



## PRESS RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu and Bristol Parks Facilities and Programs Receive State Awards

The Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association (CRPA) recently announced the list of Awards that will be presented at its fall event. Each year, the statewide organization receive dozens of nominations from agencies across the state to recognize outstanding programs, facilities and people and for 2021, Bristol swept three of the award categories.

**Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu** will be honored with the *2021 Public Service winner* for her staunch advocacy and support of the Bristol park system. "I am honored to be recognized by the CRPA for my Administration's work to enhance parks and recreation here in Bristol. These services are essential services, as seen by the increased usage throughout the pandemic."

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu serves as the Chair of the Board of Park Commissioners and has supported a number of critical projects including renovations of Page Pool and Pavilion, a system wide Master Plan, new bike trails, as well as upcoming ADA projects and a full scale revitalization of Page Park. The Mayor also spearheaded the integration of the Youth & Community Services and Parks and Recreation Department to create a larger more efficient and synchronized city operation.

**Page Park Pool** was selected as the *2021 Facility of Merit winner* honoring the exceptional renovations that occurred at the facility over 2019-2021. Page Pool was built in the 1950's serving the Bristol community for over 70 years. The renovations included a full rebuild of the pool shell which featured a new ADA zero depth entry, splash features, dedicated lap swimming space, new decking with shade structure and grass lounge area, fully redone interior with new locker rooms, ticket booth, and staff spaces. Brand new electrical work, plumbing and pool mechanics and systems were installed as well. Finally, in partnership with the City's Arts and Culture Commission, the Department commissioned an undersea mural at the new entrance which included 3-D sea creatures comprised fully of rubbish and recycled materials.

The **Community Conversation on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** was selected as the *2021 Inclusive or Adaptive Program of Merit winner*. The event was organized by the Department's Diversity, Equity and

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**111 North Main Street Bristol, CT 06010 | 860-584-6160 | Parksandrecreation@bristolct.gov**

Inclusion Committee and the Mayor's Office in conjunction with city partners including the Board of Education and Bristol Police Department. In the aftermath of the George Floyd murder and ensuing racial unrest, and amidst the pandemic, the program was held outside in Rockwell Park, bringing together over 200 members of the community to talk about diversity, equity and inclusion topics and connect Bristol residents to resources. A second program was held in 2021.

Superintendent of Parks, Recreation, Youth & Community Services Dr. Josh Medeiros stated, "We were so honored to have been selected for not one but three awards this year which recognize our dedicated and accomplished Mayor, our renovation project which made Page Pool more family friendly, inclusive and accessible, as well as our community conversation event which brings people together for honest conversation around challenging social issues. We hope the Bristol community is as proud of these achievements as our team is."

Awards will be presented at the Connecticut Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference on Tuesday November 23, 2021 at Mohegan Sun.

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