

# **2025 ANNUAL REPORT**



#### PARKS, RECREATION, YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

#### Administration

Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE - Superintendent Sarah Larson, MS, CPRP - Deputy Superintendent Amaris Estrada - Assistant to the Superintendent Erica Benoit - Community Engagement Coordinator

#### Recreation

Amry Shelby, MS, CPRP - Recreation Supervisor Madison Fostervold, MS, CPRP - Recreation Program Assistant

#### Aquatics

Raelynne Andrews, LMSW, CPO, LGI, WSIT - Aquatics Supervisor Daniel Stowe, LGI, WSI, CPO, COTA - Aquatics Coordinator Atem Caron, CPO - Facilities Maintenance Technician

#### **Youth and Community Services**

Stephen Bynum - Youth & Community Services Supervisor
Raven Cody, LMSW - Youth & Family Coordinator
Ashante Malone, LMSW - Youth & Family Coordinator
Aubrey Minkler - Community Services Coordinator
Deedra Willingham, MPS - Drug Free Communities Project Coordinator

#### **Arts and Culture**

Arianna Therriault - Arts & Culture Supervisor

#### Parks, Grounds, & Facilities Maintenance

Robert Lincoln - Parks, Grounds & Facilities Supervisor Douglas Trillo - Athletics & Ballfield Supervisor Todd Anderson, CPO - Group Leader

Matthew Newton - Group Leader

Michael Dinice - Mechanic

Ronald Dionne, CPO - Skilled Utility Craftsman

Craig Vibert, CPO - Skilled Utility Craftsman

Carlos Rivera - Heavy Truck Driver

Steven Schriver - Landscape Gardener

Brian Beaudoin - Park Maintainer

Anthony Connors - Park Maintainer

Matthew D'Amato - Park Maintainer

Dean Dionne - Park Maintainer

Kevin Dragon - Park Maintainer

Candido Galindo - Park Maintainer

Jaden Laprise - Park Maintainer

Cody Lombardi - Park Maintainer

George Richter - Park Maintainer

Jonathan Therriault - Park Maintainer







#### **Board of Park Commissioners**

Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu - Chair Robert Fiorito - Vice Chair Mark Dickau - City Council Liaison Marie O'Brien - Board of Finance Liaison Cynthia Donovan Cecilia Garay Leonard Lamothe Rob Parenti Aaron Weber

#### Youth Commissioners

Matthew Gotowala - Chair Deborah Ahl - Vice Chair Steven Seymour - City Council Antonio Chatfield Rich Kilby Jonathan Lukasiewicz RJ Motel Donna Osuch Luke Viens

#### City Arts & Culture Commissioners

Walter Lewandoski - Chair Andrea Adams - Vice Chair Greg Hahn - City Council Liaison Julie Carena-Crist Juliet Norton Maria Salice Nigel Wynter E. Brad Yancy

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT





#### **Department Mission**

It is the mission of the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services Department (BPRYCS) to deliver high-quality services and facilities that enhance the community's quality of life, meet the diverse needs of all citizens, and build a sustainable future.

#### **Department Vision**

The Bristol Parks,
Recreation, Youth and
Community Services
Department is an
essential department
impacting the lives of
all Bristol residents by
shaping positive
public perceptions,
fostering cultural
unity, creating
responsible and
healthy citizens, and
inspiring advocacy.



#### Leveling up our impact through data informed decision-making

With our newly adopted Strategic Plan, the Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services (BPRYCS) Team began 2025 with clearly established goals to shape positive public perceptions, foster cultural unity, create responsible and healthy citizens and inspire advocacy. As we began to engage in this work, we realized we needed stronger baseline data to help us understand more clearly where we were and where we needed to go. Over the past months, our team developed data collection tools that allowed us to gather meaningful data which is now bringing our strategic objectives into focus. I'm excited to provide a few examples of how data is informing our work:

#### Parks Satisfaction Survey

During the summer we launched a comprehensive satisfaction survey to understand public perceptions of the parks, how people are using the spaces, and what areas we could improve. Walking/hiking trails, playgrounds and the swimming pools were the top 3 reported amenities used in the parks and 93% of respondents felt the parks provided inclusive and welcoming spaces that help build social connections. Additionally, a resounding 95% of respondents felt the parks provide connection to the outdoors, green space and protected natural habitats. Results also showed that residents were split in their satisfaction of park maintenance, upkeep and cleanliness as well as safety. Based on these findings we are now prioritizing the strategic activities to address the issues with lower scores to help improve these experiences for our park guests. The full impact report is available page five.

