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Date: Sat, Nov 6, 2021 at 5:25 PM

Subject: Parks Commission Support for Restoring Name of Noyes Park

To: Kate Snyder <[ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov)>, Belinda Ray <[bsr@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:bsr@portlandmaine.gov)>, <[tchong@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:tchong@portlandmaine.gov)>, <[azarro@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:azarro@portlandmaine.gov)>, Mark Dion <[mdion@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:mdion@portlandmaine.gov)>, Pious Ali <[pali@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:pali@portlandmaine.gov)>, Nicholas Mavodones <[nmm@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:nmm@portlandmaine.gov)>, April Fournier <[afournier@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:afournier@portlandmaine.gov)>

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Dear Mayor and City Councilors,

The Parks Commission would like to express its support for the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department's proposal to restore the original name of Noyes Park. The park, which has been referred to in recent years as Bedford Park, was created from properties that were given and sold to the city by members of the Noyes family in 1927. The park was officially designated and recognized as Noyes park for the first decades after its creation as a park. Use of the name "Bedford park" came about in the 1950s without the city's formal sanction. Restoring the park's original name would recognize the Noyes family's generosity in the bequest that created the park. It would also be consistent with the practice of naming other Portland parks -- including Deering Oaks, Baxter Woods, Baxter Pines, and Payson Park -- after their benefactors.

The Parks Commission voted unanimously at its November 4 meeting in support of the Department's proposal to restore the park's original name. In discussing that proposal, the Commission recognized that this and other Portland parks occupy lands that were formerly the domain of various North American First Nations. The Commission plans to work with representatives of the Wabanaki community to develop recommendations for appropriate recognition of the First Nations heritage as it affects Portland's parks. That recognition could take various forms, including the development and delivery of educational programs, public signage, and naming of new parks. The Parks Commission will keep the Council informed of its findings and recommendations as this work progresses.

Respectfully,

Michael Mertaugh  
Chair, Parks Commission

# Support for Order 89-21/22 Amendment to City Code Chapter 18

0 views



Anna Noyes Benoit <purple16@maine.rr.com>

7:44 AM (6 hours ago)

to publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, Hank Benoit

## **To Whom it may concern:**

Reference: Support for Order 89-21/22 Amendment to the Portland City Code Chapter 18 Re: Bedford Park renamed Noyes Park - Sponsored by Jon P. Jennings, City Manager

My name is Anna Margaret Deering Noyes Benoit. I live at 107 West Street in Portland.

Thank you Mr. Jennings, Mayor Snyder and Council for hearing this petition. I am here to ask the counsel to support a resolution that will correct a mistake that was made a long time ago. The proposal asks you to return the name of a small parcel of land that was given to the City by my grandfather, Edward Deering Noyes and his family. The land was sold for use as a park and in recognition of for its sale to the City, it was named Noyes Park. Until just recently this triangular piece of park land was bounded by Deering Ave, Bedford Street and the last section of Brighton Ave. that ran into Bedford St. This section has been discontinued as part of the establishment of the new roundabout.

Long before there was a USM campus next to this parcel, there was a farm, the Deering farm. Back then the water in Deering Oaks was tidal and the farm included an orchard that extended all the way into what is now Deering Oaks.

My Dad, Edward Deering Noyes Jr and his sister, my aunt, Anna, called Nancy, grew up in the large old home, built in 1804, that sat on the land that is now the Portland campus of USM.

The two copper Beech trees were planted by James Deering, my great, great, great grandfather. One is now a center piece of Noyes Park. I like to think of my family, and so many others enjoying the beauty and shade of the trees and hope the residents of Portland can continue to enjoy Noyes Park for another 100 years.

Three of my brothers were raised in a house on Bedford Street. None of us ever met Mr. Bedford, but I understand he developed the neighborhood homes in that part of the City. Somehow the name of the park was changed to Bedford Park, but Mr. Bedford, played no roll in the creation of Noyes Park.

Growing up the members of my family always referred to the Park as Noyes Park, but some 50 or sixty years ago on city maps apparently it somehow came to identified as Bedford Park. Unfortunately this error was not discovered for many years, but my brothers, and I have brought this mistake to the attention of the City Manager and his staff, and, with the research of my brother Nicholas Noyes, historian Herb Adams, Neighborhood Activist, Carol Schiller and the support of others we have asked the City to restore this small neighborhood park to its correct historic name to honor my grandfather and his family who were responsible for its creation.

November 1, 2021

Anna Noyes Benoit