

ESSEX COMMUNITY PARKS + RECREATION



"A NEW, SHARED ENTITY"

Presented by the Recreation Governance Study Committee (RGSC)

Who is RGSC?

The Recreation Governance Study Committee was formed by the Town Selectboard and Village Trustees to explore and recommend an option for the future of recreation in the Essex community. Based on our discussions and community input, we are recommending the formation of the Essex Community Parks & Recreation, a recreation district that will unify Essex Junction Recreation & Parks and Essex Parks & Recreation.

What is a Unified Recreation District Model?

- Independent municipality
- Governed by an elected board with 3-year terms and directly accountable to all Essex voters
- Have an open budget development process
- Have a budget voted on by Australian ballot each April (concurrent with school budget votes)
- Have an independent annual audit

When and Where are the Public Forums?

Please join us at a public forum to learn more about the Rec District:

*Wed, Sept. 28 @ 6:15p.m. @ EMS

*Thurs, Sept. 29 @ 6:15p.m. @ ADL

Thurs, Oct. 13 @ 6:15p.m. @ Essex Elementary

Tue, Oct. 18 @ 6:15p.m. @ Thomas Fleming

Wed, Nov. 16 @ 6:15p.m. @ Founders Memorial

Tue, Dec. 6 @ 6:15p.m. @ Essex High School

FREE childcare will be provided at all public forums beginning at 6:00p.m.

*Transportation is available for seniors through the Senior Bus. Interested 50+ residents must call 878-6940 the day before the forum for their reservation.

Why this Choice?

A unified recreation district is a way for both departments to come together under one roof, which is a new roof – not one that is long established by either. In general, the people in Essex are passionate and proud of their recreation departments. This method of consolidation paves a new path forward for both departments to create a new, shared entity.

What are the Next Steps?

Attend a public forum

Follow the website

More questions, talk to a RGSC member

Transition team continues finalizing details

Village Trustees and Selectboard may warn the December 13th vote

If warned: VOTE

For more information please visit www.essexrec.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Below are just a few of our FAQ's. Our 6 public forums will provide information on our decision making process, details on the District Agreement and answer your questions. The website will continue to be updated as the transition team proceeds through their work.

Why did RGSC select this model?

- Unites recreation under one umbrella
- Increased transparency / greater oversight
- Independent budget, voted by community
- Long-term stability
- One-stop shopping

Why is it better to form a new recreation district than to follow a similar path to other Village/Town service consolidations?

Forming a new recreation district allows for the recreation budget to be independent of the municipalities and schools while providing oversight and transparency by and to the Essex voters. Voters will have the opportunity to vote directly on appropriations for parks and recreation, and it will not be part of a larger budget.

What is the governance structure of the proposed recreation district?

Current		Future
Essex Parks and Recreation	Essex Junction Recreation & Parks	Essex Community Parks & Recreation
Voters Essex Town (includes Village)	Voters Village of Essex Junction	Voters Essex Town (includes Village)
Selectboard	Prudential Committee	5 Member Elected Board
Municipal Manager	Superintendent	Executive Director
Recreation Director	Recreation Director	
	Recreation Advisory Committee	Recreation Advisory Committee (TBD)
Town Meeting Floor Vote	Australian Ballot Vote	Australian Ballot Vote

What are the oversight mechanisms?

The recreation district will have similar oversight as a municipal entity such as the Town or Village. Voters will elect a board who will hire a director. The board will operate under state open meeting laws. Budgets will be an open process and voted on via Australian ballot at the same time as our school vote and Village elections. The district will undergo a yearly independent audit.

What is the proposed budget for the recreation district?

The transition team made up of current municipal, recreation and school employees are creating a draft budget to be available by the end of September. A newly elected board will use the draft as a basis to create a formal budget for vote in April. The costs will be removed from the town budget, decreasing municipal taxes.

How to become a candidate for the Recreation District Board election?

The Recreation District will have a 5-member board. The initial board will have 3 elected positions - 1 from the Village (3 yr term), 1 from the Town outside the Village (3 yr term), 1 at large (1 yr term); and 2 appointees (1 from the Trustees and Selectboard each for 2 yr terms). Petitions will be available at the Town Offices, 81 Main Street, starting October 8. Thirty signatures are required and they are due by 5:00p.m. on November 7.

For more information, please visit www.essexrec.org