

City of Portland Parks Commission Agenda



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.

Commission Members:

Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Ashley Burdick, Beth Rabbitt, Donna Gartland, Elizabeth Pagan, Griffin Bourassa, Helen Coyne, Jaime Parker, John Clark, Marie Gray, Robert Foster, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor), William Elting.

Staff: Alex Marshall (Parks Division Director), Jessica Teesdale (staff)

October 3, 2024 at 5:00 PM

On the First Thursday of the month at 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission will hold a meeting at City Hall in the Kippy Richardson Conference Room 24 located on the ground level.

The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting in-person. Public comments may only be submitted in person or in writing. 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 meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the person'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).

To watch this meeting remotely, please visit: <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6747/media>

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
 - a. Public Comment emails 9.4.2024-10.2.2024
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: September 5, 2024
 - b. New Business
 - i. FY 2025 goals
 - ii. Chair/Vice Chair vote
 - c. Old Business
 - i. CIP vote
 - ii. Commission Committee review
 - tasks for November strategy meeting
 - d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Division Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report

iii. Meeting location move to 212 Canco Rd. conference room

e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment

Sean Randall

Oct 1, 2024, 11:38:31 PM (14 hours ago)

to parksco...@portlandmaine.gov

Hi all,

My name is Sean Randall. I'm a 31 year old resident of Portland. The purpose of my comment is to call attention to the need for further amenities to be installed at the Portland Skatepark in order to increase park safety and user accessibility. This is one of Portland's most popular recreational parks, constantly utilized by patrons of all ages, including many families. The park is a well loved and important public space that offers a safe and inclusive environment for social interaction and physical activity.

The skatepark itself is premier, arguably the best in the state, which makes its lack of basic utilities even more obvious.

Firstly, and most important to riders, is skatepark lighting. It's a common skatepark amenity, especially for a park of this caliber. Installing lights would vastly improve accessibility during much of the year when daylight is limited. It would increase safety by improving visibility for riders and discouraging unsavory activity such as vandalism and drug use. Providing lighting is an easy way to maximize the untapped potential of an already existing park. Portland already has a number of public parks that offer lighting, so I would imagine that we might follow the logistics that are already in place(e.g. button operated to turn on, timer, set shut-off time etc).

Secondly, I want to highlight the need for a water fountain. I'm honestly amazed that this hasn't yet been addressed. In the entire Dougherty Field complex, including three baseball fields, two soccer fields, a playground, and a skatepark, there isn't one place to take a drink or fill up a water bottle. People need a way to hydrate, especially considering that the field hosts a number of summer camps.

Lastly, and probably easiest to address is the need for shade. The sun beats down relentlessly at the skatepark with almost no shade in sight. To avoid the risk of heat stroke patrons need a place to get some relief. A shade structure with a bench or picnic table underneath would do wonders not only for riders but also for family members who are there to spectate.

I've already begun petitioning and fundraising for these goals as well as completed a CIP proposal, so I thought this meeting would be a good place to bring attention to the cause.

Thank you for your attention.

-Sean

Sean Randall

[207-405-9977](tel:207-405-9977)

kcap...@maine.rr.com

Sep 27, 2024, 1:16:48 AM (6 days ago)
to ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan Hipple

Alex Marshall (Parks Division Director), Jessica Teesdale (staff)

I specifically asked Ethan Hipple to include an issue on the agenda for the Parks Commission meeting.

The issue was related to obtaining permission to do a temporary archeological excavation to recover historical artifacts on public property beyond the restrictions listed in City ordinances (minor digging for metal detecting (**under 6"**) on hundreds of acres of **wooded** and **Beach** property in Portland). <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1181/Park-Rules-and-Regulations>

I asked to undertake soil probes in public parks and lands. The ordinance needs to be modified to allow such digs so that the artifacts are not destroyed by other activities on these properties.

One place I would like to probe, and dig, is the old saloon on Stevens Avenue. I believe there is a trash pit and/or outhouse on that site with historical artifacts therein. There are several other demolished house sites that would be worth exploring. And the old trotting track near Fore River behind Westgate.

