57,000
4. Norwalk Resident Boat Stickers	\$9,000
5. Non-Resident Launches-Weekdays	\$8,000
6. Non-Resident Launches-Weekends	\$8,000
7. Non-Resident Launch Stickers	\$13,000
8. Park-usage Fees	<u>\$8,000</u>

Grand Total Existing Revenue: \$175,000

R. Design Challenges

PHYSICAL SITE CONDITIONS

- flooding
- field settling
- subsurface fill
- tidal wetlands
- channel siltation
- eroding waterfront edge
- underutilized waterfront
- rip rap stone along waterfront
- parking on Seaview Avenue
- access by pedestrian and bicycle
- access by boat
- two vehicular entrances
- insignificant main park entrance
- vehicular access control to user areas
- pedestrian/bicycle connectivity
- pedestrian/vehicular conflict
- predominant active recreation
- wide open, flat landscape
- lack of shade
- lack of vegetation
- handicapped accessibility
- public restroom building location
- temporary Boating Center building
- segmented pedestrian circulation
- chain link fence
- tired site furniture
- lack of signage
- views
- geese
- overhead utility lines and poles
- flood lights
- large parking lots

PROGRAMMING

- neighborhood vs. citywide park
- underutilized city-wide jewel
- range of users
- resistance to change
- decreasing financial resources
- maintenance
- capital improvements
- financial self sustaining
- park access fees
- underutilized public restroom building
- function of boating center
- function of boating comfort station
- security
- Oyster Festival program and damage
- noise
- fishing
- lunchtime access
- bus parking for off-site use
- balance of green space vs. parking
- temporary Eisner sculpture
- traffic
- waterfowl hunting

S. Possible Goals

Since Veterans Park is located on a peninsula adjacent to the Norwalk River, Norwalk Harbor, East Basin and Historic South Norwalk, parks goals were derived from the 2008 Plan of Conservation and Development, 2009 Norwalk Harbor Management Plan and 2005 Mid-Harbor Planning Study:

- Enhance existing and encourage new water-dependent uses
 - View park as a component of a connected system providing linkages-trails, paths, bike routes, channels to integrate neighborhoods
 - Development, enhancement, and maintenance of pedestrian facilities to link the Boating Center with SoNo, Maritime Aquarium and Heritage Park
 - Encourage access points for small non-motorized boats to promote water-based recreation
 - Provide a public pier and picnic tables
 - On and off-land services for recreational boating and public access to Norwalk Harbor and East Norwalk Basin
 - Continued development and enhancement of public facilities at the Boating Center
 - Enhance the usability of the boat launch and visitors dock
 - Additional transient slips on the eastern side of the park
 - New facilities for transient boaters including a new prominent public (harbormaster) building welcoming visitors from land and sea.
 - Use of best management practices and stormwater treatment systems such as minimization of impervious surfaces, on-site retention, treatment of runoff, regular catch basin cleaning

- Preserve views
- Preserve intertidal resources found to the south of Veteran's Park
- Enhance existing shorelines by removing invasive weeds, replanting with native plants
- Improved perimeter walkway all the way around the park

In addition, team generated goals may be:

- Provide family oriented multi-use community recreational facilities and passive activities
- Foster interaction amongst users
- Integrate seasonal activities-year round use
- Extend hours of operation
- Enhance aesthetics and views both to and from the park
- Create sequences of spaces within the park
- Enhance multi-modal access: bike, pedestrian, boat, bus (WHEELS)
- Stimulate adjacent development
- Increase tourism
- Attract businesses and residents
- Financially sustainable

T. Potential Design Elements and Programs

Based on existing conditions, review of planning documents, feedback from city and Advisory Committee meetings and results from the community survey, the following potential design elements and programs were developed:

Design Elements

- New entrance to enhance visibility and access.
- Vehicular access, circulation and parking improvements and associated palette of directional/informational signage.
- Pedestrian/bicycle access, circulation improvements including continuous waterfront path.
- Add fill to raise the park elevation, locate selected amenities away from the waterfront to locations landward of the high tide line, or elevate structures above the base flood elevation.
- Upgrade ballfields including grading and drainage improvements.
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle access from the streetscape in multiple locations.
- Plan for bike lanes on Seaview Avenue and Route 136.
- Streetscape improvements along Seaview Avenue and Route 136 to visually and physically connect the park with the streets, neighborhood, Liberty Square commercial area, Constitution Park, Stroffolino Bridge, SoNo, Heritage Park, Mill Pond Park and Norwalk River Valley Trail.
- Curvilinear roadway and walkway systems to create sequential experience moving through the park and to reduce speeds.
- Enhance the usability of the boat launch and visitor's dock. Create green space and picnic areas adjacent to the waterfront.
- Enhance, frame and protect views to and from the park.
- Physically and safely connect boating center and marina comfort stations with their respective pedestrian users.
- Aesthetic and functional improvements to all buildings, including gate houses. New roof at central restrooms.

- Provide permanent Boating Center building with expanded environmental education component and visitor amenities.
- Unified family of low maintenance park furnishings including bench, trash, lighting, picnic table, grill, drinking fountain, bike rack, signage, bollard, guiderail, gates, etc.
- Create series of interconnected user (possible 'donor') spaces, e.g. "Marina East", "Marina West", "Visitors Dock and Boat Launch", "Central Plaza", "Veterans Way", "Pier Point", "Waterfront Plaza", etc.
- Small, shaded parking lots supporting each use area.
- Shaded ADA accessible bleachers.
- Shelter/pavilion/tent space for family picnics, reunions, wedding venues.
- Waterfront sitting area with platform for multi-uses.
- Waterfront café/catering facility with viewing tower and recreational component.
- Custom community designed Norwalk related waterfront adventure playground, involving the talents of local citizens, historians, boat builders, designers, playground consultants, engineers, etc. to capitalize on the unique waterfront setting.
- New marina piers and gangways (to be completed with existing grant - 2012).
- Variety of sitting areas (\$50,000 bench grant).
- Fountain feature with water play.
- Accentuate memorials and provide accessibility.
- Picnic areas with tables and built in grills.
- Pier with shade structure.
- Small boat launch area.
- Small boat storage racks.
- Expand marina to allow for 20-30' boats (confirm need).
- LED full cutoff lighting: pedestrian scale along walkways, 20' ht. max. at parking areas/drives to extend hours of passive park use.
- Landscaping for seasonal interest, shade, screening, framing views and defining spaces.
- Local sponsored temporary ice skating rink.
- ADA access throughout the park.
- Volleyball courts.
- Kinetic or interactive sculpture capitalizing on wind energy.
- Art which captures water and forms unique ice patterns.
- Platforms for visiting, rotating public art.
- Historic context interpretive signage/plaques.
- Playful Long Island Sound water creatures in pavement.
- Low maintenance.
- Defensible.

Programs:

- Friends of Veteran's Park-community park stewards.
 - Innovative zone management system with responsibility for maintaining a certain section of the park allowing people to get more involved in their local park.
 - Raise private and public funding to restore and build new recreational facilities.
- Public-Private Partnerships-improve services to park visitors, save money, manage the park, fund capital improvements and maintain the park. Involved parties must place an emphasis on programming that accommodates year-round use and attracts a wealth of users, and on

important connections to the larger community.

- o Norwalk Seaport Association
- o Norwalk Little League
- o Norwalk Lacrosse Association
- o Norwalk Junior Soccer Association
- o Concessions/snack bar
- o Vending
- o Marina operations
- o Boating Center operations including snack bar, commercial fishing charters, educational Long Island Sound boat excursions, sunset cruises
- o Wedding, reunion, picnic venues
- o Canoe, kayak, paddle boat and equipment rentals
- o Road races, walks, bicycle rides, polar plunge
- o Waterfront yoga
- o Waterfront Wednesdays Acoustic Sets
- o Bike rentals
- o Adaptive reuse of storage area/wood shop as rentable space
- o Fishing derby
- o Boat safety and fishing classes
- o Seasonal market
- o Treasure hunts
- o Family oriented festivals/cultural events

IV. MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A. Philosophy and Goals

Based on meetings with the Advisory Committee, the following Veterans Park Master Plan philosophy and goals were generated:

Uniquely surrounded by water on three sides and offering waterfront vistas, the City would like park improvements to maximize water dependent uses, enhance the existing active ballfield uses while unifying all park areas with a passive recreation system for use by all citizens of Norwalk. The City wishes the park to be environmentally, physically and financially sustainable without commercializing the park, and increase the use of the park year-round.

B. Draft Master Plan

Following the Advisory Committee meetings and public information gathering, a Draft Master Plan was developed identifying recommendations for park improvements. Although there is an apparent need for active recreational facilities in the City, due to the parks waterfront setting, no additional sports fields are recommended for this site as they are not water dependent uses.



PARKING

EXISTING:	PROPOSED:
BONT CTR. 15 + 2 HC	4 + 2 HC
MARINA WEST 71 + 3 HC	0
WATERFRONT 76 + 3 HC	104
MARINA EAST 81 + 4 HC	91 + 2 HC
SPORTS FIELD 95 + 2 HC	144 + 4 HC
TOTAL	357 + 14 HC
BONT TRAIL 77 (10 x 46)	110 + 5 HC

**VETERANS PARK
DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

TPA
Design Group

Rev. Jan. 15, 12
JAN. 24, 12

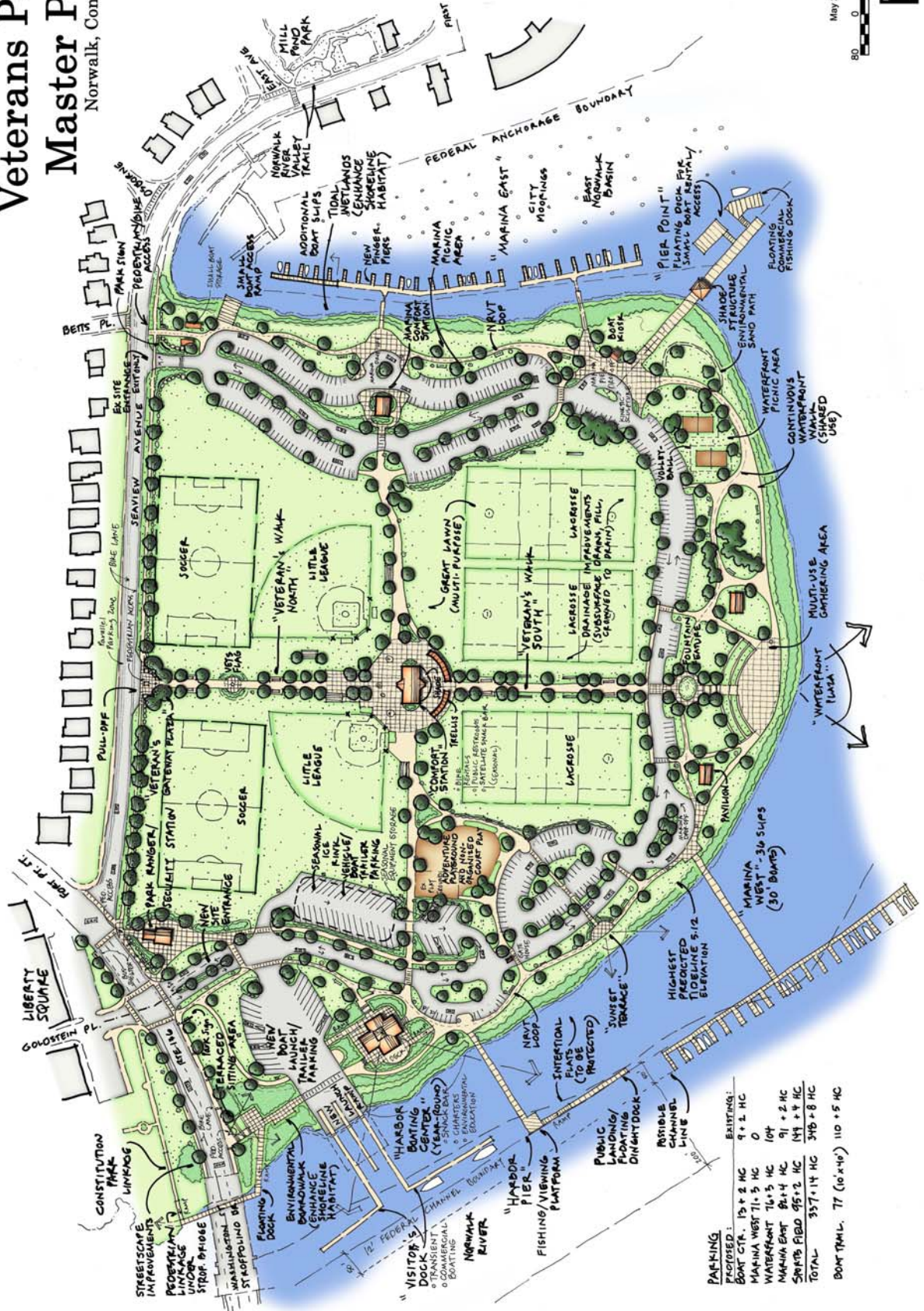


C. Master Plan

Following a second public information gathering, presentations to the Recreation & Parks Cultural Affairs Commission of the Common Council, Norwalk Harbor Management Commission and the Norwalk Planning Commission, the final Master Plan was developed.

