



Commission Members:

Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Ashley Burdick, Beth Rabbitt, Donna Gartland, Helen Coyne, Jaime Parker, John Clark, Katie Mears, Kristen Fulmer, Marie Gray, Robert Foster, Stephen Bentsen, Victoria Pelletier, William Elting

Staff:

Alex Marshall Parks Director, Jen DeRice Assistant Parks Director, Jessica Teesdale Senior Executive Assistant

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
May 2, 2024 at 5:00 PM

**The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting in person from Kippy Richardson Room 24 on the
ground floor of City Hall. Myrtle Street Entrance.**

*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).

Link to view this meeting: <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6742/media>

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
 - a. Emailed comments to Park Commission 4.5.2024 through 5.1.2024
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2023
 - b. New Business
 - c. Old Business
 - i. Greenspace Gathering 2024
 - d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Division Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
 - iii. Commission Vacancies
 - e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment

Public Comment under New Business for May 2 meeting - PARK vs HOUSING w/park.

3 views



kcap...@maine.rr.com

Apr 27, 2024, 3:56:50 PM (5 days ago)



to ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Mary Davis, george....@gmail.com, gail_...@king.senate.gov

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.

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Staff: Alex Marshall Parks Director, Jen DeRice Assistant Parks Director, Jessica Teesdale Senior Executive Assistant

Dear Commissioners.

For years I have been promoting the placement of a cruise ship on the deep water section of the Eastern Waterfront for use as affordable housing.

The submerged land at LOT 444 A004 is the only deep water on the waterfront available to place such a ship. The proposal would put between 2000 - 4600 low and very-low income living units on the waterfront to house workforce housing, student housing, senior housing, Veteran housing and any other low-income population that struggles to find housing in Portland. I point to the substantial backlogs of section 8 housing in Portland, and the 84,000-unit statewide shortage, as examples of the dire straits in the housing market.

This proposal conflicts with the City proposal to place a park, Harbor Commons, on LOT 444 A003. Despite that the City never pursued an RFP for use of that land (not submerged) and, despite knowledge that I have been interested in this location since 2018, there has never been a public discussion as to the comparative value of another park versus the value of 2000+ very low-income housing units. The City proceeded to treat this park as if there were no other interests. So now I bring this to your attention to address the relevant facts and the potential for a substantial lost opportunity.

It is critical that the City note that a park on A003 would in essence block all land-based access to A004. This contradicts the 10.2.4 Conditional Use (A) which mandates "such uses will not impede or preclude existing or potential water-dependent development within the zone, will allow for adequate right-of-way access to the water."

This is a terrible loss of use for a critical portion of the waterfront. It is no secret that a park could be placed anywhere along the upper waterfront along the Fore River. Given the already existing Amethyst Park, Compass Park, Moon Tide Park, the East End public beach facilities and other space, the proposal for Harbor Commons seems redundant at the specified location. Frankly, one should prioritize the Fort Gorges Historical park before we need another park on the waterfront.

While the park can go elsewhere, there is no other place on the waterfront with the deep-water access needed by the SHIP. As a minimum, if the park was to remain at A003, I would seek a substantial (150' wide) easement to permit access by land across A003 to the ship for residents and their vehicles. At present, there is a City blockade to publicly discussing the comparative benefit of the SHIP vs PARK. It is a fact that the SHIP proposal already includes many or most of the benefits proposed for the park. The SHIP also offers public restrooms, a variety store, seating, a retail deck, and recreation including a rock-climbing wall, a track, canoeing, paddleboards, fishing, and marvelous views of the entire harbor among other things. The SHIP operates year-round. Let us not forget the impact of tides, waves and sea-level-rise will be less for the SHIP than for an upland-based park.

