

City of Biddeford
Sustainability Commission
September 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/98227433602?pwd=NrW3c0SUyDvJXHmkbE8oFzzkkpWCNq.1>

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 982 2743 3602

Passcode: 651764

1. Declaration of Quorum/Voting Members
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of meeting minutes from August 18, 2025
3. Elections
 - 3.a Election of New Secretary
4. Discussion/Review
 - 4.a EVCS Ordinance
 - 4.b Hill Street Bike Lane
 - 4.c Community Action Grant—\$72,000 Requested
 - 4.d Downtown Walk — September 29
5. Old Business
 - 5.a Landscape Ordinance
6. New Business
 - 6.a Ban on Plastic
7. Bonus
 - 7.a Bonus from Joie-America Adapts Podcast-Climate Adaptation with the Schoodic Institute
[Generating the Science Behind Climate Adaptation with the Schoodic Institute — AMERICA ADAPTS The Climate Change Podcast](#)

Sustainability Commission Minutes

8-18-25

1. Present: Will, Joie, Bev, Sam, Jeff, Wendy, Max, and Brad. Quorum is present.
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2025.

Max motions, Joie seconds, passes unanimously.

3. Discussion of committee makeup

Student representative Sam Drummey, member John Wallach, and member Kiara Frischkorn are leaving. Members discuss the process for finding and appointing new members. The mayor has at least one application, John Collins. Max suggests Megan Daly, who was on the climate task force, who Brad will speak to soon. Will suggests publicizing the vacancies in the newsletter.

4. Discussion

- a. Newsletter Update-Joie

43% open rate on the most recent newsletter. 14% of those who read the newsletter clicked on the links in the newsletter. There's currently 165 subscribers, not including the ~12 email addresses gathered at River Jam. Joie plans to send the next newsletter at the end of the month, or possibly the week after.

In future newsletters, Joie wants to have a few paragraphs on a current matter the committee is working on, or an aspect of the climate action plan. For example, if an ordinance that the commission made is coming before council. Members make suggestions for topics including pollinator beds, city building energy audits, and the GHG inventory. Members still have questions about the GHG inventory, and so Joie will hold off on that until she has those questions answered.

Joie'd also like to writing profiles on the commission members.

- b. EV ordinance update

Will is presenting it to the planning board on Wednesday at 6.

- c. Hill Street Bike lane

Coming before council tomorrow. Members discuss how a bike lane will be beneficial.

- d. Bike ped plan funding

Biddeford wasn't awarded the Environmental Justice for New England Grant for this. Saco isn't available to collaborate to write a grant or create a plan until next year. MEDOT Plan

Partnership Initiative Grants begin in January 2026, and Biddeford is on MEDOT's radar because of communications with Dakota. GOPIF's Community Action Grant is due August 29th. It will be awarded in January. Brad suggests that the city applies for the Community Action Grant toward building energy audits, and apply for a MEDOT grant that will go toward a bike-ped plan in January 2026. Max motions, Wendy seconds, passes unanimously.

e. Municipal building energy audit funding

Brad is planning on putting the GOPIF grant could go towards these buildings: City hall, the martin center, the police station, the fire station, public works, and the teen center at Rotary Park.

f. Site walks/field work ideas

Brad suggests the committee does this every several meetings. He suggests going to the coast or observing bike and ped activity. Bev suggests looking at plantings in the downtown. Members discuss how to get more native plants into the planters in the downtown. Wendy suggests Williams Court.

Members discuss scheduling. Max motions to take off the first of September meeting on account of Labor Day, Joie seconds, and Wendy, Max, Will, Joie, and Bev vote in favor.

Members decide to have an outing on September the 29th. This would include visiting Williams Court Park, observing bicycle and pedestrian activity, discussing native plants in Maine Street planters, and discussing the recently removed Ash trees from Maine Street and possible new trees. Bev will send Portland's list of native plants to Max and Brad.

The committee will have a regular meeting on September the 15th.

g. Update to Council

Brad will present to the council about the Commission's business on November 18th. As many members should attend as possible. Council meetings start at 6.

h. Coastal Planning Nantucket MA-A Case study of managed retreat

Joie shared this report with the committee for informational purposes, as Nantucket faces similar challenges as Biddeford. Nantucket had an in-depth community engagement process, approaching different communities in different ways. Members discuss how Nantucket has similar issues around housing costs, and how that decreases people's ability to migrate to areas less at risk of climate-related damages.

Members discuss status of coastal issues in Biddeford. The city is waiting on FEMA and congressional directed spending. One thing the commission can do is to do outreach, and

another is to find more funding for a beach management plan. Will suggests adding a conservation fee to beach parking passes. Members discuss the economic justice issues related to this. Max suggest something similar to the way developers must pay into a park fund when they can't meet open space requirement. Will suggests that progressing coastal work be a topic at the next meeting.

5. Old Business

a. Landscape ordinance

Members discuss where to source the list of encouraged and discouraged planting, and how the list will be updated. Members decide on the ordinance having its own list, sourced mostly from the University of Maine, updated biannually by city staff.

Members discuss the minimum square footage of impervious surface that triggers the landscaping ordinance. The draft lists 20,000sqft. Some members suggests making that smaller. Members decide to keep the number as is until a developer gives input on the ordinance, with a minor wording change.

The commission discusses when the ordinance should trigger when addition parking space is added. Max will review the wording of his sources.

Members discuss whether sites with vegetation that provides food, foragables, or has medicinal properties should go under conditions to wave requirement or incentives.

