



Commission Members:

Chair Jaime Parker, Vice Chair Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Michael Catania, Cheri Musgrave Katie Mears and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier. **Staff:** Alex Marshall, Thomas Nickerson.

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **September 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

*The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces. Review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend action.
Foster collaboration among park users and the City. Promotes public access and enjoyment.
Advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces. Enjoy Portland for Life.*

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email ParksCommission@Portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Parks Commission meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION

The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland Parks Commission. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91710859101?pwd=MUVLWTVFRG5jUFNxSHIEcTFISk8wZz09>

Passcode: **P3pperm1nt**

Or Telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 917 1085 9101

Passcode: **480730**

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
 - a. Emailed public comment
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2022

- b. New Business
 - i. Parks, Recreation and Facilities Hiring
- c. CIP Parks Commission Recommendations
 - i. Review CIP Project
 - ii. Commissioners to select their top three CIP projects
- d. Old Business
- e. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
 - iii. Update on Bike Share Program
- f. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Public Comment: CIP Process

1 message

George Rheault <george.rheault@gmail.com>

Wed, Aug 31, 2022 at 10:08 AM

To: parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>

As part of the Parks Commission annual CIP review and recommendations, time should be taken to assess the following:

1.) The status of all CIP funded projects to date (of those approved, which ones are complete, in-process, yet-to-begin). Ideally this should be updated quarterly (monthly even) and included in the Parks Commission meeting materials. This information will help the Parks Commission understand how projects get done and what kinds of factors (pre-construction approvals, staffing, bidding protocols, construction schedules) impact the actual delivery of CIP projects.

2.) A comparison of the Parks Commission's initial CIP recommendations versus what the City Manager/Parks Dept ultimately submitted to the City Council (and to the extent the City Council made changes, including those changes as well). City leaders may very well have good reasons for setting aside what the Parks Commission recommends when submitting its final draft CIP budget to the City Council for parks-related projects, but the Parks Commission should be made aware of how it differs and why. The Parks Commission may have only an advisory role, but that role should be taken seriously.

See below for information about the golf course bridge project which the Parks Commission never heard about or recommended last year, but which was a key part of the Parks Department's approved CIP budget for FY2023.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **George Rheault** <george.rheault@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 12:39 PM

Subject: Public Comment: Golf Course Bridge Details and Overall CIP Process

To: <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, <sray@portlandmaine.gov>

Per my email below, I strongly urge the Parks Commission to review the recent CIP approval for FY2023 with respect to parks-related items including the extraordinary outlays for the golf course (which went beyond just the bridge).

I am not aware that Parks staff ever briefed the members of the Commission on the \$255,000 golf course bridge replacement (if I am mistaken please point me to the meeting minutes where this came up). A golf course bridge was not even on the radar during any part of the Commission's CIP discussion in Summer 2021. Furthermore, the City Council did not bother to address the question of which existing Dole Brook stream crossing is slated to be eliminated as part of the bridge project.

Two big issues overlay these particulars:

1.) Does the Parks Commission have any meaningful role in the CIP process for parks and recreation capital allocations or is its role purely performative without substance?

2.) Should a Parks Commission subcommittee undertake a comprehensive review of the golf course and its operations including re-examining the last time such a close review was commissioned by the City? [See here for the National Golf Foundation Consulting Report completed in August 2012 (almost 10 years ago): [Microsoft Word - Portland Report.docx \(portlandmaine.gov\)](#)]

NB: The 2012 NGF report discusses the need for a bridge to access the North Course's #13 Hole but it is not clear whether such a bridge existed at that time or whether what was being recommended then was essentially an upgrade (I will send photos of the existing bridges via separate email). A related point worth making is that a good detailed map of the entire golf course property (conveniently showing location of holes, etc.) appears not to be available on the City's website.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **George Rheault** <george.rheault@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 21, 2022 at 11:59 AM

Subject: Public Comment on Order 163-21/22 (with Order 164): CIP Shenanigans - Golf Course Bridge
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Anna Trevorow <atrevorow@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <Azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, Mark Dion <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, Tae Chong <tchong@portlandmaine.gov>, Danielle West-Chuhta <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>, Dena Libner <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>, Jennifer Thompson <jlt@portlandmaine.gov>, Brendan T O'Connell <boconnell@portlandmaine.gov>, Hipple, Ethan <EHIPPLE@portlandmaine.gov>

Virtually every single line item in the proposed CIP for FY2023 raises questions and alarm about the quality of the work behind what is in front of the City Council.

