



**Commission Members:**

Beth Rabbitt, John Clark, Marie Gray, Stephen Bensten, Helen Coyne, Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Ashley Burdick, William Elting, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor), Donna Gartland, Jaime Parker (Chair), Kristen Fulmer, Robert Foster

**City of Portland**

**Parks Commission Agenda**

**March 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM**

**The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting in-person from City Hall Kippy Richardson Conference Room 24 located on the ground level of City Hall.**

*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.*

Public comments may only be submitted in person or in writing. To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email [parkskommission@Portlandmaine.gov](mailto:parkskommission@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).

**Livestream information:**

To view this meeting please visit the Livestream: <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6740/media>

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
- III. Agenda Items
  - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2024
  - b. New Business
    - i. Special Projects-Battle of Deering Oaks Signage
  - c. Old Business
    - i. Meeting Schedule and Calendar-vote
    - ii. Green Space Gathering
    - iii. Friends Group List
  - d. Communications and Updates
    - i. Parks Report
    - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
    - iii. Stroudwater Preserve

- iv. North Deering Park
- v. Thomas Park
- vi. Unhoused in parks status
- vii. Emerald Ash Borer
- e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment





## **Parks Commission February 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

**Present Commission Members:** John Clark, Ashley Burdick, William Elting, Donna Gartland, Jaime Parker (Chair), Robert Foster, Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Helen Coyne, Stephen Bentsen, Katie Mears

**Not Present:** Beth Rabbitt, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor), Kristen Fulmer, Marie Gray,

**Staff:** Alex Marshall Parks Director, Jen DeRice Assistant Parks Director, Jessica Teesdale Senior Executive Assistant, Rachel Millette Corporate Counsel

### **I. Call to Order**

### **II. General Citizen Comment Period in person-no public comment emails or in person**

### **III. Agenda Items**

#### **a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes January 4, 2024; Vote opened by Chair Jaime P.**

**7 approve 3 abstain**

#### **b. Parks Commission Role and Charter**

##### **i. Charter rules regarding workshops outside of meetings.**

**Rachel Millette COP Corporate Counsel provided answers to questions regarding the rules of public meetings.**

##### **ii. Exploration of meeting dates and length**

**Topics discussed: Creation of a yearly calendar, another idea floated was to keep meetings scheduled every month, but utilize every other meeting as a workshop.**

