



Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Nathan Robbins, Zack Anchors, Shaylyn MacKinnon, Maya Lena, Jaime Parker and Mayor Kate Snyder.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda

June 3, 2021

5:00 PM

On Thursday, June 3rd 2021, at 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission will conduct a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91710859101?pwd=MUVLWTVFRG5jUFNxSHIEcTFISk8wZz09> Passcode:

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Or Telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 917 1085 9101

Passcode: 480730

*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.*

- I. General Citizen Comment Period
- II. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: May 6th 2021
 - b. Old Business
 - i. Discussion of Greenspace Gathering
 - ii. Parks Handbook - Next Steps
 - iii. Needle Exchange Letter Follow-up
 - iv. Land Acknowledgement Discussion
 - c. New Business
 - i. Parks Commission Election - **VOTE**
 - d. Communications/Updates
 - i. Parks Report
 - ii. Land Bank Report

City of Portland Commissions are not required to take public comment under FOAA and our Ordinance is silent regarding the duties of the Commission. The Commission has the discretion to not allow or allow public comment during its meetings, including the authority to limit the duration of comments. Since the Commission makes recommendations to the City Council, public comment is available at that level.

- iii. Sub Committee Reports
- iv. Update on CIP Process
- v. Choose Parks Commission Summer Meeting Date



Commission Members:

Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Ana Lagunez, Marie Gray, Nathan Robbins, Zack Anchors, Shaylyn MacKinnon, Maya Lena. **Staff:** Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall and Samara Ray

**City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
May 6, 2021
5:00 PM**

On Thursday May 6th at 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission conducted a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

No citizen comment.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: April 1st, 2021

Michael proposed acceptance with one wording change on the April minutes. The change will be made on the agenda packet. Marie seconded and the minutes were passed unanimously.

b. Old Business

i. Parks Handbook Draft Vote

The revised Parks Handbook has been developed by the Finance Committee after the Strategic Planning meeting. This handbook overviews Friends Groups and their relationships with the Parks Department and sets out the roles for each. This handbook also serves as a welcome packet to new commissioners. Commissioners shared their thanks to the Finance Committee and Commisor Michael for the work done in preparing this document. Marie made a motion to accept the Parks Handbook, Nathan seconded and it passed unanimously.

c. New Business

i. Needle Exchange Letter Vote

Ethan explained that the City runs a needle exchange program that is licensed through the state and has been ongoing for some years. The current policy is 1:1 to keep needle users safe. During the pandemic the State allowed for more needles exchanged at one time. The City stayed with the 1:1 policy. Recently the Health and Human Services Committee held a workshop about expanding the 1:1 policy. The Parks Division testified about the impact of discarded needles in the Parks. Parks staff have gotten stuck by discarded needles in the past. Last year the Parks Division picked up 6,000 needles. Some of the Parks Commissioners have expressed weighing in on the issue so the City Council knows how the Parks Commission feels on this issue. The letter would give feedback to the City Council from the Parks Commission. There are presently needle disposal receptacles throughout the city. Cynthia explained that this letter would go to the Health and Human Service Committee in an effort to support Park staff. Shaylyn noted that the wording was concerning since it did not take to light national standards on needle policies. She suggested edits to the proposed letter that would include: supporting national policy, including

facts based on needle collection data and supporting practices that are best for the parks system. Nathan, Zach, Maya and Ana shared they would be in favor of this approach. Cynthia has already spoken with Amy and Jon and they are in favor of the letter as is. Michael, Marie, Cynthia, Amy, and Jon will sign the letter individually and send it to the Health and Human Services Committee.

Amendment- Nathan is interested in the Commission discussing this issue further before sending out a letter.

ii. Land Acknowledgement Resources Conversation

The idea of creating a Land Acknowledgement statement came up in the Parks Initiative sub committee. This would be an opportunity for education on the indigenous people of Portland. The Land Acknowledgement statement would be a written statement that would be approved by the Wabanaki REACH before the Parks Commission were to use it. Shaylyn is looking into this topic further and will discuss her findings at the June Commission meeting.

iii. June 3rd Parks Commission meeting at Lincoln Park

The June Parks Commission meeting will be held in person by the fountain at Lincoln Park. Bring a chair if you are planning on attending. If there is inclement weather the meeting will be held via Zoom.

d. Communications/Updates

i. Land Bank Commission Report

ii. Parks Report

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

GUIDE TO INDIGENOUS LAND AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

What is an Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgement?

An Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgement is a statement that recognizes the Indigenous peoples who have been dispossessed from the homelands and territories upon which an institution was built and currently occupies and operates in. For some, an Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgement might be an unfamiliar practice, but it is a common protocol within Indigenous communities in the United States and is a standard practice in both Australia and Canada. The terms “Land” and “Territorial” are not necessarily interchangeable, and the decision as to their use should be specific and local, pertaining to those Indigenous people who are being acknowledged as well as to those legacies and responsibilities of an institution that are also being acknowledged. In this guide, a preference for land acknowledgement is made in keeping with advocacy acknowledging Lenapehoking as Lenape homeland. Within cultural institutions, these statements can be adopted in various ways. However it is vital that they be spoken as a verbal statement given at the beginning of programs or events. In addition, they can also be expressed through a text panel or plaque, and an acknowledgement on an institutional website.

