

CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE



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General

The City of South Portland is located on the southern coast of the State of Maine in the southeastern section of the County of Cumberland, the State's most populous county. The land area of the City consists of residential, local business, industrial and coastal land areas with a total area embracing 12.93 square miles, supporting a population of 25,608 residents. A city charter was granted on March 22, 1898 and adopted on December 5, 1898 as the City of South Portland. South Portland is the fourth largest city in Maine and the second largest in its region. Once principally a residential community, the City now enjoys a diversified commercial, industrial and advanced technology aspect to its economy. The City comprises several villages, all being contiguous to another, the major neighborhoods being: Cash Corner, Country Gardens, Ferry Village, Knightville, Ligonias, Loveitt's Field, Meadowbrook, Meetinghouse Hill, Ocean Street, Pleasantdale, Redbank, Stanwood Park, Sunset Park, Thornton Heights and Willard.

The Fore River separates South Portland from the City of Portland for a major portion of its northern border. The remaining portion of the City's northern border is formed by the land portion of the Portland/South Portland line and a portion of the City of Westbrook. South Portland is bordered by the towns of Scarborough at its southwest and Cape Elizabeth at its southeast. The Atlantic Ocean forms South Portland's eastern border as Portland Harbor and Casco Bay. Convenient access to South Portland is provided by Exits 44 and 45 of U.S. Interstate Route 95 (the Maine Turnpike), which diagonally intersects the City's northwestern plain; the U.S. Interstate Route 295 spur, which bisects the City through its western region; U.S. Route 1, which flows through the center of South Portland; State Route 9, which enters the southern section of the City as part of U.S. Route 1 and then departs to the City's northwest; and State Route 77, which intersects the City's eastern plain in a north-south direction, to cross on the Casco Bay Bridge, connecting South Portland and Portland.

The area of which the City is comprised was originally the northern part of the Town of Cape Elizabeth. This area was first settled with a trading station being established in 1627 on Richmond Island. A grant of land on the mainland near the Spurwink River was conveyed in 1631 and in 1632 development of the Spurwink settlements began. The Colonial and native population

conflicts forced abandonment of the area for several lengthy periods from 1675 to 1713. Old Falmouth was incorporated in 1718, forming the area now encompassing the Cities of Portland, South Portland and Westbrook and the Towns of Cape Elizabeth and Falmouth. Due to the inconvenience of crossing the Fore River, Cape Elizabeth (then including the City) became established as the Second Parish of Falmouth in 1733, and on November 1, 1765 separated from Falmouth, being incorporated as the Town of Cape Elizabeth. On March 15, 1895 South Portland divided and set off the northern portion of Cape Elizabeth to become a town.

The City's port area serves as major distribution facility for foreign oil shipments for transmission to Canada as well as refined products for domestic consumption. The Maine Mall in South Portland forms the hub of the largest shopping district in the State. The City is the location for Willard Beach, Bug Light, Spring Point Light, the Southern Maine Community College campus and numerous marinas. Fairchild Semiconductor and Texas Instruments manufacture sophisticated electronic circuits used in personal computers, laptops computers, cellular phones and other devices.

Government

The City operates under a charter initially adopted December 5, 1898, as amended, most recently in November 2004 (the "Charter") providing for a Council-Manager form of government with a seven-member City Council. The Council is composed of seven members, one elected from each of the City's five voting districts, and two members who are elected at-large. The Council members are elected for three-year staggered terms. The Charter grants to the City Council all powers to enact, amend, or repeal rules, ordinances and resolutions relating to the City's property, affairs and government, to preserve the public peace, health and safety, to establish personnel policies and giving effect to any vote of the City and to authorize the issuance of debt subject to referendum approval by the voters of the City. Through its Charter, the Council adopts an annual budget and provides for an annual audit.

The City Manager is the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the City government.

