

CITY OF
AUBURN

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

20

23

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A NOTE FROM THE CITY MANAGER

I am honored once again to share with you the amazing work being done for the taxpayers and residents of Auburn.

2023 was a challenging year for our community. While it was filled with positive highlights, there were also heartbreaking, unthinkable losses. The devastating mass shooting event in our sister city of Lewiston impacted each of us, uniting us in our grief, and reminding us that, in our best days and in our worst days, we are stronger together.

I'm proud to report that our city government remains data driven, and I hope that you take some time to review and consider the statistics provided in the "Auburn by the Numbers" pages in this report. Transparency, open data, and innovation remain critically important parts of our identity, which is focused on planning for Auburn's future and strengthening our delivery of services.

Our city made incredible strides in 2023. We opened a beautiful new state-of-the-art high school; made plans for a new public safety building, Engine 2 Fire Station, and PAL Community Center; hosted world-class community events and our first ever aerial drone show; and we welcomed in a new mayor and city council. We were able to bring back curbside recycling, and our team responded to more than one significant flooding event. We launched a City of Auburn podcast, offered recreational programming for residents of all ages, renewed our commitment to diversity and belonging, and so much more.

City staff – the members of "Team Auburn" – are truly committed to serving each one of you. We look forward to providing you with new online platforms in 2024 that will allow for community engagement at a new level.

On behalf of my entire team, thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Phil Crowell
City Manager



LEWAUB COMMUNITY IS EVERYTHING.

On October 25, 2023, our community suffered a devastating tragedy that resulted in the loss of 18 lives. Others were injured. *All of us* were changed forever.

In the days that followed the mass shooting incident in our sister city of Lewiston, we heard stories of heartbreak, and stories of heroism and valor. We heard about first responders, who rushed to the scenes, disregarding their personal safety to get the wounded to a hospital any way they could. There were stories of employees who sacrificed their *lives* in order to protect their patrons, and individuals who sheltered children and guided them to safety.

This tragedy is forever woven in to the fabric of our community. But so is the love, the courage, and the resilience. The spirit of this community, and the people who call it home, is strong beyond measure.

We honor those we lost. We remember them, and we carry them in the collective heart of our community.

<i>Tricia Asselin</i>	<i>Joshua Seal</i>
<i>William Brackett</i>	<i>Arthur Strout</i>
<i>Peyton Brewer-Ross</i>	<i>Lucille Violette</i>
<i>Thomas Conrad</i>	<i>Robert Violette</i>
<i>Michael Deslauriers II</i>	<i>Stephen Vozzella</i>
<i>Maxx Hathaway</i>	<i>Jason Walker</i>
<i>Bryan MacFarlane</i>	<i>Joseph Walker</i>
<i>Keith Macneir</i>	<i>Aaron Young</i>
<i>Ronald Morin</i>	<i>William Young</i>



CITY OF AUBURN LEADERSHIP

Mayor Jeffrey D. Harmon
JHarmon@auburnmaine.gov



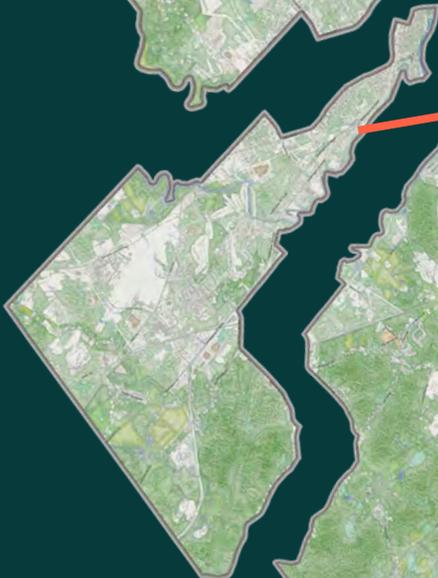
Ward 1 Councilor Richard S. Whiting
RWhiting@auburnmaine.gov



