Introduction

In July, 2021, Friends of Kensington Playground asked the Board of Park Commissioners to adopt a policy with the following elements:

- 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.

The proposal was tabled. Every community management team in the City endorsed this proposal. The Commission agreed to take up the proposal at its October 19, 2022 meeting. Commissioners raised concerns and questions at that time. We are returning this evening with information that we hope will be responsive to those questions. We thank you for this opportunity.

Questions from Park Commission and Responses

1. Didn’t the TPL/URI/City of New Haven ParkScore study show that there is a playground within a 10-minute walk of every resident?

Colleen Murphy-Dunning of URI responded during the October Park Commission meeting that the ParkScore study does not report the walking time to get to a playground, only to a park. The two metrics are different. The following shows the ten-minute walk to a fully featured public playground (meaning at a minimum, one play scape and one splash pad, data drawn from the TPL study), based on the work of Josh Randall for Friends of Kensington Play ground, using TPL data.
2. What would our proposed policy mean for the City budget? Would the City have to pay to build new playgrounds? How many? How can the City possibly add to the number of playgrounds it must maintain?

Equipment in Place, Equipment Needed

Using TPL ParkScore data, here are the neighborhoods with at least one playground with a play scape and a splash pad. Please note demographic information. All data is from the TPL study.
NINE NEIGHBORHOODS WITH AT LEAST ONE FULLY EQUIPPED PLAYGROUND

(has play scape and splash pad)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Acres per 1,000 pop</th>
<th>Park Acreage</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
<th>% People of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dixwell</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5,326</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Rock</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>9,835</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Acres per 1,000 pop</td>
<td>Park Acreage</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>% Low-Income</td>
<td>% People of Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Shore</td>
<td>48.2</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>4,612</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgewood</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>4,389</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Haven</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15,509</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14,918</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newhallville</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>7,117</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Rock</td>
<td>91.9</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>3,956</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wooster Square/Mill River</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3,288</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>68,950</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Next are the neighborhoods that lack a public playground with a playscape, a splash pad or both. Roughly 64,000 people live in these neighborhoods. Ten of the twelve neighborhoods have a majority of low-income residents or people of color or both, according to the TPL study.
ELEVEN NEIGHBORHOODS WITHOUT A FULLY FUNCTIONAL PLAYGROUND
(Lacking at least one play scape or splash pad or both)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Acres per 1,000 pop</th>
<th>Park Acreage</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% Low-Income</th>
<th>% People of Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amity</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>4,461</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6,516</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Hills</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>5,765</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12,944</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4,154</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Haven Heights</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6,971</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Wharf</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1,205</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Hill</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4,415</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinnipiac</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5,778</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West River</td>
<td>27.2</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>3,877</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Acres per 1,000 pop</td>
<td>Park Acreage</td>
<td>Population</td>
<td>% Low-Income</td>
<td>% People of Color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westville</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7,946</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>64,032</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Costs to Equip Playgrounds with Play Scapes and Splash Pads

All that we can do is to provide the roughest estimates. You and your professional staff will need to answer this more fully after engaging in a strategic planning process with neighborhoods. Each will have their own needs and wishes when it comes to playgrounds. To provide a play scape, a splash pad and a one bay swing set would cost roughly $352,000.00 per playground.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Playgrounds: FUNCTIONAL, OPERATIONAL (WITH PLAY SCAPE)</th>
<th>Splash pads: FUNCTIONAL, OPERATIONAL</th>
<th>Splash Pad Fixed (may be incomplete)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amity</td>
<td>Hilltop Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annex</td>
<td>Peat Meadow Park</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaver Hills</td>
<td>Beaver Ponds</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown</td>
<td>multiple</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood</td>
<td>Park Name</td>
<td>Playgrounds: FUNCTIONAL, OPERATIONAL (WITH PLAY SCAPE)</td>
<td>Splash pads: FUNCTIONAL, OPERATIONAL</td>
<td>Splash Pad Fixed (may be incomplete)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>Kensington Street Playground</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>Note: fixed 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair Haven Heights</td>
<td>multiple</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Wharf</td>
<td>Vietnam Veterans - Long Wharf Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospect Hill</td>
<td>Edgerton Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quinnipiac Meadows</td>
<td>Palmieri Parcel</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West River</td>
<td>West River Memorial Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westville</td>
<td>Beecher Park</td>
<td>no</td>
<td>no</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEEDED</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Where Could the Money Come From?**