Veterans Park Master Plan

Norwalk, Connecticut



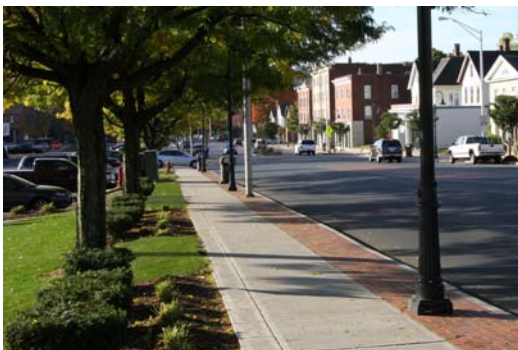
PARKING

PROPOSED:	BRITING:
BOAT CTR. 13 + 2 HC	9 + 2 HC
MARINA WEST 71 + 5 HC	0
WATERFRONT 76 + 5 HC	104
MARINA EAST 81 + 4 HC	91 + 2 HC
SPORTS FLD 95 + 2 HC	141 + 4 HC
TOTAL	337 + 14 HC
BOAT TRAIL	77 (16 x 40)
	110 + 5 HC

The following is a written narrative of the proposed facilities reflected in the Master Plan presented herein:

Streetscape Improvements

- Align main park entrance drive with Goldstein Place
- Add bike lanes to Route 136 and Seaview Avenue (NRVT project)
- Add decorative crosswalks at Goldstein Place and Route 136, Seaview and Route 136, Seaview and Osborne Avenue and East Avenue
- Provide “semi-customized Norwalk waterfront” bus shelters on both sides of Route 136 with park benches, bike racks and landscaping
- Add decorative “brick” band sidewalk along Route 136 from Seaview Avenue intersection west to Water Street
- Extend streetscape improvements along Goldstein Place 120 feet to historic building facade
- Remove chain link fence along back of Route 136 sidewalk
- Add LED full-cutoff pedestrian scale decorative street lights along Seaview Avenue south side and both sides of Route 136 with banners from Seaview Avenue intersection to Water Street
- Add high branched, vased shape street trees
- Add park benches at back of sidewalk, south side of Seaview Avenue and both sides Route 136
- Explore additional traffic calming measures such as bump-outs, medians, textured road pavement
- Provide pedestrian and bicycle access into park at multiple locations including from the Stroffolino Bridge, at vehicular park entrances, and street intersections/crosswalk areas. Create a “gateway” entrance/seating area and enlarge access at the Veterans Memorial statue located between the two soccer fields.
- Provide a “pull-off” for pedestrian drop-off and pick-up on Seaview Avenue





Vehicular Access, Circulation and Parking

- Provide one main park entrance drive aligned with Goldstein Place (consult with ConnDOT District 3)
- Maintain secondary site access drive but convert to exit only (confirm sight lines)
- Soften park image at main entrance by removing large expanses of pavement and adding green space
- Add park gateway sign (incorporating kinetic sculpture) at streetscape for maximum visibility
- Remove road pavement adjacent to the waterfront
- Separate larger parking lots from the main park drive
- Eliminate excess pavement
- Provide two-way circulation throughout the park except at the secondary exit drive
- Eliminate dead ends
- Provide one vehicle entrance gate
- Provide curvilinear roadway alignment to create a sequential driving experience and slow vehicle speeds
- Provide drop-off areas and handicapped parking at all major use areas
- Create a series of small, single bay, landscaped parking areas with access to each user area
- Add shade trees and low maintenance plantings within parking areas
- Provide curbless drives and parking to allow storm water to sheet flow and infiltrate
- Provide grading and drainage improvements, stable base and durable irrigation to allow lawn areas to withstand overflow parking and festival uses



Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation and Gathering

- Provide continuous multi-use waterfront walk separate from vehicular drives parking forming a complete loop around the perimeter of the park with direct link to Seaview Avenue sidewalks. Construct to withstand vehicular access to allow for maintenance, plowing for use in the winter, and festival service vehicle use.
- Provide sidewalk linkages from specific use areas to the waterfront walk
- Add benches and bike racks adjacent to walks
- Add picnic tables and grills along landside of perimeter walk
- Provide "Veteran's Walk", a continuous walk from Seaview Avenue to the central park building (Veteran's Walk North) and to the waterfront (Veteran's Walk South) as a central north south spine in the park. Relocate the Veteran's Memorials adjacent to the walk to centralize and place emphasis on each of the Veterans memorials that exist and can be added in the future.
- Provide safe sidewalk access from the waterfront to both comfort stations
- Create opening in stone wall at corner of Seaview Avenue and Route 136 to invite pedestrians into the park at this main intersection.
- Provide piers, docks, boardwalks, ramps, etc. to allow pedestrians access to the water.
- Create a variety of plaza spaces for various size groups to gather for viewing the waterfront, educational sessions, weddings, family picnics, etc. Add shade trees and shade structures.





Central Building/Plaza

- Renovate existing building
- Provide shade structure on building's south side
- Provide satellite snack bar
- Convert storage space for bike rentals
- Replace plaza pavement, add trellis structure, benches, picnic tables
- Add shade trees and landscaping with seasonal interest

Sports Fields

- Add stone base to increase infiltration and improve drainage
- Add fill and topsoil to crown fields and create positive drainage off the fields
- Remove Little League outfield fence to facilitate maximum use of park center lawn areas for unstructured play including kite flying, Frisbee throwing, etc.
- Provide subtle landforms/berms and landscaping to separate active playing fields from parking, plaza and playground areas
- Provide landscaped/screened space within the boat trailer parking area for seasonal storage of sports equipment
- Provide ADA accessible bleachers with shade structures or shade trees
- Incorporate new field dedication signage into plaza/walk

Visitor's Dock and Launch Ramp

- Replace all ramps with concrete plank system. Extend boat ramp length to accommodate extreme low tides.
- Remove excess frequently flooded pavement adjacent to the waterfront, allow high tides to inundate area. Enhance shoreline habitat.
- Reconfigure boat ramp circulation and parking to improve function and ease of parking. Create one way circulation and diagonal vehicle boat trailer overflow parking.
- Provide new "Visitor's Dock" signage with improved visibility.
- Provide commercial fishing boat landing space.

Harbor Boating Center

- Remove temporary boating center building and replace with year-round Harbor Center Building.
- Provide "tower" structure to allow views of the harbor from above.
- Provide visitor's dock comfort facilities
- Provide educational component, charters, and snack bar

Park Ranger – Security Station

- Renovate existing visitor's center comfort station building to a Park Ranger/Security Station/Friends of Veterans Park signature gateway building
- Create welcoming image from all four sides
- Create opening in stone wall at street intersection for direct pedestrian access
- Improve pedestrian circulation to and around the building, making it an integral part of the park
- Add shade and ornamental trees and landscaping with seasonal interest

Washington Street Terrace and Environmental Boardwalk

- Provide pedestrian access into the park at the park's highest point, Elev. 14+/- adjacent to the Stroffolino Bridge to encourage visitors from SoNo.
- Provide terraced sitting walls, landings and steps for multi-use gatherings and waterfront viewing
- Provide pier/boardwalk, ramps and floating dock access under the Stroffolino Bridge to connect to the Norwalk River Valley Trail-Harbor Loop Trail
- Enhance shoreline habitat
- Provide environmental education and directional signage



Harbor Pier/Public Landing and Marina West

- Provide harbor pier with viewing/fishing platform and small boat floating public landing dock to provide access to and from the Norwalk Harbor.
- Provide marina west pier and floating docks to provide slips for boats greater than 20' (confirm market/need).
- Provide drop-off area for both piers
- Connect multi-use path to pier access plazas
- Provide parking for marina slips

The close proximity of the intertidal flats to the channel line suggests that there is little water depth available outside the channel that could be developed for boat docking or mooring. Dredging is not likely to be considered favorably by the Shellfish Commission, the CT DEEP Office of Long Island Sound Programs or the US Army Corps of Engineers due to the sensitivity of the coastal resources. However, it might be practical to develop a public landing/fishing platform adjacent to the Federal Channel Boundary, just beyond the limit of the intertidal flats that might also provide for small boat/dinghy access. Any such design would include a pile-supported access pier across the intertidal flats that would minimize direct impacts and shading, and floats with limited freeboard to facilitate boarding

and exiting small boats. One advantage of such a facility would be the separation of trailer-launch and small boat facilities to minimize conflicts and increase overall capacity/water dependent opportunities. Historically, the Norwalk River navigation channel had been 150 feet wide in the vicinity of Veterans Park; sometime in the 1900s it was widened to 250 feet. One option for increasing the number of boat slips or mooring space adjacent to the park would be decommissioning a portion of the federal navigation channel, decreasing its width to 200 feet and increasing the separation between the channel and the intertidal flats. This additional area could accommodate vessels without encroaching upon the flats. This would also allow for additional fingers to be added to the visitors dock to accommodate vessels larger than 30 feet. The decommissioning process can be lengthy and challenging, since it ultimately requires an Act of Congress. However, by engaging all local stakeholders and gaining endorsements from the Shellfish Commission, Harbor Commission and local legislators, it is possible.

A phased development might be undertaken as follows:

Construct a pile-supported pier above the intertidal flat extending out to the channel. Construct a viewing/fishing platform at the end of the pier. Install low-freeboard floats just outside the navigation channel with an access ramp from the viewing platform. These floats would serve as a public landing/dinghy dock. Draft a proposal to abandon a portion of the federal navigation channel. Circulate it locally for consideration by stakeholders and commissions. Once consensus has been achieved on an abandonment, work with the local Member of Congress and Senators to incorporate the necessary language into an appropriate piece of legislation; typically, this would be the Water Resources bill or similar legislation related to the US Army Corps. Once the abandonment has been accomplished, modify or extend the floats and add finger floats to provide vessel slips in addition to small boat facilities. At this point, a second access pier could be added for access to a new marina to provide for 20-30' boats.