Municipal Services

The City provides general governmental services for the territory within its boundaries, including police and fire protection, maintenance of highways, streets and sidewalks, parks, recreation, library and coastal areas, sewer service and wastewater treatment. The City also operates a public bus service. Public education is provided under the City's supervision for grades Kindergarten ("K") through 12.

Water service is provided by the Portland Water District, a quasi-municipal entity whose operations and direct obligations are not part of the City.

Planning and Development

The Department of Planning and Development plans for the growth and redevelopment of the City. Its mission is:

- to maintain the quality of life of a flourishing community in which each resident is reasonably able to achieve his or her highest potential
- to facilitate increased economic activity
- to protect the tax base of the City—upon which depend needed municipal services—by promoting standards attractive to investment
- to protect the natural environment and promote excellence in the design of the built environment
- to provide City decision-makers with quality information and analysis of alternatives
- to promote effective public participation.

Some of the activities of planning staff include:

- Implementing the 2012 Comprehensive Plan Update
- Open space, parks, and trail planning
- Fostering economic development
- Writing land use protection ordinances
- Grant writing and community development
- Providing staff services to the Planning Board
- Preparing community-wide plans like the Project Plan report and the Comprehensive Plan
- Neighborhood planning, such as the Ferry Village Master Plan.
- Transportation network and facilities planning
- Review of applications for development projects.

The Department of Planning and Development also includes Engineering Inspection and Code Enforcement. The Engineering section of Planning and Development includes staff and contracted services, providing inspection and limited design and services for the City and its departments. Inspection projects include:

- New developments
- Street openings
- Renovations
- Sewer construction and reconstruction
- Drainage reviews

The Code Enforcement section of Planning and Development handles zoning, building, plumbing, electrical and street opening permits. The office provides information and services related to:

- Building codes

- Setback requirements
- Permit requirements
- Home occupations
- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Permitted and Special Exception uses
- Zoning districts
- Zoning, wetlands, and shoreland zoning maps
- Variances and other appeals
- Assessor's parcel maps
- Grandfathered buildable lots of record
- City Excavator Licensing requirements
- Property records

The Code Enforcement Office also has information provided by other agencies regarding:

- Radon, Asbestos, and Lead hazards
- Tenant rights
- Adaptive equipment loan programs
- Making homes wheelchair accessible
- Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM)
- Dig Safe

Permits

Most construction projects or installations must have a permit before being started. Before you begin any type of construction project, please call the Code Enforcement Office at 207-767-7603 for information on requirements. Permits are issued from this office for:

- New construction, including buildings, additions, porches, decks, sheds, garages, swimming pools, signs, and more.
- Demolitions
- Changes to existing exterior or interior walls, roofs, window or door openings of buildings, including sign panel changes.
- Temporary structures such as storage and office trailers, and temporary signs and banners.
- Electrical- any service or meter changes and any new wiring, including sign wiring- requires application by a Maine Licensed Master Electrician (even for a single family home)
- Plumbing- any new or relocated fixtures, but not for replacement of old fixtures in the same location. Single family homeowners may take out their own permit. Any other plumbing job requires application by a Maine Licensed Master Plumber
- Heating- any new or replacement heating systems, including furnaces, boilers, woodstoves, pellet stoves, gas heating stoves, and gas heaters of any kind. Gas-fired and oil-burning equipment installations require application by a Maine Licensed Oil Burnerman or Maine Licensed Propane/Natural Gas Technician.
- Fuel tank installations

- Sewer installation or connection/reconnection
- Septic tank installation or replacement
- Sewer impact fees
- Sprinkler systems or other fire or burglar protection systems
- HVAC or installed air conditioning systems (not window units)
- Large tents for special events (proof of treatment for fire retardancy required)

Fences

Fences do not require permits and may be up to six feet in height, placed right against your property line, facing in either direction. Your fence must be behind or against the front property line, not in front of it on what is actually City property between the pavement of the street and the actual front property line.

Building Activity

The following shows the trend of the City's building activity.

