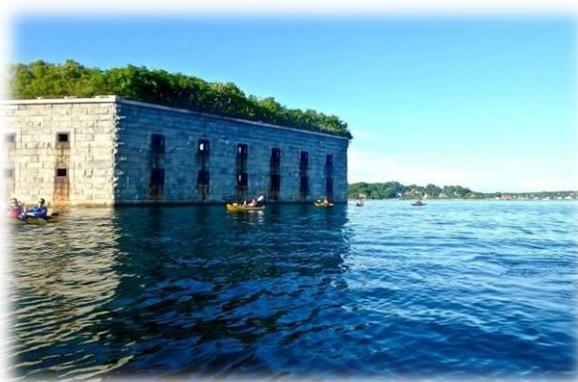


PARKS AND OPEN SPACE REPORT PORTLAND PARKS COMMISSION



JUNE 2019 – OCTOBER 2020

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OVERVIEW

The Portland Parks Commission (PC)¹ is required to submit an annual report to the city council regarding the state of the city's parks and public grounds and make specific recommendations therein about suggested goals and improvements for the parks and public grounds per City Code (Sec. 18-10(d)(4)). The primary audience for the report is Portland's City Council. It is the hope of the PC that anyone interested in, or is an advocate for, the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces also enjoy and make use of this report. Reports are completed annually and build on previous reports.

The Portland Park System includes over 67 parks and playgrounds, 7.5 miles of multiuse trails, 10 community gardens, 2 stadiums, 16 cemeteries and dozens of athletic fields and courts, all spread across 1,000+ acres of land. Explore the parks: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1898/Parks-Trails-and-Playgrounds>

Parks Commissioners

Zack Anchors, Friends of Eastern Promenade 2017-2020

Colette Bouchard, Public-at-Large 2017-2020

Marie Gray, Friends of Deering Oaks, 2018-2021

Jon Kachmar, Land Bank Representative 2020-2023

Cynthia Loebenstein, Friends of Evergreen Cemetery (Chair 2019-present) 2015-2021

Ana Lagunez, Public-at-large 2018-2021

Craig Lapine, Public-at-large 2015-2020

Meri Lowry, Land Bank Representative 2010-2019

Michael Mertaugh, Public-at-Large (V. Chair 2019-present) 2014-2020

Nathan Robbins, Public-at-Large (V. Chair 2018-2019) 2015-2021

Amy Segal, Public-at-Large 2017-2020

Dory Waxman, Public-at-Large (Chair 2017-2019) 2015-2021 ‘

Caitie Whelan, Public-at-Large 2019-2022, stepped down Oct 2020.

Mayor Kate Snyder, City Council Representative, 2019-present

Brian Batson, City Council Representative 2018-2019

City Staff Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities (DPRF)

Ethan Hipple, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

Sally Deluca, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department (Retired June 2020)

Alex Marshall, Parks Director

Elizabeth Deletetsky, Administrative Associate

Allison Carrol, Senior Administrative Officer

Subcommittees

Annual Report & Inventory, Finance, Park Initiatives, Community Outreach

¹ <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/345/Parks-Commission>

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The global pandemic from COVID-19 brought profound changes to the City of Portland's Parks and Open spaces. The budget process was delayed and FY21 funding was not made official until September. Budget cuts had an enormous impact on the Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities, losing \$2 million in revenues, and an additional 5% of FY20's budget to submit to the City Council. The department lost over 30 full-time equivalent positions, equating to 40 jobs. (see "Park Finance" section for more detail).

The result was a loss of core programming, particularly for recreational programs and at community centers in order to reduce exposure risks and the spread of the virus. All water features and pool facilities openings were delayed. Some did not open due to staffing and CDC guidance. Playgrounds were kept open during the entirety of the pandemic with signage placed for visitors to follow guidelines. The parks also saw chronic issues affecting the city's homeless population exacerbated when the closing of day shelters redirected activity to open spaces where socialization and amenities were present, most prominently at Deering Oaks Park. The unexpected activity at Deering Oaks, particularly at the Edwards Lot quickly elevated to the City Council, underscoring the importance of our parks that serve all community members.

At the same time of reduced capacities within the DPRF, there was a large increase in park use. Parks, Trails and open spaces were busier than ever with individual and family visits. There was virtually no event use or permits, but community use was above what is normally experienced. Community members and businesses sought outdoor spaces for physical and mental health, to hold business meetings, to continue offering classes (e.g. fitness, dance, arts, etc.), among many other activities.

Recreation Staff was reprioritized and joined Parks, Horticulture and the Cemeteries crews during the Spring to help with Spring cleanups, mulching, trash removal, pruning, and flower bed cleanouts along with other shared tasks. It was the most productive Spring the parks ever had because of the high staff levels attributed to these partnerships. Staff were offered furlough or to stay on and work. In total, thirteen staff supported the Park's Division's operations.

