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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Haven Mayor Joins the Mayors for Parks Coalition

The bipartisan Mayors for Parks Coalition is managed by City Parks Alliance and advocates for increased federal funding for urban parks

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Today, New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker officially joined the Mayors for Parks Coalition, a project of City Parks Alliance. The national bipartisan coalition was created in 2013 and includes mayors from large and small cities across the country that advocate for increased federal funding for our nation’s urban parks. The Coalition is co-chaired by Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock (D) and Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price (R).

The Coalition recently had a historic win with the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act on August 4. The law provides \$900 million in permanent and dedicated annual funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF is funded through revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties, a portion of which is matched by state and local contributions – increasing the return on investment without using federal tax dollars. The LWCF has supported more than 44,000 projects in 98% of the nation’s counties. It is a smart and effective use of federal funds for all Americans.

“I am excited to work with City Parks Alliance and be a part of this important coalition,” said New Haven Mayor Justin Elicker. “Parks are so important to our lives, not just in New Haven, but everywhere in the country, and we need to do everything we can to spur more federal funding for our urban parks,” he concluded.

Currently, the Coalition advocates for increased funding of the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP), a program within LWCF. The ORLP is a national, competitive grant program that delivers funding to urban areas with priority given to projects located in economically disadvantaged areas. These awards help urban communities create new outdoor recreation spaces and renovate existing ones.

“Mayor Elicker knows the critical role that parks play in improving the health and vitality of New Haven, and we are thrilled to have him a part of our Mayors for Parks Coalition,” stated Catherine Nagel, City Parks Alliance’s Executive Director.

About City Parks Alliance

[City Parks Alliance](#) is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. Its mission is to engage, educate and nurture a broad-based constituency to support the creation, revitalization and sustainability of parks and green spaces that contribute to dynamic cities. City Parks Alliance unites and serves a growing network of hundreds of civic and community leaders, government agencies, parks and recreation authorities, funders and others.

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