



Commission Members:

Jaime Parker, Chair - Jon Kachmar, Vice Chair - Cheri Musgrave - Kristen Fulmer - Beth Rabbitt - Marie Gray - Zack Anchors - Stephen Bentsen - Katie Mears - William Elting - Donna Gartland - Helen Coyne - Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio - John Clark - Ashley Burdick - City Councilor Victoria Pelletier

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **August 3, 2023 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 Citizen Comment
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: June 1, 2023

- b. New Business
 - i. CIP Presentations with Q&A (Public Comment taken)
 - c. Old Business
 - d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
 - iii. Citywide Encampments Update
 - iv. City Arborist Hiring Update
 - e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment



Conversations



Search conversations withi...



portland



New conversation



THOMAS PARK 2 views

Recent groups



eth@metrocast.net



Favorite groups

to rphi...@portlandmaine.gov, citym...@portlandmaine.gov, dli...@portlandmaine.gov, ksn...@portlandmaine.gov, pmi...@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall, Carol Schiller, n...@portlandparkconservancy.org, zbar...@gmail.com, snza...@gmail.com, purp...@maine.rr.com, nno...@gmail.com



Standard Convention Phillips:

Parks Commission

As discussed during our telephone conversation, several weeks ago, similar to the Noyes family descendants, it is imperative to us, the Elias Thomas family descend Lowell Park name to its original name - Thomas Park. As you see, I have attached several documents, attesting to the proper name and designation.



Conversations

99+



Members



On behalf of the Thomas, Payson & Sprague families, all descendants of Elias Thomas, the original benefactor, this letter is written requesting that you please sponsor About



My membership settings

Order # ? 2023 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapter 18 Re: Lowell Park name correction to Thomas Park (as originally designated and restoration to full Regina Phillips, City Councilor District 3.

While meeting with Ethan Hipple, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department; Alex Marshall, Park Director and Anne McGuire, assistant City Manager, reg designation, Mr. Hipple recommended that we request that you sponsor this correction. It is high time to correct Lowell Park name to Thomas Park and restore the T baffling to us that the park designation status is not being used for this park. We strongly advocate that Thomas Park status be reinstated same as Noyes Park, Long Park, Western Prom Park, Eastern Prom Park, etc. This protects Thomas Park as originally intended for future use.

We greatly appreciate your assistance with our request. We are struck by the out pouring of community support. It has been humbling. We are proud to work with Libt support their efforts winning MMC grant for art and lighting in Thomas Park, not Lowell Park name.

If you have any questions and or need additional information, please do not hesitate to call or email me. We would greatly appreciate it if you could you please notify u

REPORT OF PARK COMMISSION, 1923

ORGANIZATION

CARROLL S. CHAPLIN, *Chairman ex-officio*
 FRANKLIN R. REDLON
 WILLIAM O. THOMPSON
 SETH W. CLARK
 WILLIAM J. DOUGHERTY, *Sec'y-Treas.*
 FRANK C. GOODRICH, *Superintendent*

TABLE OF AREAS OF PARKS, SQUARES, ETC.

Designation.	Area.
Andrews Square,	.05 acres
Almshouse lot,	14.18 "
Baxter Boulevard,	28.83 "
Boothby Square,	.11 "
Deerings Oaks,	51.22 "
Eastern Promenade,	59.20 "
Fessenden Park,	.46 "
Fort Allen Park,	45.55 "
Fort Sumner Park,	1.07 "
Lincoln Park,	3.51 "
Monument Square,	.10 "
Presumpscot Park,	28.01 "
Edward Payson Park,	47.75 "
Thomas Square,	.39 "
Trinity Square,	.30 "
Western Promenade,	18.91 "
Winslow Park,	.19 "
Total,	258.83 "

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES

RECEIPTS	
Balance from year 1922,	\$.58
Appropriation (1923),	100,954.73
Receipts from miscellaneous sources,	3,382.10
Total,	\$104,337.41
EXPENDITURES	
Almshouse lot,	\$ 373.01
Baxter Boulevard,	34,915.46
Cemeteries, Deering section,	125.78
Park Commission cottage and greenhouse,	6,906.75
Deerings Oaks,	6,761.12
Eastern Promenade and Fort Allen Park,	2,614.97
Eastern Cemetery,	631.40
Edward Payson Park,	4,092.49
Forestry,	3,023.26
General,	2,592.90
Land payment,	5,799.99
Lincoln Park,	1,252.62
Motor transportation,	2,393.22
Office, salaries and insurance,	4,853.89
Presumpscot Park,	00.00
Recreation Commission (12½% of Park Dept. appropriation and last quarter annual pay- ment carried forward from 1922,)	15,587.40
Small parks and squares,	1,751.47
Schools,	28.00
Snow and ice,	2,186.50
Stable,	1,690.68
Trinity Square,	99.25
Tools and equipment,	1,423.22
Western Promenade,	2,218.24
Western Cemetery,	2,549.49
Winslow Park,	133.51
Total,	\$104,004.62

FINANCIAL

The receipts for Evergreen Cemetery for the year ending December 24, 1928, are as follows:

Received for Burials	\$5,203.70
Received for Foundations	3,456.40
Received for Care	3,639.14
Received for Regrading	1,940.00
Received for Plants	1,302.55
Received for General Labor	1,077.46
	\$16,709.25

NOTE.—See Auditor's Statement for financial report.