As initial steps toward developing the waterfront, the following is recommended:

- Obtain a hydrographic survey of the waterfront and adjacent channel to better define the extent of the intertidal flats.
- Evaluate the intertidal flats and wetlands for functionality and value.
- Begin discussions with local stakeholders and commissions regarding the possibility of a partial channel abandonment (narrowing).

Waterfront Plaza

- Create raised berm with terraced sitting walls, landings and steps for multi-use gatherings, waterfront viewing, educational sessions, weddings, etc.
- Provide pavilions for shelter, picnicking and rentals



Water Feature

- Provide interactive multi-functional sculptural/ architectural and child's waterplay feature at terminus of Veterans Walk.



Volleyball and Basketball

- The existing basketball courts are underutilized and a non water-dependent use located in a heavily used water-dependent portion of the park. Remove two existing basketball courts to provide improved access and circulation adjacent to the Harbor Boating Center. Consider incorporating a half basketball court into the Adventure Playground area to provide a non-organized court play.
- Provide "beachside" volleyball courts

Pier Point

- Provide pier with shade structure and floating docks to provide access to and from the East Norwalk Basin.
- Provide wave attenuators to protect Marina East from wave action
- Provide drop-off area to accommodate pier point and marina east pier
- Connect multi-use path to pier access plazas
- Provide floating dock for small boat rentals
- Provide floating dock for commercial fishing
- Provide boat rental ticket booth



Marina East and Comfort Station

- Integrate marina building into a separate marina use area
- Create drop-off areas adjacent to the two marina access piers
- Renovate existing building
- Create welcoming image from all four sides
- Create new marina parking area separated from the waterfront by green space, multi-use path and picnic groves
- Provide picnic tables, benches, trash receptacles and educational signage
- Provide shade structures and shade trees
- Add landscaping with seasonal interest
- Add stable floating finger piers and piles
- Extend northern floating dock, add finger piers and piles (confirm fit)
- Remove flood lights and add full-cutoff lighting to piers and docks



Small Boat Access Ramp

- Provide placed stone step/ramp system to provide pedestrian launching of canoes and kayaks into the East Norwalk Basin
- Provide small boat storage racks



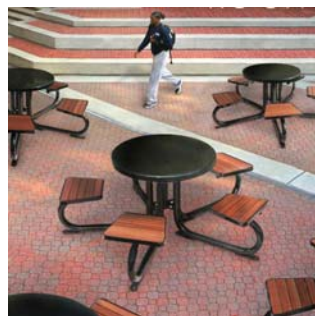
Waterfront Adventure Playground

- Expand the existing nautical playground and provide a unique waterfront seascape adventure playground that promotes creativity and interactive play.



Park Furniture

- Provide unified family of low maintenance park furnishings including bench, trash, lighting, picnic table, grill, drinking fountain, bike rack, signage, bollard, guiderail, and gates.



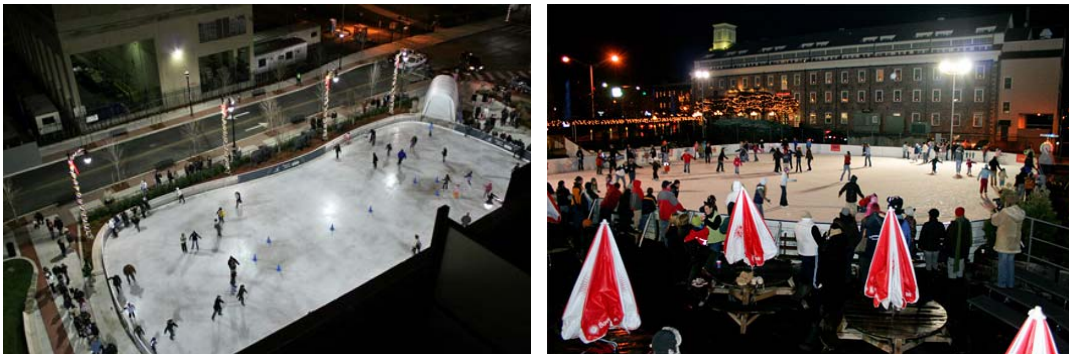
Oyster Festival/Cultural Events

- Provide multi-use lawn and pavement areas which are suitable for hosting a variety of event types and sizes, including the Oyster Festival, the largest programmed park user.
- Utilize Seaview Avenue for bus drop-off and pick-up, freeing paved areas for high impact festival uses.

- Utilize potential for single gate pedestrian access to festivals by entering the park at the Veteran's Gateway Plaza
- Proposed streetscape improvements such as decorative pavement, lighting, crosswalks, attractive bus shelters, and NRVT bike lanes will encourage users and residents to walk and bike to the park
- Pavement/circulation patterns allow for service trucks and emergency vehicles throughout the park
- New underground utilities, such as water and electric services, shall be provided to locations determined to need those facilities during events
- Event volunteers shall utilize parking facilities in SoNo to open pavement areas for high impact uses
- Provide wide, multi-use perimeter path which can be utilized by service vehicles
- addition of fill, grading and drainage improvements improve usability of fields and waterfront areas
- high compact pedestrian circulation routes shall be located on paved areas or at edges of lawn areas, not across active recreational fields

Ice Rink

- Provide seasonal, refrigerated ice rink located in the overflow boat trailer parking area, with access to the visitor's comfort station restrooms.



Flooding

In order to inform the site perimeter treatment and grading process, tide information for 2011 from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) were considered. High tide observations from the Bridgeport Harbor tide station were reviewed and it was determined that nearly 99 percent of all observed high tides rose to elevation 5.5 or lower (approximately the elevation of the existing perimeter path). Three tide events exceeded elevation 6, and a single high tide on August 28, 2011 (associated with Tropical Storm Irene) reached elevation 8.19.

The 2012 NOAA tide predictions for South Norwalk were also considered. The highest tide is predicted to reach elevation 5.36 on May 7, 2012. 98 percent of all predicted tides will rise to elevation 5.25 or lower.

On the basis of this analysis, it is recommended that the perimeter walkway be installed at an elevation of 6.5 or greater to minimize the risk of overtopping by predicted high tides and some storm activity, but it will not prevent overtopping by

high tides arriving in conjunction with severe storms, strong wave action or storm surges.

Geese

- Plant shoreline with native shrubs to discourage direct access from water to parkland
- Plant shade trees throughout the park to reduce large open grass areas
- Increase use of the park

Hunting

- Seek closure of Veterans Park for waterfowl hunting through the State of Connecticut DEEP due to safety concerns with the increased year round use of the park.

Soils/Environmental

Prior to completing a detailed Site Plan for park improvements, an environmental investigation should be performed. The purpose of this investigation is to characterize the nature, degree and extent (vertical and horizontal) of imported fill at the site. This would include a Site Characterization Program which includes soil borings completed at depths surpassing the vertical extent of the fill layer, if possible. In addition, soil samples would be containerized and sent to a State-certified laboratory for analysis for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), petroleum hydrocarbons, cyanide, metals (total & toxicity characteristic leaching procedure TCLP), corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity and conductivity. A comprehensive report would detail the findings of the site characterization investigation and results of limited hazardous materials testing. The report would include an evaluation of all data obtained through testing, including a comparison to the Remediation Standard Regulations (RSRs) and a conclusion on the absence or presence of contaminations within each area of concern.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

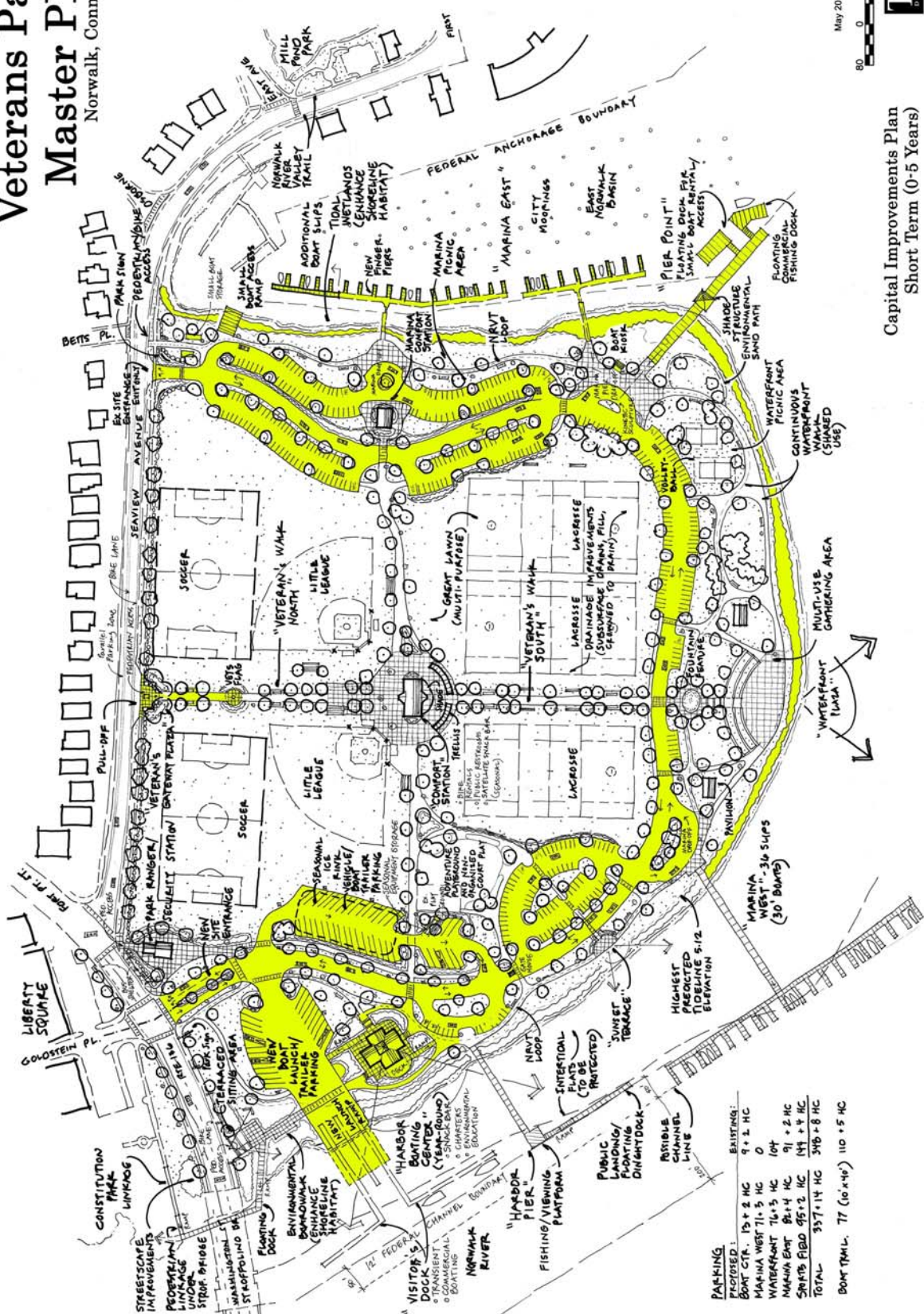
The following estimates of probable costs are based upon the Master Plan which should be utilized for planning purposes only. The Capital Improvement Plan Estimate includes the recommended park improvements projected over a 15 year timeframe broken down into short (1-5 years), mid (6-9 years) and long (10-15 years) terms. The total estimated Master Plan costs are approximately 17.5 million dollars, including construction document design fees, wetland flagging, testing, survey, etc.

