



Commission Members:

Acting Chair Chair Jaime Parker, Cheri Musgrave, Kristen Fulmer, Amy Segal, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Katie Mears, and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
June 2, 2022 at 5:00 PM
East End Community School
Address: 195 North St, Portland, ME 04101

*The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces. Review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend action.
Foster collaboration among park users and the City. Promotes public access and enjoyment.
Advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces. Enjoy Portland for Life.*

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email ParksCommission@Portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Parks Commission meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
 - a. Public comment
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: May 5th, 2022**
 - b. New Business
 - i. **Parks Commission Election - VOTE**
 - ii. Annual Parks Report Update
 - iii. Greenspace
 - c. Old Business
 - d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Report
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
 - e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Parks are a Front Line to Climate Change

2 messages

'Karen Snyder' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Sat, May 21, 2022 at 8:51 AM

Reply-To: karsny@yahoo.com

To: Portland's Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, LandBank <landbank@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Troy Moon <thm@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, Jeff Tarling <jst@portlandmaine.gov>, Danielle West <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Hipple <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, Munjoy Hill <info@munjoyhill.org>, "info@easternpromenade.org" <info@easternpromenade.org>

Greetings Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission,

More important than ever, parks and public open spaces have to be the front line in combating climate change and providing respite from the urban pavement, concrete, and pollution.

It is crucial to protect our parks systems and open spaces by enhancing these spaces with more trees and vegetation in order to: provide cooling syncs during summer, stop erosion, provide a natural filtration system for storm water runoff to prevent going into Casco Bay, provide carbon sequestering, etc.

[The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change | Trust for Public Land \(tpl.org\)](#)

The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change

As a warming planet leads to worsening risks and impacts, American cities are taking matters into their own hand...

In addition, some thought should go into removing as much asphalt and concrete as possible. Since Portland is an old town, Portland still has many streets that have pavers stones (aka cobble stones) that were paved over with asphalt. Ironically, going back to paver stones would be more environmentally sustainable in several ways: 1) It reduces storm water runoff because the water can permeate between the stones and 2) By having pavers, it is a more natural way (or a calming effect) to slow down vehicles on streets rather than having concrete/ asphalt speed bumps although not sure how the snow plows do on pavers but since snow accumulation is disappearing from Portland it may not be an issue in the future.

Regards,

Karen Snyder
Portland, ME

Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, May 27, 2022 at 12:16 PM

To: Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, Ethan Hipple <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, Jamie Reiner <jamiereiner@gmail.com>

Hello folks,

I will be including this in the public comment section of the agenda for June 2nd, I wasn't sure if we wanted to respond to Ms. Snyder before then?

Thank you,
Thom

[Quoted text hidden]



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

Memorial Day - Food Truck Trash Examples

1 message

'Karen Snyder' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Jun 2, 2022 at 9:59 AM

Reply-To: karsny@yahoo.com

To: Danielle West <dwest@portlandmaine.gov>, Anna Trevorrow <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, Roberto Rodríguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Ethan Hipple <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, LandBank <landbank@portlandmaine.gov>, Portland's Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, Easternpromenade Info <info@easternpromenade.org>, Munjoy Hill <info@munjoyhill.org>

Dear City Manager West, Councilor Trevorrow, and S&T Committee Councilors Zarro, Rodriguez, and Pelletier,

Below photos were taken this past Memorial Day of what the Eastern Prom looked like, especially after a holiday.

It is sad to continue to see the Eastern Prom disrespected, damaged, and trashed as a direct correlation to the food trucks and its customers who don't seem to be considerate enough to take their trash with them even if they see the trash bins overflowing. Will this behavior change once they move to Cutter St. midslope parking lot? We shall see.

Please note it is NOT the Parks & Rec Dept's fault for this mess or to clean up this mess but the food trucks and the customers being allowed to congregate on park lands because this is what results. Although, please note several residents did pick up the overflow trash on Monday morning.

Ultimately, is this what we want our public lands especially our parks to look like?

Parks should be the front line for climate change.... and this does not include food trucks.

[The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change | Trust for Public Land \(tpl.org\)](#)

The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change

As a warming planet leads to worsening risks and impacts, American cities are taking matters into their own hand...

Evidence will continue to be collected, documented, and presented regarding this situation as it evolves.

Regards,
Karen Snyder
Waterville St.

Attachments: 5/30/2022 - Photos taken on Eastern Prom







Commission Members:

Chair (vacant), Vice Chair Jaime Parker, Amy Segal, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Kristen Fulmer, Cheri Musgrave, Katie Mears, and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier.

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **May 5, 2022** **5:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

Jamie Parker - introduced various commissioners and himself. Would like to hear from other groups.

