A Playground in Every Neighborhood

A safe place for our children to play.
Every Community Management Team (CMT) in New Haven supports this Park Policy Resolution:

- Every neighborhood in the City would have at least one playground;
- Each playground would be fully equipped with at least a playscape, a splash pad and mature trees;
- In a neighborhood with only one playground, that playground would not be sold or given away.
Our research, using Trust for Public Land/URI/City of New Haven data, indicates that:

- **These 9 neighborhoods have at least one fully equipped, public playground:*** Dixwell, East Rock, Edgewood, East Shore, Fair Haven, Hill, Newhallville, West Rock, Wooster Square/Mill River. **Total Population:** 68,950.

- **11 don’t have a fully equipped, public playground:** Amity, Annex, Beaver Hills, Downtown, Dwight, Fair Haven Heights, Long Wharf, Prospect Hill, Quinnipiac Meadows, West River, Westville. **Total Population:** 64,000.

- **9 of these neighborhoods without a fully equipped public playground have a majority of both low-income residents and people of color; 2 do not:** Westville (34%/50%) and Prospect Hill (47%/64%) are the exceptions.

*We define fully equipped public playground to mean at least one splash pad, one playscape, and some fully mature trees for shade.*
Number of Fully Equipped, Public Playgrounds

(Chart Prepared by Paul Terman and Josh Randall using TPL/URI ParkScore data)
Locations of Playgrounds in Neighborhoods

Fully Equipped Playground in Neighborhood
- Red: Absent
- Green: Present

(Chart Prepared by Josh Randall using TPL/URI ParkScore data)
How much would it cost?

- Playscape costs vary widely and community input would be necessary. Katherine Jacobs shared these estimates:
  - Single bay swing set installed $6,000
  - Splash pad installed $148,000
  - Playscape installed $198,000
Where would the Money Come From for Equipment?

- Public funds
- Foundations
- Corporations
- Faith Communities
- Individual major donors
- Bequests

A strategic planning process can make the needs visible, engage the community and lead to a plan to be phased in over time.
New Haven Parks Up for Sale?

New Haven has considered park sales several times throughout its history:

- Quinnipiac, now Criscuolo Park, in Fair Haven for industry
- Waterside Park on Long Wharf, in 1945 for industrial buildings
- East Shore Park, in 1957 for industry
- East Rock Park, in 1964 for a highway
- Kensington Playground, in 2020 for housing
“Any plan that … leaves any considerable neighborhoods permanently without the benefit of accessible parks and playgrounds for local use, while providing other districts with such facilities at the general expense, is in so far illogical, unjust, undemocratic, and unwise.”

—“Plan for New Haven” Frederick Law Olmsted and Cass Gilbert

ALL our children need a safe place to play.