PARK COMMISSION
Report for the Year 1928

TABLE OF AREAS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE
PARK COMMISSION

1. Almshouse Valley Lot (northerly side of Park Ave.)	14.18 acres
2. Andrews Square (Pine and West Sts., west corner)	.05 "
3. Baxter Boulevard	23.83 "
4. Boothby Square (Fore St., at Pearl St.)	.11 "
5. Caldwell Square (Woodford St. and Stevens Ave.)	.12 "
6. Deering's Oaks (northerly side Park Ave.)	53.70 "
7. Eastern Promenade	59.76 "
8. Fessenden Park (corner Brighton and Deering Aves.)	.46 "
9. Fort Allen Park (adjoining Eastern Promenade)	4.55 "
10. Fort Sumner Park (North St.)	1.07 "
11. Lincoln Park and Extension (Fire Station Lot)	3.51 "
12. Land at Noyes, Longfellow and Oakdale Sts.	.34 "
13. Monument Square (ornamental circle)	.10 "
14. Noyes Park (Bedford St., Deering and Brighton Aves.)	.52 "
15. Presumpscot Park (Stevens Ave.)	23.01 "
16. Payson Park, The Edward (Ocean Ave.)	47.75 "
17. Thomas Square (Congress and Lowell Sts.)	.39 "
18. Trinity Square (Forest Ave. and Coyle St.)	.30 "
19. Western Promenade	13.91 "
20. Winslow Park (Forest Ave. and Winslow St.)	.19 "
Total Area	262.85 "

CEMETERIES CARED FOR OUT OF PARK FUND

1. Eastern Cemetery—Corner of Mountfort St. and Washington Ave.
2. Western Cemetery—Vaughan St.
3. East Deering Cemetery—Presumpscot St.
4. George St. Cemetery—George St. and Ocean Ave.
5. Longfellow Cemetery—Edwards St.
6. North Deering Cemetery—Maplewood St.
7. Riverton Cemetery—Forest Ave.
8. Stroudwater Cemetery—Westbrook St.

IMPROVEMENT EXPENDITURES

The ratio of improvement expenditures to maintenance costs is always of interest. The Portland Park Commission shows a total improvements expenditure of \$48,775.84. This figure includes \$3,000.00 bond payment on the tannery purchase (addition to Deering's Oaks); \$3,000.00 bond payment (addition to Deering's Oaks) for the property along Park Avenue and Forest Avenue; \$2,000.00, a final payment on the land at Deering Avenue, Brighton Avenue and Bedford Street, purchased several years ago from the Deering heirs. The improvement figure (less above land payments), or \$38,775.84, reflects the following betterments in the Park System.

ALMHOUSE LOT (\$116.87). Filling to grade the area which is to serve as an athletic field.

BAXTER BOULEVARD (asphalt-macadam construction) (\$27,581.34). This is the largest item of improvement accomplished by the Commission in 1928. This work is a continuation of the macadam construction begun at the easterly end of Washington Ave. in 1927. The work was started late in April and, in spite of the worst weather conditions, was completed July 3rd. The area improved was 11,655 square yards. The macadam cost was \$25,061.34. The unit cost was \$2.23 per square yard. Imported trap rock was used in the wearing surface. It cost \$2.55 per ton f. o. b. Portland. The unloading and hauling was done by contract by the Morrill Coal and Wood Company, at \$.75 per ton. The base course

From: Herb Adams <hadams@smccme.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2023 9:55 PM
To: Carol Schiller; elias@exitkeyrealestate.com; Nick Noyes
Subject: More on Thomas Park

Some research time in the Library today reveals the following. When I am in my SMCC office I will scan all of these out to you for our case. This is what I have :

1. 1922 City Report -- Parks Commission report notes this is the 10th anniversary of the 1913 creation of the Portland Parks Commission.

Hence, the donation of Thomas Park back in 1913 was one of the VERY FIRST donations of a new city park under the then-new commission and would have been known to everyone.

2. 1923 City Report -- pg. 128 clearly lists "Thomas Square , .39 acres " as one of the city's 258.83 acres of holdings (And it is not the smallest -- those are AndrewsSquare and Monument Square)

3. 1915 City Report -- pg. 440, as of December 31, 1915 , lists Thomas Square as .39 acres in the 181.97 acres of 14 total city parks and public grounds (This is the first mention of this brand-new park I can find in City Reports. Obviously everyone would have known about it .)

Do we know the date of the gift of Thomas Square in 1913 ? That way I can check the 3 city papers for any mention of it.

All this just adds validity to the city's acknowledgment of the existence of this small but pleasant piece of the city.

More to follow soon as time allows.

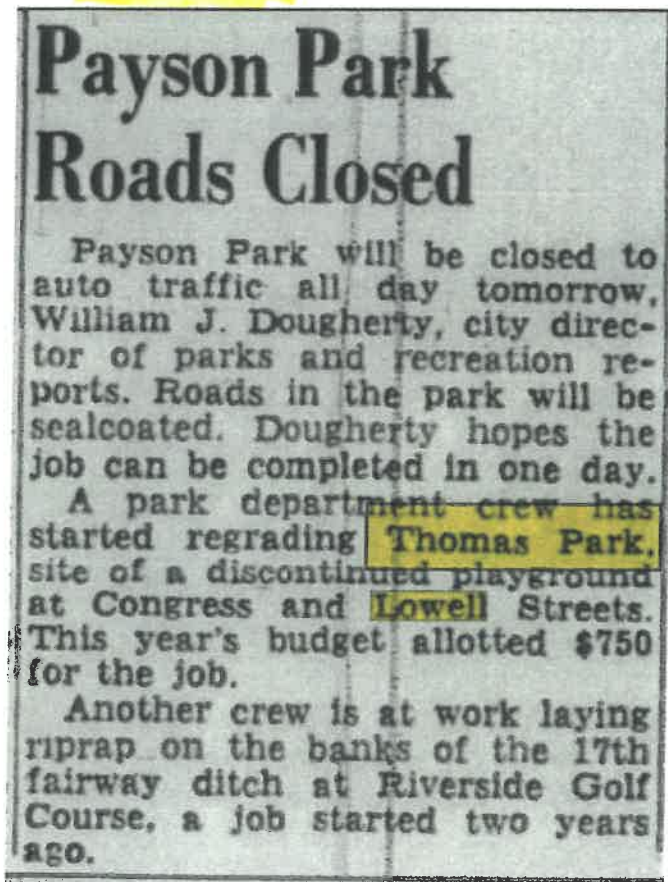
Best Wishes to All

From: S. Nick Zaccaro <snzaccaro@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2023 10:25 PM
To: ethomas@metrocast.net
Cc: Carol Schiller
Subject: Re: Thomas Park - introductions & research

I just found a reference to the "Thomas Park" name as late as 1952.

Evening Express
28 Aug 1952, Thu · Page 15

✚ Cl



On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 10:14 PM S. Nick Zaccaro <snzaccaro@gmail.com> wrote:
Hello Elias,

I just noticed the below email to Earle seems to have only been sent to me. I wanted to make sure you also sent it to him.