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]

Ethan Hipple

Sep 27, 2024, 3:37:48 PM (5 days ago)

to KenCapron1, ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Jaime Parker, Alex Marshall, Jessica Teesdale

Ken, for your information I do not set the agenda for the Parks Commission. That is done by our Commission Chair Jamie Parker and our Parks Division Director Alex Marshall. You are free to come speak to the commission during public comment, and if they are interested in pursuing this further, they can always add it as an agenda item in the future.

Take care,

Ethan

Ethan Hipple

Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department

Portland, Maine

kcap...@maine.rr.com

Sep 4, 2024, 3:10:36 PM

to ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan Hipple, in...@portlandparksconservancy.org

What is the policy/practice for getting permission to excavate small areas in order to reveal old artifacts as part of a study of historic consumption and various social indicators?

I have done amateur archeology since the late 1960s here in Maine. I have recently begun a project to video the digging of select sites to recover glassware and china and other artifacts that might be used to evaluate the lifestyle and affluence of past inhabitants. Results may include various poisons and hazardous chemicals, and opium-based medicines. Some testing may be performed to detect PFAS at depth and other factors. At each dig site, an inventory of contents recovered, and a copy of the video and a copy of any additional historical references will be provided to the parks organization(s) of Portland and may be contributed to a museum or historical society if one exists in Portland.

The era of dig sites should predate WWI.

How does one get permission, and what rules/requirements may apply.

Thank you,

Kenneth A. Capron, ret. CPA, Systems Engineer

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kcapron1@maine.rr.com

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[Southern Maine Research Institute]

[SkyWay by MicroRail]

[Hope Harbor]

Ethan Hipple

Sep 4, 2024, 6:41:22 PM

to KenCapron1, ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Jesse Portland Parks Conservancy, Alex Marshall, Jen DeRice

Hi Ken,

We do get requests from folks on occasion who want to do metal detecting or other digging in parks. We allow metal detecting and hand digging on our beaches and in wooded areas only, and we ask that all hand dug holes are filled in. Any excavation beyond a 6 inch hand dug hole would not be allowed.

You can see our guidelines for that here:

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1181/Park-Rules-and-Regulations>

Take care,

Ethan

Ethan Hipple

Director of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department

Portland, Maine

kcap...@maine.rr.com

Sep 7, 2024, 12:32:28 PM

to Ethan Hipple, ParksCo...@portlandmaine.gov, Jesse Portland Parks Conservancy, Alex Marshall, Jen DeRice

You know, if the parks are intended for the recreation for the public but you restrict simple things like archeology, that is just shortsighted. I don't ride a bike or skateboard. I dig up history. That's my recreation, my hobby and maybe a business startup. Some digs can go as deep as 12 - 14 feet.

Portland should allow limited historical archeology, with permitting.

Most notably, whenever/wherever the ground is opened up, there is a high probability that some artifact(s) will be found at depth. Whether it's unique pottery or a one-of-a-kind bottle or glassware or the remains of an old boat, whatever it is, it is part of the history of our region.

Kenneth A. Capron, ret. CPA, Systems Engineer

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kcapron1@maine.rr.com

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[Hope Harbor]

City of Portland | Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple, *Director*

Alex Marshall, *Director of Parks*



Parks Commission September 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was recorded and is available to watch on the Agendas and Meetings Portal

Here: <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6746/media>

Present Commission Members:Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Beth Rabbitt, Donna Gartland, Griffin Bourassa, Helen Coyne, Jaime Parker(chair), Marie Gray, Robert Foster, William Elting

Not Present: Ashley Burdick, Elizabeth Pagan, John Clark, Victoria Pelletier (city councilor)

Staff: Alex Marshall (Parks Director), Jessica Teesdale

Call to Order

General Citizen Comment Period- none

Emailed comments-Public comment emails 5/1/2024-9/4/2024 (attached to agenda)

The commission discusses Baxter Woods leash rules and agrees that the current rules do not require further discussion

J.Parker provides update on Martins point public access trail re: Martins point expansion. Portland Trails is working with developers to make sure the public trail remains accessible.

