SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

8/6/18 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents / Taxpayers</th>
<th>MBPC-Licensed Professionals</th>
<th>Agronomist</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Chapman</td>
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<td>Jesse O’Brien</td>
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<td>Bret LeBleu</td>
<td>Justin Nichols</td>
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<td>Ann Morrill (Chair)</td>
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<th>City Staff (notes)</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<td>Fred Dillon</td>
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<td>Addie Halligan</td>
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1. **Review draft notes for 5/7/18 & 7/2/18 meetings**
   - Accepted as written

2. **Yerxa Park project status update**
   - Presentation by Stormwater Intern Addie Halligan on preliminary concept plan for the project (ATTACHMENT)
     - Very well-conceived and thorough site assessment based on invasive plant data collected by P&R using iMapInvasives app, tree data collected by Addie and input from Karl Coughlin on resources P&R can devote to project
     - PMAC feedback and ensuing discussion:
       - Eradication of invasive plants probably too ambitious; maybe better to work towards suppression
       - Check with P&R on history of space and whether the “Yerxa” name is informal or intentional
         - Dick Yerxa is a long-time Rotary member and has done lots in the community; might be nice to honor his legacy by officially naming park after him
       - Addie’s assessment identified numerous Norway Maples, which grow fast with shallow roots and a dense canopy making it difficult for other species to grow very well
         - Consider removing or girdling some of these trees and/or starting Hugelkultur beds
       - Like Addie’s suggestion of starting early with paths as a way to invite park users into the space
       - Question about whether area may have been a prehistoric settlement site (perhaps as evidenced by shell midden deposits) – can check with USM Archaeologist Nate Hamilton
- PMAC to develop overall project plan with phases for Parks Dept to begin implementing
  - Start with educational signage similar to what’s being used in Cape Elizabeth (e.g., “Forgive the Mess” or “Work in Progress”) that explains what we’re doing and why we’re doing it – Addie could help develop concept signs for review by PMAC
  - Overall plan to suppress invasives and plant natives
  - Check with Karl (and DEP) on removing some Norway Maples to open up sun exposure
  - Establish paths (perhaps with chipped Norway Maples)
  - Start smothering invasives (esp. knotweed) with carpet similar to what Dan Hogan did with Pope Preserve
  - Don’t forget about permitting considerations – Fred and Addie meeting with DEP’s John Maclaine at site on Wed. 8/15 at 9AM

3. E&O campaign status
   - Review of events already attended by PMAC
     o WillardFest on 7/14 – PMAC (Ann & Cathy) talked with 23 people
     o Shoppers Hardware – PMAC (Cathy) talked with 15 people
     o Drillen’s Hardware – PMAC (Ann) talked with 32 people
   - Upcoming events:
     o Knightville Festival – 8/10: Fred will do
     o Art in the Park 8/11 – Cathy will do
     o Yard Care Demonstration Day at Bug Light Park – 9/29
       ▪ Stonyfield Farm is sponsoring with $5K grant to kick off a nationwide effort promoting natural / organic land care practices
       ▪ Chip Osborne and Jay Feldman will be involved
       ▪ Concerns with soil quality – highly compacted urban fill / rubble – ideally dig test pit to characterize area and collect soil sample(s)
       ▪ May need to use engineered soil that resists compaction
       ▪ Very important to recognize local businesses since they’re taking their time to help promote preferred practices
       ▪ Consider making “save the date” flyers
       ▪ Still a question about whether entire park will undergo major improvements
   - Question about status of Sentry articles
     o Julie was going to inquire with editor about using articles already written by Abby Huntoon – ideally submit articles soon in prep for fall lawn care practices

4. Waiver requests / public comments on ordinance implementation
   - Nothing to report
5. **Replacement for Arborist**
   - Noah Tucker with Bartlett declined today; Fred spoke with Jon Hanisko from Lucas who said that he thinks either he or another arborist from Lucas may be interested in serving on PMAC

6. **Other agenda items?**
   - Question about what folks at Wainwright ended up doing about waiver request to deal with weeds along fence lines.
     - They were able to purchase flame thrower

**NEXT MEETING: Mon. 9/10 from 5-6:30 at the Community Center**
Yerxa Park
Healthy Landscape Demonstration Project
Location:
1 Bagley Ave