I've attached the articles Carol referenced which list Thomas/Lowell Park as an official park. I believe at least Parks Director Alex Marshall has seen these clippings.

Nick

LOT OF LAND ON CONGRESS ST., OP-
posite the new **Thomas Park.** at West
End, lately presented to the City; one of
th most desirable locations for resi-
dences or for an apartment house, which
is actually needed. Lot will be divided
and sold 50x100 if necessary, or will sell
100x100 square feet. W. F. DRESSER, 80
Exchange street. 24 6t Tel

Green Space

used heavily

Official list of city's parks...

There are probably a lot more parks in Portland than you thought. Here is the official list of city parks, their location and facilities.

Back Cove Park: Preble Street Extension and Interstate 295; soccer field; Back Cove is a lookout site for migrating waterfowl.

Barrows Park: The wedge of green past Vannah Avenue as you pull onto Baxter Boulevard.

Bayside Park: Fox and Anderson streets; playground, basketball court, baseball diamonds, tennis courts.

Baxter Wood: Stevens, Forest and Hartley; trails.

Pearl, Federal, Congress and the Franklin Arterial, benches.

Lowell Street Park: Congress and Lowell, at Thomas Square where the Lowell Street Professional building is located.

Longfellow Park: between Longfellow, Noyes and Oakdale streets, cement benches, flower bed.

Martin's Point Park: Land set aside at Marine hospital which will get a walkway and picnic area sometime this summer.

North Street Park: Next to old Jack Elementary School; playground.

Oakleigh Park: near the Boulevard, softball field; generally

Section Of Douglass St. Dump Becomes Modern Playground

Activities Transferred From Lowell Street; Latter Site Will Be Park

Children in the area around Congress Street and Park Avenue had a new playground and new equipment today.

Richard S. Westgate, director of recreation for the City of Portland, announced that playground activities were transferred this morning from the small and poorly located playground at Congress and Lowell Streets to a much larger area at the Congress Street end of Douglass Street.

This area, on what was the Douglass Street dump, has been graded, and an area 330 feet by 260 feet has been made into a playground and softball field. The old Lowell Street playground will become a small park according to William J. Dougherty, director of parks and recreation.

Westgate said the new playground is nearly five times as large as the old, but the principal

advantage is that it is away from the heavy Congress Street traffic and is therefore much safer for the children.

Miss Phyllis Wheeler, who has been playground leader at Lowell Street will supervise activities at the new playgrounds.

Westgate said new equipment has been installed at the new playground, where the children will have the customary swings, slides, teeter-boards and sand-boxes.

The softball field will be an additional facility the children will like, he said, but hardball will not be permitted.

Dougherty said this is the first step in the ultimate development of a 25-acre tract into a large recreational area, a development it has been estimated would cost \$165,000. He declared the new
(Continued on Page 18, 3rd Col.)

Elias Thomas III
Post Office Box 7
Acton, Maine 04001-0007

February 8, 2023

Honorable Kate Snyder

City of Portland

389 Congress Street

Portland, Maine 04101

(207) 874-8941

ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov

Ethan Hipple

Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

City of Portland, ME

212 Canco Rd, Suite A

Portland, Maine 04103

207-808-5400

ehipple@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Mayor Snyder & Mr. Hipple:

My family gave the City of Portland a generous gift, Thomas Park. I am the living descendant of the Elias Thomas Estate. We are extremely proud of our heritage and many contributions our family has made to the City of Portland. This letter is written requesting the following:

- 1. Correct Lowell Street Park name to Thomas Park name. Our family gave the City of Portland this generous land gift located at 64 Burnham Street. It is a triangle shaped park comprised of 17,176.56 square feet, located between Congress Street, Burnham Street and Lowell Street. Thomas Park's perimeter is outlined by a ring of nine Linden trees that are evenly spaced. Please see below deed dated December 19, 1913 for your review. Thomas Park is 110**

years old city park, known to our family as Thomas Park. We can find no evidence that the council ever voted to change the name, but historic references confirms the name it was given, Thomas Park. We want this error corrected to Thomas Park.

2. According to Portland Property Search the original park size was reduced from 17,176.56 square feet to 12,447 square feet. We were never notified about size reduction. We want the correction of the park name and it's preservation of the land for the purpose for which it was given, a City park for public use.

3. Request that you correct the City's maps and all public information that the City disseminates about the city's public parks to include Thomas Park name, install City of Portland Park sign identifying the park as "Thomas Park" founded in 1913.

4. Respect the family's interest as a stakeholder in any planning for the use of the property by consultations and the sharing of any proposed future plans for this property with us.

It is our desire to work closely with you and the City of Portland to correct these errors.

If you have any questions, please email: elias@exitkeyrealestate.com.

We look forward to your response and want this rectified as soon as possible.

Could you please outline action plan and timeline to fulfill our requests.

We greatly appreciate your swift response.

Sincerely yours,

Elias Thomas, III

Cc. Danielle West, Interim City Manager, City Manager's Office

(207) 874-8689, citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Michael Goldman, Acting Corporation Counsel

(207) 874-8480, mig@portlandmaine.gov

ethomas@metrocast.net

To: Carol Schiller
Subject: RE: See Time Line for News paper articles, documents, etc..

Sent Nick Zaccaro back on February 23. I had actually copied him on a blast email, but I had mis-typed his email address so re-sent it. Will let him know about my meeting coming up on Tuesday.

From: Carol Schiller <schiller.carol@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 2, 2023 3:07 PM
To: ethomas@metrocast.net
Subject: See Time Line for News paper articles, documents, etc..

Elias,

I attempted to organize what I've collected from Nick Zaccaro, Ian Stevenson, & Herb Adams . At different times this has all been emailed to you but good to double check the list make sure you have everything.

Could you please email: Nick Zaccaro <snzaccaro@gmail.com> . Nick volunteers helping Libbytown Neighborhood Association, Nick has attempted several times for the city to recognize the "green space" as a park . He's been working on a sub committee to get estimates for festival lighting in the park. It would be good to acknowledge and thank his efforts researching Thomas Park and add that you look forward to attending a Libby Town Neighborhood Association meeting. This extends an olive branch to them and Nick can share with the President and board members. If and hopefully the city will support correcting the name to Thomas Park, having a letter of support from Libbytown Neighborhood Association will help you.