For the two months between mid-August and mid-October, the Portland Parks Conservancy focused its volunteer coordination on trash removal in city parks. Supporting the DPRF, they organized clean-ups of Deering Oaks, Eastern Prom, Western Prom, Baxter Woods, Fox Field, and Dougherty Field, coordinated over 230 volunteer work hours (~ \$6,500 value), and collected almost 70 bags of trash (approximately 1,600 gallons).

The last seven months of this reporting period has provided daily reminders of the importance of the City's open spaces – more important now than ever. Parks remain in a precarious situation to fulfill the needs of increasing demands on park infrastructure and the city staff.² Despite the deep budget cuts, staff shortages, and the toll it can take on those maintaining our parks and open spaces, staff brought a level of professionalism and dedication to their work maintaining the parks to a high standard, providing

² <https://www.pressherald.com/2020/08/05/portland-city-managers-proposed-budget-would-cut-65-positions-reduce-property-taxes/>

a safe and healthy respite for the whole community, and strengthened cross-departmental and partner relationships.

Some of the more significant developments reported in Park Commission meetings over the past year:

- The DPRF will hire a second full-time Park Ranger;
- The Parks Conservancy hired a new Parks Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator³;
- PC fall service event at Deering Oaks playground, October 2020;
- Preble Street playing fields and Back Cove South Storage Project;
- Homeless population use of Deering Oaks Park, Summer 2020;
- License agreement to maintain a property encroachment prior to sale of home at Western Promenade, September 2020. Withdrawn following meeting;
- Sally Deluca retired as the Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. Ethan Hipple is the new Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities;
- The 2019 GSG focused on individuals experiencing homelessness and the challenges for parks⁴. A resource guide was developed in conjunction with this meeting.⁵ The 2020 GSG focusing on climate change, sea level rise, impacted areas, and park and open space goals and priorities was scheduled for May 6 at Ocean Gateway – the event was postponed due to the pandemic;
- Several additional interpretive sign locations discussed for Fort Gorges, Longfellow Park, and Riverton Trolley Park;
- Western Promenade Master Plan drafting and review. Process began in February 2019 Meeting with PC and Historic Preservation Board January 2020. Continued February 2020;
- Newly formed Friends of Baxter Woods, meeting with Park Commission, December 2019;
- CIP meetings and workshop, September and October 2019;
- PC visit to Fort Gorges with Friends of Fort Gorges, August 2019. Fort Gorges public forum September 2019⁶;
- Baxter Woods Leash Law Change. PC meetings April 2019 and July 2019. City Council vote 8-1 in favor October 2020; and,
- The Great Black Hawk Statute and Interpretive Panel was installed and dedicated, July 17th.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As of October 2019, the Park Capital Improvement Projects list contained \$739,000 worth of projects identified for FY2020, and \$2,120,960 worth of projects for FY2021. Projects identified under \$25,000 totaled \$171,050 for FY2019, \$214,850 for FY2020, and \$141,750 for FY 2021. Presented below are lists of accomplishments achieved or in progress for Portland parks during this reporting year. This includes several projects that were contemplated for completion through CIP funding:

- Amethyst Lot conversion our 67th park (Grant/Private/Property Sale Funded);

³ <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/2128/Parks-Conservancy> | <https://www.portlandparksconservancy.org/>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=748o0XxniWA>

⁵ <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24877/HomlessServicesResourcesGuide>

⁶ <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/2237/Fort-Gorges> | <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1946/Fort-Gorges-Preservation-Plan> (Fort Gorges Preservation Plan)

- Riverton Elementary School Playground has been fully funded and groundbreaking occurred on 8/10/20 (CIP, Private, CDBG funded) Completion on September 14th when school started;
- Longfellow Elementary School Net Climber Replacement (CIP Funded);
- Tennis and Basketball Courts Resurfaced at Eastern Prom, Payson Park and Lyman Moore (tennis only) (CIP Funded);
- Baxter Woods Trail Relocation and Outdoor Classroom Improvements;
- Quarry Run Dog Park Improvements. Trails and overall park safety;
- Deering Oaks ZipKrooz. A 3-track with an ADA seat installed between the playground and tennis courts. (Privately funded);
- Western Prom Vista Clearing has begun near Pine Street and Carroll Street. Additional work on plantings and erosion control measures to come as well as invasive mitigation;
- Valley Street Dog Park to receive funding for possible expansion and fence repair work alongside the parking lot and trail improvement to upper Western Prom. The dog park was resurfaced, and some overgrowth vegetation was removed; and,
- The history of Park names was researched and included on the Parks Department website.