FY End June 30,	New Construction	Alterations	Total
1990	\$21,012,740	\$5,286,216	\$26,298,956
1991	19,084,941	5,496,591	24,581,532
1992	5,869,651	6,513,260	12,382,911
1993	12,759,438	5,046,020	17,805,458
1994	16,663,253	9,402,668	26,065,921
1995	8,917,137	9,213,469	18,130,606
1996	58,606,789	8,795,325	67,402,114
1997	18,260,573	12,814,860	31,075,433
1998	10,652,540	10,429,257	21,081,797
1999	14,622,169	12,014,137	26,636,306
2000	17,323,039	15,056,958	32,379,977
2001	23,784,876	19,976,480	43,752,356
2002	10,355,145	19,416,341	29,771,486
2003	48,031,348	15,035,127	63,066,475
2004	22,844,810	19,821,229	42,666,039
2005	21,573,491	29,977,433	51,550,924
2006	19,970,163	21,527,297	41,497,460
2007	30,875,553	11,974,855	42,850,408
2008	10,759,460	22,129,167	32,889,427
2009	7,360,574	8,554,657	15,915,231
2010	7,010,044	9,407,736	16,417,780
2011	9,425,423	13,068,484	22,493,907
2012	55,573,189	3,142,022	52,431,167

Source: City of South Portland

South Portland Fire Department

The South Portland Fire Department provides emergency response services to its citizens with full-time and part-time on-call firefighters and paramedics. The Department also serves as a State of Maine sponsored WMD / hazardous materials response team. Emergency Medical Services are provided by two ambulances staffed at the paramedic level as well as three full time fire trucks staffed with EMS personnel as well. Administrative offices for Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management are located at the South Portland Public Safety building located at 20 Anthoine Street.

The Department currently operates out of three fully staffed stations, Central Station located at 684 Broadway, Cash Corner at 360 Main Street, and Western Ave Station located at 34 James Baka Drive. The three call companies operate out of Willard Square, Cash Corner and Union Street.

The South Portland Fire Department on a daily basis takes an active role in our community to educate the public and prevent emergencies. Prevention is often difficult to measure; however we have seen a remarkable decrease in major fires over the past twenty years through prevention activities and increased code enforcement. We focus on several areas in an attempt to prevent injuries and accidents in our community. The first is training of our employees, to be prepared to handle all types of emergencies. The second is through public education in our community. This includes a regional juvenile fire setter program. Six years ago the department introduced the Risk Watch program into our school system. This is a child safety program developed by the National Fire Protection Association allows us to put firefighters into every first and third grade class in the city. The focus of this program is on making good, safe decisions. We conclude this program every fall with an open house and safety day at our Central Fire Station in October. Annually the department inspects every commercial building as well as every three units and larger apartment complex in the city. All have been required to install and maintain working hard wired smoke detectors. The Deputy Fire Chief in charge of fire prevention also reviews and approves all new construction plans in the city and makes recommendations on all aspects of the construction process.

The South Portland Fire Department has evolved into an Emergency Response Team ready to handle any hazard. We have been able to take the department in several directions because of our well trained firefighters and paramedics. Due to the dedication of our staff and the continued support of our community the South Portland Fire Department is ranked by ISO (Insurance Services Office) as one of the top departments in New England.

South Portland Police Department

Mission Statement

The mission of the South Portland Police Department is to work cooperatively with all citizens to protect life and property, preserve peace, enforce laws and maintain civil rights through proper and responsive community based service.

School Resource Officer:

The School Resource Officer program is a community-policing approach practiced in a school environment. The school is the officer's beat. A school Resource Officer (SRO) is on duty at the High School. SROs are facilitators of safe and secure school settings. They fulfill three roles in the schools to which they are assigned, as law enforcement officers, law-related counselors and law-related education teachers. They intervene when violent incidents occur, and their presence can prevent such incidents from happening.

