



TOWN OF EAST LYME PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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Beach Conditions

The Department entered into a lease agreement with the Niantic Bay Yacht Club for the small Surf Rake machine that we own. The lease contains stipulations that the Yacht Club will maintain, operate and repair any damage to the equipment and the department benefits by generating additional revenue. The Department is also supporting Camp Nett with grooming their beach since they don't have the means to do it. The Town values its relationship with Camp Nett and this is one of the ways we support them and we'll have future opportunities for them to help us.



The beaches were impacted by severe weather incidents and the Parks crew continues maintenance and recovery efforts to return the beaches to a normal safe condition. The storms caused a great deal of wood and debris to wash up, eroded large swaths of beach and caused other damage that is being repaired. Water quality was also impacted and caused us to issue swim advisories for several days.

Park Equipment Upgrades

The Parks crew is benefitting from some new equipment that will help them maintain parks efficiently. Two zero-turn commercial mowers allow the crew to complete mowing large areas as well as tight spots well, they save time on repairing old equipment, and they save time.

The crew has also begun using the new field painting robot that accurately paints lines for any sport on any of our fields. The “Swozi” robot is fast, accurate and easy to use. The machine allows one person to layout and paint a field in less time than two or more staff have been able to do it in the past. The unit also uses less paint so there is an additional savings.



Automated athletic field light timers are being added to Bridebrook Park. These timers allow remote programming of on/off times for the lights resulting in fewer disruptions of activities at the park and savings of staff time spent manually programming timers in the past.



Essential Services

Summer Camp was held using facilities at EL Middle School, Lillie B Haynes Elementary School, the Community Center and McCook Point Park. We hired over 50 staff members to provide a safe and enjoyable summer camp for over 400 children. Many families depend on Summer Camp and the After Care service to provide opportunity for their children during the summer. Summer Camp included field days, talent shows, art, games, beach days, special entertainment and many other activities.

Community Events

Celebrate East Lyme was a success with thousands of people enjoying the vendor booths along Main Street, the concerts, and fireworks at McCook Point Park. The event is supported by Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works, and dozens of businesses and partner organizations.



Summer concerts at McCook Point Park are ongoing and have been successful. Members of the Parks and Recreation Commission have been attending Friday night concerts at the Bandshell to accept donations from the public to help support the events.

Looking Ahead

Work will soon begin to install heat pumps in the restrooms at Hole in the Wall restrooms. The heat pumps will allow the restrooms to remain open year-round. The project is funded using ARPA funds.

ELP&R is working with a potential vendor to work out details to construct four Pickleball courts at Bridebrook.

Staff members are working to purchase and install new bottle filler water fountains in parks. Fountains in the park have been off since the Covid pandemic and the new fountains will be more hygienic and provide park users with improved service.