

Sally L. DeLuca
Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Matt Coleman
Parks Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission
FROM: Matt Coleman, Parks Division Manager, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department
SUBJECT: Parks Division Update
DATE: November 2018

CIP

Staff have collected quotes, plans, photos and other backup documentation for FY 2020. All information has been submitted to PRF Director for review. Next is final submission to City Manager and Finance Director.

Park Projects Update

- Cousins Memorial Reconstruction: 7 benches have been installed at the site, completing the project.
- Deering Oaks Playground Improvements: Net climber will be installed the first week of November. Zip line installation and other site improvements remain.
- Futsal Court, Fox Field: Funded by CDBG, planning for early Spring construction
- Island Playground Improvements: Wood-chip surfacing and installation of swings remain at Cliff Island. Great Diamond Island site work is currently underway. Peaks Island is halfway complete, erecting net climber is the last step.
- Park Signs: Installation on smaller park welcome signs has started on fencing. Several parks now have welcome signs mounted on 6x6 cedar posts. We will continue to install the new signage as weather permits.
- Lyman Moore Field Improvements: Athletic field improvements completed. Staff has been trained on operation of irrigation system and the field is prepped for winter
- Dougherty Field Playground: Design phase and community input to start Fall 2018.
- Rowe Elementary School: Tree planting was one of the main projects at the school. The crew planted 16 new trees at the site in challenging conditions due to site construction and student activity, not to mention the tough soil condition.

Forestry Update

Staff are working on revising city code to specify fines for illegal/unauthorized tree cutting. Will require Council approval. We have been meeting to discuss strategies to improve the process of fulfilling requests using City Works and See Click Fix. Our goal is to improve workflow and customer service.

Sally L. DeLuca
Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Matt Coleman
Parks Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Deering Oaks Pond

Pond is drained and duck house removed. This will be followed up with cleaning of pond bottom and repairs to a failed section of stone wall caused by a storm water washout.

Interactive Map of Evergreen Cemetery

We are excited to offer a new interactive map of Evergreen Cemetery. This interactive map will allow you to search for loved ones and the many famous burials at Evergreen Cemetery. Searching can be done by name, age and other parameters.

Maine Conservation Corps

A six crew member team have been working on trail improvements at Presumpscot River Preserve. This was a cooperative with Portland Trails staff.

Fall Maintenance

Staff are using this precious time before winter to accomplish various tasks throughout our city parks. Parks crew are mulching and removing leaves, mowing our meadows and fields, and training staff on our sidewalk plowing procedures. Forestry and Horticulture crews are catching up on stump grinding, tree pruning, preparing beds for spring flowering and chipping away at the large amount of public requests. Cemetery and athletic facilities crews are prep their areas for the coming winter.

Skatepark Fundraising

Our latest meeting concentrated on developing plan to increase size of Fundraising Committee to 10, working on grant applications and institutional giving campaigns, and developing fundraising training for the group.

Parks Division Staff Update

Interviews were conducted and the candidates for the Evergreen Cemetery Administrative Associate and Horticulture Supervisor have been selected and notified. Next round of interviews will be for the Athletic Facilities Supervisor position.

Portland Container Company

Met with Portland Container Company about Opportunity Boxes in Portland Parks. These customizable shipping containers can be placed on a location and used for small-scale retail, food, beverage or recreational uses. We are looking to set up a pilot program where we would license OpBox to operate and rent space to vendors with a recreational focus (bikes, scooters, kites) or food focus (coffee, food). This has great potential to help activate parks and add activities that will draw park visitors. We recently met and are considering a vendor at the Eastern Promenade sledding hill for the winter. They would be serving hot chocolate, coffee, and treats for park visitors to enjoy.

Sally L. DeLuca
Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Matt Coleman
Parks Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

“A Walk In the Park” Series

Mark your calendar and wear something warm for the next round of our series. Join our staff in January for Oak Nuts Park Snowshoe or Walk TO Presumpscot Falls. February will offer Evergreen Cemetery Woods XC Ski and Snowshoe.