



**Pedro E. Segarra**  
**Mayor**



**GREEN RIBBON TASK FORCE  
PRESENTS RECOMMENDATIONS  
MAYOR SAYS: "NOW IT'S THE PARKS TURN"**

**---NEWS AND COMMUNITY RELEASE---**

(March 21, 2011)--- Today, Hartford Mayor Pedro Segarra received the Green Ribbon Task Force (GRTF) recommendations on how the City should best be environmental stewards to strategically maintain and manage our historic park system. A total of 42 recommendations were made by the 12-member group co-chaired by Bernadine Silvers and Tyler Smith, who have worked in a collaborative effort with the community and city staff over the past seven months with a focus on the governance, finances, and maintenance of Hartford's parks.

"Other aspects of city government have received time, attention, and resources over the years. Now it is the parks turn, especially after this record-setting winter," said Mayor Segarra.

The primary recommendations by the Task Force include:

1. Reuniting Parks and Recreation Services;
2. Hiring a highly qualified Parks Director;
3. Keeping Parks and Recreation within the Department of Public Works;
4. Strengthening and restructuring the Hartford Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission; and
5. Establishing a Department of Environmental Services.

The Task Force also recommended a five-year parks management and improvement roadmap. Year one would call for:

1. Hiring a top-level parks administrator/planner capable of leading the park service's enterprise and planning for the rejuvenation of the park system;
2. Hiring a grant writer experienced in seeking and obtaining park related grants;
3. Adding the equivalent of one crew of workers to park services, and establish these employees as a weekend crew that will customarily work on Saturdays and Sundays, when park use and park volunteer activities are greatest;
4. Hiring a landscape architect/planner sensitive to historic landscapes as well as the demand of current uses in order to evaluate, develop, and oversee all park development and renovation projects.

Members of the GRTF call this "a living document" that is a "footprint for the future" and is the "most substantive work on our parks since 1992."

Mayor Segarra will utilize these recommendations to build upon last year's highly successful "Week of the Parks," which will be enhanced later this spring.