Agenda Items

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: May 2, 2024

Motion to accept meeting minutes: D. Gartland; seconded by H. Coyne

passed: unanimously with G. Bourassa abstaining.

Commissioner Introductions

- Parks Commission Mission Statement

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- Committee Goals

B. Rabbitt provided a power point that provides an update on the Parks Commission, charter, mission, and goals. Coordinating with friends groups is a function of the Parks Commission. What would it look like to reach people more equitably through activating the friends groups?

A. Marshall provides an update on how the city has been working on GIS mapping that provides data on the accessibility of parks within a 10-minute walk to parks and open spaces. Jaime Parker suggests using new data as a benchmark to address the quality and safety of the routes to access open spaces and parks.

Is there a need for an updated community needs assessment?

- Objectives from 2023 annual report
- 2025 Priorities and Committees

Alternate meetings and strategy sessions every other month. October CIP Vote meeting. November will be a strategy meeting.

Annual Report and Finance Committee– B. Rabbitt and J. Parker

Outreach Committee (includes Greenspace Gathering)– D. Gartland, A.L.DelVecchio, H. Coyne, W. Elting

Special Projects Committee– R. Foster, M. Gray

- Commissioner terms, Chair and Vice Chair terms– A decision was made to hold a vote at the next meeting for chair and vice chair positions.

New Business

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

A.Marshall reviews the CIP with the commission providing updates on projects from the list, the process of how the projects are chosen, and answers questions from the commission about CIP projects.

Old Business

Communications and Updates

Parks Division Report

Land Bank Commission Report

Commissioner Requests for Agenda Items

Chair and Vice Chair nominations and vote

Forestry plan update

Adjournment

	DRAFT, as of 8/30/2024										
	<i>The following schedule illustrates the long term plan for upkeep and improvements of Portland Parks and Open</i>										
	<i>Projects marked with *** are NEW projects proposed by Friends/Neighborhood Groups, not previously on City CIP.</i>										
Note: FY26 Projects approved in March of 2025		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Annual Total	District	\$4,331,000	\$5,160,000	\$8,570,000	\$6,140,000	\$6,000,000	\$11,675,000	\$2,775,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,162,000	\$1,825,000
Athletic Facilities											
Deering High School Field Upgrades	5				\$200,000	\$275,000					
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 Multi-use Field Renovation w/ Irrigation	3	\$250,000									
Fencing: Softball field at Talbot School	1				\$50,000						
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 - USL having done in 2025	2										
Fox St Irrigation Replacement	1				\$75,000						
Ludlow Baseball Field Upgrades	5					\$500,000					
Memorial Stadium Concession Stand Replacement	5							\$500,000			
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									\$1,000,000	
Gravel Road Reconstruction (Evergreen and Forest City) - Could be paid for by trusts	5		\$100,000								
Green Burial Area Development (Evergreen)	5			\$30,000							
Pond Restoration Engineering	5				\$30,000						
Pond Restoration Construction	5						\$500,000				
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		\$150,000								
Court Resurfacing: Various Tennis/Pickleball & Basketball	Various	\$50,000			\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000
Deering High School Tennis Court Resurfacing	5				\$75,000						
Deering Oaks Tennis Court Lights--Add (May be done in 2024/2025)	2				\$350,000						
Deering Oaks Tennis and Basketball Court Repaving	2		\$500,000								
Dougherty Field Basketball Pavilion	3					\$150,000					
Eastern Prom Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	1							\$50,000			
Fox Field Basketball Court Repaving	1					\$300,000					
Longfellow Basketball Drainage and Reconstruction and Conversion to Basketball/Futsal	5		\$175,000								
Payson Additional Basketball Court	4				\$150,000						
Peaks Island Multi-use Pickleball/Basketball Courts (2)***	1							\$300,000			
Pickleball Court Construction (NEW) - Location TBD	TBD			\$300,000							
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--ADA	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		
Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing--Farmers Market Rd. (State to Deering)	2					\$300,000					
Deering Oaks Bandstand Replacement--ADA	2					\$500,000					
Deering Oaks Pond Plaza and Dock--ADA	2							\$100,000			
Deering Oaks Pond Wall Reconstruction	2	\$1,900,000		\$400,000							
Deering Oaks Ravine Wading Pool Rehab--ADA	2			\$475,000							
Deering Oaks Rose Circle Entrance--Convert to Brick--ADA	2					\$75,000					
East End Beach Bath House Replacement--ADA	1					\$1,000,000					
East End Recreational Boat Ramp Reconstruction	1		\$300,000								
Eastern Prom Cleeves Accident Fence Reconstruction	1		\$50,000								
Eastern Prom Cleeves Monument ADA Plaza	1		\$125,000								
Eastern Prom Cutter Street/Parking Reno--ADA (joint project with Public Works)	1			\$2,750,000							
Fencing: Eastern Prom Sewage Treatment Plant Replacement with guardrail	1	\$156,000									
Fort Gorges Composting Toilets	1						\$100,000				
Fort Gorges Parapet	1							\$250,000			
Fort Gorges Preservation Plan (Structural Stabilization)	1		\$120,000	\$200,000							
Fort Gorges Sea Level Rise Intervention	1								\$250,000		

