



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC &
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SACCARAPPA PARK REVITALIZATION

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the overall vision and goal for the Saccarappa Park redevelopment?

The City aims to create a flexible, family-friendly park that enhances connectivity, supports year-round public activities, preserves natural features, provides a safe environment, and emphasizes sustainability, accessibility, and community identity for Westbrook, and a destination location for the region.

What features and amenities will the Park include?

The 1.06 acre park will contain several features and amenities that were highly supported as part of the community questionnaire (circa May 2025) and two design charrettes held by the City on April 7 and May 21, 2025, and include the following:

- a) Extension of the Riverwalk through the park to connect to the adjoining Dana Street redevelopment project and areas further west up the Presumpscot River for both walking and biking.
- b) Curved and interesting paths along the waterside half of the park with native plant species and traditional lawn areas for play or picnics in the park
- c) An open-side, roof-covered structure on the Main Street half of the park that can be used to host community events like concerts, farmer's markets, etc.
- d) A hardscape plaza in the center of the park that will serve as a transition from the structured area to the connecting paths along the river.

The park will focus on having plenty of seating (e.g., benches, lawn, etc.) to observe the adjoining river. Plantings will consist of native species that will be low maintenance. Lighting will be provided for the structure and walking paths to ensure safety.

What does the Brownfields cleanup entail?

Previous investigations identified “urban type fills” consisting of metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAHs] above the Maine DEP Remedial Action Guidelines [RAGs]) that require special handling and disposal. Because urban-fill-impacted soils are primarily located below one foot and the Site is currently used as a parking lot, there is no immediate health risk to pedestrians or other intermittent occupants. However, planned construction and park redevelopment may introduce new exposure pathways to future occupants, which will require mitigation. Cleanup will entail the excavation and disposal of excess urban-fill impacted soils and/or installation of an engineered barrier/cover system to limit direct contact with the underlying soils. This will be integrated directly into the redevelopment of the Site for a park.

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What is the project's construction schedule?

Final design is in progress Fall of 2025 with bidding this winter and construction anticipated in spring 2026 and completed by end of 2027.

What types of community events are expected to be held at the park?

The park is designed to support a variety of community events, including farmers' markets, small concerts, art shows, cultural festivals, neighborhood gatherings, picnics, prom/wedding picture location, exercise classes, etc. The public is welcomed to obtain an event permit and reserve park space through the Clerk's Office.

How will the park support environmental sustainability?

The park will be designed with sustainability in mind. Native, low-maintenance plant species will be used to reduce irrigation and maintenance needs. The civil design will incorporate best management practices (BMPs) for stormwater treatment prior to runoff discharge to Presumpscot River, while maintaining the existing Boardwalk. Additionally, the use of an engineered barrier will safely contain contaminated soils onsite, minimizing soil transport and disposal impacts. Additional sustainable BMPs may include permeable pavers or a rain garden, depending on construction costs, available resources, etc.

How can visitors access the park by car, and where can they park?

Ample public parking is located within a short walking distance at the downtown parking garage. Limited on-street parking is available along Main Street and nearby side streets. Additionally, the park can be easily accessed via Metro (bus stop across Main Street) and bicycle (bike racks located by the river).

Will the park be accessible to people with disabilities?

Yes. The park's design will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ensuring accessible pathways, seating areas, and entry points throughout the park so that all members of the community can enjoy the space. The small parking area will include (2) designated ADA parking spaces on site.

How will the City ensure safety and security in the park, especially during evening hours?

The park will include lighting along pathways and gathering areas to enhance visibility after dark. The design will also emphasize clear sightlines to promote a safe environment. While there will be no permanent security staff, the City encourages community use to maintain an active, welcoming space, and will coordinate with local law enforcement for regular patrols as needed.

Will public restrooms be made available at the park?

No. However, portable restrooms may be available during certain hosted events.

Is a winter ice skating rink included in the project?

No. Due to site constraints (i.e., a large underground pipe maintained by Portland Water District), a winter ice skating rink is best suited at another location within the City.

Will the park include playground equipment or features for children?

No traditional playground equipment is planned due to space constraints and the park's focus on

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passive recreation. However, the curved paths, open areas, and plaza will still offer opportunities for informal play and family-friendly enjoyment by all visitors.

Will there be bike racks or other facilities for cyclists?

Yes. Bike racks will be installed near park entrances to encourage cycling and to support the extension of the Riverwalk, which promotes alternative transportation options like biking and walking.

Will there be any water features, like fountains or splash pads or drinking fountain?

No permanent water features are planned due to space limitations and long-term maintenance concerns. The focus remains on natural landscaping and riverfront access.

What long-term benefits is the City expecting from this investment?

Beyond environmental remediation, the park is expected to increase foot traffic to downtown businesses, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and strengthen community identity. As a highly visible public space, it signals the City's commitment to smart growth, environmental stewardship, and equitable access to green spaces.