Having tried to negotiate/discuss the SHIP proposal and access to the lots requested, only to be told repeatedly that the park is "too far along", I reach out to this Commission to take a look at this situation de novo. A park can find other spots on the river, the SHIP cannot. If there are competing uses for waterfront property, there needs to be a fair assessment of which use has a higher priority. Please note that there is a precedent for a residential ship in this zone related to BIW's crew ship.

The SHIP offers aquaculture and related research, a maritime related retail deck with its own shop for rentals/sales of paddleboards, canoes, kayaks, Sea-doo's, fishing gear, life jackets, and many other items/services. It brings the opportunity for bars and restaurant which are currently missing from the Eastern Waterfront. The SHIP even includes a 500-seat auditorium for stage shows, movies, cultural events and concerts and more. The fact is that the SHIP just brings so many important opportunities to the neighborhood and the Portland community. Did I mention the immense easel that could be the sides of the SHIP. Two 880' display spaces promoting local artists and activities.

To date, the City's myopic analysis in support of Harbor Common has kept the public in the dark about the SHIP and its impact on housing and economic development. That omission has to be explored lest we end up solely with an egotistically named park which few people NEED and use. Hope Harbor is willing to make many accommodations in developing its role on the waterfront. I think if asked, other occupants of the Waterfront would be happy with workforce housing. Look at all they get with the SHIP in addition to customers, employees, and growth. All the couples looking for a wedding venue on the SHIP will also be looking for dining services and attractions for their relatives to enjoy.

Let's talk.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Capron, ret. CPA, Systems Engineer
 1375 Forest Avenue D-11
 Portland, ME 04103
[207-797-7891](tel:207-797-7891)
kcapron1@maine.rr.com
maglev@maine.rr.com
 [Southern Maine Research Institute]
 [SkyWay by MicroRail]
 [Hope Harbor]

Source: Land Use Ordinance and Zoning- Chapter 14

B-6 To establish a zoning district for the upland portion of the Eastern Waterfront area. The B-6 zone encourages this district to acquire a distinctly urban form through development that emphasizes a quality pedestrian experience, promotes public transit, and demonstrates exemplary urban design. The zone promotes a range of uses to achieve 24-hour urban vitality and shared use of parking infrastructure as recommended in the Eastern Waterfront Master Plan for redevelopment. The B-6 zone promotes a mixed-use development pattern envisioned for urban land on Portland's peninsula.

10.2 EASTERN WATERFRONT PORT ZONE (EWPZ)

10.2.3 Permitted uses

Subject to a determination that the proposed use meets the standards of Subsection 10.2.2, the following uses are permitted in the Eastern Waterfront Port Zone:

A. Marine passenger

1. Intermodal marine passenger facilities.
2. Cruise ship home port and port-of-call berthing and support.

B. Marine commercial

1. Transient and long-term commercial berthing.
2. Marine-related warehousing.
3. Marine-related construction, manufacturing, fabrication, salvage, and repair.
4. Storage and repair of fishing equipment.
5. Ship and other marine vessel construction, building, servicing, and repair.
6. Boat and marine equipment storage.
7. Harbor and marine supplies and services, chandleries, and ship supply such as fueling and bunkering of vessels.
8. Public, non-profit, or commercial marine transportation and excursion services, including captained charter services, sport fishing and water taxis.
9. Ship and off-shore support services, including but not limited to tug boats, pilot boats, and chandleries.
10. Facilities for marine pollution control, oil spill cleanup, and servicing of marine sanitation devices.
11. Marinas located east of the eastern boundary of the parcel of land owned by the City of Portland pursuant to a deed from the State of Maine dated February 1982 and recorded in the Cumberland County Registry of Deeds at Book 4916, Page 26.

12. Marine office, including but not limited to offices of owners of marinas, wharves or their agents, and naval architects, and seafood brokers.

C. Commercial

1. Professional, business, government, and general office located in upper floors of structures existing as of September 18, 2006.

