

City of Auburn, Maine

"Maine's City of Opportunity"

Conservation Commission

PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE AGENDA Wednesday, January 27, 2016 – Auburn Hall

Roll call

Approval of Minutes

Our report and recommendations to Conservation Commission

To be presented at Conservation Commission Meeting Thursday, January 28, 2016

Draft of Parks Advisory Ordinance- changes to current ordinance

To be presented at Conservation Commission Meeting Thursday, January 28, 2016

Unfinished Business

Update from Misty & Leroy on signage project

Dog Park project update

Tizz update on Auburn's Naming Procedure

Open Session

New Business

DIVISION 3. - PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 2-454. - Established; membership.

- (a) There shall be a parks advisory board which oversees parks, cemeteries and open spaces, which shall be composed of five members and up to two alternate members. All except the ex officio member of the board shall be appointed by the conservation commission.
- (b) There shall be one (1) ex-officio member of the board consisting of the City Manager or his/her designee. The ex-officio member of the board will only vote in the event of a tie.
- (c) Of the seven appointed members, there shall be no more than two members from the same ward. A member shall forfeit his membership if he becomes a resident of a ward in which two members of the board already reside.
- (d) Serving as the ex officio member shall be the director of parks or his or her designee. The city shall provide minutes of the meeting.
- (e) Nothing in this article shall preclude the creation of standing subcommittees.

(Code 1967, § 18-3.1)

Sec. 2-455. - Term of members.

All appointed members of the parks and recreation advisory board shall serve staggered two-year terms from the date of their appointment and thereafter until their successors are appointed beginning with the effective date of this Code. Members of the board may be appointed to succeed themselves.

(Code 1967, § 18-3.3)

Sec. 2-456. - Officers; rules of procedure; vacancies.

The parks advisory board shall elect a chair, a vice-chair and such other officers as it may require. The board shall develop such rules to govern its meetings and operations as it deems advisable. Upon the death, incapacity or relocation from the city of any member, or if any member shall be absent without excuse for three consecutive meetings, the chair of the board shall advise the conservation commission that a vacancy exists and request the appointment of a replacement.

(Code 1967, § 18-3.4)

Sec. 2-457. - Duties.

The purpose of the parks advisory board shall be:

- (a) Create and maintain an inventory of parks, open spaces and cemeteries for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- (b) Facilitate park watch program.
- (c) Advise the city regarding the press, and the media, including social media for parks, cemeteries, and open spaces.

- (d) The review of existing programs of the parks department and the planning of revised, supplementary or new programs to meet the present and future needs of the city.
- (e) The coordination of existing programs and facilities of the parks department with those of volunteer and charitable organizations and those of other governmental units.
- (f) Developing recommendations for more efficient use of parks, cemeteries and open space personnel. Improving communication regarding the needs of the city between the people and the recreation department, the city council, and other city departments.
- (g) The investigation of federal, state and private programs for financial assistance and the development of recommendations regarding participation in such programs by the city.

(Code 1967, § 18-3.2)

Secs. 2-458—2-465. - Reserved.

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Parks Subcommittee

City of Auburn Website - Recommendation 1:

One of the things the Parks-subcommittee looked at is how the City markets its parks on its website. The Internet is the possibly the first place a resident or potential visitor can find out about Auburn's parks. The first thing that the committee noticed is the fact that the information about the City's parks is located under a link called Visiting. Using the word Visiting gives the impression that only people visiting Auburn would be interested in this link when in fact it has information that is very important to residents too.

The Parks Subcommittee recommends changing the link from the current name of Visiting to something that better identifies the fact that this information is also important to residents of our City.

Some suggestions are: *Points of Interest, Attractions, What to see & do, Adventures, Activities, Things to do, Culture, Events, Happenings Community/Culture, or Recreation/Leisure*

Attached are some examples of what the website might look like with an alternate name such as Things to do/Events (See pages 5, 6 and 7). The Park-Subcommittee recommends the words Things to do/Places to see to replace Visiting.

