



Watertown Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, March 05, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall - Parks & Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

Meeting is In-Person and also available via Zoom. A link will be posted on meeting day.
Please refer to www.watertownct.org under *Calendar of Meetings*

- I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
- II. **Roll Call:**
- III. **Public Participation:**
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. February 05, 2026-Regular Meeting
- V. **Correspondence:**
- VI. **Reports:**
 - A. Chairman
 - B. Director
 - C. Sub-Committees
- VII. **Old Business:**
 - A. Policies and Procedures
 - B. Cherry Hill Trash & Recycle/Jerico Road
- VIII. **New Business:**
 - A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2026
 - B. Tennis and Pickleball Court-Micheal Doherty, SLR Certified Project Manager
- IX. **Adjournment**

Commissioners: Unable to attend? Contact P&R Department at 860-945-5246 by 4:30 PM

AGENDA
Date: 3-5-26
Number: IVA



MINUTES

WATERTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: February 5, 2026

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: Town Hall – Parks and Recreation Conference Room
61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT 06795

I. Call Meeting to Order:

Chairman Bill Donston called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call:

Members Present: Bill Donston, Tadd Johnson (not voting tonight), Alan Mickel, Joseph McGrail, Margaret Germain, and Pat Rinaldi

Absent: Karim Belica
Herm Desena, Town Council Liaison

Others Present: Michael Ganem, Director of Parks & Recreation, Michael T. Doherty, SLR, Landscape Architect

III. Election of Officers for 2026:

*Michael Ganem called for nominations for the position of Chair
A nomination was made by Joe McGrail and seconded by Peg Germain to nominate Bill Donston.*

*Michael called for any other nominations.
Michael called for any other nominations.
Michael called for any other nominations.*

With no other nominations, Bill Donston is voted Chair

*Chair Bill Donston called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair
A nomination was made by Joe McGrail and seconded by Al Mickel to nominate Pat Rinaldi*

*Bill called for any other nominations.
Bill called for any other nominations.
Bill called for any other nominations.*

With no other nominations, Pat Rinaldi is voted Vice Chair

*Chair Bill Donston called for nominations for the position of Secretary
A nomination was made by Joe McGrail and seconded by Peg Germain to nominate*

*Bill called for any other nominations.
Bill called for any other nominations.
Bill called for any other nominations.*

With no other nominations, Al Mickel is voted Secretary

IV. Public Participation:

Michael T. Doherty, Manager with SLR Consulting, Landscape Architect. SLR was formerly Milone and McBroom, based in Cheshire, CT. Michael provided the commission with an overview of the procedures to be used to determine the highest and best uses for our spaces, given the need to repair, replace, and relocate park features. Key points are accessibility. Several aerial maps of the parks were spread on the table for review and discussion. The commissioners, the Director, and Michael Doherty shared ideas, history of previous projects, additional tennis courts, additional and dedicated pickleball courts, state of our playgrounds, parking, public safety, wetlands, and the pro and cons of each. How will we measure the pros and cons of each feature and its future impact on a larger Town Plan of Development?

V. Approval of Minutes:

A. December 4, 2025, Regular Meeting

Motion: Pat Rinaldi seconded by Alan Mickel to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 4, 2025.

*YES: Joe, Pat, Bill. ABSTAIN: Peg, Al
Motion Passes 3-2*

Motion by Bill Donston to add under new business #C to discuss the letter received from Steve Martino regarding a rent adjustment at Sunset Grille.

VI. Correspondence:

- Letter from Chris Martin
It was the consensus of the commission that funds spent from Special Accounts should receive prior approval from the commission
- Monthly report from Carrie Godfrey

VII. Reports:

- A. Chairman – Naugatuck River Greenway letter of endorsement. This will go alongside the tracks up to the bridge. A letter from the Watertown Foundation thanking staff for their assistance with the statue display. The Watertown Foundation is extremely generous to the community. A letter from the Kaufman Estate was reviewed. There is a \$2500 donation to the department pending approval.