Ward 2 Councilor Timothy M. Cowan
TCowan@auburnmaine.gov



Ward 3 Councilor Stephen G. Milks
SMilks@auburnmaine.gov



Ward 4 Councilor Benjamin J. Weisner
BWeisner@auburnmaine.gov



Ward 5 Councilor Leroy G. Walker, Jr.
LWalker@auburnmaine.gov

At-Large Councilor Belinda A. Gerry
BGerry@auburnmaine.gov

At-Large Councilor Adam R. Platz
APlatz@auburnmaine.gov

[Stream LIVE City Council meetings at
youtube.com/@CityofAuburnMaine.](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofAuburnMaine)

2023-25 AUBURN CITY COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

11 final strategic recommendations from the city's 2019 Strategic Plan.



CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

The Auburn City Council strives to ensure government transparency and accessibility; welcome and encourage participation and engagement; and balance tradition with growth and innovation.

PUBLIC SAFETY



- Facilities
- EMS service delivery
- PS staff modeling assessment
- Traffic safety

SUSTAINABILITY NATURAL RESOURCES



- Solid waste/recycling/composting
- Bulky waste program
- River connectivity

GROWTH + INVESTMENT



- Establish innovation center/technology hub
- Support workforce growth
- Economic growth/sustainability
- Investment in education
- Downtown revitalization
- Road infrastructure

RECREATION



- Enhance programming for all ages
- Visibility of Rec programs
- Event planning
- Outdoor recreation assets
- Greenspace/trail connectivity

PLANNING



- Comp Plan/zoning
- Master planning
- Revaluation
- Charter review
- Strategic Plan
- Community engagement
- Mall development
- Housing plan
- Homeless initiatives
- Infrastructure assessment

INTERLOCAL INITIATIVES



- Auburn/Lewiston Municipal Airport
- 9-1-1 services
- County services/facilities
- Transit
- Regional partnerships

FY24 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY21-22	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY22-23	COUNCIL ADOPTED BUDGET FY23-24
City Expenses			
Operating Expenses	31,876,303	34,996,260	37,570,039
Debt Service/TIF	10,783,972	11,411,057	11,384,347
Total City Expenses	42,660,275	46,407,317	48,954,386
School Expenses			
Operating Expenses	46,227,214	48,961,689	48,801,317
Debt Service	2,114,152	6,770,401	10,269,972
Total School Expenses	48,341,366	55,732,090	59,071,289
Intergovernmental			
Intergovernmental	1,833,479	2,144,524	2,172,480
County Tax	2,611,080	2,761,220	2,972,037
Total Intergovernmental	4,444,559	4,905,744	5,144,517
TOTAL EXPENSES	95,446,200	107,045,151	113,170,192
Less: Non-Tax Revenues			
City	18,281,464	21,175,616	23,121,704
School	30,298,286	36,567,215	39,274,140
Intergovernmental	0	0	0
Total Non-Tax Revenues	48,579,750	57,742,831	62,395,844
Tax Levy			
City	24,378,811	25,231,701	25,832,682
School	18,043,080	19,164,875	19,797,149
Intergovernmental	4,444,559	4,905,744	5,144,517
Overlay		109,939	485,296
Total Tax Levy	46,866,450	49,412,259	51,259,643
Total Assessed Value	1,973,954,411	2,171,967,423	2,253,171,176
Tax Rate			
City	12.39	11.67	11.68
School	9.17	8.82	8.79
Intergovernmental	2.26	2.26	2.28
TOTAL	23.83	22.75	22.75

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH

Norway Savings Bank Arena celebrates ten-year anniversary

APRIL

Lake Grove Park reopens with new accessible playground

MAY

Auburn introduces "Victory Garden" program to give out vouchers to residents seeking to grow their own food

JULY

Auburn Police Department provides support during a visit from the President of the United States of America

AUGUST

Brand-new Edward Little High School opens to the public

SEPTEMBER

Auburn's Transportation Department hosts a "walking audit" in the downtown and Washburn/Turner St neighborhoods to assess walkability of these communities

DECEMBER

Inauguration of Auburn's new mayor, city council, and school committee members

DECEMBER

Auburn hosts Maine's very first drone show for New Year's Auburn 2023

Photo: Liz Allen



Photo: Wesley Clements



AUBURN BY THE NUMBERS

Interesting city-wide statistics for 2023.