Updates to CIP and other projects previously contemplated for completion in 2020/2021:

- Bramhall Square Improvements are designed with an anticipated 2021 installation;
- Congress Square Park Redesign discussions have occurred and are waiting for CIP funding this coming year to begin work;
- Back Cove Trail Regrading and Resurfacing is newly acquired funding and will commence as time allows;
- Deering Oaks and Eastern Prom walkway improvements are being designed. Eastern Promenade design has been completed and was unanimously approved by the Historic Preservation Board. Deering Oaks is in the beginning stages of design. Once completed and if approved, a combination project bid would be advertised for a possible Summer 2021 completion;
- East End Waterfront Access Plan (EEWAP) is waiting for private funding so we can proceed with a portion of the project at this time;
- Western Promenade Master Plan will be presented as a communication to the City Council shortly;
- Western Prom Serpentine Trail has been awarded and improvements will be made fall of 2020. Trail widening and guardrail placement for safer snow removal by staff;
- Evergreen Cemetery Frontage Improvements are still underway with progress completed this summer;
- Dougherty Field Irrigation to be installed at the same time as the playground design and site work in the Spring/Summer of 2021 (CIP Funded);
- Dougherty Field Playground Phase I is going out to bid for design and equipment Fall/Winter 2020. Phase II will be site work and installation in Summer/Fall 2021;
- Dougherty Field Basketball Court Reconstruction is tied to the playground project. Completion will be by Summer/Fall 2021;
- Skatepark Expansion is waiting community fundraising. CIP total is \$340,000;
- The Fox Field/Kennedy Park Futsal Court is under contract with construction beginning Fall 2020 and completion in Spring 2021;

- Fitzpatrick Drainage is in design with assistance from Public Works and Public Buildings. Planned for completion in Summer of 2021;
- Tennis/Basketball Court Resurfacing at Lyman Moore School (basketball), and Riverton park (tennis) and various small park basketball courts are postponed (anticipate being carried out through inclusion in next budget round);
- Lyseth Playground is the next funded playground that we anticipate a design to occur Winter 2020/2021. Installation anticipated for Summer 2021;
- Riverton School Basketball Court Reconstruction is in design. Anticipate a bid process winter of 2020/2021 and installation before school starts in 2021;
- Riverton Softball Drainage is being designed and modified. Anticipated Spring 2021 completion; and,
- Riverton Preserve ADA Trail to be designed in 2020/2021.

PARK FINANCE

The evolution of the operational budget for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities in FY 2020 and 2021 is shown in Table 1. The operational expenditures of the various departments in the city are met by a combination of General Fund budget allocations and retained revenues from fees, grants, and other sources. In most budget years, over two-thirds of the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department’s operating expenditures are met by retained revenues from fees and user charges, with the General Fund budget making up the difference. Several of the facilities managed by the Department – including the Riverside Golf Course, Merrill Auditorium, and Expo Center -- cover most of their operating costs through retained revenues. For some facilities managed by the Department, revenues have historically exceeded operational expenditures. (In normal years, Merrill Auditorium revenues are more than four times the level of its operational expenditures.)

**Table 1 – General Fund Expenditures, City of Portland
and Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities**
(Finance Department, *Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriation Resolve*)

Budget	FY 2020	FY 2021	% change
City of Portland, All Departments	263,520,934	256,986,420	-2.5%
Total, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department	11,517,193	9,324,469	-19.0%
- Parks Rec & Facilities Admin	639,408	483,407	-24.4%
- Parks	1,129,821	847,077	-25.0%
- Forestry	710,847	727,060	+2.3%
- Athletic Facilities	811,667	912,822	+12.5%
- Cemeteries	827,545	784,163	-5.2%
- Recreation	1,901,439	1,425,500	-25.0%
- Aquatics	639,302	470,351	-26.4%
- Golf Course	1,100,519	991,379	-9.9%
- Golf Course Restaurant	540,787	227,699	-57.9%
- Ice Arena	595,229	551,074	-7.4%
- Public Assembly Facilities	1,061,236	610,039	-42.5%
- Concessions	418,426	369,979	-11.6%
- Custodial Services	958,378	814,505	-15.0%
- Merrill Auditorium	182,589	109,414	-40.1%

Parks account for just 9.1% of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities' operational expenditures, and just 0.3% of the city's operational expenditures. This is slightly less than the allocation for Riverside Golf Course, and considerably less than the outlay for recreational programs (Table 1). Parks generate fewer revenues than most programs and facilities, and in normal years thus require a larger share of budget financing than most of the Department's other divisions. In FY 2020, Parks Division revenues were just 8% of its operational expenditures. Although the Parks Division accounts for just 9.1% of the Department's operational budget, it accounted for 19.6 % of the General Fund budget received by the Department in FY 2020.

The disruptions associated with the coronavirus have led to increased expenditure needs in several areas and declining revenues across the board. All Departments have been affected. The General Fund expenditure budget for the city declined by 2.5% in FY 2021 (versus a 5.9% increase the prior year).