A. Short Term Improvements

The Short Term (1-5 years) proposed improvements include the Harbor Boating Center, boat ramp, Pier Point, Marina East Improvements, small boat ramp, Veterans Gateway Plaza, roads and parking, lighting at boat trailer parking areas, water and electric expansion, shoreline habitat planting, and landscaping.

Veterans Park Master Plan

Norwalk, Connecticut



May 2012

Scale: 0, 80, 160 feet

TPA
DESIGN GROUP

Capital Improvements Plan
Short Term (0-5 Years)

PARKING

EXISTING:	PROPOSED:
BOAT CTR. 15 + 2 HC	9 + 1 HC
MARINA WEST 71 + 5 HC	0
WATERFRONT 10 + 5 HC	104
MARINA EAST 84 + 4 HC	91 + 2 HC
SPORTS FIELD 95 + 2 HC	144 + 4 HC
TOTAL 357 + 14 HC	348 + 8 HC
BOAT TRAIL 77 (10 x 40)	110 + 5 HC

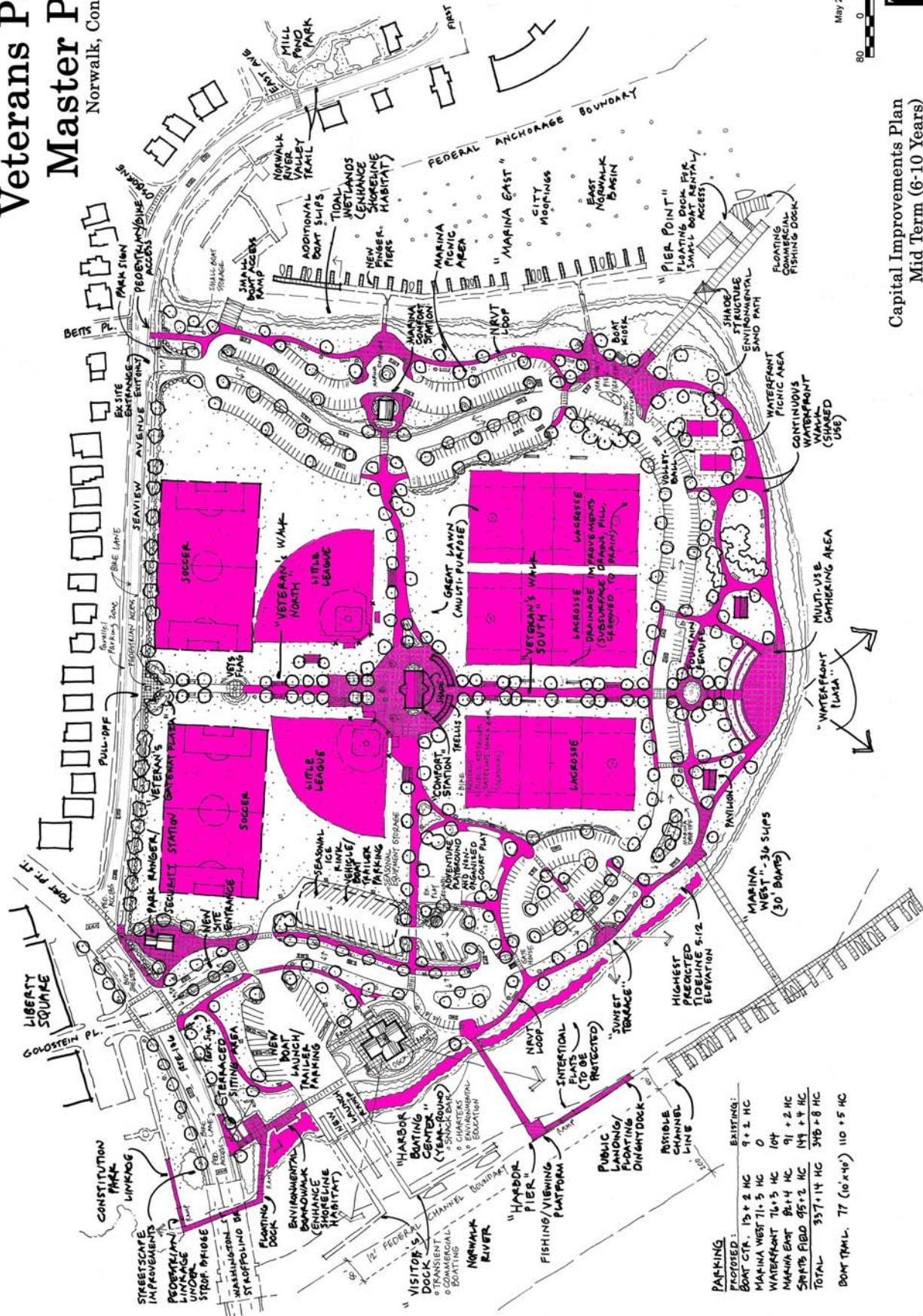
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS					TPA Design Group	
PROJECT: VETERANS PARK MASTER PLAN SHORT TERM (YEAR 1-5)						
ITEM NO.	ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT	
1	PIER POINT	1	L.S.	\$800,000.00	\$800,000.00	
2	BOAT RENTAL TICKET BOOTH	1	L.S.	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
3	MARINA EAST EXPAN. & IMPROVEMENTS	1	L.S.	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00	
4	SMALL BOAT RAMP W/ STORAGE RACKS	1	L.S.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
5	VETER. GATEWAY PLAZA-WALK TO FLAG	1	L.S.	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00	
6	NEW BOAT RAMP	9,600	S.F.	\$75.00	\$720,000.00	
7	REMOVE ROADS AND PARKING	43,000	S.Y.	\$4.00	\$172,000.00	
8	BORROW AND PLACE FILL (ROADS/PKG)	12,000	C.Y.	\$16.00	\$192,000.00	
9	BITUMINOUS ROADS AND PARKING	34,000	S.Y.	\$30.00	\$1,020,000.00	
10	DECORATIVE CROSSWALKS	5,000	S.F.	\$10.00	\$50,000.00	
11	NEW BOATING CENTER (YR ROUND,DECKS)	4,500	S.F.	\$350.00	\$1,575,000.00	
12	PARKING LOT LIGHTS AT BOAT.CTR. AREA	24	EA.	\$4,500.00	\$108,000.00	
13	REMOVE AND REBUILD STONE WALLS	1,020	F.F.	\$50.00	\$51,000.00	
14	ELECTRIC SERVICE EXPANSION	1	L.S.	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
15	WATER SERVICE EXPANSION	1	L.S.	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00	
16	STORM DRAINAGE (MIN. STRUCTURES)	1	L.S.	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
17	SEEDED LAWN WITH TOPSOIL	300,000	S.F.	\$1.00	\$300,000.00	
18	SHORELINE HABITAT PLANTING	1	L.S.	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
19	LANDSCAPING	1	L.S.	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	
					\$5,978,000.00	
	CONTINGENCY (15%)				\$896,700.00	
	TOTAL				\$6,874,700.00	
	Estimated consulting fees, wetland flagging, testing, survey, etc. (10%)				\$687,470.00	
	GRAND TOTAL				\$7,562,170.00	

B. Mid Term Improvements

The Mid Term (6-10 years) proposed improvements include the Harbor Pier, Little League, soccer and lacrosse fields, sidewalks, Waterfront Plaza, Washington Street terrace/steps, environmental boardwalk, comfort station/shade structure improvements, memorials, signage, pedestrian lights, pavilions, volleyball courts, shoreline habitat planting, and landscaping.

Veterans Park Master Plan

Norwalk, Connecticut



Capital Improvements Plan
Mid Term (6-10 Years)

PARKING

	EXISTING
BOAT CTR.	9 + 2 HC
MARINA WEST	0
MARINA EAST	104
SRMB FIBD	91 + 2 HC
TOTAL	194 + 2 HC
BOAT TRAIL	110 + 5 HC

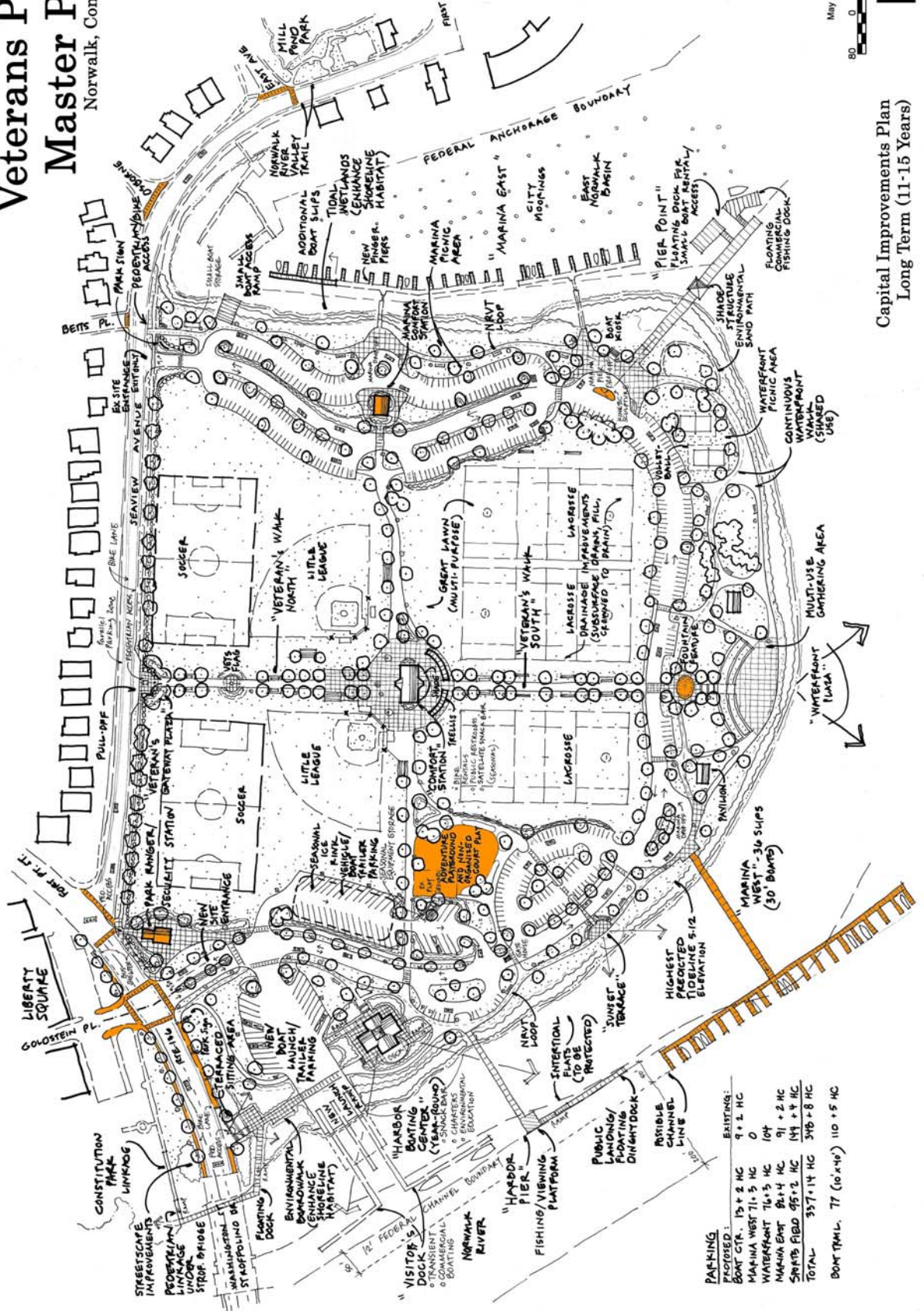
ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS					TPA Design Group	
PROJECT: VETERANS PARK MASTER PLAN MID TERM (YEAR 6-10)						
ITEM NO.	ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT	
1	HARBOR PIER	1	L.S.	\$320,000.00	\$320,000.00	
2	LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	1	L.S.	\$360,000.00	\$360,000.00	
3	SOCCER FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	1	L.S.	\$410,000.00	\$410,000.00	
4	LACROSSE FIELDS (RELOC & IMPROV.S)	1	L.S.	\$540,000.00	\$540,000.00	
5	DECORATIVE CONCRETE WALKS	45,000	S.F.	\$14.00	\$630,000.00	
6	CONCRETE WALKS	140,000	S.F.	\$8.00	\$1,120,000.00	
7	WATERFRONT PLAZA	1	L.S.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	
8	WASHINGTON ST. TERRACE/STEPS	1	L.S.	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
9	ENVIRON. BOARDWALK/DOCK	1	L.S.	\$280,000.00	\$280,000.00	
10	GATE HOUSE	1	L.S.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
11	CENTRAL BUILDING RENOV/SHADE STRUCT.	2,600	S.F.	\$200.00	\$520,000.00	
12	TRELLIS	1	L.S.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
13	RELOCATE MEMORIALS	1	L.S.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
14	SIGNAGE	1	L.S.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	
15	TIMBER GUIDERAIL	2,000	L.F.	\$30.00	\$60,000.00	
16	VEHICLE GATE	1	L.S.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	
17	ORNAMENTAL PEDESTRIAN LIGHTS	80	EA.	\$4,000.00	\$320,000.00	
18	LITTLE LEAGUE BLEACHERS (ADA)	4	EA.	\$18,000.00	\$72,000.00	
19	PAVILION (24'X36')	2	EA.	\$100,000.00	\$200,000.00	
20	BIKE RACKS	10	EA.	\$1,500.00	\$15,000.00	
21	PICNIC TABLES	24	EA.	\$1,000.00	\$24,000.00	
22	VOLLEYBALL	2	EA.	\$3,000.00	\$6,000.00	
23	SEEDED LAWN WITH TOPSOIL	300,000	S.F.	\$1.00	\$300,000.00	
24	SHORELINE HABITAT PLANTING	1	L.S.	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	
25	LANDSCAPING	1	L.S.	\$20,000.00	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	
					\$5,447,000.00	
	CONTINGENCY (15%)				<u>\$817,050.00</u>	
	TOTAL				\$6,264,050.00	
	Estimated consulting fees, wetland flagging, testing, survey, etc. (10%)				<u>\$626,405.00</u>	
	GRAND TOTAL				\$6,890,455.00	

