



Photo Credit: Holly Sheehan and Steve Niles

North Deering Park

Creating a public community park in Portland, Maine

At The Trust for Public Land, we are striving to ensure that all people have equitable access to close-to-home green spaces. We are proud that the City of Portland has a high quality park system to support its residents. However, parts of the North Deering neighborhood have become a dead zone in Portland's park system— areas without a public park within a 10-minute walk of home or school. We are determined to close the park access gap in North Deering—and through the creation of the North Deering Park, we will be able to do just that and create a brand new City Park for kids to play, learn and thrive!

Unlocking the Forbidden Forest

The Trust for Public Land is partnering with the City of Portland to turn 24 acres of privately owned land in North Deering into a beautiful, public park. One of the largest, undeveloped parcels in the city.

Known to some locals as the “Forbidden Forest,” conservation of this property will bring outdoor access to thousands of residents within a 10-minute walk and protect a community asset for generations to come, while mitigating urban heat island effects in the area.

Creating a public park will make it possible for this community to have easy access to outdoor space for learning, recreation, biking and hiking.

Connecting to nature and each other

We know that the opportunity to connect to the outdoors—and each other—is essential for health and wellness. Outdoor recreation and access to the outdoors benefits our physical and mental health in myriad ways, and the future North Deering Park will bring these benefits directly to this Maine community.

The future North Deering Park has an amateur baseball field, a pond, and an existing forested area with well-loved, informal trails—though none of these community assets are currently public, so the risk of development and removal of public access remains. Protecting this land as a public park will ensure that the North Deering community will be able to access the outdoors to bike, walk, hike, and explore the outdoors in their own backyard.

The park and its woods and wetlands are also home to creatures like salamanders and deer. Nature lovers have enjoyed catching frogs in the pond and admiring wildflowers, over the years. Protecting this park also protects the home of urban wildlife in a densely populated area and helps mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Benefits of nature near schools

Since the North Deering Park is within close proximity to Lyseth Elementary School and Lyman Moore Middle School, North Deering Park provides both an ideal space for outdoor learning and a public place where children can explore the natural world, practice with sports teams and hike the trails after school.

Educators from these nearby schools see the benefits of having a public park near the school for outdoor learning. Especially due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen the immense benefits that green spaces can bring to schools, enhancing the learning experience for children of all ages, while teaching them about the world around them in an outdoor environment.

Join us in creating North Deering Park

We're raising \$1,270,000 through the end of 2022 to acquire the land by early 2023 and create Portland's newest city park to be owned and managed by the community, for the community. Our partners, The City of Portland, Portland Parks Conservancy and Portland Trails will be leading the planning, design and stewardship of the property once it is officially conserved.

Your support will help ensure that the North Deering Park becomes a reality for the residents of Portland most in need of a quality, close-to-home park. The North Deering Park will bring Portland one step closer to joining the few cities in America where 100% of residents have a park within a 10-minute walk of home.

We ask for your support in making the North Deering Park a reality and protecting this property for generations to come!

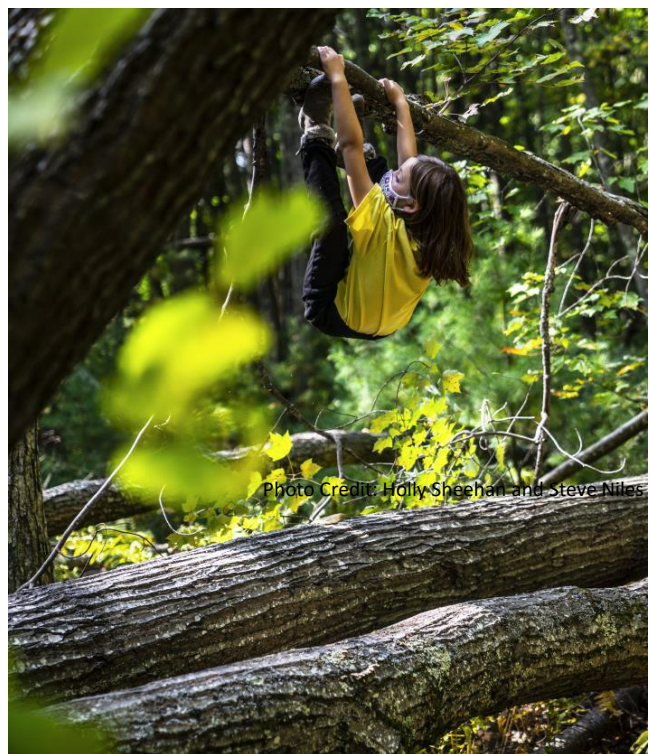


Photo Credit: Holly Sheehan and Steve Niles



Connecting everyone to the outdoors™
tpl.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A GIFT:

Phil Dube
Senior Project Associate
Maine
929.841.7124
phillip.dube@tpl.org

Ally McDougal
Director of Philanthropy
New England
781.856.5564
ally.mcdougal@tpl.org