

**Community Meeting #1
Cummings Park and West Beach Master Plan
Stamford, Ct**

Date/Time: June 17, 2014
Location: Halloween Yacht Club – Stamford, CT
Attendees: Gary Sorge - Stantec
Jennifer Waldron – Stantec
Brian Westermeyer – Stantec
Devin Santa – Roberge Associates
Matt Rakowski – Roberge Associates
Erin McKenna – City of Stamford Land Use Bureau
Lou Casolo – City of Stamford Engineering Bureau
Sean Elumba – City of Stamford Marinas Supervisor

The general purpose of this meeting was to inform/update the public on planning efforts and proposed upgrades to the park, as well as engage the public to provide their input and feedback. Below is a summary of the public's comments, ideas and concerns:

Operational Issues / Concerns

Items regarding general maintenance, usage and accessibility

- Lack of general maintenance to benches / shelters (i.e. painting, cleaning)
- Lack of trash / recycling receptacles
- Excess goose droppings littering basketball and tennis courts - requiring residents / visitors to sweep away prior to use
- Geese control (in general)
- Lack of enforcement for unregulated / non-resident use of park and facilities
- Lack of enforcement for unregulated / non-resident parking on surrounding streets
- Lack of consistent operating hours for concession stand
- No lifeguard on-duty at east side of Cummings Beach
- Sewage treatment facility overflow into Long Island Sound (capacity issues)

Strengths

What are the parks' greatest recreational and public assets?

- Playground at West Beach
- Lighted softball fields (and maintenance of) at Cummings Park
- Soccer fields and youth baseball fields (and maintenance of) at West Beach
- Tennis courts
- Beach volleyball courts
- Size of park
- Diversity of landscape, features and wildlife
- Shaded picnic areas at Cummings Park
- Annual fireworks display
- Sledding hill
- Large beaches (and maintenance of)

- Kayak launch at east side of Cummings Beach
- Fishing pier at Cummings Beach

Weaknesses

What are the parks' greatest deficiencies and improvement needs?

- Appearance of main entry to Cummings Park
- Outdated playground at Cummings Park
- Lack of swings and designated younger play areas at both parks
- Outdated / undesirable pavilion and restrooms at Cummings Park
- Limited concession choices
- Lack of appropriate lighting
- Too much parking at Cummings Beach
- Poor handicap accessibility
- Lack of walkways and trails
- Lack of bike path(s)
- Lack of clear wayfinding / signage
- No direct access between Cummings Park and West Beach
- Needs more defined picnic areas at Cummings Park
- Lack of shade at West Beach
- Non-operational boat launch at Cummings Marina
- Non-operational Cummings Marina
- Water depth / lack of dredging at boat launch and marina
- Water depth / lack of dredging at tidal pond

Opportunities

What amenities or facilities should be improved or provided to enhance the parks' visitor's experience?

- Renovate / restore / celebrate the main entrance to Cummings Park
- Renovate / restore the bus depot building
- Upgrade the playground at Cummings Park
- Add splash pad(s) area to existing playgrounds (similar to Scalzi Park)
- Renovate / update pavilion
- Renovate / update restroom facilities
- Provide food trucks / more concession choices (no permanent building)
- Implement day passes / usage fees for non-residents (similar to Cove Island Park)
- Provide designated walking path / fitness loop
- Provide designated bike path and bike lanes
- Provide direct, interior pedestrian access between Cummings Park and West Beach
- Provide more designated picnic areas at Cummings Park
- Provide designated passive recreation areas and activities (i.e. game tables, quiet seating)
- Provide areas shuffleboard, bocce courts, etc...
- Renovate / restore bird sanctuary at West Beach
- Provide nature walk / learning areas
- Provide nature / community center space
- Provide designated event space(s) (with option for private rental)
- Provide community garden plots
- Relocate marina and parking to east side of Halloween Basin

Threats

What activities or conditions could compromise the parks' recreation value or conditions?

- Existing bus depot, pavilion and restrooms inhabited by homeless
- Too many night softball games
- Cummings Park operating hours too late (12:00am)
- Lack of police presence and enforcement of park operating hours
- After hours loitering and use of parks – resulting in noise, vandalism, etc...
- Parking areas too close to beaches and surrounding properties / neighborhoods
- Lack of appropriate security lighting
- Unlimited and unsecured access from surrounding neighborhood streets (i.e. no fencing or gate(s))
- Vehicular traffic / parking on lawn and open space
- No traffic calming / speed control devices or vehicular traffic enforcement
- Lack of designated, safe pedestrian access points and crosswalks
- Poor storm management plan / emergency management of boats

Stantec Consulting Services Inc.