Unlike the police officer that responds to school problems as a result of a 911 call by the principal, SROs regard the schools as their community. SROs know the physical design and layout of the school to which they are assigned. They are aware of who belongs at the school and who does not. They participate in school activities and extracurricular events, serve as a classroom resource to teachers in the area of their expertise, and are members of the school community.

Triad:

The South Portland Police Department has partnered with the senior members of the community to form the South Portland TRIAD, an organized program to reduce the criminal victimization of senior citizens. The South Portland TRIAD meets the second Thursday of every month. A Senior Advisory Council also referred to as S.A.L.T. Council (seniors and Law Enforcement Together) act as an advisory group for the police department on crime and security issues involving the elderly. Activities of the S.A.L.T. Council include:

- establishing a directory of existing community programs
- implementing crime prevention programs
- providing volunteer participation

Citizen Police Academy:

The South Portland Police Department offers 10-week program open to City residents that is geared to introduce them to what is involved in the work of a South Portland Police Officer. Called a "Citizen Police Academy," the weekly 2-hour sessions focus on:

- criminal law
- domestic violence
- criminal investigation procedures
- many other topics

Participants also have the opportunity to "ride along/walk along" with an officer on patrol. Interested individuals must be 20 years of age and a resident of the community or be employed by a business within the community.

Smokeless Saturday:

Smokeless Saturday is an opportunity for teens to rethink their decision to use tobacco products. It is a 5-hour class that assists the user in understanding why they smoke. The class provides educational information regarding the consequences of tobacco use. It will also help the user develop skills to kick the habit. Classes are scheduled on designated Saturdays from 8:30 am - 1:30 pm at the South Portland Police Department.

Smokeless Saturday is divided into two sessions. The morning session addresses such issues as personal history and habits, communication and refusal skills, and identification of "trigger" situations that lead to tobacco use. The afternoon session focuses on health issues, media manipulation, and goal setting regarding tobacco use.

The goals of Smokeless Saturday are to empower teens to recognize why and how they use tobacco. It will also provide them with cessation awareness skills, including the refusal and avoidance of "trigger" situations.

Smokeless Saturday is a joint program of the South Portland Police Department; the South Portland School Department and is affiliated with the Bureau of Health / [A Healthy Maine Partnership](#). For more information please contact Officer Linda Barker by [E-mail](#) or 207-799-5511 ext 7424

Community Partnership for Protecting Children (CPPC):

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) is a partnership of parents, neighborhoods, schools, churches, social service providers, children welfare services, law enforcement, neighborhood associations, and businesses working together to support and strengthen families and communities. CPPC is a method of interaction with families that is dependent on parent leadership, agency collaboration, neighborhood presence and adherence to four key elements of best practice, including shared decision making.

The neighborhoods surrounding Brickhill and Redbank were identified early on as a possible site for CPPC. In addition, Youth Alternatives Ingraham was interested in becoming more active with its neighbors. At the same time, there was interest within the City of South Portland to address some of the ongoing needs of the neighborhood including juvenile behavior and school truancy. In November 2008, the City of South Portland organized a neighborhood meeting and a list of issues was discussed, including juvenile behavior, drugs, and the need for greater police presence. In addition, the City formally committed itself to establishing the "Hub" in the Redbank/Brickhill community and secured a location along Westbrook Street to be shared by South Portland Police, DHHS staff and other CPPC partners.

The South Portland Police Department is key partner of CPPC. Their unique role is based on the fact that law enforcement personnel are present in the neighborhood on a regular basis and are often times the first to respond in cases of domestic violence and child abuse. Collaboration and communication between law enforcement and other CPPC partners is essential. On many occasions, responding officers recognize that the family needs help that police are not equipped to provide. Reaching out to the CPPC partners will provide the resources families need and assist law enforcement in effectively addressing the situation.