Auburn Police Department

Calls for service: 25,101

Offenses: 3,128

Arrests: 1,002

Accidents: 1,252

Traffic stops: 3,109

Summons/traffic citations: 435

Traffic warnings: 2,567

Traffic arrests: 205

Auburn Fire Department

Calls for service: 6,318

Fire (Not EMS): 1,260

EMS/Rescue: 5,058

Structure fires: 35

Other fires: 54

Civilian fire deaths: 0

Civilian fire injuries: 3

Property loss: \$1,036,175

EMS patient encounters: 4,800

EMS transports: 3,734

Life safety inspections complete: 225

Fire prevention presentations: 25 (delivered to 1,047 students and residents)

AUBURN BY THE NUMBERS

Interesting city-wide statistics for 2023.

Auburn Public Works

23 storm events
41 new trees planted
Swept 470 miles of road
Cleaned 1,521 catch basins
Cleared 50 miles of sidewalk
Planted over 2,000 flowers
Plowed 10,810 lane miles of road
(23 storm events x 470 lane miles)

Planning and Permitting

Permits issued: 1,086
Fees collected: \$209,662
Estimated cost of construction: \$71,167,630

Human Resources

24 positions advertised
713 total applicants
57 out of state applicants
49 people hired
8% veterans
4.2% were BIPOC

Lewiston-Auburn 911

Total 9-1-1 calls: 52,404
Calls for service generated:
108,762
EMD performed: 12,080
EFD performed: 3,138
Non-emergency phone lines:
108,838

These statistics include Lewiston and Auburn Police, Fire, and Medical as well as Poland Fire/Medical.

Auburn Public Library

100,597 Visitors
6,772 Cardholders
1,112 New cardholders
160,035 Items borrowed
864 Programs/12,085 Attendees
2,815 Facebook followers
162,973 Website visits
1,957 Volunteer hours

AUBURN BY THE NUMBERS

Interesting city-wide statistics for 2023.

Auburn Recreation Department

ADULT SPORTS

Total participants: 4,006

Total teams: 174

Adult Soccer: 28 teams/500 players

Adult Basketball: 74 teams/888 players

Adult Softball: 72 teams/1180 player

Pickleball: 1440 players

YOUTH SPORTS & PROGRAMS

Youth sports participants: 925

Youth enrichment participants (fishing derby, summer camp, etc): 365

Special events participants (spring celebration, backyard campout, egg hunt, etc): 275

SENIOR & AGE-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS

2 Age-Friendly programs (yoga, matter of balance) with 335 participants

29 Senior Community Center Programs with 2,455 participants

109 Age-Friendly off-site trips with 1,375 participants

3 Senior groups with 6,640 participants

221 Outside rentals of the Senior Community Center

ELECTIONS & VOTING

THERE WERE 2 ELECTIONS HELD IN 2023

June 13, 2023: School Budget Referendum & Special Municipal Referendum Election

Total votes cast: 947; 6% turnout

November 7, 2023: State Referendum & Municipal Election

Total votes cast: 6273; 37% turnout

VOTER REGISTRATION

New Registrations: 805

Canceled: 400 (moved or deceased)

Changes: 1,144 (address, name, or enrollment change)

Petitions validated: 270

VITAL RECORDS ISSUED

Birth certificates issued: 412

Death certificates issued: 2,490

Marriage certificates issued: 392

Burial permits: 186

Marriage licenses: 166

Business licenses: 300 issued (66 marijuana and 234 other)