The TPL study states that New Haven is noted to be low in the amount of public investment in parks, and *especially in the amount of private investment of funds*. The City can encourage more partnerships and sponsorships of playgrounds by charitable and corporate sources. The
City can organize a workshop with ParkFriends groups to consider all of the possible public and private sources of revenue to add playscapes and splash pads where they are needed. For instance, the City could ask the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to facilitate such a workshop. By working together, with all possible sources of funding on the table, we are confident that the resources can be found.¹

The history of the Parks Department offers plentiful examples of how the City has generated the funds it has needed to create and maintain its system of parks. These include: use of City-owned land, land donated by individuals, endowment funds, State bond funds, City bond funds, ordinary city budgets, State and federal funds, churches, volunteer labor, foundation funds, sale of park land to buy parks in new places, and special solicitations such as for the Carousel at Lighthouse, etc. For instance, in 1822, revenue from pasturage on the New Haven Green was a revenue-generator! We have documented some of these past strategies used by the City. Please see the Appendix for news articles or pages from past Park Department reports.

**Maintenance Costs**

In addition to equipment costs, the Park Commission raised the question of the cost of ongoing maintenance. In October 2022 minutes it is noted that the maintenance requirements for City parks are high in part because of the age of the equipment. That problem calls for a strategic plan to consider how the City can keep a replacement reserve to replace old equipment on a predictable schedule. If there is a large need, the City could again seek State bond funds for the purposes of replacement of old equipment. The City’s share of ARPA funds might be tapped.

As we understand it, there is no existing system for allocating the maintenance cost on a per park or per neighborhood basis for our parks. We recognize and greatly appreciate the hard work of the staff, and that their numbers are fewer than in the past. *We are not proposing a sudden dramatic addition to the number of playgrounds and the workload of existing staff.* Additions to both would need to be part of the strategic plan we hope you will create. Added playgrounds in existing parks will add to the seasonal workload and would have to be planned for. Continued development of park friends groups may be part of the resource solution, but increased resources for the Parks budget would be required. We believe that a robust strategic planning process will build public support for more fully equipped playgrounds and the staff to support them.

It is hard to say that out of all the children in New Haven, children in more than half of the neighborhoods don’t deserve to have a playground. It is also true that to have a playground, there must be both amenities that cause the park to be used, and regular maintenance, or it will become a neighborhood problem.

¹ For example, Ms. Curlena McDonald led the fundraising campaign for the splash pad that is in Kensington Playground.
Replacement of parks/playgrounds

From time to time the City has taken parks or playgrounds, or tried to do so, to be used for some other purpose, or because a park has been neglected and become a public nuisance, or because other neighborhoods were better at fighting for resources. The neighborhoods that have faced this include:

- Dwight
- East Rock
- East Shore
- Fair Haven
- Long Wharf

See attached news clippings in Appendix C. As framed by a former Superintendent of Parks, when decommissioning a park is considered, a central question should begin with equity: **Who will lose access to a park and a playground?**  **What alternatives will those adults and children have?**  We urge that your pro-playground policy should include that in a neighborhood with only one playground, that playground would not be sold or given away.

Conclusion

In the famous “Plan for New Haven” created by Frederick Law Olmsted and Cass Gilbert, in 1910, a landmark in the history of city planning in our country, the following statement is made:

> 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.”

It points to the question, shouldn’t all children in every neighborhood have a safe and fun place to play?
Appendix

Archive of Newspaper and Other Articles about Donations, Proposed Park Sales, etc.

New Haven Register, June 5, 1945

New Haven Public Library Local History Collection
City Planner Would Buy New Parks
With Cash From Sale Of Old Ones

If Watertown and Quinnipiac Parks are sold as industrial sites, this
pound of the park should be used to supply new park areas
near those now existing. Properties are
being sold now, according to
City Hall reports. Buildings
Galliday
City Hall reports. Buildings
Galliday

City Officials Oppose Hale's
Plan On Parks

Riven City Planner Peter F. Hale, who is acting for a temporary
appointment, with approval of the.

