COMMUNITY CULTURE

Summary:
The Community Culture sector tracks and supports community efforts focused on maintaining, protecting and enhancing public life in Greenwich. These efforts encourage beautiful, as well as functional, public areas and advocates for the protection of open space and well-conceived sustainable development. This sector seeks to encourage excellence and participation in all aspects of community life.

Recent Community Progress:
- Under Planning & Zoning leadership, advocated for the establishment of the Greenscape Committee to develop and enhance Post Road
- Assisted in the planting of 10,000 crocus bulbs planted at Chestnut Alley on Post Road
- Advocated for historic communities
- Supported environmentally responsible zoning initiative
- In partnership with Greenscape Committee developed a pocket park
- Served on committee to design a new entrance to Greenwich High School
- Advocated for safe traffic practices

Community Benefits
- Maintain natural environment
- Foster & support public art
- Lifelong learning for all residents
- Stimulate sustainable landscape & greenscape civic beautification projects
- Promote sustainable development patterns to incorporate more affordable housing and support residents at all income levels

2021 GSC Goals
- Foster public art
- Encourage lifetime learning opportunities
- Promote affordable housing initiatives
- Support adaptive use on Greenwich Avenue and holiday lighting
- Examine environmental and aesthetic impact of community lighting practices
- Enhance beauty of community
- Beautify Greenwich High School waterfall

Long-Term GSC Goals
- Further develop 2021 goals
- Assist Greenwich in starting a dialogue on long-term planning

Resources
- Greenwich 2019 Plan of Conservation & Development
- Sustainable CT
- Bloomberg Philanthropies

Community Partners
- Greenwich Planning & Zoning Commission
- Greenscape Committee
- Greenwich Department of Public Works
- Greenwich Parks & Recreation
- Local Garden Clubs
- Greenwich Historical Society
- Greenwich Tree Conservancy
- Greenwich Green & Clean
**Summary:**
The Food Systems sector tracks and supports community efforts focused on thriving regionalized foodsheds within the context of a regenerative, equitable and just food system. By supporting a dynamic regional system, we can have local input to address some of our biggest challenges to human and ecological health, including economic disparity, racial inequity, food insecurity and climate change.

**Recent Community Progress:**
- Developed nature’s classroom at GCDS’ French Farm
- Founded Greenwich Community Gardens’ Culinary Wellness Garden
- Built Seed Library at Byram Shubert Library
- Developed school garden at New Lebanon School
- Launched municipal food scrap recycling program
- Created winter farmer’s market at Sam Bridge Nursery and Tavern Garden Market at Greenwich Historical Society
- Provided low-income families with food during Covid crisis through collaboration between Neighbor-to-Neighbor, Greenwich Department of Human Services, Greenwich United Way and other organizations
- Provided free school lunch at Greenwich Public Schools year round to assure that no child goes hungry during covid.
- Established the Foodshed Network Greenwich

**2021 GSC Goals:**
- Engage stakeholders on establishing a Greenwich Food Policy Council
- Highlight the stories of the Greenwich and Connecticut food community
- Establish collaborative food system educational forums

**Long-Term GSC Goals:**
- Establish a Greenwich Food Policy Council
- Promote a robust food system educational platform
- Increase sustainable practices that protect people, foodsheds and watersheds
- Connect with statewide networks that share a vision for a regional, regenerative and just food system

**Community Benefits:**
- A deeper understanding of the value of a regional regenerative and just food system for a healthy population
- Increased awareness of the limitations of the industrial food system
- Support existing local and area food system initiatives
- Build community and statewide connections and networks to support food insecurity and racial inequity
- Advocate for sustainable practices and initiatives that protect people, foodsheds and watersheds

**Resources:**
- CT Food Policy Council
- CT Grown
- CT-NOFA
- CT Farm to School Collaborative
- End Hunger CT!
- Green Village Initiative
- New England Food Vision
- Put Local on Your Tray
- The Foodshed Network
- Working Lands Alliance
- CT Food System Alliance

**Community Partners**
- Greenwich Community Gardens
- Greenwich Conservation Commission
- Greenwich Department of Human Services
- Greenwich United Way
- Neighbor to Neighbor
- The Foodshed Network
- Waste Free Greenwich
**Summary:**
The Land and Water (L&W) sector promotes the education of citizens and business owners on the benefits of responsible land and water stewardship by being a resource and advocating for the sustainable use of our landscape. A sustainable landscape enhances the health and wellbeing of all residents allowing them to fully participate in the economy. L&W fosters collaboration and communication amongst local organizations to strengthen partnerships. An educated collaborative community can more easily address local and regional environmental challenges, preserving our natural resources for a more resilient and thriving community.