#### **c. Parks Operation Overview- Commission requests link to winter operations page and winter ops video.**

#### **d. Communications and Updates**

##### **i. Greenspace Gathering- Date discussed is Thursday May 2nd meeting 5 PM**

**Location TBD. Subcommittees discussed CIP and Accessibility**

**e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items**

**i. Stroudwater Preserve**

**ii. Meeting Schedule and Calendar**

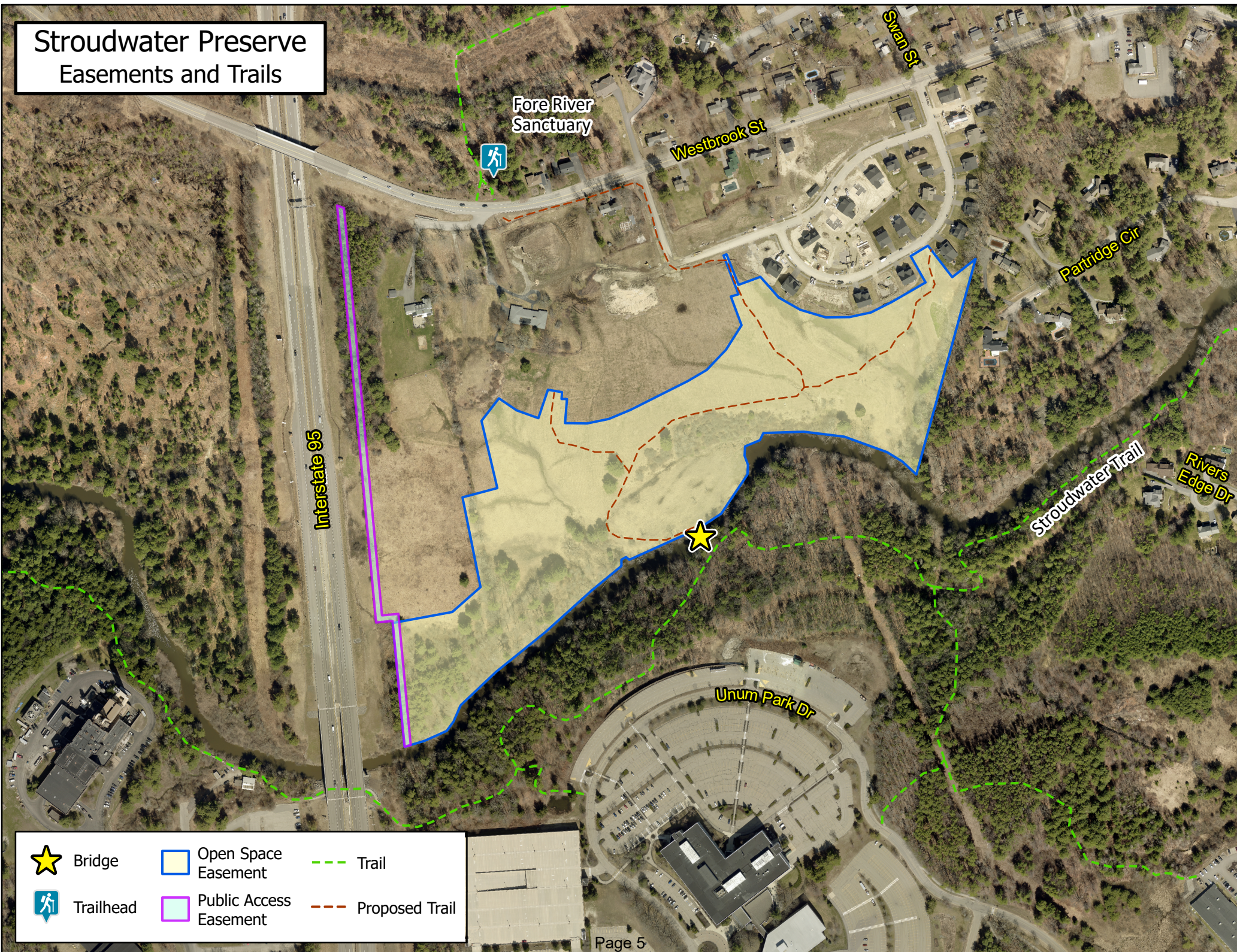
**iii. Greenspace Gathering**

**iv. Friends groups communication**

**IV. Adjournment**



# Stroudwater Preserve Easements and Trails







# North Deering Park

PORTLAND, MAINE

September 6, 2022. Copyright © Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are federally registered marks of Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only. [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)





## Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple

*Director Parks, Recreation, Facilities*

Alex Marshall

*Parks Director*



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### **Proposal: Dedicate Lowell St Parcel as a Park, and name it Thomas Park**

The Lowell St parcel is a 0.4 acre parcel of City-owned land bounded by Lowell St, Congress St and Burnham St. It is adjacent to the former Denny's and the north-bound Exit 5 on 295. Until a recent census and redistricting, the parcel was located in District 3, but now lies in District 2. The land is currently city-owned, is un-designated, and is not currently listed as a Park in Chapter 18 of City Code. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities currently maintains it as green space, mows the lawn, and cares for the Linden trees on site.

The property was donated to the City in 1913 (sold for \$1) by the Thomas family. The deed contains language that states that the property shall remain as public green space or it will revert to the heirs of the family. We are in possession of copies of City Reports from 1928 that refer to Thomas Square as a designated City Park. However, Chapter 18 of City code no longer lists Thomas Square or Thomas Park as a City Park, and no staff members recall it being a designated City park, or having the Council remove the designation as a City park. Regardless, the City continues to care for the space as public green space, so is in compliance with the deed restrictions.

In February of 2023, descendants of the Thomas family reached out to the City to ask that the parcel be restored as an officially dedicated park, and that it be named Thomas Park, in honor of the family that gave it to the City. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities spent multiple months considering the request and vetting the documentation, consulting with Corporation Counsel, GIS and Archives Division, and our Transportation and Engineering Division at Public Works. We have held numerous meetings with the family and District 3 Councilor Phillips.

Dedicating this parcel as a park would further the Council goal of preserving green space in a historically low-income, CDBG eligible neighborhood, and would further the City's goals of providing green spaces within a 10 minute walk of all residences.

As the City is already maintaining this space, the cost of maintenance will be negligible. There are no plans for major capital improvements at this time. Park improvements in the future would consist of picnic tables, signage, and park seating, which would be covered in the existing Parks Operating Budget. The neighborhood association is currently funding installation of tree lighting.