Parks and Recreation

The mission of the South Portland Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, maintain and develop recreational facilities, open space and leisure opportunities which will enhance the well being of the citizens of the community. Critical to the success of this mission is our commitment to teamwork that drives excellence at every level of our operation. Our community has a longstanding tradition of supporting thriving programs, diverse green spaces, and publicly accessible trails for all ages to live an active healthy lifestyle. The Department of Parks & Recreation facilitates this tradition through providing the programs citizen's desire in locations that are second to none in Maine. Any person who rides the Greenbelt on a spring morning, attends a soccer outing at Wainwright Recreation Complex on a fall day, relaxes on a bench in the Mill Creek Park watching children skating on the pond, or plays a leisurely round of golf at our municipal course during a lazy summer evening can tell you that our parks system offers something for everyone. Housed in the South Portland Community Centers on Nelson Road and Redbank participants find a wide variety of activities for all ages year round ranging from water aerobics to the arts on a daily basis.

Parks Division

The Parks Division is responsible for maintenance for all City parks, the Municipal Golf Course, City athletic complexes, public school athletic fields, Willard Beach and a variety of other public facilities. During the winter, staff prepares the skating areas at Mill Creek Park, maintains access to the Greenbelt, and assists the Public Works Department in snow operations. Parks Division horticulturist, arborists, and landscaping staff grow many plants including all the annual flowers for the beds throughout the City. The City is also a Tree City USA community so our parks team performs the pruning, planting and removal of City-owned trees. Several annual events to include Art in the Park, Holiday Tree Lighting Festival, Summer Concerts, and Arbor Day festivities.

Recreation Division

Living an active and healthy lifestyle is accessible to everyone through our Greenbelt Trail, Municipal Pool, and variety of programming throughout the City. We offer active recreational opportunities through youth, adult, and senior programming such as pickle ball, soccer, basketball, water aerobics and arts classes at both the South Portland Community Center and Redbank Community Center. You can find our programs listed through the City website where it is also convenient to register on line for programs or classes. We also post many items on our Facebook page so that you can keep up with the latest information. A full listing of all our programs, events, and classes is also published three times a year in our brochure. Our programs are a great way to meet people in the community or to become a volunteer.

South Portland Public Library

The South Portland Library was constructed at its present location in 1966, and a branch was built in 1976. As the fourth largest public library in Maine and 2005 winner of the Maine Library Excellence Award, South Portland Public Library offers access to over 115,000 items at its Main and Branch libraries. The library department offers library service seven days a week. Library users frequently comment that South Portland Public Library is the area's most useful library. The library staff is happy to help you find whatever you are looking for, be it for research or for fun, for young or for old (and everything in between!) With two locations, each with its own unique personality, we are proud to be the only public library in the State of Maine to offer our community access to library services seven days a week, year-round.

Highlights of Current Services:

- Current/Popular Fiction and Non-fiction
- Extensive Collection of Films on DVD
- Audio Books
- Music CDs
- Large Print Books
- Public Use Computers and Printers for Internet, Email and Word Processing
- Photocopiers
- Search Our Catalog, Check Your Library Account and Request Items 24 Hours A Day At:
www.southportlandlibrary.com
- An Amazing Collection of Materials for Children and Young Adults
- Graphic Novels
- Outreach Services – Delivery to the Home Bound
- Convenient and Family-Friendly Weekend Hours
- Story Times, Activities and Groups for Children of All Ages
- Maine Daily and Weekly Newspapers
- Passes to Local Museums and Attractions
- Frequent Concerts, Guest Speakers and Other Special Events
- Adult Book Discussion Groups
- Socrates Café: A Philosophical Discussion Group
- Gigantic Used Book Sale in October, Presented By The Friends of The South Portland Public Library

Water Resource Protection

The City of South Portland has actively pursued improving water quality in Casco Bay since 1978. The Water Resource Protection Department manages all operations, maintenance, and administrative activities for the wastewater treatment plant, pumping stations, and sewer/storm collection systems to ultimately meet all the water quality requirements set forth by the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) through its Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) discharge permit.

