



A Place for Celebration, Remembrance, and Rejuvenation

For 90 years Longfellow Park has been a public park, a green space for all to enjoy, home to plants, trees, wildlife. The park is a gathering place for celebrations, remembrances, offers recreation and relaxation, rejuvenates ones spirit, a neighborhood gem, in the heart of busy, growing and ever changing Oakdale and surrounding University neighborhoods and community.



UNIVERSITY NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

A COMMUNITY WITHOUT BORDERS

ABOUT US ♦ The mission of University Neighborhood Organization (UNO) is to promote the Oakdale and surrounding neighborhoods as an appealing destination and place to live. UNO is Friends of Longfellow Park. We welcome support to improve the park's accessibility, safety, and beauty for all. We welcome people who identify with this area from a variety of entry points that consider themselves members of this community. We call this, A Community of Interest.

HISTORY ♦ UNO was established in 2005 as the first neighborhood association without borders in Portland, Maine. Traditionally, maps define us, and our neighborhoods. Our lives are more than rigid lines on paper. We cross boundaries all the time and identify with places, in which we work, play, & visit, in addition to the place where we hang our hats.

OUR PHILOSOPHY ♦ The University of Southern Maine (USM) represents the core community of interest for the University Neighborhood Organization (UNO). The USM community is far reaching and includes students, faculty, employees, visitors and others who may come into the neighborhood on a regular basis or stay for discrete periods of time and therefore may not recognize the "equity" they hold in the neighborhood. UNO exist to bring these diverse voices together to create and sustain a warm, inviting and inclusive community without borders.

PARTNERSHIP ♦ UNO and USM Phi Mu Delta Fraternity partnership embrace a shared vision. We co-host events in Longfellow Park to bridge campus life to the neighborhood, like the annual "Earth Day Clean Up, annual Neighborhood Block Party, Special 90th Anniversary Celebration & when tragedy struck our neighborhood we partnered with HopeGateWay United Methodist Church, Woodfords Church, Trinity Church, Temple Beth El Noyes, Chime Chaplaincy Institute of Maine and residents to host a vigil in the aftermath of the horrific November 1st, 2014 Noyes Street fire.

UNO builds community by connecting surrounding educational institutions, religious entities, city and businesses together with the neighborhood's residents living side by side by hosting events that bring them together. Recently UNO, HopeGateWay and Greater Portland Landmarks co-hosted two events on the history of "Streetcar Suburbs along the Forest Avenue Corridor: The Oakdale, Fessenden Park, and Oakwood Heights Neighborhoods".

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UNO greatly appreciates our sponsors, community collaborators, & volunteers for making the 4th Annual "Longfellow Park Neighborhood Block Party" possible!

USM Phi Mu Delta Fraternity ♦ USM Campus Life
USM Chemistry Club ♦ UNE College of Pharmacy
The Millennial Press ♦ KeyBank ♦ Walgreens
Oakhurst Dairy ♦ Hannaford at Forest Ave.
Captain Eli's Soda Co. ♦ Artist & Craftsman
Supply ♦ Leonardo's Pizza ♦ Great Lost Bear ♦
The Bayou Kitchen ♦ UHAUL ♦ Abilene Restaurant
♦ Dunkin Donuts ♦ Big Sky Bakery ♦ Portland
Community Squash ♦ Greater Portland Landmarks
Mayor Ethan Strimling ♦ City Councilor Brian
Batson ♦ Portland Fire Department ♦ Portland
Police Department ♦ Portland Parks, Recreation &
Facilities ♦ Portland Public Works ♦ Portland
Public Library Bookmobile



The History of Longfellow Park

Longfellow Park was purchased from members of the Noyes family, by the City of Portland in August 1927 for \$5,000.00. It was the first park created by local residents who contributed a sum of \$2,500.00 towards the purchase of the .37 acre lot. The City of Portland added \$4,000.00 toward the purchase.

This triangular-shaped parcel between Noyes, Longfellow and Oakdale Streets was an unsightly plot of barren soil. The city's Park Commissioner William J. Dougherty developed a landscape treatment plan in February 1928 to transform the space into a park, he spared no expense. Three years later the park was known as "Longfellow Park" and recognized as one of Portland's best small parks standing out for its neatness and beauty.

Norway Maples were planted for shade and accompanied by several specimen trees of dogwood and flowering crab. Along the paths were a barberry hedge with flowering plants. Yearly plantings consisted of sunny marigolds and scarlet geraniums. The park contained cement and oak benches made by the park department so that patrons could sit outside all the year round.

Years passed, and due to budget cuts "Longfellow Park" glory days faded away. UNO, Phi Mu Delta Fraternity, Alpha One, Portland Assisted Living Center and residents organized to restore the park's beauty and make it user friendly for residents living with disabilities. They continue to advocate for ADA compliant features, permanent lighting, electricity, & holiday lights to restore the park as a joyful place for all neighborhood and city residents.



A PARK FOR EVERYONE

In response to UNO's advocacy work in the Spring 2016, the City of Portland Public Works Department resurfaced the old, uneven, cracked and unsafe sidewalks in Longfellow Park making it possible for residents living with disabilities to use the park. UNO hosted a red ribbon cutting celebration to celebrate the long over due work. City Councilor Jill Dusen joined the spirited occasion.

"To me Longfellow Park is a place to play with my children, laugh with my neighbors, walk the dog and take a moment to enjoy a little bit of nature in my neighborhood."

An Oakdale Neighbor

