

1. Parks Commission Agenda And Attachments

Documents: [PC AGENDA 6 4 2015.PDF](#), [COMMON GROUND GAZEBO MOVE LETTER.PDF](#), [BEDFORD PARK ROUNDABOUTS.PDF](#), [2016 PARKS COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST.PDF](#)



Parks Commission

Agenda

June 4, 2015

5 – 6:30 PM

City Hall 389 Congress Street ~ Room 24

3:00: Pre-meeting walking tour with PPS – SW Airlines representative – Meet at City Hall Steps

- I. Citizen Comment Period (5 min)
- II. Presentation on Heart of the City Grant – PPS & Southwest Airlines (30 min)
- II. Agenda Items
 - A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes- May (3 min)
 - B. Communications/Updates (10 min)
 - DPS: Troy
 - Deering Oaks: Castle Restaurant
 - EECG Update
 - Evergreen Cemetery Expansion
 - Facilities & Rec: Sally
 - Fitzpatrick Stadium
 - Payson Softball Field
 - C. Unfinished Business (15 min)
 - Operating Budget:
 - \$75,000 Recommended Allocation to Parks Commission (Council Agenda 6.1)
 - \$20,000 of this towards full time (& seasonal) ranger support
 - Decide the distribution of remaining \$55,000
 - PC Admin Updates
 - o Fundraising: Fall Golf Tournament update Sally (5 min)
 - o Governance
 - o Inventory; - proposed timing of annual report
 - o Annual report
 - Trust for Public Land Update (no update: meets 6.24)
 - D. New Business (10 min)
 - Bedford Park Roundabouts



Lin Lisberger, Chair
Julia Kirby, Vice-Chair
James Cradock
Jenna Crowder
Christopher Devlin
Penny Harris
Alison Hildreth
Pandora LaCasse
Councilor Dave Marshall
Tony Muench
Corey Templeton

Management & Administration

Alexander Jaegerman,
Planning Division Director
Caitlin Cameron, Urban
Designer

May 21, 2015

To the Parks Commission:

The Portland Public Art Committee has spent the past couple of months looking for a new site for the Common Ground Gazebo, currently at the east side of Payson Park, near the community garden and Seaside Nursing home. We reached out to all of the neighborhood associations for siting ideas and after researching several sites we have decided to move it to the other side of Payson Park at the end of the Longfellow Garden Club arboretum path. Jeff Tarling has been included in this discussion and will help us with the exact placement along with Tony Muench, our committee member who is also a landscape architect.

Please let me know what more you would like us to do to further this move. I can be reached by email at lin.lisberger@gmail.com or by phone at 207-712-0955. You can also reach me through Caitlin Cameron in Planning.

Sincerely,

Lin Lisberger, Chair



Michael J. Bobinsky
Director of Public Services

April 16, 2015

Ms. Diane Davison, Chair
Portland Parks Commission
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Subject: Roundabout Project and Bedford Park Impacts

Dear Diane:

The Department of Public Services is currently in the design stage of a transportation project that will result in the construction of two roundabouts along Deering Avenue fronting the University of Maine Law School and the University of Southern Maine campus. At this time, it is clear that the design will affect the Bedford Park parcel at the northeast corner of the intersection of Deering Avenue with Bedford Street.

This letter details the background of the project, the anticipated impacts to date, and a request for concurrence on this project.

City Council Master Plan

The City of Portland has been interested in the potential for significant modification of the intersection of Deering Avenue with Brighton Avenue and Falmouth Street, as well as the intersection of Deering Avenue with Bedford Street. This has come out of operational issues at these locations, including a lack of a gateway feel, poor pedestrian accommodations, and extensive vehicle delay. USM has long desired a change here, going back about 25 years in various master plans. A study was funded to determine the desired changes to this area through PACTS, the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

On August 5, 2013, following the conclusion of this study, the City Council approved into Master Plan (Council Order 26-13/14) the following components:

- Elimination of the portion of Brighton Avenue connecting Deering Avenue and Bedford Street
- Conversion of the Brighton/Deering/Falmouth intersection to a five-leg, single-lane roundabout
- Conversion of the Deering/Bedford intersection to a three-leg, single-lane roundabout
- Conversion of Bedford Street to two-way operation at Deering Avenue



Michael J. Bobinsky
Director of Public Services

It was clear during the planning stage that while elimination of the southern leg of Brighton Avenue would create a net increase in land available for various uses, the construction of a roundabout at Deering and Bedford would result in impacts to the Bedford Park parcel.