Ray Zwick, an educator in Watertown, recently passed away. Mr. Zwick was very committed and generous to the Watertown Community. He was a great person and will be deeply missed. The Chair and Commission expressed their condolences to the Director for the recent passing of his mother, Mary (Dolly) Ganem

- B. Director – The budget remains a focus. I have had several meetings with division managers, the Town Manager, and the Finance Director. We are working with a great group of enthusiastic citizens to plan events for July 4, 2026, when we will celebrate with the country its 250th birthday!
- C. Sub-Committees – Golf Request for the Sunset Grille Car Show will be discussed under new business.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Reviewing Spring Permit applications and Auditing league applications
- B. Field Permit meeting was well attended by our partners

IX. New Business –

- A. Review and Consideration of Submitted Applications for 2026

- a. Saturday, August 29, 2026, 1 PM (McFadden)

A motion was made by Joe McGrail and seconded by Peg Germain to approve the application for Saturday, August 29, 2026, 1PM (McFadden).

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Monday, June 8, 2026, 9:30 AM (Knights of Columbus)

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi and seconded by Peg Germain to approve the application for Monday, June 8, 2026, 9:30 AM (Knights of Columbus)

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Monday, May 18, 2026, 12 PM (Madden)

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi and seconded by Peg Germain to approve the application for Monday, May 18, 2026, 12 PM (Madden)

Motion passed unanimously.

d. Friday, June 5, 2026, 12 PM (Holy Disciples)

A motion was made by Pat Rinaldi and seconded by Peg Germain to approve the application for Friday, June 5, 2026, 12 PM (Holy Disciples)

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Review Field Maintenance. Budget-related

C. Discuss the letter received from Steve Martino regarding a rent adjustment at Sunset Grille.

A motion was made by Joe McGrail and seconded by Peg Germain to forward this letter to the Town Attorney.

Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjournment -

Motion: Alan Mickel seconded by Peg Germain to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William Donston, Chairman
Watertown Parks and Recreation Commission

Approved:

Susan King, Clerk

AGENDA

February 25, 2025

Date: 3-5-24

Number: V

mailto:ganem@watertownct.org
Micheal Ganem
Parks and Recreation Director
61 Echo Lake Rd.,
Watertown, CT 06795

Dear Mr. Ganem,

My name is Bryce Miller and I live in Thomaston, Connecticut. I am a part of the BoyScouts Troop 52 located in Oakville. I am currently working towards my Eagle Scout Rank, and with that rank, a project that focuses on helping our community is required.

For my community project, I would like to design and build a Gaga Pit. I'd like to have the Gaga Pit located in the Unico Fields, which is best known for its soccer fields and where it can be enjoyed by Watertown residents and can be safely observed by parents. This is an ideal park for other people to enjoy a less intense sport known as Gaga Ball.

While ideally for children ages 13 - 16, the concept of Gaga Ball can attract people of all ages. Gaga Ball is a dodge ball-like game in which players are put inside a hexagon-shaped sandbox "Gaga Pit". The game is played by having all of your players in the "pit". One player initiates the game by throwing the ball in the middle of the pit and letting it bounce two times and everyone in the pit tries to hit the ball at each other's feet. Each person is eliminated when the ball touches their foot or leg. The goal is to be the last person standing.


The Gaga pit is a simple structure to make. The hexagon structure requires around 20 - 25 feet in diameter. This may require us to level the area either leaving it as dirt, replanting grass or adding mulch. The structure itself would use pressure treated wood to create. I have included a picture of a similar-like structure. This is just an idea of what the Gaga Pit will look like, not including the metal brackets.

If we have your approval, please know that I would apply the manpower for which we would require permission to build and the project would be funded by donations. However, assistance with the cost of supplies for the project is greatly appreciated.

Enclosed in this letter is a picture of a finished Gaga Pit and map outlining the area it is to be found at Unico Fields.

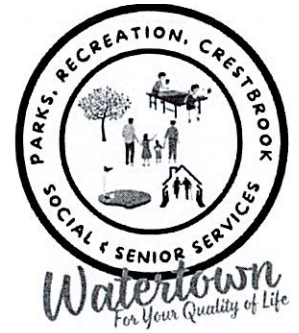
Due to time restrictions, we would appreciate a response as prompt as possible. We thank you for your consideration,

Thank you. Sincerely,


Bryce Miller,



WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
PARKS, RECREATION, SENIOR, & SOCIAL SERVICES
 61 ECHO LAKE ROAD WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06795-2629
 MAIN OFFICE (860) 945- 5246 FAX (860) 945- 4734

