

**Newton Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes-Hybrid Meeting**  
**7:00 p.m. – Monday, April 29, 2024**

**Attending:** Arthur Magni, Chair, Byron Dunker, Vice-Chair, Commissioner Banks, Beth Wilkinson, John Rice, Randy Johnson, Sheila Butts, Jack Neville, Mark Feldhusen, Gloria Gavis, Midge Connolly, Ted Chapman

Meeting began: 7:00pm

**1. Meeting Minutes –March 2024**

- Approved 8-0

**2. Outdoor Special Events– Public Hearing**

- India Independence Day- Aug 17 – Hyde Playground – Janice Bourque
- Taiwan Music Festival – Sept 21 – Hyde Playground – Janice Bourque
  - Chairman Magni opened the meeting to public comments. No comments

*Ms. Butts made the motion to approve the Hyde Special events as presented. Mr. Neville seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0. Mr. Rice recused from vote.*

- St. Mary of Carmen Festival- July 17-21- Pellegrini Playground-Chuck Proia
  - Mr. Proia stated there have been no significant changes to the festival.
  - Chairman Magni opened the meeting to public comments. No comments

*Ms. Connolly made the motion to approve the event as presented. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0. Chairman Magni recused from vote.*

- Nonantum Village Day – June 2 – Coletti-Magni Park- Terry Sauro
  - Ms. Sauro stated the event has expanded to the road (Watertown St)
  - Rain date is set for June 23.
  - This is a free event. Mr. Johnson asked how many people usually attend. Ms. Sauro replied 300-400 people attend.

*Mr. Feldhusen made the motion to approve the proposal as presented. Mr. Dunker seconded the motion. Motion passed 8-0. Chairman Magni recused from the vote.*

**3. Parks Land Beehive Policy- Ahron Lerman- (draft proposal attached below)**

- Mr. Lehrman reviewed the draft proposal and summarized the basic rules:
  - Deadline to apply.
  - \$60/year fee
  - Must be a Newton resident.
  - Set term.
  - Have experience -Hobbyist not professional.
  - Limit to # of hives.
- Mr. Chapman commented:
  - If insurance is required, the language should be added to the policy.
  - Alan Noguee, Friends of Cold Spring Park is a big proponent of native pollinators and Mr. Chapman supports his concerns.
  - To safely add to the bee population could it be a 2-hive limit per 4 acres in a larger park.
  - And agrees the priority should be native pollinators.
  - Is there a record of how many hives there are on private property.

- Ms. Wilkinson replied, Alicia Bowman was working on a policy with the Law Department, Currently Councilor Humphrey has taken charge of developing the policy. Bee hives would be registered under agriculture, the same as a chicken or duck.
- Ms. Gavris commented:
  - If the insurance level could be lowered, the insurance can be expensive.
  - Would this be a department administrative process or require a public hearing?
  - Has a list of available spaces been identified? Mr. Lerman commented a list has not been identified.
- Ms. Butts commented as someone who is allergic to bees requested playgrounds not be included on the list, please think of appropriate areas for the bee hives. And recommends not publishing the list, keep it in house.
- Ms. Wilkinson commented:
  - For the sake of native bees do not consider more than 2 apiaries per park.
  - Understands trying to benefit the public by having a list, but we are not trying to fill up the parks with hives, we should not supply a list.
  - Nahanton Park is overstocked, and the number of hives should be reduced over the winter.
  - Enforcement would be difficult for the department.
- Mr. Feldhusen agreed with Ms. Wilkinson and asked if hobbyist can make money by selling honey. What is the defining line between a hobbyist and professional beekeeper.
- Mr. Lerman responded a hobbyist can have no more than 10 hives and selling honey at a craft fair would recoup their costs.
- Ms. Connolly stated one hive creates 50-100 pounds of honey per season. And asked if the previous deer park in Webster Woods would be a good location for beehives? Mr. Lerman stated Webster Woods is conservation property and the Conservation Commission has their own policy. Ms. Wilkinson stated there are beehives in Webster Woods.
- Policing the hives will have to be figured out. Stephanie Lapham Nahanton Park Gardens manager is working with the beekeeper at Nahanton Park to reduce the number of hives. Ms. Wilkinson commented the beekeeper in Nahanton Park is not a Newton resident.
- Mr. Johnson commented his neighbor had a hive in his backyard, one summer, and Mr. Johnson could not use his backyard the entire summer due to the bees. Mr. Johnson recommends a one-year term with the option to extend. Mr. Neville agreed the one-year term is the way to go.
- Mr. Chapman requested Mr. Noguee share the scientific difference between native bees and honeybees.
- Mr. Noguee thanked the city for supporting native pollinator gardens.
  - Honeybees are important to agriculture but not important in a natural environment. There is competition between honeybees and native bees which is a problem. Mr. Noguee preference is no hives in any parks except where people are growing crops. And no apiaries near at-risk species
  - If the policy affects the reduction of the 20 hives in Nahanton parks he would be grateful.
  - The process should be a public process with abutter notification.
- Commissioner Banks requested Mr. Noguee connect with Mr. Lerman to review the policy.
- Mr. Lerman commented he will take the input from the Commission and update the draft policy for review later.

