

Article 34. To see if the Town will authorize the Town Manager to apply, on behalf of the Town, for federal financing assistance under the provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, Public Law 88-578 for the development of Ricker Community Park; and further authorize the Town Manager to enter into the Land and Water Conservation Fund Project Agreement with the State subsequent to federal approval of the project. **Board of Selectpersons recommend approval**

We are seeking consideration to apply for a Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to develop a park space on the town municipal property. This area encompasses approximately 60,000 square feet. In March 2021, Town of Poland removed trees behind the library and on the back edge of the parcel between the library and ASO/Rec building. We have an opportunity to create a municipal park that can be a central gathering space for the entire community.

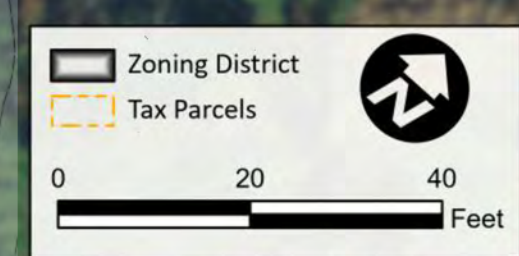
The intent of developing a park in our downtown area is to bring the community together by offering a space for all ages. Poland is a wonderful place to live, work and recreate. In the past two decades we have made improvements to our existing beaches and ball fields, developed multiple trail systems and have significantly increased recreational access and participation. However, we have been lacking in an outdoor gathering area that can meet the needs of our community. In 2020 we formed a committee made up of members from various community groups, town departments and encompassed various age groups. The committee provided recommendations to the Poland Board of Selectpersons that include five key areas (1) Natural Playground, (2) Obstacle course, (3) Amphitheater (4) Botanical Garden and (5) Parking. Beyond these five focal points, we would also keep a large area grass covered to allow some common space to be utilized for various other activities such as tossing a frisbee, playing volleyball, etc... In addition, we anticipate having picnic tables, benches, shade trees, connector path between the focal points and our existing trailhead, sledding hill, warming hut and bathroom to support our existing ice rink, and a storybook trail. Over 100 years ago, this same location was a gathering space for the community and we are so fortunate that we can bring back this grand opportunity.

Currently, we have an open space that has been loamed and seeded with grass, along with one shade tree towards the center. On the front portion of the property we provide an ice rink in the winter and there are a few shade trees. We have enclosed a municipal park "concept" drawing on the other side to show what the park might look like. The additional parking serves two purposes, (1) supplementing parking demand for our library and town hall. (2) Parking to accommodate park users. From the parking area, we will have a path that connects each of the activities as well as to the existing trail head for the Heart of Poland Conservation Area.

We plan to submit the LWCF grant by June 2022. This is a reimbursable grant match of 50%. The matching funds will come from donations of material and labor. The search for matching funds is well on its way and local businesses and families have responded in a very positive way. If approved for the grant and pending planning board approval, the construction of the park could begin by the summer of 2023. The overall plan may take a couple of years, as we firm up matching funds and build various portions of the park. At this time we are not requesting any tax payer contribution.

CONCEPT PLAN Poland Town Park

July 2021



EXTERNAL DATA SOURCES
 Town of Poland, Maine
 Town of Poland, Maine
 2018 ortho/Regional Imagery
 2018 ortho/Regional Imagery

REV.	BY	DATE	STATUS

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SEBAGO
 TECHNICS
 WWW.SEAGOTECHNICS.COM
 75 John Roberts Rd.
 Suite 44
 South Portland, ME 04106
 Tel: 207-200-2100

FOR: **THE TOWN OF POLAND**
 1231 MAINE STREET
 POLAND, MAINE 04274

DESIGNED	ABS
DRAWN	JLH
CHECKED	
DATE	8/29/2021
SCALE	1" = 20'
PROJECT	16068-01