The draft PACTS report can be viewed at:

<https://me-portland.civicplus.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/201?fileID=855>

The final report can be made available upon request.

Current Project Status

The City of Portland issued a request for professional design services for this project, and in March of 2014, selected the services of Ransom Consulting, along with MTJ Roundabout Engineering and DuBois & King to refine the initial layout prepared during the study process. While this work began, the City applied for 2016-2018 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) funds through PACTS for the project, and was successful in obtaining the award in August of 2015 for \$2,868,800.

The City has moved through a significant amount of the design work for the project to date, conducted conversations with USM, and is now working with MaineDOT to determine future steps to take the project to construction in 2017 or 2018.

Impacts to Bedford Park

Based on the design plans created to date, we anticipate that the construction of the roundabout at Bedford and Deering would result in a net reduction of approximately 3,900 s.f. A graphic of this impact is enclosed with this letter.

While this would result in a net reduction in area to the park, it is our opinion that the park will be enhanced by the addition of new sidewalk along its frontage on both Deering Avenue and Bedford Street. Most importantly, the elimination of the southern leg of Brighton Avenue would mean that Bedford Park would no longer be an "island" surrounded on all sides by arterial and collector streets. It would have much better access to the USM campus.

It should be noted that discussions have begun with USM with regards to the land made available by the discontinuance of Brighton Avenue behind Bedford Park, but to date no formal decisions or agreements exist as to how this property might be utilized, either by USM or the City.

It is the opinion of the Department of Public Services that the impact to Bedford Park is acceptable. In fact, the 1928 document conveying the property to the City from the Noyes family states clearly that the tract of land comprising the park may also be used for "the purpose of widening the streets bordering thereon". That language would appear to suggest



Michael J. Bobinsky
Director of Public Services

that the conveyors anticipated the potential for transportation impacts and considered it an acceptable use of the land. A copy of the conveyance is included with this letter.

We have also reviewed this project with Michael Goldman in Corporation Counsel for his interpretation of the necessary process associated with the modification of the property, and this parcel of land, unlike Fessenden Park to the north, is not a Land Bank property, so the project will not require approval of the Land Bank Commission.

Under Section 18-14 of the City Code, however, the project does require the involvement of the Parks Commission in the form of an advisory opinion. As such, we are seeking affirmation from the Commission that this impact to Noyes Park is an acceptable outcome of the roundabout project. While DPS feels that the overall enhancements to the park and its future adjacency to USM is an adequate compensatory outcome, if changes to the size of the park are strongly desired by the Commission, we will take that into consideration in the remaining design process.

Next Steps

Following an advisory opinion from the Parks Commission, we would seek affirmation from the Transportation, Sustainability and Energy Committee, and then review and approval by seven members of the City Council.