If you have another questions let me know..also let Herb know your deadline, he was going to continue researching in between his job. See attached folder with news paper articles about Thomas Park. Hope this helps.

Thank You,

Carol

Thomas Square Park
1913 to Present

Park Description:

Thomas Square Park, founded December 19, 1913, located at 64 Burnham Street, between Lowell, Burnham and Congress Streets, Triangle shape, 17, 176.56 square feet . Thomas Park perimeter is surrounded by a ring of nine Linden trees.

Park Commission Reports list Thomas Square in 1913, 1922 reports, showing the park size was.39 acres. The 1914 Richard Atlas map shows the park was 17,176. Square feet.

Documents:

1. Dec. 19, 1913 Deed: Estate of Thomas Elias - Thomas Park Gift to City of Portland

2. 1914 Richard Atlas: Plate 7

Alternative Title - Libby Town, West End (western section) .

This map shows the park, 17,176 square feet. The name is not shown.

Park Commission Reports:

3. 1915 Park Commission Report, Thomas Square

4. 1922 Park Commission Report 10th Annual

5. 1923 Park Commission Report, Thomas Square reference .39 acres

6. 1926 Park Commission Report,

7. 1940? Portland City Guide, Lowell Street Playground, Congress, Burnham, and Lowell Streets, is a municipal playground with a supervised play program; regular playground equipment is available. Portland Guide, Recreational Facilities section, page xLi (n 44) -

Link: <https://archive.org/details/portlandcityguid00unse/page/n43/mode/2up?ref=ol&view=theater&q=lowell>

News Articles/Info:

Jan. 14, 1772 Elias Thomas was born - Died August 3, 1872 , 100 years old

April 17, 1869 - William and Elias Thomas go to court due to a fight provoked when called liar. Portland Press Herald, Page 3

August 9, 1872 (For the press.) Correction

Elias Thomas. Mr. Editor: – As there are some inaccuracies in the notice of Elias Thomas in your paper of this morning, I enclose you a sketch of his life as drawn by the late Honorable William Willis. Etc Portland Daily Press, page 3

May 11, 1875 Elias Thomas & Co., Flour, Groceries and Provisions, 86 Commercial Street. Thomas' Block Portland. Ad Portland Daily Press, page 3

May 10, 1890 Some of Portland's Venerable Citizens, Portland Daily Press, page 5

Nov. 23, 1896 "William W. Thomas - Death of An Aged and Prominent Citizen, 93 Years of Active Life." The Portland Daily Press, page 3

Nov. 30, 1896 Mr. Thomas's Will. He Gives \$50,000 in Public Bequest .

A Large Portion of the Property Place in Trust - Elias and Hon. W.W. Thomas as Made Trustees and Executors - Many Charitable Institutions Remembered.

The will of the late William W. Thomas was presented for probate Saturday....Witnessed by Byron D. Verrill, Henry C. Small and Fred E. Alen , Continued ...signed December 22, 1894 ..Portland Daily Press, page 3

Jan. 29, 1897 Funeral of General Thomas. Address Delivered by Rev. Mr. Hack of the Second Parish, Portland Daily Press, page 3

Sept. 23, 1902 Obituary Mrs. Elias Thomas, Jr. Eleanor Libby Holt's parents were Julia Libby & William Holt. Her grandfather was Harrison J. Libby. Married to Mr. Thomas last July 16th, 1902 or 1901?

July 14, 1903 Obituary Mrs. Elias Thomas. Daughter of Hon. S. P. Brown in DC, after marrying Mr. Thomas she moved to Portland. Survived by her husband, a daughter, Mrs. Richard C Payson, and two sons Elias Thomas, Jr and William W. Thomas.

March 7, 1904 Social Gossip - Mr. Elias Thomas, Jr., is at the Trochta, Havana, Cuba. Evening Express, page 3

January 11?, 1906 Elias Thomas, Jr & Dorothea Perkins 2nd Wedding Reception at Danforth Street.

January 14, 1906 "Gathering for Elias & Dorothea's wedding reception at Danforth Street house". Portland Sunday Telegram, page 10

1909 Elias Thomas, Jr Born - Died May 1995. Parents were Elias & Dorothea Perkins Thomas.

1910 Factory designed by John Calvin Stevens, on corner of Lowell & Cherry Streets, 1932 Corbin -Holmes Shoe Co. employs 520; Homes, Stickney & Walker Shoe Company; Holmes Stickney, Inc Shoe & Company,

October 19, 1913 Sunday Morning (Regarding Death of Mr. Elias Thomas) Commercial Portland was dealt, a hard blow, and its social life sustained a serious loss in the death of Mr. Elias Thomas. He was born in this city, and had been prominent in its activities and interest for years, all projects designed for the advancement of his native place and the betterment of its citizenship, found in him, an ardent, champion and sturdy supporter. His business career which extended over a long period was characterized by unusual success. For years, Mr. Thomas was recognized as one of our strong and representative citizens, and one who had contributed his full share to the stability and prosperity of the city. Portland Sunday Telegram, Page 16

April 26, 1914 News paper Ad: "Lot of Land on Congress St., Opposite the new Thomas Park, at West End, lately presented to the City: one of the most desirable locations for residences or for an apartment house, which is actually needed. Lot will be divided and sold 50 x 100 if necessary, or will sell 100 x 100 square feet. W. F. Dresser, 80 Exchange Street."