**Recent Community Progress:**
- Reported on sustainability issues in area publications
- Interviewed community leaders in land and water protection
- Established Friends of Pomerance Pinetum and Tuchman (PPT) Park
- Passed Town Pollinator Pathways resolution
- Established North Street Pollinator Pathway
- Advocated for pesticide-free zones
- Educated on the value of pollinators and biodiversity for the regeneration of habitat
- Developed One Water initiative through a journalistic series focused on water supply
- Town & GLT partnered to protect 72 acres creating the Converse Brook Preserve.

**Community Benefits:**
- Promote dynamic, biodiverse landscape
- Maintain a clean, abundant water supply
- Create strong Town/community connections
- Cultivate a resilient economy
- Develop resilience to climate change
- Establish strong local, regional and state Land/Water partnerships
- Foster functioning ecosystems for wildlife habitat

**2021 GSC Goals:**
- Develop online educational platform
- Launch One Water initiative through a series of newspaper articles, handbook and webinars focused on water supply
- Develop One Land initiative focused on biodiversity, soil health and carbon sequestration
- Promote Pollinator Pathways through educational workshops on pollinator-friendly practices and community-wide plantings
- Help align efforts between Town and community land/water groups to achieve Sustainable CT recertification

**Long-Term GSC Goals:**
- Continue to educate on the interdependence of Water and Land health
- Assist in building a corp of volunteers trained to identify and remove invasive plant species
- Establish Pollinator Pathway educational garden in the Pinetum
- Assist with advocacy and education to incorporate natural resource protection and enhancement in local ordinances and regulations
- Further develop plans for the stewardship of Pomerance/Pinetum/Tuchman Park

**Community Partners:**
- [Greenwich Botanical Center](#)
- [Greenwich Land Trust](#)
- [Greenwich Tree Conservancy](#)
- [Greenwich Pollinator Pathways](#)
- Friends of Pomerance/Pinetum/Tuchman Park
- [Friends of Greenwich Point](#)
- [Greenwich Audubon Center](#)

**Resources:**
- [Pollinator Pathways](#)
- [Save The Sound](#)
- [Healthy Yards](#)
- [CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation](#)
- [Homegrown National Park](#)
- [Mianus River Park](#)
Summary:
The Legislation and Advocacy (L&A) sector monitors activities within the Greenwich Community that educate and advocate for sustainable actions via local ordinances, state laws, adoption of best practices and raising public awareness. L&A advances this work by providing information and opportunities to support green initiatives and legislation that will impact our town, its departments and residents.

Recent Community Progress:
- Supported the Pay As You Throw Initiative with education, research and advocacy for RTM members and residents
- Worked with Land & Water sector to support the Pomerance, Pinetum, Tuchman Preserve
- Developing contact list for sustainability advocacy
- Networked and advocated for natural grass for Central Middle School athletic fields
- Provided CT legislative updates: Passage of Environmental Justice Bill and Transfer Act
- Researched with lead CT water expert and advocated in Aquarion 2020 public hearing on Fairfield-Greenwich water transfer
- Worked with Greenwich Delegation and DEEP to ban chlorpyrifos, a widely used commercial neurotoxin; to reduce pesticide use on MTA rail lines in Greenwich; liaised with Fairfield county conservation groups on bill potential which would eliminate toxic pesticide run-off on Town lands
- Worked with Greenwich Delegation members to advocate for a CT state bill RHB- 5505 facilitating large scale grid solar which would substantially contribute to cleaner air and state climate commitments to CT’s renewable energy portfolio

Community Benefits:
- Educate Town leadership about sustainability issues before them
- Increase awareness of environmental policy, ordinance, and state law changes and opportunities
- Ensure equitable hearing of environmental ordinance changes in Greenwich

Short-Term GSC Goals:
- Provide testimony and advocate in support of local and state sustainable legislation
- Provide contact information and opportunities to activate residents and local partners in support of sustainable legislation, projects or policy
- Lobby legislators and administrators
- Assist partners and residents in their efforts to advocate in support of sustainable objectives
- Further develop community contact list

Long-Term GSC Goals:
- Deepen legislative relationships and partner in support of sustainable legislation
- Strengthen ties and connect with local and regional conservation groups.
- Develop social media presence.

Resources:
- CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management
- Governor's Council on Climate Change
- Sustainable CT
- Sustainable Fairfield
- CT State Legislature
- CT League of Conservation Voters

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TRANSPORTATION & AIR QUALITY

Summary:
The Transportation & Air Quality Sector works with local groups seeking to promote innovative transportation solutions to improve air quality in Greenwich.

