

I am Chip Osborne, and I am a lifelong resident of Marblehead. I have had businesses here in Town for the past 48 years. I spent 37 years with my Dad and owned and operated Osborne Florist and Greenhouse. For the past 15 years I have developed a national consulting company that specializes in working with school districts and municipalities to guide them from chemical intensive land management into a natural, organic approach. I work with Park and School Districts nationally to developing land management programs. I have extensive experience working in the public sector as a consultant and as someone who works directly with decision-makers.

I was instrumental in Marblehead in the late 1990s and early 2000s developing the Board of Health's Organic Pest Management Policy and Regulation. For the past 18 years I have overseen the Marblehead Recreation and Parks Department's natural turf management program for our athletic fields as a volunteer.

I believe I possess the historical knowledge of our department and Town operations to guide the Recreation and Park Commission to accomplish several outstanding goals and objectives. I also have an intimate knowledge of the budget process and oversee the fiscal management of the department.

During my tenure as a Commissioner, I have been directly involved in:

1. The renovation of the Devereux and Riverhead Beach areas in 2008 and again in 2018. We are undergoing updates this year as part of an ongoing process to improve all of our properties.
2. The renovations at Memorial Park.
3. The ongoing renovations and improvements at the Stramski house and property.
4. The renovation of the Seaside Park baseball field.
5. The creation of a public/private partnership with the Conservancy and the trails committee.
6. Instrumental in the development of the Hamond Nature Center.
7. The creation of initiatives with Sustainable Marblehead that will bring improvements to the town at no expense to the taxpayer.
8. I have worked with several school superintendents to develop a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship with the School Department.

My thoughts on goals for the Marblehead Recreation and Parks Department over the next two years that will be completed at no cost to the taxpayer.

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1. The improvement of Reynolds Playground into a facility that could serve several thousand residents annually with a variety of recreational opportunities.
2. The completion of the renovation of the Stramski house into a facility to be made available to the public for meetings and receptions.
3. The development and Implementation of a new website for the Marblehead Recreation and Park Department that will showcase all of our properties as well as our recreation programs.

4. The rebuilding of the pavilion at Chandler Hovey Park that faces Cat Island into a handicapped accessible facility.
5. The renovation and beautification of Gatchell's Green.

Effects of Level Funding

The Town of Marblehead has been committed to zero growth as a fiscal policy for several decades. We do not lay people off and we do not grow. From my perspective in my department, I look back on four 10% budget cuts in the last sixteen years. The reality of that is we are buying supplies in 2021 with 2005 dollars. At some point the rubber band will break and it may mean a reduction in services. As an example, we are exploring the idea of a participation or user fee for youth sports and our parks and athletic fields. This is an ongoing discussion that is looking at being able to address needs to meet expectations.

Environmentally friendly initiatives at beaches and parks

I am a strong believer in carry in/carry out at our beaches and parks. I do not believe that as a municipality we have an obligation to collect trash at all of our locations. I think back to Tom Hamond who advocated for this twenty years ago. I think this is a matter of education and all of us doing our part. Nearly all state and national parks are carry in/carry out and most beaches here on the North Shore are the same.

It has been my privilege to serve the community that has given so much to my family and me. I want to thank the voters that have elected me to the Recreation and Park Commission for the past eighteen years. I also want to thank my colleagues over the years who have put their trust in me and elected me Chairman of the Commission for most of those years. I humbly ask for your support.