Why are Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements Important?

The teaching of U.S. history, in schools, museums, and the media, has left out many voices and difficult truths in order to create an idealized nationalistic identity. The displacement of Indigenous peoples and the devastating effect that forced relocation has had on these communities has been largely hidden within the nationalist narratives. While many Indigenous nations have treaties with the United States government that designate land ownership, most only have rights to occupancy. Often the land on which Indigenous nations and communities reside is not the land to which they have ancestral ties, as many have experienced dispossession and displacement through colonization. However, the connection to homelands has endured by means of multiple and ongoing Indigenous strategies of resistance to settler colonialism. This connection is often central to cultural identity and worldview. The examples of Standing Rock and the Dakota Access Pipeline and the shrinking of the Bears Ears National Monument demonstrate that relationships to place and identity persist. The settler colonial state continues to struggle in the recognition of inherent Indigenous sovereignty and respect for homelands.

Why Cultural Institutions?

Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgements pertain to all places, especially to libraries, archives, museums, and universities, because it is their ethical obligation as educational institutions to create truthful and factual representations. These acknowledgements have an educational function that makes them universally applicable, regardless of an institution’s particular focus. They are about respecting and recognizing Indigenous peoples, and their relationships to land through the protocols of naming people, elders, ancestors, and the times of past to future. Acknowledgement statements confront institutional legacies as agents of colonialism. Cultural institutions have utilized deeply colonial methods to develop mainstream representations of the “other” as territory, in addition to perpetuating and reinforcing destructive colonial narratives. Further, because of the authority of cultural institutions, these narratives have been accepted as truth, informing policies that negatively affect Indigenous peoples. The ongoing effects of settler colonialism need to be addressed.

Suggestions for Creating your Land or Territorial Acknowledgement

Indigenous Land or Territorial Acknowledgements should be motivated by a genuine respect for Indigenous nations and communities. Reaching out to local Indigenous communities to ask how they would like to be acknowledged is crucial. This is the most respectful approach as it recognizes the sovereignty of Indigenous nations to define their own terms. Acknowledgements are a collaborative process to be formed through continuous relationships with Indigenous people. An acknowledgment begins as a spoken embodied action. It is also appropriate for institutions to adopt material versions (i.e., plaque or text panel). This practice should be integrated by institutional staff into the protocol of everyday proceedings, such as board meetings, gallery talks, and larger events. It is important and meaningful to have institutional representatives acknowledge the institutions' legacy and to indicate reckoning and a commitment to change within the institution.

Land or territorial acknowledgement statements can take many forms. The following is an example of an acknowledgement statement that could be used within a museum setting:

We are gathered on the unceded land of the () peoples. I ask you to join me in acknowledging the () community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. (Name of institution) also acknowledges that it was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples, including those on whose land this institution is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to beginning the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.

Cultural institutions have an obligation to support ongoing education as well as accurate and responsible representation. By harnessing institutional voice, there is a capacity to effect change into the future far beyond institutional walls.

Resources:

- This guide was designed to complement the USDAC's extensive #HonorNativeLand Guide, which can be found here: <https://usdac.us/nativeland/>.
- If you aren't sure which community or communities to acknowledge, <https://Native-Land.ca> is a great initial resource.
- This guide builds upon the important work that the Lenape Center, American Indian Community House, Rick Chavolla, Emily Johnson, and the New Red Order (NRO) have been doing with regard to land acknowledgements in Lenapehoking.
- Please reference the School for Advanced Research's "Museums+Communities: Guidelines for Collaboration": <https://sarweb.org/guidelinesforcollaboration/>.
- Eve Tuck and K. Wayne Yang's article, "Decolonization is not a metaphor" can help to contextualize this practice within a larger decolonization framework <https://decolonization.org/index.php/des/article/view/18630>.

Developed by: Felicia Garcia (Chumash), M.A. Museum Studies, New York University, 2018.

For further resources and information see: www.landacknowledgements.org

Please send any comments or questions to LandAcknowledgementGuide@gmail.com



Wabanaki REACH

Truth • Healing • Change

Land Acknowledgements

Resources for Learning and Teaching

LandAcknowledgements.org/

"The Guide to Indigenous Land and Territorial Acknowledgements for Cultural Institutions is a comprehensive guide for institutions such as museums, archives, libraries, and universities to recognize and respect Indigenous homelands, inherent sovereignty, and survivance."

USDAC.us/nativeland/

"Honor Native Land: A Guide and Call to Acknowledgement is a call on all individuals and organizations to open public events and gatherings with acknowledgment of the traditional Native inhabitants of the land"

Native-Land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement/

"Please note: this is NOT a perfect resource! It is very likely that if you do not do any further research or verify our results, you will err in your acknowledgements. We recommend contacting the nations you get in your results directly, to learn more about how they want to be acknowledged and any other nations or peoples in the area."