D. Public

1. Fire, police, and emergency services.
2. Governmental agency emergency operations/crisis centers.
3. Research, military and visiting attraction vessel berthing.
4. Landscaped pedestrian parks, plazas and other similar outdoor pedestrian spaces, including without limitation pedestrian and/or bicycle trails.

E. Other

1. A facility for non-profit organizations whose facility may include offices, classrooms, equipment, equipment rentals, storage, and bathrooms for the public.

10.2.4 Conditional uses

A. The following uses shall be permitted as conditional uses in the Eastern Waterfront Port Zone, provided that, notwithstanding Subsection 6.5.1, or any other provision of this code, the Planning Board shall be substituted for the Board of Appeals as the review authority, and provided further that in addition to the provisions of Subsection 6.5.2, such uses will not impede or preclude existing or potential water-dependent development within the zone, will allow for adequate right-of-way access to the water, are compatible with marine uses, and meet all additional standards set forth below.

10.2.6 A. Standards for contract or conditional rezoning:

4. The project's public benefits outweigh its potential negative impacts

10.2.7 E. Maximum building height: 45 feet, except as follows: floating vessels shall not be subject

10.2.8 Performance standards (N) Functional utility of piers and access to the water's edge. All development, whether for marine or non-marine uses, must anticipate current and future needs of water-dependent uses to functionally access the water's edge for the transfer of goods, materials, and passengers between berthed vessels and land bound vehicles. Provisions for the storage and movement of goods, materials, and passengers must be designed into all waterside development and internal circulation routes must be maintained or otherwise provided as an element of any development.

Fwd: school trail accessibility assessment

4 views



Kara Wooldrik

Apr 30, 2024, 5:32:07 PM (2 days ago)

☐

☐

☐

to parksco...@portlandmaine.gov, land...@portlandmaine.gov

Hello Parks Commission and Land Bank leaders,

I just want to make sure that you are aware of these accessibility assessments happening across the City of Portland. They are focused on all the little inexpensive changes that the City and Portland Trails (and Parks Commission and Land Bank) can make to create more welcoming, inclusive and accessible public green spaces. While this project is focused on trails near schools, we touch on Land Bank property (PATHS/CBHS) and Parks (East End) and the takeaways can be applied across most Land Bank and Parks properties.

I've included the chain of emails below so you can see the context. Because of grant funding, we are able to offer these for free for the City and Portland Trails. (usually \$8-10K for 8 trails) Most of the learning takes place in person but the reports that will follow will be helpful for budgeting, planning and work plan purposes.

We just completed the first 5 assessments today. Enock will do the remaining on Friday (schedule below). I hope someone from your committee will be able to join.

Thank you,
Kara

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Kara Wooldrik** <kara@communitygeo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 29, 2024 at 7:22 PM
Subject: Re: school trail accessibility assessment
To: Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, <daniel@trails.org>, Umaru Balde <ubalde@portlandmaine.gov>, Liz Collado <ecollado@portlandmaine.gov>, Jaime Parker <jaime@trails.org>
Cc: Enock Glidden <enock@communitygeo.com>

Hello Portland Pals,

We look forward to seeing you and your colleagues tomorrow. Here's a schedule in chronological order with meeting locations, which are also on the [map](#).

Thanks, Kara and Enock

Enock cell number is [207-458-0592](#)
Kara cell number is [207-837-7953](#)

Day 1 10am	Mid-Slope Trail	on Eastern Prom, ocean side near where Walnut meets EP
Day 1, 11:30	Lyseth School Trail	on Bramblewood
Day 1, 1pm	Ocean Ave School Trail	end of Irving St or at school, depending on whether school is in session

Day 1 2pm Baxter Woods, 3:30 Baxter Pines	Baxter Woods & Baxter Pines	Stevens Ave for Bax Woods Leland for Bax Pines
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On Thu, Apr 25, 2024 at 9:19 PM Kara Wooldrik <kara@communitygeo.com> wrote:
Hello Portland Pals,

I've scouted all the trails and they are dry and firm enough for us to proceed. We plan to assess them next **Tuesday 4/30** and **Friday 5/3**.