The operational budget for the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities declined by 19.0% in FY 2021-- the largest budget decline of any department except for Planning and Urban Development. Within that departmental budget, the budget for parks operations declined by 25.0% (Table 1). The budget allocation for athletic facilities increased by 12.5% in FY 2021, and the forestry allocation increased by 2.3%. Although there were also significant declines for other divisions in the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department, including Merrill Auditorium, Riverside Golf Course, Public Assembly Facilities, and Troubh Ice Arena, most of those declines reflect the closure of the facilities concerned and the consequent decline in revenues.

To put the Parks Division's budget situation into context, FY 2021 budget allocations net of revenues for the Department's main revenue-earning divisions like Merrill Auditorium and Riverside Golf Course actually increased in FY 2021. That was not true for the Parks Division. Portland's parks remained open throughout the early months of the pandemic, and many experienced an increase in use as Portland residents sought relief from the pandemic-related confinement and closure of other public gathering spaces. Thus the 25% reduction in the Parks Division's budget was significantly larger in impact than a comparison of gross budget allocations would suggest. That led to particular challenges for the city's parks.

The budget cutback for parks has led to the loss in the FY 2021 budget of a number of staff positions, including the operations coordinator for parks, the parks foreman, four parks maintenance workers, and one athletic field maintenance worker. In addition, a budget freeze has blocked the hiring of staff for several formerly approved positions, including a parks maintenance supervisor, an athletic facilities supervisor, and an arborist. Park maintenance has inevitably suffered; some maintenance tasks have had to be deferred until increased city revenues allow the restoration of a more normal budget for parks operations and maintenance.

The Parks Commission has expressed its concern about the reduced resources for parks operations and maintenance and the consequent impact on the quality of the park experience for Portland residents and visitors. The Commission's Finance Committee has been working with staff of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities to explore options for supplementing budget financing in order to reverse or at least mitigate the decline.

Parks are public goods as defined by economists: a) they are "non-rival" goods, meaning that one person's benefit doesn't reduce the benefit for others, and b) they are "non-excludable" goods, meaning

that it is not possible or not practical to provide their benefit to one individual without making it available for others to enjoy. Public goods tend to be under-provided in a free market because their characteristics of non-rivalry and non-excludability mean there is an incentive for users not to pay – the “free-rider” problem. For that reason, parks are generally financed and managed by governments, usually at the local level.

Public budgets for parks are by nature particularly vulnerable to budget underfunding because they provide public goods that benefit the entire community. Because their benefits are diffuse, parks do not generate the same level of public advocacy in the budget review process as programs with more targeted benefits – such as schools, and programs for the homeless and other vulnerable groups. This lack of citizen voice during the budget approval process makes park financing particularly vulnerable to underfunding.

The public goods distinction is usually cited as a reason for public rather than private provision. But it also applies to different kinds of publicly provided services – even to services provided by the same department of city government. Public parks provide diffuse benefits to a broad category of “passive” users who benefit from parks even if they do not participate in organized activities in parks. As originally conceived by Mayor James Phinney Baxter and other earlier advocates of Portland’s public park system, the main motivation for creating public parks in the first place was to create natural landscapes and seascapes as a healthy and beautiful alternative to the increasing congestion of urban life. Portland’s Parks today provide these benefits not only to park visitors, but even to people who do not visit parks. An example is the scenic vistas of Casco Bay which benefit everyone who walks, bicycles, or drives along the Eastern Prom and Fore Street.

In more recent years, Portland’s parks have evolved to offer a range of athletic, educational, and recreational activities. Park users who participate in these programs -- for example, Pickleball enthusiasts and Little League parents -- tend to be vocal advocates for “their” programs in parks, whereas there is little or no public advocacy for the ongoing needs of park maintenance and beautification. This is another example of the free rider program, which may help to explain the small share of the Parks Division in the overall departmental budget.

The Parks Commission has discussed with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities several approaches for mobilizing additional financing for Portland’s parks. The most widespread approach to dedicated park financing is to finance capital costs of park acquisition or improvements through a voter-approved bond issue. Voter-approved initiatives to issue general obligation bonds for parks and park-related purposes have a strong record of success in Maine and around the country:

“Nationwide, big cities have an impressive track record of passing funding measures for parks and open space. Since 1996, voters in cities and urban counties across the country approved 137 of 153 such measures for a 90 percent success rate (even higher than the national average for all conservation measures which is 76 percent approval). Bonding is by far the most common funding mechanism employed by cities—accounting for 70 percent of the parks ballot measures—followed by the property tax and sales tax at 14 percent each.”⁷

⁷ *Conservation Finance Study, March 2015: City of Portland, Maine*, pages 20 and 21. Trust for Public Land, March, 2015.

An important limitation of bond financing, however, is that it is generally limited to capital costs, whereas the main financing challenge for Portland's parks concerns financing of operations and maintenance costs.

