

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

MEETING  
March 14, 2022

Subject to Commission Approval

**RECEIVED**  
Town of East Windsor  
Town Clerks Office

MAR 17 2022

By: Amy R. Lamer  
Town Clerk 3:30pm

The Meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairman Szymanski at 6:01 PM in the Parks and Recreation office, Town Hall Annex, 25 School Street, East Windsor, CT

**PRESENT:** Chairman Szymanski; Commissioners Bagdikian, Simpkins and Lansner; Board of Selectman Muska; Director Maltese, A. Irene Mosher from the Park Office.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Taylor

**ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

A quorum was established as three (3) Commissioners were present.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The public participation statement given by Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT was read into the record at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on March 14, 2022. The complete statement is found in the addendums.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The approval of the Minutes from the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was postponed until the next meeting, due to the fact that enough Commissioners who were in attendance at that meeting were not at the March 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Master Plan

Director Maltese stated that there have been 2 successful outreach meetings.

The BETA staff are pricing out the items that were marked as priorities. i.e., Walking trails, playgrounds, signage, receptacles, lighting structures and multi-use courts. A third and final outreach once pricing is done.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a. Budget 2022-2023

The Parks and Rec proposed budget was accepted by The Board of Selectmen and will be presented to the Board of Finance on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. If there are any changes, it may be necessary to have a special meeting of the Commission.

b. Financial Accounts Review

The department is starting to plan for some different program needs that are coming up. She stated that she is in talks with Youth soccer and Little league. Even though Little League joined with Ellington, they will be using Osborne field and E. Windsor Park.

c. Park Director's report

Director Maltese welcomed Ruthanne Lansner to the Parks and Rec Commission. She comes with volunteer experience and is a staple at town events.

Director Maltese addressed the issue raised during public participation at the commission meeting held January 24, 2022.

- The major cause of the swim area being closed for 2 weeks was due the very large amount of rain which caused some high bacterial levels. The North Central Health district monitors the condition of the water and did testing twice per week. The also came out additional times to assure that the water would be safe, especially on the weekends.
- The State Bond Commission has approved a \$560,000 grant through the Urban Act Grant Fund. This funding will be used replace the outlet system at the Park which will enable better circulation and control of the water.
- The withdrawal request of Wetlands application was done by the Director of Public Works because the bond awards had not yet been given. He will be seeking a new Wetlands Application now that the bond has been approved.
- It was stated that the revenue totals were incorrect. Director Maltese explained that all East Windsor Park income goes into the Town's general fund. All deposits are made to the finance office.

The Director stated that planning is underway for spring and summer events. Commissioners each received a copy of the March program calendar. The Dance program is back in full swing and will have its recital on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The Department will be sponsoring a "Waffle Day" at the Senior Center on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Afterschool programs and Yoga have returned to in person. The department is working with Little League and Youth Soccer. With the plan to book some camp programs with Soccer for the summer

Also included in the Commissioners packet was a flier indicating the Pavilion rates and gate fees for the summer. The Democratic Party will be holding a "Bacon Festival" on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Commissioners also received update fliers showing the amenities at each of the Parks. These are located on the web site, Facebook and the welcome packet given to new residents from the First Selectman's office.

The Director stated that the Department is in the process of hiring for the summer. The biggest need is a camp director and assistant camp director. If we are unable to find a camp director, the focus may have to change to specialty camps such as Soccer, Food explorers etc. The Director stated that normally teachers who are not working for the summer are hired for this position. Information for these positions have been sent to the Board of Education and community colleges. Applications for other positions have been received.

Commissioner Szymanski asked if The Recreation Lead could oversee the camp. The Director stated that she is already spread thin and has full responsibility for the waterfront and we anticipate swim lessons returning which generates income for the Town. The Director also pointed out that the person running the camp must be there full time.