II. General Citizen Comment Period (5 min)

III. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: April 3, 2022 **Action Item (5 min)**

Jamie Parker - cannot move to accept the minutes

Jon Kachmar - What was the vote count for the last time?

Admin experienced technical difficulties which resulted in an incorrect count on the motion made in the April meeting: the correct counts was 4 to 4 as opposed to 5 to 3 (yay/nay)

Movement passes - one abstain

b. New Business

i. Welcome new Parks Commissioners (5 min)

Jamie Parker - Reviewed the function of the commission: advisory commission, advisory role only. Advisory vote on the CIP budget. The Commission will review the 10 year plan and advise accordingly. Annual Parks Report is produced, this is a Commission responsibility. Green Space gathering.

Alex Marshall - Confirmed the role and tasks associated with Commission Membership - Fundraising - please review Chapter 18.

Jamie Parker - More focus on educational programming and fundraising. This work would happen in committees. Any questions? None raised.

ii. Reviewing the role and procedures of the Advisory Commission -Jamie Parker (10 min)

Jamie Parker - Looking for members to advocate. Would like to see equity represented in the parks. I Look forward to individuals flexing their skills.

Jon Kachmar - Regarding decision making, there is a difference between the Parks Commission and the Land Bank Commission. LB has decision making authority.

Jamie Parker - Park definition within the terms and discussion will continue. Can Alex or Jon update on

the Land Bank role in this commission?

Alex Marshall - Ongoing discussion, we are working on it.

iii. Moving forward, a strategic discussion (20 min)

Jamie Parker - Opened discussion for people's thoughts on where the commission should go in the future? What are the opportunities?

Cheri Musgrave - Will movements be advised head of time?

Jamie Parker - We will continue to let folks know in advance.

Alex Marshall - If a vote is needed we will advise. Last session was not a formal vote.

Jamie Parker - Let's not put folks in that position again.

Stephen Bentsen - The complicated language made the vote difficult, additional review would have been needed.

Beth Rabbit - Process issue: we need to (as a body) be able to preview statements being made on behalf of the commission. This happened last summer. Would like to see the commission discuss any statements made to the council, and be approved by the full commission.

Jamie Parker - Agreed, advanced notification is very important. It is preferable to miss an opportunity than to speak without the commission reviewing.

Nell Sears - Parks staff does review this and generates the agenda. We have a responsibility to listen to the parks department.

Alex Marshall - We will advise agenda items, we lean on the chair but would like to know more from other members if they would like to raise them.

Zack Anchors - Thinks this would be beneficial. Should we email you? Jamie confirmed. It is important for us to convey why we are discussing these items. Would like to provide context.

Alex Marshall - We would like to see more of: the commission bringing the voices of the residents, so we can address those concerns and get them on the agenda.

Zack Anchors - Supports Alex's recommendation and ideas. Commissioners and the public need to know what we are up to and why. We need to be clear with our role.

Jon Kachmar - Please come back.

Victoria Pelletier - Was at the meeting for 20 minutes due to conflict. Feedback: was disappointed that a vote was forced on a non-voting topic. Very intense and divisive, Sustainability and Transportation Council voted on option A. Disappointing that commissioners resigned over the issue. If you are frustrated with a vote, please reach out to her to continue discussion.

Jamie Parker - Did the packet include the vote from Sustainability and Transportation council?

Alex Marshall - It was not. We should have more information when these issues arise.

Zack Anchors - Sending a link to a meeting video of the previous meeting would have helped.

Marie Gray - Would have been useful to review everything prior to council meetings, so a recommendation is provided to them.

Jon Kachmer - Land Bank has a policy, commissioners should speak as an individual, as opposed to a group.

Jamie Parker - We need to issue advisories.

iv. Overview of committees and membership (15 min)

Jamie Parker - How do committees do their work? How can we meet between meetings. 1 on 1 is fine, but any more than that, staff is needed, the public needs to be notified.

Beth Rabbitt - Signage issue, how do we talk about the indigenous/education aspect of our parks.

Alex Marshall - We need volunteers for the finance committee.

Jamie Parker - Annual report consists of monthly reports, green space gathering, committee work

Alex Marshall - CIP funding and review. Planned improvements. Future interests. Funding directions?

- Outreach - Stephen, Beth, Zack, Jon
- Parks Initiative - Beth, Nell, Jamie, Cheri
- Finance - Marie, Kristen

Jamie Parker - Solution to public communication, include committee meetings in these meetings. Please see the section 'Committee Round Table'. If more time is needed, we will make time the right way.

Beth Rabbitt - Can committee members, can commissioners collaborate on a document.

Alex Marshall - No, unfortunately, it would need to be public facing.

Beth Rabbitt - Can we work in groups of two?

Alex Marshall - Yes

Zack Anchors - How do I reach out if I need to schedule a meeting?

Alex Marshall - You can reach out to Thom, but we would like to tack them onto the meeting.