Another source of budget supplementation are impact fees levied on new development, with dedicated revenues for park development. An impact-fee financing ordinance was adopted by Portland's City Council in 2018, partly at the recommendation of the Parks Commission. The ordinance makes developers responsible for payment of fees for various kinds of development, with designated portions of each fee designated to be set aside for parks and recreation, transportation, and wastewater treatment. Parks and recreation are designated to receive \$1,126 for each new residential unit, with a similar schedule of fees for other types of development. Since the enactment of the ordinance, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities has collected \$200,000 in impact fees for parks and recreation facilities.

Under the new impact-fee ordinance, "funds from these accounts shall be distributed to City departments solely for the purpose of capital projects identified in the City of Portland's most recent Impact Fee Study." Thus, under current legislation, impact-fee revenues cannot be used to finance general operations and maintenance of the city's parks.

Yet another source of budget supplementation for parks is from funds raised by parks friends groups through individual and corporate contributions and foundation grants. This is an important source of financing for several parks in Portland, as it has been for parks nationwide. Eastern Promenade Park, Congress Square Park, Deering Oaks Park, Lincoln Park, and Evergreen Cemetery, in particular, have benefited from significant financing by their respective friends groups.⁸ Under the Parks ordinance, the Parks Commission is charged with working with parks friends groups "to discuss annual projects and to recommend goals and priorities for capital improvement projects to the city council."

The Commission is working on strengthening its support to parks friends groups to improve their strategic planning capacity, fund-raising effectiveness, and financial transparency. The Commission's Finance Committee is working with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that would describe the mutual responsibilities of friends groups and the city in protecting and improving Portland's parks. Together with the Outreach Committee, the Finance Committee is updating the 2017 *Friends and Community Partners Handbook* to strengthen the Commission's support and guidance to friends groups in fundraising and financial reporting.

The Finance Committee also worked with staff of the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department to develop the website for the "Love Portland" giving program for parks. The website allows the public to contribute to various categories of park improvements, with specific locations and dedications. Still relatively new, the program has collected \$1,400 to date for the planting of trees in Portland's parks. Although still modest, this financing is making an important contribution to the natural beauty of our parks and to a healthy environment. Hopefully, financing from this source will grow in the future.

⁸ Since 1997, the Friends of the Eastern Promenade have raised \$920,000 for the benefit of the Eastern Promenade Park and Fort Allen.

In sum, the passive benefits of parks are particularly important during the restriction of public gatherings under current measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Public visits to parks have increased markedly since the start of pandemic restrictions, even as recreational and athletic programs have been curtailed for public health reasons. Public visits to parks have become increasingly important for the physical and mental health of Portland residents as they seek an escape from pandemic-related confinement. Visits to public parks provide one of the few available sources of healthy exercise and renewal while respecting the prevailing recommendations for social distancing.

Portland has an unusual richness of public parks. But the quality of the park experience is threatened by budget cutbacks for parks operations and maintenance. The Parks Commission urges city authorities to restore budget financing for parks operations and maintenance in the current budget year. We also urge the Council to give parks operations and maintenance greater prominence in future budget years in order to ensure that parks fulfill the vision of their founders⁹ and continue to play a vital role as a source of healthy exercise, renewal, and pride for all Portland residents during the current pandemic and in the future.

⁹ *Bold Vision: the Development of the Parks of Portland, Maine*, edited by Theo H.B.M. Holtwijk and Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Greater Portland Landmarks, 1999.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Park Master Plans, Projects, and Improvement Project Timeline:

- 2021-2030 Capital Improvement Projects and Timeline for Parks¹⁰
- FY2020-FY2024 City of Portland Capital Improvement Plan¹¹

Table 2: Summary of FY20-FY21 CIP Projects and FY19-F21 Projects Under \$25,000 by location or type.

List of projects with anticipated costs. Inclusion does not constitute projects are funded.

<i>Location or Type</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>FY19-FY21</i>	<i>CIP</i>	<i><25k</i>
<i>Amenities</i>	Picnic Pavilions	\$85,000	X	
	Ping Pong--Outdoor	\$10,000		X
<i>Back Cove</i>	Preble St Synthetic Turf Field*	\$1,250,000	X	
	Baxter Boulevard Safety Enhancements --Stairs and Railings*	\$100,000	X	
	Back Cove Guard Rail	\$100,000	X	
	Back Cove Re-pave Tukey's Bridge Approach*	\$50,000	X	
	Back Cove Trail Reconstruction and Stone Dust Resurfacing	\$75,000	X	
	Back Cove interpretive panel replacement	\$5,000		X
	Back Cove Fitness Course Replacement	\$5,000		X
	Back Cove Guard Rail 1-295	\$10,000		X
<i>Baxter Pines</i>	Baxter pines info kiosk	\$2,500		X
	Baxter pines trail work	\$5,000		X
<i>Bike Park</i>	Bike Park Design	\$10,000		X
<i>Cemetery</i>	Road Reconstruction (Focus for 2021: Evergreen and Forest City)	\$100,000	X	
<i>City-Wide</i>	City-Wide: Fencing Replacement	\$50,000	X	
	City-Wide: Park Walkway ADA Paving (2021 Priorities: Dougherty Field, Payson Park, Lower Western Prom)	\$100,000	X	
<i>Community Gardens</i>	Various Fence Repairs/Additions (3-4 Gardens)	\$30,000	X	
	Various Shed Replacements*	\$25,000	X	
	Fence replacement (10 gardens, 1 fence per year)	\$24,000		X
	General Infrastructure Repair--Water lines, faucets, vandalism	\$3,000		X
	Shed Replacement	\$6,000		X
<i>Congress Square Courts</i>	Congress Square Park Design and Construction	Planning CIP (tbd)		
	Back Cove Fitness Court*	\$100,000	X	
	Fox St Basketball Resurface*	\$30,000	X	
	Payson Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	\$29,000	X	