#### 7-Dimensions of Wellbeing

Leveraging a national health framework, our team has begun to more clearly define the health benefits associated with each of our department programs. Program satisfaction surveys are being retooled in order to collect participant data that will help demonstrate how participants are improving their health outcomes by engaging in our services. We are excited to share more about our health impact in 2026 and are excited to reveal a preview of the framework on page three.

#### Investing in our Team

Having a top tier professional team is essential for delivering on our mission, vision and values. To this end, we launched an Employee Satisfaction Survey and learned that 76% of our full-time employee's reported satisfaction in the workplace. While we are pleased with these results, we strive for on-going improvement and so we are continuing to invest in professional development, training, and a new work force development program that will create more opportunities to maximize staff satisfaction, performance and impact in the community. The Employee Satisfaction Impact Report is available on page seven.

Our data informed decision making doesn't stop with our strategic plan. It carries forward in all aspects of our work; from how we program, to how we budget, to how we engage the community and how we plan our park improvement projects. Data is driving our decisions in order to deliver the best results for our residents.

Sincerely,

John Me

Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, Ed.D., CPRE, Superintendent City of Bristol, Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services

#### CORE SERVICE PROGRAM AREAS

#### Arts & Culture

Comprehensive, year-round programs, events, and projects to bring creativity and entertainment to the Bristol community while ensuring all voices are heard and amplified.



#### Recreation

Activities for all ages that provide opportunities for skill development, social interaction, and improved wellness. In addition, field, facility, and park space rentals provide community members and local organizations with direct access for everyone to recreate.



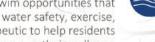
#### Aquatics

Swim lesson, swim team, class, and open swim opportunities that promote water safety, exercise, and therapeutic to help residents improve their wellness.



#### Park Maintenance

Daily maintenance of nearly 1,000 acres of active and passive recreational areas to keep parks safe, clean, welcoming, and operating efficiently to serve the needs of Bristol community members.



#### **Positive Youth Development**

Positive social and emotional development programs for youth that enhance the network and support between family, school, peer, and community environments.





#### Parent and Child Program

Resources, programs, and services that assist parents in raising healthy and happy children.



#### Case Management

Coordinated services that increase economic security and equitable opportunities to enhance the lives of individuals and families by assessing the basic needs of Bristol residents.





#### **Bristol Eliminating** Substance Use Together

Promotes wellness through increasing education, strategies, and influencing policy to prevent substance misuse by youth and those who impact their development.

#### 7-DIMENSIONS OF WELLNESS

The BPRYCS seven dimensions of wellness model was adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association's evidencebased framework. The model includes 7 dimensions of wellness represented as gears that can operate individually or in synergy with other dimensions to create a working system of community wellness. The model defines and evaluates BPRYCS contributions to community wellness and helps to guide conversations toward a shared vision and facilitate actionable decision making for oneself and the community. **ENVIRONMENTAL** 

#### **EMOTIONAL**

Having awareness, understanding, and regulation of emotions, allowing for the ability to navigate challenges.

#### CULTURAL

Having a sense of self while increasing awareness of differences in others' backgrounds, cultures, and values through meaningful experiences.











Being engaged with and contributing to spaces that are safe, sustainable, and accessible through

connection with natural and built environments.

#### SOCIAL

PHYSICAL

Having meaningful relationships, authentic interactions, and socialization that creates a sense of belonging.

#### **ECONOMIC**

Having present and future financial stability in order to both meet basic needs and prosper.