C. Long Term Improvements

The Long Term (11-15 years) proposed improvements include the renovation of the existing boating center comfort station to security/park ranger/Friends of Veterans Park facility, Marina East comfort station renovation, adventure playground, interactive fountain, Marina West, kinetic sculpture/public art, and landscaping. The streetscape improvements along Washington Street and Seaview Avenue could be done at any phase but are not direct park improvements therefore estimated separately and indicated in the Long Term Phase.

Veterans Park Master Plan

Norwalk, Connecticut



May 2012



Capital Improvements Plan
Long Term (11-15 Years)

PARKING

EXISTING:	PROPOSED:
BOAT CTR. 9 + 2 HC	13 + 2 HC
MARINA WEST 0	71 + 5 HC
WATERFRONT 104	76 + 5 HC
MARINA EAST 91 + 2 HC	81 + 4 HC
SPORTS FIELD 144 + 4 HC	95 + 2 HC
TOTAL 357 + 14 HC	357 + 14 HC

BOAT TRAIL 77 (10 x 10) 110 + 5 HC

ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COSTS					TPA Design Group	
PROJECT: VETERANS PARK MASTER PLAN LONG TERM (YEAR 11-15)						
ITEM NO.	ITEM	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT	
1	RENOVATE EX BOAT CTR TO SECURITY/RAN	1,200	S.F.	\$200.00	\$240,000.00	
2	MARINA EAST COMFORT STA RENOVATION	1,100	S.F.	\$200.00	\$220,000.00	
3	ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND	1	L.S.	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	
4	INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN	1	L.S.	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	
5	MARINA WEST	1	L.S.	\$900,000.00	\$900,000.00	
6	HARBOR PIER SLIP EXPANSION	1	L.S.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	
7	KINETIC SCULPTURE/PUBLIC ART	1	L.S.	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	
8	LANDSCAPING	1	L.S.	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	
9	BIKE RACK	5	EA.	\$1,500.00	\$7,500.00	
					\$2,167,500.00	
	CONTINGENCY (15%)				\$325,125.00	
	TOTAL				\$2,492,625.00	
	Estimated consulting fees, wetland flagging, testing, survey, etc. (10%)				\$249,262.50	
	GRAND TOTAL				\$2,741,887.50	
	STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS	1	L.S.	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	
	CONTINGENCY (15%)				\$37,500.00	
	TOTAL				\$287,500.00	
	Estimated consulting fees, survey, etc. (10%)				\$28,750.00	
	STREETSCAPE GRAND TOTAL				\$316,250.00	

VI. MASTER PLAN PROGRAMS AND REVENUE

Based on the Master Plan, the following programs were generated by the planning team with estimated revenue provided by Michael Moccia:

1. Gate Entrance Fees	\$75,000
2. Visitors Dock Slip Fees/Boat Launch Fees	\$150,000
3. Harbor Center Building	
Snack Bar	\$25,000
Educational/Room Rental	\$30,000
Charters/Island Tours	\$20,000
4. Seasonal Outdoor Ice Rink	\$50,000
5. Marina East/West Slips @ \$42/foot	\$50,000
6. Pavilion Rental	\$45,000
7. Center Building	
Bike Rental	\$10,000
Satellite Snack Bar	\$20,000
8. Small Boat Rentals	\$10,000
9. Small Boat Storage Rack Rental	\$10,000
10. Waterfront Plaza Rental	
acoustic sets/yoga classes/weddings	\$25,000
11. Ballfield User Fees	\$10,000
12. Corporate Sponsored Treasure Hunt	\$50,000
13. Farmer's Market	\$5,000
14. Fishing (Fisherman Floating Dock)	\$5,000
15. Festivals/Events Fee	
Road races, walks, bicycle rides, polar plunge, car shows	\$20,000
	<u>Approximate revenue: \$610,000</u>

VII. APPENDIX

A. **NRPA Standards and Guidelines**

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration

Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines 1996

The 1983 guide by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, provided strategies for calculating the acreage needs of municipal park systems. The 1983 guidelines suggested a municipal park system include 6.25 to 10.5 acres of land per 1,000 people.

The most recent publication by the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration titled Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines was produced in 1996. The new title without the word "standards" is indicative in the shift of looking at open space. The more recent publication shifted its philosophy to provide guidance only, ultimately allowing the amount of park, recreation, and open space to be defined by individual communities. The 1996 publication emphasizes a systems approach to park, recreation, open space, and greenway planning that focuses on local values and needs rather than strict formulas.

One of the primary differences between the 83 and 96 documents was more emphasis on Open Space as an entirely separate type of park space. Earlier versions of the standards addressed parks as open space. There were also additional classifications included that accounted for jurisdictional differences (mini-parks, urban and athletic facility parks). It became apparent that for many communities the neighborhood park planning model was not adequate. The "10 per 1,000 acres" had originally indicated a total system standard that was easy to calculate. That is the jurisdiction acreage divided by the population should equal 10 per 1,000 acres. The fact that many densely populated, built-out communities only had 1 per 1,000 acres or many had well in excess of 30 per 1,000 acres created the move to shift from a standard to a guideline.

To my knowledge there is no official policy statement or other statement that acknowledges this shift.

Bill Beckner
Research Manager
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Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recognize the importance of establishing and using park and recreation standards as:

- 🌐 A national expression of minimum acceptable facilities for the citizens of urban and rural communities.
- 🌐 A guideline to determine land requirements for various kinds of park and recreation areas and facilities.
- 🌐 A basis for relating recreational needs to spatial analysis within a community-wide system of parks and open space areas.
- 🌐 One of the major structuring elements that can be used to guide and assist regional development.
- 🌐 A means to justify the need for parks and open space within the overall land-use pattern of a region or community.

The purpose of these guidelines is to present park and recreation space standards that are applicable nationwide for planning, acquisition, and development of park, recreation, and open space lands, primarily at the community level. These standards should be viewed as a guide. They address minimum, not maximum, goals to be achieved. The standards are interpreted according to the particular situation to which they are applied and specific local needs. A variety of standards have been developed by professional and trade associations which are used throughout the country. The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within metropolitan areas was the expression of acres of park land per unit of population. Over time, the figure of 10 acres per 1,000 population came to be the commonly accepted standard used by a majority of communities. Other standards adopted include the "percent of area" approach, needs determined by user characteristics and participation projections, and area use based on the carrying capacity of the land. The fact that some of the standards have changed substantially is not an indication of their obsolescence. Changes are a measure of the growing awareness and understanding of both participant and resource (land, water, etc.) limitations. Parks are for people. Park, recreation, and planning professionals must integrate the art and science of park management in order to balance such park and open space resource values as water supply, air quality

ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
Badminton	1620 sq. ft.	Singles – 17'x44' Doubles – 20'x44'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ -1/2 mile	Usually in school, recreation center or church facility. Safe walking or bike access.
Basketball	2400-3036 sq. ft.	46-50'x84'	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as badminton. Outdoor courts in neighborhood and community parks, plus active recreation areas in other park settings.
1. Youth	5040-7280 sq. ft.	50'x84'				
2. High School	5600-7980 sq. ft.	50'x94'				
3. Collegiate		with 5'				

		unobstructed space on all sides				
Handball (3-4 wall)	800 sq. ft. for 4-wall 1000 for 3-wall	20'x40' – Minimum of 10' to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20' overhead clearance	Long axis north-south. Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoor as part of multi-purpose facility. 3-wall usually outdoor in park or school setting
Ice Hockey	22,000 sq. ft. including support area	Rink 85'x200' (minimum 85'x185') Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor – 1 per 100,000 Outdoor – depends on climate	½ - 1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affecting no. of units. Best as part of multi-purpose facility.
Tennis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court (2 acres for complex)	36'x78'. 12' clearance on both sides; 21' clearance on both ends.	Long axis north – south	1 court per 2000	¼-1/2 mile	Best in batteries of 2-4. Located in neighborhood/community park or adjacent to school
Volleyball	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30'X60'. Minimum 6' clearance on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼ - ½ mile	Same as other court activities (e.g. badminton)
Baseball 1. Official 2. Little League	3.0-3.85 A minimum 1.2 A minimum	Baselines – 90' Pitching distance 60 ½' foul lines – min. 320' Center field – 400'+ Baselines – 60' Pitching distance – 46' Foul lines – 200' Center field – 200' – 250'	Locate home plate to pitcher throwing across sun and batter not facing it. Line from home plate through pitchers mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000 Lighted 1 per 30,000	¼ - ½ mile	Part of neighborhood complex. Lighted fields part of community complex.
Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5 A	180' x 300' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Fall season – long axis northwest to southwest. For longer periods north-south	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of baseball, football, soccer complex in community park or adjacent to high school.
Football	Minimum 1.5 A	160' x 360' with a minimum of 6' clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Same as field hockey.
Soccer	1.7 – 2.1 A	195' to 225'x330' to 360' with a minimum 10' clearance all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units depends on popularity. Youth soccer on smaller fields adjacent to schools or neighborhood parks.
Golf-driving Range	13.5 A for minimum of 25 tees	900'x690' wide. Add 12' width for each additional tee.	Long axis southwest-northeast with golfer driving toward northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time.	Part of a golf course complex. As separate unit may be privately owned.
¼ Mile Running Track	4.3 A	Overall width – 276' Length – 600.02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to northwest-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community park complex in combination with football, soccer, etc.