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Fort Gorges Wharf Reconstruction (materials and engineering)	1		\$100,000								
Fort Sumner Reconstruction--ADA	1								\$450,000		
Fort Sumner Trail Lighting--to be paid for by Friends Group	1										
Harborview Concrete Stair and Plaza: Resurfacing with Granite	2		\$100,000								
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--ADA	2				\$150,000						
Payson Park Front Street Entrance Plaza Improvements and Cross-Park Trail to Baseball Parking Lot- Possible C3 or Portland Housing Authority funding--ADA	4		\$200,000								
Payson Park Skating Rink Improvements (Expansion)	4				\$75,000						
Payson Park Parking: Reconstructing Sledding Hill Parking Lot--ADA	4		\$250,000								
Picnic Pavillion: Deering Oaks and Payson Park--ADA	various			\$150,000		\$150,000					
Quarry Run Dog Park Expansion and Renovation (Invasives Removal, Trail resurfacing, fence replacement)--ADA	4			\$100,000							
Stroudwater Bridge: connecting Stroudwater Trails with Fore River Preserve	3	\$160,000									
Veranda Street Waterfront Open Space landscaping - MDOT property	4		\$150,000								
Western Prom "NEW" Sidewalk along Western Cemetery--ADA	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--ADA	2				\$250,000		\$250,000				
Western Prom Valley Street Trail and Stone Retaining Wall Repair/Rebuild Phase II	2	\$150,000									
Western Prom Vista Clearing and Plantings	2			\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000			
Western Prom Walkway Lighting	2				\$200,000						
Western Prom Walkway Reconstruction, Phase II--ADA	2					\$150,000					
Playgrounds, Skateparks, and Fitness Courses											
Adams School Playground	1										\$250,000
Deering Oaks Playground	2							\$650,000			
East End School Playground	1			\$450,000							
East End School Playground Design	1		\$50,000								

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Fox Field Playground	1					\$300,000					
Great Diamond Island Playground	1							\$150,000			
Harborview Aging in Place Fitness Course	2	\$50,000									
Hesletine Park Playground	4						\$250,000				
Munjoy South Playground	1					\$550,000					
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								\$250,000		
Peaks Island Skate Park	1			\$150,000							
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							
Rowe School Playground Design	5									\$50,000	
Rowe School Playground	5										\$600,000
Stone Street Playground--Upgrade and Splashpad Erosion Issues	1	\$450,000									
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				\$500,000						
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						
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 (Arboretum Road)	4		\$150,000								
Recreation Facilities											

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Community Center Planning				\$200,000							
Community Center Construction							\$10,000,000				
Reiche Pool Filter	2				\$115,000						
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	
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	\$50,000		
Bridge over Dole Brook	5										
Bunker Renovation--North Course	5									\$987,000	
Bunker Renovation--South Course	5				\$250,000						
Cart Building Building Replacement-North & South Estimate	5			\$900,000							
Irrigation system replacement	5	\$150,000									
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 - PSO/POV/Opera offering funding	1	\$300,000									
Merrill Seating Replacement	1			\$100,000							
Outdoor venues - Barricades		\$140,000									
Prior 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.								