Being engaged in physical activity,

#### INTELLECTUAL

Being devoted to lifelong learning and the development and expansion of skills, knowledge, and abilities through enrichment.



#### 2025 IMPACT & REPORTS





8,503 Total program registrants

1,223 New program registrants

1,012 Activities Offered

67% of Program Participants are ages ten and under

9,597 Hours
of Pavilion and Field Rentals





1,979 Campers across all seasonal camps

18 Towns represented at camp

61 Field Trips taken at camp

**2,343 Miles Traveled** for Camp Field Trips



**12 Groups** hosted at Pine Lake Adventure Park

330 Participants

engaged in outdoor adventure programming









Downtown Live hosted
23 Unique Shows

Downtown Live generated \$198,870 in Revenue\*

2,000 Patrons\*

visited Downtown Live

Downtown Live has

35 Active Volunteers

29 Inaugural Members
of the Downtown Live Members Club

53 Hotel Stays

at Bristol's DoubleTree By Hilton Hotel

November 1, 2025
First Sold Out Show!!!

for the UMX: Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience

Over 2.2 Million views on social media

\*As of November 13, 2025



of Dennis Malone Aquatics Center Facility Impact survey respondents reported hey were satisfied or extremely satisfied with their program experience







#### 623 Pool Memberships

with access to indoor and outdoor pools

2,516 Kids

participated in American Red Cross Learn to Swim



- 15,615 visits to DMAC
- 7,156 visits to Page Pool
- · 4,596 visits to Rockwell Pool

58 Lifeguards Employed



of BPRYCS Lifeguards are American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Certified







## \$20,790 in Scholarships

Gifted to income eligible Bristol families to assist with Summer youth programming

## 12 Youth Groups

centered around leadership, communication, conflict resolution, and social skills

## 373 Youth Engaged

in services provided by the Youth Service Bureau

Provided youth development programs and support in 10 Bristol Schools





## PARKS SATISFACTION SURVEY -

The 2025 Parks Satisfaction Survey was an anonymous bi-lingual survey with 34 questions measuring park user experience and satisfaction issued by Bristol's Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services. The report reflects responses from July 24, 2025 - September 10, 2025

#### **Preferred Spending Priorities**

One being the highest priority to respondents and six being lesser of a priority for respondents.

- Maintenance for existing amenities
- Increased security features
- Additional restroom facilities
- New recreation amenities
- More free or affordable park programs
- Additional pavilion and rental spaces

#### Operations, Service, and Offerings Satisfaction

Percent of Survey Respondents who reported they are Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied with the following:







#### 53% Maintenance and upkeep

#### Accessibility (parking/ public 74%

transportation/walkways)

#### **Park Safety**

of respondents reported they feel Safe or Very Safe in Bristol Parks.

#### **Parks Visited**

Percent of Survey Respondents who report visiting the following parks:

- Rockwell Park 80%
- Page Park 70%
- Hoppers Birge Pond Nature Preserve - 30%
- Veterans Memorial Boulevard - 28%
- Pigeon Hill Preserve 22%
- Federal Hill Green 17%
- Seymour Park 16%
- . Casey Field -16%
- Roberts Property Park 11%
- Brackett Park 10%
- Stocks Playground 10%
- Nelson's Field 10%
- Wilson Field 7%



- Peck Park 6%
- Pine Lake 6%
- Kern Park 5%
- Quinlan Park 1%

#### **Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services**

Website: BristolRec.com | Email: parksandrecreation@bristolct.gov Phone: (860) 584-6160 | Office: 51 High Street, Bristol, CT 06010

#### Why Do You Visit the Park?

Survey respondents reported using the parks for:



#### Top Ten Park Amenities Used

The ten amenities most heavily used based on self reporting.