City of Auburn Website - Recommendation 2:

The City employs a GIS manager, who is creating detailed GIS maps of the city, why is a version of Google Maps (Map It) the most prominent map link on the website? It does not show all of the City's parks and recreational opportunities. The Complete listing of GIS maps appear under the MapAuburn link on the City's website under the Business link. Although it is not under the scope of this committee we find it a disservice to the residents of our city that very useful GIS maps such as Bus routes, Taxi Zones, School Districts, and Voting Districts seem to be hidden under the Business link.

The Parks Subcommittee recommends that a direct link to the GIS map Auburn Parks & Recreation be located either on the top or the bottom of the Public Parks link. Clicking on the new recommended Auburn Parks & Recreation should open a new window or a new tab. This offers the website user the ability to tab back and forth between the list of parks and the map.

Attached is an example of what the website might look like with the recommended map link (page 8).

City of Auburn Website - Recommendation 3:

The link called Bonney Park on the Public Parks states the following: “The map below shows a parking area with convenient access to the Auburn Riverwalk (Bonney Park). The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has generously provided map data for this trail - for informational purposes only.”
There is currently NO link on this webpage to any trail map.

The Parks Subcommittee recommends that the City add the link to this web page or change the verbiage on the page so that it does not reference a non-existent map link. The missing link for the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy trail map is here:

<http://www.traillink.com/trail-maps/auburn-riverwalk.aspx>

City of Auburn Website - Recommendation 4:

The parks and recreation facilities on the Auburn Parks & Recreation GIS page has more parks listed than the Public Parks page.

Auburn Parks & Recreation GIS page lists 21 parks, ballfields, etc. ...

Bonney Park
Chestnut Street Park
Drummond Street Park
Edward Little Park
Moulton Park
Pettengill Park
Raymond Park
Sullivan Square
Union Street Park
West Pitch Park
North River Boat Launch
Festival Plaza
Riverwalk
Hasty Community Center
Lakeview Ballfields
Lake Grove Park & Beach
Tribou/ East Auburn Field
Tot Lot
Lake Grove Park & Beach
Little Androscoggin Park
Mt Apatite
Cleveland Field

Public Parks webpage lists 13 parks, ballfields, etc. ...

Bonney Park
Chestnut Street Park
Drummond Street Park
Edward Little Park
Moulton Park
Pettengill Park
Raymond Park
Sullivan Square
Union Street Park
West Pitch Park
Cleveland Park
Little Andy Park

Mount Apatite Park
Municipal Outlet Beach

There is also a discrepancy in some of the names on the 2 of the city's websites:

<u>Auburn Parks & Recreation (GIS)</u>	<u>Public Parks</u>
<i>Lake Grove Park & Beach</i>	<i>Municipal Outlet Beach</i>
<i>Little Androscoggin Park</i>	<i>Little Andy Park</i>
<i>Mt Apatite</i>	<i>Mount Apatite Park</i>
<i>Cleveland Field</i>	<i>Cleveland Park</i>

The following 8 parks, ballfields, etc. do not have a separate page on the Public Parks page...

North River Boat Launch
Festival Plaza
Riverwalk
Hasty Community Center
Lakeview Ballfields
Lake Grove Park & Beach (AKA *Municipal Outlet Beach*)
Tribou/ East Auburn Field
Tot Lot

The Parks Subcommittee recommends:

1: That in order to be consistent on all of its website pages when referring to the names of its parks, ballfields, etc. The following park names on the Public Parks page should be updated as follows:

Municipal Outlet Beach should be changed to Lake Grove Park & Beach

Little Andy Park should be changed to Little Androscoggin Park

Mount Apatite Park should be changed to Mt Apatite Park

Cleveland Park should be changed to Cleveland Field Park

2: That in order to be consistent on all of its website pages when referring to the names of its parks, ballfields, etc. The following park names on the Auburn Parks & Recreation (GIS) page should be updated as follows:

Mt Apatite should be changed to Mt Apatite Park

Cleveland Field should be changed to Cleveland Field Park

3: That Festival Plaza and Riverwalk each have a separate webpage located off the Public Parks page. The Parks subcommittee feels that these are important public spaces and the City should make more of an effort to market them on its website. It should also be noted that the Subcommittee feels that the current Bonney Park link is confusing it seems to imply that Riverwalk and Bonney Park are one in the same.