CITY DEPARTMENTS

9-1-1

Business & Community Development

City Clerk

City Manager

Communications & Community Engagement

Economic Development

Finance

- Assessing
- Tax

Fire

Human Resources

Ingersoll Turf Facility

Information Technology

Norway Savings Bank Arena

Planning, Permitting & Code

Police

Public Works

- Parks

Recreation

School

Transportation



BOARDS & COMMITTEES

9-1-1 Committee

Age-Friendly Community Committee

Androscoggin County Budget Committee

Androscoggin Transportation Resource Center (ATRC)

Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments (AVCOG)

Appointment Committee

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

City Council

Complete Streets Committee

Ethics Panel

L/A Transit Committee (LATC)

L/A Water Pollution Control Authority

Maine Waste-to-Energy

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Planning Board

Public Library Board (APL)

Registration Appeals Board

Regulatory Advisory Board

School Committee

Sustainability & Natural Resource

Management Board

Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group

Conservation Working Group

Community Forest Working Group

Sustainability Working Group

Zoning Board of Appeals

AD HOC & SHORT-TERM COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

Mayor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Housing

Mayor's Ad-Hoc Public Safety Building Committee

Mayor's Ad-Hoc Committee on Homelessness

Lake Auburn Watershed Protection Working Group



Photo: Phil Larlee

CARING FOR COMMUNITY

GRANT FUNDING [received from 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023]

In 2023, the City of Auburn received \$3,632,469.71 in state, local and federal funding.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Community Development Programs expended a total of \$662,679 between January 1st and December 31, 2023.

CDBG & Lead testing & education: \$172,284

CDBG Infrastructure improvements: \$65,200

CDBG & HOME funded public services: \$425,195

These funds provided the following community impact:

673 residents received emergency food resources

32 residents received scholarships to recreation programs

136 residents received emergency housing assistance

82 residents received education & employment services

SANDBUCKETS FOR SENIORS

Over 250 seniors received free buckets of sand from the Auburn Public Works Department in 2023.

AUBURN VICTORY GARDENS

Introduced in 2023, the City of Auburn's Victory Garden program provided vouchers to 166 residents for the purpose of installing small, home food production gardens. This program was originally funded at \$25,000 and we quickly allocated all funds. An additional 82 applicants were placed on a waitlist for the following years' program.

**Auburn is a community that comes together
during hard times to support one another.
Our neighbors' wellbeing matters to all of us.**

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.

61 WEBSTER ST

24 plots consisting of 4x10 foot raised beds

115 WHITNEY ST

24 raised beds approx. 4x10 feet each

88 NEWBURY ST

40 raised beds approx. 4x10 feet each (pictured below)

For information on how to participate, e-mail auburncommunitygardens@gmail.com or call (207) 208-8503.

AUBURN PARKS

The Public Works Department manages the many parks and green spaces in Auburn, covering more than 500 acres of land throughout our city. Many of our parks include benches, playground equipment, and of course, outdoor space! In 2023, Lake Grove Park (also known as Outlet Beach) opened a brand-new, accessible playground (pictured below). Find a full list of parks in Auburn on our [city website](#).



SUSTAINABLE AUBURN

Cities are on the frontlines of climate change and local government has a responsibility to respond to these challenges. Sustainable cities are resilient and able to adapt to, mitigate, and promote economic, social, and environmental change. The City of Auburn is committed to environmental protection at local level and is applying a "sustainability lens" when making decisions on purchasing, energy consumption and usage, vehicles, infrastructure and much more.

LED LIGHTING AND STREET LIGHTS

Lighting within city buildings has been converted to LED. The city also purchased every streetlight from CMP and converted them to LED, and added "smart controls."

HYDROPOWER

Approximately half of the city's electrical needs are met through clean, renewable hydropower, all of it locally generated at Hackett Mills, located on the Poland/Minot town line.

BUILDING AUTOMATION SYSTEMS

Auburn Hall and Auburn School Department facility HVAC systems have been enhanced by AI technology. This is a solution that automatically adjusts for efficiency and comfort, resulting in less usage.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & CHARGING STATIONS

The city continues to invest in clean, efficient electric vehicles; we currently have four. The city has installed six electric vehicle charging stations in the Mechanics Row Parking Garage. The city is working to identify new locations throughout Auburn for suitable charging stations that will be funded through grants.

