Commission Members:
Chair Michael Mertaugh, Vice Chair Jaime Parker, Amy Segal, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Maya Lena, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Michael Catania and Mayor Kate Snyder.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
October 7, 2021
5:00 PM

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue, the Parks Commission will conduct this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the Parks Commission's Remote Participation Policy.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:
https://zoom.us/j/91710859101?pwd=MUVLWTVFRG5jUFNxSHlEcTFlSk8wZz09
Passcode: P3pperm1nt
Or Telephone:
US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099
Webinar ID: 917 1085 9101
Passcode: 480730

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: September 2nd 2021
   b. New Business
      i. Portland Harbor Common Presentation
      ii. Committee Membership
   c. Communications/Updates
      i. Parks Report
      ii. Land Bank Commission Report
      iii. Future Master Plan Presentations

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.

Commission Members:

Chair Michael Mertaugh, **Vice Chair** Jaime Parker, Amy Segal, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen and Mayor Kate Snyder. **Staff:** Alex Marshall, Ethan Hipple and Samara Ray

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
September 2, 2021
5:00 PM

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue, the Parks Commission will conducted this meeting by remote methods/technology at the Zoom link provided below, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the Parks Commission's Remote Participation Policy.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault- There is a King Crimson tree in Deering Oaks that is to be cut down as part of ADA improvements that the Parks Commission approved funding for. A lot of thought was put into the location of this ADA route and the King Crimson is being removed as it is in the route. He would like to see a comprehensive tree policy that treats trees equally. Ethan explained that if a tree is healthy generally they are not removed, this tree is only being removed as part of park improvements. George's audio was lost during the meeting and he said he will send a follow up email to the Commission.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: August 5th 2021 -Action Item

Beth Rabbit moved to approve the minutes, Stephen seconded. The performed minutes were approved unanimously by the Commission.

b. New Business

i. Friends Groups CIP Priorities Summary

Ethan gave an overview of the 2022 Parks Capital Improvement Project list to the Parks Commission and provided a summary of each item.

ii. Commission discussion on CIP Priorities

Ethan shared that for the last two years the Department has received about 1 million dollars of CIP funding each year but had requested around 1.5 to 2 million. It is common to get less than what was requested, that is why there is a 10 year plan to spread costs out over time.

The process for Parks CIP is that Parks Commission members will share their project priorities this evening, the Department will take these into consideration and Ethan will submit a prioritized list to the City Manager and the Finance Director, alongside this list will be a memo with the Parks Commissions priorities. The City Manager and the Finance Director will then submit this list to the Finance Committee who will submit it to the full City Council.

Ethan explained that the columns on the CIP sheet show the year the funds would be approved, for instance column labeled 2022 will be funds approved in 2022 but used in fiscal year 2023. Zach asked about non city funding listed for other projects. There are some placeholder projects on the list that are not actively funded through CIP but they are on our radar, for instance the Cutter Street Parking Lots and Lights at Fort Sumner.

Funding for the Riverton Trolley Park Recreation Improvement project is as follows: if awarded the LWCF grant will be for 250,000 requiring a 1:1 match. The City would provide half of the grant match ($125,000) and the Parks Conservancy would be fundraising for the other half of the grant ($125,000).

For the Longfellow Playground project, the school is undergoing renovations for the next two years, funding would come spring of 2023 and we would take that summer and fall to work out designs and have it in line for the start of the fall 2023.

iii. Vote on CIP projects - **Action Item**

The Commissioners shared their top three priorities for Parks CIP projects. They were as follows:

Mayor Kate Snyder chose not to weigh in as a Parks Commission Rep as she will end up voting for them. She stated that investing in parks is really important.

Beth	Riverton Trolley Park	Skate park	Deering Oaks Restrooms
Amy	Skate park	Payson Bollard/Back Cove	Riverton Trolley Park
Zach	Skate park	Riverton Trolley Park	Fort Gorges-Preservation Plan
Stephen	Skate park	Riverton Trolley Park	Update for Payson Park Master Plan
Michael M	Retaining Wall at Deering Oaks Pond	Update for Payson Park Master Plan	Replacing Trees at Evergreen Cemetery
Jamie	Riverton Trolley Park	Skate park	Fort Gorges Preservation Plan
Jon	Deering Oaks Bathroom	Skate park	Fort Gorges
Marie	ADA Walkways at Deering Oaks	Deering Oaks Restroom	Skate park

iv. Tree Planting Update

Recently hit a Forestry milestone, planted over 200 trees this spring and early summer**.** This includes trees from the tree trust and cop-op planting program as well as trees from the operating budget. This was a huge effort and the weather helped the crews start earlier than usual. Typically 150 trees are planted during this season The planting was focused on East Bayside and West Bayside, 30 of those trees were in that neighborhood.

