



Resolution of the Methuen City Council

TR - 26 - _____

SPONSORED BY: Councilor John Drew

DATE: 1/9/2026

RESOLUTION REQUESTING COMPREHENSIVE CONDITION, SAFETY, AND CAPITAL NEEDS AUDIT OF ALL CITY-OWNED PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

WHEREAS, the City of Methuen owns and maintains parks, playgrounds, athletic fields, parking facilities, trails, rail trails, plazas, commons, green spaces, memorials, and other public spaces that directly impact public safety, quality of life, and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, these assets require regular evaluation to ensure safe conditions, accessibility, sustainability, and responsible stewardship of public resources; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive assessment of parks and public spaces is essential to prioritizing maintenance, managing risk, planning capital improvements, and positioning the City to pursue competitive state and federal grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF METHUEN: That the City Council hereby requests that the Mayor take whatever steps are necessary to have a comprehensive, third-party condition, safety, and capital needs assessment conducted for all City-owned parks, parking facilities, trails, rail trails, and public spaces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the assessment shall evaluate overall physical condition; lighting, visibility, and public safety features; ADA and accessibility compliance; pavement, field, court, and play surface conditions; drainage and environmental conditions; fencing, signage, and site amenities; remaining useful life of major site components; deferred maintenance needs; and high-level capital and maintenance cost estimates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the scoring system shall be clearly documented and explained in the final audit report, including scoring criteria, weighting methodology, and definitions, in order to ensure transparency, comparability, and usability by the City Council, administration, and the public.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Council requests that within ninety (90) days of the adoption and final approval of this resolution, the Mayor shall provide the City Council with a proposed scope of services, a recommended procurement approach, an estimated cost, a projected completion schedule, and identification of potential grant and funding opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Council requests that to the extent feasible the audit be substantially completed within one hundred twenty (120) days of contract execution, and that the Council be informed of any deviations to this timeline.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Council requests that the final report includes a comprehensive public asset inventory appendix; GIS-referenced mapping where practicable; and identification of immediate public safety or liability concerns estimated at under twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) per item.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the completed audit be presented publicly to the City Council and used to inform a five- to ten-year park and public spaces capital plan and coordinated grant readiness and infrastructure investment strategy.