- 1. Walking / Hiking Trails
- 2. Playground
- 3. Swimming Pool
- 4. Splash Pad
- 5. Dog Park
- 6. Rockwell Amphitheater
- 7. Pavilions/ Shelters
- 8. Fishing Pond
- 9. Pickleball Courts
- 10. Veterans Monuments

#### Wellness Satisfaction

Percent of Survey Respondents who believe Bristol Parks provide:





of respondents have not experienced any barriers (physical or otherwise) prohibiting them from accessing Bristol Parks and recreational amenities.

events and celebrations



Source: 2025 Parks Satisfaction Survey

# Dennis IN. IVIaiono 7. S. Facility Impact Report **Dennis N. Malone Aquatics Center**



The 2025 Dennis Malone Aquatics Center Facility Survey was an anonymous 30 question survey measuring customer experience issued by the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center (DMAC) and Bristol's Department of Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services. The report reflects responses from 2/3/25 - 3/9/25.

#### **Gender Identity**



"I feel extremely lucky to live in a city with such a high quality amenity like DMAC." DMAC Patron/ Community Member

#### Reason for Pool Use





#### Age of Pool Users



 10-19 Years Old 20-29 Years Old 30-39 Years Old

Under Age 10

40-49 Years Old 50-59 Years Old

60-69 Years Old

70-79 Years Old

80+ Years Old



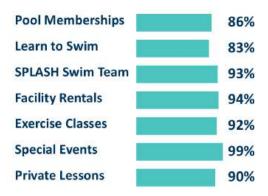
#### **Overall Satisfaction**

of Survey Respondents are Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied **OVERALL** with the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center

72% of Respondents are Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied with pool and facility cleanliness

## **Program Satisfaction**

Percent of Survey Respondents who reported they are Satisfied or Extremely Satisfied with the following programs



Percent of Survey Respondents who reported

they feel satisfied with the following services:



## Why do you choose DMAC for your aquatics needs?



Location / Price / **Proximity to Home** Affordability



Socialization

"You do a very nice job and I'm proud to have my children apart of this facility and program."

DMAC Patron/ Community Member

"Great facility that I feel fortunate to be able to use."

DMAC Patron/ Community Member

We have been at Dennis Malone Aquatics Center since 2014 and we feel like it is our second home."



of Respondents live less than five miles away from DMAC

DMAC Patron/ Community Member

Lifeguard Attentiveness to Pool and Patron Safety

Responsiveness of Staff

Service Satisfaction

**Quality of Program** Instructors

**Knowledge of Staff** 



of Respondents would recommend the **Dennis Malone Aquatics Center to a friend** 



Source: 2025 Dennis Malone Aquatics Center (DMAC) Facility Survey

## **WELLNESS SURVEY**

Findings of the March 2025 Bristol Wellness Survey of 6th -12th graders. 1227 out of 2841 (43% response rate)

BEST Bristol
Eliminating
Substance Use
Together

MENTAL HEALTH



of Bristol students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade report

self-harm in the past year Decrease since 2023 ANXIETY



of Bristol students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade report

persistent anxiety

Decrease since 2023

DEPRESSION



of Bristol students in 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade report

persistent depression

Decrease since 2023

#### Mental Health in Bristol Teens

#### TRUTH

Youth who report past Mental Health have 3x higher rates of substance use.



#### Substance Use in Bristol Teens

#### TRUTH

Substance use among Bristol youth has decreased.



**CORE Measures** 



#### **PARENTS**

Parental disapproval of underage substance use

Rates improved since 2023



#### PEERS

Peer disapproval of underage substance use

Rates increased since 2023



#### RISK

Perception of harm of underage substance use

Rates increased since 2023



#### **ACCESS**

Easy access to substances while underage

Rates decreased since 2023

Bristol 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Graders are

<u>5x more likely</u> to use substances
if their parents approve

3x more likely to use substances if there is no perceived risk.



## 2025 Employee Profile & Satisfaction Report

Aligned with the City of Bristol Parks, Recreation, Youth and Community Services (BPRYCS) 2025 - 2027 Strategic Plan objective to cultivate a workplace that is second to none in employee performance and satisfaction, an Annual Employee Satisfaction Survey was anonymously administered in April 2025. The survey was created by a staff driven data development team and included 20 statements organized into 4 categories: (1) personal satisfaction, (2) team culture, (3) management support, and (4) training/education/career development. Staff ranked their agreement level with each statement on a Likert scale from strongly agree to strongly disagree.



