

The Town of Great Barrington

Parks and Recreation Commission

Policies and Procedures

Final voted 7/10/2017

Mission:

The Great Barrington Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to enhancing the quality of life in Town by providing recreational opportunities for the community in Town owned parks and ensuring that our parklands, playgrounds and facilities are safe, clean and available for use. The Commission is a board responsible for maintaining, enhancing, improving existing parks; advising on design of new parks and developing parkland programs to serve residents of all ages as well as operating and capital budget planning and oversight.

Action steps:

- Create partnerships and solicit community input for the development of park programs.
- Coordinate with the DPW and Town Planner on planning, budgeting, and implementing capital projects.

Appointment of Members:

- Nine members each serving a three-year term, staggered so that one third of the commission cycles out each year.
- Public notice will be made for all commission openings.
- Letters of interest shall be submitted to the Selectboard Office for registration, which will then be shared with the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission will interview candidates for evaluation and subsequently make recommendation to Town Manager for appointment.
- The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected annually during the first meeting following the first Selectboard meeting in June.
- Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month at 5 pm in the Mason Library.
- There may be, at the discretion of the Commission, ad hoc or permanent committees set up to study a particular issue and or situation.

Programming:

- The Parks and Recreation Commission oversees programming for the parks and solicits input from the community.

- Parks and Recreation will advise the Town on programs, activities, and resources to provide recreational programs.
- All concerns and citizen input should be directed to the Chair or Vice Chair for consideration by the full commission.
- Agenda will be developed by the Chair and or/ Vice Chair.

Budgeting:

- Annual budget priorities for operation will be established by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Parks and Recreation will provide advice on operating budget priorities and review the parks annual budget starting in early fall of each year.

Capital Projects:

- Parks and Recreation, along with public input, will advise on capital projects. The Town Planner and DPW Superintendent will oversee these projects.
- All procurement is to be managed and directed by the DPW Superintendent for the Town Manager and will adhere to Mass General Law. The DPW Superintendent will seek advice from the Parks and Recreation Commission. For large projects, members shall serve on the Selection Committee.

Overview: Repairs and maintenance/ park improvements, recreational programming, and supplies. The Park and Rec Commission will :

- Oversee regular maintenance at all parks including mowing and waste removal.
- Provide waste receptacles at all parks.
- Oversee the supervision programming and lifeguards at Lake Mansfield, programming at the Memorial Field Skate Park, and Housatonic Playground.
- Oversee the maintenance at all baseball and softball diamonds in cooperation with local baseball and softball organizations e.g. Little League, Babe Ruth League, and Girls softball.
- Provide suitable sanitary facilities as needed at parks and other areas under the control of the Commission.
- Will provide ADA facilities, to feasible extent regulated by law.
- Will provide a forum for public input on the use, care, and development of parks.
- Will provide current guidelines and rules for safe and appropriate park usage.
- Will review the recreational needs at all parks and install and maintain multi-generational equipment for the use of all citizens of the Town.
- Will seek neighborhood involvement in the needs assessment for all parks and develop short and long-term goals for implementing these needs.
- Will assess all facilities and programs on an ongoing basis.
- Will review and maintain all signage and listings of parks and recreation areas.

For more information:

A Park usage form is available on the Town website or for more information, call the Secretary to the Commission. The Commission will consider all requests to use park space at regular meetings.

A List of Parks and Parklands under the supervision of the Great Barrington Parks and Recreation Commission:

Name of Park	Acreage	Location	Type	Amenities
Castronova Park (GB Bush)	0.8	Main Street	Walking	Benches, swings
Grove Street Park	2.4	30 Grove Street	Outdoor Recreation	Benches, basketball, swings
John P. Tracy Park	5.8	Stockbridge Road	Observation	Wetlands
Village Common & Playground	1.1	207 Pleasant Street	Outdoor Recreation	Swings, playground
Lake Mansfield Beach	1	45 Lake Mansfield Road	Beachfront	Swimming
Memorial Field Park	3.8	Bridge Street	Outdoor Recreation	Baseball, basketball
Old Maid's Park	3.9	31 Wyantenuck Street	Picnicking	Wildlife
Olympian Meadows	22.2	Main Street/ Olympian Meadows	Outdoor Recreation	Baseball, sports fields
Park Street Park	5	Park Street	Walking	Swings
Parrish Park	0.2	Main Street	Walking	Benches
South Street Park	1.3	South Street	Walking	Fitness Course
Stanley Park	2.6	Main Street	Walking	Historic markers
Town Hall Park	0.75	334 Main Street	Outdoor Recreation	Playground, gazebo
Weir Park (Belcher Square)	0.1	Stockbridge Road	Benches	N/A