Softball	1.5 to 2.0 A	Baselines – 60' Pitching distance- 46' min. 40' women. Fast pitch field Radius from Plate – 225' Between foul Lines. Slow Pitch – 275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	¼ - ½ mile	Slight differences in dimensions for 16" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (basketball, volleyball, tennis)	9, 840 sq. ft.	120' x 80'	Long axis of courts with <i>primary</i> use is north-south	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum average grade is 5% not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails – 40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails – 90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	
Archery Range	Minimum 0.65 A	300' Length x Minimum 10' wide between targets. Roped clear space on sides of range minimum 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90'x45' with bunker.	Archer facing north = or – 45 degrees.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional or metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 Stations)	Minimum 30 A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 130' wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area is contained within 2 superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within 2 superimposed	Center line of length runs northeast-southwest with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of regional/metro park complex

		segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).				
Golf	50-60 A	Average length vary 600-2700 yd.	Majority of holes on north-south axis	--	½ to 1 hour travel time	9 hole course can accommodate 350 people/day.
1. Par 3 (18 hole)						
2. 9-hole standard	Minimum 50 A	Average length – 2250 yards		1/25,000		18 hole course can accommodate 500-550 people/day.
3. 18-hole standard	Minimum 110 A	Average length 6500 yards		1/50,000		Course may be located in community or district park, but should not be over 20 miles from population center.
Swimming Pools	Varies on size of pool and amenities. Usually ½ to 2 A site.	<i>Teaching</i> -minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 ft. <i>Competitive</i> – minimum of 25 m x 16 m. Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimmer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accommodate 3 to 5% of total population at a time.)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	Pools for general community use should be planned for teaching, competitive and recreational purposes with enough depth (3.4m) to accommodate 1m and 3m diving boards. Located in community park or school site.
Beach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft. of land and 50 sq. ft. of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4 A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bottom with slope maximum of 5 % (flat preferable). Boating areas completely segregated from swimming areas.

Reference: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

B. Community Survey Results

**Veterans Park Master Plan Community Survey Results
Percentages are based on 151 Responses**

Question #

1	How often did you use Veteran's Park during the past year?	
	26.49%	Seldom (1-3 Times a Year)
	19.87%	Occasionally (4-12 Times a Year)
	27.81%	Regularly (13-24 Times a Year)
	25.83%	Frequently (More Than 24 Times a Year)
	0.00%	No Response Given
2	How long do you stay at Veteran's Park?	
	22.52%	Less Than 1 Hour
	46.36%	1-2 Hours
	21.19%	3-4 Hours
	9.93%	Over 4 Hours
	0.00%	No Response Given
3	How do you travel to the park?	
	21.19%	Walk
	5.30%	Bike
	73.51%	Drive
	0.00%	Public Transit / Bus
	0.00%	No Response Given
4	Are you an active or passive user of the park?	
	52.32%	Active (Ballfields, Playground, Boating)
	47.02%	Passive (Trails, Picnic)
	0.66%	No Response Given

Question 5

% of Participants	Total	# of Responses Per Number					What facilities do you use? (Please rank each facility 1-5 using 1 as the most important)
		1	2	3	4	5	
27.81%	42	11	4	3	1	23	Dunavan Boating Center
37.75%	57	23	10	4	3	17	City Boat Launch
24.50%	37	7	4	2	3	21	Boating Center Comfort Station
35.76%	54	18	7	7	4	18	Visitor's Dock
25.83%	39	9	2	4	2	22	City Marina Slips
24.50%	37	7	8	3	1	18	Marina Comfort Station
24.50%	37	9	2	2	2	22	City Marina Moorings
48.34%	73	18	17	13	5	20	Central Bathrooms
28.48%	43	6	4	9	5	19	Basketball Courts
56.95%	86	50	7	8	1	20	Little League Fields
32.45%	49	10	10	5	5	19	Soccer Fields
28.48%	43	12	4	6	2	19	Lacrosse Fields
40.40%	61	17	12	9	9	14	Playground Equipment
31.13%	47	13	5	8	5	16	View Sculpture
59.60%	90	44	17	14	4	11	Waterfront Walking Paths
32.45%	49	14	7	13	7	8	View Memorials
66.23%	100	46	14	14	11	15	Observe Waterfront Views
29.14%	44	14	3	6	2	19	Fishing
53.64%	81	32	11	19	6	13	Benches or Lawn for Relaxation
21.85%	33	13	2	2	4	12	Other

Question 6

% of Participants	Total	# of Responses Per Number					What physical improvements would you like in the park? (Please rank each facility 1-5 using 1 as the most important)
		1	2	3	4	5	
46.36%	70	33	6	14	3	14	Bike Access, Paths and Racks
46.36%	70	30	10	14	4	12	Extended Walkways
29.14%	44	9	1	8	5	21	Directional Signs
45.03%	68	31	5	13	6	13	Lighting of Paths
35.10%	53	13	9	9	3	19	Park Shelters and Pavilions
41.06%	62	28	7	5	4	18	Lighting of Ballfields
35.10%	53	15	7	12	4	15	Picnic Areas / Grills
37.75%	57	24	7	9	4	13	Drinking Fountains
33.77%	51	13	7	8	5	18	Water Feature such as Fountain, Splash Pad
30.46%	46	10	9	7	2	18	Tennis Courts
31.13%	47	13	5	4	3	22	Expanded Marina for More and / or Larger Boats
25.17%	38	7	4	9	3	15	Volleyball Courts
30.46%	46	12	12	8	4	10	Aesthetic and Functional Improvements to all Buildings
26.49%	40	9	2	4	3	22	More Soccer Fields
31.79%	48	13	4	10	5	16	Shelter/Gazebo/Tent Space for Family Picnics / Reunions / Wedding Venues
23.84%	36	7	2	5	1	21	More Lacrosse Fields
31.79%	48	14	4	9	6	15	Waterfront platform for Multi-uses / Events
27.81%	42	5	3	3	5	26	More Basketball Courts
35.76%	54	13	8	11	5	17	Waterfront Café / Restaurant / Catering Facility
43.05%	65	32	4	7	4	18	More Little League Fields
32.45%	49	11	6	14	2	16	Kinetic or Interactive Sculpture Capitalizing on Wind Energy
43.71%	66	24	14	8	4	16	Concession Stand
29.14%	44	15	6	3	2	18	Synthetic Turf Field(s) for Year-Round Use
31.79%	48	17	4	10	6	11	Fishing Pier
29.80%	45	13	4	12	3	13	Historic Context Interpretive Signage / Plaques
39.07%	59	23	11	14	3	8	More Restrooms
31.13%	47	12	7	3	5	20	Interactive Miniature Golf Treasure Hunt Trail
35.10%	53	18	8	8	2	17	Adventure Playground
29.80%	45	10	7	5	8	15	Adventure Recreation Course Including Adults
39.07%	59	21	10	15	5	8	Fitness Trail
31.79%	48	13	6	8	9	12	Planting Beds for Seasonal Interest
34.44%	52	20	3	6	6	17	Ice Skating Rink
26.49%	40	7	4	2	2	25	Small Boat Storage Racks
39.07%	59	22	13	5	6	13	Shade Trees
29.14%	44	10	4	5	4	21	Small Boat Launch Areas
31.79%	48	13	8	6	4	17	Community Garden
39.74%	60	21	7	15	6	11	Environmental Boardwalk
13.91%	21	9	1	1	1	9	Other

7 What programs do you use?

46.36%	Norwalk Little League
5.30%	Norwalk Lacrosse Association
11.92%	Norwalk Junior Soccer Association
12.58%	Youth Camps
9.93%	Island Belle Paddle Wheel Cruises
72.85%	Oyster Festival
23.18%	Cultural Festivals
15.89%	Other

8 What programs not currently offered would you like to see added to our programming?

35.10%	Concessions
17.88%	Vending
12.58%	Tennis Center
9.27%	Marina Operations
7.28%	Boating Center Operations
31.79%	Restaurant - Café
11.92%	Wedding, Reunion, Picnic Venues
37.09%	Canoe, Kayak, Paddle Boat and Equipment Rentals
30.46%	Boat Tours, Sunset Cruises, Educational Trips
11.26%	Small Commercial Fishing / Charters
15.89%	Car Shows
23.18%	Road Races, Walks, Bicycle Rides, Polar Plunge
19.87%	Waterfront Yoga
37.09%	Waterfront Concerts
13.25%	Bike Rentals
27.81%	Nature and Environmental Programs
9.93%	Fishing Derby
11.26%	Boat Safety and Fishing Classes
40.40%	Seasonal Market
5.96%	Treasure Hunts
39.07%	Family Oriented Festivals / Cultural Events
3.97%	Other

9 Do you feel safe using the park?

61.59%	Yes
17.22%	No
20.53%	Indifferent
0.66%	No Response Given

10 If you do not feel safe using the park, Why?

6.62%	Park Equipment is Outdated
27.15%	Lack of Lighting
9.27%	Secluded
9.27%	Other

**11 To help us understand the connection between our demographics and our park, kindly complete the following:
Age of person completing the survey. Please select one.**

2.65%	18-29
13.25%	30-39
39.74%	40-49
26.49%	50-59
13.91%	60-69
2.65%	70+
1.32%	No Response Given

Presence and age of children in household

35.76%	Yes
33.11%	No
31.13%	No Response Given
19.87%	0-5 Years
29.14%	6-9 Years
31.13%	10-14 Years
17.88%	15-18 Years

(38 People commented on Question 12)

12. If you are a neighbor of Veteran’s Park, please provide comments or observations regarding the park.

- Should open up field to other events – music festivals, arts & crafts, etc.
- Can look very rundown. Don’t understand why I can’t walk my dog here.
- Please make sure it does not hurt the oyster festival. It is very important part of our maritime history and a great fundraiser for the not for profits and community with a very large economic impact to the area.
- I love the park. It’s beautiful but is lacking. I would love to rent foot paddle boats. My husband passed but he loved fishing and the only place we used to go in Norwalk was the Maritime Dock and that was not that safe. Parking stinks there.
- Potential for a great gathering place is lost. Charge out of town cars \$20 to park per day. Keep the dirt bags out of the park. There is a dangerous element that hangs out there.
- The concession was very much missed during baseball season, at times we were at the fields for 4 hours at a time with young children. VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!! – The bathrooms NEED to be open when baseball season starts – we went a month with no access to restrooms during games.
- It would be nice if the police could stop the group of intimidating men that hang around the parking lot drinking during the day. They are the main reason that my children are never allowed in the park alone at any time of the day. What is even worse is that they drive home after drinking openly in the parking lot for hours.
- Better connection to SONO, really would like to see outdoor dining restaurant here that is affordable and not Greek or Italian food!
- Noise!!! Lighting.
- Since 5 dollar parking was put in place you cannot find a space in Liberty Sq. Access is very dangerous.
- Having lived on Seaview Avenue for almost 36 years I have seen the park go through many changes. At one time it was dangerous with guns being fired on a regular basis. Putting up the gates and having police patrol have helped with the problem which is why I answered that I feel safe, now anyway. If you open the gates again, the same unsavory characters will return and we will deal with noise and violence every night again. Also, the park completely disappears when we have storms, high tides with a full moon, etc. the only planting that can survive that would be natural marsh, which is what it should have. I think the best use for the park is natural setting with walkways for people to enjoy the views.
- I was born and raised in Norwalk for 29 years, and I have spent mostly my childhood going to vets park, and they have change pretty much...but it would be nice to see for options to exercise and for children to play with.