There is a significant operating expense to planting these trees; it requires year round and seasonal staffing and watering. Beth praised the Forestry Co-op tree program.

v. Committees Update

No committees have met since the last meeting. Amy is looking forward to reforming the Parks Initiatives Committee.

There are four Parks Commission Committees: Parks Initiatives, Finance, Annual Report, and Outreach (includes the Greenspace Gathering).

The Chair noted that the Commission may want to restructure the Committees to support the Friends Groups in developing strong CIP proposals.

The Chair expressed he would like to attend all of the Committee meetings.

Beth expressed she would be interested in the Outreach Committee. Zach is interested in staying on the Parks Initiatives and Outreach Committees. Stephen expressed interest in the Outreach committee. Amy and Marie will let the Chair know what their Committee Participation interests are..

c. Communications

i. Parks Report- no discussion

ii. American Rescue Plan Act - City Workshop - 5pm 9/13/2021 - Action Item
There is a public hearing on the use of ARPA funds on Sept 13th at 5pm. The Parks Department is planning on requesting funds for tree planting. There is a survey on the City Website about this funding and public input is encouraged. About 14 million dollars of ARPA funds will be allocated. This funding needs to be used on physical improvement projects. The Chair requested a vote of support for tree planting activities under ARPA at the public hearing. He would bring this message of support on behalf of the Parks Commission to the public hearing. The Commission voted in favor of the Chair bringing this message of support to the public hearing.

iii. **Portland Common Harbor Meeting #2 - 5pm 9/22/2021- Action Item**
The City it undergoing a planning process to convert the queuing lanes by the Ocean Gateway into a green space. This is the second public input session to share the feedback from the first public meeting. The transformation would happen in phases. The first step is to create basic green space where there is currently a parking lot and then move into more detailed planning in later phases. The Park's Conservancy will be a fundraiser on this project. The chair requested the Commission vote on support for this project to be shared at the meeting. The Parks Commission voted unanimously to support this project and have the Chair communicate this support at the meeting.

III. Adjournment

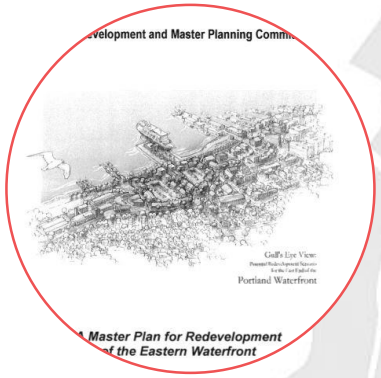
The Parks Commission voted unanimously for the meeting to be adjourned.