The ***Operations Division*** is responsible to ensure the treatment plant consistently meets the requirements set forth in the city's discharge permit. A highly successful compliance record is due to the dedication of the staff who work diligently to ensure the plant runs effectively and efficiently at a minimum cost to the residential, commercial, and industrial sewer users. Through a sequence of carefully controlled physical, biological, and chemical processes, the treatment plant staff produces over 2.5 billion gallons of clean water per year. Continuous monitoring and control with the operators knowledge of biology, chemistry, equipment, maintenance, treatment systems, and processes are critical to peak operating efficiency. The treatment plant can pump and treat an instantaneous peak flow of up to 56 million gallons per day. The treatment plant operators are also responsible for the operations of 30 pumping stations throughout the City. The staff responds to pump station emergencies on a 24 hour, 7 day a week basis. There have been a number of upgrades to the 32 year old treatment facility which have consisted of system replacements to plant process components. This ongoing modernization process insures the City stays in compliance with changing regulations and maintains an efficient low cost system.

The ***Collection Systems Division*** comprises staff that provides services in the area of sewer/stormwater pipeline inspections, cleaning, maintenance, line repair, and manhole/catchbasin repair and maintenance. They also respond to sewer and stormwater related emergencies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The scope of coverage is extensive where the City has over 100 miles of sanitary sewers, and 50 miles of storm sewers. These systems require continual service and repair to maintain the collection system in peak operating condition to move the wastewater flows for treatment and minimize the overflows from hydraulically overloaded combined sewer/stormwater collection systems. These combined sewer overflows (CSO's) are regulated discharges that must eventually be eliminated. The City has been actively pursuing this goal since 1994 and has recently developed an upgraded master plan to move it to reducing or eliminating the six remaining CSO's over the next ten years.

The ***Maintenance Division*** provides preventative maintenance and repairs which is critical to keeping the treatment plant, the pump stations, and the department equipment and vehicles running at peak performance. Effective maintenance is a crucial part of operations, not only during the normal flows received on a daily basis, but, most importantly, when the collection and treatment system is tested during storm events, high flows, and natural weather disasters.

The ***Industrial Pretreatment Program*** was established to allow the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) direct control of industrial user discharges. This program was approved by the EPA in 1983 to insure that the objectives of the federal program were fully implemented on a local level. The program prevents the introduction of pollutants into the POTW, which could cause pass-through or interfere with the operation of the POTW, including interference with its use or disposal of municipal biosolids. The Compliance Administrator regulates the industries through a permitting mechanism to be sure they are in compliance with the program.

The ***Stormwater Management Program*** is the result of recent stormwater regulations and is administrated by the Stormwater Program Coordinator. The duties of this position are far reaching and consist of planning, managing, and coordinating the activities of the City's stormwater program. The program is made up of multiple stormwater minimum control strategies that are required by the federal and state stormwater regulations such as the federal Stormwater Phase II and the Maine Department of Environmental Protections MS4 General Permit for the discharges of stormwater from municipalities. The coordinator will develop and manage watershed plans and

pollution reduction programs while working with the City's strategy for bringing urban impaired streams back into their water classification.

The staff can provide guided tours of the treatment plant to groups or individuals to see what treatment plants do for water quality and how the use of technology can improve efficiency and lower cost. The Collection Systems Division can set up demonstrations with local schools to view the latest in equipment and technology utilized in a modern collection system.

The ***Engineering Division*** provides engineering support services that encompass a wide range of needs from construction project management to facility planning and advancing the technological needs of the city. For buildings, roads, sewer construction, stormwater separation, treatment plant, pump station, and other hard construction projects, Engineering can provide the preliminary design work, design management, construction administration, and inspection service to insure the cost effective and product success of construction projects undertaken by the city. Engineering also advances much of the technological and planning improvements the city undertakes such as 3D CAD, CAD standards, sewer/storm systems computer modeling, development and maintenance of GIS data layers, pump station and sewer standards, treatment plant - pump station - collection system facility planning, and accurate efficient compilation and storage of record drawings for city infrastructure that will bring the city into the next generation of cost effective engineering service.