Replace the words 'Visitors' with 'Things to do/Events'

[Home](#) > [Things to do/Events](#) > Auburn

Things to do/Events links

- Annual Festivals
- Art & Culture
- Event Calendar
- Ingersoll Turf Facility
- Norway Savings Bank Arena

Things to do/Events Auburn

In and around Auburn you'll find shopping, dining, recreational activities including parks, golf fishing and kayaking. Auburn is host to multiple festivals and events throughout the year in the Balloon Festival. From outdoor sports to arts and culture, Auburn offers visitors plenty of things to do all season.



Updated Visitors page with new title 'Things to do/Events'

auburnmaine.gov Connect Say It Request It Map It

Government Business Residents Vis

government public parks

Home > Government > Public Parks

auburn parks

- Bonney Park
- Chestnut Street Park
- Cleveland Park
- Drummond Street Park
- Edward Little Park

Auburn Parks

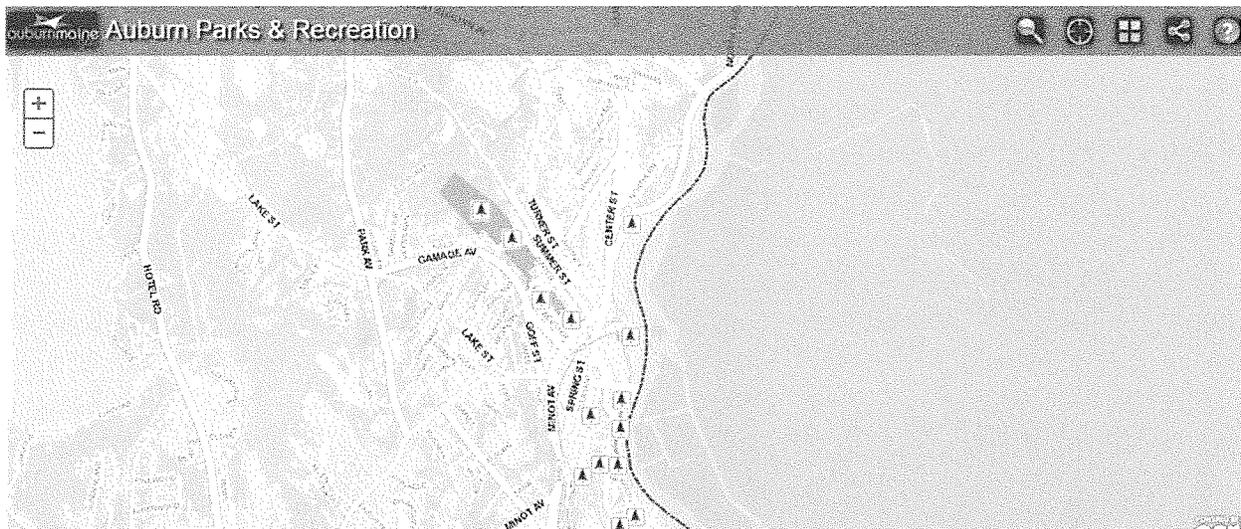
Parks/Recreation locator map

Parks

Parks in Auburn, Maine (see list to the left) includes open spaces and facilities, developed by the Public Services Department. Auburn offers many parks for citizens and visitors to visit. Many of these parks include playground equipment and of course, green space!

The Public Services Department manages many parks and green spaces covering more than 100 acres in the city. This extensive network of parks also includes connecting ponds and or rivers.

Updated Parks page with link to GIS map of Auburn's parks.



The new Parks/Recreation locator map link will take the user to the GIS map of Auburn's parks.

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PARKS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT TO CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS Thursday, January 28, 2016

Minutes of our meetings-

We wish to continue to meet on the last Wednesday of each month

Work Plan-

We've not created a formal work plan for the coming year yet, variety of projects noted in minutes

Draft of changes to Ordinance for a Parks Advisory Board-

Current ordinance has a Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Recommendations for changes to the City of Auburn Website

The website is a perfect vehicle to promote Auburn's parks

Spreadsheet of Auburn's parks-

Compilation of information on all Auburn Parks