Portland Sunday Telegram, page 31

June 15, 1918 Elias Thomas, Candidate for State Senate, Evening Express , pg 5

September 5, 1920 Saturday, Sept. 11, Big Day For Children of Portland, Portland Sunday Telegram, page 11

July 23, 1922 - "Portland Playgrounds Care For More Than 19,000 Children" Portland Sunday Telegram, page 10 A

August 29, 1922: " Park Commission Doing Big Job in Adding to City's Beauty. Thomas Square listed. Evening Express, page 12

September 1, 1931 Six-Year-Old Margaret V. Axelson Awarded First Prize In Annual Playground Doll Parade And Pageant, Portland Press Herald, page 2

August 26, 1930 5,000 Watch Annual Doll Carriage Parade Here, Portland Press Herald, page 13

September 28, 1941 Miss Thomas To Be Wedded Oct. 25 In First Parish Church, Portland Press Herald, page 15

August 11, 1948 - "Section of Douglass St. Dump Becomes Modern Playground, Activities Transferred from Lowell Street; Latter Site Will Be Park". Portland Evening Express, Front page

March 27, 1952: City Plans Action To Protect Run Down Fore Street Park. Thomas Square listed. Evening Express, page 40

October 30, 1963 50 Years Ago - William Widgery Thomas was today elected to fill vacancy in the office of president at the Canal National Bank created a few weeks ago by the death of his father, Elias Thomas. Evening Express, page 20

July 6, 1983: Lowell Street Park: Congress and Lowell, at Thomas Square where the Lowell Street Professional Building is located.
Evening Express, page 5

July 6, 1983 Neighborhood Park used heavily . Official list of city's parks..Lowell Street Park. Evening Express, page 5

May 31, 1995 Obituary Elias Thomas, Jr. Survived by wife, Irene Goodson Thomas; 3 daughters, Irene Andrew, Eliza Lawrence, Sally Cushman, and son, Elias III .

March 1, 2023: Who are living Descendants of Elias Thomas?
Elias Thomas III,

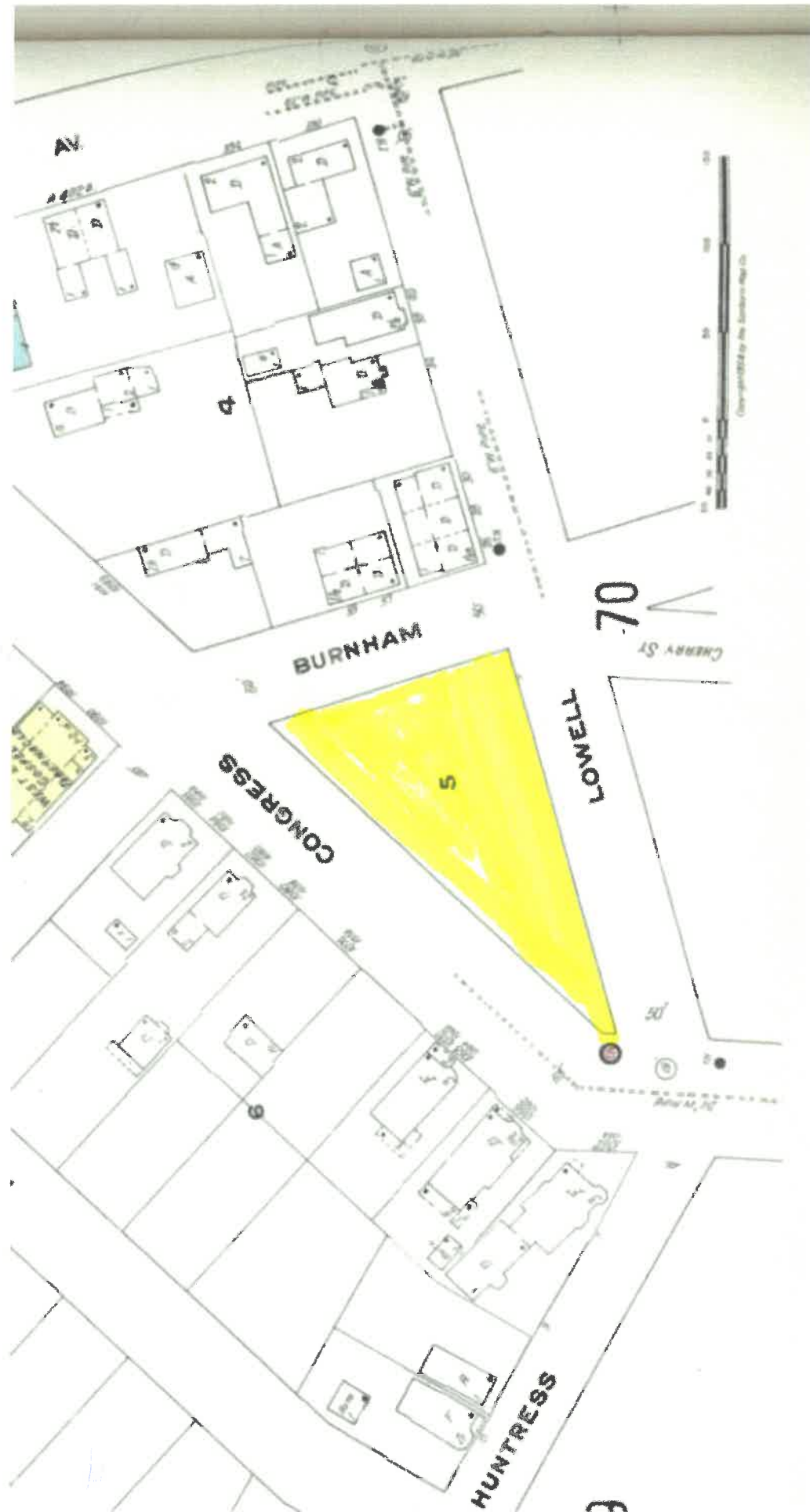
DRAFT **The History of Thomas Family**

Elias Thomas born Jan. 14, 1772 considered the oldest man in Portland, lived 100 years of age. Over the course of 250 years, Elias Thomas and his descendants made lasting and sizable contributions, Thomas Park, is one of the many gifts to the City of Portland. The heart of Libby Town Neighborhood located at 64 Burnham Street, surrounded by Lowell, Burnham and Congress Street.

Thomas Park is 110 years old. The City of Portland Parks Dept. in the 50's launched a city-wide Playground program. One was set up and named Lowell Playground in Thomas Park. The playgrounds were part of a plan to teach children good conduct, patriotism, pride, and how to compete with other citywide playground kids.

Adults from the Shoe Factory on Lowell and Cherry was across from the park, employing 500 employees, they also enjoyed Thomas Park.

Etc.



