

City of New Bedford Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor City of New Bedford Office of the Mayor Contact: Jonathan Carvalho (508) 979-1410 jcarvalho@newbedford-ma.gov

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PRESS RELEASE

Mayor Mitchell and City officials formally reopen Pine Hill Park

New Bedford, Massachusetts- Mayor Jon Mitchell and City officials formally reopened Pine Hill Park <u>at 1500 Phillips Road</u> to the public today. The Park has been the site of significant renovations and updates, including a basketball court, lighting, and added accessibility for the public.

The park has a new lighting system that improves visibility and is equipped with a programmable system that allows for flexible year-round use. The updated basketball courts are high school regulation size, at 84 x 50 feet. The public may find the most noticeable feature to be the new visibility of the formerly secluded park, with significant brush clearing that has improved access and visibility at the park and courts. An added wooden post and rail fence provides a protected barrier between the park and roadway, improving its safety for residents of all ages to enjoy the park.

"Residents in every part of our city deserve great open spaces they can enjoy. The updates at Pine Hill Park will make it a more accessible, visible space that more families than ever can take advantage of this asset to their neighborhood," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "I commend our Department of Public Infrastructure, which led the renovation project, and I especially want to thank Ward 1 Councilor Jim Oliveira, who advocated on behalf of the neighborhood for these much-needed improvements."

"The resurfacing and makeover of the park and basketball courts at Pine Hill Park has been a long time coming, and we're thankful to the administration for making this happen this year," said Ward 1 Councillor James Oliveira.

"This is a major improvement to Pine Hill Park, starting with how visually appealing it now is with a new entrance," said Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches. "The park's renovated basketball courts are already being used extensively by local youth, and the upgraded lighting allows for extended hours on the courts. It is an inviting atmosphere for the public to come in and enjoy the amenities of this space."

Work was performed by the New Bedford Department of Public Infrastructure, PJ Keating, PA Landers, Seguin Enterprises, True Bounce, and JG Coffrey Co.

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