MURPHY HITS
USE OF PARKS
FOR INDUSTRY

Mayor Opposed to Plan
Awaiting Action by City
Commission

Utterly opposed to the
recommendation of the
Watertown and Quinnipiac Parks
for industrial use. Mayor

MURPHY HITS
USE OF PARKS
FOR INDUSTRY

Mayor John W. Murphy, who is
preventing the City Commission
from acting on the
recommendation of the
Watertown and Quinnipiac Parks
for industrial use. Mayor

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Committee To Act Wednesday Night On $10,000 Gift For Lake In Park

The Committee on Streets and Squares of the Board of Aldermen, when it meets Wednesday at 8 P.M. at the Aldermanic Chambers, will act on an offer made by Henry F. English, a permanent member of the Board of Park Commissioners, to give $10,000 for the construction of a lake basin in East Rock Park. The petition was filed by the Board of Park Commissioners.

Mr. English has already deposited the money to the credit of the Park Commission account in the Connecticut Savings Bank. The gift is to be known as the "English Park Improvement Fund". The drainage of a marshy area and the preparation of the site for a lake has been studied by the Park commissioners for some time. The area is north of East Rock Road. Park officials say the lake, when created, will be ideal for skating.

Another Petition

The Aldermanic group will act at the same time on another petition of the Park Board to accept the income of a trust fund set up in the will of Elizabeth H. English Babbitt, cousin of Henry F. English. She died July 20, 1938, and stipulated in her will that certain securities were to be held by the Union and New Haven Trust Company and, after a period of years, the income of the trust was to go to the Park Board. The trust was established in memory of the donor's mother, Mary E. Gilkinson Babbitt and her grandmother, Elizabeth H. English Babbitt. The income is to be used to purchase Spring flowers and evergreens. It is also provided that a simple bronze memorial plaque with the inscription "Life Is Ever Lord of Death" is to be purchased from the income.

The fund, according to the petition of the Park Board, now totals $2,000.

Numerous other petitions are scheduled to come before the Wednesday meeting. These include the offer of Economy Realty Company, Inc., for the purchase of property known as Engine 11, corner of Howard Avenue and Lambertson Street as well as bids from Frederick H. Goldman and William E. Whiting for the Beecher College property, 787 Prospect Street. The former owner has a petition in for reassignment of the property, which was lost through foreclosure action. The city claimed $17,000 was due in taxes and penalties on the property, which is assessed for $93,000. John M. Golden, as director of Public Works, has a petition in for the sale of the property.
Recreation Area Planned For Dixwell Ave. Lot

Plans are underway to turn a vacant lot on Dixwell Avenue into a neighborhood recreation area. Designed for use by all age groups, the site will feature a sandbox, a six-foot hill, benches, trees, and shrubs.

The project originated in the Dixwell Neighborhood Freddy Fixer Clubs, but volunteer labor will be sought from block clubs and other civic groups as well. Tentative plans have been drawn up by Yale architecture students Bart Kaltenbach and David Seller.

Ernest Williams, adult advisor to the Freddy Fixer Clubs, is now seeking donations of materials from builders and contractors. Fill, topsoil, shrubs, flowers, bricks, drain tile, and steel and concrete pipe sections will be needed. The pipe sections will be used as children’s play apparatus.

The site of the proposed playground is on the corner of Dixwell Avenue and Gregory Street. It is part of the planned Dixwell Public Plaza, and will eventually be bordered by the new Dixwell Congregational Church and a luxury apartment building.

Work crews have already done preliminary work on the playground site, removing bricks and rubble. The next step will be to build up a low hill in the center of the area.

A brick footpath will be laid, and benches will be installed. Several trees are already growing on the site, and flowers, shrubs, and grass will be planted.

Williams hopes to begin earth-moving operations next Monday.
Playground On Church Property Mecca For Children In Orange-Humphrey Area

Children of the Orange-Humphrey neighborhood took turns on jumping platforms at their "mecca" playground recently, property of St. John's Episcopal Church, and took turns on the playground after church services. The children were all eager to get back to the playground after the services, and the children from the neighborhood were all eager to have a chance to play on the playground.

The playground is an example of the community's efforts to provide a safe place for children to play. The playground is made of wood and is surrounded by a fence. It is located near the church and the children like to play on it.