**Response Rate** 



Out of 33 full-time employees, 29 completed the survey for a response rate of 89%. **Overall Satisfaction** 



Average Overall Satisfaction of staff from the following divisions:

- · Arts & Culture
- Administration
- Youth & Community
   Services
- Recreation
- Aquatics
- Parks
   Maintenance

**Race & Ethnicity** 



Demographics of BPRYCS employees are categorized using the methodology of the CT Town Profiles by AdvanceCT and CT Data Collaborative: Hispanic includes those of any race; Remaining racial groups include only non-Hispanic; 'Other' includes American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawailian, Pacifica Islander, two or more races.

#### Average Employee Satisfaction by Category



Personal Satisfaction



l Team on Culture



Management Support

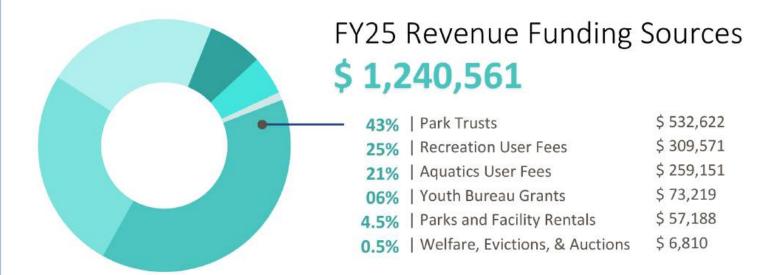


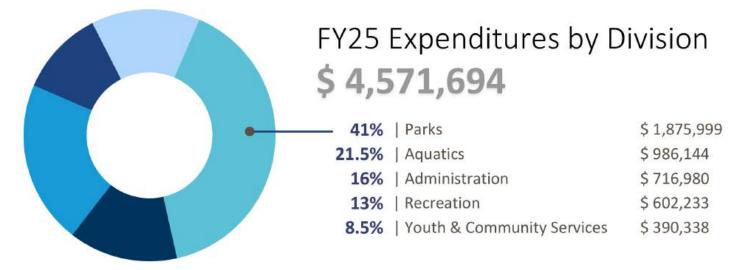
Training and Career Development

#### **Full Time Years of Service**









#### **PARK PROJECTS**

BPRYCS parks and facilities are award-winning, nationally recognized and amongst the top municipal park systems in New England.

#### **Page Park Revitalization**





#### Phase 1 (2025)

In October 2024, we broke ground on the Page Park Revitalization project that has been over a decade in the making. After years of community engagement, master planning, design and development; a multi-year \$21 million dollar project was developed to address the recreational needs of Bristol residents. In the first phase, we addressed resident prioritizes identified in the 2020 Parks Master Plan, which included the need for improved pedestrian access, walking trails, and additional parking to support current and future recreational amenities. Accomplishments from the first year of construction include:

- (4) Pickleball Courts with lighting. Allowing us to meet the need for additional court space for the country's number one fastest growing sport.
- Improvements to the pickleball/tennis court complex including ADA Pathways, a new court pavilion, shade structure and seating areas.
- New parking lots to support the court complex, and Disc Golf Course for an additional 70 parking spaces added to the park. Safe, convenient, and accessible parking so more residents can enjoy the amenities.
- Network of pedestrian walkways and sidewalks throughout the park starting from King Street through Westminster Road, and through the old Orchard. A functional network of trails that can used for exercise and to safety navigate the park.
- Page Park Pond retaining wall installation, new dam, spillway and wetlands. Addresses a dam that was in poor condition and creates better controls to deal with flooding and 100-year storms.

These changes alone have helped make Page Park a more functional, safe and enjoyable experience for our residents. The best news is that the improvements to the park will continue as we prepare to engage in future phases of the revitalization. This includes:

#### Phase 2: Expected Early 2026

- · Perry J. Spinelli Pavilion Access Road
- 60 car parking lot and round about turn around to support the Perry J. Spinelli Pavilion and access to the future great lawn, playground and splash park.