Portland Harbor Common Phase I

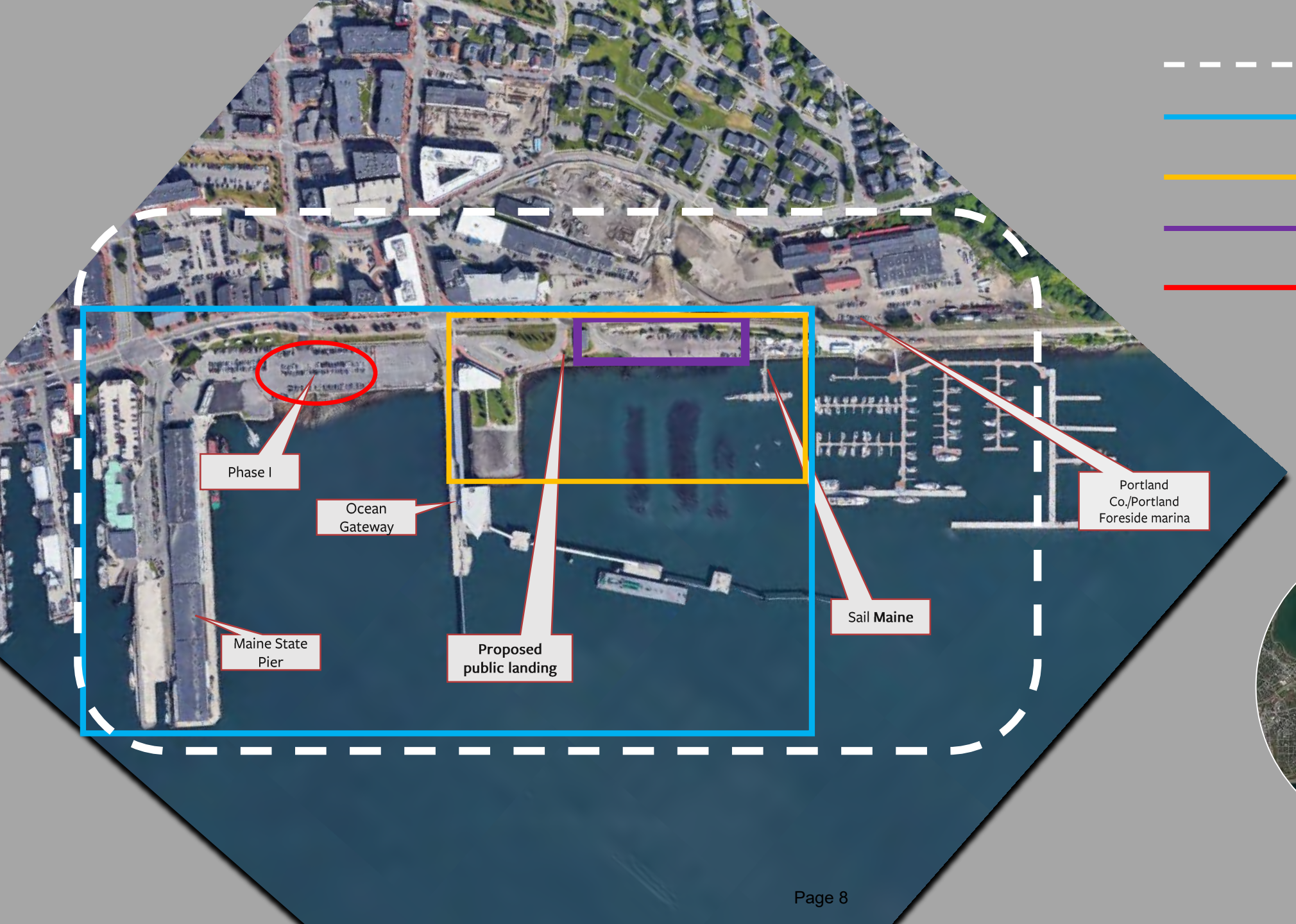
September 22, 2021

PARKS CONSERVANCY

EASTERN WATERFRONT PLANNING



- 2004 Adoption of Eastern Waterfront Master Plan
- 2006 Amended/Expanded Eastern Waterfront Masterplan
- 2009 Maine State Pier RFP
- 2017 Portland Landing Plan
- 2020 Park at Amethyst opens
- 2021 Citizen Concept Plan (Portland Harbor Common)
- 2021 City – Phase 1 Concept Public Mtg #1
- **2021 City - Phase 1 Concept Public Mtg #2**