Public Education

The City operates its educational program for grades K through 12 under its own supervision. Article IX of the City's Charter, as amended, provides that the Department of Education for the City be administered by a Board of Education comprised of seven members, one elected from each of the City's five voting districts, and two members who are elected at-large. The Board of Education members are elected for three-year staggered terms. The Board performs all duties and functions in regard to the care and management of the public schools of the City including preparation and submission of its budget to the City Manager, who includes it in the budget process.

Public Works

The Public Works Department provides a full range of services including:

- Automated rubbish collection and disposal
- Snow plowing, sanding and salting
- Street and sidewalk maintenance
- Street paving and reconstruction

Public Works also operates a heavy equipment maintenance facility and the Transfer Station.

Rubbish Removal

One of the Department's primary functions is automated curbside rubbish removal and we collect from approximately 8500 stops weekly. We advertise any postponements of rubbish collection, due to holidays in the Sentry, on SPC-TV (Channel 2 in South Portland), via citywide email and via a maintained community e-mail list. If you would like to be placed on our "community" email list, please email us at publicworks@southportland.org. Any cancellation and/or postponement of rubbish collection due to weather is announced on television Channels 6, 8 & 13, as well as all of the local radio stations.

The Department is also responsible for all road maintenance, which includes, but is not limited to, pothole repairs; rating and coordination of paving and/or overlaying of roads; plow damage repairs (esplanades, lawns, drive aprons, curbing, etc.); signage repair and/or replacement; street sweeping; operation of the City's Transfer Facility; sidewalk repairs (bituminous or concrete); and assist other Departments as necessary.

Other services offered annually include:

- Fall curbside leaf collection, for leaves in biodegradable bags only
- Christmas tree curbside collection for 2 weeks after New Year's Day, weather permitting
- Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off day (City sponsored) - usually the 3rd Saturday in October
- Facility opened four (4) Sundays in the spring and four (4) Sundays in the late fall.

All of these are advertised the same as rubbish is for the holidays. The Department reviews and approves or denies any curb cut applications within the City limits.

South Portland Transportation and Waterfront

Transit Bus Service

The South Portland Bus Service provides a fixed route public transit service to the residents of South Portland. All City buses are lift equipped and wheelchair accessible. The Bus Service has a fleet of buses that operate three routes.

The Bus Service also connects with the Portland METRO (774-0351) with a free transfer system to increase service area coverage throughout the Cities of Portland and Westbrook and the Town of Falmouth.

Waterfront

The staff plans, manages and coordinates the maintenance of municipal waterfront facilities, including the Portland Street Pier, the Municipal Boat Ramp near Bug Light Park, the Spring Point Marina leased and operated by Port Harbor Marina and a municipal wharf and public boat landing at Thomas Knight Park in Knightville.

In addition, the Cities of Portland and South Portland have worked closely to develop new economic activity in the Port of Portland. Some of the region's largest oil companies ship tons of crude and refined petroleum products through South Portland terminals. At least one general marine cargo terminal with heavy lift capability is located within South Portland. Currently, there are no passenger transportation terminals in South Portland. There are several marinas, a small shipyard, beaches, restaurants, Southern Maine Community College, private homes, condominiums, public parks and access points along the South Portland waterfront. Other properties along the waterfront are available for commercial development or public use. The diversity of the waterfront's use provides both a great asset and a challenge.

Municipal Boat Ramp

The Municipal Boat Ramp is located next to Bug Light Park. It is intended primarily for the launching of recreational boats. Commercial boats may use the ramp if such use does not unreasonably interfere with the launching of recreational boats. The public float and landing is generally restricted to the boarding and landing of small craft only. The ramp parking lot and other adjacent areas are available for overnight or long-term use, as space is available. Advance permission is required by calling 767-5556.

Upon request, the department will provide copies of the current rules and regulations governing the Municipal Boat Launching Facility.