The Dole Brook golf course bridge is a great example.

Anyone taking a stroll over to the course as I did on Friday will notice that no bridge has been washed out. And in fact, two bridges are in excellent working order. The third has a solid culvert in place along with solid stonework around the culvert. The wooden planks on top of it need replacing (at least a few) but nowhere near \$255,000 worth (see project detail).

The City Council should be asking questions such as below, but instead they rubber-stamp.

- 1.) WHICH of the current crossings on the attached map will be discontinued as part of this project? The "purple" plant crossings probably are not meant for a golf cart. The "red" bridges are substantial enough for a golf cart and larger vehicles.
- 2.) Since the golf course is arguably a historic landscape, are there any concerns about removing any of the current crossings?
- 3.) How will golfers (and winter users) access those parts of the course when whatever Dole Brook crossing is discontinued? Will certain holes be marooned and won't this cause congestion on other course paths and irregular (and delayed) play for paying customers?

2 attachments



Riverside Golf Course - 3-Bridges Over Dole Brook.jpeg
676K



Golf Course - FY2023 - CIP Request - \$255,000 - emergency.pdf
262K



Project Title ID 236894
Bridge Over Dole Brook (Emergency Replacement)

Parks, Rec & Public Assembly

Division Golf Course

Classification Facilities

Project Description

Replacement of bridge that was washed out in storm.

Project Justification

This project would provide the emergency replacement of the Dole Brook bridge that washed out during a bad storm this past season. At this time, players must use the bridge located close to the river on the 13th hole that also frequently floods during storms. Due to this flooding there is concern that this bridge will also fail and a portion of the course will be inaccessible. This request would result in the function of two bridges being combined into one thereby reducing future maintenance costs.

5 Year Cost Summary

<u>Planning</u>	<u>Land</u>	<u>Construction</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Est Total Cost</u>
		\$255,000		\$255,000

Funding Source

<u>Year</u>	<u>Other Funding</u>	<u>Requested Funding</u>	<u>City Mgr Recommended</u>	<u>Funding Type</u>	<u>Approved</u>
2023		\$255,000			☐
2024					☐
2025					☐
2026					☐
2027					☐
2028					☐
Total		\$255,000			

Other Funding Source Description

Operating Budget Impact

N/A



Commission Members:

Chair Jaime Parker, Vice Chair Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Michael Catania, Cheri Musgrave Katie Mears and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier. **Staff:** Alex Marshall, Thomas Nickerson.

Not present: Stephen Bensten

City of Portland Parks Commission Agenda

August 4th, 2022

5:00 PM

On August 4th 2022 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission held a meeting using Zoom.

I. Call to Order -

II. General Citizen Comment Period (5 min)

I - George Rheault - Please update commission members, some folks are still on. Please address the Deering Oaks issues. Please also include equity concerns within Portland. Tree planting could use a city map listing, so the public will know where the trees are located. Contractors are required to plant a tree per new unit. Some neighborhoods are tree-poor and those trees are not being provided to the areas that need them the most. Planning board rules do not require those trees to be in that. Equity reflects on all of us.

III. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes June 2nd: Action Item (5 min) - motions to approve: Marie, Cheri. 5 votes, no dissenting.

b. New Business

i. CIP development - Alex to provide update

- CIP starts in May - June, work on the projects until the next year. Sent out requests for updates, received a few. We review and update the CIP based on need and funding, then we provide the CIP to the Parks Commission. This is a general list of projects that will be occurring. Commissioners will vote on the top 3-5 projects. We take this input and incorporate it into the division-wide CIP. Once included it goes to finance., then council for final approval.
- What we have for you today - please review these CIP selection criteria when making decisions. Matched funding projects are prioritized. Equity projects, to include diversity. Projects already in play.
- Current projects: Deering Oaks irrigation for fields, pesticides are permissions here HOWEVER, we do not use those. We prefer organic. Water is needed, which is why this is a focus. Cemeteries: Evergreen cem expansion, plots are limited and more space is needed. Courts resurfacing, preventative maintenance. Great Diamond Island courts, clay tennis court, looking to resurface. These courts are public property. Infrastructure: ADA improvements - sidewalk and pathing, needs to be replaced. These improvements were sparked by an ADA

inspection.