Description:
- Between Turners Island and Knightville
- ~1 acre plot, bordered by the Fore River to the north and the Greenbelt Trail to the south
- Next to a pond and wetland – that is being considered for a tidal salt marsh restoration project
- $15,000 grant to restore and enhance a historically underutilized city park into an educational garden (ordinance)
- Collaboration between City of South Portland, PMAC, and Parks department
Goals & Involvement

Goals

1) Public Outreach and Education
2) Eradicate Invasive’s
3) Plant Natives / Flower Gardens
4) Education and Interpretive signs

Development Team

Kevin Adams – Parks Dept. Director
Karl Coughlin – Deputy Director
Jesse O’Brien – Agronomist
Bret LeBleu – Citizen Representative & Landscape Architect
Andrew Cappeluti – Landscape Architect
Justin Nichols – NOFA accredited & Landscape Designer
Ann Morrill – Citizen Representative & Gardener
Cathy Chapman – Citizen Representative & Master Gardener
Fred Dillon – Stormwater Coordinator
Existing Conditions

- ~1 acre park, consisting of 3 city-owned parcels off Bagley Ave (off Broadway)
- Faces north towards Portland & bridge
- Focus on the existing park and to the west (first phases)
- Deciduous overstory - with a mix of native and invasives trees (Norway Maples)
- Understory – Knotweed and Multiflora rose
- Existing park is; densely bordered by Japanese Knotweed, 4’ lower than trail, hidden, some afternoon/morning sun
- Two benches and a trash can
- Discrete unfinished dirt path entrance, and desire lines into woods/high marsh
Existing Conditions
Existing Conditions
Existing Conditions
Slopes, Soils & Drainage

Slopes & Drainage
(Over simplified 2’ – no micro-topography shown)
• Parcel 1 & 2 gradually slopes & vegetated → sites accessible, and not highly erodible
• Parcel 3 has steep slopes, with a low point → potential pooling water & more challenging to alter (for scope of this project)

Soils
• Parcels 1 & 2 are Tidal Marshes → frequent flooding & ponding, important for vegetation choices
• Parcel 3 is Deerfield Loamy Sand → moderately well drained
**Circulation**
- Greenbelt bike path & Broadway ave to the south → open up space to encourage / invite users into the park, close access to a main road
- Park entrance is a beaten down dirt path → make more inviting / obvious
- Desire lines going to the northeast and west → potential to create pathways through park

**Views**
- Views from current park of Fore River, Portland, South Portland bridge → open up (multiflora rose)
- Views to the west of Fore River, oil tanks and neighborhood → not as desirable, also potential view back towards a new pond encouraged

**Character Zones**
1: mowed, afternoon sun, no place to sit
2: seating, mowed, morning sun, afternoon shade
3: opened up, dirt
4: sunset views, mid-day & afternoon sun, nice prospect & refuge
5: currently knotweed, but receives partial sun, glimpses of views, flat & potential to be opened up
Photos of Views & Circulation

View 1: To the Northeast, view of Fore River, Portland & Casco bay Bridge

View 2: To the Northwest, view of Mildred Pond channel, neighborhood and oil tanks
Looking west, vegetation blocking view & man-made path (desire line)
Photos of Views & Circulation
Vegetation & Habitat

Understory

• Invasive
Predominately Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rose, Asiatic Bittersweet
→ Target groups for invasive management

Overstory

• Deciduous
Birch, Elm, Maple, Oak, Other & Invasive Norway Maple
→ Open canopy in winter, dense in summer

Habitat

• Shorebird Feeding Habitat –
Diverse group of birds; more than 20 species depend on Maine coastal habitats to feed and rest
Feed on intertidal invertebrates, and roost on sand/gravel, rock, saltmarshes
→ choose plants that benefit these birds
Invasive Vegetation

- Invasives
  - Japanese Knotweed
  - Japanese Barberry
  - Asiatic Bittersweet
  - Norway Maple
  - Multiflora Rose
  - Honeysuckle Shrub

→ Management Plan
Summary Points

- **Great location** – off a major road & well used bike path
- Happening in conjunction with pond improvements – *will create a place people will want to slow down, enjoy, and steward*
- Deciduous overstory and Japanese knotweed understory – once gone will have a *nice balance of shade and sun*
- Gradual sloping site – *accessible & few drainage issues*
- Existing walking desire lines – assists in design – *know where people already go / want to go*
- Existing mown area gets good sun – *good place for gardens / plantings*
- Enhance those views – *create gathering areas where views are exhibited*
- Multiple existing *character zones offer guidelines* on placing gardens / signs and gathering spaces

Other takeaways / any critical info people think are missing?
Japanese Knotweed

OPTIONS

• Smothering with tarps
  Cutting all the Japanese knotweed to the ground.
  Covering it with pond liner/tarps/carpet and digging the pond liner down about 12 feet around the perimeter.
  Covering said area with mulch.