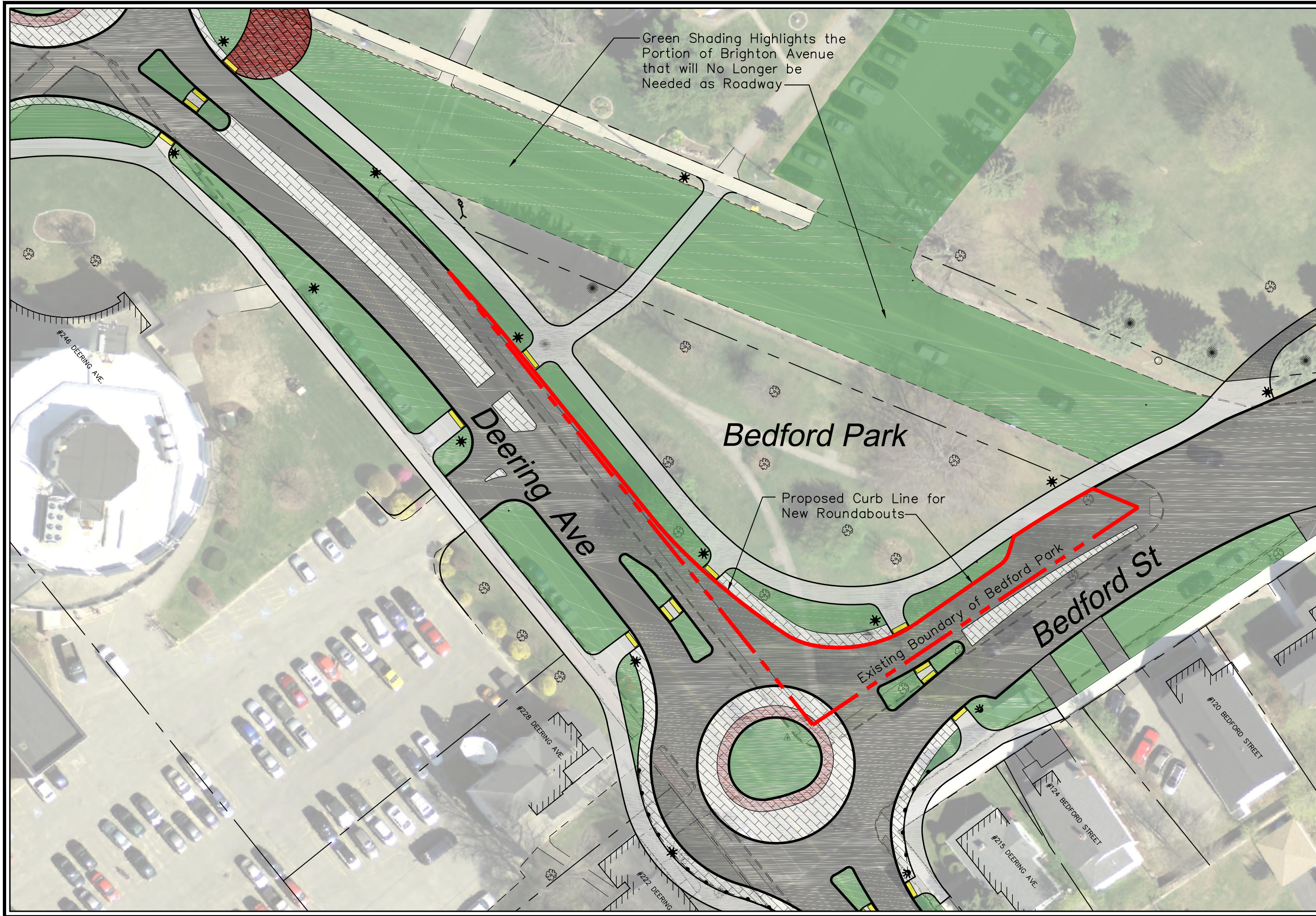
Please let me know if you have questions regarding this topic, the overall project, or require additional information or materials.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah J. Bartlett, PE, PTOE
Transportation Systems Engineer

Enclosure

Copy: Troy Moon, Environmental Program & Open Space Manager, DPS
Michael Bobinsky, Director, DPS
Jeff Levine, Director, DPS
Bruce Hyman, Transportation Program Manager, Planning & Urban Development
Kathi Earley, Engineering Services Manager, DPS
John Duncan, Director, PACTS
Carl Eppich, Senior Planner, PACTS
Jeff Tweedie, Multimodal Program Manager, MaineDOT
John Mahoney, Associate Project Engineer, Ransom Consulting Engineers & Scientists



Green Shading Highlights the
Portion of Brighton Avenue
that will No Longer be
Needed as Roadway

Bedford Park

Proposed Curb Line for
New Roundabouts

Existing Boundary of Bedford Park

Deering Ave

Bedford St

Site:
Brighton-Deering-
Falmouth &
Bedford-Deering
Roundabouts

Prepared for:

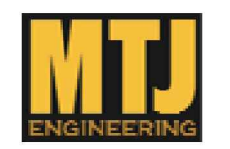
City of Portland
389 Congress Street
Portland, Maine

Bedford Park

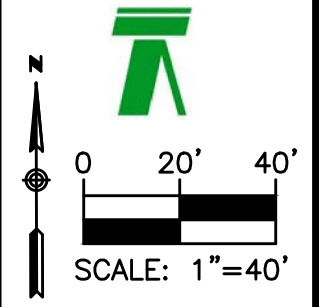


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tjd&a
**DuBois
& King**



B	City & MDOT Review	3/31/15
A	City & MDOT Review	8/7/14
No.	Revision/Issue	Date
Project: 141.06013		
Sheet No:		1

Know all Men by these Presents, That

We, Edward Deering Noyes, Ilsley Noyes, George F. Noyes and Mabel F. Noyes, widow of the late Wadsworth Noyes, all of Portland in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine,

in consideration of one dollar and other valuable considerations,
the City of Portland in said County and State,

paid by

the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said City of Portland, its successors and assigns, forever, all that certain triangular piece or parcel of land in said Portland situated on the North side of Bedford Street and bounded and described as follows, viz, Beginning at the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly line of Bedford Street with the easterly line of Deering Avenue, and thence running northeasterly and along said northerly line of Bedford Street to its point of intersection with the westerly line of Brighton Avenue; thence northwesterly and along said westerly line of Brighton Avenue to its point of intersection with said easterly line of Deering Avenue; and thence southeasterly and along said easterly line of Deering Avenue to said Northerly line of Bedford Street at the point or place of beginning, said parcel having an estimated area of 25,000 square feet, be the same more or less.