Eastern Waterfront

Portland Harbor Common

Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

Eastern Waterfront

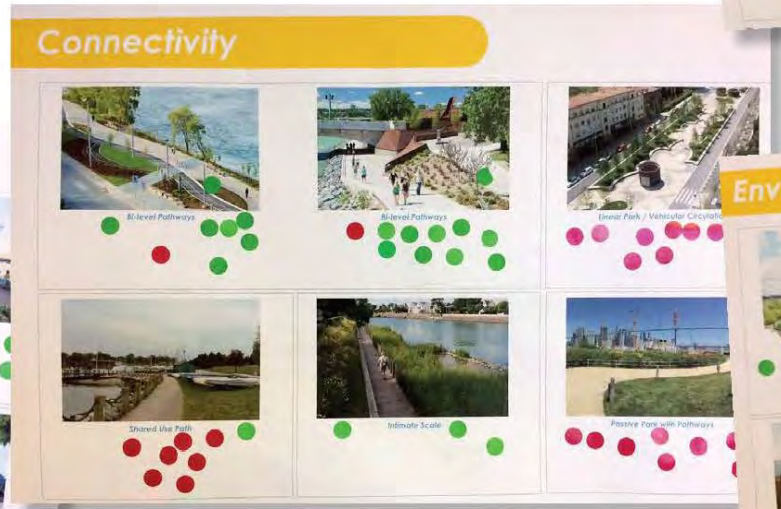
Portland Harbor Common

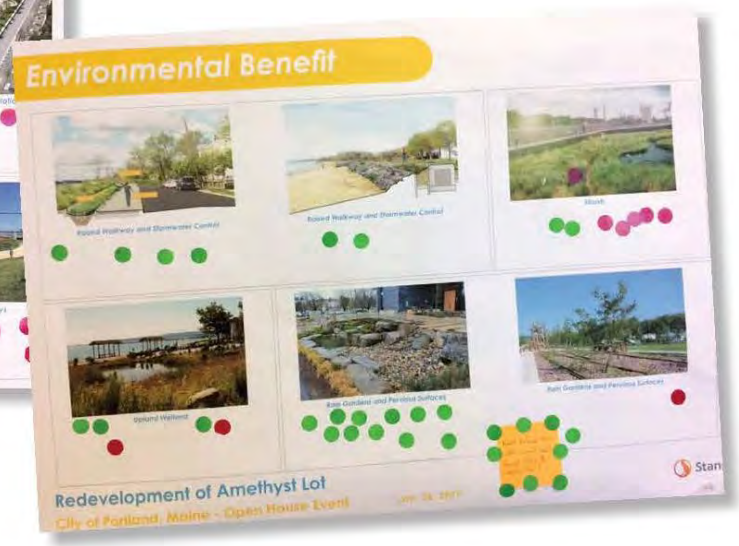
Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