RECYCLING

The City of Auburn recycling collection Monday through Friday, with occasional exceptions for holidays. Recycling is collected curbside EVERY OTHER WEEK on the same day that your trash is collected. Some households will be on an "A" week, and some will be on a "B" week. Visit our website to see if your address is an A or B week.



Recycling in Auburn is "single-sort," meaning the items below can all go into your recycle bin together. The City of Auburn does not provide recycling bins. Any CLEARLY MARKED bin, tote, or container can be used.

Recyclable Materials:

- #1, #2 & #5 Plastics ONLY
- Clean cardboard
- Clean mixed paper



No cans/metal or glass! These items should go in household trash. Metal is recovered and recycled through the solid waste management process.



Check out Casella's "Recycle Better" app!

There are many useful features, including educational info, a collection calendar, service alerts & reminders, the "Waste Wizard" tool, and much more. Visit your app store and search "Recycle Better Casella."

Don't want to download an app? You can also find all the info embedded on our [website](#).

TRASH & COMPOSTING

The City of Auburn provides curbside trash collection Monday through Friday, with occasional exceptions for holidays. By [City Ordinance](#), please remember to have all trash at the curbside no earlier than 6PM on the night before your collection or by 7AM on your collection day. To find your street's collection day, visit the [Trash Collection Schedule](#) on our website.

Auburn's garbage gets delivered to [Maine Waste-to-Energy](#), located at 110 Goldthwaite Road. Household bulky waste can be brought to Maine Waste-to-Energy year-round at no cost to Auburn residents. MWE is open Monday-Friday, 7AM to 4PM and Saturday 7AM-noon. You must show proof of residency (driver's license, tax bill, utility bill, etc.).

Composting food waste is an eco-friendly way of reducing household waste. Composting reduces your trash bag costs and means less waste entering the landfill!

It's free and easy to participate in the City of Auburn's Food Waste Composting Program. Bring your food waste to: Auburn Public Works, 296 Gracelawn or the New Auburn Fire Station, 181 South Main.

Drain as much liquid as possible from food waste before putting in your container. Sprinkle baking soda or rub vinegar on the inside of the container to avoid odors & fruit flies. Consider storing food scraps in the freezer to eliminate odors.

ITEMS YOU CAN COMPOST:

- All food scraps
- Coffee grounds, filters & tea bags
- Dairy products
- Meat & bones
- Egg & seafood shells
- Fats, oils & salad dressing
- Paper bags & paper plates
- Napkins/paper towels Newspaper
- Flowers & potting soil

For a full list of everything you can and cannot compost, visit auburnmaine.gov



Auburn's **PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING PROJECT**

Safeguarding the future of our first responders.

On November 7, 2023, voters in Auburn voted in favor of taking the next step in building a new public safety facility in Auburn by approving bonding the construction of the facility. This vote followed years of professional facility assessments and analysis, strategic planning, public safety building committee work, site evaluations, and numerous public meetings.

The need for a new public safety building, which will be home to the Auburn Fire and Police Departments, is critical due to issues such as accessibility, accommodating a diverse workforce, lack of space and storage, and most importantly, life-health issues for first responders.

A single public safety facility, which will replace the Central Fire Station at 550 Minot Avenue, has been determined to be the best choice for both efficient delivery of services and overall costs to Auburn taxpayers. The public safety building committee did their due diligence by exploring all options, locations, and iterations of this project, and the committee felt confident that this facility makes the most sense for Auburn.

To learn more, visit auburnpublicsafety.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Telling the story of Auburn

Communications

Auburn's communications team is dedicated to community and media relations. Through the city's website, social media presence, paid and earned media, email & text alerts, publications, as well as a *NEW* podcast launched in 2023, we work to promote civic engagement and municipal transparency through accurate, consistent and timely info.