- Queenie's Castle is doing well, but struggling a little with the unhoused population. Constructions are happening, like a seating wall. Staff has been supportive.
- Deering Oaks Pond wall reconstruction - wall repair is a high priority, to prevent an emergency situation.
- Eastern Prom - Additional ADA improvements, fixing storm water damage to make it accessible for all.
- Fencing - Eastern Prom trail, invasive plants are running rampant. Replace wooden guardrail to limit invasives. Aesthetically appealing, easier to maintain vegetation.
- Fort Gorgeous Wharf Reconstruction - Army corps of Engineers - a fun project using large and powerful machinery. They provide the labor and equipment, we just need to get the materials.
- Lincoln Park Fence - Fencing is progressing and a phased project, we'd like to continue on with the project. We have funding previously, and want to keep that going. As this is the oldest park in Portland, it has historical significance. There have been funds raised privately. Mike Ciamaga will be heading this project for us.
- Payson park - entrance improvement - Front street development could use a nice entrance and improve it to make it more welcoming/accessible for the incoming families. Would connect the park and existing trails.
- Veranda Street - this is a placeholder, we do not have a price for this, but we want to hold this as there would be waterfront open space opened up for a potential park. More information pending.
- Valley Street - shorter retainer wall, losing stones and needs to be replaced/rebuilt. Time is of the essence.
- Playgrounds - 30 playgrounds around the city, last 20 years each. Which means 1-2 each year. Longfellow is being designed right now. Funding for additional playgrounds is also needed. Reiche, Ting Tate, Clark. Grants might be needed.

ii. Parks Capital Improvement Priority Projects -Friends Groups Presentations and Public Comment

- Frank and Sharon Reilly - thanked everyone for the support of Lincoln Park. Fence dates back to 1866, original Portland Company, took 2 years. At that time the park was purchased as a firebreak after the previous city fire. It was also a memorial, used to be Phoenix Square. It has a lot of historical significance. 1970, lost ¼ of the park to Franklin arterial. Hoping to get that back someday. This is a team effort, Portland is helping a lot. Private entities are helping along with Portland. We want to keep the current project manager to continue as they are doing a fantastic job. Next Tuesday night is the final musical performance in the park, Blue Phrobets, 6:00pm. Fountain and the basin needed to be replaced. HUGE boulder under the fountain, kept the boulder there, rerouted the fountain plumbing around the boulder. They were able to incorporate electricity into the park, including park lights. They applied for a matching grant to have the fencing continued. Opened up for questions:
- How much money has been raised? - We can provide it.
- Paul Drinan - 1 - Preservation plan - 2 wharf rebuild - 3 composting toilets - 4 Parapet - 5 sea level rise update. Project estimate 480,000, asked to increase to

\$500,000. In 2022, based on additional inflation, we'd like a solid 1 million. In 2016 - an army engineer advised that cribbing should have been installed already. Condemnation is possible. We received updated quotes recently, but they are asking for a fresh review of the resto project. This plan is being reviewed for validity. Will share soon. Equity: is easily a 10 min park, Friends would like to provide free access, but they are committed to getting this done. 10% free tickets for all events. Islands have a place, privilege is a barrier, you must have a boat and most people do not have this. Safety is primary - Impact of service to public - safety issues, no other park has the same safety issues. We will share the engineering report, hopefully no complete collapse, a very serious issue. Priority - Fort G has a 92% community support rating, social media reflections 99.7% support. Prior phases, the Fort has already received a number of improvements. We are partnering with the city and hoping for funding. There seems to be a disconnect - the preservation plan was a higher priority, but we are focusing on the wharf, why? - Parks need to raise matching funds for the preservation before we can provide CIP funds. So a decision was made to focus on the wharf to enable more access. Would like to contribute. \$100k materials cost is more than likely, and we are happy to assist with permitting.