LSPIRG.org/knowtheland

"It is important to understand the long standing history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol."

NativeGov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/

A Guide to Indigenous Land Acknowledgment. The Native Governance Center is a Native American-led nonprofit organization located in St. Paul, Minnesota. Our mission is to assist Tribal nations in strengthening their governance systems and capacity to exercise sovereignty through leadership development and Tribal governance support.

[Apihtawikosisan.com/2016/09/beyond-territorial-acknowledgments/](https://apihtawikosisan.com/2016/09/beyond-territorial-acknowledgments/)

"If we think of territorial acknowledgments as sites of potential disruption, they can be transformative acts that to some extent undo Indigenous erasure. I believe this is true as long as these acknowledgments discomfit both those speaking and hearing the words. The fact of Indigenous presence should force non-Indigenous peoples to confront their own place on these lands."

AmericanIndiansinChildrensLiterature.blogspot.com/2019/03/are-you-planning-to-do-land.html

American Indians in Children's Literature - Are you planning to do a Land Acknowledgement? Established in 2006 by Dr. Debbie Reese of Nambé Pueblo, American Indians in Children's Literature (AICL) provides critical analysis of Indigenous peoples in children's and young adult books. Dr. Jean Mendoza joined AICL as a co-editor in 2016.

DuwamishTribe.org/land-acknowledgement

"It is important to note that this kind of acknowledgement is not a new practice developed by colonial institutions. Land acknowledgement is a traditional custom dating back centuries for many Native communities and nations. For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth."

CBC.ca/radio/unreserved/redrawing-the-lines-1.4973363/i-regret-it-hayden-king-on-writing-ryerson-university-s-territorial-acknowledgement-1.4973371

Hayden King helped write Ryerson University's territorial acknowledgement in 2012, but now he regrets it. King, an Anishinaabe writer and educator who works at Ryerson University, spoke to *Unreserved* host Rosanna Deerchild about territorial acknowledgements, what they mean in today's political climate and how they can be improved. Here's part of that conversation.

TeenVogue.com/story/indigenous-land-acknowledgement-explained

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement, Explained - "There have always been indigenous peoples in the spaces we call home, and there always will be."

CSunshinetoday.csun.edu/arts-and-culture/were-still-here-land-acknowledgement-strengthens-bond-between-csun-and-fernandeno-tataviam-band/

'We're Still Here': Land Acknowledgement Strengthens Bond Between California State University Northridge and Fernandeno Tataviam Band

[A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment](#)

You are here: [Home/News/News/A guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment](#)

[Native Governance Center](#) co-hosted an [Indigenous land acknowledgment event](#) with the [Lower Phalen Creek Project](#) on Indigenous Peoples' Day 2019 (October 14). The event featured the following talented panelists: [Dr. Kate Beane](#) (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek), [Mary Lyons](#) (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), [Rose Whipple](#) (Isanti Dakota and Ho-Chunk), [Rhiana Yazzie](#) (Diné), and [Cantemaza \(Neil\) McKay](#) (Spirit Lake Dakota). We've created this handy guide to Indigenous land acknowledgment based on our panelists' responses.

WHY IS INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT IMPORTANT?

"It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation." [Northwestern University](#)

"When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It's a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they're around us. As you all do." Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)

TIPS FOR CREATING AN INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Key components:

Start with self-reflection. Before starting work on your land acknowledgment statement, reflect on the process:

- Why am I doing this land acknowledgment? (If you're hoping to inspire others to take action to support Indigenous communities, you're on the right track. If you're delivering a land acknowledgment out of guilt or because *everyone else* is doing it, more self-reflection is in order.)
- What is my end goal? (What do you hope listeners will do after hearing the acknowledgment?)
- When will I have the largest impact? (Think about your timing and audience, specifically.)

Do your homework. Put in the time necessary to research the following topics:

- The Indigenous people to whom the land belongs.
- The history of the land and any related treaties.
- Names of living Indigenous people from these communities. If you're presenting on behalf of your work in a certain field, highlight Indigenous people who currently work in that field.
- Indigenous place names and language.
- Correct pronunciation for the names of the Tribes, places, and individuals that you're including.

Use appropriate language. Don't sugarcoat the past. Use terms like *genocide*, *ethnic cleansing*, *stolen land*, and *forced removal* to reflect actions taken by colonizers.

Use past, present, and future tenses. Indigenous people are still here, and they're thriving. [Don't treat them as a relic of the past.](#)

Land acknowledgments shouldn't be grim. They should function as living celebrations of Indigenous communities. Ask yourself, "How am I leaving Indigenous people in a stronger, more empowered place because of this land acknowledgment?" Focus on the positivity of who Indigenous people are today.

Additional factors to consider:

Don't ask an Indigenous person to deliver a "welcome" statement for your organization. Cantemaza McKay (Spirit Lake Nation) explains this very clearly. Check out [our land acknowledgment event livestream](#), and hear his comments at the 27-minute mark.