Commissioner Szymanski also stated that he understands not being able to open in July. He had 22 inches of water in his rain gage at his home.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the Director's report as presented:  
Bagdikian moved/Lansner second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

**Abbe Road Soccer Complex/Broad Brook Pond Park /Pierce Memorial Park  
(Windsorville)/Prospect Hill Park (Warehouse Point)/Warehouse Point (Osborne Field) Park:**

**d. Fishing Derby**

Request from the angling club. Normally donate \$250 for event to purchase prizes for event. Great community event – 30 years or longer.

**MOTION: To ACCEPT the donate \$250 to the Broad Brook Angling Club for prizes to be used at their Fishing Derby:**

**Simpkins moved/Bagdikian second/VOTE: In favor: Unanimous**

**e. Bunny Breakfast**

Bringing back the Bunny Breakfast on April 9<sup>th</sup> the Rotary Club who will be cooking breakfast. Local business are placement sponsors. All money goes into the program scholarship fund. Karla Bagdikian is the bunny photographer.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT

This email was read into the record and is an addendum to the minutes of the March 14<sup>th</sup> Parks and Rec Commission meeting.

The Director stated that she contacted Planning and Zoning, and the Public Works director. The Town does not have planting guidelines. Property owners are in their rights to plant what they want on their own property. Should they encroach on town property, the encroachment will be removed.

The plantings in question are on town property and there will be discussion with the property own to have the plantings removed or relocated.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Bills were approved by Commissioner Simpkins

**ADJOURMENT**

**MOTION: To AJOURN MEETING AT 6:34 pm**

**Simpkins moved/Bagdikian second/Vote: In favor Unanimous**

Respectfully Submitted

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Alma Irene Mosher  
Recording Secretary



Public Participation Statement by Michael Ceppetelli, 42 Skinner Road, Broad Brook, CT. Read into the record at the Parks and Rec Commission meeting on March 14, 2022

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It has now been more than a year since the Town of East Windsor removed 500+ trees that had formed a buffer between private residences on Skinner Rd and Reservoir Ave and the town park. In the spirit of national Sunshine week, I'd like to take this opportunity to point out the misinformation related to this project that the town has provided to its residents.

In a letter dated June, 25 2020 Director of Community Services stated, and I quote:

"This notification is to make you aware that the Town of East Windsor will be undergoing tree removal at East Windsor Park, located at 27 Reservoir Ave in Broad Brook. SOME of the trees identified for removal may be near your property line. This removal is scheduled to start in JULY with an estimated completion by the end of the month."

The letter goes on to state:

"Once clean-up has been completed, we will begin planting a different type of tree to replace those removed."

The statement "some of the trees identified for removal" certainly implies that some of the trees would also remain. If the intent wasn't to mislead the abutting property owners, then why didn't the letter state that "ALL trees near your property line will be removed". Furthermore, the project didn't start in July of 2020 but rather March of 2021 and one could argue it's still is not complete as large areas of disturbed land still remain unseeded and now eroded. Obviously, no trees of any type have been replanted.

It should also be noted that the June 25<sup>th</sup> letter was not sent Registered or Certified mail. The town can't even prove these letters were sent to all the abutting property owners. We didn't receive the letter prior to the removal work being done.

In a March 8, 2021 article in the Journal Inquirer about the tree removal at East Windsor Park, the statement was made by the First Selectman that the trees had become a safety hazard for both the park and the nearby residents.

If that was truly the case then why were more than 2 dozen similar but older pines left standing right in a part of the park used for picnicking and a running course. This stand of 100+ foot pines is less than 50 feet from a parking lot. Those trees are apparently not a safety concern even though there is clear evidence that a number of the trees snapped off 30 – 40 feet up with tree debris still littering the ground more than two years after the storm damage occurred.

In that same March 8 article, the First Selectman was quoted as saying:

"We will continue to make improvements, including planting arborvitaes that we are sure will make the park a destination".

The article also stated there was a plan to replant the trees on the parcel sometime by year end.

Obviously misleading statements as no trees were replanted last year and to date there is no formal plan for any replanting.

Also, in the March 8 article the First Selectman indicated that he had reached out to Eversource to see if the company would donate several hundred trees that would grow to be a maximum of 30 feet tall.

