

## GROTON'S FUTURE

Athletic Field & Park Accessibility improvements

Focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Agency Accreditation

Assisting Neighbors with Food Insecurity

Community Survey - leading to new facilities

National Accreditation for Senior Center

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

COVID Hero Award for keeping our Community members with disabilities connected during the pandemic.

Summer Camp Discover, an essential service, provided a safe camp environment for children of essential workers.

Club 55's Mr. Obie Hill collected 57,035 cans and bottles keeping them out of landfills and raised \$3,000 for scholarship donations.



## GROTON PARKS & RECREATION CONNECTING A HAPPY, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

While the Covid-19 pandemic impacted all of us in many ways, the biggest impact was the Groton Community's commitment to help each other in an unprecedented time of need. Countless volunteers, community members, local businesses, civic groups, families and friends came together to show support for one another and make positive impacts, proving Groton is Community Strong.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

GROTONREC.COM





## OUR IMPACT IN 2020

Last year, we served our mission to build up Groton as a healthy, happy and more connected Community.

Through our four pillars of service and strategic Community Partnerships, we strive to positively impact Groton's Quality of Place as a community where people want to live, work and invest.

Groton Parks & Recreation, an essential service to the Groton Community.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Connecticut Special Olympics

Groton Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention

Thought Partner Solutions, DEI

Groton Public Schools

Health Improvement Collaborative of SECT

Visit [grotonrec.com](http://grotonrec.com) for our full list of 150+ local community partners.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

We foster health and wellbeing by offering accessible recreation programming, affordable essential services and resources that support active lifestyles.

While in-person programs were limited due to Covid both the Recreation and Senior Center divisions utilized outdoor space and virtual platforms to continue offering programs to the Community.

The Senior Center's Community First Dinner program provided over 4,700 free, nutritious, to-go meals to Community members in need and raised \$33,783.70 in support.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We bring money into the community by offering recreational programming, park traffic and special events that serve Groton residents and draw visitors.

During the pandemic, Shennecossett experienced one of its best years in over a decade. Golf course staff provided a safe outdoor recreational activity that attracted many new and returning players. Pass membership increased by 45%, revenue from rounds increased by \$117,000. Based on survey results, golfers playing at Shennecossett, annually generate approximately \$400,000 of impact to the local economy through meals, lodging and gas.



CONSERVATION

We act as a steward of Groton's parks, trails and public beaches – conserving natural resources by using best practices to manage open spaces and coastal shorelines.

Groton Parks and Recreation partnered with the CT Nature Conservancy to receive a grant for \$70,000 to re-establish a riparian buffer in Sutton Park. Work included planting 600 shrubs and trees along Fort Hill Brook. The plantings will filter contaminants prior to entering the brook which eventually discharges into Long Island Sound.



SOCIAL EQUITY

We work with local partners to engage in outreach, offer services to fill essential community needs, and grow a financial aid program that increases access to programming.

Groton Parks and Recreation took an active leadership role in the Groton DEI Collaboration bringing racial-equity training to the Community and celebrated events showcasing Groton's diversity, including the Pride flag raising at Town Hall, the We Have A Dream MLK event, and the Black History Month celebration Honoring Raheem Carter.