Build real, authentic relationships with Indigenous people. In addition to normal employment and family obligations, Indigenous people are working to heal their traumas, learn their languages, and support their nations. If you reach out for help, lead the conversation by asking an Indigenous person what you can do for them. Chances are, they're likely overworked and could use *your* help.

Compensate Indigenous people for their emotional labor. If you do plan to reach out to an Indigenous person or community for help, compensate them fairly. Too often, Indigenous people are asked to perform emotional labor for free.

Understand displacement and how that plays into land acknowledgment. Land acknowledgment is complicated. Remember that the United States government displaced many Tribes from land before treaties were signed.

There are many types of land acknowledgments. Don't expect to find a specific formula or template. Land acknowledgments that come from Indigenous people vs. non-Indigenous people look different, too.

Take action:

Land acknowledgment alone is not enough. It's merely a starting point. Ask yourself: how do I plan to take action to support Indigenous communities? Some examples of ways to take action:

- Support Indigenous organizations by donating your time and/or money.
- Support Indigenous-led grassroots change movements and campaigns. Encourage others to do so.
- Commit to returning land. [Local, state, and federal governments around the world are currently returning land to Indigenous people. Individuals are returning their land, too. Learn more about your options to return your land.](#)

At the end of the day, remember:

Starting somewhere is better than not trying at all. We need to share in Indigenous peoples' discomfort. They've been uncomfortable for a long time. Dr. Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek) says, "We have to try. Starting out with good intentions and a good heart is what matters most."

Visit [our resources page](#) for more helpful land acknowledgment tools! And read our own land acknowledgment statement: [The Land We're On](#).

Stateline

Growing Number of Cities Weigh Tribal 'Land Acknowledgements'

STATELINE
ARTICLE

March 17, 2021

By: Caitlin Dewey
7 minTopics: [Demographics](#) & [Social Issues](#)

Read time:



A tribal land acknowledgement adopted in Tempe, Arizona, recognizes that the "landscape" in and around the city—including Papago Park in Phoenix, pictured—are "sacred to the O'Odham and Piipaash," two tribes with long histories in the region. In Arizona and other states, some local governments are formally recognizing Native American connections to lands.

Mike Janes/Four Seam Images via The Associated Press

Doreen Garlid, a first-term city councilmember in Tempe, Arizona, pinched her leg under the table to keep from weeping as she read a Jan. 14 resolution into the record. The unusual resolution, popularly known as a land acknowledgement, declared that Tempe sits on traditional O'Odham and Piipaash lands—and celebrates the contributions the two tribes made to the region.

“We wish to acknowledge that Tempe is the homeland of the Native people who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial,” the resolution begins.

Garlid, who is Navajo, grew up hearing her grandmother’s stories of being kidnapped into an American Indian boarding school in the 1930s. Staff beat the children for speaking the Navajo language, part of what is now recognized as a national project to erase Indigenous cultures.

But today, the growing movement to adopt land acknowledgements, Garlid said, represents a historic correction. Tempe is one of an increasing number of city and state governments that have published formal statements recognizing Indigenous people and, in some cases, the violence they’ve endured. Such statements often are read before government meetings and at public events, much like the Pledge of Allegiance, and surface in official signage, government websites and email signatures.

The practice, which draws from Indigenous traditions and has become common in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, both recognizes Indigenous communities and encourages listeners to acknowledge the painful reality of colonization.

“It’s a beautiful way to honor people,” Garlid said. “It’s a big turn in just a couple generations.”

In the past seven months alone, at least 10 cities have adopted land acknowledgements or are currently drafting them, including Denver; Portland, Oregon; Eden Prairie, Minnesota; and Phoenix and Flagstaff in Arizona.

Last year, California considered a state-level bill—thought to be the first in the nation—that would encourage public schools, parks, libraries and museums to publish statements acknowledging they were “founded upon [the] exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples.” The bill passed the Assembly but died in a Senate committee.

Dozens of public universities, museums and government agencies also have adopted land acknowledgements or used them to open official events, including branches of the National Park Service and NASA, the Oregon Department of Energy and the Arizona Department of Education. The Academy Awards for the first time included a land acknowledgement last year, as did the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Democratic National Convention.

In many cases, said Martha Saenz, the program manager for the State-Tribal Institute at the National Conference of State Legislatures, these efforts have surfaced as part of larger national reckonings with social equity, white supremacy and racial justice.

“It’s an up-and-coming issue, for sure, as state legislators and others grapple with how we can continue to acknowledge tribes and tribal history and address the issues that come out of that,” said Saenz, whose organization tracks state-level legislation and advises lawmakers.

At their simplest, acknowledgements seek to recognize the Native American communities who live or lived in a specific geographic region. Some versions also detail Indigenous peoples’ historic and present-day contributions and connections to the land. Other statements may recognize the sovereignty of local tribes, the violent history of colonization or the contemporary inequities between Native and non-Native Americans.

Events at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, for instance, include a general 27-word statement, “gratefully acknowledg[ing] the Native Peoples” past and present who make their home near Washington, D.C.