There was never any official resolution of the effort to source trees from Eversource however ironically Eversource did sponsor a tree-pruning seminar in East Windsor last April and did hand out tree seedlings to attendees. When I contacted Parks and Recreation to ask why none of the 75 "free" trees were being planted at the town park, I was told the trees were "inappropriate for planting".

In a memo created on March 18, 2021 published on the town website from the First Selectman titled Statement Concerning Improvement Work Undertaken at East Windsor Park, the following statements were made:

We have been in touch with an arborist and a landscape architect to confirm both the need for the trees to be removed and to design improvements afterwards.

Fact check:

FOIA filings in the summer of 2021 with the Town of East Windsor specifically state that the town did not hire an arborist or landscape architect. In fact, it was not until September of 2021 that the town hired the Beta Group to work on a Parks & Recreation Master Plan that supposedly will include final plans for the area where the trees were removed.

In the same March memo the First Selectman stated that "during recent weather events, trees had fallen onto abutters' property causing damage to sheds and lawns. This resulted in the town having to repair the damage.

Fact check:

There are four abutting property owners that have sheds. None of the owners recall the town doing any repairs to their sheds and a visual inspection of all four sheds shows no evidence of any tree damage or repairs to any of the sheds. While I can't speak to lawn damage from falling trees, I can tell you that we, the property owners at 42 Skinner Rd., incurred over \$600 dollars in soil, grading and root removal costs to fix damage that was done to our property during the tree removal project. We also have an estimate for another \$2,500 in drainage repair and instillation costs as a direct result of the poor grading and lack of root removal on the edge of our property.

The memo also stated that due to the proximity in which the trees were planted to each other, the interior trees did not root, leading to additional instability.

Fact check:

Numerous planting guidelines for White Pines including the MN Dept of Natural Resources recommend planting White Pines at a 6 foot by 6 foot spacing. Recommended spacing for wind break planting is 7 \* 7. The minimum recommended planting density to reduce susceptibility to weevil and blister problems is 7 \* 8 foot spacing. The planting density of the White Pines rows at the EW Park was 7.5 \* 7.5 as can be witnessed by stumps that still remain on site. A more probable reason for any rooting problems is a pool and patio drain that was installed by the previous property owners at 48 Skinner Rd. that emptied right in the middle of the White Pine stand. The two-inch plastic drain pipe was left exposed during stumping of the area behind 48 Skinner Rd. Furthermore, the tree plantings along the properties on Reservoir and at 42 Skinner Rd were single row of trees so there were no "interior trees".

The memo goes on to state that the tree work was contracted to Beaver Tree Removal, who is the town's preferred vendor for tree work. Preferred vendor status is bid from time to time.

Beaver Tree Service was contracted for the tree removal however they did none of the actual work. The town did not issue a written RFQ or Purchase Order for the work and there was no written State of Work document. Among other items that Beaver Tree Service Invoiced the town for in the amount of \$82,500 was an item called out as "Entire area of work performed raked and graded". In reality the excavated and ground stumps were removed



from site by EW Public Works, soil was trucked in by EW Public Works and all raking and grading was conducted by EW Public Works. While the town claims that Beaver Tree Removal was one of their Preferred Vendors at the time of the work, the town has been unable or unwilling to provide any vendor Bid Form or response to RFQ from Beaver Tree Service that predated the work. If Beaver Tree Service was a Preferred Vendor at the time of the work, it was not as a result of any bid that they won. Not coincidentally, the town issued a On-Call Equipment and Labor Rates for Various Tree Work RFQ in April of 2021. No record of the awarding of this bid can be found on the Town website in fact the bid RFQ itself is no longer posted with other 2021 town RFQs.

The First Selectman concludes his March 18 memo with the sentence "As early as next week, seeding and fertilizing is likely to take place, and we anticipate the freshly renovated park will be ready for the opening of the season this year."

Fact Check:

Swaths of disturbed ground along Reservoir Ave. properties and a 150 foot section of the disturbed area along our 42 Skinner Rd. property remain without grass now a year later. These grassless areas are in addition to erosion gullies that can be found throughout the Park.

