



West Haven ARPA Parks Improvement Fund

Mayor Nancy R. Rossi is pleased to announce that the City of West Haven is accepting suggestions and proposals for improvement and rehabilitation projects for City owned neighborhood parks, playgrounds, open space, wildlife preserves, public tree planting, and trail parks. Funds for park improvements are provided through the Mayor's American Rescue Plan Act Plan, provided by a grant from the U.S. Treasury. The park projects and funds will be overseen by the Commissioner of Public Works and the Mayoral appointed ARPA Citizens Review and Oversight Committee.

The proposals may come from any citizen, community group, City Department Head, or "park steward" committees, be they formally organized or informally organized.

The proposal should provide a brief narrative of the proposed project, an estimated budget, photos of existing conditions, a description of how the park is presently used, and how this project will impact its use and appeal to the citizens of West Haven.

Some examples of proposed projects might include, but not limited to: Clearing of brush, installing lighting, sidewalks or paths, signage, parking, improving handicapped accessibility, planting of trees, perennial flowers, mulching, playground equipment replacement or refurbishment, trail development, community garden/agricultural installation, parking improvements, picnic tables, bike paths, restoration of existing structures, sculpture installation, removal of invasive plant species, commemorative plaques.

Proposals should be submitted to Doug Colter, Grants Coordinator, City of West Haven Department of Grants In Aid, 355 Main Street West Haven, CT 06516 or scanned and emailed to dcolter@westhaven-ct.gov.

Proposals should be submitted no later than August 10th, 2022. Groups needing assistance with budget and planning should contact Doug Colter by email for advice. Persons needing assistance with language interpretation, or any disability may obtain assistance from the Grants In Aid Office, City Hall, Third Floor, Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Name of Park: **Morse Park** Address of Park: **45 Morse Avenue, West Haven CT**

Describe current use of park: Morse Park is currently used as little league fields (6 fields) and one adult recreation softball/baseball field.

Narrative proposal: Our proposal is to provide much needed enhancements and improvements to Morse Park. Morse Park has the opportunity to become a shining example of repurposed sustainability and to serve our community as an educational and recreational resource. The idea would be to concentrate the little league fields to four fields and to provide needed repairs to those fields for safe use. Additionally, funds are needed to make repairs to the building that is owned by the City and used by the Little League as offices, concession stand and restrooms during the season. Dugouts can be

replaced with chain link fenced dugouts and metal pitched roof for shade. Fields need seeding and dirt needs refresh. Additionally, bleacher seating needs placement and secure to the ground in addition to dugout benches. Scoreboard needs repair. Chain fencing around fields needs repair/replacement.

By reducing the number of little league fields, the other fields and additional areas can be repurposed. The announcement for the opportunity to provide proposals for the Parks funds was made on July 20th with a 4-week deadline. For a project of this proposed size, real community feedback and guidance is needed in order to properly circulate ideas and advance a concept. However, within the allotted timeframe, we were able to consult with Mark Payne, Gary Donovan, Meli Garthwaite, Amin Rubirosa, Michelle Pettaway, Aaron Charney, and the Sandy Point Neighborhood Association Board of Directors. You can see results of that feedback below bulleted. We would like to create a conceptual plan based on this feedback and circulate the proposed plan to the neighborhood. After that feedback, we would generate a detail plan with a landscape architect, and ultimately generate a detailed project budget.

Ultimately, there is also a huge programmatic opportunity here to work with the youth on these improvements and a general theme of environmental education and sustainability. With Morse Park's location adjacent to the coastline, and the Bird Sanctuary with Audubon's support, these uses would be quite complimentary.

Family friendly uses suggested by community for space outside of little league field include:

- Planting of 25 additional shade trees and native plants with a neighborhood dedication stone/plaque program.
 - We would work to bring together local NGO's and youth for an environmental education program including climate education, sustainability, environmental education, coastal waterway education including Save the Sound, Audubon, and many others.
- Kayak/paddle board paid Storage facility and potential remote rental station supporting a local business such as Savin Rock Surf Shop
- Beach Bike and scooter rental to encourage healthy lifestyle, enjoyment of the West Haven coastline, and sustainability
- Addition of a pavilion
- Reconfiguration of parking lot enhancements – Pay app
 - Reconfiguration would allow for hookups for rotating food truck assignment reservation and electric vehicle parking chargers (additional grant funding phase II)
- Observation deck for Old Field Creek (would complement Sandy Point Bird Sanctuary)
- Repurpose one of the fenced fields into a shaded dog park with benches
- Additional trash receptacles as part of the Clear Blue Clean Green Initiative slots aligned with education (landfill, recycle, etc)
- Proper playground with bird and garden theme, mulch enhanced
- Tennis court with pickle ball
- Fountain feature that would act as a splash pad for kids and dogs
- Food/Restaurant Kiosks possibly for Phase II Destination Dining similar to Gather Greenville - 120' x 150' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAorcWTAUyQ>

Estimated budget of proposal:

In order for this to be a viable project, we would need more time to properly put together a conceptual plan and circulate such plan for neighborhood feedback via a splash page website. Once we have that input and feedback from those that live in the neighborhood, we would be able to get accurate estimates and provide a more detailed budget. This could be completed as soon as September 15, 2022.