Portland Street Pier

The City maintains the Portland Street Pier in Ferry Village. The facility has 16 boat slips available on an annual basis to small commercial fishing vessels, typically lobster boats. The pier provides public access for fishing and other family activities. A wood frame building on the pier is leased to Waterworks Diving Services. Commercial fisherman from South Portland interested in obtaining a boat slip may call 767-5556 or write to the Director of Transportation and the Waterfront, 46 O'Neil South Portland, 04106.

Municipal Pier and Public Boat Landing at Thomas Knight Park

Knightville Landing is located in the shadow of the Casco Bay Bridge in Thomas Knight Park. The park is located at the intersection of Waterman Drive and Ocean Street in the Knightville neighborhood. The facility provides a waterborne gateway to the City for recreational boaters. The 300 foot pier and floating docks allow unrestricted access to the water. It is an ideal place to fish, kayak, canoe, or simply sit and enjoy the magnificent view of Portland Harbor's working waterfront.

Labor Relations

The City employs full, part-time, permanent part-time (set hours or no set hours), seasonal and temporary employees. The following represents those employees included in a union:

Union	Unit	Effective	Expire
AFSCME (AFL/CIO)	Parks, Public Works	7/1/2009	6/30/2012
SPFCO	Fire Command Officers	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPPCSU(MAP)	Police Command Officers	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
IAFF 1476	Dispatch	7/1/2012	6/30/2013
IAFF (AFL/CIO)	Firefighters	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
AFSCME (AFL/CIO)	Bus Operators	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPPPA (MAP)	Police Patrolmen	7/1/2011	6/30/2014

The School Department unions consist of the following:

SPAA	School Administrators	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPTA (MEA)	School Teachers	9/1/2012	8/31/2015
SPESPA (MEA)	Education Techs, & Clerks	9/1/2010	8/31/2013
SPSEA(MEA)	Maintenance, Transportation & Food Service	9/1/2011	8/31/14

Largest Employers

The following lists some of the largest employers within the City.

Name	Business	Approximate Average # of Employees
UnumProvident Life Insurance Company	Insurance	3500*
Anthem/Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maine	Health Insurance	1000
City of South Portland	Municipal Government	907
Fairchild Semiconductor	Mfg. Semiconductors	775
WEX	Fleet & Corporate Charge Cards	744
Southern Maine Community College	College	739
Texas Instruments/Fairchild	Mfg. Semiconductors	540
United Parcel Service	Package Delivery	200
Macy's	Retail Sales	200
Marriott Corp.	Hotel	148

*Regional employment figure available only, includes employees from other Cumberland County Communities

Economic Development

South Portland is home to the Maine Mall, which is one of the largest malls in northern New England. Each year, the Maine Mall's 115 businesses draw over 8 million visitors to its 1.1 million square feet of retail space. South Portland's population swells between 60,000 and 80,000 during the work day as a result of the Mall. South Portland has seen tremendous growth around the Mall through additional retail malls, restaurants, Class A offices, and hospitality.

The western half of the City is also home to two world-class computer chip factories, Texas Instruments and Fairchild Semiconductor, as well as the Maine headquarters of Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield and world headquarters of WEX. Hannaford Brothers, a regional grocery store chain has a significant presence with its distribution center and freezer plant, distributing groceries to stores throughout New England.

The City's port is the 2nd largest crude oil port and the 3rd largest oil terminal port on the U.S. East Coast. Six terminals and over 130 tanks handle petroleum cargo ranging from crude oil to jet fuel. There are also two pipelines; one transfers crude oil to a refinery in Montreal, while another carries refined products to the Bangor area.

The economic diversity of South Portland has been strong over the years and has remained that way even when the national economy has receded. The western portions of the City consisting of industry, office, retail, and food and lodging establishments all live harmoniously and experience the benefits together. South Portland's dense, friendly neighborhoods with its associated open and green spaces are true assets to the livability of the community. If you have never been to South Portland, come and visit and see the jewel that we call South Portland.