iii. Follow up questions from Commissioners

- Questions -
- Q: What fundraising efforts are underway with those needs?
- A: We are awaiting the MOU report, then we can move forward with funding avenues. The wharf is important, but the restoration is vital too. It is a really great project. Safety improvements are critical.
-

c. Communications and Updates

- i. Parks Report (15 min) - Reviewed the Parks Report items: hiring positions, tree planting concluded 150 trees in the ground, Water is a huge issue, we need rain. Public participation was asked, adopt-a-tree would be ideal to address management issues. Campsites - no camping in the parks - it is permitted ONLY if the shelters are full, and they are not. Public bathrooms, they are being installed. Jon Krachmar - feedback is provided and they are delighted to have those bathrooms. This is rapid progress and makes for world-class parks. Beth - Lyseth has a limited budget, could you provide more detail about this? Alex - \$250K is not sufficient for playgrounds at this time. Inflation has impacted the project. Lyseth is a title 1 school, and this playground would be surviving in an underserved community. We had to make some cuts, but those do not reduce the value or quality of the playground. We are asking for inter-department assistance. Cheri asked - schoolyard greening coalition, do we work with them? Jamie - Portland Trails housed this coalition, but they have moved on to different advocacy work. Parks are now incorporating green elements, which is ideal. What are things we can provide in these spaces which are natural, as opposed to the glassic plastics and metal.
- ii. Land Bank Commission Report (10 min) - Last month was off, but they did take a field trip. Went to Stroudwater property, a very exciting prospect. Would like to add parking and access for boats. Went to north deering, Coolidge and Davenport lots. Public is always welcome. Riverton Trolley park has an additional parcel, which is wonderful and provides a great deal of benefits. Made the paper!
- iii. Committee Updates (10 min) - No updates -
- iv. Commission Vacancies - Three openings - Due by Aug 22nd - please see this link for more information: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/603/Boards-Committees>

d. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment

	<i>DRAFT, as of 6/9/2022</i>										
Note: FY 2024 Projects approved in March of 2023											
		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Annual Total	District	\$3,770,000	\$5,170,000	\$4,515,000	\$6,193,280	\$4,030,000	\$12,250,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,575,000	\$2,525,000	
Athletic Facilities											
Deering High School Field Upgrades	5			\$275,000		\$200,000					
Deering Oaks Baseball Lights	2		\$250,000								
Deering Oaks Infield Upgrades and Irrigation	2	\$90,000									
Deering Oaks Volleyball Court Replacement	2								\$75,000		
Fitzpatrick Paving and ADA Improvements	2			\$235,000							
Fitzpatrick Stadium Entrance Upgrade	2							\$75,000			
Fitzpatrick to Expo Team Entrance Landscape Upgrades	2							\$100,000			
Fitzpatrick Track Resurfacing	2			\$100,000					\$100,000		
Fitzpatrick Turf Replacement	2					\$1,200,000					
Fox St Irrigation Replacement	1					\$50,000					
Ludlow Baseball Field Upgrades	5				\$500,000						
Memorial Stadium Concession Stand Replacement	5				\$250,000						
Memorial Stadium Turf Replacement	5									\$1,200,000	
Payson B Softball Drainage and Irrigation	4			\$110,000							
Riverton Softball Lighting Replacement	5					\$255,000					
Synthetic Turf Field: location TBD					\$1,500,000						
Cemeteries											
Evergreen Driveway Drainage and Paving--To be funded by Water Resources	5										
Evergreen Expansion Plan - Phase III	5	\$100,000									
Evergreen Repaving Roads	5			\$125,000		\$125,000					
Gravel Road Reconstruction (Evergreen and Forest City)	5		\$100,000								
Pond Restoration Engineering	5			\$30,000							
Wilde Chapel Masonry	5				\$500,000		\$500,000				
Community Gardens											
Bayside Community Garden Relocation	1			\$50,000							
Community Garden Fence Repairs/Additions (3-4 Gardens (CDBG potential)	Various			\$50,000			\$50,000				
Various Shed Replacements	Various				\$30,000						
Courts--Tennis, Basketball, Futsal											
Bayside Basketball Court - New Construction	1		\$75,000								
Court Resurfacing: Various Tennis/Pickleball & Basketball	Various	\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000	
Deering Oaks Tennis Court Lights--Add	2							\$350,000			
Dougherty Field Basketball Pavilion	3				\$150,000						
Deering Oaks Tennis and Basketball Court Repaving	2				\$200,000						
Eastern Prom Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	1								\$50,000		
Islands: Great Diamond Island Tennis and Basketball Reconstruction	1	\$100,000									
Longfellow Basketball Drainage and Reconstruction	5			\$175,000							
Payson Additional Basketball Court	4					\$100,000					