#### 4. FY25 Budget update -presentation attached.

- Commissioner Banks & March Welch, Deputy Commissioner/City Forester reviewed the FY25 budget presentation.
  - *Forestry*

- Ms. Butts asked if the new Forestry admin will be contractual, and Mr. Feldhusen asked if the position would have a benefits package. Commissioner Banks stated the position will be a full-time union position with benefits.
    - Ms. Wilkinson stated this is a needed position, the new permitting requirements is a longer and more complicated application process.
    - Mr. Chapman, member of the Tree Conservancy stated the tree crews work with trees but also with people which is an additional challenge. Commissioner Banks agreed the team is forward facing in the community.
    - Mr. Welch stated additional staff will be added to the tree crew. This is covered by using the contractual funds allocated in the previous budget. Having the crew in-house provides more flexibility and efficiency.
  - *Grounds Maintenance/Beautification*
    - Commissioner Banks commented the biggest need in Grounds Maintenance is staffing. The staffing request was included in the override that was not approved.
    - Mr. Welch commented Grounds Maintenance has contractual money for grass mowing. Taking these contractual funds for maintenance staffing would not work because equipment would also need to be purchased and the mowing equipment is expensive, and they would need space to store the equipment. Whereas Forestry does not need to buy any new equipment for the additional staff.
  - *Parks and Open Space*
    - This division began as the Adopt-a-Space program and now has grown to manage Capital Projects.
    - Mr. Feldhusen commented the new installation of the Wellington Park sensory dome was a great project with the assistance of Stephanie Lapham and Luis Perez Demorizi.
    - Commissioner Banks stated the support from the Friends group allows the department to stretch what we can get done.
  - *Field Projects*
    - Field Lights at NNHS & NSHS
    - Light retrofit at Forte Park
  - *Recreation & Community Programs*
    - New Leadership position
- Ms. Butts asked how Programs & Services Committee received the presentation. Commissioner Banks stated the presentation went well and the support from the Commission and Staff was appreciated.
- Mr. Rice commented the PRC Department accomplishes a large amount of things with a small amount of people.

## 5. Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Banks recognized Andy Gluck, applicant for the P & R Commission. Part of the process is to attend meetings before the interview.
- Program Managers are hiring summer staff right now. There is a new application process. Commissioner Banks wanted to recognize Julie Babcock, Payroll Clerk who is managing the new hiring process with the Recreation Managers who are also acting as hiring managers.
- Marty Sender path Project is under way.
- Newton Serves is scheduled May 5
- Family Fun Fest is scheduled May 18 & 19, it is the City's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Ms. Butts asked when Crystal Lake will open. Commissioner Banks the opening information will be available soon, school is out later so we must figure out staffing.

- Ms. Wilkinson stated Ms. Babcock is the Payroll Clerk but has received emails from her regarding other subjects. Commissioner Banks stated Ms. Babcock is the Payroll Clerk, her other responsibility is to assist Forestry with storm emergencies. Ms. Babcock is also part of the PRC Office Admin team with Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Murphy. They manage all customer service requests in the office.
- Mr. Johnson commented the new on-boarding process is a better process than last year. Commissioner Banks commented the PRC Department is the first department to go through this process, we have a good team.