Thom Nickerson - I can do 1 - 2 meetings a week, maybe.

Alex Marshall - Please make committee meetings during the work day.

v. Greenspace Gathering Update- Zack Anchors (15 min)

Zack Anchors - Scheduled for June 2nd, 5:30 to 7:30 at the East End Community center. Regular commission motion/agenda from 5 to 5:30. Build community, outreach, connections. Theme this year: Trees of Portland Parks. Passionate issue, good opportunity to bring that up. Jeff Tarling will be speaking: history, programs, the department. Alex to provide Parks update. Commission member speaks. Friends Groups will have tables. Talks, presentations. Ask - please spread the word!

Cheri - Where will it be held? East End School (Community Center)

vi. Reminder of upcoming CIP (Capital Improvement Project) - Alex Marshall (5 min)

Alex Marshall - The CIP process - already on us! Email will be provided to Friends Groups/Neighborhood Organizations asking for their ten year plan and what that they might want. July 19th is the cut off, please have all feedback provided by then. Our CIP plan will follow the internal priority criteria. Please review the provided timeline/process. Any questions?

Jamie Parker - Mention at the Green Space Gathering.

Alex Marshall - We only get a few responses, would love to see more feedback. Please make a priority to get your group's feedback to us. Make it a priority.

Jamie Parker - Who can submit this feedback, what is a friends group?

Alex Marshall - Friends Group - Organized group who advocates for their park. Please limit input from particular groups, not so much individuals or sub-groups, please collaborate.

Jamie Parker - How do we get this out to more people? Can we accept feedback?

Alex Marshall - We have an email group, and it goes to that list. Additional feedback from other groups is welcome, but the survey is focused on the groups. List is current as of 2021.

Jamie Parker - Wants to make sure that other groups and individuals can comment.

Alex Marshall - We should be asking the Outreach committee to make sure feedback from the different groups gets to where it needs to go.

Zach Anchors - The Outreach group has certainly done this in the past, we are happy to reach out to more groups if they come to us. Send out invites to Parks Commission meetings.

c. Old Business

i. April business meeting Food Truck records and vote (1 mins)

Jaime Parker - Already covered.

d. Communications and Updates

i. Parks Report (5 min)

Alex Marshall - Staffing is a huge challenge. Frustrating that the list is so big and hard to fill. Limited staff, but not limited requests.

ii. Land Bank Commission Report (5 min)

Jon Kachmar - Trolley park is about to close. Redlon parcels are being purchased. 531 Washington Ave conservation project. TAPIC list, we are still working on those. Have we ever made a park from these?

Jamie Parker - Any committee meetings? None.

iii. Committee Round Table (15-20 min)

e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment

Jamie Parker - Any agenda items? Motion to lose. Marie moved it. Seconded.

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.



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

[Test] 2022 Green Space Gathering

Portland's Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, May 26, 2022 at 11:52 AM

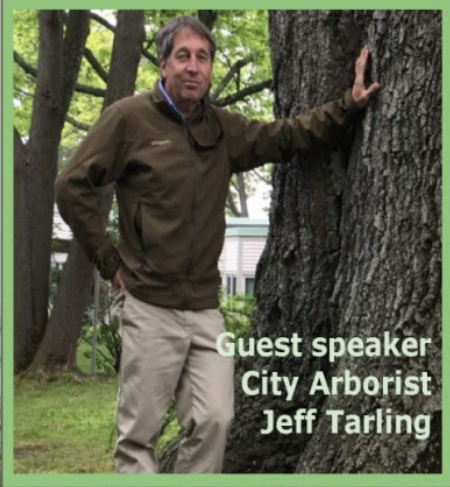
Reply-To: us13-4f54dfb710-eaaf424fb1@inbound.mailchimp.com

To: friends of Portland's parks <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

"Did you get this?" — Thomas Nickerson

To send feedback about this test campaign, reply with a message above this bar.





2022 Greenspace Gathering
The Portland Parks Commission's Annual Event ~ All Are Welcome!

The Trees of Portland's Parks

You are invited to join the Portland Parks Commission on **Thursday, June 2** for its 2022 Greenspace Gathering.

The event will be held this year at East End Community School from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

This will also serve as the June 2022 Parks Commission meeting: this event will be in-person only

Guest speaker
City Arborist
Jeff Tarling

Please email the Parks Commission at parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov if you have any questions about the event or if you would like to reserve a table for your organization.

Dear friends of Portland's parks,

You are invited to join the Portland Parks Commission on Thursday, June 2 for its 2022 Greenspace Gathering. The event will be held this year at East End Community School from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

The Greenspace Gathering is the commission's annual event for members of the public to learn about the latest developments with our parks system. This year the event will include a presentation and panel discussion on "The Trees of Portland's Parks."