Across the country, the Arizona Commission on the Arts goes further: “We recognize the systemic inequities created by the negative impacts of colonization, past and present,” its acknowledgement reads.

Catching Up to Canada

American cities and states are just catching up with their northern neighbors. Land acknowledgements began surfacing in Canada roughly a decade ago as a result of Indigenous activism, and became de rigueur in Canadian universities, public schools and sports venues following the publication of a 2015 report on the brutal legacy of Canada’s Indian Residential Schools. A 2019 poll by the Angus Reid Institute, a nonprofit public research group, found that Canadians generally support land acknowledgements in public settings, though the resolutions are far less popular among conservatives.

Land acknowledgements are not likely to take off on the state level in the United States, said NCSL’s Saenz, where recent Indigenous culture legislation more often has involved issues such as the renaming of Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day and the banning of derogatory sports mascots. In many places, state and tribal governments still don’t share the type of close relationship that would lend itself to work on a statewide acknowledgement.

While not explicitly partisan, land acknowledgements in the U.S. also have been championed in large part by progressive Democrats, who control few state legislatures. California is an exception, but a spokesperson for Democratic Assemblymember James Ramos, a member of the Serrano/Cahuilla tribe who proposed the California bill, said he does not plan to reintroduce it and will instead “consider other options.”

“We still celebrate Columbus Day in Arizona,” said Tempe Councilmember Lauren Kuby, who championed her city’s land acknowledgement with Garlid. “The states just aren’t there yet.”

In mid-sized blue cities such as Tempe, however, land acknowledgements have seen little opposition. Garlid and Kuby—a trained public historian who first heard acknowledgements read at academic conferences—began advocating for the measure last summer, just as the city began a “process of self-examination” following the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minnesota.

With the support of Tempe’s mayor, the city’s historic preservation office partnered with colleagues from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community to develop a draft. Shane Anton, the tribal historic preservation officer for the community, said his office first pulled together a sample acknowledgement for local governments to adapt last fall, following requests from Tempe, the Phoenix parks and recreation department and several school districts.

Present Tense

Writing acknowledgements can be a “delicate” process, Anton said. Guidance from the Native Governance Center, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that hosted an influential 2019 roundtable on tribal acknowledgements, advises that interested organizations both collaborate with Indigenous people and undertake their own research on Indigenous history, treaties and languages.

For example, advocates discourage the exclusive use of the past tense: “We’re not extinct,” said Kristina Maldonado Bad Hand, who is Sicangu Lakota and Cherokee, and helped review the new land acknowledgement in Denver. Most Indigenous traditions also don’t refer to land “ownership.” Some communities may not wish to appear in acknowledgements at all.

In Tempe, where the City Council voted unanimously to adopt an acknowledgement in January, the statement not only recognizes two local tribes, but also details some aspects of their culture and their historic connection to the lands around the city. It now will be read at public events and—according to the text of the accompanying resolution—used to inform future land use decisions. Garlid points to the city’s 2019 removal of a 30-foot radio tower from Tempe Butte, an area sacred to several local tribes, as an example of a place where policymakers might look to the resolution for guidance.

“If you’re just acknowledging the land and who it originally belonged to, that’s easy,” Anton said. “But we wanted to put our issues, our concerns and our history and how we feel about the land into our acknowledgement. ... I think it’s good in the sense there’s now a little bit more awareness.”

That type of recognition does make it easier to advocate and fundraise for Indian Country, said Wayne Ducheneaux, the executive director of the Native Governance Center, a group that works primarily with Native nations in the upper Midwest and has also consulted nationally on land acknowledgement issues. In his work, Ducheneaux is often surprised by how little non-Native Americans know about their contemporary, Indigenous neighbors—a product in part, he said, of incomplete history curricula in public schools.

But awareness is not the end goal for either Native American advocates or their allies in local government. Acknowledgements should also come with concrete policy goals, Ducheneaux said, such as hiring more Native contractors and artists or deepening ties with tribal governments and Native American organizations.

In both the United States and Canada, the land acknowledgement movement already has faced blowback from Indigenous scholars and activists who see it as little more than an empty gesture, what's often called "optical allyship."

"We have a lot more work to do," said Megan Yerks, the community services coordinator for Eden Prairie, Minnesota, a Minneapolis suburb that adopted a land acknowledgement in December. "We laid a necessary foundation. Now we're building the next steps."

Those efforts could include actions as simple as guaranteeing Native American representation on relevant city boards and committees or establishing formal land use or conservation partnerships.

Land acknowledgements surface most often in states with strong relationships between state and tribal governments.

In Washington state, for instance, where at least nine cities and counties and the state health authority use acknowledgements, state legislators learn about tribal policy as part of their orientation, and K-12 students study an Indigenous history curriculum developed by tribes themselves.

Some progressive activists would like to see local governments go further and use acknowledgements as a basis to return land to Native American communities, a movement sometimes known as "landback" or repatriation. While such actions have been rare in the past, the momentum behind them may be building.

Landback protesters in South Dakota earned national media coverage last summer after they disrupted a rally held by then-President Donald Trump. Both public and private landowners in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Ohio and Oregon have also, since 2018, returned hundreds of acres of land to local Native American communities.

