

## **Parks, Recreation & Harbor Advisory Committee**

Council Chambers

Bangor City Hall

September 10, 2026 5:15pm

### **Welcome & Introduction:**

Members Present: Ryan Robbins, Brianna Frye, Michaela Pelkey, Ben Collette,  
Susan Faloon City Councilor, Pamela Kropp Anderson,  
Suzette Holly Furrow

Staff Present: Tracy Willette - Parks & Recreation (Director)  
Chelsie Smith - Parks & Recreation (Recreation Coordinator)

### **Park Improvements: Tracy Willette**

- Little City Park:  
The department is addressing cracks in the tennis courts with maintenance repairs this fall, with plans to seek quotes for full resurfacing later. There is also a proposal to replace and relocate the current swing set and potentially add a half-size basketball court in that area
- Mansfield Stadium:  
The facility held ceremonies to recognize David Mansfield's son, Shawn, and the long-time service of Ron St. Pierre. The field has been officially named Ronald J. St. Pierre Field at Mansfield Stadium. Additionally, the City is planning a lighting replacement project for the stadium this fall.
- Cascade Park:  
The park's fountain and pool have been non-operational due to significant, hard-to-locate water leaks. The City's engineering department is currently working on plans and cost estimates to repair the mechanical infrastructure. The fountain and pool at Cascade Park are not working due to significant, hard-to-locate water leaks and mechanical issues within the infrastructure.

Key details include:

- Water loss: The system is losing thousands of gallons of water, with the pool losing at least a foot of water during an eight-hour day, making it impossible to operate for events.
- Hidden leaks: The City has struggled to pinpoint the exact location of the leaks. Because the plumbing is deep underground, the water does not appear on the surface, and the City suspects some drainage may be occurring into the stormwater system.
- Mechanical failure: The pump pit is also experiencing constant water infiltration, creating additional challenges for maintenance.
- Status: The City is currently working with the Engineering Department to develop a plan and get cost estimates for a comprehensive repair of the pool, plumbing, and fountain, with the goal of preserving the historic park's infrastructure for the long term.

- **Community Garden:**  
The City has approved funding to renovate the parking area at the community garden to create a more organized space and potentially allow for future garden expansion.

**Recreational Program Update: Chelsie Smith**

- **T-ball:** Experienced a massive increase, growing from only 7 registered participants in 2025 to 71 kids this year.
- **Youth-Guided Canoe Trips:** Participation doubled compared to the previous year, with 13 participants in the sessions led by Maine Guide Jim Fahey.
- **Culinary Camp:** Proved to be extremely popular, filling up all available spots within just two days.
- **Summer Cheer Camp:** A new program introduced this year that was highly successful, reaching its maximum capacity of 46 participants.
- **Adult Kickball:** A newly launched low-impact sport that successfully registered eight teams in its first year, despite a tight 45-day lead time for setup.
- **Youth Football Clinic:** Through a partnership with Bangor High School coaches and athletes, 44 children in grades 3-5 were enrolled for free.

**Other Business: Tracy Willette**

- **Historic Signage:** A project involving University of Maine students to install and update nine historical interpretive signs throughout the city has been completed.
- **Future Planning:** The committee discussed the potential for future Recreation Center proposals
- Next meeting for the October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Adjourned at 6:25pm**