¹⁰ <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1943/Park-Master-Plans-and-Projects>

¹¹ <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26951/Capital-Improvement-Plan-FY-2020---FY-2024> (project details in Part B, list of parks projects on pages 134 and 135)

Location or Type	Project	FY19-FY21	CIP	<25k
	Payson Tennis--Add Tennis Court lights*	\$150,000	X	
	Riverton Basketball Reconstruction	\$69,000	X	
	Valley Street Basketball Reconstruction*	\$65,000	X	
	West End Court Resurfacing (Pleasant St, Tyng Tate, Reiche, Taylor)	\$30,000	X	
	Adams St Playground x 1	\$500		X
	Deering Oaks Basketball x 2	\$1,000		X
	Dougherty x 1	\$500		X
	Eastern Prom x 1	\$500		X
	Fox Street x 2	\$1,000		X
	Longfellow School x 1	\$500		X
	Lyman Moore x 2	\$1,000		X
	Payson x 1	\$500		X
	Riverton School x 1	\$500		X
	Valley Street x 1	\$500		X
	West End (Pleasant, Tyng Tate, Reiche, Taylor) x 4	\$2,000		X
	Eastern Prom Practice Wall	\$5,000		X
	Eastern Prom x 3	\$2,400		X
	Lyman Moore x 3	\$2,400		X
	Payson Tennis x 4	\$3,200		X
	Riverton Tennis x 3	\$2,400		X
<i>Deering High School</i>	Deering High School Field Upgrades*	\$275,000	X	
<i>Deering Oaks</i>	Deering Oaks Baseball Lights*	\$250,000	X	
	Deering Oaks Infield Upgrades and Irrigation*	\$75,000	X	
	Deering Oaks Lighting Replacement	LED project		
	Deering Oaks Restroom: "Portland Loo" or similar	\$171,000	X	
	Deering Oaks Sidewalks--ADA walking paths around pond, ADA access to Ravine	\$149,000	X	
	Deering Oaks Castle: ADA railing repair (EO attempting repair)	\$10,000		X
<i>Dougherty Field, Skate Park, Kiwanis</i>	Dougherty Field Irrigation	\$46,000	X	
	Dougherty Skate Park Expansion*	\$290,000	X	
	Skatepark erosion and asphalt	\$8,250		X
	Skatepark Landscaping, Trees, Shrubs, and Picnic Tables	\$6,000		X
	Skatepark water fountain	\$6,000		X
	Kiwanis Playground Seating, Trees, Pergola	\$8,000		X
<i>Eastern Promenade & East End Beach</i>	East End Boat Ramp Reconstruction*	\$300,000	X	
	Eastern Prom Cleaves Monument Plaza and Walkways	\$91,960	X	
	Eastern Prom East End Waterfront Access	\$87,000	X	
	Eastern Prom Invasives/Hillside Clearing	\$75,000	X	
	Eastern Prom 90' Embankment Slide	\$50,000	X	
	Eastern Prom/Back Cove Wayfinding	\$3,000		X
<i>Evergreen Cemetery</i>	Evergreen Driveway Drainage	\$260,000	X	
	Wilde Chapel Masonry (2020 priority: emergency repairs)	\$75,000	X	
	Mackworth St Stairs to Baxter (Public Works?)	\$10,000		X
<i>Fitzpatrick Stadium</i>	Fitzpatrick Paving and ADA Improvements*	\$235,000	X	