HERE is the map of meeting places and the sections of trails we will assess. Please note that you will need to refer to this map. Due to a lack of accessibility not all meeting places are at the larger trailheads.

The Schedule:

Tuesday 10am	Mid-Slope Trail	East End Community School
Tuesday, 1pm	Ocean Ave School Trail	Ocean Avenue Elementary
Tuesday , 11:30	Lyseth/LM School Trail	Lyseth/Lyman Moore MS
Tuesday 2pm Baxter Woods, 3:30 Baxter Pines	Baxter Pines & Baxter Woods	Longfellow/Lincoln MS/Deer
Friday, 10 AM	part of Forest City Trail/Rowe School Trail	Amanda Rowe School
Frida noon	Riverton Rail Trail	Gerald Talbot Community Sc
Friday 2pm	A section of the Forest City Trail	PATHS/CBHS

Enock Glidden will be conducting these assessments. I may be present for a few of them. Enock will hang out for a few minutes after the start time at the meeting place but then will proceed on his own if no one shows. But, you aren't going to want to miss out. Enock is happy to answer questions and offer advice while you check out the trail. He will be recording trail surface, slope, width, cross slope, treadway disruptions, trail communications and wayfinding and resting spots. All of that will go into the written reports that you will receive in a few weeks.

We hope that each of you can join us for at least one or two reviews and that you might invite commission/committee members, councilors or others who make decisions on priorities and budgets in your department or organization. As you can see from the schedule, some assessments will take more/less time but I also built in some time for lunch.

Let me know if you have any questions! I hope this effort will help increase access and inclusion on trails in Portland. It would be helpful, but not imperative, for us to know who/how many we might expect at the different locations. You can just reply to me and Enock.

Best,
Kara

On Tue, Apr 2, 2024 at 12:56 PM Kara Wooldrik <kara@communitygeo.com> wrote:
Hello Portland colleagues!

Happy Spring! I am swinging back around now that we have funding and clarity on this project. Umaru, we haven't met yet, but I look forward to meeting you soon. And, Liz, nice to reconnect with you! Alex, if you don't need to be in on these communications, just let me know.

The Plan: We received funding to help increase accessibility of trails near schools (trailhead within 1/2 mile of school). Our focus is on the 100's of small changes that make a big difference in including/excluding people, particularly those with mobility challenges, from trail experiences. (we are not focused on ADA) You can see more details below in the email chain. This Spring we were planning to work with all 5th grade teachers and the Experiential Learning team at PPS to have students assess trails near schools. That was disrupted a few weeks ago when the Experiential Learning team was laid off. We have pivoted.

The Update: We are still going to assess trails near schools in Portland. (but without students) We have chosen which trails meet our criteria. (list below) This usually costs clients about \$1000 per assessment. Because of grant funding and our shared desire to make the most heavily visited trails more accessible to more people, we are offering this to the City and Portland Trails for free with the hope that some of these changes will be enacted this season. For trail maintenance folks, it's hard to unsee what a difference a trailhead or bridge makes. For communications folks, it makes so much sense once you know.

Logistics:

- We hope to complete these by the end of April but trail conditions are going to determine the timeline. We do not have dates yet.
- Your team will learn the most by having reps visit a trail with us, observing what it is like to navigate the trails using a wheelchair, asking questions...etc. Best when it is a group of no more than 5 people.
- Feel free to invite a city councilor or land bank or parks commissioner...whoever can help increase access and inclusion to outdoor places in Portland in the short and long term.
- We will write up an assessment report that you can give to committees, funders, your communications' colleagues...etc.

Trails:

Mid-Slope Trail -near EECS
Ocean Ave School Trail
Lyseth School Trail
Baxter Pines &/or Baxter Woods
Rowe School Trail (both sides of school)
Riverton Rail Trail

Next step: After we can assess this week's weather impact, Enock and I will choose 3-4 dates and let you know. Because of the number of people involved, I'm thinking that it's going to work best if we create a schedule for each day of when we will be at each trailhead and you can join us when it works for you. Make sense? Reach out with any questions or if you want to have a conversation.