In summary the continued gaslighting and misinformation provided by the town only adds insult to injury for the abutting property owners who have seen an adverse effect to their quality of life and property value as a result of the tree removal. As residents of EW we still do not have answers to the fundamental questions raised more than a year ago.

Who was responsible and when did the town authorize the removal of the 500+ trees?

Why were there no formal bid requests issued for work that is estimated to have cost the town more than \$125K?

If the removed trees were such a safety hazard why do more than two dozen similar but older pines still remain in the Park picnic area?

What was the total cost of the tree removal project to EW tax payers?

Most importantly, what is plan going forward for replacing the tree buffer that was removed and when will the work be completed?

I recommend that in support of Sunshine week the town should take the initiative to improve transparency and post the answers to these very basic questions by March 19th.

## PARKS AND REC AS OF 3-10-2022

FOR 2022 13								
ACCOUNTS FOR:	ORIGINAL	TRANSFERS/	REVISED	YTD EXPENDED	ENCUMBRANCES	AVAILABLE	PCT	
1005 General Fund	APPROP	ADJUSTMENTS	BUDGET			BUDGET	USED	
<b>10054503 Parks &amp; Recreation</b>								
10054503 516100 FullTime Salary	55,744	0	55,744	36,866.48	.00	18,877.52	66.1%	
10054503 516105 Admin Salary	96,213	7,007	103,220	68,278.88	.00	34,941.12	66.1%	
10054503 516200 Parttime Salary	81,000	0	81,000	42,944.21	.00	38,055.79	53.0%	
10054503 516300 Overtime	4,600	0	4,600	3,298.38	.00	1,301.62	71.7%	
10054503 530100 Prof Services	17,000	0	17,000	9,119.23	.00	7,880.77	53.6%	
10054503 543030 Site Imprvmnts	20,000	0	20,000	4,287.47	.00	15,712.53	21.4%	
10054503 558000 Travel	300	0	300	.00	.00	300.00	.0%	
10054503 560100 Supplies	28,000	0	28,000	16,662.80	.00	11,337.20	59.5%	
10054503 573000 Equipment	0	0	0	.00	.00	.00	.0%	
10054503 581000 Dues & Fees	2,015	0	2,015	1,229.00	.00	786.00	61.0%	
TOTAL Parks & Recreation	304,872	7,007	311,879	182,686.45	.00	129,192.55	58.6%	
TOTAL General Fund	304,872	7,007	311,879	182,686.45	.00	129,192.55	58.6%	
TOTAL EXPENSES	304,872	7,007	311,879	182,686.45	.00	129,192.55		



Looking for a place to hold a:

1. Graduation Party
2. Family Reunion
3. Church Picnic
4. Birthday Party
5. Employee's picnic

Why not try:

**Cost per Pavilion**

**June through August**

East Windsor Resident	\$175.00
Non-resident	\$225.00
Refundable Clean Up	\$ 50.00
Gate Fees: Residents	\$ 2.00
Non-residents	\$ 3.00

**Labor Day through Memorial Day**

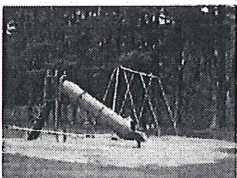
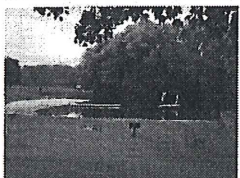
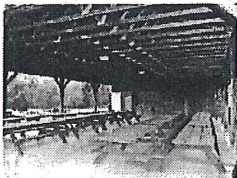
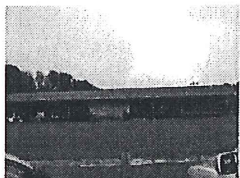
East Windsor Residents	\$175.00
Non-Resident	\$275.00
Non-Profit	\$150.00
Refundable Clean up Fee	\$ 50.00

***East Windsor Park***

27 Reservoir Ave

Broad Brook, CT 06016

(21.5 acres)



**Facility includes**

Waterfront	Pavilions	Snack Bar (seasonal)
Shuffleboard		
Ballfields (one lighted)		Volleyball
Horseshoes		Grills
Tennis and Basketball Courts (lighted)		

**Directions to Park**

From I-91 North or South, Exit 45, from northbound turn right onto Route 140,  
from Southbound turn left onto Route 140.