#### Phase 3: Expected Late 2026-2027 (pending additional funding)

- Playground Installation
- Splash Pad Installation
- · Restrooms Constructed
- · Great Lawn Construction
- . (2) Basketball Courts with bleachers and lighting
- · Page Park Pond fishing piers
- (6) car parking lot at King Street entrance
- · Disc Golf Holes Modified and Replaced







We invite you to follow all of our progress, learn more about the revitalization and even share your feedback at the Parks Project Portal located at www.bristolrec.com.



#### **PARK PROJECTS**

BPRYCS parks and facilities are award-winning, nationally recognized and amongst the top municipal park systems in New England.





#### Federal Hill Green Playground Renovation

In September 2025, we celebrated the grand opening of the newly installed Riordan Playground at Federal Hill Green. The playground was selected through our Upgrade your Play campaign which allows Bristol youth and families to vote on the playground designs of their choosing. The playground is designed for ages 5-12 years old and features an elevated mega deck, musical chimes, sign language panel, Jacob's ladder, wall climber, parallel banister bars, somersault bar, climbing pole, rocking hammock, curved slide, 4 accessible elevated activities and accessible ground level play. The main unit is an impressive height of 18'9" and features a variety of climbing, sliding, and swaying which trains cross-body coordination and balance. The play shells and hammock offer meeting spots for social interaction, areas of observation, and a place of respite. The two-sided play panel encourages learning of sign language and braille, Contrabass chimes complete this layout, bringing a towering appearance to the site with a low resonant sound that encourages sensory exploration. Be sure to visit the new playground and enjoy all of these amenities for yourself!



#### Rockwell Park Fitness Loop & Veterans Memorial Boulevard ADA Accessible Trails

In July 2025, we completed our final projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which included installation of an accessible fitness loop at Rockwell Park. This loop ties together the 4 Para fitness stations installed at the park in 2024, creating a free fitness experience for park users.

The Veterans Memorial Boulevard improvements created accessible access points off East Street, South Street and through the urban garden to create an enhanced user experience. Park guests can now easily access the monuments, pond, and urban garden. Additionally, designs for a future restroom facility were created and will be built once funding is secured.



# Enhanced Park Building Security with Salto Lock System

The Park system received a significant security upgrade over the past year with the installation of a new electronic locking system across park facilities. The system makes department buildings and facilities more secure and allows building locks to be programmed remotely for easier public access controls and reduces opportunities for vandalism. The modernized system allows the department to be more efficient in our facility management and improves public service through increased and more reliable access to park bathroom facilities.



# Rockwell Park Maintenance Building Improvements

The BPRYCS Department has nearly 20 fulltime park maintenance professionals in our Parks, Grounds and Facilities Division and the team nearly doubles during the summer months with the addition of our part-time seasonal laborers. Over the past year, we made improvements to the park maintenance building to provide a safer and more functional work space for these professionals. The work will continue into 2026 with overall improvements included renovated bathrooms, HVAC unit, insulation, improved locker-room space and more. We appreciate our parks maintenance crew for their continued work in making Bristol parks the best they can be and we want them to have a working space that reflects that appreciation.

#### STORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

#### Brian Avery named as the 2025 All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award Winner

At the May 2025 meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners, BPRYCS in partnership with the Mayor's Office had the pleasure of awarding Brian Avery of American Legion Post 209 Forestville CT with the 2025 All Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award. Brian was selected for his dedication to our Veterans Parks and his recent volunteerism to enhance Quinlan Park. The All-Heart Parks Advocate of the Year Award program recognizes and honors outstanding volunteers in the community that have made significant contributions to improving the quality of the Bristol Park system. We accept calls for nomination for this award every winter.





#### BPRYCS a National Gold Medal Finalist - 4th year in a row!

BPRYCS was honored again as a finalist for the 2025 National Gold Medal Awards for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AARPA), in partnership with the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). This is the fourth year BPRYCS has been named a finalist, competing amongst the best park agencies from across the country. The National Gold Medal Award program honors public park and recreation agencies and state park systems throughout the United States and armed forces recreation programs worldwide that demonstrate excellence in long-range planning, resource management and innovative approaches to delivering superb park and recreation services with fiscally sound business practices.