After this 9 month review process, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities supports this proposal to dedicate this land as a park, and to name it Thomas Park in recognition of the family that gifted this public space to the people of Portland.

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 west-erly 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 Low-ell 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 des-cribed 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. Elias Thomas Seal.  
Eva G. Tarbox to D.B.T. Dorothea Brayton Thomas Seal.  
CharTotte Thomas. William Widgery Thomas Seal.  
Annie L.P. Harrison. May 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 He-len 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:citymanager@portlandmaine.gov)

Michael Goldman, Acting Corporation Counsel

(207) 874-8480, [mig@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:mig@portlandmaine.gov)

**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.

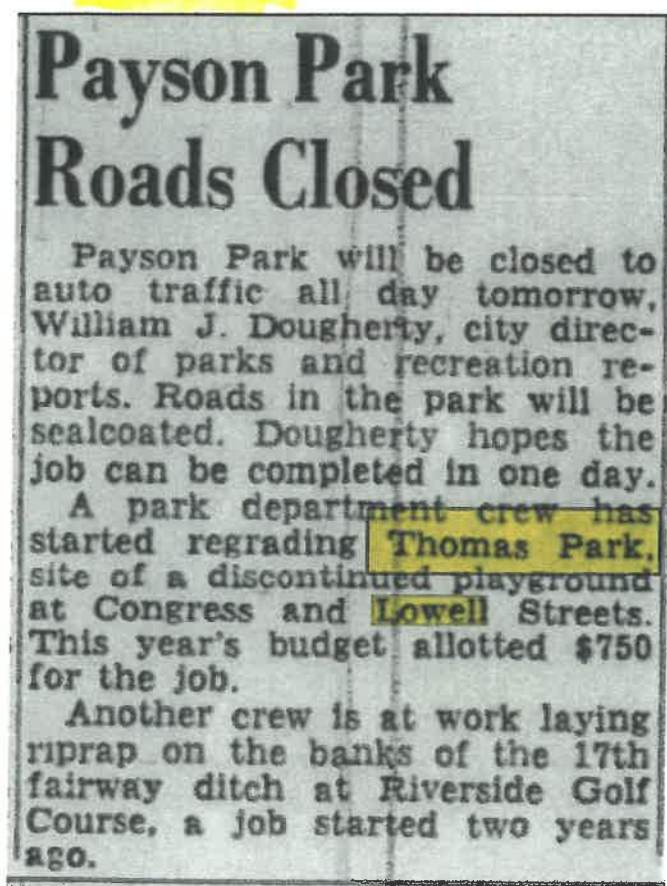
More to follow soon as time allows.  
Best Wishes to All

**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

✂ CI



On Thu, Feb 23, 2023 at 10:14 PM S. Nick Zaccaro <[snzaccaro@gmail.com](mailto: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 Fel

## 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 23-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.)



## CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

## 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 .....          | 3,839.14    |
| Received for Grading .....       | 1,940.00    |
| Received for Plants .....        | 1,302.53    |
| Received for General Labor ..... | 1,077.46    |
|                                  | <hr/>       |
|                                  | \$16,709.23 |

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. Amshouse Valley Lot (northerly side of Park Ave.)     | 14.18 acres |
| 2. Andrews Square (Pine and West Sts., west corner)      | .05 "       |
| 3. Baxter Boulevard .....                                | 28.83 "     |
| 4. Boothby Square (Fore St., at Pearl St.)               | .11 "       |
| 5. Boothby Square (Woodford St. and Stevens Ave.)        | .12 "       |
| 6. Caldwell Square (northerly side Park Ave.)            | 52.70 "     |
| 7. Deering's Oaks (northerly side Park Ave.)             | 53.76 "     |
| 8. Eastern Promenade .....                               | .46 "       |
| 9. Eastern Park (corner Brighton and Deering Aves.)      | 4.55 "      |
| 10. Forest Park (adjoining Eastern Promenade)            | 1.07 "      |
| 11. Fort Allen Park (North St.)                          | 3.51 "      |
| 12. Fort Sumner Park (North St.)                         | .34 "       |
| 13. Lincoln Park and Extension and Oakdale Sts.          | .10 "       |
| 14. Land at Noyes, Longfellow and Oakdale Sts.           | .52 "       |
| 15. Monument Square (ornamental circle)                  | 23.01 "     |
| 16. Noyes Park (Bedford St., Deering and Brighton Aves.) | 47.75 "     |
| 17. Presumpscott Park (Stevens Ave.)                     | .39 "       |
| 18. Payson Park, The Edward (Ocean Ave.)                 | .30 "       |
| 19. Thomas Square (Congress and Lowell Sts.)             | 18.91 "     |
| 20. Trinity Square (Forest Ave. and Coyle St.)           | .19 "       |
| 21. Western Promenade .....                              |             |
| 22. Winslow Park (Forest Ave. and Winslow St.)           | 262.85 "    |
| Total Area .....                                         |             |