1954 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map



Know all Men by these Presents, That

We, Elias Thomas, William Widgery Thomas, and Helen Thomas Payson all of Portland in the County of Cumberland and State of Maine, being all the children and devisees under the will of Elias Thomas, late of said Portland, deceased,

in consideration of one dollar and other considerations, to us said City of Portland, a body politic and corporate, created and existing under the laws of the State of Maine, paid by

the receipt whereof We do hereby acknowledge, do hereby remise, release, bargain, sell and convey, and forever quit-claim unto the said City of Portland and its successors, a certain lot or parcel of land situated in said Portland near "Libby's Corner" so called, and bounded and described as follows: viz:—Beginning at a point where the northerly side line of Congress Street is intersected by the westerly side line of Lowell Street, thence running westerly by Congress Street, eight and fifty-three one hundredths (8.53) feet, more or less, to an angle in said Congress Street, thence north westerly by Congress Street, two hundred and sixty-three and ninety-five one hundredths (263.95) feet more or less, to Burnham Street, thence easterly by Burnham Street, one hundred and forty-three and eighth-nine one hundredths (143.89) feet, more or less to Lowell Street, thence southerly by Lowell Street, two hundred thirty-and thirty-two one hundredths (230.32) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, containing seventeen thousand one hundred and seventy-six and fifty-six one hundredths (17,176.56) square feet, of land, more or less Being the first parcel of land described in a deed from Elizabeth Pullen to said Elias Thomas, dated March 26, 1901 and recorded in Cumberland County Registry of Deeds, Book 702, Page 90. This conveyance is made upon and subject to the following express conditions, to wit:—1. Said land shall be kept and maintained either as an open green, a public park, or a public playground, and shall be used for no other purpose. 2. No building or permanent structure of any kind (fountains, fences and statues excepted) shall be erected or placed upon said land. No act of Legislature of the State of Maine, authorizing said City of Portland, or its successors, to construct public buildings upon public grounds, or upon this particular land, shall be effectual to avoid the foregoing condition. Upon breach of either of the foregoing conditions, this deed shall immediately become null, void, and of no effect, and said land shall thereupon revert to said grantors or their heirs. Said Grantor, further stipulate and said City of Portland by accepting this conveyance covenants and agrees for itself and its successors, that if said land or any part thereof shall at any time hereafter be taken for any purpose by process of eminent domain, said grantors or their heirs shall be entitled to all damages paid, or to be paid, for said taking, and shall have all such rights and remedies in relation thereto as they would have if they were absolute owners of said land.—

To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to the said City of Portland and its successors, forever. heirs and assigns forever, And-----do covenant with the said heirs and assigns, that-----will warrant and-----defend the premises to-----the said heirs and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming by, through or under me.

In Witness Whereof We the said Elias Thomas, William Widgery Thomas and Helen Thomas Payson, and Dorothea Brayton Thomas, wife of the said Elias Thomas, Mary Cate Thomas, wife of the said William Widgery Thomas, and Richard C. Payson, husband of the said Helen Thomas Payson, joining in this deed as Grantors and relinquishing and conveying all rights in the above described premises, have hereunto set our hand and seal this nineteenth day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and thirteen.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered in presence of

A.K. Butler, to E.T., W.W.T. & H.T.P.
Eva G. Tarbox to D.B.T.
Charlotte Thomas.
Annie L.P. Harrison.

Elias Thomas Seal.
Dorothea Brayton Thomas Seal.
William Widgery Thomas Seal.
Mary Cate Thomas Seal.
Helen Thomas Payson Seal.
Richard C. Payson Seal.

State of Maine, Cumberland, ss. December 19, 1913

Personally appeared the above named, Elias, Thomas, William Widgery Thomas, and Helen Thomas Payson and acknowledged the above instrument to be their free act and deed.

BEFORE ME, A.K. Butler.

Justice of the Peace.

RECEIVED February 4, 1914, at 1 o'clock 40 m. P. M., and recorded according to the original.

From: Herb Adams <hadams@smccme.edu>
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2023 3:42 PM
To: elias@exitkeyrealestate.com
Subject: Thomas park !

Hello ---and thank you for your kind message -- especially from one of old Portland's most remarkable families , civic activists who had their hands on every big issue of their day, from Abolition to homelessness.

As Carol might have told you, some careful research did just this spring successfully restore the family name to Noyes Park (by USM) after many years of neglect and forgetfulness.

And yes, " Thomas Park " DOES occur in the City Directories of 1928 (I happen to have those on hand here in the office) right where you know it should. I have more material at home . Further material could be found in the City Directories at the Portland Public Library.

To focus the search for proof -- Do you know more or less what year the park came into the city possession? Once I find that we can move on fairly well.

We must gather this hard evidence and proof from the city records to convince the Parks Dept and the Parks Commission to stand on our side as we begin the process.

I will be away for part of this weekend but will explore more of my material at home and report to you right away on what I can find.

Many thanks for the contact and the chance to help a good cause !
With Very Best Wishes


 Reginald Phillips
 to eth...@metrocast.net, citym...@portlandmaine.gov, dli...@portlandmaine.gov, ksn...@portlandmaine.gov, pmi...@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall, Carol Schiller, had...

 Conversations 99+
 h...@portlandparkconservancy.org, zbar...@gmail.com, snza...@gmail.com, purp...@maine.rr.com, nno...@gmail.com

① About Thanks so much for reaching back out to me. I'm sorry for my delayed response. It's been a very busy and overwhelming month.

 My membership settings

As you are aware, I met with city staff a few months ago while you were out of town. I asked them to conduct additional research on the park and told them we would

I can send a separate email, and include those who should attend the meeting, with suggested dates and times.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Thanks, Regina

...

◀◀ Reply all

 [Reply to author](#)

➔ Forward

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

Staff:

Alex Marshall, Madeline Groeger, Sanne Lynam

Not in attendance:

Cheri Musgrave, Kristen Fulmer, Elenor Sears, Victoria Pelletier

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
June 1, 2023 at 5:00 PM
Room 24, City Hall

I. Call to Order

- Jaime called the meeting to order.

II. General Citizen Comment Period**a. Emailed Citizen Comment**

- Cheri Juniewicz requested to use the Veranda Street DOT space to grow native wildflowers
- Hadlock Field Lease Agreement

b. In Person Comment

- George "Cris" Clark, who runs the Western Prom Concert Series, came to request that a power source (specifically a lockable electrical outlet) be installed so that they do not need to use generators during the concerts (generators burn fossil fuels and contribute to pollution). Alex said this may cost close to \$5,000. It was proposed that Maine Med might assist with this cost, based on their support of the concert series.

c. Evergreen Cemetery: brief discussion about plans for additional burial plots**d. There was a brief discussion about the Sea Dogs contract and how it pertains to the railroad trail.**

The

lease agreement was thorough and detailed per Beth Rabbitt.