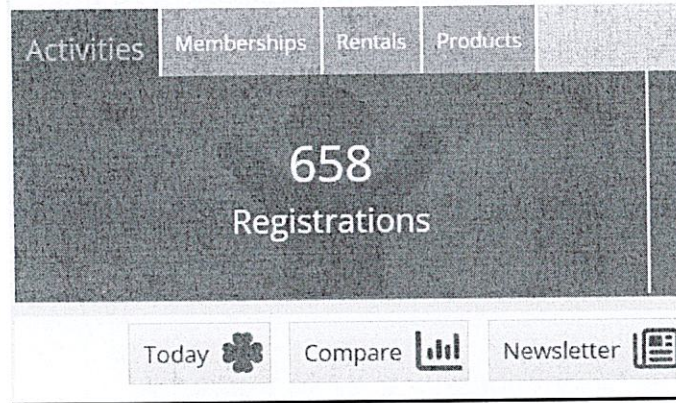


February 2026
MONTHLY REPORT

AGENDA

Date: 3-5-24

Number: VI B



Myrec 2/01/2026-2/28/2026

Recreation:

- Several new programs launched this month, including *Women's Self Defense, America's Boating Course, Be My Valentine Cooking Class, Kids Play; Parents Away, Galentine's Day, Basic First Aid/CPR, and Sewing Class*. All programs had great attendance and positive feedback.
- The Watertown Parks & Recreation Department hosted a Winter Coloring Contest. Children were encouraged to use their imagination and incorporate creative materials such as glitter, feathers, crayons, markers, and beads. Winners were selected by age group (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades). All participants received a prize for their efforts.
- Attendance at Adult Open Gym – Basketball (Wednesdays) has remained consistent. Taft Open Ice Skating concluded on Sunday, February 22nd, marking one of the strongest years for participation.
- The Shamrock Shuffle Committee met almost weekly throughout February. Planning is progressing smoothly. As of February 27th, over 300 participants are registered.
- The Watertown Recreation Swim Team completed a successful 54th season. Congratulations to the team on finishing second at the Yankee Swim League Championships.

- Our Youth Basketball and Travel Leagues have approximately two weeks remaining in their seasons. Team and individual photos, along with certificates, were distributed. Coaches and players are looking forward to upcoming tournament games scheduled for next month.
- The Summer Activities Guide will be available March 30. It will be posted on our website, shared on Facebook, and hard copies will be available in the office for community members.
- The Summer Night Out – Block Party dates have been approved for July 11th and August 8th. Giulianna Guerrera, Special Events Coordinator, has been working hard to make this year’s events bigger and better.