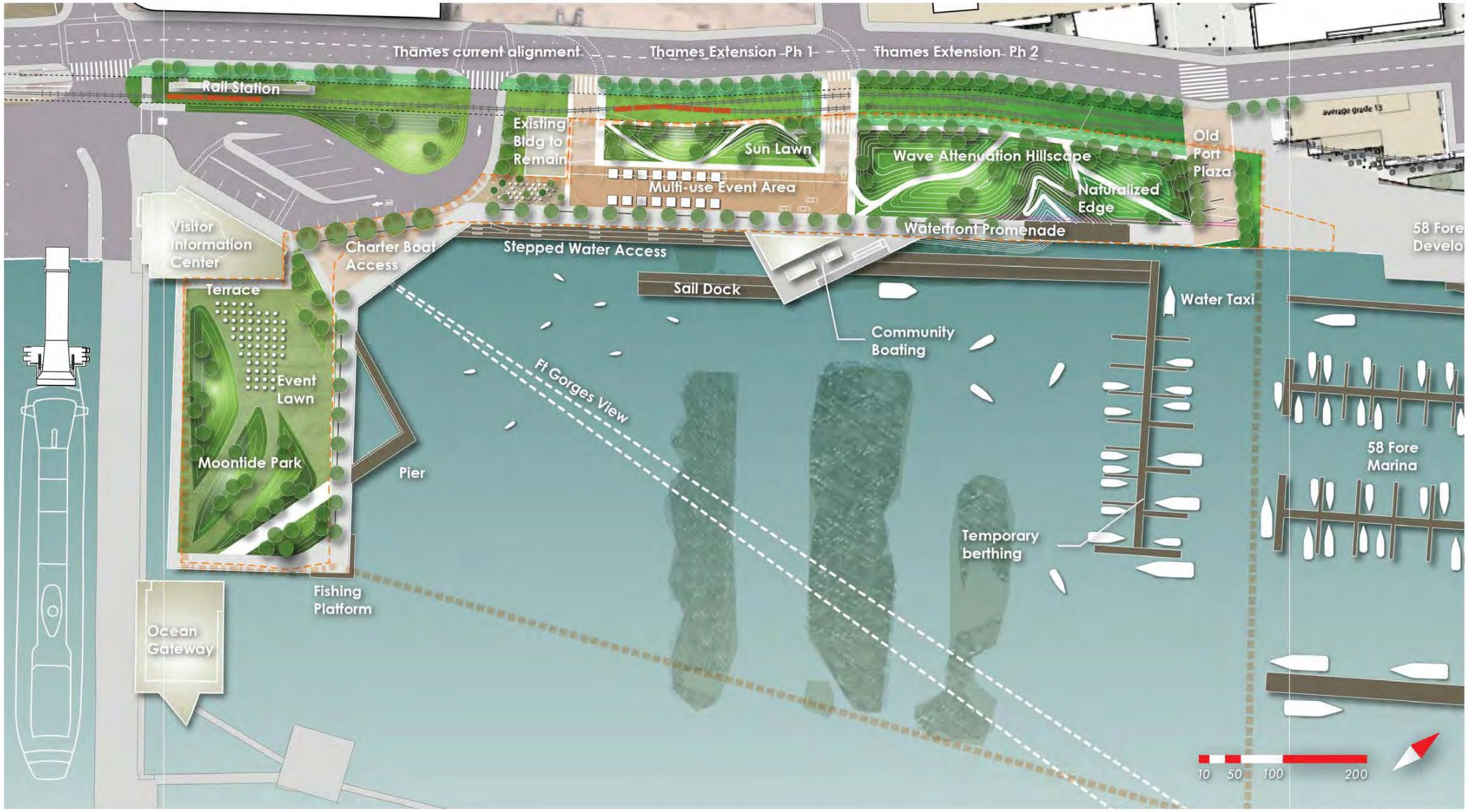
2017 VISION FOR PORTLAND LANDING



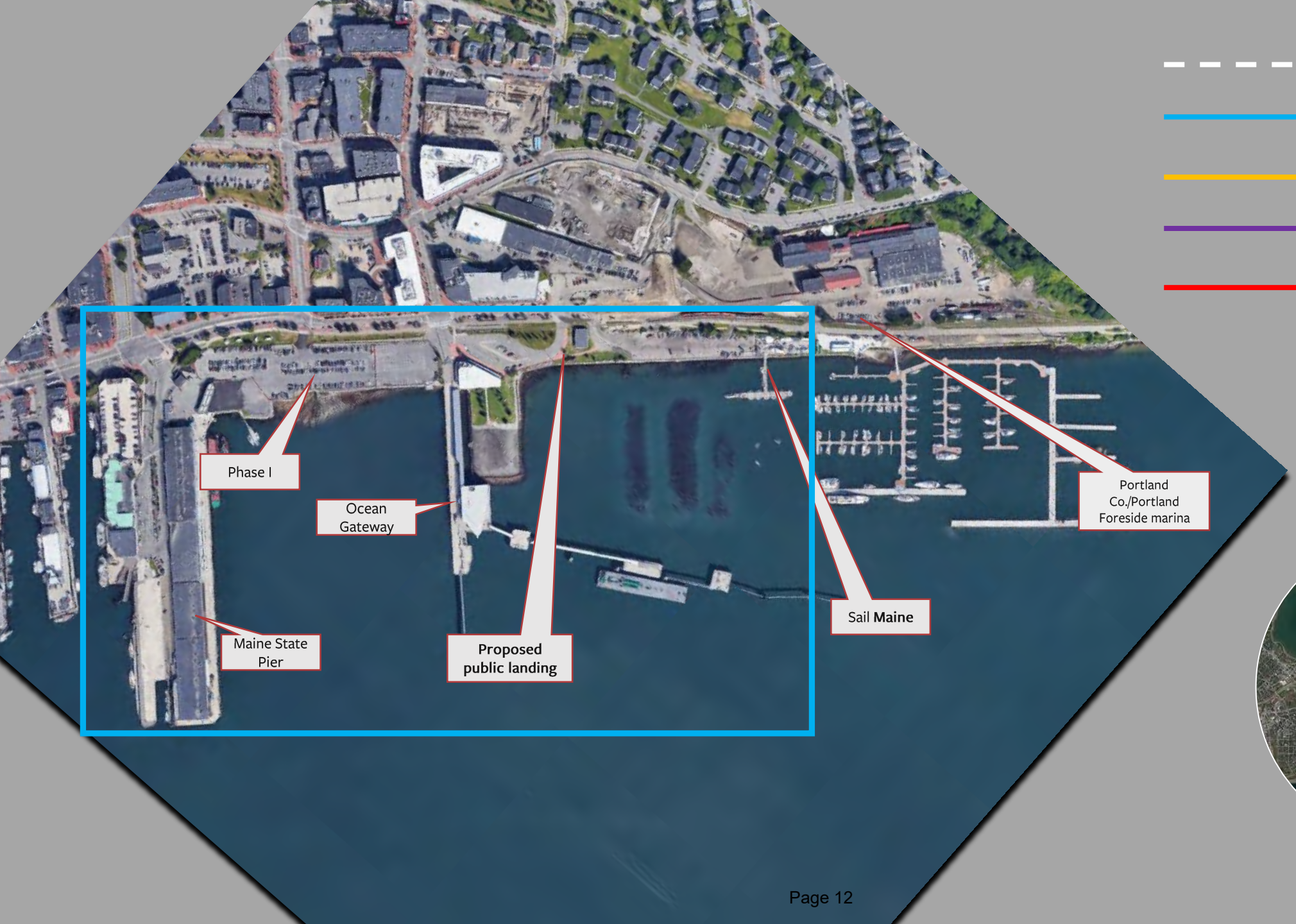


PUBLIC FEEDBACK FROM PRECEDENT IMAGES AND ATTRIBUTES PRESENTED AT A WORK GROUP AND STAKEHOLDER MEETING - GREEN DENOTES AN ATTRIBUTE DESIREABLE TO EXPLORE AT PORTLAND LANDING