III. Agenda Items**a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: 5/4/2023. Minutes were unanimously approved.****b. New Business****i. Chair and Vice Chair Annual Elections**

- A vote was held to determine the new chair. Jaime was voted in to remain the chair.
- A vote was held to determine the new vice chair to replace Jon Kachmar. Beth Rabbitt was unanimously voted in.

ii. Back Cove South Storage Project Presentation by Brad Roland (20 mins)

- Brad Roland, engineer of the Back Cove South Storage Project, updated the Commission on the progress of the construction with a slideshow presentation.

c. Old Business**i. Green Space Gathering Planning: Finalize Date to be held**

- Confirmed date of September 9th at Lyseth School
- Theme idea: creative uses of public parks (art in the park)
- Logistical questions to Alex: How do we get the word out? Can Parks & Rec post on their social media?
 - Can design a flyer and share on social media
- Next steps: reach out to Portland Youth Corp, finalize details in August
- ii. Bayside Trail & Encampment Update by Alex Marshall (5 mins)
 - Monitoring where individuals are camping, capacity at shelters, hazardous situations
 - Fore River Parkway encampment is being prioritized next
- d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Division Report
 - This item was not addressed due to meeting running late.
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
 - This item was not addressed due to meeting running late.
 - iii. Dougherty Field Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
 - This item was not addressed due to meeting running late.
 - iv. Commissioner Roles and Committee Updates
 - This item was not addressed due to meeting running late.
- e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items
 - This item was not addressed due to meeting running late.
- f. Sub Committee meetings (Green Space is meeting to finalize details for September gathering)

IV. Adjournment

- Jaime Parker adjourned the meeting.

	DRAFT, as of 8/1/2023										
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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			
Dougherty Field Turf Renovation w/ Irrigation	3		\$250,000								
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				\$75,000						
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 Repaving Roads	5		\$125,000		\$125,000						
Forest City Coastal Erosion Mitigation	5										
Gravel Road Reconstruction (Evergreen and Forest City)	5	\$100,000									
Green Burial Area Development (Evergreen)	5		\$30,000								
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 (and Peaks Island City Acres Shed)***	Various			\$45,000							

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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			
Longfellow Basketball Drainage and Reconstruction	5		\$175,000								
Payson Additional Basketball Court	4				\$100,000						
Payson Tennis--Add Tennis Court lights	4		\$200,000								
Peaks Island Multi-use Pickleball/Basketball Courts (2)***	1										\$125,000
Riverton Tennis Court Fence Replacement	5							\$75,000			
Park Infrastructure											
Baxter Boulevard Safety Enhancements --Stairs and Railings	4		\$150,000								
Bell Buoy Park Design/Engineering & Construction	1		\$75,000		\$750,000						
Bramhall Square Reconstruction \$250K budget, \$100K from Maine Medical, \$150 from Public Works CIP, \$100K other sources	2					\$450,000					
Park Walkway ADA Paving, various locations (E Prom, Deering Oaks)	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 Bandstand Replacement	2					\$500,000					
Deering Oaks Pond Plaza and Dock	2							\$100,000			
Deering Oaks Pond Wall Reconstruction	2	\$1,300,000	\$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 Food Truck Court Electricity	1	\$50,000									
Eastern Prom Cleeves Accident Fence Reconstruction	1		\$50,000								
Eastern Prom Cleeves Monument ADA Plaza	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		\$156,000								
Fencing: Softball field at Talbot School	1		\$50,000								

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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 (materials and engineering)	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 St	1	\$200,000									
Lincoln Park Fence--Federal St	1			\$350,000							
Lincoln Park Walkway Lights	1			\$250,000							
Longfellow Park Bollard Lighting***	3							\$50,000			
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 Plaza Improvements and Cross-Park Trail to Baseball Parking Lot	4	\$200,000									
Payson Park Skating Rink Improvements (Expansion)	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						
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 Phase II	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					

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Playgrounds, Skateparks, and Fitness Courses											
Adams School Playground	1										\$250,000
Deering Oaks Playground	2							\$450,000			
East End School Playground	1						\$350,000				
East End School Playground Design	1					\$50,000					
Fox Field Playground	1					\$300,000					
Harborview Aging in Place Fitness Course	2			\$30,000							
Hesletine Park Playground	4						\$250,000				
Munjoy South Playground	1								\$350,000		
Munjoy South Park & Playground Design	1							\$50,000			
Ocean Avenue School Playground	4										\$500,000
Ocean Avenue School Playground Design	4									\$50,000	
Peaks Island Playground	1								\$175,000		
Peaks Island Skate Park	1			\$75,000							
Peppermint Park--East Bayside Playground	1				\$350,000						
Peppermint Park--East Bayside Playground Design	1			\$50,000							
Portable Pumptrack: moveable neighborhood skatepark	various				\$75,000						
Presumpscot Playground	4				\$450,000						
Presumpscot Playground Design	4			\$50,000							
Reiche Playground (applying for additional \$200K CDBG grant to Match)	2	\$450,000									
Stone Street Playground Design	1	\$35,000									
Stone Street Playground--Upgrade and Splashpad Erosion Issues	1		\$350,000								
Stroudwater Playground	3					\$150,000					
Taylor Street Playground	2							\$100,000			
Tyng-Tate Street Playground: Fencing and Seating***	2									\$25,000	
University Park Playground (NEW)	4			\$200,000							
Playground Equipment Replacement: Various Locations	various				\$75,000			\$75,000			\$75,000
Will's Playground (Eastern Prom)	1				\$450,000						
Will's Playground Design (Eastern Prom)	1		\$75,000								
Trails											
Back Cove Guard Rail	4			\$100,000							
Back Cove Trail Reconstruction and Stone Dust Resurfacing	4,3,1				\$150,000						