		<i>DRAFT, as of 6/9/2022</i>									
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Payson Tennis--Add Tennis Court lights	4			\$200,000							
Riverton Tennis Court Reconstruction	5								\$300,000		
Park Infrastructure											
Baxter Boulevard Safety Enhancements --Stairs and Railings	4			\$150,000							
Bell Buoy Park Design & Construction	1		\$50,000		\$750,000						
Bramhall Square Reconstruction \$250K budget, \$100K from Maine Medical, \$150 from Public Works CIP	2										
Park Walkway ADA Paving, various locations	various		\$200,000		\$200,000		\$200,000		\$200,000		
Congress Square Park Design and Construction	1										
Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing--Farmers Market Rd. (State to Deering)	2						\$300,000				
Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing--Tennis Court Rd (State to Deering)(ADA)	2	\$300,000									
Deering Oaks Bandstand Replacement	2						\$500,000				
Deering Oaks Pond Plaza and Dock	2								\$100,000		
Deering Oaks Pond Wall and Pond-side Plaza Reconstruction	2	\$500,000		\$500,000							
Deering Oaks Ravine Wading Pool Rehab	2				\$475,000						
Deering Oaks Restroom: Brick and Mortar Building	2							\$400,000			
Deering Oaks Rose Circle Entrance--Convert to Brick	2						\$75,000				
East End Recreational Boat Ramp Reconstruction	1			\$300,000							
Eastern Prom Cleeves Monument ADA Plaza and Walkways	1	\$125,000									
Eastern Prom Cutter Street/Parking Reno--Public Works	1		\$2,750,000								
Fencing: Eastern Prom Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement with guardrail	1	\$75,000									
Fencing: Softball field at Talbot School	1		\$50,000								
Fort Gorges Composting Toilets	1							\$100,000			
Fort Gorges Parapet	1								\$250,000		
Fort Gorges Preservation Plan (Structural Stabilization)	1		\$120,000	\$200,000							
Fort Gorges Sea Level Rise Intervention	1									\$250,000	
Fort Gorges Wharf Reconstruction	1	\$100,000									
Fort Sumner Reconstruction	1									\$450,000	
Fort Sumner Trail Lighting--to be paid for by Friends Group	1										
Harborview Concrete Stair and Plaza: Resurfacing with Granite	2						\$25,000				
Harborview Stairs from Circle Trail Intersection to Commercial St	2			\$50,000							
Lincoln Park Fence--Franklin St	1					\$300,000					
Lincoln Park Fence--Pearl and Federal St	1	\$300,000		\$250,000							
Lincoln Park Walkway Lights	1				\$250,000						
Ludlow Pond Drainage	5					\$150,000					
Martins Point Access Improvements	4		\$150,000								
Noyes Park Pathways, Seating and Trees	2			\$150,000							
Payson Park Front Street Entrance Improvements	4	\$75,000									
Payson Park Sledding Hill and Skating Rink Improvements (Expansion & Snow Making)	4		\$75,000								
Payson Park Parking: Reconstructing Sledding Hill Parking Lot	4			\$250,000							
Picnic Pavillion: Deering Oaks and Payson Park	various		\$150,000		\$150,000						

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Quarry Run Dog Park Expansion and Renovation (Invasives Removal, Trail resurfacing, fence replacement)	4				\$100,000						
Veranda Street Waterfront Park	4	\$150,000									
Western Prom "NEW" Sidewalk along Western Cemetery	2					\$250,000					
Western Prom Artistic Play Area	2							\$150,000			
Western Prom Bandstand, Toboggan Run Improvements	2				\$150,000						
Western Prom Roadway Tree Allee	2									\$300,000	
Western Prom Upper Park Walkway Reconstruction	2			\$250,000	\$250,000						
Western Prom Valley Street Stone Retaining Wall Repair/Rebuild	2	\$115,000									
Western Prom Vista Clearing and Plantings	2		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		
Western Prom Walkway Lighting	2							\$150,000			
Western Prom Walkway Reconstruction, Phase II	2						\$150,000				
Playgrounds, Skateparks, and Fitness Courses											
Clark Street, Tyng-Tate & Reiche Design	2	\$150,000									
Deering Oaks Playground	2								\$250,000		
East End School Playground	1							\$250,000			
Harborview Aging in Place Fitness Course	2			\$30,000							
Longfellow Playground	5	\$350,000									
Peaks Island Playground	1									\$175,000	
Peaks Island Skate Park	1				\$75,000						
Peppermint Park--East Bayside Playground	1					\$350,000					
Portable Pumptrack: moveable neighborhood skatepark	various			\$75,000							
Presumpscot Playground	4						\$200,000				
Reiche Playground (applying for LWCF grant to Match)	2		\$300,000								
Stone Street Playground--Upgrade and Splashpad Erosion Issues	1			\$350,000							
Stroudwater Playground	3						\$100,000				
Tate Tyng/Clark Playground	2		\$200,000								
Taylor Street Playground	2								\$100,000		
University Park Playground (NEW)	4				\$200,000						
Will's Playground (Eastern Prom)	1					\$450,000					
Will's Playground Design (Eastern Prom)	1		\$50,000								
Trails											
Back Cove Guard Rail	4		\$100,000								
Back Cove Trail Reconstruction and Stone Dust Resurfacing	4,3,1					\$150,000					
Back Cove Re-pave Tukey's Bridge Approach	4		\$50,000								
Bayside Trail Resurfacing--by Public Works	1,2										
Eastern Promenade Sidewalk Resurfacing--by Public Works	1										
Fore River Parkway Trail Resurfacing--by Public Works	2										
Payson Park Cross-Park Trail (Front St to Baseball Parking lot)	4		\$50,000								
Recreation Facilities											
Community Center							\$10,000,000				