SLR
SOUTHERN LAND RECONSTRUCTION
190 LAKE ROAD
SUITE 200
WATERBROOK PARK
WATERBROOK, CONNECTICUT
WWW.SLRCONSTRUCT.COM

DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

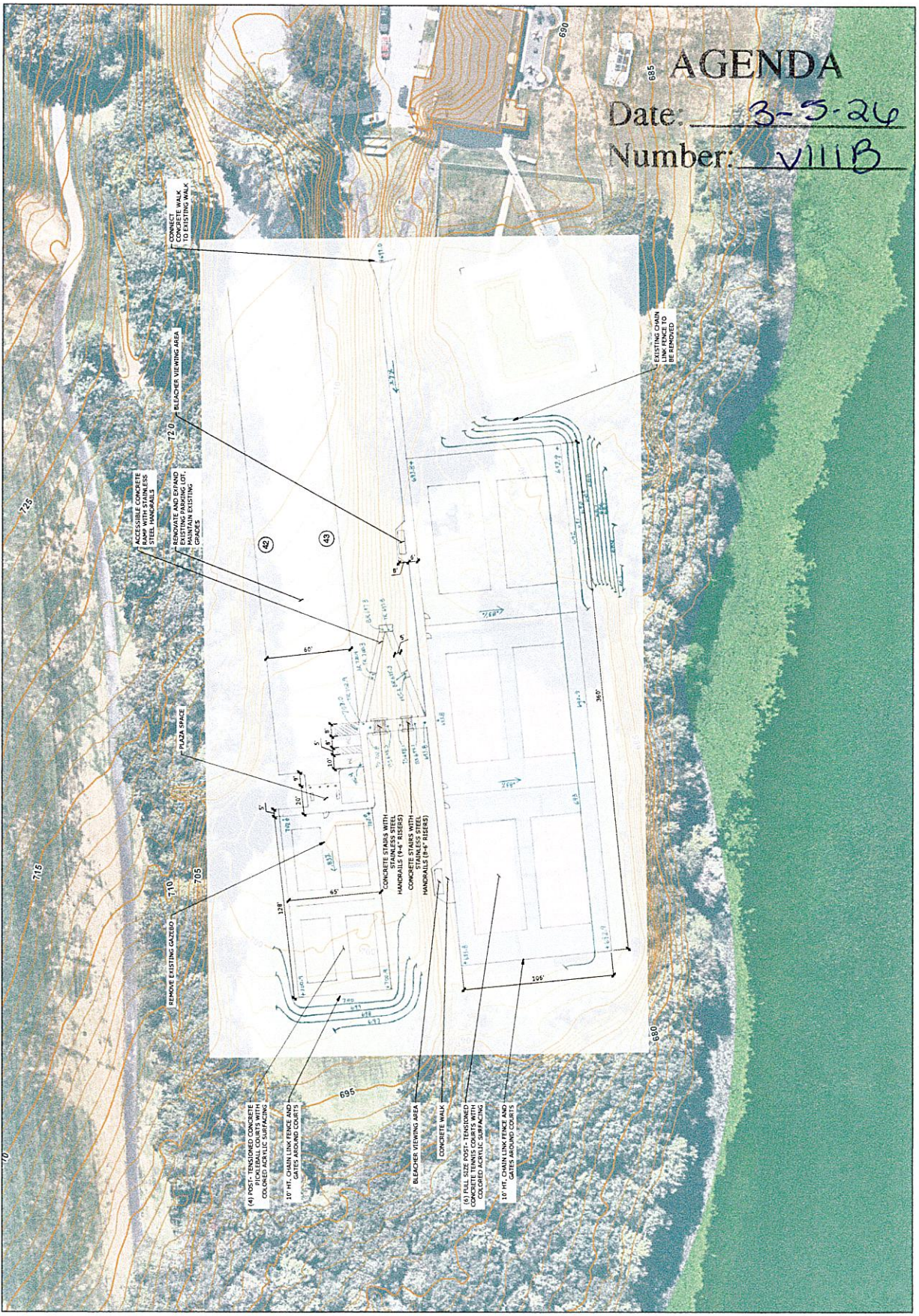
WATERTOWN PARK MASTER PLANNING
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT

JJM JJM MTD
1"=50'
FEBRUARY 27, 2025
1:142.00033

AGENDA

Date: 3-5-24

Number: VIIIB



CONNECT CONCRETE WALK TO EXISTING WALK

RENOVATE AND EXPAND PLAZA WITH STAINLESS STEEL HANDRAILES

BLEACHER VIEWING AREA

PLAZA SPACE

REMOVE EXISTING CAZEDOS

(4) POST-TENSIONED CONCRETE WALLS WITH COLORED JACOULIC SUBFINISH

10' HT. CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATES AROUND COURTS

BLEACHER VIEWING AREA

CONCRETE WALK

(6) FULL SIZE POST-TENSIONED CONCRETE WALLS WITH COLORED JACOULIC SUBFINISH

10' HT. CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATES AROUND COURTS

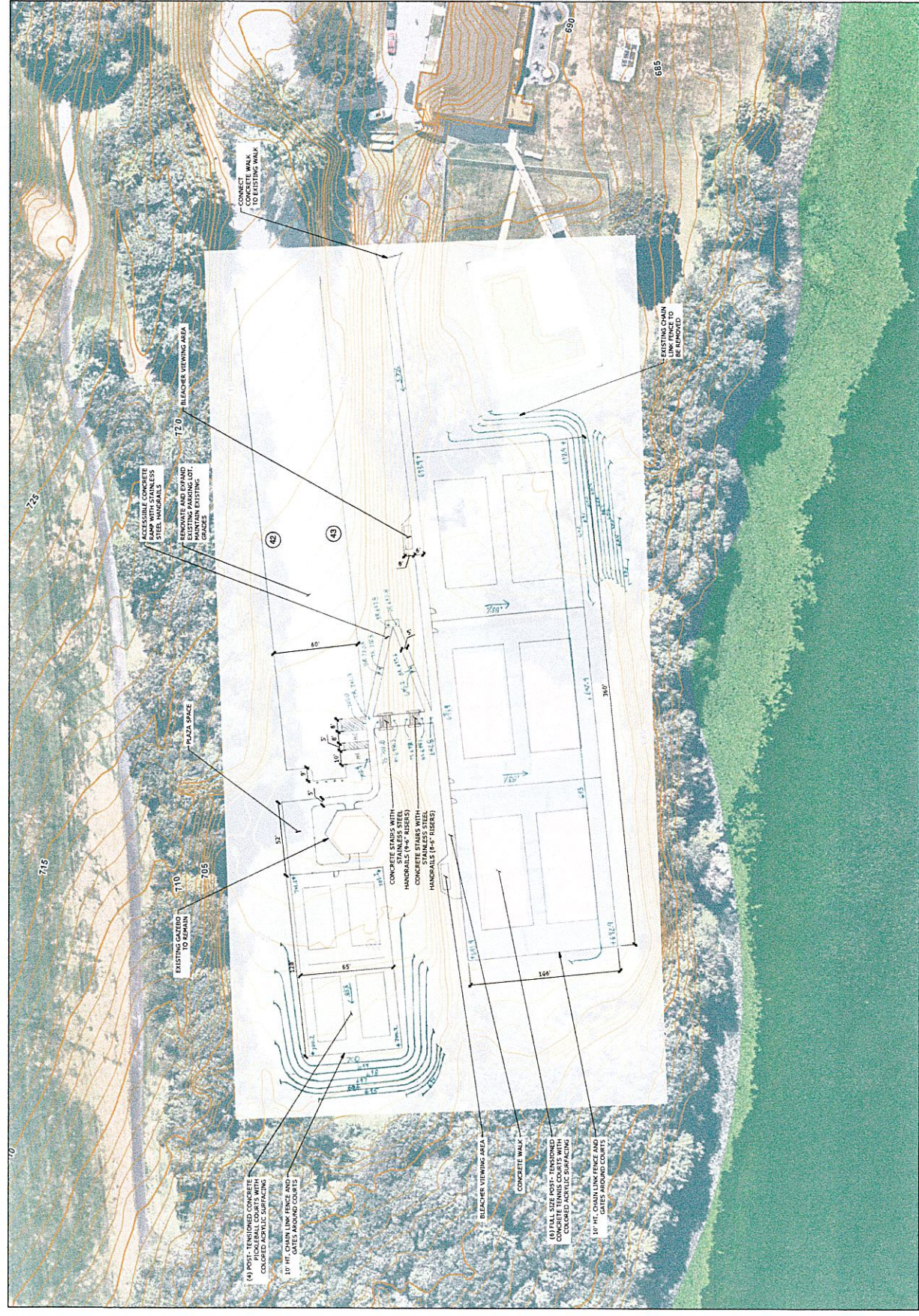
EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED



SLR
 30 EAST AVENUE
 SUITE 200
 WATERTOWN, CT 06195
 TEL: 860.946.6300
 WWW.SLR.COM

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

SKETCH - CONCEPT 1A
 WATERTOWN PARK MASTER PLANNING
 WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
 J.M. MTD
 J.M. J.M.
 J.M. J.M.
 1"=50'
 FEBRUARY 27, 2020
 11452.0033
 2 OF 2



(4) POST-TENSIONED CONCRETE 10' HIGH FENCE AND GATES AROUND COURTS
 COLORED ASPHALT SURFACING
 10' HT. CHAIN LINK FENCE AND GATES AROUND COURTS

BLEACHER VIEWING AREA
 CONCRETE WALK
 (6) 6\"/>

CONCRETE STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS (24\"/>

CONCRETE STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS (24\"/>

CONCRETE STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS (24\"/>

CONCRETE STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS (24\"/>

ACCESSIBLE CONCRETE STAIRS WITH HANDRAILS
 RENOVATE AND EXPAND EXISTING PARKING LOT, EXISTING GRASSES
 72.0 BLEACHER VIEWING AREA

EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED

EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE TO BE REMOVED

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