Questions in Denver

Such reparations aren't always feasible for local governments, said Denver Councilmember Jamie Torres, who championed the city's October land acknowledgement and identifies as Chicana—"a mix of Mexican and Indigenous identity." But she and other progressive politicians say they hope the statements will serve as a repeat reminder, within city government, of a community that policymakers have long ignored or erased.

City councilmembers now read Denver's land acknowledgement, which promises to "dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression," at the start of meetings after the Pledge of Allegiance.

"We can still be very blind to how we continue to oppress communities, especially if it's systemic and we're part of government," Torres said. "It's our responsibility, as government, to be more reflective."

What that pledge might yield in Denver, or any other city, is not clear yet. Maldonado Bad Hand and Danielle SeeWalker, who together chair the Denver American Indian Commission, a city advisory board, said they're waiting to see whether the measure yields deeper engagement or conversation.

Maldonado Bad Hand and SeeWalker, who is Húŋkpap̃ha Laḳhóta and an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota, would both like to see Denver's government consult their organization more regularly, the way they say it does other city boards. They also are advocating for a state-level bill that would ban the use of derogatory American Indian names and symbols in school sports, and they have long fought for greater access to ceremonial lands and new names for places with colonial associations.

"I think acknowledgements are ultimately about encouraging people to continuously and consciously reflect on the history and legacy of colonialism," SeeWalker said. "Start building those relationships with Native Americans. Hire Indigenous people. Make them a part of your boards and organizations."

"It's important to engage with the community," she added. "And not simply acknowledge it."

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CITY OF PORTLAND
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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: June 2021

Parks Division Staffing

- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker III
- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Steward
- Vacancies: Seasonal Positions in all divisions
- Hired Rob Marena as the new Parks Maintenance Supervisor

4th of July

The 4th of July Fireworks show is in the planning stages again. This year there will be no event or festivities held on the Eastern Promenade like in years past BUT, the fireworks show is back on as scheduled at 9:15pm on the night of the 4th. Access to the hill will be restricted as the afternoon of the 4th goes on but we want to pass the word that there are many locations, not at the Eastern Prom, to view the show i.e. Payson Park, Back Cove Trail and even Martin's Point. Please stay tuned as details of the event unfold.

Project Canopy Grant

The City received grant funding from the State of Maine Project Canopy Assistance Program. The program offered grant funding for either planning and education or planting and maintenance. We were awarded \$4,970 to be matched by the City that we will use to plan out the future placement of trees and green infrastructure on and within City properties. The goal is to improve the canopy cover and this analysis will help provide the most effective way of accomplishing that goal.

Sunday's On The Boulevard (Update)

Due to material shortages, the Back Cove West Storage Conduit Project will not be shutting down Baxter Boulevard until sometime in July. Sunday's on the Boulevard(SOTB) will continue to operate as normal until a definitive date is set at which time folks will be alerted of the closure and the adjusted SOTB map will go into effect.

Tree and Flower Planting Progress

Forestry and Horticulture Crews are working hard as they get trees in the ground and flower bed & planters filled for the season. Thus far, Forestry has planted around 100 trees and Horticulture 82 street and road closure planters. Each of these efforts begins well into the previous year as planting locations



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Ethan Hipple, Director

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Alex Marshall, Parks Director

are discussed, budgets are allocated, and flowers are ordered. If you can, try and take an extra minute or so in your travels to appreciate the beauty that these two crews bring to the city.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Dougherty Field Playground: The next step is to create a bid document for the site work and installation.
- Park Walkway improvements: Deering Oaks bid documents are being finalized
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. We will advertise an RFP this Spring for a Summer construction
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: This project will be combined with a drainage swale project at the Softball Field within the Talbot School complex. A pre-bid meeting has been held with a construction completion anticipated for mid October.
- Lyseth Playground: This project is in the design phase now that groups have been offered the opportunity to weigh in.
- Skate Park Expansion Phase II: Preliminary RFP for design development is being finalized and will be advertised when funding is in hand.
- Stroudwater Bridge: City Parks and Planning staff are working with Portland Trails and the Stroudwater Preserve Development Team to develop the plan for installation of the bridge that sits on the side of Westbrook Street before the I-95 bridge.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans are being finalized. 2022 is looking to be the summer where we get the elevated natural turf field back.
- Riverton Preserve: Recreation improvement plans are in progress and will consist primarily of a trail network with other improvements. This project is intended to fulfill LWCF conversion requirements, and final approval of the improvement plan rests with the state and National Park Service, which has a public engagement process.
- Riverton Trolley Park: The LWCF grant has been submitted. City Council gave their approval for the City to proceed with the grant application. Project budget will be an estimated total of \$500,000 (\$250,000 PPC/Private/City and \$250,000 LWCF)
- Fox Field Futsal and Lighting: Mobilization has already occurred. Lighting is being installed in the next two weeks. The court is anticipated to be completed by Mid-June.