[illegible]



CITY OF PORTLAND
Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Ethan Hipple, Director

CITY OF PORTLAND
Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Alex Marshall, Parks Director

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

FROM: Alex Marshall, Parks Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: September 2022

Parks Division Staffing

- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker III
- Vacancy: Parks Maintainer x2
- Vacancy: Lead Park Ranger
- Recently raised starting wage for Seasonal Positions to \$17/hour. Existing Openings:
 - Forestry Watering x2
 - Parks Maintenance x2
 - Playground Maintenance x2
 - Athletic Facilities Maintenance x2
 - Cemetery Maintenance x7
- Recently hired a second Parks Project Manager to start in early September. This is a new position that we proposed in our budget to work on both small operational projects (signage, fencing, etc...) and also large capital projects (Kiwaniis Pool replacement, playgrounds, ADA accessibility, etc...)

Lyseth Playground

The playground at Lyseth School is starting to come together. With the help of Public Works and our own Playground Technician Crew, we were able to accomplish all of the demolition and site prep for Seaside Landscaping and Maine Recreation & Design to come in and complete the site work and playground installation. The space will have a wonderful circular pathway system and many new elements for the community to enjoy while also capturing and eliminating all the nuisance stormwater that has inundated this space for years.

Portland Youth Corps 2022

The Portland Youth Corps finished up its second annual season of operating. Under the management of Mike Vincent, the City's Recreation Naturalist, this program went off without a hitch and was an incredible success. Please read the attached document for a brief synopsis of the 2022 season.

Dougherty Field Playground

It has been about six years since the community began pushing and raising funds for this playground and it has finally come to fruition. R.E. Coleman has begun sitework and the space is looking great. The reconstructed and repositioned basketball court will accompany the playground and base work is being completed in the coming week. Playground equipment is anticipated to be installed sometime in



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October with asphalt being laid later this Fall or first of the Spring.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Park Walkway improvements: Phase 1 of the Deering Oaks ADA walkways has been completed. Phase 2 of 3 will begin over the next week
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised.
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: Additional funding has been secured and the bid will be advertised again as staff time allows.
- Skate Park Expansion Phase II: A design/build firm has been selected and the contract has been signed. The design and outreach portion of the project will begin shortly.
- Stroudwater Bridge: City Parks and Planning staff are working with Portland Trails and the Stroudwater Preserve Development Team to develop the plan for installation of the bridge that sits on the side of Westbrook Street before the I-95 bridge. Grant funding will be essential as City funds are limited.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans are being finalized. Fall of 2022 is when the field is anticipated to return with Spring of 2023 as the first playable season.
- Riverton Preserve: Recreation improvement plans are in progress and will consist primarily of a trail network with other improvements. This project is intended to fulfill LWCF conversion requirements, and final approval of the improvement plan rests with the state and National Park Service, which has a public engagement process.
- Riverton Trolley Park: The LWCF grant has been submitted. We are still waiting for federal approval of the grant. The City Council has approved the \$125,000 portion of the required match and the Parks Conservancy has also concluded their fundraising efforts of the additional \$125,000+
- Western Promenade Welcome Signs: Three new historic Welcome Signs are being installed in the next 4 weeks
- Lower Western Prom Park Improvements: Final design improvements have been made and we are now waiting to secure additional funding to execute the entire project in the Fall of 2022 or Spring of 2023.
- Community Garden Fence and Gate Installations: We will be replacing 6 Community Garden fences and 4 sheds. We only received one bid that was substantially higher than our budget so we are revisiting funding sources and scope of work. Sheds will be replaced in tandem with the fencing work when that is to happen.