## 6. Committee Reports

- Community Preservation Committee -*B. Dunker*
  - Mr. Dinker reported things have been quiet.
- Urban Tree Commission – *B. Wilkinson*
  - At the April meeting, commission members were concerned about issues raised by a lawyer and architect at the P & S Committee meeting on April 10. To quote from the report “The Chair noted that some individuals have come forward noting how they find the tree ordinance difficult to comply with...both Deputy Commissioner Welch and Andrew Lee Senior Assistant City Solicitor, agreed the ordinance has been in effect for six weeks and evaluation is needed to identify any potential amendments.” Tree Commission members agreed that more time is needed to evaluate the updated ordinance and expressed concern that nothing be done to undermine the protection offered by the revised ordinance.
- Farm Commission – *B. Wilkinson*
  - The annual seedling sale will take place on May 18-19 from noon to 3pm.
- Off-Leash Area Working Group (OLAWG) – *Commissioner*
  - March 28 meeting – Edmands Park proposal was presented and is under review by the department, may be presented to the Commission in the Fall.
  - Walker Parker Plan
    - Includes 1 or 2 crosswalks.
    - Additional parking
    - North side of the pike
  - Cabot Park off-leash area
    - Has been flooding, Maintenance found the issue and cleared the basin cover to drain properly. Currently researching new ground cover for Cabot off-leash area.
- Arts & Culture – *G. Gavris*
  - Commissioner Banks covered the current events, there will be more to report next month.

## 7. New Business

*Meeting Adjourned 9:14 pm*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Robin McLaughlin, Commission Secretary*

# Proposed Beehive Policy

## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission Policy Apiaries on Newton Park Land

### Background and Purpose

The Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department ("Department"), in collaboration with the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission ("Commission"), balances active and passive recreation, education, ecology, access, and more, in determining appropriate and best uses of Newton's parks and open spaces. When it comes to allowing beekeeping on parkland, the Department prioritizes maintaining healthy populations of native pollinators.

Keeping honeybees is a beloved agricultural hobby. However, honeybee populations can disrupt our native pollinator populations, including keystone species, integral to our ecosystems.

The Parkland Apiary Policy seeks to balance protecting native pollinators from potential undue honeybee competition with the potential community benefits of beekeeping by establishing careful limits on the number and locations of beehives. This policy provides a framework for permitting and monitoring parkland apiaries. This policy is applicable to land managed by the Department; it is not applicable to other public land or to private property.

### Permit and Reporting

Any beekeeper seeking a new or renewal permit to keep an apiary on parkland must submit to the Department a Parkland Apiary Permit Application no later than January 1. Following a review of the application, a permit may be granted for a period of one to three years. The fee for an apiary permit is \$60 per year.

Any beekeeper with a current Parkland Apiary Permit must submit to the Department an Annual Parkland Apiary Report, providing information regarding hive health, no later than December 1.

The Department or designee may inspect apiaries, including for compliance with the associated Parkland Apiary Permit, the Parkland Apiary Policy, and best management practices. The Department will strive to work with any beekeeper(s) on necessary modifications or remediation.

### Select Definitions

**Apiary** – a location with one or more colonies of honeybees in proximity

**Beekeeper** – a person who owns or has charge of one or more colonies of honeybees

**Beekeeping** – the establishment and maintenance by a person or group of an apiary

**Colony** – an aggregate of honeybees consisting principally of workers, but having, when perfect, one queen and, seasonally, drones, brood (eggs, larva, pupae), combs, honey, and the receptacle inhabited by the honeybees

**Dead out** – a hive in which the entire bee colony has died

**Flyway** – flight path of honeybees when they leave and return to the entrance of their hive

**Hive or Beehive** – the human-made structure which contains a single colony of honeybees

**Hobbyist** – A hobbyist beekeeper is one who (1) is not paid to keep bees; (2) does not make a profit including by, but not limited to, selling honey, honeycomb, or wax; and (3) does not keep more than 10 hives across parkland and any other public or private land.