Portland Parks Capital Improvements: Projects Over \$25,000

Note: FY 2023 Projects approved in March of 2022

Annual Total		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Notes
District		\$2,149,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,616,000	\$2,695,000	\$2,568,280	\$2,905,000	\$11,605,000	\$1,079,000	\$1,325,000	\$725,000	
Athletic Facilities												
Deering High School Field Upgrades	5			\$275,000			\$200,000					
Deering Oaks Baseball Lights	2			\$250,000								
Deering Oaks Infield Upgrades and Irrigation	2		\$90,000									
Deering Oaks Volleyball Court Replacement	2									\$75,000		
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		
Fox St Irrigation Replacement	1				\$50,000							
Ludlow Baseball Field Upgrades	5					\$500,000						
Memorial Stadium Concession Stand	5					\$250,000						
Payson B Softball Drainage and Irrigation	4		\$110,000									
Riverton Softball Lighting Replacement	5						\$255,000					
Synthetic Turf Field: location TBD	???		\$1,250,000									
Cemeteries												
Evergreen Driveway Drainage and Paving--To be funded by Water Resources	5											Public Works requesting \$ for Stormwater portion
Evergreen Repaving Roads	5				\$125,000		\$125,000					
Evergreen Tree Planting	5											
Evergreen Road Reconstruction (Evergreen and Forest City)	5		\$100,000									
Wildie Chapel Masonry	5					\$500,000	\$500,000					
Community Gardens												
Various Fence Repairs/Additions (3-4 Gardens (CDBG potential))	Various				\$30,000			\$30,000				Possible CDBG?
Various Shed Replacements	Various					\$25,000			\$25,000			Possible CDBG?
Courts--Tennis, Basketball, Futsal												
Deering Oaks Tennis Court Lights--Add	2											
Dougherty Field Basketball Pavilion***	3			\$150,000					\$350,000			Libbytown NA may be interested in fundraising
Deering Oaks Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	2						\$75,000					
Eastern Prom Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	1									\$50,000		
Islands: Great Diamond Island Tennis and Basketball Reconstruction	1	\$75,000										
Longfellow Basketball Drainage	5				\$175,000							
Longfellow Basketball Resurface	5				\$75,000							
Payson Additional Basketball Court***	4						\$100,000					
Payson Tennis--Add Tennis Court Lights	4			\$200,000								
Payson Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	4								\$29,000			
Riverton Tennis Court Reconstruction	5									\$300,000		
Valley Street Basketball Reconstruction	2			\$65,000								Possibly MMC Funded

DRAFT, as of 5/20/21

Portland Parks Capital Improvements: Projects Over \$25,000

Note: FY 2023 Projects approved in March of 2022		2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	Notes
Annual Total		District	\$2,149,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,616,000	\$2,695,000	\$2,568,280	\$2,905,000	\$11,605,000	\$1,325,000	\$725,000	
Park Infrastructure												
Baxter Boulevard Safety Enhancements –Stairs and Railings		4		\$150,000								
Bramhall Square Reconstruction*** \$250K budget, \$100K from Maine Medical, \$150 from Public Works CJP		2										
Fencing Replacement: City-wide		various	\$54,500	\$50,000		\$50,000			\$50,000	\$50,000		
City-Wide: Park Walkway ADA Paving, various locations		various		\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000			\$200,000	\$200,000		
Congress Square Park Design and Construction		1	Budgeted in Planning and DPW CJP									
Deering Oaks Bandstand Replacement		2							\$400,000			Potential Kickstart with 2021 Deering Oaks ADA Walkways
Deering Oaks Pond Plaza and Dock		2			\$100,000							
Deering Oaks Pond Wall and Pond-side Plaza Reconstruction		2		\$500,000	\$500,000							
Deering Oaks Ravine Wading Pool Rehab		2		\$475,000								
Deering Oaks Restroom: Brick and Mortar Building		2	\$400,000									
Deering Oaks Rose Circle Entrance–Convert to Brick		2						\$50,000				
Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing–Farmers Market Rd. (State to Deering)		2						\$300,000				
Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing–Tennis Court Rd (State to Deering) (ADA)		2	\$300,000									
East End Recreational Boat Ramp Reconstruction		1		\$300,000								
Eastern Prom Cleaves Monument ADA Plaza and Walkways		1	\$92,000									To be coordinated with Public Art restoration of fence and monument
Eastern Prom Cutter Street/Parking Reno–Public Works		1										
Fort Gorges Preservation Plan (Structural Stabilization)		1	\$100,000	\$291,000								\$541K total. Up to \$250K Match with Friends of FT Gorges
Fort Summer Trail Lighting—to be paid for by Friends Group		1									\$450,000	
Fort Summer Reconstruction		1										
Harborview Concrete Stair and Plaza: Resurfacing with Granite		2			\$50,000			\$25,000				
Harborview Stairs from Circle Trail Intersection to Commercial St		2					\$300,000					
Lincoln Park Fence–Franklin St		1			\$700,000							
Lincoln Park Fence–Pearl and Federal St		1				\$250,000						
Lincoln Park Walkway Lights		1					\$150,000					\$150K LWCF match
Ludlow Pond Drainage		5										
Martins Point Access Improvements		4		\$150,000								
Payson Park Bollard Replacement (Replace wood with granite)		4	\$50,500									
Payson Park Ice Skating Rink Lighting		4			\$40,000							
Payson Park Master Plan Update		4				\$30,000						
Payson Park Parking		4			\$250,000							
Picnic Pavillion: Deering Oaks and Payson Park		various				\$150,000						
Quarry Run Dog Park Expansion and Renovation (Invasives Removal, Trail resurfacing, fence replacement)		4		\$100,000								
Riverton Trolley Park Rehabilitation and Recreation Improvement Plan (To be matched with private funds and LWCF grant)		5	\$125,000		\$75,000							Parks Conservancy and LWCF 2021
Western Prom Bandstand, Toboggan Run Improvements		2				\$150,000						
Western Prom Walkway Lighting		2							\$150,000			Possibly funded through MMC?
Western Prom Walkway Reconstruction, Phase II***		2										
Western Prom Vista Clearing and Plantings		2			\$50,000	\$50,000						