Happy Spring!
Best,
Kara

On Mon, Apr 24, 2023 at 10:47 PM Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov> wrote:

Hi Kara,

Good to hear from you. Thanks for your patience here. I am digging out of some backlogged emails. We are always looking for ways to improve accessibility but per usual we are strapped with capacity at this time and a backlog of projects we are chipping away at. It would still be great to know what the barriers are that could be broken down and see what we could work towards.

Alex

On Mon, Apr 3, 2023 at 12:54 PM Jaime Parker <jaime@trails.org> wrote:

Kara, great to hear from you in your new role!

As you know, more accessibility and access is a goal shared by both PT and the City. In fact, we recently submitted a grant application to AARP for the Evergreen Woods loop we have been talking about for some time now. I had come across Enock's article about Evergreen (and Hinckley Woods) on MTF and actually linked to it in the grant app. We don't know if we got the grant yet, but regardless, we would absolutely love to work with you and Enock at Evergreen and elsewhere. I was thinking about reaching out to the Portland Wheeler's as well since they would be consistent users.

I'm so glad you're doing this work! Reach out anytime, and I'll let you know when we hear from AARP.

Best,
Jaime

Jaime Parker
Trails and Placemaking
Portland Trails
jaime@trails.org
329.6180

Non Sibi, Sed Omnibus

On Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 1:13 PM Kara Wooldrik <kara@communitygeo.com> wrote:
Hello Alex, Ethan, Daniel and Jaime.

Happy Spring! I hope you are all well and enjoying the increased daylight hours!

I am working for Community Geographics (developer of Maine Trail Finder) and we have two different initiatives that I'm bringing together. My colleague does [physical trail accessibility assessments and workshops to help land managers reduce barriers for people living with disabilities](#). We want to bring this work to trails near schools to help more students and teachers use outdoor trails and spaces as classrooms. So, there will be a 2-part process that can, in some cases, be merged into one.

1. Enock does a walk/roll through with the people that maintain the trails and spaces and those who make decisions to fund those. So, in Portland, that's going to be City staff, Portland Trails, possibly Land Bank and an elected official.

2. Enock and I do a walk/roll through with students and teachers and help students assess the trails for accessibility and start to see the trail/space through different perspectives. There are a lot of ways this could roll out...focused on students who also use mobility devices or it can be for everyone, for afterschool kidsunlimited options really.

I'm reaching out to you about #1. And, I am checking in with Katie West about #2. I'm writing a grant proposal that would include funding to do these assessments and programs for free for 6 schools/districts/communities across the state for school year '23-'24. We are prioritizing areas where a trail connects multiple schools or includes a community center ...places where this will provide access to more people after the school day/weekends/summer. In Portland, PATHS/CBHS seems like one of the places to have the most impact. At this juncture, I just want to get a sense of interest from you. Do you think this would be of interest to your team? We will be asking land managers to commit to taking action to reduce barriers to natural spaces if they are getting this service for free. (not eliminating all identified barriers....just moving in that direction by reducing barriers) Just to be clear, this is not an ADA assessment like you would have with some of your other City facilities and parks. Enock goes into depth on the philosophy and the approach to reducing barriers to helping folks explore natural surfaces and spaces.

Hope you are well!

Kara

--

Kara Wooldrik (she/her)
Outdoor Inclusion Specialist
Center for Community Geographics
[Maine Trail Finder](#)

--
Alex Marshall
Parks Director



Amarshall@portlandmaine.gov

Phone: (207) 808-5400

Fax: (207) 828 - 1631

"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better" - Einstein

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.