Signature Events & Community Engagement

The city hosts three annual signature events as well as a few smaller community events throughout the year. 2023 saw the launch of our new signature event, the Auburn Lobster Festival, which was a roaring success. We are dedicated to finding new and innovative ways to engage with our neighbors and bring our community together.

“Auburn Lobster Festival no joke as thousands turn out for Maine culinary tradition” - Sun Journal, May 6, 2023



The first ever Auburn Lobster Festival was a great success with an estimated 4,000 people attending over the course of the event. We had 3 bands, 6 craft breweries, 3 food trucks, 6 hours of music, and 1 local nonprofit-run lobster dinner.



The 5th annual Riverwalk Blues & Brews Festival took place in September. Approximately 2,000 people attended this 6-hour event, which featured 5 Maine breweries, 3 local food trucks & 1 coffee truck.



Auburn's annual New Year's Eve event returned in 2023, bringing in high attendance numbers in part due to the first-ever large scale drone show in Maine! An estimated 5,500-6,000 visitors attended New Year's, with 3 bands, six hours of music, 4 food trucks, 9 craft breweries, and 1 coffee truck.

2024: MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*CITY HALL CLOSED *CITY EVENT

Holidays and community events

March

St Patrick's Day - 3/17

August

National Night Out - 8/6
Auburn Community Band

April

Patriot's Day - 4/15
Earth Day - 4/22

Sept.

Labor Day - 9/2
Blues & Brews Fest - 9/7
September 11th Day of
Remembrance - 9/11

May

Auburn Lobster Festival - 5/11
Mother's Day - 5/12
Armed Forces Day - 5/18
Memorial Day - 5/27

Oct.

Indigenous Peoples' Day - 10/14
Halloween - 10/31

June

Flag Day - 6/14
Father's Day - 6/16
Juneteenth - 6/19
Auburn Community Band

Nov.

Presidential Election - 11/5
Veterans' Day - 11/11
Thanksgiving - 11/28
(no curbside pickup)
Day after Thanksgiving - 11/29

July

Independence Day - 7/4
(no curbside pickup)
Liberty Festival - 7/4
Auburn Community Band

Dec.

Christmas Tree Lighting - TBD
Christmas Day - 12/25
(no curbside pickup)
New Year's Auburn - 12/31

Photo: Justin Dube



Photo: Richard Plourde



CONNECT WITH US

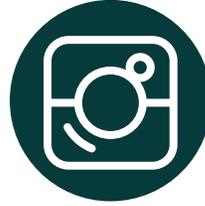
There are many ways to connect with the City of Auburn. Come visit us in person at City Hall at 60 Court Street or visit us online at auburnmaine.gov. You can also find us on various social media sites:



Facebook:
[City of Auburn, Maine](https://www.facebook.com/CityofAuburnMaine)
(Official)



Twitter/X:
[@AuburnMaineGov](https://twitter.com/AuburnMaineGov)



Instagram:
[@auburnmaine](https://www.instagram.com/auburnmaine)



LinkedIn:
[City of Auburn, Maine](https://www.linkedin.com/company/CityofAuburnMaine)
(Official)



GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

Stream LIVE (and watch previously recorded) City Council, Planning Board, and School Board meetings on YouTube - channel name is "[City of Auburn, Maine](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)". Meetings are also rebroadcast on Spectrum channels 11 & 22.



ABSOLUTELY AUBURN!

Auburn has a podcast! Launched in July 2023, "Absolutely Auburn!" features conversations with the City Manager, Mayor and Council, and employees from various departments. Find the podcast at absolutelyauburn.buzzsprout.com, on YouTube, or any podcast app.



WEBSITE

Discover all things Auburn on our website: AUBURNMAINE.GOV. There you can find department info, government meeting calendar, tax info, and much more.



ACCESS AUBURN

Explore maps & parcel viewers, dashboards, initiatives & open data. accessauburn-auburnme.hub.arcgis.com

Need help with something else? Feel free to give us a call: 207.333.6601



CITY OF AUBURN, MAINE

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