



2021 Annual Report to the Community



City of AUBURN, MAINE *Est. 1869*

“Vesigia nulla retrorsum.
No steps backward.”

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www.auburnmaine.gov

A Note From the City Manager

Thank you for taking the time to review the City of Auburn's 2021 Annual Report. Our team is excited to share with you the amazing work being done by our outstanding staff. Our staff is committed to serving each one of you. Our team is made up of some new faces and they bring a fresh perspective to old problems. We are also fortunate to have many employees who have served Auburn for several years. They bring a level of institutional knowledge that is valued beyond measure.

If I had to use a few words to describe the Annual Report, they would be caring, outreach, and sustainability.

Caring

- We truly care about our citizens
- We care about providing the information our elected officials need to make difficult policy decisions
- We care about serving our most vulnerable populations

Outreach

- Our mayor and councilors see the value in having community events
- Our outreach events strengthen our community in countless ways
- Our staff enjoys connecting with the community at events, public information sessions, and programs

Sustainability

- We must be able to control cost to our taxpayers
- We must be focused on renewable energy and climate impacts
- We must be focused on sustaining a strong workforce

Please enjoy this annual report. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Phil Crowell
City Manager

City Leadership

M **MAYOR**
Mayor Jason J. Levesque
JLevesque@auburnmaine.gov

3 **WARD 3**
Councilor Steven G. Milks
SMilks@auburnmaine.gov

4 **WARD 4**
Councilor Joseph R. Morin
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A **AT-LARGE**
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A **AT-LARGE**
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Councilor Richard S. Whiting
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WARD 2 **2**
Councilor Ryan A. Hawes
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WARD 5 **5**
Councilor Leroy G. Walker, Sr.
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M **CITY MANAGER**
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M **ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER**
Brian Wood
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Auburn By the Numbers

Interesting city-wide statistics for 2021

26,413

*Police Department
Calls for Service*

Auburn Police Department:

Offenses: 2,919
Total arrests: 1,313
Motor vehicle crashes: 1,163
Traffic stops: 5,008 (4,407 warnings / 601 citations / 15 arrests)
Average speeding violation: 19MPH over the posted limit

1,820

Flowers Planted

Public Works:

12 New trees
Swept 470 lane miles of road
Cleaned 1,697 catch basins
23 Storm events as of 2/10/2022
Plowed 470 lane miles of road
Cleared 50 miles of sidewalks

5,790

*Fire Department
Calls for Service*

Auburn Fire Department:

Fire (non EMS) calls: 994
EMS/Rescue calls: 4,796
Structure fires (homes/apartments, schools, industry): 49
Other fires (mobile property/outdoors): 75
Civilian fire deaths: 0 Civilian fire injuries: 6
Estimated property loss from fire: \$4,918,000
Total EMS patient encounters: 4,409
Total EMS transports: 3,411

112,043

*Items checked
out (print, media,
audio)*

Auburn Public Library

37,147 Visitors to the library
7,148 Cardholders
540 New cards issues
17,799 Borrowed by other libraries
7,431 Programs attended
115,288 Visits to our website
3,683 Social media followers

47,616

*9-1-1 Calls
Received*

Lewiston-Auburn 9-1-1 Communications:

Calls for service generated: 101,996
EMD performed: 10,727 total
EFD performed: 2,880

381

Total Applicants

Human Resources

Jobs advertised: 20
Out-of-state applicants: 41

City Council Vision:

Auburn will embrace possibilities and create opportunities

Planning for a
better future

Reclaiming
our streets

Council Goals

We will make our
vision a reality by...

