

POPE PARK MASTER PLAN IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY IN HISTORIC HOLLOWMEAD AREA

CDBG Grant enables City of Hartford, Pope Hartford Designated Fund and Friends of Pope Park to implement Phase III component of \$13.6 million Master Plan initiative



The city of Hartford announced that the third phase of a \$13.6 million initiative to revitalize Pope Park is underway this month. A \$1.1 million federal Community Development Block Grant was awarded this past year to continue the multi-phased revitalization of the century-old park within a 6-acre section of the park named Hollowmead, near the Frog Hollow and Parkville neighborhoods. Awarded in two components, the first is a \$700,000 construction project to remove a deteriorated playground, add a new drainage system, re-grade the entire area and provide a new pedestrian entrance, pathways and landscape amenities. Work by T & T Concrete & Landscapes LLC, General Contractor, began the first week of November. All work in the first component will be substantially complete by June 2009.

New bituminous walks will provide ADA access and improve pedestrian movement including a new pedestrian entrance located near Park Terrace and Hillside Avenue. This component includes new landscaping, benches and trash receptacles. These physical improvements will link pedestrians walking between other areas of the park where work has been completed over the last four years. Last year a new pedestrian plaza was built near the park's recreation center and Pope Park Drive was removed to reclaim the original park land as conceived by the park's designers, the Olmsted Brothers, over a century ago.

The second component is a new playground, a \$301,000 component to be constructed next summer with ADA accessible play structures and poured in place rubberized safety surface. Creative Recreation is the playground manufacturer for this component.

“Pope Park is an important resource for Hartford residents living in the Parkville and Frog Hollow neighborhoods because many families with young children have limited access to green space," said Mayor Perez. "The city is pleased that the CDBG grant will continue the revitalization of Pope Park by adding pedestrian paths, an entryway, landscape amenities and a new playground that neighborhood residents and visitors will use and enjoy,” stated Mayor Perez.

“I am delighted that the city of Hartford is supporting the Hollowmead project, a significant milestone that continues the momentum underway to reclaim the park’s beauty and realize the entire vision outlined in the Master Plan,” stated Nancy Macy, President of the Pope Hartford Designated Fund, which, along with the community group the Friends of Pope Park, is spearheading the Master Plan initiative.

Pope Park was donated to the city of Hartford in 1895 by Colonel Albert Pope for his employees and city residents to enjoy games, walking and out-of-door activities. Colonel Pope was the head of the Pope Manufacturing Company, which manufactured bicycles and automobiles including the well-known Columbia bicycle. Pope Park was designed by the Olmsted firm as an example of the best that a park can contribute to a neighborhood. Preserving and restoring the park is an essential component to the area’s revitalization.