Until such time, we request that \$250,000 be earmarked for Phase I of these improvements. We would like to build on the positive reputation of the Bird Sanctuary, and allow this area to serve as a shining example for forward thinking youth education about the opportunities and challenges we have as a premier coastal city with the longest shoreline in CT. This would be an incredible benefit to all of West Haven – especially West Haven youth.

Name of proposer: Michelle Coletti in conjunction with Little League, Sandy Point Neighborhood Association

Phone: 914-906-4120

Address: 46 2nd Avenue, West Haven, CT 06516 **Email:** michellecoletti@yahoo.com

Is there a formal/informal park steward group? Yes

Will the neighborhood/group volunteer to help maintain the park upon completion of the project?

This is not a new park being proposed, but we would work to enhance youth groups and programs to foster volunteerism along with sustainability.

Will the group help provide project management and coordination? Yes

Are there other funds available to help with this project? Possible direct funding from the State for Phase II.

Will these funds enable other grants for funding sources? No

Amount: _____ Source of funds: _____

Please feel free to attach additional pages, product information sheets, maps, vendor quotes, etc.

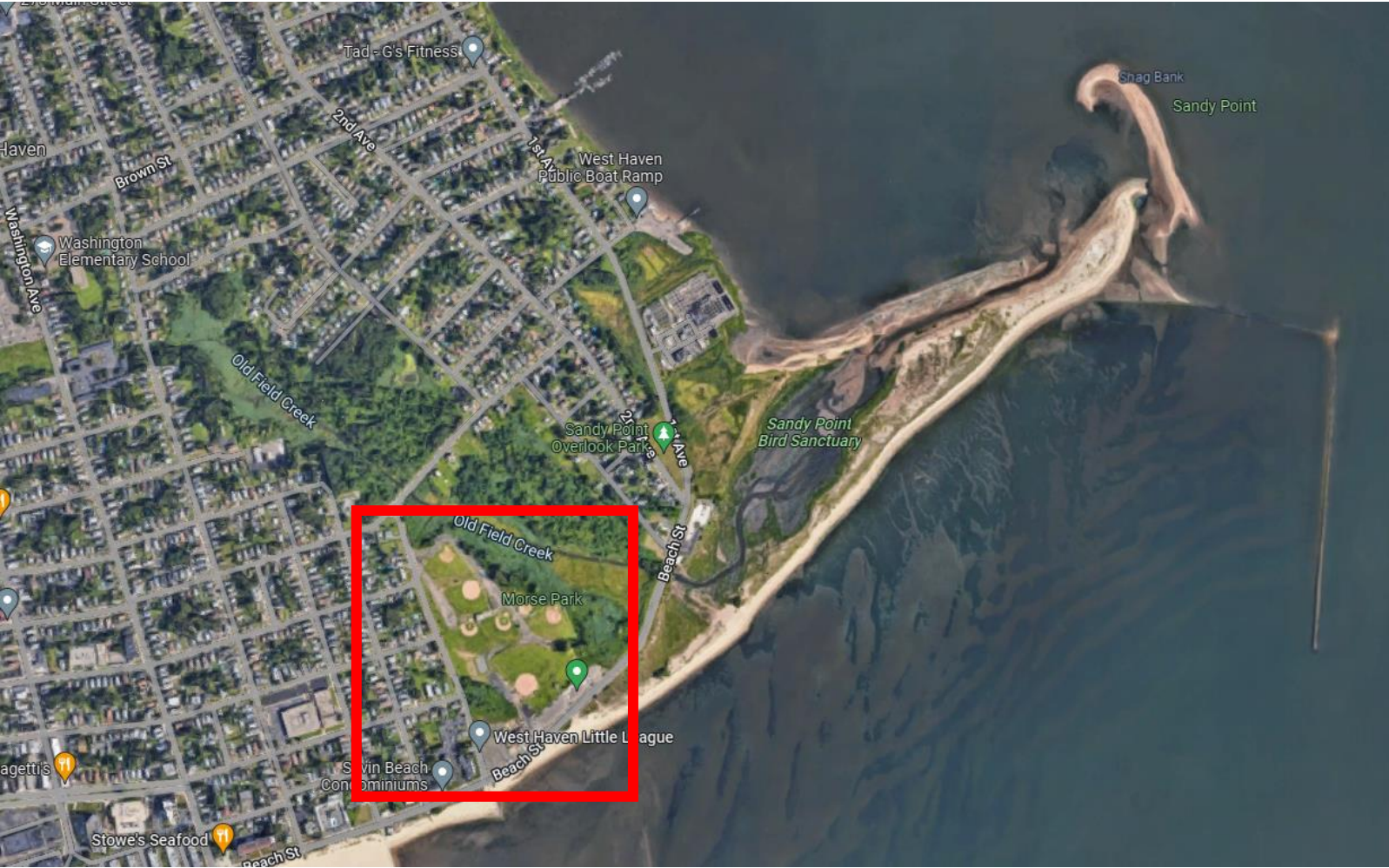
All projects will be reviewed for funding by the West Haven Citizen's ARPA Review and Oversight Committee, and also approved by the Commissioner of Public Works. All purchasing and contracting must comply with City regulations for fair and open procurement. Proposers may be required to file an ethics disclosure with the City if the project is approved for funding.