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Note: FY26 Projects approved in March of 2025		2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034
Annual Total	District	\$4,331,000	\$5,160,000	\$8,570,000	\$6,140,000	\$6,000,000	\$11,675,000	\$2,775,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,162,000	\$1,825,000
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								



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Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Ethan Hipple, Director

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Alex Marshall, Parks Director

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

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

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: September 2024

Parks Division Staffing

- Total Budgeted positions in Parks Division: 39
- Vacancies:
 - Parks Project Manager x2
 - Park Ranger
 - Forestry Supervisor

Citywide Unhoused Report

At this time there are 42 encampments citywide which is slightly down from 45 at the beginning of September. Overall, in 2024, City Staff (primarily Rangers), have tagged and removed 572 tents citywide with the first record being the January resolution of Harbor View's 92 tent sites. Last year in September there was a high of 244 tents recorded around the city with a yearly high of 282 on October 6, 2023. Park Rangers continue to tag and remove between 10-30 tents from City land each week and conduct a thorough clean-up afterward. There continues to be steady capacity available at the shelter.

Baxter Woods Trail Enhancements

The Baxter Woods Trails saw some major upgrades over the last two weeks with upwards of 75 yards of material having been added to fix erosion areas and provide an elevation where water will run off during our heavier rainstorms. These improvements have made for a much-improved experience in this beautiful space.

Annual Meadow Mowing

Each season the parks team identifies and promotes 'no mow' or 'low mow' areas within the parks. These areas are typically established in underutilized spaces that would be better served to promote pollinator habitat and activity. In order to keep these meadows flush with natives and desired vegetation, we need to mow them annually so that woody plants and invasives do not overrun them. This schedule starts around the end of September and through October as there is an incredible amount of ground to cover before snowfall. Some locations see a mowing in the late Spring after insects have left the space.

Riverton Trolley Park Volunteer Planting Day

The Riverton Trolley Park Meadow project is making some incredible headway as of late. The spaces that



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were planted last year are looking lush and beautiful and the tarped areas from this Summer are ready to see new plants and seed. The Parks Conservancy, Maine Audubon and Parks Division are all banding together to do a volunteer planting day next Wednesday the 9th from 8 am - 12 pm. They will be working on planting the 700 or so plugs that have been purchased for this project. There is another City Staff event happening the following day where additional planting will be done, invasives will be removed, trash will be disposed of and trails will be resurfaced.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Deering Oaks Park ADA Walkway improvements: Phase 3, providing ADA access to the wading ravine was completed in the Summer of 2023. Phase 4, which is the sidewalk along Tennis Court Drive, is under design development currently in hopes of going out to bid this Fall for Spring 2025 construction.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: The 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: This project has been bid out. Anticipated groundbreaking to occur in the Spring of 2025.
- Longfellow Elementary School Playground: Parks Staff are working with a design consultant on the construction drawings and bid documents for a Winter 2024 bid and Summer 2025 construction.
- Portland Harbor Common: Bid documents are being prepared and the project should go out to bid in the Fall of 2024, with construction potentially starting in the spring of 2025.
- Stroudwater Bridge: Fundraising and permitting is still ongoing for this project to proceed. So far we have raised \$210,000 of the \$365,000 needed to continue bidding.
- Public Restrooms: So far, the city has installed 15 new public restrooms citywide over the past 3 years. There are another 3 new vaulted toilets to be installed this coming Fall at Preble Field and Valley Street along with vault modifications being done at Eastern Prom, Fox Field, and the Fish Pier.