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PYC 2022 Brief Wrap-Up



*By Mike Vincent
Recreation Naturalist and Portland Youth Corps Crew Leader*

I'm thrilled to report the 2022 season of the Portland Youth Corps was a massive success! Two crews of 13 Portland teens each worked for four weeks to improve Portland trails, remove invasive plants from natural areas, and beautify Portland parks through trash removal, art projects, and engaging in citizen science. These 26 hard-working students, ages 14-17, represented 7 Portland Schools, as well as homeschool students, and included a diverse mix of different races, nationalities, genders, and abilities. This year, each crew featured two Crew Leaders who were returning members from the 2021 PYC season, giving those students an opportunity to gain leadership experience, as well as assist the adult staff, and set high standards and expectations for new members.

The main trail project for Crew 1 (June 20 – July 15) took place in the Portland Arts and Technology High School trail system; part of the Forest City Trail System. Our work included

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removing hazardous tree roots and rocks, resurfacing the trail with more than 10 cubic yards of gravel, removing invasive plants and planting native species, and the construction of a new wooden bog bridge to elevate part of the trail above a perpetually muddy area.



The main trail project for Crew 2 (July 18 – August 12) involved rehabilitating an underutilized loop trail within the Presumpscot River Preserve. The teens removed hazardous roots and rocks from the trail surface, removed invasive plants and planted new native species, lined the trail edges with logs for visibility and to control erosion, and created a new gravel switchback section to avoid a steep and hazardous section of the existing trail.

Crew 2 also worked in Baxter Woods, replacing an old and deteriorated wooden bog bridge by constructing an improved new version, clearing blocked storm culverts, and removing invasive plants.

In addition to these main trail projects, PYC members also engaged in many additional partnerships in order to experience outdoor adventures while also giving back to their community. These projects included: a 3-night- 4-day retreat at the Ecology School in Saco which included saving a fruit orchard from invasive bittersweet and honeysuckle, kayaking with Portland Paddle to remove invasive plants on Fort Gorges island, working with the Maine



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Island Trail Association to create new campsites and reinforce retaining rock walls on Jewel Island, assisting Sail Maine with site maintenance projects while also learning to sail a racing catamaran, working on the American Chestnut farm of Dr. Thomas Klack of the University of New England in order to help restore blight-resistant native trees to the American landscape, invasive plant removal in the community-maintained Harborview Park, working with the Portland Parks Playground Crew to paint a mural designed to discourage graffiti in the Pleasant Street Playground, assisting the Portland Gear Hub in working on bicycles to be donated to children in need, and helping Ripple Effect to restore an apple orchard on Cow Island.



Every member of the Youth Corps received hiking boots, uniforms, a rain jacket, a reusable insulated water bottle, and earned a \$500 stipend upon the successful completion of their four-week program. Thanks to the generosity of a private anonymous donor, each member also received a \$300 gift card to the Portland Gear Hub to purchase a bicycle or outdoor gear of their



choice. As a final incentive, we partnered with Sail Maine to offer four members from each crew the opportunity to participate in their *Downeast Adventure* sailing trip; a 5-day, 4 night sailing adventure on the racing catamaran *Rip Van Winkle*, where the members learned to sail and live on a boat as they went from Portland to Boothbay Harbor and back, with stops at Cow, Peaks, and Eagle Islands. Matthew, one of the members who participated in the Downeast Adventure remarked, "The sailing trip was the highlight of my summer. I

loved everything about it. Catching fish, waking up to a beautiful view, cruising in the dinghy,

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and driving the boat. It was so much fun to try and go faster and faster and work toward a goal of hitting 9 knots.”



Feedback from our members and their parents has been entirely positive thus far. The mother of Norah, one of our returning Crew Leaders, wrote, “I don’t know if she told you but she had a one week internship at Sebago Technics because of the connection she made with Amy there last year during Portland Youth Corps. It was a real boost for her and she is now thinking about Landscape Architecture as a career path. The benefits of PYC are countless. I am constantly telling parents about it.”



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