Subject, however, to the condition that said tract of land shall be used only for park purposes or for the purpose of widening the streets bordering thereon; and in the event said land is used for other purposes it is hereby covenanted and agreed by all the parties hereto that the same shall revert to Edward Deering Noyes, one of the grantors herein and the donor of the largest interest in said land, his heirs and assigns, to whom the other three grantors herein hereby remise and release all their right, title and interest in said reversion, he, the said Edward Deering Noyes, for himself, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby covenanting and agreeing in the event of said reversion to repay to said City of Portland the sum of Seven thousand two hundred fifteen and 59/100 dollars (\$7,215.59), being the amount paid for said land by said city, but without any interest thereon.

To Have and to Hold the aforegranted and bargained premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to the said City of Portland, its successors heirs and assigns, to its and their use and behoof forever. And we do covenant with the said Grantee, its successors heirs and assigns, that we are lawfully seized in fee of the premises; that they are free of all incumbrances; except as aforesaid, that we have good right to sell and convey the same to the said grantee to hold as aforesaid; and that we and our heirs, shall and will warrant and defend the same to the said Grantee, its successors heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In Witness Whereof, we, the said Edward Deering Noyes, a widower, Ilsley Noyes, unmarried, George F. Noyes, and Mabel F. Noyes, widow of the late Wadsworth Noyes, and I, May M. Noyes, wife of the said George F. Noyes, joining in this deed as Grantor and relinquishing and conveying my rights by descent and all other rights in the above described premises

have hereunto set

our hands and seals this thirty-first day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
in presence of

Gertrude E. Berry to all

Edward Deering Noyes	Seal
Ilsley Noyes	Seal
George F. Noyes	Seal
Mabel F. Noyes	Seal
May M. Noyes	Seal

State of Maine, CUMBERLAND, ss. Portland, March 31, 1928.

Personally appeared

the above named Edward Deering Noyes, Ilsley Noyes, George F. Noyes and Mabel F. Noyes, and each and acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed.

Before me,

Gertrude E. Berry, Notary Public *Justice of the Peace*.
Notarial Seal.

Received April 2, 1928, at 10 o'clock 45 m. A. M., and recorded according to the original.

Portland Parks Commission FY 2016 Budget Proposal for Parks

Ranking Criteria:

1. progress on Congress Square Park, for which there are high expectations following the recent citizen's initiative and Council ordinance,
2. proposals for improving overall parks maintenance and oversight,
3. proposals for design studies and master plans that refine priorities and cost estimates and move projects closer to implementation readiness, and
4. completion of projects that are very close to completion and embody significant cost sharing.

Assumptions/Expectations:

1. Budgets will be maintained in FY 2016 for seasonal park rangers, a full-time park ranger, and seasonal parks maintenance staff. These are the highest priority park budget needs for FY 2016, but represent continuation of already budgeted activities.
2. The Parks Commission will prepare a brief first Annual Report, as mandated in the City's new Parks Ordinance, in FY 2016 on the basis of available information. Following consultation with the City Council on the desired content of subsequent annual reports, the Commission will request a budget in FY 2017 for collection of baseline data and preparation of a fuller annual report in FY 2017. The 2017 Annual Report will also reflect information generated by the update of the Parks Master Plan in FY 2016 (for which funds are requested below) and from the study that is currently being carried out by the Trust for Public Lands and Portland Trails.
3. Serious consideration will be given to the operating budget requests shown in the table, which are important for maintaining functionality of our parks. Experience demonstrates that deferred maintenance often leads to larger needs for capital outlays.