**Honeybee** – a domesticated bee, in any life stage, of the species *Apis mellifera* (commonly known as Western honeybee)

**Permitted Beekeeper** – a beekeeper with a current permit to establish and maintain an apiary on parkland in compliance with the Parkland Apiary Policy

**Nucleus colony** – abbreviated as "nuc"; a partial hive used as a holding area for no more than 90 days, such as when splitting a colony to prevent swarming

**Requeening** – replacing the queen of a colony

**Robbing** – the pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects

**Super** – an individual component of hive; generally, a box made of wood or plastic in which honeybees build out honeycomb frames for brood or honey storage

**Swarming** – natural proliferation of honeybees by the division of one colony into two or more colonies and the search of the new colony for shelter

### Parkland Apiary Policy

A Parkland Apiary Permit, reviewed by the Department and approved by the Commission, authorizes an individual beekeeper, or a beekeeper plus mentor, to maintain an apiary on parkland in compliance with this policy.

The apiary kept by a permittee is limited to the assigned size (number of beehives) and specific location on parkland. A beekeeper may not increase the size or change the location of their apiary.

- 1. Eligibility.** A permit may only be granted to an applicant if all of the following conditions are met: the applicant is (a) a Newton resident and (b) a hobbyist beekeeper.
- 2. Application and permitting process.** To apply for a new permit or a permit renewal, a beekeeper must submit a timely, complete Parkland Apiary Permit Application form to the Department. The Department will review applications and submit candidates for a permit to the Commission for approval. The Commission shall determine whether to issue each permit, taking into account the characteristics of the surrounding area. If approved by the Commission, the Department will grant a permit to the beekeeper(s) and assign a unique Apiary Permit Number.  
After a permit is approved but *before* an apiary is installed, the beekeeper(s) must meet with Parks, Recreation & Culture staff or designee on-site at the approved apiary location to discuss apiary location, design, and installation as described in subsection (7). After a successful on-site meeting, the beekeeper(s) may install their approved apiary. Said apiary will be subject to inspection by the Department. The beekeeper(s) must submit an Annual Parkland Apiary Report for the duration of the permit period.
- 3. Non-Transferable Permit.** A permit is not transferable to another beekeeper.
- 4. Inspection and registration.** Apiaries on parkland (a) are subject to inspection the Department or designee and (b) must be kept in compliance with all relevant City of Newton and Commonwealth of Massachusetts laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, registration with the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). Permitted beekeeper(s) are required to be inspected once during the term of their permit by the MDAR Apiary Program (<https://www.mass.gov/apiary-program-honey-bees>) and are

responsible requesting such inspection. The Program may be contacted via email to [bees@mass.gov](mailto:bees@mass.gov) or by phone: (508) 281-6784.

- 5. Apiary Location.** Included in the application, the beekeeper shall submit a map or sketch plan showing the location and orientation of the hive(s). The apiary's location:
  - a. Shall not be within 20 feet of an established trail or other public gathering spot or amenity;
  - b. Shall not interfere with typical public enjoyment of parkland;
  - c. Shall not be within 300 feet of another known apiary;
  - d. Shall be at least 20 feet from the property line of a parkland
- 6. Apiary Design and Density.**
  - a. All bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable combs.
  - b. A hive, including the attached honey supers, shall not exceed twelve cubic feet.
  - c. Size and stability of hives shall not pose a hazard to the beekeeper or the public.
  - d. Hives must be installed on sturdy stands so that the bottom board is at least 18 inches above grade. The Hives shall use industry standard methods to exclude pests.
  - e. The licensed apiary shall comprise no more than two hives year-round. One additional nucleus colony, not to exceed 4 cubic feet, is permitted for a period not to exceed 90 days.
  - f. There may be no more than two apiaries in any park. Parks smaller than four acres may contain only one apiary.
- 7. Apiary Installation.**
  - a. The beekeeper(s) shall meet on site with Department staff or designee, prior to installation, to discuss apiary location, design, installation per subsections (5-7). Beekeeper(s) should be prepared to discuss all provisions of this policy and any relevant best practices.
  - b. The apiary must be clearly and visibly labeled with (i) the name and phone number(s) of the beekeeper(s) and (ii) the Apiary Permit Number. Such signage may be painted on the side of the hive(s) or attached atop a temporary post not taller than 36" in height, for example.

