

Old Mystic Park Upgrades

The Roads & Streets Division, with William M. Laydon Construction, contractor, recently finished upgrades to the playground at **Deerfield Park**, at

the corner of Heather Glen & Fox Run Lanes. The project featured sidewalk and ramp replacements and upgrades, as well as parking space re-paving. The changes increase accessibility to the basketball court, playground, & swing-sets for those with mobility challenges. Last year the park’s basketball court was also restored.

Public Works was glad to facilitate the investment, which is well aligned with Parks & Recreation’s



aim to “plan, design, build, & maintain new facilities accessible to individuals and community groups of all physical capabilities, skill levels, age groups, income levels, cultural groups, and activity interests.”



PHOTOS above, by Tom Thorndike; Project Engineer; at right, by Justyna Sikora, and below, courtesy of construction contractor **ARCADIS**.

Best wishes, Rick!

With successful conclusion of the **GROTON 2020 School Construction** program this Fall, Public Works offers thanks to **Rick Norris**, departing Sustainability Project Manager.

Across two phases and an eventful 17-year span, Public Works Project Manager Rick Norris oversaw building of an addition to the high school, a total four elementary schools (with the remaining two slated for redevelopment and potential return to tax rolls), plus consolidation of the two middle schools to an impressive new home beside the high school. Rick was a retired U.S. Navy Commander who joined the Town in 2005 as planning was getting underway.



The final combined cost of \$277 million was largely offset by State bonding, but under Rick’s watchful eye, the Town achieved an added \$14 million in savings. For his efforts, he was chosen CT Association of General Contractors’ Public Owner of the Year.

As Sustainability Project Manager, Rick further coordinated efforts including a Coordinated Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Inventory, Mystic streetscape projects, upgrade of Town streetlights to LED for savings in excess of \$90,000 a year, initiation of school solar projects (in progress), and Town representation on the New England Municipal Sustainability Network (NEMSN).

Rick and his wife Sue live in Groton Long Point where they raised their two children and have been active community volunteers. Public Works offers Rick continued success in future endeavors.



Greetings from the **NEW**

Public Works Administrative Staff

Tiffany Pabon, of Gales Ferry (left), and **Justyna Sikora**, of Waterford, started as Office Assistants within weeks of each other this Fall. They sit opposite one another, which is convenient as they share public facing duties such as resident phone & email response. Each bring to Groton strong experience from public health and library services, respectively. You may see them, or Finance Clerk Charlene Lynch, at the Town Hall Annex front counter. The three-person team, led by Administrative Services supervisor, Stacey Ohlman Leitch, support the five Division Heads, all who report to Director Greg Hanover.