



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GRANT NAME: COMMUNITY FISHING PIER FOR BEAVER PONDS PARK

DEPARTMENT: Parks

DATE: 1/27/26

Funding request: \$48,750 federal fund and \$16,250 would be the matching share.

Background:

In September of 2025, members from the following organizations and agencies met at Beaver Ponds Park to discuss park priorities, identify projects to improve accessibility, and plan next steps based on capacity and resources available. The group included representatives from CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education and their Statewide Work Crew Program, New Haven Parks Department, Friends of Beaver Ponds Park, and the Community Placemaking Engagement Network (CPEN).

The collective group was able to identify and prioritize three projects at Beaver Ponds Park for the Statewide Work Crew to conduct with assistance from New Haven Parks ranger program, during the remainder of September and into October 2025. A top priority project was to remove invasive plants to increase access and replace the current unsafe pier with a new pier in a design more conducive to use for fishing youth groups. New Haven Parks Community Programming continued to facilitate partnership of on-site visits at Beaver Ponds Park and expand this model of decision-making, park improvement initiatives and coordination of resources to additional park communities.

Restoration Efforts:

Invasive phragmites removal from both the King-Robinson School/CPEN Urban Oasis section of the park, as well as the Crescent St. corner at northern Beaver Pond was completed on 11/17/25 by the CT DEEP Statewide crew. During the week of January 12th, 2026, New Haven Parks staff removed leaf litter and seeded the pond margins with a conservation seed mix to improve the bank stability around the fishing areas and prevent erosion.

Press coverage regarding restoration efforts and fish stocking:

<https://www.newhavenindependent.org/2025/10/03/farewell-phragmites-hello-catfish/>

Funding Available:

Through the CT DEEP and New Haven Parks partnership and the clear need for a safer pier at the north pond of Beaver Ponds Park, CT DEEP has offered the City federal grant funds to replace the current pier with a new one that is safer for fishing instruction of local youth by CPEN and New Haven Parks.

Funding available: CT DEEP has \$65,000 earmarked for a total cost: \$48,750 federal fund and \$16,250 would be the matching share.

Match accrued: Currently the Parks Department has contributed \$7,501 in match due to restoration efforts and planning. The surveys required and applications prior to construction are estimated to cost \$7000-8000, such that the city potentially will contribute match of \$15,501, with more restoration and planning in-kind services to occur, such that the required match will be reached.

Timeline: An MOU is required between DEEP and the City for this project, which must be completed by March - April 2026. Surveys would occur during summer 2026, and construction would begin in late summer or fall 2026.

Completed Actions:

- Consult with City Plan on use of the site area and gain approval for installing a new pier for fishing.

Actions in Progress:

- Conduct soil and water depth survey for pre-construction permits
- Obtain necessary permits

Actions to be taken if funds are granted and approved:

- Purchase pier materials
- Pier installed by contractor
- Take measures to mitigate alterations to the park due to any construction and beautify the area prior to opening with community partners



Location at North Pond of Beaver Ponds Park where the new pier will go to replace the current pier.