

# State of the City of Groton



CITY OF GROTON  
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# Mayor's Office

## Forecasted Economic Activity

- Tax rate remained flat or reduced since 2017
- Will continue to fund essential government services
- Working on continued economic development City-wide
- Working with developers who are interested in projects within the City
- Working with the Town of Groton and State to ensure 100% authorized funding for enterprise zone

## 2023 City Highlights

- 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Borough; 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of Groton
- Launched new branding, “History in the Making” and a new website
- Unveiled EV chargers (including ADA accessible option) at the Municipal Building



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# Public Works + Highway Department

## Highway

- Beach Pond Road and South Prospect Street were milled and repaved
- Replaced concrete sidewalk and curbing in preparation for spring 2024 paving projects
- Installed 17 ADA crosswalk pads
- Rebuilt seven catch basins
- Supported 14 storm and road safety events

## Sanitation

- Sanitation and recycling teams worked diligently to help keep the City clean; the team disposed of 2,720 tons of solid waste and 440 tons of recycling materials



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# Planning & Economic Development

Continued revisions for the zoning for the General Commercial Zone to allow increased housing and commercial development, working to create form guidelines to rethink the Bridge Street corridor as the City's "Main Street."

Continued work on a land agreement with Groton Estates to move Birch Plain Creek Trail Project forward.

Worked with multiple property owners to develop their properties and rectify violations of the zoning regulations.

## Other highlights

- Completed the sale of the Mother Bailey House
- Completed Beckwith Place clean up
- Approved first Accessory Dwelling Unit
- Public Art Investigation: Murals; David Hayes Sculpture Field Tour
- Continued Community Resilience Planning



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# Planning & Economic Development

## Established partnerships with

- CT Main Street's to assist with the revitalization of commercial nodes
- Women's Business Development Council for Business Support services/ small business funding opportunities

Minor Facade Improvement Program is coming upon its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and has awarded six grants totaling \$8749.72.

Awarded the 2023 Gold Certified Community for Best Practices in Economic Development & Land Use Planning from the Connecticut Economic Development Association.

Welcomed five new businesses.



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# Building Department

## Electric Boat highlights

- Building 600 – a 216,000 square foot, 3 bay state of the art facility to be used for the construction of the new Columbia Class Ballistic Submarine
- Building 605 – a 154,000 square foot, 6 story building to support the construction of the new Columbia Boats
- Building 263 – a 15-million-dollar renovation to the North Yard Pier to allow the brand-new Ocean Transit Barge the “Holland” to dock at the pier

Electric Boat is in the design stages for multiple projects to update some of their older facilities as well as plans to build a state of the art (approximately 150,000 square foot) All-Trades building.



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# Building Department

## Pfizer highlights

### Permitted projects

- Building 100 is getting a 15,000 square foot addition to the warehouse portion of the building
- Building 257 has renovations for multiple floor labs
- Building 296 had a second floor Data Lab renovation

### Pre-permit stage:

- Building 156 will be getting an \$8-million-dollar renovation for both labs and office space
- Building 200 will be getting a \$ 7.5-million-dollar office renovation
- Building 274 will undergo multiple projects totaling approximately \$10-million-dollars for upgrades to its labs and workspace



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# Building Department

## Branford Manor highlights

Total of 46 buildings that consist of 414 apartments

In October of 2022 there were permits pulled for the following:

- 46 Building permits for vapor barriers and insulation
- 46 Plumbing permits for sewer piping
- 46 Plumbing for Hot water re-circulation lines
- 46 Electrical permits for bathroom ceiling fans
- 16 Building permits for dehumidifiers and wall enclosures
- 16 Electrical permits for electric panel for the dehumidifiers

In all, there were close to 1,300 inspections that happened from the beginning of the project until the final inspections took place on March 12, 2024.

All permits have passed inspection and are closed out.