Also I have my children playing in little league and it would be nice to see some water fountain and some more benches.

- It is very used times, but mostly underused and beautiful place so easy to get to as well.
- I have grandchildren who utilize the sports facilities. I live in Harbor View and do not support any new activities that cause loud music as we hear now from the Oyster Festival and that awful paddle boat that goes past us in the early hours past midnight.
- Quiet meaning absolutely no music of any kind allowed in the park except for the Oyster Festival. The shape of the harbor acts as a megaphone for all excessive noise. And music starts out as music but evolves into just noise after travelling a short distance. We pay a premium in taxes to enjoy the waterfronts of Norwalk, and the sound of nature is all we need. No hand of man. No new buildings and removal of underused buildings. Environmental enhancements all around the perimeter to attract more land and sea birds and ducks. The fishing pier is a great idea. I also love to watch the cricketers and soccer games. Remove the baseball field fences so there is more open space. Loved the kite-flying exhibitions and other events that used the open space when we moved here 30 years ago. Keep mans imprint to a very low profile so that nature can be enjoyed.
- Noise is always a factor. Avoid events and activities that create noise – especially in the evening.
- I am a harbor View resident who enjoys Veteran’s Park just the way it is. I do not believe anything should be built on this beautiful open space. Once open space is gone, it’s gone forever! Please leave it as is and let the Norwalk residents enjoy it for its intended use – organized field games, walking, bike riding, Oyster Festival and other similar types of gatherings. Do not destroy this incredible property!
- I live within one mile from Vets Park. The Park is a wonderful asset of Norwalk and I am grateful for the focus on this space. My first observation of the space is that it lacks practical design therefore, the giant amount of space loses its efficiency. Simple changes, like an architectural landscaping can raise the value space, while projecting a positive balance with our surroundings. I can’t help but think that Trees, planted in stages (so they don’t all die at one time when their lifetime is over) would be a gorgeous asset. Also my father is handicapped, this spring he was unable to see his grandchild play baseball because his car wasn’t allowed access to the baseball fields.
- I often see folks gathering in the parking lot by the boat slips, drinking beer and listening to music in their cars...both things I also enjoy doing, but not really appropriate for the park. I notice a lot of people ride their bikes on the sidewalk because they’re afraid of the folks speeding on Seaview Ave. even with the new striping, the speeds are constantly much higher than you’d like for a street fronting a park. There should be some exploration of traffic calming measures on the parks perimeter. Park visitors constantly use Seaview Ave resident street parking without penalty. The baseball fields are rarely, if ever, in use, while the soccer fields are in use every single day (even in the colder months). Too often, I see owners letting their dogs over the wall to run around in the park. Once of the reasons that I love this park is its lack of yapping lap dogs. I fervently hope that we keep this stance going forward.
- The litter in the park is constantly being monitored. On the east side would be nice to someday see an opening at the end of the sidewalk inside the park where it meets the front stone wall. People have to walk off sidewalk into lot and creep under iron gate to get to front sidewalk. Also would be nice to have benches cemented into ground like the benches at Calf along the front of park in between the maple trees, they had them there years ago and we pulled them out because of fatigue and worn out metal. The monitoring of the gates are very crucial and your guys are doing a great job keeping the park safe. At one time you remember before the gates were there the park was in despair due to many out of towners leaving their mess and breaking glass bottles. I can see the difference now having the park gates erected it a great sense of authority to have personnel there.
- I don’t go to Vets park regularly, but I do drive by frequently and really enjoy seeing the sports activities in progress. I think the Oyster Festival benefits Norwalk’s reputation, and provides a way for many non-profits to make money. I am vehemently opposed to a structure to host outdoor concerts on a regular basis: the music carries right down the harbor and annoys me and my neighbors in HV where we enjoy peace and quiet. I’ve never heard any neighbor of Vet’s Park think live music on a regular basis is a good idea: too loud!!!!!! I am in favor of enhancing what’s there now and encouraging day-to-day uses, such as jogging paths, benches, picnic tables, grills, a pier for fishing, more transient boat slips to encourage visitors to stop and walk over to Liberty Square or SoNo to enjoy the restaurants, shops & the Maritime Aquarium; more attractive year round landscaping. This would enhance the living/neighborhood experience of all the new residents in SoNo’s condos and apartments. I’m also opposed to putting in permanent structures such as miniature golf, since I like the open space. Maybe one section could be seasonally such as for bike rentals.

- Could be used better. A lot of people hanging out appearing to be drinking alcohol – so much space in the park, update to make it a destination. As far as food, we have 3-4 local concession type food stands in the area already. If anything I would like to see a more sit down restaurant rather than another concession which would hurt our other local concession types as well as saturate the market. I like the idea of a sit-down waterfront Café!
- My main complaint about Vets Park is the condition of the ball fields (and lacrosse fields?) which are unusable for days after even a little rain. That is really silly and should be fixed. Also, the space is too open, some more and bigger trees would enhance its look and feel, and gardens would also help.
- Veterans Park has been a fine water view open space ever since I biked to watch the remote control airplane flyers in the mid 60's. As a Yale grad in architecture, I can see no bigger mistake than to open the slippery slope of commercial development at the park. It will, over time, result in higher and denser manmade structures that have no business in Veterans Park.
- Do not allow commercial bus or motor coach parking in this park. They cause air and ground pollution and traffic; they do not belong in a residential area.
- Having the Norwalk Aquarium find another location within Norwalk to park their buses. The traffic congestion and the environmental pollution is unacceptable in this park. I find it unbelievable that with 2 miles of this park there is no available location in Norwalk other than this.
- Not being maintained. Walk every day in park, have seen medical waste on path.
- My only concern is noise and safety. Festivals have been very noisy. The fact that men get together there to drink is a huge safety issue.
- Parking tickets for parking in boat owner spaces because signs are turned the wrong way or broken, better warnings.
- Since allowing stickered cars only there has been no problem in using the park on the marina side. I feel safer.
- I wouldn't want it to get too congested with weddings, concessions, picnic tables, etc. The parking is limited and the neighborhood is not conducive to loud music on a consistent basis, or in the evening.
- I live right across on Seaview Ave, NO to commercialization, YES to recreation. The park during the working day, is quiet, perfect and serene. A joy to anyone who walks through it. The park on weekends and evenings is over utilized and cannot absorb any more people or activity. The park is ideal as it is, NO commercialization, just beautify it. If you want to make it more active, and OUTDOOR ice rink would be nice. Volleyball courts or tennis is not a bad idea. Also, on high tides the walkways around the edge of the park get polluted. Create a barrier to prevent this. Use trees and flowers and stone wall. Maintain the 90m curfew for safety and noise reduction. No events should spill into the night. No lights and no high towering structures (agreement with the city prohibits them, according to the deed!). I am against all festivals including Oyster Fest. The spring kite festivals are nice and capture the essence of the park. The city should champion a kite festival with the local churches and rent food tents. If successful do it with other family friendly events.
- It would be nice to connect SoNo to the waterfront better and Veteran's Park would be a great way to connect the two. Tennis, expanded docking for visitors, and farmers market/concerts would be excellent!
- This is a wonderful asset to the community and needs to foster the history and connection of Norwalk to the sea. This city was based on the efforts of the mariners, we need to remind those that think the only connection to the sea is the Maritime Center. This is a great location for fostering the trails and boat ramp area. Please do not commercialize this and create Coney Island on this treasured land. The surrounding community is willing to do far more to have a firm connection with the next stage of the park than the city thinks.
- The park facilities and grounds need to be updated and clean.
- I used to like cycling through the park for the water proximity and to get out of street traffic a bit. However often there were vagrants back near the water, lying around, drinking maybe... Even if I didn't feel immediately threatened it was decidedly unpleasant. I stopped riding in altogether when the eastern driveway in/out was permanently barricaded. (WHY?!) So I really comment a lot on what is there now.
- Noise control is a critical concern.
- Please do not expand the activities at Veteran's Park. The park is used for what it was intended for by the public. Thanks you Mark W. Bologna-Member East Norwalk Boating and Yacht Club.

(52 people commented on Question 13)

13. If you have other comments or questions, please note those below.

- Please be sure that the Norwalk Seaport Oyster Festival is part of the plan. It is an important part of Norwalk's history and activities.
- Please make sure these changes do not affect Oyster Festival – it's one of the best events the entire year!
- Who is / are responsible for including the choice "miniature golf" in the "What physical improvements would you like in the park" category above? They should be reassigned from the NRPD. There should be a separate category for "What physical blights would you like to see removed or prohibited from the park"; goose droppings and miniature golf should be the first two choices.
- This survey will produce distorted results due to the way it is structured and the answers it forces. For example, it asks nothing about what has been done that should be undone; under "other" there is no request or space for input on the other responses; I guess you cannot have a child as a household member over 18 – my children have never stopped being my children; it asks for almost no information on the most visible and important use of Veteran's Park; it asks for information on facilities most Norwalkers have never heard of like the Donovan Boating Center; it does not address heavy use of the park by people that do not reside in Norwalk. It does not ask what should be done at the Park.
- Oyster Festival is a vital part of Norwalk and surrounding towns and cities for families to enjoy a close of the summer event. Please consider the fact the Norwalk brings in revenue during the Oyster Festival to other businesses in the area as well.
- The Oyster Festival is very vital to the city and its residents. Just think how much revenue the festival brings to the city, and the amount of money it gives to the bands at Brien McMahon, and Norwalk, CT. Please make sure that the Norwalk Oyster Festival is included in the master plan.
- I feel if family members are coming to see the kids play ball they shouldn't have to pay to park for an hour. Also I have two family members who are not only veteran's of war but were injured in the war and can't walk far. Last year was a complete project to try to get them to see the games. I feel sense it is a Veteran's Park-Veteran's should be able to access the park.
- I love Norwalk I have been there sense 1998 and am raising two children on my own. I feel safe. ☺
- I didn't see anything on the survey about improving drainage at the park – a big problem that renders the playing fields unusable or extremely muddy on many occasions.
- My children have played for Norwalk Little League for 16+ years, and the building of the ball fields at Vets park was supposed to be a milestone for this league. Unfortunately the fields were built with an inadequate drainage system, which makes the fields unplayable. And it has been a nightmare for us to get the Parks and Rec department to come to the fields to help maintaining them and to try to make them playable after a rainfall. These kids have missed so many games these past few years it is unacceptable. They need to be FIXED. I have been at all the fields to watch my sons games and a few times the grass in the outfields were so long, that the parents got together to bring their personal lawn mowers to cut the grass. Do you think that is ok? I sure don't.
- Turf fields available for multi use.
- The baseball and lacrosse/soccer fields need to be re-graded to make the playable more often. It does not do any of the programs or the children and citizens of Norwalk any good to have all of those fields in a constant state of submersion. It will also be less attractive to the geese and their continual gifts if there is a dryer environment.
- The Little League fields can be upgraded with lighting to provide a state of the art facility that Norwalkers and the community-at-large can be proud of. In addition the food concession stand needs to come back and if Norwalk can't handle it then let the Norwalk Little League run the concession stand as a fundraiser/revenue producer for the City. Thank you for your time.
- The city needs to improve on the maintenance of the fields, most of the year they are not usable due to drainage problems. Vets park could be one of the best baseball facilities in Fairfield county if they would put some effort into it. I think they should let a outside contractor handle the fields.
- Don't forget the Oyster Festival!!!!
- More trees, less ball fields would be nice.