Recent Community Progress:
- Promoted electric school buses
- Installed first electric car charging station at Town Hall parking lot
- Advocated for East-West Bike Route Study and for installation of bicycle awareness signage
- Installed "No idling" signs
- Hosted bike safety training programs
- Initiated Bike Friendly Greenwich Plan
- Built networks with Town departments and community

2021 GSC Goals:
- Designate locations for new EV charging stations and explore opportunities for funding
- Install additional "No idling" signage and bicycle awareness signage
- Provide educational programming
- Organize recreational events to promote cycling
- Offer public outreach to connect with bikers and promote cycling at every age and income level

Long-Term GSC Goals:
- Create a network of bicycle lanes to make Greenwich a bike-friendly community
- Create new P&Z regulations to require installation of the infrastructure for the EV charging stations for both commercial and multi-family projects
- Make public electric car charging stations readily available
- Collaborate with local transportation centers on increasing their use of emission-free vehicles
- Restrict/reduce the use of combustion engine lawn mowers and leaf blowers replacing them with zero pollution electric equivalents

Community Benefits:
- Improve bicycle safety
- Increase accessibility to electric car charging stations
- Reduce noise and air pollution
- Improve health of community residents
- Attract new residents looking to live in a sustainably focused community

Community Partners:
- Pedal Greenwich
- Greenwich Department of Public Works
- CT Department of Transportation
- Western CT Council of Governments
- CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
- Greenwich Tree Conservancy

Resources:
- Guidelines for EV Supply Equipment
- CT DEEP: Air Quality, Air Quality & Health & Electrical Vehicle Roadmap
- CT DOT: Complete Streets & Bicycle & Pedestrian Resources
Summary:
The Waste Reduction sector promotes and supports responsible waste management and stewardship of natural resources through strategies and policies that target source reduction, reuse and recycling, among other diversion strategies. Not only is solid waste disposal costly to taxpayers, it also has detrimental impacts on the environment and public health. Practicing source reduction and reuse is the best approach to divert the growing volume of waste. Increased education and simple, low cost changes are keys to turning the tide. Recycling, including food scraps and textile recycling, is also effective in diverting waste from incinerators, and there is a need to expand opportunities to divert additional materials. As Connecticut faces a waste crisis, these strategies take on increasing importance.

Recent Community Progress
- Launched voluntary food scrap recycling pilot and textile collection program
- Introduced GRAB holiday light collection and the ReCork program
- Established First Selectman’s Waste Management Committee to generate recommendations for effective and cost effective waste reduction measures
- Partnered with the national PSA Save the Food and initiated a challenge to reduce residential food waste by 25%
- Hosted Just Eat It film screening, author talk and panel discussions with local advocates to promote the reduction of food and other waste
- With the 2018 Reusable Checkout Bag Ordinance, banned the distribution of plastic and non-compliant paper checkout bags. The Town of Greenwich became the second municipality in the state to enact such an ordinance
- Held annual collection events for hazardous household waste and shredded paper. Continued diversion opportunities for extended producer responsibility and special recycling programs
- Organized beach and town-wide clean ups

Community Benefits:
- Conserve energy and natural resources
- Save money
- Cut greenhouse gas emissions
- Protect public health and environment
- Reduce air, soil and water pollution
- Reduce tonnage of waste disposed in incinerators and landfills
- Promote culture of environmental stewardship and awareness

2021 GSC Goals:
- Expand food scrap recycling program and encourage backyard composting
- Investigate approaches to reduce single-use plastics, including polystyrene, and help develop ordinance
- Support school initiatives for source reduction, adoption of reusable food service ware and waste-free lunches from home
- Launch online recycling search tool, ReCollect’s Waste Wizard
- Increase awareness on waste justice through educational programming
- Host repair cafe events and explore Holly Hill swap shop

Long-Term GSC Goals:
- Implement an educational program to encourage green deconstruction over demolition
- Establish the Town of Greenwich properties as a model for waste reduction
- Explore Zero Waste Days event for residential drop off of unwanted items
- Advocate for the master plan at Holly Hill
- Support waste reduction policy and legislation at local and state level

Resources:
- CT Coalition for Sustainable Materials Management
- Upstream Solutions
- Save the Food
- Rethink Disposable
- Waste Dive
- Break Free from Plastic
- ReFed

Community Partners:
- Greenwich Department of Public Works
- Greenwich Conservation Commission
- Greenwich Recycling Advisory Board
- Waste Free Greenwich
- BYO Greenwich & BYO CT
- Greenwich Green & Clean