Continue east on Route 140 for 4 miles

Turn right at light at top of hill onto Route 191

Continue on Route 191 through traffic light to first stop sign.

Bear left at stop sign onto Windsorville Road

At next stop sign turn left onto Reservoir Avenue.

East Windsor Park is about ¼ mile ahead on the left.

For more information, contact Irene Mosher at East Windsor Parks and Recreation, 860-627-6662, [imosher@eastwindsorct.com](mailto:imosher@eastwindsorct.com).





## East Windsor Parks & Recreation

### Facilities & Amentities

#### Abbe Road – 28 Abbe Road, EW

Located to the rear of Scout Hall, this facility contains 2 soccer fields and bathrooms.

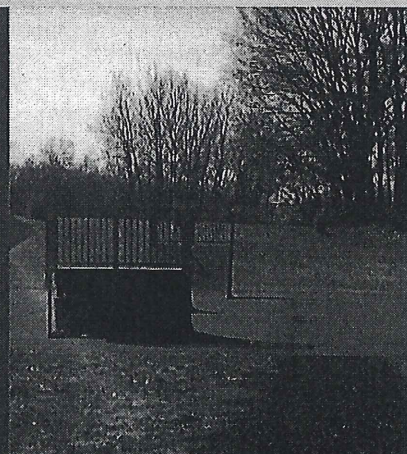


#### East Windsor Dog Park – 24 Reservoir Ave, BB

Located in the Broad Brook section of East Windsor, this is a 1 acre fully fenced in grass dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs. Poop bags and trash containers are available.

#### East Windsor Skate Park – 40 Reservoir Avenue, BB

Located in the Broad Brook section of East Windsor, this skate park features rails and ramps.



For more information visit our website  
[www.EastWindsorRec.com](http://www.EastWindsorRec.com)