2017 VISION FOR PORTLAND LANDING



PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE: FINAL ALTERNATIVE SELECTED BY CITY WORKGROUP AND STAKEHOLDERS FOR DEVELOPMENT



Eastern Waterfront

Portland Harbor Common

Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

PLATFORM FOR A NEW PORTLAND HARBOR COMMON

Eastern Waterfront

Portland Harbor Common

Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

AMETHYST LOT

Eastern Waterfront

Portland Harbor Common

Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

Phase I

Ocean Gateway

Maine State Pier

Proposed public landing

Sail **Maine**

Portland Co./Portland Foreside marina

Proposed
Public
Landing
2021/03/29 03:41

Eastern Waterfront

Portland Harbor Common

Portland Landing

Amethyst Lot

Phase I

PHASE I EXISTING CONDITIONS

Portland Harbor Commons Phase 1 Diagram

May 3, 2021

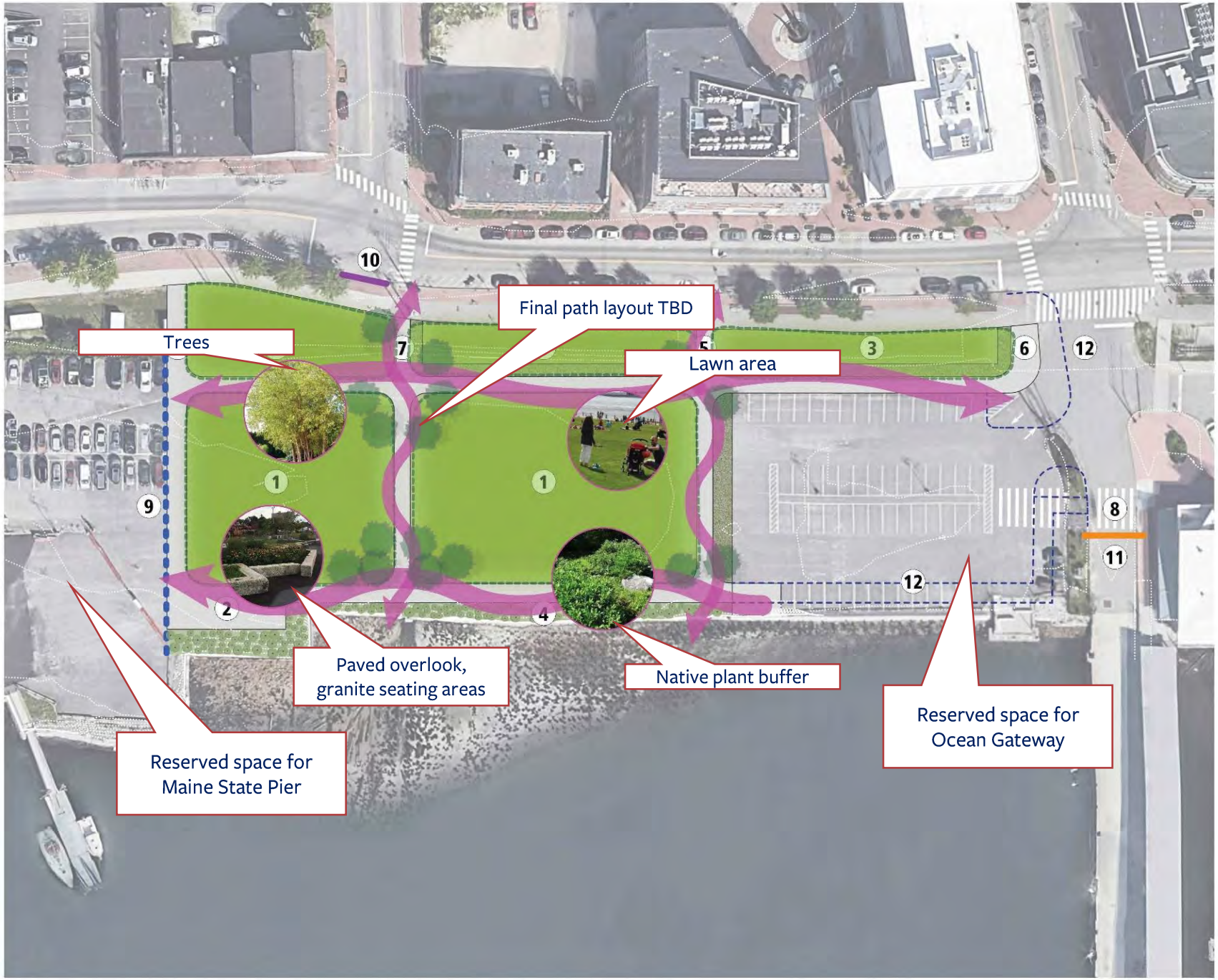
1. Lawn Panel
2. Paved Overlook
3. Expanded Lawn Area
4. Remove Fence and Install Native Plant Buffer
5. Intermediary Connector
6. Hancock Street Connector
7. India Street Connector
8. Crossing to Ocean Gateway
9. Fence
10. Replace Curb
11. Relocate Service Gate
12. Intersection Improvements and Ocean Gateway Access