## ANNUAL REPORT

## 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—Presumpscott 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 \$5,000.00 bond payment on the tannery purchase (addition to Deering's Oaks); \$3,000.00 bond payment on the (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 bond payments), or \$43,775.84, reflects the following betterments in the Park System.

Amshouse Lorr (\$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 11,855 square yards. The macadam cost was \$25,961.34. 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

## REPORT OF PARK COMMISSION, 1923

## ORGANIZATION

CARROLL S. CHAPMAN, *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 |
| Alms-house 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,      | .30 "     |
| Trinity Square,     | .30 "     |
| Western Promenade,  | 18.91 "   |
| Winslow Park,       | .10 "     |
| 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,                                                                                                              | \$104,937.41 |
| EXPENDITURES                                                                                                        |              |
| Alms-house lot,                                                                                                     | \$ 373.01    |
| Baxter Boulevard,                                                                                                   | 24,915.46    |
| 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,                                                                                                       | 1,952.02     |
| Motor transportation,                                                                                               | 2,393.22     |
| Office, salaries and insurance,                                                                                     | 4,853.89     |
| Presumpscot Park,                                                                                                   | 90.00        |
| Recreation Commission (12½% of Park Dept. appropriation and last quarter annual payment 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,                                                                                                       | 193.51       |
| Total,                                                                                                              | \$104,004.62 |

**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 .

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## 2024 Emerald Ash Borer Management in Portland

### Intro

Starting in 2019, emerald ash borer, an invasive tree pest, has been detected in Portland, and poses serious risks to our 600+ inventoried Ash street trees. In 2021, the Forestry team within the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department worked with the State of Maine to develop a plan to address the infestation, and to preserve as many trees throughout Portland as possible. While some trees can be saved through treatments and organic bio-controls, many trees will succumb to the pest and will have to be removed and replaced over the next 3-5 years.

### Background

The emerald ash borer (EAB) is an invasive wood boring beetle first discovered in Michigan in 2002 after introduction through the Great Lakes shipping lanes. Native to east Asia, EAB feeds almost exclusively on members of the ash genus (*Fraxinus*) with the adult beetles feeding on the foliage of the upper canopy and the larvae feeding on the vascular tissues within the sapwood. The extensive damage to the vascular system caused by larval feeding leads to rapid decline and death of affected trees with mortality rates exceeding 90% within ~5 years of initial infestation.

Following discovery in the early 2000's, initial management regimens were focused on eradication of the pest and included local, state, and federal quarantines and restrictions on the movement of ash wood and wood products. Containment and eradication efforts were unsuccessful and EAB has since spread to thousands of counties across 35+ US states as well as provincial territories in Canada. EAB response and long term management are now focused on an integrated pest management (IPM) approach with 3 major foci:

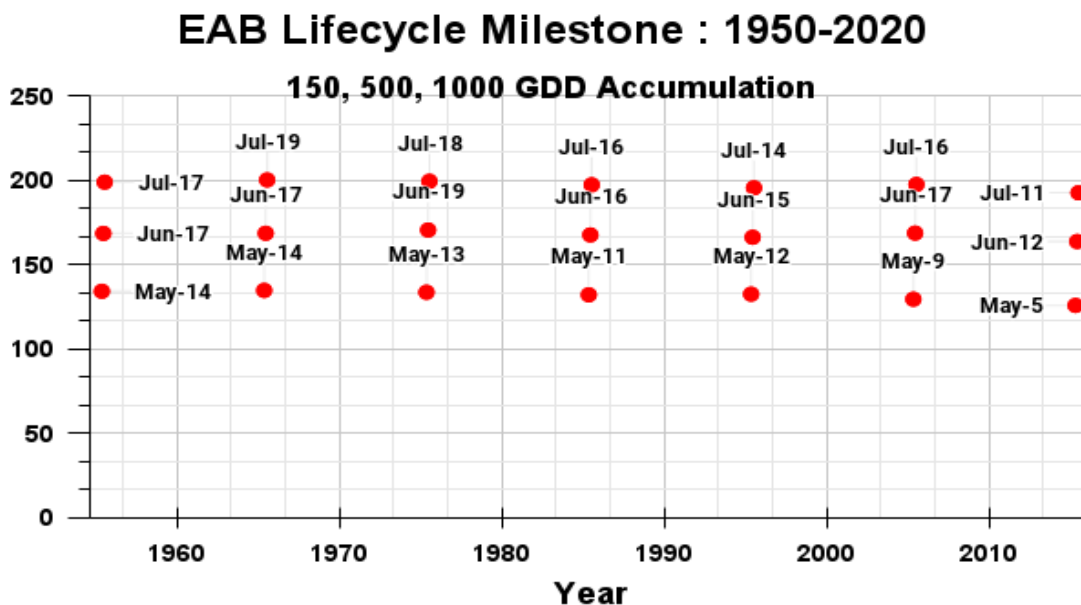
1. Risk mitigation through host tree removal and replacement with non-host species
2. Selective retention of high value trees through long term treatment
3. Biocontrol of pest populations through parasitic wasp release



EAB was first detected in Portland in 2019 and has since spread throughout the municipality affecting ash trees across political boundaries and habitats. There are ~600 publicly owned, inventoried ash street trees (~3% of total inventory) as well as hundreds to thousands more in the non-inventoried publicly owned spaces throughout the city. The following management summary applies only to ash trees on publicly owned property.

## EAB in Portland

EAB likely experiences a 2 year life cycle in the Portland area with female beetles laying eggs in bark crevices as early as mid June. A female beetle can potentially produce hundreds of eggs in their 3-4 week lifespan while adult male beetles live ~2 weeks. The adult beetles feed on the fringes of the foliage and cause little to no long term damage. The eggs hatch after 2-3 weeks and the larvae bore through the outer bark to feed on the phloem tissue of the inner bark. The larvae overwinter in the inner bark or sapwood and begin pupation the following spring after the accumulation of 100-150 growing degree days (GDD's, base 50°F), usually in the first or second week of May. Pupation lasts approximately 4-5 weeks and the adult beetles begin exiting the trees through small 'D' shaped exit holes after the accumulation of 400-500 GDD's, usually in mid-June. Peak rates of adult emergence coincide with the accumulation of ~1000 GDD's and usually occurs in mid-July (see Figure 1).

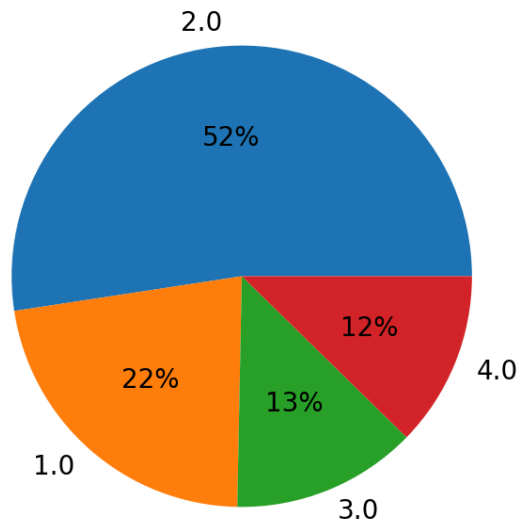


**Figure 1:** Average Historical Dates of Significant EAB GDD Accumulation by Decade, 1950-2020

In the early fall of 2023 the Forestry division completed a visual assessment of the inventoried ash trees and assigned each a condition rating of 1-4 with '1' indicating no outward sign of infestation and '4' indicating severe decline and mortality. Over 75% of the surveyed trees showed signs of decline due to infestation with ~25% showing moderate to severe decline (Categories 3 and 4), ~50% showing initial to moderate decline (Category 2), and <25% showing no outward signs of infestation (Category 1) (See Figure 2). The trees on the