The playground is a great place for children to play and it is open to the public. It is a great way for the children to have fun and for the community to come together.
The New Haven Park System

Notice, 1818
THE Balladage the ensuing season, on the
east and west section of the Public Green,
will be sold in front of the court house, on
Tuesday, the 2d of June, at 9 o'clock in the
forenoon, in the usual manner, by the commit-
ttee for that purpose.
New-Haven, June 2. p.10

June 2, 1818, Source Unknown

New Haven Public Library Local History Collection
Resolution by the City of New Haven Board of Park Commissioners, May 8, 1929

New Haven Public Library Local History Collection
Broad Survey Planned For Playgrounds

Mayor Says Findings Will Be Used To Form Plan.

Mayor Richard C. Lee is planning an extensive survey of playground and athletic field needs throughout the city.

The survey findings will enable the Mayor and the Park Department to prepare a plan of playground development, with particular emphasis on the requirements of congested areas.

The task of conducting the survey will fall to the Citizens Action Commission's Health, Welfare, Recreation and Human Relations Committee, which is expected to be formed shortly, the mayor said.

Assisting in the project will be Park Director James E. Coogan and members of the Recreation Division.

Two Groups

The mayor noted that there are two groups of residents in need of recreational facilities—those in the older residential sections “too long neglected in this respect,” and those in the newly developed sections of the city.

He is anxious to provide playgrounds and ball fields, the mayor said, but he will not jump into any hasty action or proceed with a program without first determining where the needs are greatest.

It is certain that the only way we can do the job and do it properly, he said, is by carefully surveying the area and then proceeding with a sound plan of playground development, the mayor declared.

He made his views known in a letter to Alderman James P. Slavin, 8th Ward Democrat, stating that Slavin had asked the mayor for assistance in creating play areas in yards along the city.

The 8th Ward, at a heavily populated area, has the greatest need for children who should have recreational facilities for play and amusement, the mayor said.

Slavin has suggested that the city should look into the possibility of using the playgrounds at the schools and places where the need is greatest.

The mayor said that a meeting has been called for later this week at which the proposal will be considered and a plan for action will be decided.
DANCE WILL MARK
DEDICATION OF NEW PLAYGROUND

Washington Playground will be dedicated this evening at 7 with a two-hour block dance following the dedication ceremonies.

The playground, also known as Sandy Hollow, will have two concrete handball courts, the first such in the city. Other new equipment includes a Little League Field, hard surface area, swings, slide, climber, miracle whirl, shower spray and benches.


The invocation will be given by the Rev. Robert F. Carroll of Sacred Heart Church, and the benediction by the Rev. James Howard Rees of All Saints Episcopal Church. The playground will be blessed by the Rev. Mario Rognoni of St. Anthony's Church.

Townshend Hits City For Misuse Of Land

Claims Deed of 90 Acres on Shore Front Was Intended for Playground and Parks

Henry Townshend Jr., Republican candidate for alderman in the 32d Ward, said last night that the city was deeded 90 acres of land on the east shore of the harbor 25 years ago, and has not yet developed it for parks and playgrounds, the reason it was given the land.

Speaking at a 32d Ward Republican rally, he told an audience of 100 persons that not only has the city not used the land for park purposes, but now proposes to develop it for industry.

This, he said, is directly contrary to the deed, explaining that when his father, Henry Townshend Sr., and uncle gave the city the land, they specified that it was to be used for park purposes only.

Paid $25,000

He said that in 1922 when the city got the land it paid $25,000 to have engineers draw up a plan for development. Now, he said, the city administration says the plan is suit. Townshend told the group that he still has a copy of the original plan which the city says it can't find.

The aldermanic candidate said the 90 acres are overgrown with weeds, and added that many grass fires break out there during dry seasons, endangering nearby houses.

At the same time, he said, there are no play facilities in the 32d Ward, and parents must take their children to use vacant lots to play baseball and football.

He showed the group pictures and slides of the land as it is now and of fires which have occurred there in recent years.