- c. No native vegetation or soil will be disturbed in the establishment or operation of the apiary including using fencing or other permanent structure, except a short signpost, per subsection (b). The Beekeeper shall be responsible for repairing any damage to any portion of the City property that it or its agents cause while establishing or operating the Apiary.
- 8. Water.** When the outdoor temperature is above 50 degrees Fahrenheit, the beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available to the honeybees so that the honeybees will not congregate at swimming pools, birdbaths, pet water bowls, birdbaths, or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or pet contact. The water shall be emptied and refilled daily so as not to become stagnant.
- 9. Maintenance and Best Practice Requirements.**
- a. All permitted beekeepers must follow the Massachusetts Beekeepers Association Best Management Practices. The Best Management Practices can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/agr/programs/bmp/bee-bmps.pdf>.
  - b. Beekeepers shall not keep Honey Bees in a manner that would constitute a nuisance as set forth in M.G.L.c. 111, Sec. 122 or result in unsanitary conditions.
  - c. All bee colonies shall be kept in sound and usable condition.
  - d. The apiary must be maintained in a clean and sanitary way that does not attract wildlife or pests. Spills of honey and Beehive by-products shall be removed daily from all Beehives.
  - e. Hives shall be maintained so as to discourage robbing and swarming behaviors. The beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left on the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall be promptly removed from the site and disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.
  - f. Where any colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits other undesirable "colony temperament", the beekeeper shall immediately seek technical assistance in writing from the MDAR Apiary

being maintained pursuant to that Permit within three (3) days of the notice of revocation. If the Beekeeper fails to complete the removal within the time prescribed, the City may remove the Apiary and/or Hive(s) and the Beekeeper shall be liable for all such removal costs and shall promptly reimburse the City therefor.

**Parkland Apiary Permit Application**

Applications must be submitted via email to [parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:parks@newtonma.gov) or by mail to Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, 246 Dudley Road, Newton, MA 02459, by **January 1**. Renewal applications will only be considered if the Annual Parkland Apiary Report(s) have been submitted.

**Contact information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone [cell or home number checkboxes] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Is this a new permit application or renewal permit application? [New] [Renewal]
- Permits may be granted for a term of 1-3 years. How many years do you want to apply for? \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a new application, you must complete the sections A-F and G.

If this is a renewal application, you must complete sections A, E-G and, if any information regarding your residency, experience, hobbyist status, or apiary plan has changed, you must include the updated information in your application in the relevant sections A-E.

**A. Residency**

Specialist and will abide by the recommendations of the Specialist, including requeening if necessary.

- g. Dead outs shall be removed expeditiously.
- h. All supers on park land must be actively in use in direct support of a living colony. Storage of empty supers and other equipment on park land is prohibited.

**10. Education and Community Awareness.** All beekeepers are encouraged to take advantage of educational opportunities and mentorship, including regarding beekeeping best practices in New England.

- a. The Middlesex County Beekeepers Association provide beekeeping guidance and partnership with a local mentor. <http://middlesexbeekeepers.org/>
- a. The Middlesex County Beekeepers Association and Newton Community Education offer classes periodically.
- b. The Newton Conservators and other organizations promote awareness of all pollinators, including native pollinators.

**11. Prohibitions:** No person shall keep a bee colony, beehive, or apiary on parkland (1) without a Parkland Apiary Permit or (2) out of compliance with the provisions of the Parkland Apiary Policy. If any bee colony, beehive, or apiary is out of compliance with this policy, the City shall notify the Beekeeper of the violation in writing and order the remediation of the violation within three (3) days. If the Beekeeper fails to remedy the violation within the time prescribed, the Hive(s) and/or Apiary may be destroyed or removed by the City and the Beekeeper shall be liable for all such removal costs and shall promptly reimburse the City therefor. Should the Department need to remove an apiary, it will first attempt to move the hive via the Middlesex County Beekeepers Association.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an Apiary or Beehive is unpermitted, abandoned, or poses an imminent health hazard, the City may remove or destroy the Apiary and/or Hive(s) on parkland without prior notice to the Beekeeper(s) and without having to first attempt to move the hive.