PORTLAND

PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES

Parks Capital Improvement Project Priority Form

1. Please review the CIP 10 year plan [here](#).
2. Use the form below as a tool to gather your organizations Parks Capital Improvement Project Priorities (over \$25,000) for the relevant park (in your neighborhood) for annual update of 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.
3. Once your organization has come up with priorities please have one person from your organization fill out this [Google Form](#) by July 19th, 2021

Thank you,

Alex Marshall, Parks Director

Priority	Project Name	New or Existing Project?	Cost Estimate (if new project)
1.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
2.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
3.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
4.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
5.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
6.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
7.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
8.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
9.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
10.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
11.		☐ New ☐ Existing	
12.		☐ New ☐ Existing	

Parks Capital Improvement Plan Timeline

Project Selection Criteria

- **Legal Obligations:** Court orders, compliance with state or federal legislation
- **Park Equity:** 10 minute access to a park or trail, distribution between neighborhoods, populations served, islands, etc...
- **Compliance with Adopted Plans and Studies:** Match with city priorities
- **Impact of Service to Public:** Safety issues, improved service delivery
- **Access:** ADA access, facilities for diverse age groups
- **Departmental or Community Priority:** The project is important to a Departmental mission or community interest. Does the project meet a demonstrated need from the community?
- **Funding Source:** The project includes a match from grants, federal or state match, community fundraising
- **Budget Impact:** The project decreases operating expenses
- **User Group:** Does the project serve a diverse user group, or a particular user group that is not already well-served?
- **Prior Phases:** Projects that are a continuation of viable projects funded in past years.

May--July:

1. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities issues call to stakeholders (Friends and Neighborhood Groups, the schools, and the public) for project proposals.
 - a. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities will publicize the existing 10-year Parks Capital Improvement Plan, so that stakeholders will be aware of the current city-wide 10-year schedule of projects and prioritization.
 - b. If a stakeholder group submits more than one project for consideration, the projects should be listed in an itemized, prioritized list.
 - c. Stakeholders submitting projects not already on the 10-year Parks Capital Improvement Plan should include cost estimates from a qualified engineer, contractor or landscape architect.
2. Project Requests and cost estimates due to Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities by July 19.

July

1. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities compiles and reviews project requests. Sources:
 - a. Existing 10-year Capital Improvement Plan
 - b. Unfunded requests from prior years
 - c. Portland Open Space Vision and Implementation Plan, Parks Master Plans, Facilities Master Plans, Athletic Facilities Task Force Plan, City Comprehensive Plan, and other relevant plans
 - d. Departmental knowledge and professional insight
 - e. Requests from Friends Groups, schools, and other stakeholders
2. Projects from stakeholders are submitted as requests. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities will review all requests and either:
 - a. Add to 10-year Parks Capital Improvement Plan according to 10-year schedule and budget parameters.
 - b. File the project request if deemed inappropriate, undesirable, or unfeasible.
3. Department of Parks and Recreation prepares and submits 10-year Capital Improvement Plan to Parks Commission by July 31.
 - a. Includes in submission all requests from stakeholders
 - b. Includes in submission all recommended projects for upcoming fiscal year.

August--September

1. Parks Commission reviews project proposals for upcoming fiscal year by undertaking these steps:
 - a. Review materials submitted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (which includes requests from public stakeholders)
 - b. Conduct a public meeting(s) to hear from Friends Groups, Neighborhood Associations, and other

interested stakeholders

- c. Following public meeting(s), Parks Commission shall provide recommendations on projects being proposed for upcoming fiscal year, submitted to Department of Parks and Recreation by September 30.

October

1. Final review of 10-year Capital Improvement Plan by Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.
2. Backup materials prepared, quotes finalized for projects being recommended for upcoming fiscal year.
3. Staff input of CIP requests into City financial system by October 31.

November

1. Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities submits the final Departmental recommendation to the City Manager's office; attaches the Parks Commission Recommendations.