Location or Type	Project	FY19-FY21	CIP	<25k
<i>Fore River Trail</i>	Fore River Trail--remove fence, install wood guard rail	\$3,500		X
<i>Fort Gorges</i>	Fort Gorges Preservation Plan (Structural Stabilization)	\$291,000	X	
<i>Fort Sumner</i>	Fort Sumner Lighting*	\$50,000	X	
	Ft Sumner Lighting on Trail	\$10,000		X
	Ft Sumner Master Plan Update	\$5,000		X
	Ft Sumner Water Fountain	\$5,000		X
<i>Harborview</i>	Harborview Lighting	LED project		
<i>Invasive Species</i>	Ongoing Annual Mowing 10 days at \$1000	\$30,000		X
<i>Lincoln Park</i>	Lincoln Park Fence--Congress St	\$275,000	X	
<i>Longfellow Elementary</i>	Ludlow Pond Dirt Road repair	\$2,500		X
	Ludlow Pond Grading	\$15,000		X
<i>Lyseth</i>	Lyseth Playground	\$275,000	X	
<i>Martins Point</i>	Martins Point Access Improvements*	\$150,000	X	
	Martins Point Site Plan: trails, steps, boat access	\$10,000		X
<i>Oatnuts</i>	Oatnuts Trail Improvements	\$5,000		X
<i>Ocean Ave</i>	Ocean Ave Bridge over Drainage Swale	\$5,000		X
<i>Payson</i>	Payson B Softball Drainage and Irrigation*	\$110,000	X	
	Payson Park Bollard Replacement (Replace wood with granite)	\$50,000	X	
	Payson Park Master Plan Update*	\$30,000	X	
	Payson Park Playground	\$250,000	X	
	Payson Park Cross-Park Trail (Front St to Baseball Parking lot)*	\$50,000	X	
	Payson Park Master Plan	\$25,000		X
	Payson Park Walking Paths	\$10,000		X
<i>Peaks Island Dog Park</i>	Peaks Island Dog Park Fence	\$15,000		X
<i>Peppermint</i>	Peppermint Park Entrance Plaza Smith St--Brick	\$10,000		X
<i>Presumpscot School</i>	Presumpscot Playground Retaining Wall, Chip Retention	\$9,500		X
<i>Quarry Run Dog Park</i>	Quarry Run Dog Park Fence Repair	\$20,000		X
	Quarry Run Water Faucet	\$2,500		X
<i>Riverton</i>	Riverton Trolley Park Trails, Water Access Improvements*	\$75,000	X	
	Riverton Trolley Park--new trail kiosk	\$10,000		X
	Riverton Trolley Park Trail	\$5,000		X
<i>Signs</i>	Park Entrance Signs	\$20,000		X
<i>Trail</i>	Sensory Trail (8 ft wide ADA accessible stone dust path with added elements and signage for individuals with hearing loss, sight loss or other physical challenges)	\$96,000	X	
<i>Western Promenade</i>	Western Prom Vista Clearing and Plantings	\$50,000	X	
	Western Prom Switchback Widening	\$10,000		X
	Western Prom Regrade Trail, Erosion Control	\$12,500		X

*Indicates CIP projects in FY22

SURVEY OF PARK FRIENDS GROUPS

Table 3: Results from Park Commission survey of friends groups, 2020

What is the name of your Friends Group?	Friends of Lincoln Park	Friends of Fort Gorges	Friends of Deering Oaks	Peaks Environmental Action Team	The Friends of Fort Sumner Park	Friends of Mayor Baxter Woods	Friends of Western Promenade	Friends of Deering Oaks	Friends of Harbor View Park (part of WENA)
How frequently is your group in communication DPRF?					Occasionally	Occasionally	Often	Often	Often
Have you ever attended a meeting of the PC?					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are you a 501c3 organization?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Does your Friends Group have an Executive Director?	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
How many people serve on the board?	Six	6	Eight (8)	seven	Five	Three	5 Board Members, 3 Advisory Board Members	Seven (7)	No board - a loose team of 4-6 advisors
How many members are in this Friends Group?	estimated 150 via eblasting	While we are not a membership organization, we have an email list of over 5K and a social media reach that exceeds 10K	About 125	15	100+ (but over 300 email addresses)	300+	No formal membership currently. We do have a mailing list of interested parties.	About 200 (about 120 households)	Volunteers, not members
Does the City have a Master Plan for your park?	Yes	No	Yes	No	In process	Yes	In process	Yes	No
Do you use that Master Plan for your park?	Yes	We don't have one to use	Yes	We don't have one to use	We plan to	Yes	We plan to	Yes	No
If your park has one, how do you use your Master Plan?	As a guide in reconstructing an historic landmark, dating back to 1866	N/A	We have followed the MP very carefully since our group was formed in 1997. We estimate that the identified Master Plan projects are now about 75-80% complete.		NA	Use master plan as a guide to identify specific areas of the park's natural habitats for protection, and to target ways we can work with City Staff to better preserve MBW for all park users, as well as the flora and fauna within parks borders.		Actively advocate for completion of elements of Master Plan, raise private funds to supplement City efforts. We do not raise funds for basic City responsibilities, e.g. sidewalks. Estimate Master Plan (1994) is 75-80% complete.	we would like to create a longer-term plan for the park but the social and economic impact of the pandemic and the limitations on the Parks Dept are not promising.
Do you have a Capital Campaign now?	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No
If yes, how much are you trying to raise for your Capital Campaign?	\$1,600,000	N/A	Just finished capital campaign for the Great Black Hawk sculpture. Successfully raised \$27,000 needed for the project.		We plan to begin a capital campaign to raise funds for lighting along Fort Sumner Trail	N/A	Expect to kick off a Capital Campaign in Fall, 2020 coincident with City adoption of the Master Plan.		We are not raising money for a Capital Campaign.
How much have you raised to date?	confidential at this time	N/A. We're preparing to launch a "preservation campaign".	All.		None	Raised approx. \$2,000 in 2019 Kickoff campaign to support establishing a Friends group - to fight the City's push for a full-time leash law in Mayor Baxter Woods. We are still poised to fight the leash law proposal.	We have raised \$20,000 to date, largely as a match to the HPF grant, collectively underwriting the Master Plan cost.	Over 23 years (1997), FoDO has raised \$920,000 for capital projects and programs.	\$20,800 (not Capital Campaign)
How many volunteer hours did your members perform in the park this past year?	Haven't a clue	500+ off-site, approx. 150 on-site	Two - focused effort: individual donors, foundations, corporations, social media effort.	120	120+-	Estimate hundreds of hours of cleanup by individuals - organized and ad hoc, as well as separate efforts to remove invasives. Currently seeking guidance from City on removal of invasives to implement this aspect of the master plan.	Approximately 200 hours, largely in support of Master Plan	10	250 hours in the park. 400 hrs. in office work.

