



Town of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Department of Recreation
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE **Yorktown Park Closed for Renovations**

On December 16th, the Town of North Kingstown temporarily closed Yorktown Park for the safety of the community as significant renovations and upgrades are now officially underway. The Field Maintenance Division of the Department of Recreation has been, and will continue to be, proactively removing equipment in preparation for the spring when the installations and renovations will be underway in earnest.

Renovations and construction slated for Yorktown Park, made possible with an investment of up to \$446,075.30 in ARPA funds previously approved by the Town Council in the FY25 Budget, will include the following: grading and walkway repairs along with the removal of brush and planting of new trees; the installation of new, modern playground equipment supplemented by ninja warrior stations and a circuit training workout area to surround the track; mile markers for the track; roof repairs at the existing pavilion; improved lighting; upgraded seating and picnic tables; bases at the ballfield will allow it to be used for pickup games of wiffle ball, kickball and other recreational activities, while permanent outdoor cornhole and table tennis installations will increase the options available for community members of all ages. Future phases of construction within Yorktown Park will include the installation of solar charging stations for electronic devices, and repairs to basketball court surfaces.

“This park is the heart of the neighborhood and with these exciting plans, it is getting the attention and refurbishment it both needs and deserves. I am looking forward to spring of 2025, when its neighbors and the residents of our community can once again fully enjoy Yorktown Park,” says **A. Ralph Mollis**, Town Manager. “The rehabilitation of Yorktown Park is something we’ve tried to do this through grant applications for several years. To be able to breathe life back into this critical community recreation space is something that is incredibly rewarding,” says **Chelsey-Dumas Gibbs**, **Director of Recreation**. “I have worked with the park’s neighbors, community residents, the Leisure Services Committee, several other Town departments, the Town Manager, landscape architects, and

developers to ensure this plan will bring lasting and meaningful improvements to the area. We are thrilled to begin this work at Yorktown Park,” she continued.

Yorktown Park’s playground area, as is, often floods in various weather events; rather than disturbing existing grades and draining systems and adversely affecting the total cost of the park’s upgrades, the renovation plan of Yorktown Park calls for the installation of a native pollinator garden to enhance, rather than compete with, its natural elements. The water-friendly pollinator garden has been designed to thoughtfully include elements to please four major senses: sight, smell, touch and sound (with wind chimes).

For more information on the North Kingstown Recreation Department and/or specific elements of the Yorktown Park renovations, please contact Chelsey Dumas-Gibbs (cdumas@northkingstownri.gov). For more information regarding this Press Release or the Town of North Kingstown, please contact Kate Glass, Director of Communications and Executive Assistant in the Office of the Town Manager (kglass@northkingstownri.gov).

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