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Kara Wooldrik (she/her)
Outdoor Inclusion Specialist
Community Geographics | Maine Trail Finder

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Kara Wooldrik (she/her)
Outdoor Inclusion Specialist
Community Geographics | Maine Trail Finder

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Kara Wooldrik (she/her)
Outdoor Inclusion Specialist
Community Geographics | Maine Trail Finder

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Kara Wooldrik (she/her)
Outdoor Inclusion Specialist
Community Geographics | Maine Trail Finder

Baseball fields 1 view



Lauren Hale

Apr 28, 2024, 7:47:39 AM (4 days ago)



to ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov

Comment for your next meeting:

The baseball/t-ball fields need attention. Could someone properly rake the fields and put some new dirt down so the kids can even see where the bases are? Particularly the t-ball fields but also Carter field over on Eastern Prom. Thanks for your consideration.

Lauren Hale
18 Neal St



Parks Commission March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

There were technical issues in the recording of this meeting. The first 40 minutes were video recorded live. The video recording was uploaded to the Agenda Portal. Halfway through the meeting the wifi and Zoom went out and could not be restored. The meeting was paused in the middle. The second part of the meeting was recorded by these written minutes.

Call to Order:

Jaime Parker called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

Present Commission Members: John Clark, Ashley Burdick, Beth Rabbitt, Jaime Parker (Chair), Robert Foster, Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Helen Coyne, Stephen Bentsen, Katie Mears, Kristen Fulmer, Marie Gray, William Elting

Not Present: Donna Gartland, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor),

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

General Citizen Comment Period:

Jaime Parker opened the floor to citizen comment. The following individuals spoke: George Reault

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes February 1, 2024 ; Motion to approve by Katie Mears seconded by John Clark; 8 approved 1 abstain

New Business

Special Projects-Battle of Deering Oaks signage:

Alex M. provided an overview of the need for the Parks Commission to provide volunteers to create the new interpretive signs for Deering Oaks Park. Commissioners discuss several ideas about how to go about the project. Rob Foster and Beth Rabbitt volunteered to get the interpretive sign project underway. The Parks Commission will review the project during the process. Interpretive signage attention citywide was discussed.

Old Business

Meeting Schedule and Calendar:

The proposal is for the full commission and staff to meet every other month for an agenda Parks commission meeting. In the off months the commission will meet for workshop meetings that would be publicly noticed but not recorded. At any time if a full meeting is needed the chair can propose the commission meet for a full meeting if it happens to be a workshop month. Starting April 2024 would be the first workshop meeting month.

Alex M. provided a preliminary Calendar outline. All months need to be publicly noticed.

Vote: Motion to approve suggested calendar change by Beth Rabbit seconded by Alexis Lopez

Del Vecchio. Motion approved Unanimously

Committee assignments:

Community outreach: Donna, Will, Helen, Katie, Alexis, Stephen and Marie

Annual Report: Jaime and Beth

Parks initiative: John, Beth and Robert

Finance Development: rolled into report. Parks conservancy does fundraising. Determined not needed. Could be a vacant committee until it becomes necessary.

Green Space Gathering:

Date: May 2nd 2024

Location: Talbot School

Topic: Accessibility-what does it mean for parks to be accessible?

- park accessibility and goals such as 10 minute walk to a park.
- Guest speaker.
- Alternate transportation and prizes.
- Park and friends neighborhood groups. Opportunity for panel conversation. Also identify neighborhoods without friends group
- Alex suggested NOT using RTP for mapping parks because it is not updated
- Can See Click Fix data be used for determining park equity and accessibility. What parks are getting the most attention?

Friends Group List:

Friends and neighborhoods contact list emailed to everyone. Work on this list will be conducted by the community outreach committee. The Committee can use the existing lists as a starting point and then update or build on them as needed.

