



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS



The conception, construction and evolution of the Judy Black Park has been the result of many individuals, families and businesses throughout our community. We are both humbled by and grateful for the incredible efforts that have created our gathering place. From the farmers who participated in our inaugural farmers market to the businesses who sponsored our first outdoor movies to the artists who hung their art on our walls—all hoping that people would come. And people most surely came.

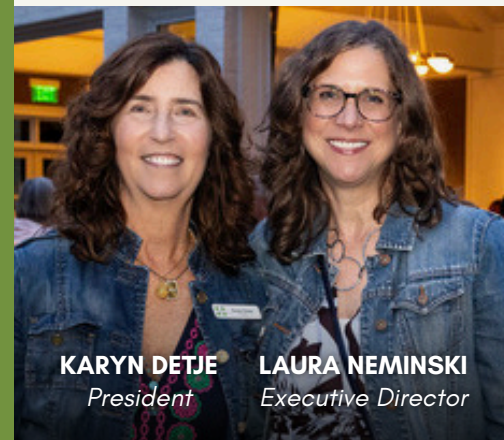
The park, given its central location and year-round programs, has helped shape the Depot in meaningful ways. We remain mindful of the balance required to honor and preserve the traditions and character that define our small town, while thoughtfully embracing progress and improvement. As we embark upon the park's first strategic planning process to help chart the park's direction for the rest of this decade, we welcome your ideas and feedback regarding our collective future.

As I prepare to cycle off the board this spring according to our by-laws, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to my fellow trustees, our staff, donors, sponsors, volunteers, artists, farmers and community members for what has been an incredibly rewarding nine years of service. A huge thanks goes to fellow trustees Pels Matthews, Patrick Horan and Wilson Henley, who similarly have served nine years alongside me. Their leadership and involvement have played a tremendous role in shaping the Judy Black Park into what it is today and I am profoundly grateful for their partnership. See you at the park!

—Karyn Detje, President

Judy Black Park comes alive through the artists, market vendors, partners, volunteers, and visitors who fill it with energy. I'm grateful for a year supported by our incredible community and offer heartfelt thanks to our departing trustees for their support and service under Karyn's steady leadership as we honor what endures, welcome new voices, and hold community at the heart of it all.

—Laura Neminski
Executive Director



KARYN DETJE
President

LAURA NEMINSKI
Executive Director

HAPPENINGS



EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Patricia Avellan | Chris Barnard | Doug Bloom
Greta Boesel | Stace Dillard | Joe Gitterman
Frank Greco | Brooke Hirsheimer | Jeff Joyce
Leonard Kady | Jeff McCracken | Heather Neilson
Justin Perlman | Region 12 Students | Greg St. John
Doug White

"I can't say enough about this exquisite art venue and the amazing support they provided—from the nominating committee, to the board, and to those who tirelessly administer to the daily responsibilities of overseeing the success of each art show, the experience was beyond my wildest expectations."

—Jeff McCracken, 2025 exhibiting artist

Top row from left to right: Justin Perlman and Doug Bloom; Greta Boesel; Greg St. John; Chris Barnard. Bottom left: Frank Greco. Middle row from left to right: Stace Dillard, Brooke Hirsheimer. Bottom right: Jeff McCracken with wife, Janet.

MOVIE NIGHTS



ANNUAL FUNRAISER



FARMERS MARKET



NEW PERGOLA

We hosted a vine cutting celebration in November for the new pergola at the park. This sculptural installation features eleven "floating" wooden stems, a design that complements the spirit of the park inspired by nature, community and connections. We are grateful to all who brought this vision to life.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

In 2026, we honor and celebrate the dedication of four board members who have contributed to the park's tremendous growth over the past nine years. In June, the terms of Karyn Detje, Pels Matthews, Wilson Henley and Patrick Horan will expire. These extraordinary leaders have been pivotal in launching the park forward from its earliest days as a new addition in town to becoming a central fixture as a gathering space where residents and visitors come to relax, learn, play together and share all that our community offers. We are deeply grateful for their service to the park.



KARYN DETJE

Board President

Sits on all committees



PELS MATTHEWS

Board Vice President

Building & Grounds and Development Committees



WILSON HENLEY

Trustee

Exhibition and Development Committees



PATRICK HORAN

Trustee

(former Treasurer)
Finance Committee

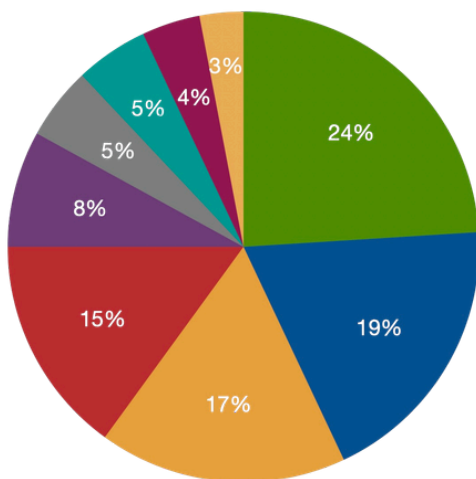
"My greatest achievement is helping to bring the founders' vision to life—the park as a place for all. It remains a guiding principle for decision making, impacting our programming and development priorities."

"My most significant contribution to the park is starting the FUNraiser as a vehicle for both helping fund the park and bringing community members together over a musical performance."

"I am most proud of my work on the Exhibition Committee. We developed and implemented a process that allows us to showcase so many talented artists."

"My most significant contributions to the park are formalizing the bookkeeping, creating the capital and endowment funds and bringing forth a balanced annual budget."

2025 EXPENSES



BUSINESS SPONSORS

Connecticut Community Foundation | Depot Dog Boutique | Gallagher Gunn Memorial Library | Litchfield Distillery | National Iron Bank
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GIFTS-IN-KIND

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VOLUNTEERS

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THE JUDY BLACK MEMORIAL PARK AND GARDENS

WASHINGTON PARK FOUNDATION • ONE GREEN HILL RD.
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Pels Matthews, Vice President
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Andrew Flatt	Michelle Madden
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Susan Lerner	Darryl Wright

Denise Trevenen, President Emerita (deceased)

Laura Neminski, Executive Director
Elyse Sadtler, Marketing Director
Cotille Davis, Programs Director

"Volunteering at the Judy Black Park has been one of my happy places this past summer. The sense of community and the joy of helping create a vibrant gathering place make every week special, with different activities to look forward to. It's a wonderful way to give back, connect with people, and be part of something that truly makes Washington a very special place."

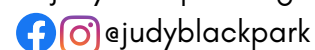
—Liselotte Perrella, park volunteer

LOOKING AHEAD



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judyblackpark.org



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★ Some or all of this gift was made in support of the endowment fund.

We make every effort to present correct information and apologize for any errors; please inform us of any inaccuracies or misspellings. All gifts listed were received during the 2025 calendar year.