The Greenspace Gathering will begin, as usual, with an opportunity for Friends groups and other parks-oriented organizations to table and display any materials that represent their park or organization. Attendees can enjoy hors d'oeuvres while mingling and learning about the various organizations present. This is an opportunity for Friends groups and other stakeholder

organizations to interact with members of the public and share informational materials. If you are involved with a parks organization that would like to reserve a table please reply to this email to let us know.

The evening's presentations will begin at 6:00 PM with updates on the state of Portland's parks from the Parks Commission and Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department staff. Finally, Jeff Tarling, City Arborist and Forestry & Horticulture Manager, will give a presentation featuring highlights and history of the trees of Portland's parks. He will also share recent updates from the city's Forestry Division and information about tree-planting programs that may be of interest to members of the public.

Please email the Parks Commission at parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov if you have any questions about the event or if you would like to reserve a table for your organization.

Best regards,

Members of the Parks Commission

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You are receiving this message because you are part of a Parks Friends Group of the City of Portland, Maine.

Our mailing address is:

City of Portland Parks, Recreation & Facilities
[389 Congress St](#)
Portland, ME 04101-3566

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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: June 2022

Parks Division Staffing

- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker III
- Vacancy: Forestry Supervisor
- Vacancy: Parks Maintainer x2
- Vacancy: Park Ranger
- Recently raised starting wage for Seasonal Positions to \$17/hour. Existing Openings:
 - Forestry Watering x2
 - Parks Maintenance x2
 - Playground Maintenance x2
 - Athletic Facilities Maintenance x2
 - Cemetery Maintenance x7

North Deering Park

The City has partnered with the Trust for Public Land(TPL) to acquire 23.7 acre of combined parcels of land between Washington Ave Extension and outer Auburn Street. TPL has been working with the Parks Conservancy and the Portland Land Bank to fund this acquisition. As of May 26th, we have received over 75% of the acquisition funding through federal and state grants. This acquisition will be a major step to achieving the city's goal of 100% of residents within a 10 minute walk to a park which is a TPL initiative that the Mayor has signed onto.

Congress Square Park

As you may have seen, Congress Square Park Phase A has begun. This is a very exciting time for the City and for the Park. Portions of the Portland Museum of Art plaza will be included in this phase as well as street side planters as they fall within the street right-of-way. Final design for the interior of Congress Square Park is being finalized at this time. It won't be long before we have a beautifully reconstructed park at the interaction of High and Congress Streets.

4th of July

The 4th of July celebration in 2022 will consist of solely a fireworks show at the Eastern Promenade. Due to many extenuating circumstances there will not be any other entertainment or activities happening this year. Food Trucks will be present in the Middle Lot throughout the day of the 4th and Cutter Street and all waterfront activities will be closed down from the middle of the afternoon until after the fireworks show has concluded.



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

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

Baxter Woods

Forestry Staff are working with State entomologists to release beneficial beetles in Baxter Woods that will slow the spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Prior treatments in 2014 were very effective.

Portland Youth Corps

The second season of the Portland Youth Corps is about to get underway. Crew Leaders have recruited and selected 26 young people aged 14-17 to take part in this career training and mentorship program involving service projects in Portland Parks, as well as educational experiences and outdoor adventure. Each program participant is offered a \$500 stipend for their service. City staff operate the program, with significant support and partnership from the Portland Parks Conservancy and Maine Audubon.

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2701/Youth-Corps---Summer-Program>

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Park Walkway improvements: Deering Oaks walkway improvements have a selected contractor. Staff are working to finalize the contract and schedule to begin work.
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised.
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: Additional funding has been secured and the bid will be advertised again as staff time allows.
- Lyseth Playground: A playground manufacturer has been selected with equipment to arrive before the start of the 2022/2023 school year. A site work RFP is currently active for submissions.
- Skate Park Expansion Phase II: Design/Build bids have been received. Evaluation and selection of a preferred firm is the next course of action.
- 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. Fall of 2022 is when the field is anticipated to return with Spring of 2023 as the first playable season.
- 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. We are still waiting for federal approval of the grant. The City Council has approved the \$125,000 portion of the required match and the Parks Conservancy has also concluded their fundraising efforts of the additional \$125,000+



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

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

- Western Promenade Welcome Signs: Three new historic Welcome Signs are being ordered and installed as the weather permits. Spring will be the desirable time for this.
- Lower Western Prom Park Improvements: Final design improvements have been made and we are now waiting to secure additional funding to execute the entire project in the Fall of 2022 or Spring of 2023.
- Community Garden Fence and Gate Installations: We will be replacing 6 Community Garden fences and 4 sheds. Bids are being reviewed. Installation of Fences is anticipated for the Fall of 2022 with a backup of Spring 2023. Sheds will be replaced in tandem with the fencing work.