Priority Ranking	Location	Budget Designation	Budget Request	Estimated Cost	Comments
1	Congress Square Park	Operating budget	Finalize design through HP and Planning approvals to preparation of bidding documents for implementation	\$50,000	The other half of the \$100,000 estimated total cost of this activity is to be provided by the Friends of Congress Square Park. Designs are to be compatible with options for High Street redesign, but would not need to wait until the High Street redesign is completed. This request is expected to be followed up with a budget request for implementation in the 2017 CIP.
2	Parks Commission	Operating budget	Update parks Master Plan, <i>Green Spaces, Blue Edges</i>	\$30,000	To be carried out in collaboration with parks friends groups and the Trust for Public Land.
3	Evergreen Cemetery	Operating budget	Removal and care of hazardous trees	\$250,000	To address an increasing public safety hazard. This amount reflects the quote received by the city for this work.
4	Evergreen Cemetery	Operating budget	Planting of trees to replace removed trees	\$100,000	To reduce the detrimental visual impact of hazardous tree removal
5	Eastern Cemetery	CIP	Complete restoration of Victorian tool shed	\$18,000	This cost reflects the contractor's quote for this work
6	Longfellow Park	CIP	Repair and widen walks in Longfellow Park	\$33,000	Walks need repair & widening to be handicap accessible
7	city wide		Tree Planting	\$10,000	
8	city wide		Bench replacement	\$15,000	To replace half of the "fair" or "poor" condition benches

Comments on Friends' Proposals that are not Reflected in this Request:

1. The Friends of Congress Square Park requested \$1,033,400 for the renovation of Congress Square Park under the ground-level design (option 1). The decision process involving selection of the option to be implemented, the development and review of designs, and the HP and Planning review process are not likely to be completed in time to permit the start of implementation before July 2016. For this reason, the Parks Commission recommends financing for a cost-shared design study in FY 2016, to be followed by a request for implementation financing in FY 2017. The Friends of Congress Square Park have confirmed their willingness to provide a 50% cost match for the preparation of designs and involvement in consultant selection. The \$50,000 CIP request represents the CIP-financed portion of a design study estimated to cost \$100,000.
2. The Friends of Lincoln Park requested financing in an unspecified amount for upgrades to Lincoln Park (for which detailed plans and costing are currently being developed). While the commission supports restoration of this historically significant park, the consensus is that design plans and budget should be approved by the City's Historic Preservation Board and

appropriate city staff prior to pursuing CIP funding for implementation. It is likely that rehabilitation efforts will need to be phased in order to mobilize financing and to reflect the ongoing redesign of Franklin Street, which could create opportunities to expand Lincoln Park to the Northeast. An FY 2017 budget request for this purpose is anticipated.

3. The Friends of Deering Oaks requested \$168,000 of financing to replace the lighting in Deering Oaks Park. The Parks Commission recommends a study to confirm that this expenditure would be justified by savings in rental charges and energy costs. This study is expected to be carried out either by the Department of Public Services or by the Friends of Deering Oaks. If the study confirms that the replacement is justified by cost savings, a financing request for lighting replacement is expected in the FY 2017 CIP.
4. The Friends of Deering Oaks also requested that the ongoing service contract for the porta-potties in Deering Oaks Park be revised to require higher maintenance standards. This activity would not entail additional costs. The Parks Commission endorses this request. The Friends of Deering Oaks also requested financing for staffing the Castle in Deering Oaks Park during periods of peak use. The Department of Public Services (DPS) is exploring options to extend hours at the Castle through staffing by DPS staff and by Friends volunteers. It is also planning to continue a budget request from the current year to provide coverage during the Farmers Market and for some hours during July and August.
5. The Friends of Evergreen requested financing to update the Evergreen Cemetery Master Plan. The consensus of the Parks Commission is that in view of the current budget situation, this activity could be deferred until more adequate financing is available.
6. The Friends of Evergreen also requested financing to carry out a design study for site improvements on the Stevens Avenue frontage of the cemetery. The Parks Commission recommends that matching financing be sought from the University of New England, an abutter to the Northeast that would benefit from the improvements and currently benefits from daytime parking in the cemetery. If this financing is confirmed, an FY 2017 budget request is anticipated for this activity.
7. The Friends of the Eastern Prom (FoEP) had requested financing in the 2016 CIP to complete the connection to Cousin's memorial. This request was originally submitted in the FY 2014 operating budget at \$10,000 as a key design element connecting the Cutter Street redesign and Fort Allen Rehabilitation Project (FARP), recommended by the Historic Preservation Board. Timing for carrying out the connection to Cousin's memorial is critically linked to FoEP's efforts to complete FARP implementation by July 2015. FoEP has received \$30,000 to complete FARP implementation by installing interpretive exhibits within the Park and at the top of Cutter Street. This work is scheduled to be completed by July 2015. Upon further discussion, FoEP has withdrawn this request because its timing is not consistent with planned completion of FARP implementation by the July 2015 target date.
8. The West End Neighborhood Association submitted an un-costed request for outside furniture, signage, playground equipment and waste receptacles for various parks in the West End. The Department of Public Services reports that it will be able to supply much of this request through its existing stocks or through financing in its current budget.