



## **CELEBRATING OUR PARKS:**

### **KICK-OFF OF EXPANDED COMMITMENT TO PRESERVING OUR HISTORIC PARKS SYSTEM**

#### **---NEWS RELEASE---**

“Celebrating Our Parks” is a movement in Hartford that goes beyond just simply acknowledging Earth Day, Earth Week, and Earth Month. Today, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra announced a series of investments and events that will promote the preservation, enhancement, and enjoyment of Hartford’s historic Parks System.

“Our ‘Week of the Parks’ effort last year was immensely successful, so we have deepened our commitment to these natural treasures so that more families and children can enjoy them for years to come,” said Mayor Segarra.

“For far too long, our parks have been neglected. Our parks are a critical component to maintaining our high quality of life,” he added.

Last month, the Mayor unveiled that the City will commit \$4.75 million this year and \$5 million next year to rehabilitate and rebuild our parks system. Today, the Mayor announced he is empowering the Department of Public Works Parks Division with an Acting Parks Operations Manager, and named Jack Hale, the former Executive Director of Knox Parks, to the post. Mr. Hale has agreed to work with the City on an interim basis while the City launches a search for a permanent Director.

“Jack’s immediate task will be to assess the overall needs of our parks and staff and design and begin work on our action plan to address our infrastructure needs, including the tree canopy, athletic fields, and other community areas,” said Mayor Segarra.

Seven staff positions will be added to this division to enhance our parks, including a dedicated architect to work solely on parks projects.

“Celebrating Our Parks” is part of “One City, One Plan” for conservation and development--- a long-term vision and strategy for the future of Hartford.