



TOWN OF EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Monthly Report

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Park Improvements

The Department coordinated with Public Works to get invasive plants and dangerous trees and limbs removed from the buffer area between the walking track at Peretz Park at Bridebrook and Bridebrook Road. The area is now safer, but additional concerns have been raised about the possibility of balls going onto the street and parents who may choose to drop children off on the road now that it is easier to walk through the buffer area. Parks and Recreation staff met with neighbors and Pollinator Pathways to try to develop plans that can minimize those concerns and reduce the need for ongoing maintenance of the area.

Public Works also assisted the Department in removing old stumps, concrete and other debris from Veteran's Field to clean up the staging area near the metal storage boxes. Similar plans are in place to conduct a similar operation at the rear of Peretz Park at Bridebrook.

Parks staff members removed pea gravel from sections of the walking track and replaced it with stone dust to eliminate "soft" spots in the track that made it difficult for users to navigate those areas. The stone dust should provide a firmer surface that will make it easier for walkers, stroller and others to use the track.

Collaborations

Through a regional partnership, eight Youth Service Bureaus hosted a virtual presentation with Jessica Lahey on "The Addiction Inoculation: Raising Healthy Kids in a Culture of Dependence." The 84 attendees discussed ways to identify risk factors for substance use, and how adults can overcome a child's risk for substance misuse.

Looking Ahead

Staff is working with Human Resources to streamline seasonal hiring. The process of hiring dozens of staff members to serve as lifeguards, beach parking staff, summer camp staff, parks maintainers and others. This involves a lot of effort and organization to on-board such a large number of staff in a short time.

Parks maintenance staff is finalizing winter servicing of all parks equipment and vehicles to be ready for the upcoming season. Staff members also support storm and plowing operations in Public Works.

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