

Greeley Park Advisory Committee
Mines Fall Conference Room
848 West Hollis Street

Date: August 12, 2026

Call to Order: 5:06PM

Attendees:

Committee Members Fran Murphy, Stephanie Ballentine, Vicki Donchess, Sue McNamee, Kathy Lodi, Lisa Law, Kerry Miller, Richard Smart

Superintendent Bryan Conant

Alderman Trish Klee

Nashua Conservation Commission Will Darby

Quorum was determined to be present

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from July meeting were approved, with a correction acknowledged.

Public Comment: no public attendees or comment

Issues with email delivery of last month's minutes were noted, as messages to Richard Smart's bounced and some participants did not receive emails. To resolve this, it was suggested that a sign-in sheet be circulated to collect correct email addresses.

Additional Committee members: There was a discussion about recruiting members from different parts of the city to ensure broader representation beyond the North End.

Communication Rules: A question was raised about the rules for communicating outside of official meetings, noting a quorum is seven and that discussions among more than half of that number may be restricted.

Discussion of Greeley Park History and Master Plan:

Kathy Lodi researched the **Unique Identity and Historical Context of the Park:** Greeley Park is seen as a distinct gathering space, akin to Frederick Law Olmsted's vision of providing green spaces for city workers. The park's land was willed to the city with the stipulation that it must be kept as open public space, and no for-profit businesses can be established on the grounds. A copy of the will is considered crucial for the Master Plan. The park's history includes tenant farmers, a contested will, an 8-ton boulder from Hollis marking old gravesites, and a hidden burial knoll of historical significance. Ways to disseminate this info to the interested public was discussed.

Public Notices and Communication Channels: For park updates, there was a consensus to use the Parks and Recreation webpage and the DPW Facebook page. For major items, coordination with the mayor's office for banner notifications will be considered. It was noted that physical signs are also used at facilities for important notices like closures.

Master Plan Development: It was again emphasized that all activities, including marketing and forestry management, should fall under a comprehensive master plan. Developing this plan is a multi-year process, and it was suggested to request FY28 funds for evaluation and planning.

Matt Sullivan will be invited to the September meeting for an update on the Master Plan's Request for Proposal (RFP) and funding status.

Locating Historical Plans: An effort will be made to locate the original Master Plan for Greeley Park, which was once publicly displayed. Potential contacts include Dan Hudson and Mark Sanders in the Engineering department, the Planning Department, Public Works, and the historical society.

Marketing Campaign for Park History: A marketing campaign was proposed to generate public interest in the park's history via the city website. The initiative is seen as a way to build support while the master plan is developed.

Facebook Page and Community Engagement: The idea of creating a "Greeley Park Past, Present, Future" Facebook page was proposed to educate the community and share updates on committee activities. The goal is to build broad community support and promote the park's diverse use by multi-generational and multi-ethnic families.

Pool Status and Repairs: Wading Pool Design Details: The new wading pool will be similar to the original in depth and dimensions but will feature an ADA-compliant beach-slope entry and a slightly larger concrete deck. The pool area may be raised slightly due to an old well. No drawings or photos were available for review. Time line for completion is not currently known.

Updates are posted on the Parks and Rec page and DPW Facebook. Signs indicating closure and reopening plans were to be installed. Centennial Park and another pool were closing on August 14 due to lifeguard availability, with one pool remaining open for an additional week.

Forest Health and Goals: Concerns were raised about dead trees and overall forest health at Greeley Park. The primary goal is to improve safety, reduce fire risk, and allow sunlight for regeneration by first cleaning the forest floor of dead debris before any tree cutting is considered. The committee has not decided on harvesting live trees. There is agreement to seek a professional evaluation from a licensed forester and to explore the UNH Cooperative Extension for input, with a need to confirm any cost for their services. Any outreach and walkthroughs will be coordinated with DPW/BPW, and public notice may be required if a quorum of the committee attends.

Sustainability and Stakeholder Context: A citywide sustainability report was referenced, noting that Nashua had missed some 2025 goals related to greenhouse gas and urban trees. It was acknowledged that any tree work at Greeley Park is likely to face pushback from the Conservation Commission and Sustainability Committee, making careful communication critical. Alderman Klee will share this report with the Committee.

Approval Path: Any forestry management actions require BPW approval. The committee plans to prepare an agenda for the September BPW meeting focusing on forest floor cleanup and the need for a professional evaluation.

Playground Repairs: A discussion was postponed.

To Do Items for next Meeting:

- Matt Sullivan will be invited to the September 9th Greeley Park Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the master plan RFP and funding.
- Continue posting pool updates on the Parks and Rec webpage and DPW Facebook.
- Install pool closure/reopening signs.
- Alderwoman Klee to obtain and share the citywide sustainability report.
- Prepare an agenda for the September BPW meeting focusing on forest floor cleanup and professional evaluation.
- Stephanie Ballentine to contact UNH Cooperative Extension to explore their evaluation process, expertise, and cost.
- Coordinate with DPW/BPW on involvement in any walkthroughs and confirm public notice requirements.
- Develop educational messaging emphasizing forest health, safety, and an evaluation-first approach.
- Kathi Lodi will compile Greeley Park's history and a copy of the will for the next meeting.
- Contact Dan Hudson or Mark Sanders in the Engineering department to search for old park plans.
- Lisa Law to speak with the historical society about historical documents and photos.
- Discuss using the city website for the marketing campaign with Liz Hannah.
- Start to explore setting up historical displays at City Hall and the library.

Adjourned: 5:50pm

Submitted August 18, 2026

Stephanie Ballentine