

PORTSMOUTH MUNICIPAL GREENSPACES

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

The Future of Tree Planting is NOW!



DELIVERED TREES TO PUBLIC WORKS STORAGE SHEDS

Delivered in only plastic bags and hydrogel, trees from Schichtel's Nursery of New York were handed off to Portsmouth's Tree Crew in April. These trees are the first of their kind to be planted by DPW staff.

"Bare-root" trees have many benefits: a single worker can move a tree with only their hands, making the act of planting less strenuous and time consuming; the tree can be planted with ease to the proper depth (the trunk flare is located at the surface of the ground) to ensure long-term health. Traditionally trees come packaged with an abundance of soils such as clay, sand, or other undesirable compositions. They are held together by burlap and wire frame. Being packaged with only a plastic bag means less waste and time spent planting each tree.

In total, eighteen carefully considered and unique tree species were

planted across the city to add variety to the urban tree canopy, and to account for a multitude of environmental or site conditions.

Three crew members were able to plant all one hundred trees within two weeks. In years past, the city awarded contracts for tree planting to local companies. Since bringing the operation in-house starting in 2018, and with the inclusion of bare root tree plantings, the city has saved money while also accomplishing a high number of tree plantings. The arborists practiced proper planting techniques which ensures the trees have the best opportunity to establish and thrive.

The Department is immensely proud of the tree crew and the work they accomplished this spring, and as they continue to monitor tree establishment by watering several times a week and maintaining tree rings by weeding and mulching.

Species Spotlight

Name: Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*)

Size at Maturity: 50' tall/wide

Portsmouth planted four Osage orange trees in 2021. This tree was selected for its high drought tolerance, resistance to pests and disease, and generally strong structure and wood. The

'White Shield' is an ornamental cultivar, but a traditional Osage orange has thorns and large fruit that looks like a green, warty softball.

Fun fact! Osage orange wood is twice as strong as White oak, and when aged appropriately, has the highest heating value of available wood in North America.



PORTSMOUTH MUNICIPAL GREENSPACES

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Park Projects Galore

Summer 2021 has finally arrived as a much needed relief from the past year and brought blue skies and a juicy dose of chlorophyll and pigments to feast the eyes on.



AFRICAN BURYING GROUND MEMORIAL

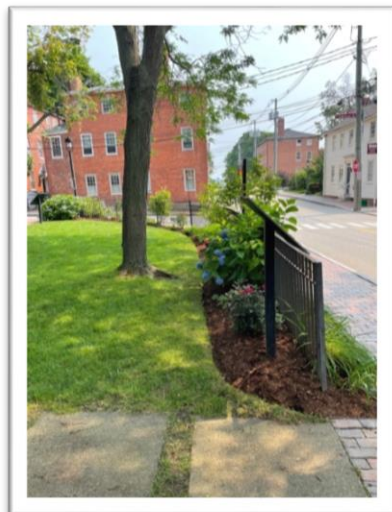
Along with summer came increased activity and a short window to accomplish great tasks, many of which had been postponed due to Covid-19. At the top of the list was the restoration of three significant memorials: the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Goodwin Park, the African Burying Ground Memorial, and the Fitz John Porter Memorial in Haven Park. The Soldiers and Sailors and African Burying Ground Memorials have been washed, repaired, and sealed with a protective coating. Restoration work is expected to be finished on the Fitz John

Porter Memorial, and various city plaques, by the end of summer.



SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL, GOODWIN PARK

This summer marks the third year that all of the flower beds in Prescott Park have been designed and installed by City staff. If you have not had a chance to feast your eyes on them, make sure you take a trip because it is well worth it. In addition to their work at Prescott Park, the Horticulture crew painstakingly restored the flower beds at Atkinson Park.

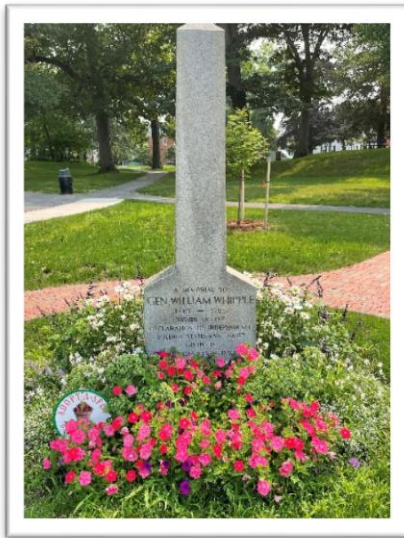


FLOWER BEDS AT ATKINSON PARK

PORTSMOUTH MUNICIPAL GREENSPACES

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Looking ahead to the remainder of the summer and autumn, the Parks and Greenery Group is excited to continue with its topdressing, aeration, and over seeding program on its ball fields. In collaboration with the Recreation Department new pickleball courts have started development at the South Mill Pond. This is an ongoing effort to maintain beautiful and safe playing surfaces for the entire community.



GEN. WILLIAM WHIPPLE MONUMENT, HAVEN PARK

We are always eternally grateful for our Adopt-a-Spot community which continues to create and maintain green spaces around Portsmouth. Our latest Adoptee is Northeast Shade Tree who maintain a lovely flower bed at the General William Whipple Monument, located at the recent extension of Haven Park.

Last but not least, our sincerest appreciation to our Department of Public Works staff who spends countless hours mowing, raking, weeding, shoveling, pruning, painting, and a litany of other tasks. Our Parks and Greenery shines thanks to their dedication.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

EMILY CHEN

Emily is the summer Arborist Associate, and despite the fact of her temporary status she has made a lasting impression by being a hard-working, intelligent, and personable employee. Emily is majoring in Environmental Science with a minor in Forestry at UNH, class of 2022.

After graduating Emily plans to continue her professional life outdoors with hopes of becoming a crew member collecting data in forests across the country.



EMILY ON HER FIRST WORK CLIMB

When reflecting on her professional experience as a city employee, Emily says she was glad to partake in so many different opportunities: learning about tree care as it relates to the urban tree canopy; the fostering of newly planted trees; tree pruning and tree climbing; learning new skills by interacting with the public and working as part of a small crew. She was overwhelmed about how different it is to care for a city tree when compared to forested trees, and taken aback at how much work goes into maintaining the urban tree canopy. It's a lot of work, but made much easier thanks to Emily's dedication.