Communications and Updates

Parks Division Report:

Emerald Ash Borer Memo is included in the Parks Division report attachment. EAB has been the sole focus of the Forestry team. Alex M. provided an update about the infested tree removal process and answered questions from the commission. Huge losses to the city canopy. Beth R asks how the community can help? Be proactive on private property. Direct questions to trees@portlandmaine.gov. Be kind to city staff. Diversify tree plantings.

Land Bank Commission Report:

No updates.

Stroudwater Preserve: Camelot farms has a recreation easement.

North Deering Park: Approved by City Council at the March 4th City Council meeting, and has been added to chapter 18

Thomas Park: Approved by City Council at the March 4th City Council meeting, and has been added to chapter 18

Emerald Ash Borer:

topic was covered in the Parks Division Report

Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

Committee assignments

Biodiversity standards for future tree plantings

Stroudwater Preserve

Adjournment



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

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

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

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

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: April/May 2024

Parks Division Staffing

- Total Budgeted positions in Parks Division: 39
- Vacancies:
 - Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker I
 - Parks Project Manager
 - Horticulturist
 - Parks, Playgrounds, Ballfields, Horticulture & Forestry Seasonals

Citywide Unhoused Report

At this time there are 16 encampments citywide which is down 19 from the March report. This is likely due to a large private encampment removal of 17 tents that have not been located in other areas of the city yet. Last year at this time there were 116 tents citywide. Park Rangers continue to tag and remove between 5-10 tents from City land each week, and conduct a thorough clean up afterwards. Our team of two full time park rangers was just recently increased to a team of three full time rangers to help keep up with the demands that have been put upon that team. There continues to be steady capacity available at the shelter which allows staff to continue to tag and remove tents on public property.

Storm Recap and Cleanup

The March 23rd and April 4th storms combined resulted in extensive tree damage citywide with an unprecedented 50 unique tree calls/issues. Forestry Staff were plowing public safety buildings when weather conditions changed and thrust them into tree storm response mode which is where they remained for the next month. There are still several weeks of cleanup required, and multiple departments and contractors are working overtime to clear any remaining brush from the storms.

Earth Day 'Thank You'

Year after year the Portland Community steps up around Earth Day to show their appreciation for Public Spaces. We are grateful for the annual support in sprucing up each of these special places around this beautiful city and getting them ready for the season. Our crews have been challenged with storm cleanup so these extra efforts from the community are incredibly helpful. Thank you!

CIP Update

The Citywide CIP has been approved by the full City Council. Below is the final list of projects that were approved for Parks, Recreation & Facilities:



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

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

1. Title IX Construction for Payson Park	\$300,000
2. Riverton Pool	\$2,300,000
3. Back Cove Re-pave Tukey's Bridge Approach	\$295,000
4. Eastern Promenade Food Truck Court Electricity	\$50,000
5. Ice Arena Chiller Refurbishment	\$200,000
6. Reiche Playground Replacement	\$500,000
7. Stone Street Playground Design & Engineering	\$40,000
8. Golf Course Improvements	\$50,000
9. Payson Park Tennis Court Lights	\$200,000
10. Congress Square Park Redesign(Planning Dept. Request)	\$750,000
Total = \$4,685,000	

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Deering Oaks Park ADA Walkway improvements: Phase three providing ADA access to the wading ravine was completed this past Summer. Phase 4, which is the sidewalk along Tennis Court Drive, is under design development currently in hopes of breaking ground in the Summer or Fall of 2024.
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. This improvement will be coordinated with stadium improvements that USL Portland will be conducting to prepare the stadium for the 2025 season.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans have been finalized. There have been some construction delays that will push the installation of the field back to the Spring of 2025 with field play to begin in the Fall of 2025 or Spring of 2026.
- 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.
- Longfellow Elementary School Playground: Parks Staff are working with a design consultant on the construction drawings and bid documents for a Winter/Spring 2024 bid and Summer/Fall 2024 construction.
- Portland Harbor Common: Bid documents are being prepared and the project should go out to bid in Fall of 2024, with construction starting late fall 2024 or spring 2025.