

Parks, Recreation & Harbor Advisory Committee

Council Chambers

Bangor City Hall

July 9, 2026 5:15pm

Welcome & Introduction:

Members Present: Ryan Robbins Jennifer Potter, Brianna Fry, Michaela Pelkey
Susan Faloon City Councilor, Pamula Kropp Anderson, Suzette Holly Furrow

Staff Present: Tracy Willette - Parks & Recreation (Director)
Ben Arruda – City of Bangor Urban Forestry (Manager)

Mission Statement Discussion:

The committee discussed refining the department's mission statement. After discussing terminology—specifically the use of "stewardship"—the committee reached a consensus on the following phrasing:

"Bangor Parks and Recreation is dedicated to strengthening community connections and civic pride through safe, accessible and diverse recreational opportunities that promote lifelong enjoyment, well-being while protecting Bangor's natural resources."

Brown Woods and Essex Woods Master Plans:

Ben Arruda – City of Bangor Urban Forestry (Manager)

Overview of the Brown Woods Management Plan and discussed the status of the Essex Woods plan

Key points:

- Management plans are developed for 10-year cycles
These properties do not utilize commercial timber harvesting; the focus is on forest health, safety, and recreational utility
- Essex Woods is a multifunctional site featuring a dog park, mountain bike trails, and birding habitats

Old Business and Updates:

Trail Etiquette: The committee discussed potential signage to educate trail users on yielding to horses and other pedestrians

Mansfield Stadium: Additional funding was approved for upgrading the original 1992 lighting fixtures to LED

Park Signage: There was a discussion about updating park signs to include information regarding drug-free zones and littering ordinances

Dog Park: An update was provided on the volunteer committee's efforts to fundraise for a gazebo and training equipment

Community Events: The recent free movie night was noted as a successful event with nearly 700 attendees

Adjournment:

The committee decided to skip the August meeting and will regroup on September 10th, 2026