**12. Permit Revocation.** If a Beekeeper violates the terms of this Parkland Apiary Policy or if the Commission otherwise deems it necessary, the Commission may revoke their Parkland Apiary Permit. If the Commission revokes a Parkland Apiary Permit, the Beekeeper shall remove the Apiary and/or Hive(s)

Are you a Newton resident? Yes/No

If different from your contact address, what is your Newton residential address? \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Experience**

How many years of beekeeping experience do you have? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Describe your relevant beekeeping experience. \_\_\_\_\_

For beekeepers with fewer than three years of experience in the last ten years, do you have a mentor who will actively assist you in beekeeping on parklands? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mentor** (if applicable)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone [cell or home number checkboxes] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Hobbyist**

What are your goals from beekeeping? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you paid to keep bees? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you keep any other beehives in the City of Newton? If so, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

Do you sell or plan to sell honey, honeycomb, or wax? If so, please explain, including what was your actual or is your expected annual income from said sale. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Apiary Plan**

How many beehives do you want to keep as part of your apiary at the proposed location? \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your emergency swarm plan. \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a map or sketch plan showing your requested location and orientation of the hive(s). The requested location must comply with the Parkland Apiary Policy subsection (5).

**E. Insurance**

Please attach a Certificate of Insurance evidencing the coverage required by Section 12 of the Parkland Apiary Policy.

**F. Renewal ONLY**

Current or most recent Apiary Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

What year(s) did your past Parkland Apiary Permit cover? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had an apiary or hive removed or destroyed by the Department in the past? If so, please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**G. Agreement**

Have you reviewed all provisions of the Parkland Apiary Policy? Y/N

If approved for a Parkland Apiary Permit, do you agree to comply with all provisions of the Parkland Apiary Policy? Y/N

By signing and submitting this Parkland Apiary Permit Application, you hereby agree to be bound by the terms of the Parkland Apiary Policy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_

If you sold honey, honeycomb, and/or wax from your beekeeping on parklands, what was your income per product? \_\_\_\_\_

Did beekeeping meet your hobbyist goals? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you take advantage of any community education or awareness opportunities? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Parkland Apiary Report**

Reports must be submitted via email to [parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:parks@newtonma.gov) or by mail to Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, 246 Dudley Road, Newton, MA 02459, by **December 1**. Renewal applications will be considered only if the Annual Parkland Apiary Report(s) have been submitted.

**Apiary permit**

Apiary Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Apiary permit term (list year(s)): \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact information**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone [cell or home number checkboxes] \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Apiary Health**

On what date did you request an inspection by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Apiary Program? \_\_\_\_\_

On what date was the MDAR Apiary Program inspection completed? \_\_\_\_\_

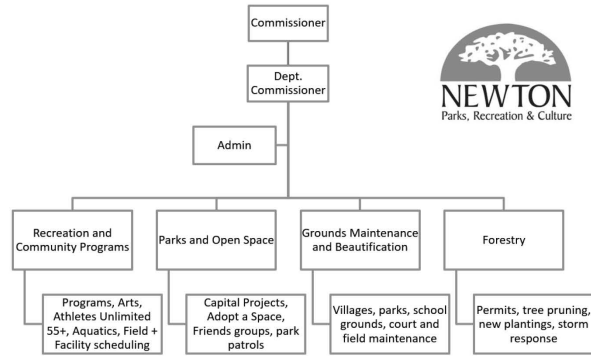
Have you attached the *Inspection Report* and *Health Certificate* from the MDAR Apiary Inspector? If not, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you observe any of the following in your apiary and, if so, please explain: robbing or swarming behavior, unusually aggressive characteristics, or dead outs? \_\_\_\_\_

**Survey**

How did you use the honey, honeycomb, and/or wax from your beekeeping on parklands? \_\_\_\_\_

Parks, Recreation & Culture FY25 Budget Presentation 4/18/24



### Urban Forestry

Planting, pruning, removals, sapling care

22,000 Street Trees      8 Employees      1,000+ acres City Land

STORMWATER	CARBON	EFFICIENCY
Gallons Intercepted	Pounds of Carbon Removed	Kilowatt hours Energy Conserved
28,000,000	9,820,000	18,710,000

Annual Benefits

### Insourcing Work: Improved Control, Flexibility, Efficiency

Annual Numbers	FY2025 Changes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3,000+ service requests received</li> <li>• 700 trees lost due to decline &amp; storms</li> <li>• 700 stumps ground</li> <li>• 500 mature trees pruned</li> <li>• 600 trees planted</li> <li>• 1,400 urgent or emergency tree responses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add 3 new tree care employees</li> <li>• Budget neutral</li> <li>• Reduce reliance on contracted service</li> <li>• 115% increase in mature trees pruned</li> <li>• 1,000 young/new trees cared for</li> <li>• 40% increase in completed work units</li> </ul>



### Grounds Maintenance and Beautification

166 locations	600+ acres	24 school grounds	73 parks 7 dog parks
65 playgrounds	65 Tennis courts 16 pickleball	44 basketball, 8 bocce courts	Village Centers
Dozens of ballfields and playing fields	9 community center/ rec buildings	Crystal Lake/ Gath Pool 2 splash pads	Over 300 waste/ recycling containers

### Parks and Open Space

#### Capital Projects

- Design
- Community input
- Procurement
- Constr. Mgmt.