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# Parks & Recreation

## Highlights

- Continued extensive programming for residents and annual events
- Continued monthly Farmer's Market events (and indoor pop-up markets for cold weather months)
- Held annual Groton City Day event in August
- Improved the driveway at the Park House
- Added electricity to the Park House garage
- Installed new bleachers at the Sanford Little League field at Washington Park
- Constructed new press boxes at the large softball field and large baseball field at Washington Park
- Installed new guardrails on the Park Avenue side of Washington Park

Parks and Recreation and Groton Utilities co-sponsored:

- Concerts in the Park at Washington Park
- Summer Soundwaves Concert Series at Esker Point Beach presented by the Town of Groton



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in the  
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# Police Department

- Continued our Police and Community Together Group (PACT) monthly meetings; hosted our second Citizens Police Academy
- Added two new Chaplains
- Hosted Stuff-a-cruiser event; Coffee and a Chat sessions; DARE graduations for Thames River Magnet School and Sacred Heart School
- Participated in Branford Manor backpack event; Bike Rodeo at Branford Manor; Santa in the City; Holiday food distributions at Groton Human Services
- Partnered with St. John's Christian Church for backpack event
- Participated in events including the Special Olympics Penguin plunge; Torch Run; Tip-A-Cop events; Little League Opening Day; Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt; Groton City Day
- Collaborated with the Liquor Commission over an underage drinking operation
- Participated in Hosted 3-on-3 basketball



# Fire Department

- Responded to over 1,200 emergency calls including medical emergency, fires, motor vehicle accidents
- Responded to and mitigated a major oil truck fire on Interstate 95
- Started a smoke alarm replacement program in partnership with the American Red Cross
- Ran multiple public education programs throughout the year
- Paved Co#1 parking lot and front ramp to complete renovations of Headquarters station
- Conducted necessary plan reviews and inspections through the Fire Marshals office





# GROTON UTILITIES

## Competitive Electric Rates

Groton Utilities' residential electricity rate is now 31% below the regional benchmark saving the average customer over \$65 per month or \$780 per year

## Reliability

- Average Service Availability Index: 99.991% (100% means never a loss of service)
- System Average Interruption Duration Index (total interruption minutes per total service area number of customers) is 47 minutes which is about 30% better than Eversource's published SADI of 65 Minutes(2022)

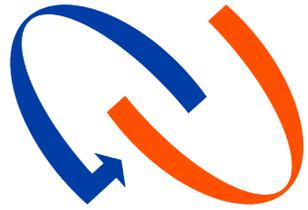
## Conservation

- In 2023, 307 Groton Utilities Conservation projects were completed, incentivizing \$1.398M via our rebate programs
- For the fiscal year July 2023 to present, 188 Groton Utilities Conservation projects were completed, incentivizing \$739,586.14 via our rebate programs



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in the  
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# GROTON UTILITIES

## Community Outreach

Groton Utilities continued its strong relationship with local Chambers of Commerce: Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce; and the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce.

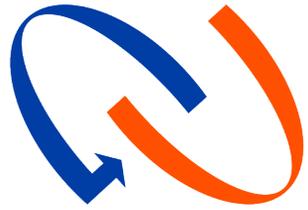
Groton Utilities is proud to be involved as a sponsor or supporter of:

- Concerts in the Park at Washington Park, co-sponsored by the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Department
- Summer Soundwaves Concert Series at Esker Point Beach presented by the Town of Groton
- The third annual Groton City Brew Run
- Groton Utilities proudly continues to sponsor the Thames River Heritage Park Foundation along with many other local non-profits, including Community Speaks Out, Groton Rotary and Always Home



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# GROTON UTILITIES

## Electric Division Highlights

- Electric crews completed work on the 1911/1410/1280 Transmission Lines Upgrade
- Buddington Substation Upgrade

## Water Division Highlights

- Navy Base: An Intergovernmental Service Agreement was entered into and will allow Groton Utilities to perform services for the Navy Base
- Water main Replacement: In the Midway Oval area, we replaced 950 LF of aging water main with new Ductile Iron pipe.

## Sewer Division Highlights

- Hypochlorite System Upgrade
- Completed Pump Station upgrade at Eastern Point



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