## Superintendent Medeiros becomes Chair of the National Recreation & Parks Association Board of Directors

Since 2018, Superintendent Josh Medeiros has served as an Executive Board Member of the National Recreation and Parks Association, the country's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of public parks, recreation and environmental conservation. Medeiros is one of a small group of professional from across the United States to serve. In 2024, Medeiros was elected by a vote of his board peers to serve as the Chair of the NRPA Board and he officially began his term at the annual conference in October 2025. Following his appointment, Medeiros delivered a keynote address to 9,000 parks and recreation professionals from across the country at the opening general session in Orlando, Florida. The address showcased Bristol on a national stage and how BPRYCS is leveraging national resources and aligning the 7-dimensions of wellbeing framework to help improve health outcomes for Bristol residents.





## Safe Streets and Improved Biking Opportunities in the Rockwell Park Neighborhood

In partnership with the Bristol Public Works Department, new shared road bike symbols were placed in Rockwell Park and the downtown neighborhoods. The shared bike road symbols are painted roadway markings to indicate to drivers the potential of cyclists utilizing the road. The work was performed as part of a State Community Connectivity grant to make City streets more accessible to cyclists and pedestrian traffic. The project includes installation of sidewalks and ADA ramps.

#### STORIES AND HIGHLIGHTS





#### Welcomed Fred & Wilma the Turtles at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center

In June 2024, department staff collaborated with a wildlife rehabilitator to harvest and incubate turtle eggs from a female turtle that was run-over at Rockwell Park with the hope of releasing them back into the park. After incubating the eggs for 60 days, two turtles hatched and were identified as red-eared sliders, a common type of pet turtle and a highly invasive species in Connecticut. Unable to be released them back into the park, the turtles – named Fred and Wilma – now live in an educational exhibit at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center to educate community members on invasive species and native turtles. In 2025, the educational program was expanded to include Turtle Time, an outreach program that teaches participants about turtle ecology and habitats, endangered species, and how wild turtle populations can be supported. Turtle Talks have been presented to Bristol Public Schools students, Bristol Public Library patrons, BPRYCS camper, and swimmers at the Dennis Malone Aquatics Center. These talks feature the turtles as wildlife ambassadors and create opportunities for visual, auditory, and kinesthetic learning about our environment.

#### Bristol Walks Campaign - Summer 2025

To celebrate National Parks and Recreation Month, BPRYCS launched a series of guided adventure walks in the parks throughout the month of July. Residents joined BPRYCS team members at Rockwell Park to celebrate the new walking loop, the Veterans Memorial Boulevard to celebrate the new ADA trail system, Pigeon Hill Preserve and Kern Park. The campaign was a great way to get our residents engaged in the parks and working on their health!





#### Downtown Live at Rockwell Theater continues to grow, named Runner-Up for Best Small Music Venue in CT

Downtown Live (DTL) at the Rockwell Theater continues to grow and expand it's offering of diverse musical acts, comedians, lectures and more. The program is enhancing the life of Bristol residents and contributing to the economic vitality of downtown. The program was named Runner-Up for Best Small Music Venue in Connecticut by Connecticut Magazine in 2025; ranking DTL higher than New Haven's historic Toad's Place and Connecticut's well known Ridgefield Playhouse.



#### Downtown Live at Rockwell Theater Celebrates first Sold Out Show and Successful Launch of New Members Club

Just two months after celebrating one full year of Downtown Live at the Rockwell Theater, the program celebrated their first sold out show. All 621 seats in the Rockwell Theater were spoken for during Downtown Live's presentation of "UMX" The Ultimate Michael Experience, starring Joby Rogers on November 1st. The accomplishment comes just after a successful launch of the Downtown Live Members Club; which offered new perks to patrons like early access to ticket purchases, seat selection, and specialty discounts!









Visit DowntownLiveCT.com for upcoming shows!



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