Making
housing
more
attainable

Enriching
neighborhood
identities

Enacting
resilient
solutions





Municipal Budget

	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY 19-20	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY 20-21	MANAGER PROPOSED BUDGET FY 21-22	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY 21-22	\$ Change	% Change
City Expenses						
Operating Expenses	30,061,555	30,769,645	31,876,303	31,876,303	1,106,658	3.60%
Debt Service/TIF	10,384,493	10,627,538	10,783,972	10,783,972	156,434	1.47%
Total City Expenses	40,446,048	41,397,183	42,660,275	42,660,275	1,263,092	3.05%
School Expenses						
Operating Expenses	44,594,669	45,120,245	46,227,214	46,227,214	1,106,969	2.45%
Debt Service	742,768	682,367	2,114,152	2,114,152	1,431,785	209.83%
Total School Expenses	45,337,437	45,802,612	48,341,366	48,341,366	2,538,754	5.54%
Intergovernmental						
Intergovernmental	1,926,442	1,905,442	1,833,479	1,833,479	(71,963)	-3.78%
County Tax	2,482,721	2,629,938	2,611,080	2,611,080	(18,858)	-0.72%
Total Intergovernmental	4,409,163	4,535,380	4,444,559	4,444,559	(90,821)	-2.00%
Total Expenses	90,192,648	91,735,175	95,446,200	95,446,200	3,711,025	4.05%
Less: Non-Tax Revenues						
City	15,946,974	17,224,109	18,281,464	18,281,464	1,057,355	6.14%
School	27,440,176	27,905,351	30,298,286	30,298,286	2,392,935	8.58%
Intergovernmental	0	126,217	0		(126,217)	-100.00%
Total Non-Tax Revenues	43,387,150	45,255,677	48,579,750	48,579,750	3,450,290	7.62%
Tax Levy						
City	24,499,074	24,174,074	24,378,811	24,531,955	204,737	0.85%
School	17,897,261	17,897,261	18,043,080	18,043,080	145,819	0.81%
Intergovernmental Overlay	4,409,163	4,409,163	4,444,559	4,444,559	35,396	0.80%
Total Tax Levy	46,805,498	46,480,498	46,866,450	47,019,594	385,952	0.83%
Total Assessed Value	1,957,006,058	1,956,632,371	1,956,632,371	1,973,954,411		
Tax Rate						
City	12.52	12.35	12.45	12.39	0.04	0.28%
School	9.15	9.15	9.22	9.17	0.02	0.25%
Intergovernmental	2.25	2.25	2.27	2.26	0.01	0.29%
Total	23.92	23.75	23.94	23.82	0.07	0.31%

Auburn Rec the Numbers

Interesting recreation statistics for 2021



18 Youth sports programs **946** Participants
5 Youth enrichment programs (childcare, summer camp, fishing derby)
425 Youth enrichment participants
2 Adult programs (yoga, walking) **315** Adult program participants
16 Adult sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer)
1,788 Adult sports participants
13 Senior programs (crafting, chair yoga, hikes, senior groups)
4,517 Senior program participants
11 Special Events (Winter Fest, Fright Fest, NYA, Farmers' Market)
1 Historic state-wide events (Bicentennial Parade)
10,000+ Special event participants

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12 Trail systems (private & public)
17 City parks
11 Playgrounds (city & school)
4 Boat launches
500 Acres of land throughout Auburn

68 Programs offered
4 Programs canceled due to COVID 19
4 Programs continued in response to COVID
(GNG, senior kits, Auburn Adventures, snowshoe rentals)

City Departments

Capital Investments & Purchasing

Engineering

City Clerk

City Manager

Communications & Community Engagement

Economic and Community Development

Economic Development

Business & Community Development

Planning, Permitting & Code

Finance

Assessing

Tax

Fire

Human Resources

Information Technology (IT)

Police

Public Works

Parks

Recreation & Sports Tourism

Recreation

Norway Savings Bank Arena

Ingersoll Turf Facility

School

9-1-1

Boards, Committees & Commissions

9-1-1 Committee

Age-Friendly Community Committee

Agriculture Committee

Androscoggin County Budget Committee

Androscoggin Transportation Resources Committee

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments

Appointment Committee

Auburn Business Development Corp.

Auburn Housing Authority

Auburn & Lewiston Municipal Airport

Auburn Sewer District Board of Trustees

Auburn Water District Board of Trustees

Audit Committee

Board of Assessment Review

Citizens Advisory Committee

City Council

Complete Streets Committee

Conservation Commission

Community Forest Subcommittee

Parks Subcommittee

Ethics Panel

Lewiston-Auburn Railroad Company

L/A Transit Committee

L/A Water Pollution Control Authority

Maine Waste-to-Energy

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Planning Board

Public Library Board

Registration Appeals Board

School Committee

Zoning Board of Appeals

SHORT-TERM: Comp Plan Update Committee; ARPA Committee; Ad-Hoc

Committee on Boards, Commissions & Committees; Ad-Hoc Public Safety

Building Committee

Visit auburnmaine.gov to apply for a board/committee

Elections & Vital Records

It was a busy year for the City Clerk's Office, with two elections and requests for vital records.



TWO ELECTIONS

June 8, 2021 School budget validation referendum election

Votes cast - 706 Voter Turnout - 4%

November 2, 2021 State referendum and municipal election

Votes cast - 5,981 Voter Turnout - 36%

LICENSES AND PERMITS

321 Business licenses issued

166 Garage sale permits issued

6 Taxi driver permits issued

110 Notary public services provided

VOTER REGISTRATION

357 New voters registered

522 Changed

545 Canceled

VITAL RECORDS

Birth certificates issued - 343

Death certificates issued - 1,789

Marriage certificates issued - 398

Burial permits issued - 221

Marriage licenses issued - 151

Caring for Community

Auburn is a caring community; a place where neighbors take care of neighbors and city hall is a place to turn for help. City leadership, council and staff take deep pride in our service to the people of this community.