- I enjoy the park as it is – just open space where I can go on my lunch hour and enjoy the water view. I would be very unhappy if enhanced improvements were to result in a fee to use the park for city residents. Extended development of the park would result in my not using it during the work week.
- I love the Oyster Fest.
- Instead of lacrosse and soccer getting all the open space. Build a football field for NYF. NYF has 350 kids in the program, yet it is the only youth program that does not have its own field. McMahon and NHS are excellent facilities, but access to the fields are limited. Why not have a field NYF could use anytime they needed it.
- I am concerned in liabilities if part of the park were to be leased privately. If approved, the rumored 40 year lease is much too long and would prevent changing any unanticipated programs. I think the city could add successful amenities to the park to make it more family friendly. An example is Elizabeth park in West Hartford. It has a beautiful rose garden with a natural vine gazebo. It also has a symmetrical tulip garden which draws people from all over Connecticut in the spring. These types of amenities beautify and will attract weddings and other family oriented events.
- Do not feel safe due to sketchy individuals hanging out in the parking lots after dusk. Need to patrol area more often for the safety of our children. As a city who hosts home field baseball games, the conditions of our fields are horrible when it rains. Needs a better drainage system installed. The fields are closed more than open for play due to these conditions. Let's give the children of our city a place to play ball and keep them off the streets. Need a concession to serve at least beverages when sports are in season or install vending machines that are in working condition and re-stocked as needed.
- Two main priorities: Do whatever it takes to keep the little league fields in shape during the season, and yes, if possible, add another couple of fields. Second: Until last season the concession stand was open and did pretty good business. Not sure why it wasn't open this past season, but if by chance it had to do with the city charging the proprietor significantly more money than previously, it was short sighted. Get the concession stand back open, and even expanded if it's doable. It's invaluable during little league season especially, from April until June, and I'm sure it would do well during soccer, lacrosse, etc., as well.
- I have 2 young children and would like to see the park have more of a positive city presence so I feel more comfortable bringing my family there. Also, it should be kept cleaner, and don't let people creep around there in their loud cars looking sketchy. The improvements made to Calf Pasture were HUGE, and I thank the city for them!! But I feel there is a real wasted opportunity at Vet's, because it should be used to tie Sono and East Norwalk together into one incredible waterfront area! Add a strip of small, beachy, Shack-style, waterfront restaurants and shops (where you had the pirate exhibit at Oyster Fest this year) and a performance venue at Vets. Along with some new "boardwalk" style walking paths along the water and fishing platform/pier. It's such an open, beautiful, dramatic space right now, but it's bare and it needs some "New England Fishing Village" style brought into it. Norwalk is often looked down on by our neighbors to the east and west, but NONE of them have the quaint, waterfront commercial district like we have (Stamford is too big and Westport is all residential). Add the seaport and Sono, and it's the nicest waterfront commercial district in CT. Let's start acting like it!! Thanks.
- Volleyball courts are unsafe and need a major clean up. Courts are used 3 nights a week for leagues and definitely during weekends. The city gets \$17,600 from teams to join the leagues and the courts are unsafe and embarrassing to the town.
- Please do not put in tennis courts. The city does not maintain the courts it already has, note courts on Woodward Ave. They are basically unusable. Vets park is completely underutilized. There should be small boat rentals. Kayaks and the like. It would keep Aquarium visitors in town longer, supports our rest. And the retail strip across the street from the park. Lease the facility to an operator and generate a little revenue for the city. Miniature golf is also an interesting idea as long as it does not take up too much space. Again, lease it to an operator and the city gets a little cash. Both would help South Norwalk and retain day trippers for additional spending. Access can be a bit tricky when the bridge is up...but it is really not all that bad. Let's spend the efforts on filling the park with people from April to Nov. and make a few dollars. PS. Some of your questions allow only one answer...I drive and walk to the park.
- Another note regarding buildings, the original owners of the houses on Seaview owned all the property to the water and they gave the city the land that is now Veterans Park with the stipulation that it would be used as a public park and that views to the home owners would not be obstructed in anyway. Since then, the city has made it a dump site and put up buildings with reckless disregard to the intentions and agreements originally made. It is no wonder that when anyone says let's do this at Vets Park that its neighbors come out to meetings

with boxing gloves on. Just wanted you to know where we are coming from having been burned so many times already. That being said, I'd love to see the building in the center removed since it should have never been built in the first place and serves no purpose but to sit there locked up.

- Vet's Park is a wonderful open space easily reached by those who have no other direct access to the river. It can easily be reached by many citizens. It should not be cluttered by an excessive number of buildings, but should provide rest room and picnic facilities. I miss the convenience of the farmers market that had been available in the parking area for several years.
- We do anything to the park? Who is complaining? Never allow private operations like miniature golf or building a amphitheatre for music performances. The harbor is to be enjoyed without excessive noise. The cigarette boats are loud enough to make one want to go inside. No more outside lighting except where it is needed for safety.
- Investigate hazardous waste issues. Find a way to lessen the "swamp effect" when it rains – make grounds firmer.
- We have Calf Pasture Beach for concerts, car shows, skateboarding, volleyball, baseball and the like, as well as Stew's Grill; miniature golf in the beach area by Cove marina; Shady Beach and Cranburry Park/Gallaher for picnics and the Taylor Farm property for dogs and their owners. I believe there are more than sufficient venues other than Veteran's Park to accommodate the residents of Norwalk and their particular interests.
- Not a good police presence at park. Unless there is a parking issue. Many-many people parked along water throughout entire park drinking alcohol. Does not look good. Pretty disgusting and nothing is done about it. Little League needs overhaul. Maybe even raised because of terrible water problems. Maybe even relocated. Need closer parking at Little League Fields. All that room around field and parking is not allowed, why? Both entrances/exits should be named. The bridge side is a disaster coming and going. Traffic makes it almost impossible to get in and with most leaving at same time, cannot get out in a reasonable time.
- I would be careful planning lights. I don't think that lights will attract the right kinds of people after dark. I think the park should close at sunset.
- The sculptures in the park are in bad shape and have not aged well, in either aesthetics or relevance. There is too much unused parking. The connections to SoNo and onwards towards Calf Pasture are not good and discourage visitation. The basketball courts, backboards, and rims could definitely use a makeover.
- I agree with having the Oyster Festival out of the park I think South Norwalk would be a great place to have such an event. The Festival starts in late August to seeding in late September to putting up park closed signs until the seed germinates it's not until the end of march until its restored back to where it began in August, only to have it ripped up again. You have always had good things to say about the Oyster Festival as you know you always enjoyed it like I have but they need to find a solid ground area to hold this event if it means scaling down to enable them to survive. I didn't like the call out at the meeting by the individual that claimed; _maybe because you don't live in Norwalk you don't want the Festival in Veteran's Park) that is far from the truth! Knowing you for 28 years you have always had the interest of Norwalk and its parks at hand and always enjoyed making improvements where you could. Mike you have more patience that I will ever have dealing with the public. All my best, Joe Cote'.
- No waterfront concerts!
- Why is access to the park restricted to the entrance near the bridge? It would be nice to be able to enter through the other entrance as well, but the gate is almost always closed. There's a lot of erosion along the shore and litter and washed out walkway there, and if the city helped organize it I'm sure we could get volunteers to help maintain and clean the park.
- Please work on improving the drainage on the baseball fields, thanks.
- It is a beautiful piece of property. Should be maintained better. Does not need much change. Just some "cleaning" up.
- I would love to be able to walk my dog here (on leash). With signs indicating that picking up after your dog is mandatory. Lastly, I think the sports fields take up too much of the park.
- I coach in the Little League program and have been very disappointed since the ball fields were put there. Though the fields look very nice the location been what it seems like a flood zone causes games to be cancelled more then games being played. We end up looking for other fields to play on which are ALWAYS in better condition. Parks and Rec are never seen working on them and that's a shame that parents and coaches do all the work and then are also told not to work on vets fields because the city doesn't like people other than them doing so. I think the fields should have been built in the park closer to the street where the ground seems to

stay drier. You had to know there was issues with water when the softball field was there. The softball league clearly got out the better deal with the move to Calf's pasture.

- Need to figure out a way to fund opening BOTH entrance/exits to the park. The one closest to the bridge is a ROUGH left turn to make – we've witnessed many accidents and many near misses as people fly over the bridge heading north from South Norwalk – they come up over a hill and cant slow for someone in the mid left turning trying to enter the park.
- The fields at times especially in Spring are literally covered with geese droppings. Better upkeep of the fields should be a priority. In addition to the droppings many times there is broken glass on the baseball and soccer fields. The Oyster Fest seems to be a detriment to the park and destroys the fields every year. Is the Oyster Fest worth it for the City to have using the park every year? Is attendance dropping? Is the event past its prime? More playing fields in better shape is the way to go with some community activities that fit the neighborhood. The Town of Groton has a nice field but somewhat smaller that is used for soccer and other activities. It would be great to have something similar in Norwalk.
- I have been mooring my boat for many years at the city marina. The entry door/dock are unsafe and the door needs replacing. This year boaters were locked in and unable to get in or out. The railing has been broken all season and a child could fall and be fatally hurt. Boats over 21 feet were allowed to be in the slips both 2009/10 and 2010/11 seasons and the fingers are not adequate to moor that size boat. Extensive damage was done in the 2009/10 season and to date, have still not been fixed properly. Only a bandaid was applied. The city moorings have been and continue to deteriorate with no attention or concern by the city of Norwalk. What will it take?
- A new skate park would be great; one for boards and a separate one for bikes.
- I can't believe the poor shape that Norwalk has allowed the boat launching ramp to fall into. It should be shut down before someone gets seriously injured. I have seen damaged trailers and boats, humans will be next! It should be either repaired or closed immediately, as it is a major liability in its present condition.
- Under no circumstances should the city do anything without the input, and to a lesser extent, the consent of the people living across the park. It is your duty to mail and inform us of any important meetings and decisions the city is about to make. Steve, 203-434-7865.
- STOP THE BIKE PATH ALONG SEAVIEW AVENUE. ALLOW CAR PARKING ON SEAVIEW AVENUE.
- Why does the city of Norwalk only cater to baseball/soccer and lacrosse? How about installing a turf field in town for the Norwalk Youth Football Program?
- I added that we often do not feel safe In the park – I need to clarify that. The daytime hours seem to be fine but after dark the homeless and derelict kids make this their relaxation place and due to the loud music, dim lighting and car racing all of us tax paying citizens feet threatened and do not use it then. That is the creation of the disconnect between people passionately becoming involved – we feel we can help during the day but after hours is out of our hands. If the city can stop this the park will flourish. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.
- I would love to see the park cleaned up, its facilities updated and more kid friendly activities and structures added.
- Clean up the riffraff please!!!! More security, more festivals, more community events. Don't let people park in the lots, drink and do god knows what else. Right now, that place is not somewhere I want to take my young child. You should put the resources towards keeping the place clean, security and making it feel like a quaint New England seaside park, not Seaside park in Bridgeport which is what it feels like now. Add a restaurant, some shops and boardwalk with a fishing platform.
- While I don't use the boating facilities myself, I believe it is important to have them available to residents at the most moderate fee/price possible. – Question 6 should have the option of entering 0 for something we do not want to see because we would not consider it an improvement. – Accessibility for walking and cycling should be a high priority throughout. Individuals and families should be able to feel safe and pleasant. It's a terrific place to be able to walk in and sit on a bench to enjoy the view of the harbor. Keep it safe and friendly for that. Make it a good place to go both for team sports and for personal quiet time. There is plenty of room for both!