AGENDA ITEMS JUNE 2019-OCTOBER 2020

Meetings of the Park Commission with links to agendas for quicker access to packets of meeting agendas, notes and supporting materials.

- Oct 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1711&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Sept 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1710&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- August 2020
No meeting
- July 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1092&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- June 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1091&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- May 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1090&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- April 2020
Meeting cancelled
- March 2020
Meeting cancelled
- Feb 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1087&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Jan 2020
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1461&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Dec 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1085&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Nov 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1084&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Oct 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1083&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Sept 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1082&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Sept 2019 Workshop
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=1100&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- Aug 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=97&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- July 2019
<https://portlandme.civicclerk.com/Web/Player.aspx?id=95&key=-1&mod=-1&mk=-1&nov=0>
- June 2019
Meeting cancelled

PARKS INVENTORY FOR THE 2020 CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

PARKS COMMISSION REPORT

Park Inventory

The following sources were used in drafting the below inventory of Parks of Portland, Maine: 1. Section 2-44, City Code for City of Portland, Maine, revised 7/10/14 (the “Land Bank Ordinance”) 2. Section 18-11, City Code for City of Portland, Maine, revised 5/28/14 (the “Parks Ordinance”)

N.B. School playgrounds and athletic fields are not included in the park inventory even though the City of Portland does maintain and fund ongoing maintenance and replacement. PARKS IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Dedicated Parks Listed in both the Parks Ordinance and the Land Bank Ordinance:

Back Cove Park and Trail
Barrows Park/Baxters Sundial
Baxter Pines
Baxter Woods
Bayside Park, also known as Stone Street Playground Bell Buoy Park
Belmeade Park
Capisic Pond Park
Clark Street Park
Congress Square Park
Deering Oaks Park
Dougherty Field
Eastern Promenade Park, East End Beach, Fort Allen Park
Fessenden Park
Fort Gorges
Fort Sumner Park
Fox Field/Kennedy Park
Harbor View Park and Tate-Tyng Park
Heseltine Park
Lincoln Park
Lobsterman Park
Longfellow Square
Monument Square
Munjoy South Playground
Payson Park
Peppermint Park
Pleasant Street Park
Post Office Park
Riverside Golf Course
Riverton Trolley Park (incorrectly listed as Riverton Park in the Ordinances)
Stroudwater Parks (there are 2 listed in the Ordinances)
Taylor Street Park

Tommy's Park
Western Promenade Park

Dedicated Parks Listed in the Parks Ordinance and Not the Land Bank Ordinance:

Andrews Square – N.B. This Park consists of a flagpole only
Bayside Trail
Bedford Park
Boothby Square
Boyd Street Gardens
Bramhall Square
Caldwell Square
Clark Street Playground
Tate-Tyng Playground (not in alphabetical order because of association with Harborview Park)
Longfellow Park
Marada Adams Playground N.B. This Park is located at the corner of Beckett and O'Brion Streets and is not the Adams School Playground Martin's Point Park
Nason's Corner Park
Pedro Field
Pleasant Street Playground
Quaker Park
South Street Playground
Trinity Park
Winslow Park

The Parks Commission notes that University Park is listed in the Land Bank Ordinance and not in the Parks Ordinance. University Park is therefore included on the Land Bank Registry as a Land Bank property that is not a park.