



Commission Members:

Jaime Parker, Chair - Jon Kachmar, Vice Chair - Cheri Musgrave - Kristen Fulmer - Elenor Sears - Beth Rabbitt - Marie Gray - Zack Anchors - Stephen Bentsen - Katie Mears - William Elting - Donna Gartland - Alison Mehlsak - City Councilor Victoria Pelletier

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **March 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

This is a hybrid meeting - City Hall Kippy Richardson Room 24 - and online.

*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 in person as well as remotely per the new hybrid option. 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 comments
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: February 2, 2023

- b. New Business
 - i. Parks Commission 2023 Priorities - Setting goals
 - ii. Homeless shelter update
- c. Old Business
 - i. CIP update - Finance approved and sent to City Council for approval
 - ii. Sub-Committees Overview:
 - Park Initiatives sub-Committee - Volunteers for signage
 - Finance sub-committee- Parks Commission 2021 - 2022 Annual Report - Fall 2023 Council presentation
- d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
- e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Trinity Park in Portland

Davis Hartwell <davis.hartwell@gmail.com>

Sat, Feb 18, 2023 at 12:48 PM

Reply-To: davis.hartwell@gmail.com

To: parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov

Hi there (I'm not sure who this is going to but please direct this inquiry to the right place),

I am involved in maintaining the gardens at Trinity Park, one of Portland's many little 'pocket parks.' It is located on Forest Avenue in front of Trinity Episcopal Church. I am working with the Friends of Woodfords Corner and a few other folks to do more to develop that public space, especially its flower gardens. I am just reaching out to find out if there is anyone on or connected with the Commission that might be able to offer any insights or assistance in that process.

Specifically, we are scheduling a planning meeting to discuss the future of the park, with a specific eye to, among other things, making some improvements in its landscape design and walkways. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 28th at Trinity Church. Please let me know if anyone from the Parks Commission would want to attend and how many. Other invitees will include representatives of Trinity Church, Friends of Woodfords Corner, the Portland Parks Conservancy, the City Parks Department, and other volunteers.

Any guidance or assistance here would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me by text or phone if it's easier, 207-776-1789. (Please leave a message if I don't pick up and I will get back to you.)

Many thanks,

Davis Hartwell



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Tate/ Tyng Park

'Bonnie Mattozzi' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Tue, Feb 28, 2023 at 1:57 PM

Reply-To: bdmattozzi@yahoo.com

To: Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Christine Grimando <cdg@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello Victoria,

We are curious and would like to be informed about what type of activity in the basketball the camera picked up.

It is strange and honestly quite patronizing that every time we write to city officials about a different and better use of the underutilized and undersized Tate Street basketball court you keep on reminding us the location of the "community garden" on Salem Street. We have been residents of this area for several decades and are aware of that plot. We call it a "garden club" more than a community garden with 8 plots spoken for the next few years but that's another story.

We have some comparisons regarding the quantity and location of both the basketball courts and community gardens both the west and east end.

West End: There are 4 basketball courts:

1. Reiche School Playground (166 Brackett St.) 8 minute walk: full court approx. 94' x 50'
2. McIntyre Park (11 Taylor St.) 8 minute walk: full court approx. 94' x 50'
3. Tate/Tyng Park: less than a half court approx. 68' x 15'
4. Pleasant Street Park: (50 Pleasant St.) 11 minute walk: full court approx. 94' x 50'

West End Community Gardens:

1. Clark Street Community Garden: (32 Salem St.) 4 minute walk: has 8 plots which are spoken for

East End: Basketball courts

1. Eastern Promenade Public Basketball Court
2. Kennedy Park: Fox Street: 2 full courts

East End Community Gardens:

1. North Street Community Garden: has 52 plots
2. Payson Park Community Garden: has 33 plots
3. Casco Bay Community Garden:
4. Common Share Garden on the Eastern Promenade
5. Boyd Street Community Garden: has 30 plots

FITNESS PARKS

Researching for a better use of an underutilized spaces like the Tate Street court we would like you to investigate the possibility to request a grant (there are many available for these kind of projects) to install a fitness park in the court.

Fitness parks are a relatively new (at least for Maine) and inclusive way to utilize smaller city park spaces. It is open for all residents to use without restrictions of age and or disabilities unlike the current tiny basketball court.

Other cities in Maine and New England are starting to install these more inclusive workout spaces for all, young, adults and seniors with wheelchair accessibility. Please check out the one installed by the City of Bangor. The company that installed Bangor's is

FitLot, Inc. email: info@fitlot.org

Here is the article: <https://www.bangordailynews.com/2019/07/03/sports/a-new-outdoor-fitness-park-was-installed-in-bangor-and-it-cost-the-city-nothing/>

Mainebiz just printed an updated February 27, 2023 article "500K in grants to build workout courts". Here is the link:

https://www.mainebiz.biz/article/500k-in-grants-to-build-workout-courts-up-for-grabs?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Daily+Report:+Translation+service+launched;+2+new+Portland+eateries&utm_campaign=Daily+Report+022723

[National Fitness Campaign | Community Health Options 2022 Campaign](#)

National Fitness Campaign | Community Health Options 2022 Campaign

Learn about available grants in the state of Maine. This program is in partnership with Community Health Options.

