



**Pedro E. Segarra**  
Mayor

## **“WEEK OF THE PARKS” CITY ANNOUNCES MAJOR CLEAN-UP EFFORT**

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

(July 28, 2010)--- Calling Hartford one of the most beautiful cities in the country, Mayor Pedro E. Segarra announced a comprehensive greening effort to clean, revitalize and sustain the Capital City’s historic parks. The “Week of the Parks” will take place August 23-28<sup>th</sup> but the efforts that happen leading up to it are just as important.

“A strategy and vision are already in place as part of our ‘One City, One Plan’ conservation and development. What is essential is that we recognize the value of our parks which are huge assets to our city,” said Mayor Segarra. “There are so many partnerships that are involved from Riverfront Recapture to Knox Parks, our libraries to city departments. But the most important and essential part of all of this, if it is to be a success, is to get the community involved.”

There are several elements of this greening campaign including jobs, the physical clean-up and repair, health and recreational activities, and educational events. The hiring and re-hiring of 30 seasonal part time workers has already been announced and is underway. Clean-up efforts regarding tree-trimming, mowing and picking-up litter have begun as well throughout the city’s parks and cemeteries.

The Week of the Parks schedule will include a centralized focus on the following areas:

Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>: Keney Park (Woodland Street entrance):

- Cut and remove fallen trees
- Clean and remove leaves along hiking roads and trails
- Remove old fence at tennis courts, clean area
- Repair broken benches
- Repair broken basketball rims
- Clean, patch and paint handball courts
- Remove old baseball backstop

Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>: Colt Park

- Cut, remove and prune trees
- Repair park benches
- clean area under old stage/pavilion
- Clean and remove boards at old ice rink
- Repair Massek parking lot
- Repair basketball courts

Wednesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>: Goodwin Park

- Remove branches and wood along Maple Avenue
- Repair fit trail and equipment
- Repair basketball courts
- Trim and cut trees on Maple Avenue

Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>: Bushnell Park

- Remove perimeter shrubs near Pump House
- Repair park benches
- Prune Pump House shrubs
- Refurbish mulch beds where needed
- Trim and prune trees
- Remove old fencing around playground area

Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>: Keney Park (Barbour Street entrance)

- Cut up and remove fallen trees
- Remove old fence and nets at northern tennis courts
- Replace or repair rims and nets at basketball courts
- Paint basketball courts

The Department of Health and Human Services, as part of the City's "Health Hartford" campaign, will sponsor a number of activities in the parks on these same days. Health screenings and recreational events will occur and swimming pools will remain open this week (the week before school starts in Hartford) which is one extra week beyond what has already been scheduled.

The educational component will engage the newly created Green Ribbon Task Force. Mayor Segarra announced that neighborhood activist Bernadine Silvers and noted local architect Tyler Smith--- both Founding Directors of Riverfront Recapture--- are the Chairpersons. One of their many roles is to be part of panel discussions about the unique park system's past, present and future including exciting activities at the Pump House in Bushnell Park.

What will kick off on August 20<sup>th</sup> as a celebration at the Riverfront with the Dragon Boat and Asian Festival will culminate on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> with a Community Clean-Up Day. All of this is in conjunction with the long term vision of the "One City, One Plan" strategy for conservation and development (POCD 2020) that was adopted in June.

More information will be made available as the "Week of the Parks" approaches.