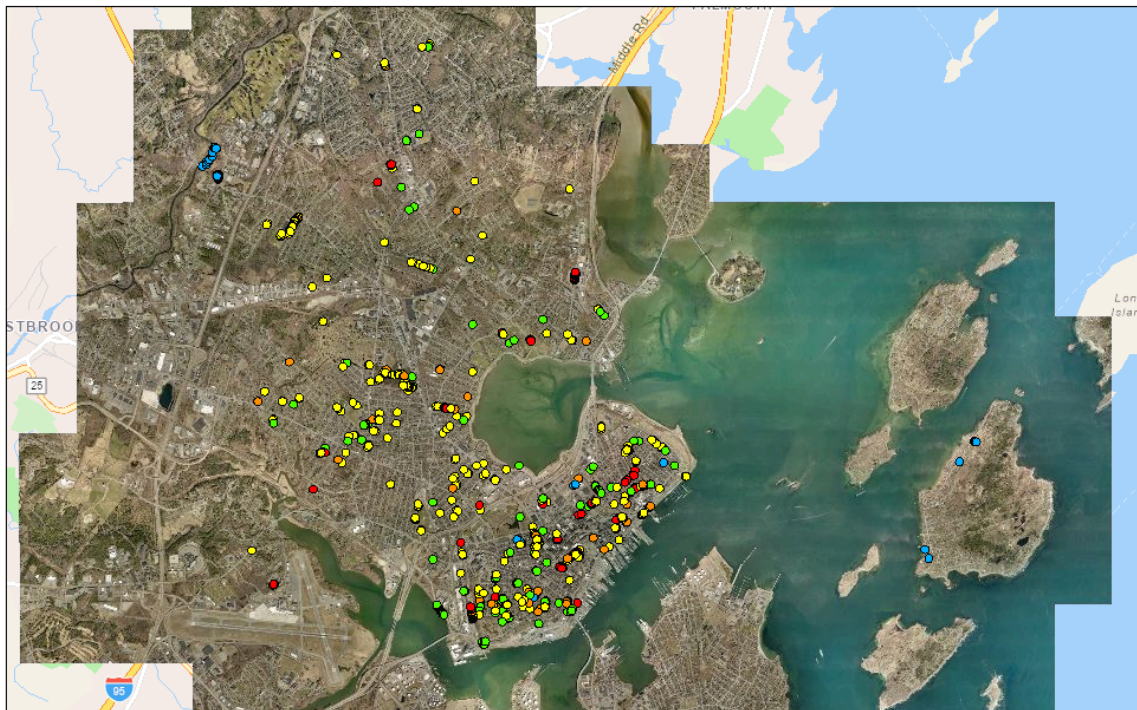
peninsula are showing the advanced stages of decline more quickly, likely due to reduced health and vigor caused by the chronic stress of the urban environment (See Figure 3).

## Ash Condition Rating Fall 2023, n=~600



**Figure 2:** Health Condition Rating for Inventoried Ash Trees in Portland (1:No Sign of Infestation ... 4:Severe Decline/Mortality)

## Fall 2023 Ash Condition Survey



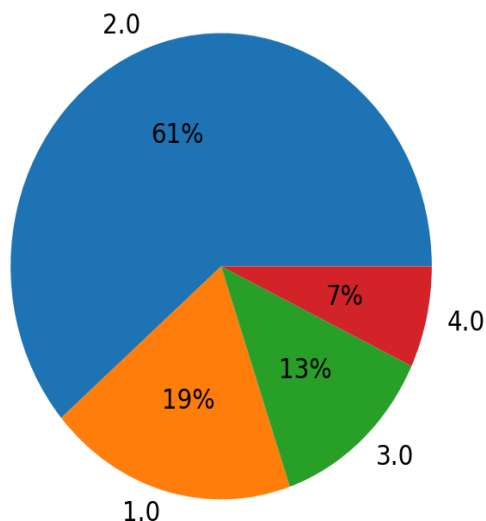
**Figure 3:** Fall 2023 Ash Tree Condition Survey (1:Green, 2:Yellow, 3:Orange, 4:Red). Treated Trees are Blue.

## Previous Treatment

In the Spring of 2023 selective treatment of high value trees and biocontrol measures began with 142 trees receiving targeted insecticide treatment and 7 trees serving as biocontrol release sites. Biocontrol measures were focused in Riverton Trolley Park to build up a population of non-stinging parasitic wasps to provide long term EAB population control and protect the ash trees in the Presumpscot River corridor. In general, biological control measures will be focused in the Presumpscot River corridor to preserve the population of native ash trees along the banks and bottomlands and prevent post mortality replacement by invasive species (Norway maple, buckthorn, knotweed, bittersweet, etc).

