

# JOIN FORPC TODAY!

Senior (65+)/Student	\$10
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(circle suggested donation level)	

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*Please make checks payable to:*

**Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy**

*and send to:*

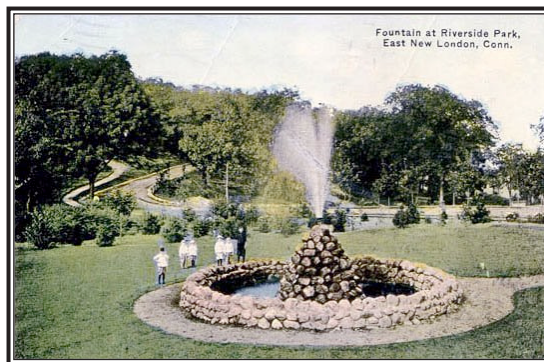
**Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy**

P.O. Box 1082

New London, CT 06320

## History

Riverside Park was created by the City of New London in 1893 with land acquired from the Post Hill Improvement Company, and by 1910 it had expanded to nearly 33 acres thanks to gifts from S.D. Lawrence and F.B. Brandegee and from the Palmer Brothers. Over the last 50 years, parcels have been transferred to the adjacent US Coast Guard Academy, and the park now covers about 18 acres. Once a popular recreation spot - for games, picnicking, swimming and viewing the annual Yale-Harvard Regatta - Riverside Park became isolated due to the construction of I-95 and urban renewal, and it gradually fell into disrepair and disuse. All the while, some New Londoners continued to visit the park and value it as a hidden gem whose unique landscape and sweeping views offered peaceful respite from the stresses of their everyday lives.



The City of New London has from time to time attempted to sell the remainder of the park. In fall 2010, City Manager Martin Berliner signed a contract with the USCGA to sell 9 central acres for \$2.9 million. Contingent upon approval by the voters, the question was included on the ballot in November 2011: "Shall the City of New London sell a portion of Riverside Park to the Federal Government?" The measure failed, and the park today remains under city ownership and available for public use.

Long before the vote, advocates for the park had begun to come together to reverse the effects of years of neglect by the city. A diverse coalition of individuals and organizations began holding monthly clean-ups to pick up litter and clear away weeds and underbrush. An informal group, dubbed Friends of Riverside, gained over 500 members and sponsored community events in Riverside Park which drew hundreds of people, many of whom had not visited the park in decades, or known about it at all.

Determined that Riverside Park would never return to its former state of neglect, Friends of Riverside resolved to form a conservancy to restore, enhance and manage the park, so that the entire burden of its upkeep would not fall on the city and its taxpayers, and on December 23, 2011, The Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy, Inc. was formed.

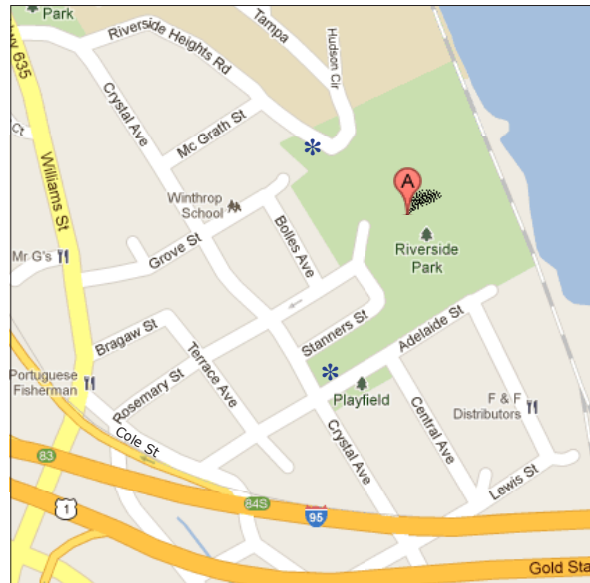


The purpose of The Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy, Inc. is to restore, manage and enhance Riverside Park, in partnership with the public and local government, for the enjoyment of present and future generations, and to improve the quality of open space for all New Londoners.

<http://friendsofriversideconservancy.org/>



## Visiting the park



Riverside Park is located at the corner of Adelaide Street and Crystal Ave. The park can be entered from Adelaide at the south end, and from Riverside Heights at the north. Free parking is available.

**From downtown New London:** Take Water St to Crystal Ave, and turn right. Continue about .5 miles, then turn right onto Adelaide. The entrance to the park is on your left.

**From I-95S:** Take exit 84S-N-E and follow both forks to the right. Merge onto Williams St, follow for .2 miles and turn left onto Cole St. Turn left onto Adelaide. Riverside Park will be on your left.

**From I-95N:** Take exit 83. Turn left onto Williams St, then take a right onto Cole Street. Turn left onto Adelaide. Riverside Park will be on your left.

## 2012 Events

Saturday, May 5  
**MAYDAY! MAYDAY!**  
**Community Service Day**

Saturday, May 26  
**YALE-HARVARD REGATTA**  
**Family Fest in the Park**

Saturday, June 16  
**JUNETEENTH**  
**Celebration**

Saturday, September 15  
**2nd Annual**  
**"DOWN BY THE RIVERSIDE"**  
**Festival**

**More to come...**

Check out our website for updates:

**[friendsofriversideconservancy.org](http://friendsofriversideconservancy.org)**

*The Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy is a community-based nonprofit organization and is not part of city government. All requests to use city parks need to be brought before the Parks & Recreation Commission, which meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Senior Center. Maintenance issues should be directed to the Director of Public Works <[thanser@ci.new-london](mailto:thanser@ci.new-london)>.*

- Monthly clean-ups
- Gardening
- Website and/or clerical
- Fundraising and/or grant writing
- Join our Board
- Public Relations
- Special events

## Volunteer opportunities

*I would like to volunteer in the following area(s):*

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send to:

**Friends of Riverside Park Conservancy**  
P.O. Box 1082  
New London, CT 06320

Or email us at:

**[info@friendsofriversideconservancy.org](mailto:info@friendsofriversideconservancy.org)**