#### Community Partnerships

- Friends groups
- Adopt a Space
- Bench memorials
- Scout projects



Looking back:  
Athletic field projects

Albemarle Park

Burr Elementary Grounds

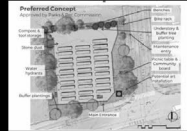
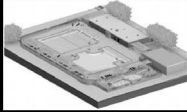
McGrath Park

NNHS Track and Field

Looking ahead:  
Athletic field projects

## Coming Soon!

- 2 pools
- 2 splashpads
- 6 pickleball courts
- Community garden
- Lincoln Eliot Community Theater
- Cooper Center
- New school playgrounds



## Recreation and Community Programs

### New Leadership Position

- Arts & Culture
- Holiday/Seasonal Events
- Aquatics
- Camps
- Special Needs
- Sports Programs
- 55+
- Community Centers
- Farmers Markets



## Budget Highlights

- Staffing
- Grounds maintenance
- Aquatics (maint + ops)
- Courts/Playgrounds
- Arts and Culture



FY25

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### Financial Highlights

	Actual			Original FY2024	Proposed FY2025
	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023		
Expenditure by Department					
Indoor Recreation	\$ 3,695	\$ 1,004	\$ 819	\$ 9,400	\$ -
Special Needs Rec	\$ 144,943	\$ 160,877	\$ 172,548	\$ 181,962	\$ 187,583
Emerson Cmnty Ctr	\$ 20,092	\$ 13,980	\$ 20,073	\$ 21,250	\$ 21,250
Hamilton Cmnty Ctr	\$ 7,824	\$ 9,329	\$ 5,002	\$ 13,250	\$ 13,250
Senior Recreation	\$ 245	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ -
Cultural Affairs	\$ 160,448	\$ 165,471	\$ 184,263	\$ 192,971	\$ 204,975
Recreational Vehicles	\$ 103,444	\$ 119,117	\$ 124,848	\$ 156,000	\$ 132,000
Recreational Buildings	\$ 258,676	\$ 397,802	\$ 437,819	\$ 407,000	\$ 444,000
Cmnty Beautification	\$ 874,268	\$ 1,034,456	\$ 791,253	\$ 1,207,335	\$ 1,254,474
Admin	\$ 1,144,321	\$ 1,286,781	\$ 1,368,318	\$ 1,476,018	\$ 1,629,019
Public Grounds Maint	\$ 2,019,954	\$ 2,412,314	\$ 2,175,215	\$ 2,717,252	\$ 3,126,509
Forestry Services	\$ 1,855,613	\$ 1,707,847	\$ 1,693,945	\$ 1,948,111	\$ 1,953,480
Snow/Ice Control*	\$ 33,619	\$ -	\$ 4,099	\$ -	\$ -
Recreational Activities	\$ 1,105	\$ 1,200	\$ 7,007	\$ 5,460	\$ 14,880
Outdoor Swimming	\$ 28,676	\$ 49,676	\$ 73,711	\$ 75,000	\$ 145,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,652,923</b>	<b>\$ 7,359,854</b>	<b>\$ 7,618,920</b>	<b>\$ 8,411,339</b>	<b>\$ 9,126,430</b>
% Incr		10.63%	3.52%	10.40%	8.50%
** Snow/Ice Control Transfers to DPW					
Personnel:					
Full-Time	43	43	42	44	48
Part-Time	2	1	1	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>50</b>

## Funding Sources and Partnerships

- Community Preservation Committee
- Friends Groups/ PTOs
- Grants and State Earmarks
- Sport Partners
- Local businesses
- Free Cash/ Budget Reserves
- Operating and Capital Budget
- Developer Mitigation
- ARPA



*Discussion*