<https://nationalfitnesscampaign.com/cho-contact>

Regards,

Bonnie Mattozzi
C: 207-415-6180

Commission Members:

Jaime Parker, Chair - Jon Kachmar, Vice Chair - Cheri Musgrave - Kristen Fulmer - Elenor Sears - Beth Rabbitt - Marie Gray - Zack Anchors - Stephen Bentsen- Katie Mears- William Elting- Donna Gartland - Alison Mehlsak - City Councilor Victoria Pelletier

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **February 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

Not present: Beth Rabbitt, Elenor Fulmer

I. Call to Order

II. General Citizen Comment Period - George Rheault - Would like to see more items included in the Parks Report. Sent an email about graffiti, would like to see it removed and the Parks Commission to take an active role in making sure these instances are cleaned up quickly.

III. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: December 1st, 2022

Jaime - y

John y

Marie y

Zack y

Eleanor - a

Beth - a

Stephen y

Cheri y

Katie y

Will Y

Donna y

b. New Business

i. Farewell remarks from City Arborist - Jeff Tarling

Jeff was unfortunately unavailable.

ii. Winter Operations Overview: Recreation, Sidewalks, Trails. - Alex & Jaime

Alex discussed the winter operations: advised that the department handles clearing over 100 miles of sidewalks, and the approach used to accomplish this task. Other winter-related tasks include: winter recreation, IE: grooming x-country trails, managing the ponds, as well as tree pruning and equipment maintenance. The department only has one ranger at the moment, which makes things hard.

Commissioner questions raised:

How are private residents handled when vegetation blocks sidewalks?

Forestry will work with the resident.

Who handles graffiti?

Parks handles Park spaces.

New ranger position, is it full time?

Yes.

Does Parks have the resources to handle the sidewalk plowing responsibility?

New winter conditions have led to challenges, commission encouraged review to determine if new equipment is needed to meet new environmental challenges.

Please see: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/601/Winter-Sidewalks>

iii. Park Signage: Areas of focus for interpretive signs

This is a repeat issue and should be addressed, possible sub-committee? There is indigenous persons content on Google Drive to contribute to these signs. There are a lot of challenges with the rules surrounding commissioners meeting outside of official meetings, this impacts meaningful sub-committee work.

iv. Portland Harbor Commons Update - Sebago Technics - Meeting to get feedback next week, additional permitting this spring, out to bid Jan 2024.

Provided map of the upcoming Harbor Commons project. Concept designs are being submitted. Many opportunities identified and envisioned details provided. Commission members expressed excitement and questions: will water access be possible? Phase 1 does not include it, but maybe in future phases. Bob Massengale provided additional details on limitations and options. User profile, how was it generated? Additional information provided.

c. Old Business

i. Large Scale Events: Recap and Discussion - Payson Park C3 event

C3 has been invited to return once the city has reviewed the opportunity more. No word back as of yet.

d. Communications and Updates

i. Parks Report - Please review

ii. Land Bank Commission Report - Annual report available on the Land Bank website.

e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment



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: March 2023

Parks Division Staffing

- Total Budgeted positions in Parks Division: 33
- Vacancy: City Arborist
- Vacancy: Parks Maintainer
- Seasonal Positions: Park Maintenance, Horticulture, Forestry, Ballfields, Playgrounds, Park Rangers

Community Garden Fence and Shed Replacements

Starting in late March there will be some activity around a select few gardens that will have their fences and sheds replaced. North Street, Boyd Street, Clark Street, Valley Street, Riverton and Payson Park will all be receiving new fencing with North Street, Clark Street, Valley Street and Riverton Gardens receiving new sheds. The community has long desired these improvements and we are very excited to finally bring them to fruition after multiple attempts of sending the project out to bid and insufficient funds in the initial process. CDBG funds are being utilized to fund this project.

North Deering Park

On 2/27/23, but the City Council approved the purchase and sale contract to acquire the largest park in Portland in a generation. The park will be known as North Deering Park and consists of 24 acres of forested wetland, walking trails, ponds, and a large athletic field known as Haverty Field. The project has been a collaboration between the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department, Portland Parks Conservancy, and The Trust for Public Land. Funding is provided through the Portland Land Bank, National Park Service, Land for Maine's Future, and philanthropic funds.

Dougherty Field Skatepark Expansion

The long anticipated skate park expansion is just a short month away from ground breaking. Parks Staff have been working diligently with the skating community and Artisan Pillar contractors to design and plan out a 9,000 +/- square foot expansion planned for April construction. This improvement will almost double the existing surface area and add some much needed and desired elements that users have longed for over the past 15 years.

Public Bathrooms in 2023

Parks Staff are reviewing existing public restrooms and planning for the installation of new ones. In 2022, Parks and Public Buildings installed 9 new public restrooms (4 in-ground vaults and 5 surface tank units).



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

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

The first iterations of both types have worked really well but improvements were made as the second round was completed. This year, Staff are looking at new locations in Deering Oaks, Riverton Trolley Park, Peak Island and Talbot Elementary School. These installations will bring us to almost 14 public restroom structures citywide in just one and a half years.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Park Walkway improvements: Phase 2 of the Deering Oaks ADA walkways has been completed. Phase 3 of 3 is beginning once the weather cooperates and the contractor can get their equipment in the space.
- 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 in the next few weeks for a Spring/Summer 2023 completion.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans are being finalized. There have been some construction delays that will push the installation of the field back to the Fall of 2023 with field play to begin in the late Spring or Summer of 2024.
- 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: Our project team is working through finalizing the contract with the state for this grant and defining the RFP for the site work to commence in 2023 and 2024.
- Lower Western Prom Park Improvements: Final design improvements have been made and we have secured the additional funding via CDBG to execute the project later in 2023 or beginning of 2024