Insecticide treatments consisted of either a stem injected systemic insecticide (emamectin benzoate) or an insecticide soil drench (imidacloprid) with 116 trees receiving stem injections and 16 receiving soil drenches. Of the 142 trees that received insecticide treatment in the spring; 28 showed signs of moderate to severe decline during the fall survey (~4 months after treatment) while 114 showed mild to no signs of decline (See Figure 4). It is reasonable to conclude that the 28 treated trees showing signs of moderate to severe decline in the fall survey were already heavily infested at the time of treatment and existing vascular system damage compromised treatment efficacy. Several multi-year field studies have demonstrated that stem injected emamectin benzoate, when applied at the right time with appropriate dosage, provides 2-3 years protection even under heavy pest pressure.

### Treated Ash Condition Rating Fall 2023 (n=142)



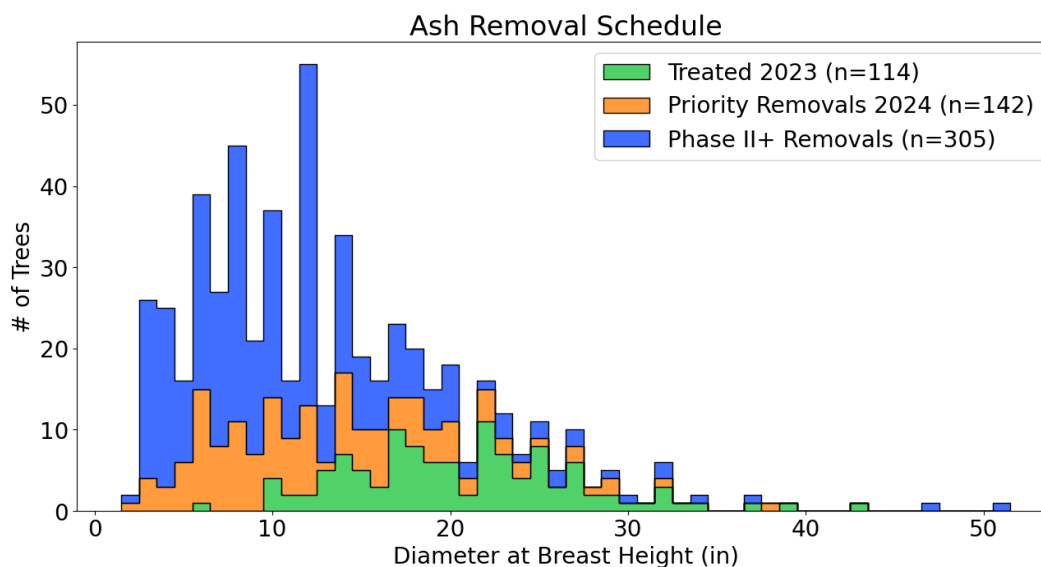
**Figure 4:** Health Condition Rating for Treated Ash Trees in Portland (1:No Sign of Infestation ... 4:Severe Decline/Mortality)

## 2024 Treatment

Risk reduction and host tree removal will begin in the early months of 2024 and continue for 2-3 years as the most severely affected trees (Survey Categories 3 & 4) are removed first and the remaining trees (Survey Categories 1 & 2) removed as they deteriorate over the coming



years. A second group of trees will be selected for stem injected insecticide treatments during the Spring of 2024. Biocontrol efforts will be expanded with release sites added in the Presumpscot River Preserve to further preserve the ecologically significant ash population in the river corridor.



**Figure 5:** DBH Distribution of Removal Phases and Surviving Treated Trees

It is expected that ~350-400 inventoried ash street trees will be removed over the coming few years while ~150-200 will be preserved through a long-term treatment and monitoring program (See Figure 5). The trees selected for stem injected insecticide treatments in 2024 will migrate from the 'Phase II+ Removal' group in the figure to the 'Treated' group. These estimates do not include additional non-inventoried ash trees that will need to be removed in public spaces nor does it include the non-inventoried ash trees that will be preserved due to the biocontrol efforts.

Replanting of removed trees will be with non-host species and likely lag at least 1 year behind removal. The Parks, Recreation, and Facilities department, in conjunction with the Portland Parks Conservancy is applying for grant funding from the US Forest Service to facilitate a comprehensive replanting plan that will work to address infrastructure improvements where most needed. The habitat and site conditions of the affected trees is highly variable and will require different replanting approaches on a site by site basis.