



Sally L. DeLuca
Director

Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Ethan Hipple
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Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

FROM: Ethan Hipple, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: April 2018

Budget Season

Department budget has been submitted to City Manager and Finance Director for review.

Congress Square Park

Worked with Congress Square Park design team on water play feature, lighting, park access and other items. Fundraising campaign for project to be kicked off in 2018.

Pianos in the Park

Created working group of Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, local businesses, Portland Downtown and Friends of Congress Square Park to implement Pianos in the Park program. Donated pianos will be refurbished, tuned and brought to public downtown squares. Local businesses will “adopt” the pianos and move them in and out each day so that the public can play them during business hours.

Fort Gorges Public Events

Convened Fort Gorges site visit on Bay Mist Ferry. Purpose of trip was to evaluate facility for potential special event permitting and ongoing draft MOU with Friends of Fort Gorges. Trip involved staff from Fire, Police, PRF, Inspections, Legal, Bay Ferries Operations. Dry run to test docking of boat, passenger access, Fire Boat tie up, safety and access issues.

Parks Conservancy

Parks Conservancy Governance Committee working to finalize MOU with City, Executive Director Position Description, and Board By-Laws. Next order of business is to hire an Executive Director with significant fundraising experience.

Community Service Projects

Met with full-time Park Ranger about taking on coordination of community service projects. Moving forward, Park Ranger will serve as point of contact for groups seeking to perform community service projects in Portland Parks.

Development of Parks Operations Space at 212 Canco Rd

Review of Parks Division space in 212 Canco warehouse: met with Project Manager concerning



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construction schedule and office and storage moving. Renovation project will result in improved office space, storage, work space for Parks, Forestry and Horticulture crews at 212 Canco Rd.

Opportunity Crew

Met with Health and Human Services concerning implementation of 2018 Opportunity Crew. While new 2018 CDBG grant was not approved, funds remain from existing CDBG grant to start crew in late April 2018. Staff have also applied for two grants that would continue to support this program. Currently seeking alternative funding sources to continue this program, including **donations from the public which can be made by texting the word "CREW" to phone number 91999.**

Pedestrian Hiking Bridge

Met with local landowner concerning bridge donation to city. 70 foot bridge, could potentially be used to cross Stroudwater River and connect two existing trail systems. Working with Planning and Portland Trails to determine feasibility and logistics.

Tree Planting

Planning to plant over 150 trees citywide as part of annual tree planting season. Trees planned for City Hall, Deering Oaks Playground, residential streets and many other locations.

Baxter Trail

Baxter Trail meeting: finalized route and sign placements, working on creating content for each sign. Trail would be 3.25 miles long, starting at Back Cove, ending at Baxter Pines. Map here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1fdtEV9F5IO71zo9mAxT1UQ4MPk0&usp=sharing>

Stormwater Compliance

Coordinated Stormwater Compliance Training for Parks Training

Friends of Congress Square Park

Finalized new 3 year MOU with Friends of Congress Square Park to provide programming and events.

Park Projects Update

Staff are working on the following funded CIP/Park Improvement projects:

- Cousins Memorial Reconstruction: bids due in April.
- Deering Oaks Playground Improvements: Zip line and net climber coming Spring 2018.
- Futsal Court, Fox Field: Funded by CDBG, planning for Spring construction
- Hall School Playground: Design complete, staff will be managing construction
- Island Playground Improvements: funding secured, bid awarded. Construction Spring 2018.
- Lincoln Park Fence Restoration: funding secure, design and specs 90%, approved by Historic Preservation Board. Project will be combined with Congress St sidewalk project to be completed



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under one contractor. Will go out to bid April 2018.

- Lyman Moore Athletic Facility Drainage and Reconstruction: funding and design complete, bid awarded, summer install.
- Park Signs: funding secured, spring install.
- Payson Playground improvements, summer install.
- Payson Softball Title IX restroom and locker room improvements: funding secured, spring installation

“A Walk In the Park” Series

Planned spring and summer series of walks and talks in Portland Parks. Highlights include Tree Bus Tour, Park History Bike Slow Ride, Peaks Island Bike Slow Ride, Edible Plants Walk, and more.

- More info at: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1990/A-Walk-In-The-Park-Tours-and-Talks>