• Cutting or Mowing to the ground
• Digging out the rhizomes

Precedents

• Hannaford Park – Pope Preserve – Dan Hogan
  Cut, Pull & Carpet

• Cape Elizabeth Land Trust – Caroline Campbell & Charlie Baldwin
  Trundy point – Hand cutting & Burning
  Robinson Woods – Cutting, Mowing & Herbicide Treatment
  Great Pond Preserve - Carpet

• Bringing Nature Home" by Douglas W. Tallamy (recommended by Dan Hogan)
Precedent I: Pope Preserve
Managing For: Japanese Knotweed

Method: Roundup & cutting didn’t work → cut, pull up rhizomes, carpet covered with woodchips

Education: 3 signs – Natives vs Aliens, Historical Information, Tidal Ecology

Process:

1) Pathway defined with carpet and woodchips (no cost)
2) Cut down stalks and dig up rhizomes – let dried out in parking lot - w/ Rotary Club – Volunteer (no cost)
3) Carpet acquired from Carpet Warehouse dumpster (free) & Public Works and Asblundh – dumped chips for 2 years
4) After 2 years, pulled up carpet in the open middle area – return to natural vegetation
5) Cut carpet as he planted each individual plant
6) Planted in phases
7) Maintenance – weed base of plants, replenish wood chips & pull any invasives (few)
8) Signs
Precedent II: Trundy Point (Cape Elizabath Land Trust)

Managing for: Black Swallow-wort, Honeysuckle, Bittersweet & Autumn Olive

Method: Cut & burn

Education: Sign with email link to Cape Land Trust
Managing for: Japanese Knotweed

Method: Carpet

Education: Sign with email link to Cape Land Trust (CELT volunteers & CEMS 8th graders)

Lesson: Carpet needs to be suppressed, especially where carpet overlaps (mulch, wood chips)
Design Directives

Goals
1) Public outreach and education
2) Eradicate Invasive’s
3) Plant Natives / Flower Gardens
4) Education and Interpretive signs

- Create a entry way that is obvious, encourages people to come into park & educates
- Eradicate invasives – plant with natives
  - Eradication will open up some nice areas, character zones 3 & 5
- Take advantage of new / existing sunny spots for flower gardens (shorebird habitat)
- Use desire lines to influence a path that directs visitors through the park / through educational signs
- In conjunction with pond project, neighbors may be interested in being involved since it will enhance their neighborhood / steward / pull invasives that come up
- Phased Design
- OTHERS directives?!
Design Alternatives – Option 1

• **Entry Garden** – perennial beds that welcome visitors with a sign that explains the project, eradication, natives, etc.

• **Native gardens** along the existing park to replace the knotweed, provide habitat / food for shorebirds, enclose the park to create a gathering space.

• **Paths** that following desire lines and pass through the newly opened up understory (contour & trees)

• **Eradicated knotweed** – replaced with ground cover / mix (?)

• **Education Signs**

• **Signs** at the entry – explaining project, sign near the existing benches explaining tidal ecology, & (maybe) sign about history / new project with the pond.
Gardens and/or Gathering areas

Education

Signs

Native gardens / shorebird habitat & food wrap around existing

Paths – following existing desire lines – weaves around trees

Eradicated knotweed – replaced with ground cover / mix (?)

• Entry garden – perennial beds that welcome visitors with a sign that explains the project, eradication, natives, ordinance, etc.

• Native gardens along the existing park bench area, create a more appealing / productive area, in the clearing – woodland garden

• Paths – system of trails to create a site of exploration – expand the size of the site, direct people through the series of signs

• Signs at the entry – explaining project, sign near the existing benches explaining tidal ecology, & (maybe) sign about history (maybe) sign about new project with the pond, facing the pond – perhaps benches at each sign location
Materials & Maintenance

What is needed:
• Carpet
• Wood Chips
• Plants
• Gardening Tools

Who is needed:
• Neighborhood Involvement
  o for pulling up invasives until establishment

• Volunteers –
  o Nextdoor Pleasantdale
  o Schools
  o Rotary Club

• Parks and Rec –
  o How often they currently mow – how much will they have to mow
  o How much upkeep/maintenance to establish plants
  o # of people / hour