Department of Public Works
Mike Murray
Director
October 26, 2026

RE: Palmer Ave Detention Basin Retrofit Project – Neighborhood Meeting and Upcoming Construction Notice

Dear Property Owner/Neighbor:

The Portland Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to invite you to a Neighborhood Meeting to review the upcoming Palmer Ave Detention Basin Retrofit construction project. Please see below for meeting information, project details, and a link to the project website. This neighborhood meeting will be an opportunity for you to learn more about the project directly from the project team and share any questions or comments you may have.

Neighborhood Meeting: 11/17/2026
Location: 250 Canco Rd (please use the front entrance and enter the first room on the left)
Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm
Directions: Please park on Canco Rd or in the 212 Canco Rd parking lot

Project Location: 284 Palmer Ave

Project Goal: Reduce stormwater pollution leaving the Palmer Ave neighborhood and improve downstream water quality in Dole Brook.

Overview:
The City continues to strive to improve water quality for its constituents and meet its Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System (MS4) permitting goals by reinvesting stormwater utility fees in capital improvement projects. This detention basin retrofit project will increase treatment of all stormwater runoff conveyed to the system from the Deering Run Subdivision (Allison Ave, W Lynne Ave, Deering Run Dr, Palmer Ave between Allison Ave and Continental Dr, and a small portion of Washington Ave). The runoff from this 34 acre drainage area is collected by a series of catch basins and storm drains throughout the neighborhood before discharging into the Palmer Ave detention basin and eventually a tributary branch of Dole Brook, which Maine DEP defines as an impaired stream.

The existing Palmer Ave detention basin was constructed in the 1980s as part of the Deering Run Subdivision. The detention basin was designed to mitigate stormwater detention time between the pre- and post-development conditions and was not constructed to provide water quality treatment other than some limited settling capacity for settleable solids.

To meet current Maine DEP stormwater treatment standards to the extent practicable, this project will convert the detention basin to a gravel wetland system. A gravel wetland is an underground flow through treatment system where stormwater travels horizontally through a saturated gravel substrate with a microbe rich environment, removing phosphorus, nitrogen, bacteria, suspended solids, and metals from the stormwater. The design also includes a multi-staged outlet to control flows during various storm conditions.

Scope:

- Approximately 3 feet of excavation depth from the bottom of the existing detention basin footprint and installation of a new impermeable liner.
- Installation of a concrete sediment forebay to provide pretreatment of the stormwater runoff before entering the gravel wetland.
- Installation of approximately 300 feet of storm drain/perforated pipe as well as 1,000 cubic yards of crushed stone and gravel to make up the gravel wetland system.
- Installation of a new outlet control structure, emergency spillway, and riprap plunge pool for conveying various flows.
- Final surface restoration with wetland soil and seed mix.
- The chain link fence will be removed and reset where necessary to complete the work.

Schedule: Bidding of this project is expected to take place this winter, with construction taking place over the 2027 construction season.

For further information, including the design plan set and report, please visit the project website with the following QR Code or link:

https://engage.zencity.io/portland/en-US/projects/palmer-ave

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss this project. If you are unable to attend, please use the contact information below to reach out with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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