Also present at the rally were Mrs. Edith Valet; Cook, GOP mayoral candidate, and GOP Town Chairman Henry J. Devita.
Bulldozers circle the new playground being built at Bishop Woods, between Quinnipiac Avenue and Foxon Road. The playground is the first of several to be constructed or revamped under the direction of James E. Coogan, director of Parks and Recreation, during the 1957 season. Renovation of Bishop Woods playground, modernization of Hill playgrounds, the Fairmount Park playground and the Washington playground and construction of a new Fair Haven playground will be accomplished with a $125,000 issue of 10-year bonds.
Quinnipiac Bidding Likely to Be Brisk

Brisk bidding is anticipated for the highly-coveted Quinnipiac Park which the administration of Mayor Richard C. Lee plans to put up for sale following approval by the park commissioners and aldermen. It was learned this week.

While the city hasn't set a definite figure on the approximately 14-acre tract in the lower Chapel and James St. area, it is expected it will receive offers ranging from $60,000 to more than $100,000 from several interested local concerns.

The city petitioned and was granted permission by the General Assembly to dispose of the property in line with its policy of making every bit of cleared municipal land available to industry when it cannot be used for recreation purposes.

The Herald learned that among those firms deeply interested in acquiring the property are the Adley Express Company and the Durso Petroleum Company.

Plans Progress To Final Stage For Playgrounds

Plans for playground and athletic facilities at Bassett, Clinton and Goffe Street have progressed to the point where Director of Parks and Recreation James E. Coogan will call for bids within a week or 10 days.

The Bassett School playground will include a Little League baseball field enclosed by a 10-foot chain link fence; a "fantastic village" educational play devices, a spray shower, picnic beaches and tables.

The Goffe Street playground, from Foote to Orchard Streets, will be hard-surfaced and have modern playground equipment.

Plans for the Clinton Street playground depend on whether the new eastern high school is built in that neighborhood. If the school is built, there would be one hardball field and one softball field, with additional play and athletic space. If the school is not built, plans for Clinton include additional facilities, such as basketball courts and a tennis court.
City Playground Refurbishing
Mayor Lee’s Pet Project

Today and yesterday, a complete transformation of all of the city’s half dozen playgrounds has been taking place. This week marks the beginning of a month long program for playground improvement according to Mayor E. B. Lee, who heads the New Haven Parks and Recreation Department. The program, which includes the replanting of grass, the cleaning of play areas, and the installation of new equipment, is being carried out in all city parks and playgrounds.

The mayor believes that the parks and playgrounds are important for the health and well-being of the city’s children. They provide a place for children to play, learn, and socialize with one another. The mayor has also noted that the parks and playgrounds are often used by families and community groups for special events.

Mayor Lee has been working on the playgrounds for many years, and he is proud of the progress that has been made. He has made it clear that he will continue to work on the playgrounds, and that he will not be satisfied until all of the city’s parks and playgrounds are in top condition.

The mayor has also stated that he will be looking for ways to improve the playgrounds even more in the future. He has already begun to plan for the next phase of the playground improvement program, which will include the addition of new equipment and the creation of new play areas.

Mayor Lee has asked the public for help in improving the playgrounds. He has encouraged people to come to the city’s parks and playgrounds to see the progress that has been made, and to offer suggestions for how the playgrounds can be improved even more.

Note: The following item was added 1.30.23.
In New Haven

Suit Filed To Save Park Land.

NEW HAVEN (9) - Nine members of the Save-the-Park Committee have filed suit in Superior Court in an effort to block the state from taking more land in this city's East Rock Park for a highway project.

The plaintiffs have asked the court for a temporary and permanent injunction to restrain the State Highway Department from acquiring more land in the area.

They also asked the court to order the state to return 38 acres of the park already acquired.

Ives Named

Named as the defendant in the suit is State Highway Commissioner Howard S. Ives.

Judge Herbert S. MacDonald has ordered Ives to appear in court Thursday to show cause why the injunctions should not be granted.

The state is proposing to build a connector for Interstate Highway 91 along the Mill River. The connector will run along the base of East Rock, a landmark in the city.

Although the state announced plans for the connector several years ago and held public hearings on the proposal, no public outcry was raised until recently.

The suit argues that the connector would constitute a nuisance to three of the plaintiffs who live near the route of the proposed highway.

The nine plaintiffs named in the action are: Howard S. Weaver, Christopher Tunnard, David T. Lanrock, Samuel T. Hunt, Roger D. Masters, Charles J. Parker, Charles N. Schenk III, and Kimberly Cheney, all of New Haven, and Peter Villano, of Hamden.