



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND

PRESS RELEASE

January 13, 2016

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**Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt Unveils a Comprehensive Plan for the
Enhancement of Cass Park**

WOONSOCKET, RI: Mayor Lisa Baldelli-Hunt and members of her Administration unveiled a Comprehensive Plan for the revitalization of Cass Park to the Woonsocket Planning Board at a special meeting held on Monday, January 11, 2016. Also in attendance were members of the City Council, School Committee and School Administration. Cass Park is the largest and most prominent park in the City and once was known as "Central Park". Discussions to undertake major improvements to the park date back to the administration of former Mayor Charles C. Baldelli in the 1980's. The park encompasses 60 acres and includes natural features such as mature trees and vegetation, a brook, and a pond.

The primary objectives for the plan include:

1. To provide the necessary fields and athletic facilities for the Woonsocket High School which is located adjacent to the park and currently lacks athletic facilities in close proximity to the school.
2. To utilize, protect and maintain the natural features of the park, which include Cass Pond, Sylvestre Pond, the Iron Rock Brook and wetlands area.
3. To upgrade, beautify and fully utilize the total land area, while protecting the natural beauty that the park possesses.
4. To provide facilities to encourage the full utilization by the public and to remove existing physical barriers, wherever practical.

"My primary objective for the development and adoption of the Master Plan by the Planning Board is to layout a future vision for the park that will enable the City to apply for various state and federal grants to turn the plan into reality," the Mayor said.

“I also hope to use the talents of our DPW department to implement some of the smaller changes,” said the Mayor.

In the past year, Renaud Field has been greatly upgraded, including the installation of a new state of the art lighting system. It now serves as the home field for the high school boys’ baseball team.

The Mayor’s special project manager, Joel Mathews, was assigned the responsibility for the design and production of the plan. “Mr. Mathews and I worked closely on the proposed improvements, and I am hopeful that it will receive the necessary support of the City’s Planning Board as I continue to focus on improving our public spaces,” the Mayor noted.

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