Proposer Signature: Michelle Coletti Date: 8/10/22

Morse Park Enhancement

West Haven, CT

Overview - Orientation



Morse Park - Challenges

- Inadequate maintenance and attention to field and structure upkeep. Structures include dugouts and structure in center of all fields owned by the City of West Haven and utilized by Little League of West Haven
- Currently underutilized asset for the City – 6 fields utilized by Little League of West Haven. 1 field closes to water utilized by adult league.
- Benches being stolen and bleachers not able to be setup on fields



Morse Park - Opportunities

- Reduce the # of fields for Little League to four
- Upgrade dugouts for two of the fields to less expensive better practice chain link
- Add spectator seating/scoreboards

PITCHES HOME	BALL STRIKE OUT			PITCHES GUEST						
41	3	0	2	48						
VARSITY SCOREBOARDS										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
GUEST	0	0	1	0	0	0				1
HOME	0	0	4	0	1					5



Morse Park - Opportunities

- By reducing the number of ball fields to a maintainable number, the rest of the area can be reimagined as a shining example of physical and programmatic education for the future of our youth including sustainability, environmental, climate, and coastal resiliency.
 - Electric Vehicle Charging
 - Shade Tree/Native Plant Initiative
 - Seasonal Kayak and paddle board rental
 - Additional observation deck for eagles nests in Old Field Creek
 - Small events venue
 - See proposal for additional conceptual points





Morse Park

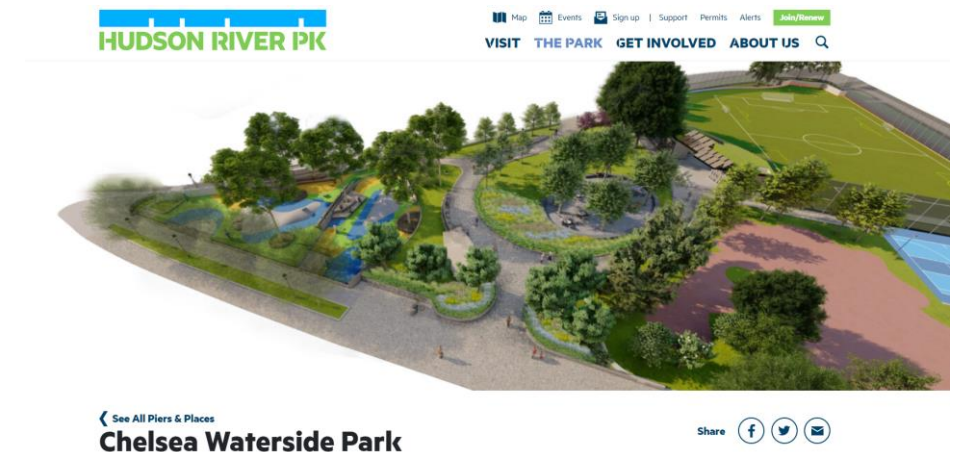
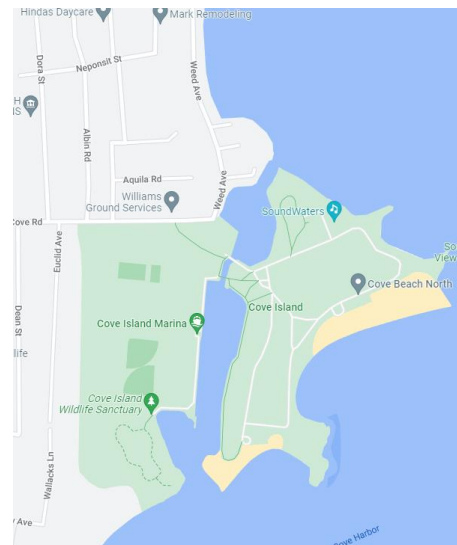
West Haven Little League

Layers

Google

Similar Improved Best Practices

- Calf Pasture Beach Park – Norwalk
<https://www.norwalkct.org/2094/Calf-Pasture-and-Shady-Beach>
- Soundwaters Educational Facility – Cove Island Stamford CT
<https://soundwaters.org/>
<https://soundwaters.org/coastal-education-center/>
- <https://longislandsoundstudy.net/2012/09/sandy-point/>
- <https://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/places-to-see/playgrounds/>
- <https://www.capitolriverfront.org/yards-park>
- <https://centercityphila.org/parks/sister-cities-park>
- <https://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/parks-facilities/Bartelme-Mary-Park/>
- <https://hudsonriverpark.org/locations/chelsea-waterside/>



Concept Mood Images



Concept Mood Images



Shade Trees and Native Plant Gardens and Education



Shumard Oak - Native



American Sycamore - Native