0 30 60 90 120

Richard Barringer Emeritus Professor at Muskie School of Public Service at USM
Patrick Costin Canal 5 Studio
Michael Boucher mbla
Amy Magida mbla
Barry Sheff Woodard & Curran

Portland Harbor Commons Phase 1 Diagram

May 3, 2021



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DRAFT

0 30 60 90 120

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Initial Public Feedback – Phase I Concept

Provide space for community boating

Incorporate native plantings

Plan for working waterfront needs

Provide island parking

Provide direct access to the water

Design for coastal resilience

Ensure public input in design process

Incorporate public art

Trees!

How will it be funded?

What about traffic?

Potential E.Waterfront history markers

How will it mesh w/ Portland Foreside?

COST & FUNDING

Initial cost estimates for Phase I:

$2,000,000+

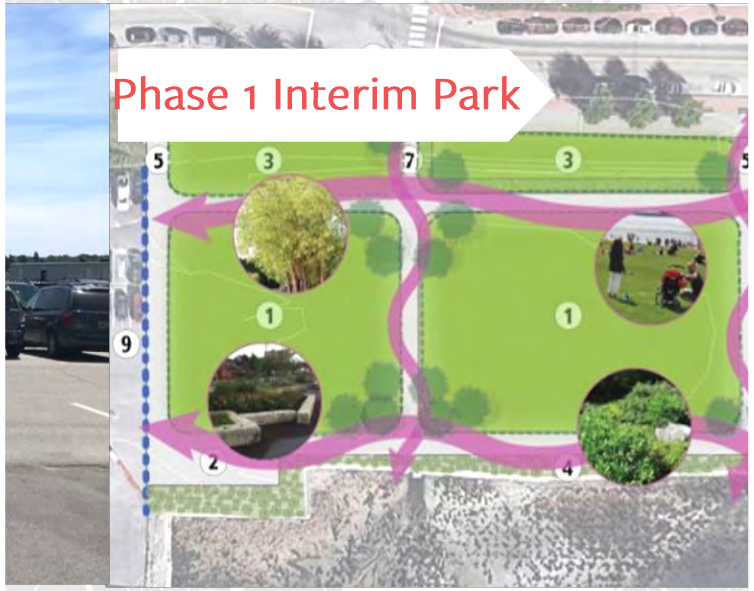
Funding Sources

- City Funds
- Parks Conservancy Fundraising
- Grants

NEXT STEPS

Surface Parking Lot

Phase 1 Interim Park



Future Phases

- Incorporate feedback into concept design of Phase I
- Fundraising
- RFP for design services
- Implementation
- 2022 Additional community dialogue on eastern waterfront open spaces

Q&A

Portland Harbor Common Timeline

Common Abbreviations

PHC: Portland Harbor Common

PRF: Parks, Rec and Facilities Department

PPC: Portland Parks Conservancy

This is a draft timeline that is subject to change.