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Back Cove Re-pave Tukey's Bridge Approach	4	\$50,000									
Bayside Trail Resurfacing--by Public Works	1,2										
Dougherty Field Bike Path Improvements***	3					\$100,000					
Eastern Promenade Sidewalk Resurfacing--by Public Works	1										
Fore River Parkway Trail Resurfacing--by Public Works	2										
Payson Park Cross Park Trail (Ocean Ave to Catafalque)	4		\$100,000								
Recreation Facilities											
Community Center Planning				\$200,000							
Community Center Construction							\$10,000,000				
Reiche Pool Filter	2				\$115,000						
Riverton Gym Floor Replacement - Split cost with school?	5	\$135,000									
212 Canco Rd Community Room improvements	4	\$150,000									
Ice Arena											
Redesign (Office to Locker Room)	2		\$345,000								
Sprinkler Upgrade	2			\$100,000							
Ice Arena Improvements	2			\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Chiller refurbishment (coils) (Estimated 10 additional years)	2	\$175,000									
Chiller Replacement (Refurb in 2024 will get us to est 2034)	2										\$350,000
Front of building wall repairs?											
Golf Course											
Course Improvements	5		\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000		
Bunker Renovation--North Course	5									\$987,000	
Bunker Renovation--South Course	5				\$250,000						
Cart Building Building Replacement-North & South Estimate	5			\$900,000							
Public Assemblies											
Expo Renovations	2		\$50,000								
Merrill Interior Doors	1		\$70,000								
Merrill Loading Dock: Extend and Reorient	1							\$100,000			
Merrill Marquee	1	\$200,000									
Merrill Orchestra Pit Lift	1			\$260,000							

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Merrill Seating Replacement	1		\$100,000								
Community Requests NOT added to 10 Year CIP plan											
Clark Street Park Playground Equipment, Seating & Water Fountain	2	\$50,000	Clark Street playground equipment funded in FY24 CIP Budget. Seating and water fountain can be funded through future operating budget or other funding sources.								
Dougherty Field Master Plan *Update*	3	\$50,000	Given recent improvements to skatepark, playground, community garden and ongoing replacement of Community Pool, no update is needed at this time.								
Dougherty Field Park Amenities: Benches, Picnic Tables, Drinking Fountains, etc.	3	\$25,000	Does not qualify as CIP expense.								
Fort Gorges Wharf Rebuild	1	\$250,000	This project will be accomplished through a partnership with Army National Guard Readiness program. City has already included funds for materials in future CIP. Friends of Ft Gorges will provide drawings and specs.								
Libbytown Food Forest Expansion	3	\$100,000	Not City property. This concept could be explored as a joint project between Libbytown Neighborhood Association and Portland Water District.								
Lowell Street Parcel Redesign	2	\$150,000	At this time, focusing on low cost improvements such as park seasonal lighting, picnic tables, benches, fencing. Improvements can be accomplished within operating budget and partnership efforts								
St. James & Douglass Intersection Improvements	3		Public Works Project, not Parks, Rec and Facilities								



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: August 2023

Parks Division Staffing

- Total Budgeted positions in Parks Division: 33
- Vacancies:
 - Parks Division Assistant Director
 - Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker III (Ballfields)
 - Horticulturist
- Seasonal Positions: Park Maintenance, Ballfields, Playgrounds

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Friends Groups and Neighborhood Associations have submitted their priority requests for the FY25 CIP budget cycle submitted in Fall of 2023. Submissions have been reviewed and added to the 10 year CIP document if they fit City submission requirements. The Parks Commission will now review all projects in this timeline and provide the Parks Department with their top choices. This information will be weighed with internal priorities and other departmental needs. The Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department will then submit their recommendations to the City Manager and Finance Director for review.

Encampment Crisis Response Team (ECRT)

The ECRT has been focusing on the Fore River Parkway Encampment over the last month and a half. This team consists of relevant city departments, community partners and federal agencies such as Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Their focus has been on providing basic needs to those in the encampment while also offering housing and services on a regular basis. So far the team has only been able to house 3 people and the number of tents has grown from 30 to 58. This ECRT has a deadline of September 6 to find housing and services for those unhoused there before the site is cleared and restoration takes place.

City Arborist Hiring

The Parks Department has hired its next City Arborist, Mark Reiland. Mark comes from the Waterville area where he owned his own tree care business and managed his own production farm. Mark has been in the industry for over 17 years and has multiple degrees from UMASS Amherst in the field of arboriculture. He has published works in this field and also taught/lectured at UMASS in their Department of Environmental Conservation. Mark will be starting later in August and looks forward to working with everyone.

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North Deering Park

North Deering Park is officially the City of Portland's property. The 24 acre acquisition consists of a full sized baseball/multi-use field and beautiful wooded space for trails. The Ballfields Team has begun restoration of the field for rentals starting in the Fall of 2023 and the Portland Youth Corps and Portland Trails have begun opening up trail connections from Washington Avenue to Ballpark Drive. Stay tuned for future announcements on a ribbon cutting ceremony to be held this Fall at the park.

Talbot School Outdoor Basketball Court

The long awaited Talbot School basketball court reconstruction project is finally getting underway. Starting this week our contractor will be on site beginning demolition. The new court will be raised roughly 1' 8" from its current elevation to alleviate existing drainage issues and lessen the steep perimeter embankments that have eroded into the current playing surface. Additional improvements will be stabilizing the slopes, raising the catch basin, and adding an ADA pathway to access the court from the school. This work will be happening over the next month or so.

Riverton Trolley Park Improvements

Parks Staff are working on the Recreation Improvement Plan for the Riverton Trolley Park. The initial phase for this project will consist of the Bicycle Skills Park to be located on the South side of the park. The second phase that is simultaneously being done is the design and engineering of parking lot improvements, concrete stair rehabilitation, amphitheater recreation/acknowledgement, picnic shelter, trailhead design and various park seating. The contractor will be guiding this process through to finalized construction plan sets, estimates and bidding document support.

Dougherty Field Skate Park Expansion Completion

The Dougherty Field Skatepark Expansion project has been completed after multiple years of raising the necessary funds and designing this new space. With almost double the square feet of the original skatepark, this new and improved skatepark is now one of Maine's largest and has some really unique and interactive features. Thank you to Parks Staff who made this project a reality with the help of many other City Departments.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Deering Oaks Park ADA Walkway improvements: Phase three has been completed with RE Coleman paving last week and finishing up with loam and seed this week
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised.
- 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.



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- 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.
- 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 2024