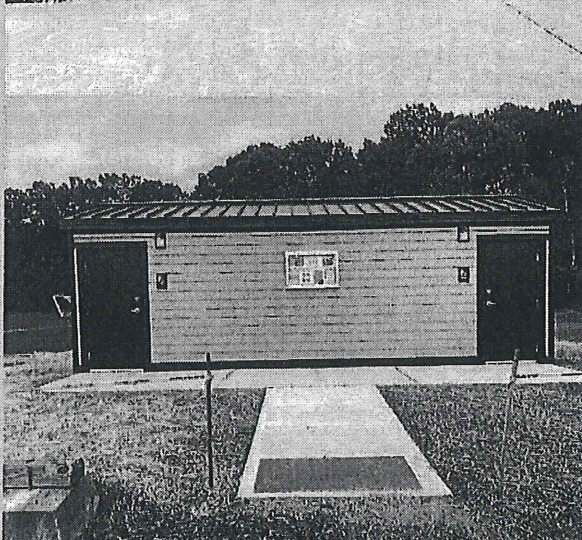
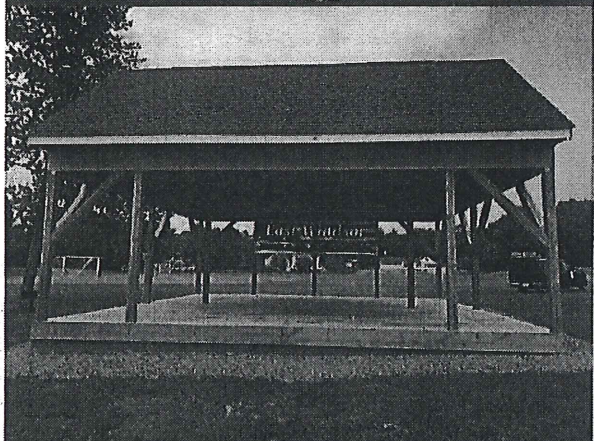
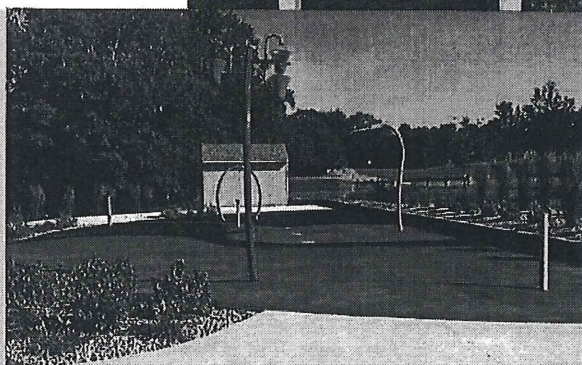
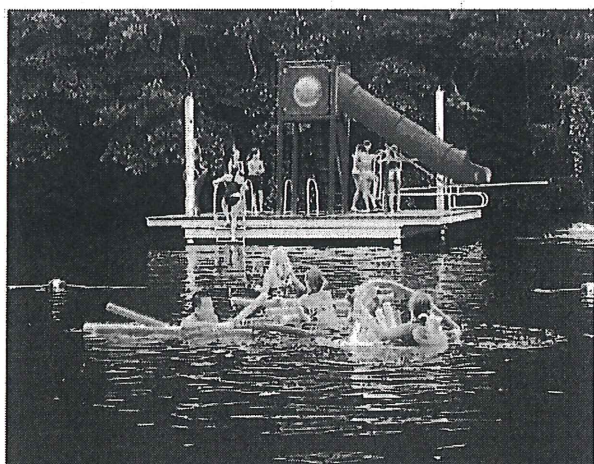
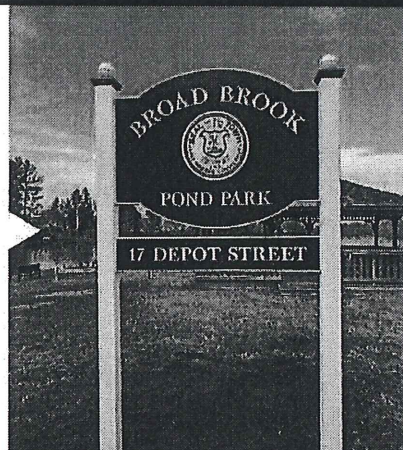


## East Windsor Parks & Recreation

### Facilities & Amentities

#### **Broad Brook Pond Park – 17 Depot Street, BB**

Located in the Broad Brook section of East Windsor, this park features a fishing area, non-motorized boat launch, grills, picnic tables and gazebo.



For more information visit our website  
[www.EastWindsorRec.com](http://www.EastWindsorRec.com)



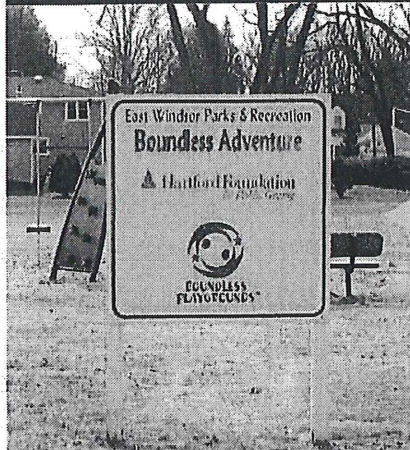


## East Windsor Parks & Recreation

### Facilities & Amentities

#### **Prospect Hill Park – 1 Broadview Lane, EW**

Located in the Warehouse Point section of East Windsor, this facility contains 1 baseball/softball field, 1 basketball court, and a playground containing swings, slide and merry-go-round.



#### **Town Hall Annex – 25 School Street, EW**

Located in the Warehouse Point section of East Windsor, this facility contains 2 playgrounds (one of which is a boundless playground), as well as a seasonal ice rink.