	Task	Date	Lead	Cost	Funding Source
x	Project presented to Council Economic Development Committee	Mar 16, 2021	Dick Barringer Team (Pro-bono)		
x	Public Meeting #1	June 15, 2021	Dick Barringer Team (Pro-bono)		
x	Design and scope refinements based on Public Meeting Feedback	Jul--Aug 2021	Planning and PRF		
	Public Meeting #2 Hosted by Planning and Parks, Rec and Facilities Departments	Sept 22, 2021	Planning and PRF		
	Fundraising ongoing to raise funds for fountain project by Portland Parks Conservancy	Aug 2021 →	PPC		PPC
	Contract Proposal for PHC Phase 1b design and administration services submitted	Mid Sep 2021	Planning and PRF		
	Contract of PHC Phase 1b executed by City	Mid Nov 2021	Planning and PRF	???	City of Portland
	Design of PHC Phase 1b begins	Early Dec 2021	Consultant TBD		
	Design of PHC 1b complete	Jan 2022	Consultant TBD		
	Planning Board site plan application submitted	Jan 2022	PRF		
	Planning Board Review Begins	Jan 2022	Planning		
	Planning Board review complete	Mar 2022	Planning		
	Construction documents begin	Mar 2022	Consultant TBD		
	Construction documents complete	Apr 2022	Consultant TBD		
	Permitting Begins (State NRPA permit, Site Location Minor Revision, etc…)	Apr 2022	PRF		
	Permitting Begins (State NRPA permit, Site Location Minor Revision, etc…)	Mid June 2022	PRF		
	Bidding begins	Early May 2022	Purchasing Dept		
	Bidding Complete	Early June 2022	Purchasing Dept		
	Contract Executed	Early July 2022	PRF	???	City of Portland (with support from PPC)

	Construction Begins	Late July 2022	PRF		
	Construction Complete	Nov 2022	PRF		

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: October 2021

Parks Division Staffing

- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Steward
- Vacancy: Parks Maintainer x3. Revised existing job description to reflect changing nature of park maintenance work and the need for qualified and skilled employees to care for our public spaces.

Maine Conservation Corps at Riverton Trolley Park

The city contracts with the Maine Conservation Corps each year for a late Summer, early Fall project to happen on a Land Bank Property. This year we had them focus on the Riverton Trolley Park. MCC had done an incredible job with the granite stairs a number of years ago and it was time for some trail resurfacing and erosion control to take place. The team of 6 spent 10 straight days at the park alongside Portland Trails and our own Americorps Environmental Steward. They did an incredible job mitigating runoff areas, benching slopeside trails and re-building a bridge that wraps around a bend on a curve. What a difference. A huge 'Thank you' goes out to Jaime and Portland Trails for their daily assistance and guidance with the project. This project is funded through Land Bank maintenance funds.

Talbot School Softball Field Drainage Project

The Talbot Softball Field has been a drainage nightmare for the Ballfields Crew for years. Each storm would saturate the infield and many games/practices would be cancelled or postponed because of it. A nearby stormwater culvert was undersized, and with each rainstorm, water would back up and flow across the infield, causing massive erosion and hours of work for the crew to repair. This past Spring, with the help of the Public Buildings Project Team and Public Works Engineering, we were able to execute the replacement of a drainage culvert that ran parallel with the field. Additionally, we have laser levelled in 2+ inches of new infield mix to help prevent the water from sitting. It has all been a success and the field has never looked better. It takes an army!

Cutter Street Capstone Project with UMaine Engineering

The University of Maine Civil Engineering program offers a capstone project to its students. Local businesses or organizations submit civil engineering related projects that the students will then select to undertake for their senior capstone over the course of the year. We were able to submit the Cutter Street Reconstruction project as an opportunity to the students and have a team already beginning to work on it. This Fall the students will be doing research and site analysis as the first phase which is then concluded by the final drawing plan set in the Spring where they offer up their recommendations and

site plans for all aspects of the project. Project goals are to reimagine the use of the existing Cutter St Parking lots, increase accessibility and improve sidewalks, and to repave the existing public roadway that is in bad condition.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Dougherty Field Playground: We are conducting a geotech analysis for stormwater control. Once complete we will finalize the stormwater design and create the site work bid documents. Playground equipment has been purchased. Construction and installation Spring 2022.
- Park Walkway improvements: Deering Oaks bid documents are being finalized and reviewed by Planning Department.
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised in the Fall to seek bids for Spring 2022 construction
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: This project is on hold due to the high bid climate. Revision of construction plans will commence before going out to bid again.
- 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. Grant funding will be essential as City funds are limited.
- 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)
- Public Toilets: Three Public Toilets are being manufactured and will be placed at Deering Oaks, Eastern Prom and Fox Field as the first series of pilot locations. These were funded through CDBG and are anticipated to be installed later this Fall. These units will operate much like a porta-potty in that they will have a tank that needs to be pumped 3x weekly, but they will be constructed from metal with an attractive design, and will be safer and more durable than a traditional porta potty.

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