In 2021, with federal, state and local funding, and together with local businesses, generous corporate partners and incredible community volunteers, the City of Auburn was able to provide support, relief and assistance to those who needed it the most.

Grant Funding

From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, the City of Auburn received \$7,224,566.75 in grant funding. This amount includes Parks & Recreation related grants, COVID 19, as well as Police and Fire Department grants.

Community Development Block Grant

The city provided \$121,498.30 in Federal CDBG funds in the form of grants to local public service providers, including Promise Early Education, Safe Voices, Tedford Housing, Community Youth Services, Literacy Volunteers, St. Mary's Nutrition Center, Auburn Rec Summer Camp Scholarships, and the "Work with Me" program through the Auburn Police Department.

Sandbuckets for Seniors

Auburn Public Works delivered more than 250 buckets of sand to Auburn seniors during the winter.

HOME Rehabilitation Loans

\$95,906 in Federal HOME rehabilitation loans & grants to low/moderate income homeowners.

Forgivable Loans

The City provided \$63,750 in CDBG forgivable loans to 4 businesses (start-up or affected by the pandemic).

Building Rehabilitation

The City provided \$203,743 in Federal CDBG funds in loans & grants to rehabilitate rental units across Auburn.

A Year to Remember

A look back at some of Auburn's most memorable moments from 2021

1 January

- Winter Festival
- Mayor Delivers "State of the City" address

2 February

- Auburn turns 152 years old

3 March

- Opened COVID 19 vaccine site at Auburn Mall
- Auburn Senior Community Center receives an award from the MRPA

4 April

- Community clean-up event held by the Auburn Conservation Commission

5 May

- Auburn's Strategic Plan wins an award from AVCOG

6 June

- "Block Party" on Whitney St. to build beds for Auburn's newest Community Garden
- Summer Acoustic Music Series kicks off in Anniversary Park



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July 7

- Liberty Festival fireworks
- Public Art Installation of "The Fish" in Anniversary Park

August 8

- Auburn hosts Maine's bicentennial parade
- Auburn Community Band celebrates 40th concert season

September 9

- Public art installation of "Bud Form" in Longley Park
- Riverwalk Blues & Brews Festival

October 10

- Sustainable Auburn matching rebate program launches
- The City of Auburn's first futsal court is completed in "The Gully"

November 11

- Auburn partners with L-A Metro Chamber and Staples Connect to launch "StartUp Auburn"
- The City of Auburn presents the Fair Housing Matters summit

December 12

- Auburn holds the Inauguration Ceremony for our mayor, city council & school committee
- The Auburn Police Department celebrates K9 Rocky's retirement
- 3rd Annual New Year's Auburn celebration



Whitney Street



Webster Street



Newbury Street



Auburn Community Gardens

Grow with your neighbors! Auburn's community gardens produce fresh fruits and vegetables for residents. With three locations throughout the city, the work put into these gardens is helping to grow a healthier and more sustainable Auburn.

Garden Locations:

61 Webster Street - 24 plots consisting of 4x10 foot raised beds.

88 Newbury Street - 40 raised beds approximately 4X10 feet each.

115 Whitney Street - 24 raised beds approximately 4X10 feet each.

For more information on how to participate please visit the **Auburn Community Gardens** webpage, email Auburncommunitygardens@gmail.com or call (207) 200-7101.





Trash, Recycling & Composting

TRASH & RECYCLING

The City of Auburn provides trash and recycling collection Monday through Friday, with the occasional exceptions for holidays.

Please remember to have all trash & recycling curbside no earlier than 6pm the night before or by 7am on collection day.

To see when your day is, click [here](#).

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:

- Clear & Colored glass
- #1-7 Plastic
- Tin Cans
- Cardboard
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Mixed paper

Find and download the recycling calendar [here](#).

COMPOSTING

In 2021, Auburn announced our new composting program. Residents can drop compostable materials at Public Works (296 Gracelawn) or the New Auburn Fire Station (181 South Main).

Composting is simple and environmentally friendly. It's also a great way to lower greenhouse emissions, regenerate soil, revitalize water sources and foster food security in the future.



Sustainable Auburn

Auburn is committed to becoming a cleaner, greener city. Since 2013, the city has made a conscious effort to apply a “sustainable lens” when making decisions on purchasing, energy consumption and usage, vehicles, infrastructure and much more. Below are the changes we’ve made to create a cleaner future for Auburn.

Natural Gas Conversion

Natural gas systems have now been installed in several major city facilities.

Savings:
\$100,00 +/- per year

LED Lighting Upgrades

Lighting within city buildings has been converted to LED.