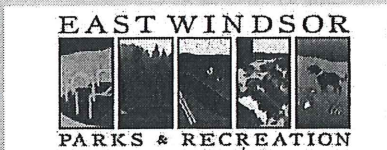
#### **Volunteer Park – 171 South Water Street, EW**

Located in the Warehouse Point Section of East Windsor, this facility is opposite of Osborn Field and contains a gazebo, picnic tables and barbecue grills.



For more information visit our website  
[www.EastWindsorRec.com](http://www.EastWindsorRec.com)



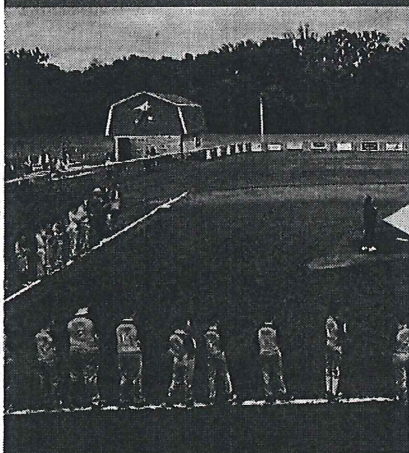
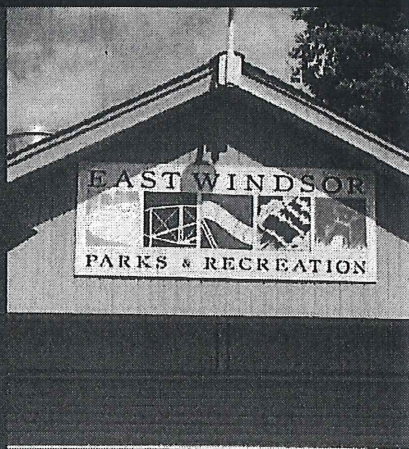


## East Windsor Parks & Recreation

### Facilities & Amentities

#### East Windsor Park – 27 Reservoir Avenue, BB

Located in the Broad Brook section of East Windsor, this facility contains 22 acres including a waterfront for swimming, bandshell, 1 baseball/softball field, 1 basketball court, 2 tennis courts, 2 pickleball courts, 2 soccer fields, a splash pad and one volleyball court. The facility also contains a snack bar, on-site parking and grilling areas. A double-sided pavilion containing kitchen facilities can be rented for events.



#### Osborn Field – 180 South Water Street, EW

Located in the Warehouse Point section of East Windsor, this facility contains 4 baseball/softball fields, a basketball court and a small playground with swings.

#### Pierce Memorial Park – 175 Windsorville Road, BB

Located in the Windsorville section of East Windsor, this facility contains 1 baseball/softball field, 1 basketball court and a small playground containing swings, slide and picnic grills.



For more information visit our website  
[www.EastWindsorRec.com](http://www.EastWindsorRec.com)



## Melissa Maltese

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**From:** Michael Ceppetelli <mceppetelli@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Melissa Maltese  
**Cc:** Sarah Muska  
**Subject:** Tree planting guidelines

Hi Melissa,

During the Jan. 24 Parks & Recreation special meeting, I requested that the Parks & Recreation Dept. / Town of East Windsor provide abutting residents to the Reservoir Ave. Park your agreed upon tree planting guidelines. It is apparent that the town has made concessions with at least one property owner at 49 Reservoir Ave. to replant trees / bushes on town property in an effort to provide privacy for their property. There are a number of other abutting residents that also want to replant some sort of privacy boarder in line with whatever planting guidelines the town has established with the property owners at 49 Reservoir Ave. While we (42 Skinner Rd.) have already incurred significant costs in replanting trees along our property line to provide privacy and discourage park patrons and their pets from encroaching onto our property, we would also like to supplement some of our plantings to better ensure that children and pets stay off of our property. The repeated encroachment of our property by Park patrons is a problem that we anticipate will only get worse as the town appears to be intent on further diminishing our privacy with walking trails along the property lines of Skinner Rd. and Reservoir Ave. residents. As the spring planting season rapidly approaches, it would be helpful if the town could make the planting guidelines available so that residents can procure plantings and any other needed resources for planting.

Thanks & Regards,

Michael Ceppetelli  
42 Skinner Rd.