Savings:
\$25,000 +/- per year

Street Light Project

The city purchased every streetlight from CMP and converted them to LED, and added “smart controls.”

Savings:
\$200,00 +/- per year

Hydropower

Auburn is one of the first municipalities in Maine to move to hydropower. As much as half of the city’s electrical needs will be met through clean, renewable hydropower, all of it locally generated at Hackett Mills.

Savings: \$100,00-150,000 per year

Electric Vehicles

The city has begun to invest in clean, efficient electric vehicles. Currently, we have 2 but are working on expanding our fleet. These vehicles are more efficient and boast zero emissions.

EV Charging Stations

The city installed six electric vehicle charging stations in the Mechanics Row Parking Garage.

AI Solution - "Brainbox"

Auburn Hall's HVAC system has been enhanced by technology. The AI automatically adjusts for efficiency & comfort, resulting in less usage.

Solar

As soon as 2022, additional power for city facilities and infrastructure will come from a solar site under construction in Shapleigh. By the end of 2023, we estimate that 70-80% of Auburn's total electric load will be sourced from clean, renewable LOCAL energy providers. **Savings: \$30,000 per year**



Other Sustainability Initiatives

Matching Rebate Program

The city is proud to offer the Sustainable Auburn Matching Rebate Program. As of the end of 2021, the city has paid Auburn residents approximately \$22,000 in matching rebate program.

Composting

In 2021, Auburn announced a new composting program, with two locations for residents to drop off.

More to Come...

- Additional EV charging stations
- Additional EVs in other city departments
- Explore other renewable energy solutions
- Increased public education

COVID19



In 2021, the City of Auburn kept up its efforts to provide COVID relief, support and assistance to our community. Below are some of the incredible programs we've been able to offer residents.

- High-volume vaccination site launches at the Auburn Mall. During its year-long run, 60,000+ vaccines were administered.
- The City of Auburn and Auburn Recreation team up to create "Grab 'n' Go" initiative, which provides families and seniors in need with FREE meals and groceries.
- "Auburn Adventures" childcare program offers FREE daycare for children in grades K-6 on remote learning days.
- Auburn Schools serve FREE breakfast and lunch to students.
- Auburn creates an online hub for local businesses to list hours, availability of web orders, phone orders, pickup, takeout, gift cards, and other accommodations.

Municipal Directory

Auburn Hall

60 Court Street | 207.333.6601

Assessing: X1133

Capital Investment & Purchasing: X2156

City Clerk's Office: X1121

City Manager's Office: X1222

Community Development: X1157

Communications Dept.: X2070

Economic Development: X1133

Engineering: X1140

Finance Department: X1404

General Assistance: X1411

Human Resources: X1414

Information Technology: X1069

Planning, Permitting & Code: X1133

Tax Office: X1178

Fire Department

550 Minot Avenue | 207.333.6633

Police Department

60 Court Street | 207.333.6650

L-A 9-1-1

552 Minot Avenue | 207.786.5380

Public Works

296 Gracelawn | 207.333.6670

Recreation & Sports Tourism

48 Pettengill Park Rd. | 207.333.6611

Ingersoll Turf Facility

**48 Pettengill Park Rd. | 207.333.6601
X2100**

Norway Savings Bank Arena

985 Turner Street | 207.333.6688

School Department

60 Court Street | 207.784-6431

Auburn Public Library

49 Spring Street | 207.333-6640





Mark Your Calendar

Exciting events coming up in Auburn Now-December 2022

apr

Spring Celebration

may

Auburn PD Bike Rodeo

jun

Riverfest Regatta
Makers' Fair
Art in the Park
Auburn Community
Concert Series
(Wednesdays)

jul

Acoustic Music Series
in Anniversary Park
(Tuesdays)
Movies in the Park
(Wednesdays)
Liberty Festival

aug

Acoustic Music Series in
Anniversary Park
(Tuesdays)
National Night Out

sep

Riverwalk Blues & Brews
Festival

oct

Fright Fest

dec

Holiday Parade & Tree
Lighting





Connect with Us!

There are many ways to connect with the City of Auburn. Visit us in person at 60 Court Street or visit us online at www.auburnmaine.gov.

You can also get “social” with us:



Facebook:
“City of Auburn Maine”



Twitter:
“AuburnMaineGov”



Instagram:
“auburnmaine”



YouTube:
“City of Auburn, Maine”



LinkedIn:
“City of Auburn, Maine
(official)”



Great Falls TV
YOUR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Great Falls TV:
Cable Channel 11

Don't miss out! Stream the Council meetings live or watch them later by clicking here.



Auburn City Hall

60 Court Street | Auburn, Maine 04210



Call Us

207.333.6601



Web & E-mail

www.auburnmaine.gov | connect@auburnmaine.gov