Bev ensures that invasive plants are addressed in the ordinance

Max will post his draft to the shared drive, where members can give additional feedback.

6. Adjourn

Joie moves, Will seconds, passes unanimously.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to facilitate and encourage the use of electric vehicles, to expedite the establishment of a convenient, cost-effective electric vehicle infrastructure, and to establish minimum requirements for such infrastructure to serve both long-term and short-term parking needs. This Ordinance is consistent with the goals of Biddeford's approved Climate Action Plan, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions 62.6% by 2030.

2. Definitions

Accessible electric vehicle charging station means an electric vehicle charging station, that can be readily used by those of all abilities, where the battery charging station is located within accessible reach of a barrier-free access aisle and the electric vehicle.

Battery charging station means an electrical component, assembly or cluster of components assemblies designed specifically to charge batteries within electric vehicles.

Battery electric vehicle means any vehicle that operates exclusively on electrical energy from an off-board source that is stored in the vehicle's batteries and produces zero tailpipe emissions or pollution when stationary or operating.

Charging levels means the standardized indicators of electrical force, or voltage, at which an electric vehicle's battery is recharged. The terms 1, 2, and DC fast charging are the most common charging levels, and include the following specifications:

- Level 1 provides charging through a 120 volt (V), alternating-current (AC) plug. Level 1 is considered as slow charging. Level 1 charging equipment is standard on vehicles and therefore does not require the installation of charging equipment. The most common place for Level 1 charging is at the vehicle owner's home and is typically conducted overnight.
- Level 2 charging is through a 240V, AC plug and requires installation of home charging or public charging equipment. These units require a dedicated 40-amp circuit. Level 2 chargers are commonly found in residential settings, public parking areas, places of employment and commercial settings.
- DC Fast Charging (DCFC) charging is through a 400 to 1000 V, direct-current (DC) plug. Due to their high cost and extremely high-power draw, Level 3 chargers are typically found in commercial or industrial locations rather than residential.

Electric vehicle means a vehicle that operates, either partially or exclusively, on electrical energy from the electrical grid, or an off-grid source, that is stored on board for motive purposes.

"Electric vehicle" includes:

- Battery electric vehicle
- Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle

Electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) is battery charging equipment that has as its primary purpose the transfer of electric energy (by conductive or inductive means) to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle. A charging station must include a port that conforms to EV industry standards and can charge the vehicle, although an adapter may be required.

EVCS-capable means parking spaces with necessary electrical conduit installed but lacking required electrical cable and connection to install EVCS.

EVCS-installed means parking spaces equipped with electrified EVCS that are operational.

EVCS-ready means parking spaces with necessary conduit installed and electrical capacity available to plug in an EVCS to charge an electrical vehicle.

Electric vehicle charging station – private restricted use means an electric vehicle charging station that is:

- Privately owned and restricted access (e.g., single-family home, executive parking, designated employee parking, assigned parking at multi-family residential buildings); or
- Publicly owned and restricted (e.g., fleet parking with no access to the general public).

Electric vehicle charging station – public use means an electric vehicle charging station that is:

- Publicly owned and publicly available (e.g., Park & Ride parking, public library parking lot, on-street parking); or
- Privately owned and available to visitors (e.g., shopping center parking).

Electric vehicle infrastructure means conduit/wiring, structures, machinery, and equipment necessary and integral to support an electric vehicle, including battery charging stations.

Electric vehicle parking space means any marked parking space that identifies the use to be exclusively for the parking of an electric vehicle.

Electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) means any equipment or electrical component used in charging electric vehicles at a specific location. EVSE does not include equipment located on the electric vehicles themselves.

Electrical capacity shall mean, at minimum:

- Electric Service Panel capacity to accommodate a dedicated branch circuit and service capacity to install a 208/240V outlet per charger;
- Conduit from an electric panel to future EVCS location(s).

Non-electric vehicle means any motor vehicle that is licensed and registered for operation on public and private highways, roads, and streets that does not meet the definition of an electric vehicle.

Plug-in hybrid electric vehicle means an electric vehicle that:

- Contains an internal combustion engine and also allows power to be delivered to drive wheels by an electric motor;

- Charges its battery primarily by connecting to the grid or other off-board electrical source;
- May additionally be able to sustain battery charge using an on-board internal-combustion-driven generator; and
- Has the ability to travel powered by battery-supplied electricity.

3. Applicability

3.1. This ordinance shall apply to all electric vehicle infrastructure installed, constructed, or modified after the effective date of this Ordinance.

3.2. Electric vehicle infrastructure in place prior to the effective date of this ordinance shall not be required to meet the requirements of this ordinance unless substantial modification to the infrastructure is proposed in accordance with the criteria identified in Section 5.1.

3.3. All electric vehicle infrastructure shall be designed, built, and installed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal codes, regulations, and standards.

5. Required Facilities

5.1. All new or reconstructed parking structures or lots shall be required to install level-2 or higher EVCSs according to Table 5.1 when one of the following conditions is met:

- The development includes a new off-street parking facility with more than 10 spaces; or
- The parking capacity of an existing building, site, or parking facility with 10 or more spaces is increased by 30 percent or more or 30 spaces, whichever is smaller (expressed as $\frac{[\text{number of additional spaces}]}{[\text{number of existing spaces}]} \times 100$).

5.1.1. The number of EV charging stations required to be installed at the time of development is stated as a percentage of the total number of parking spaces in Column A of Table 5.1. Requirements will be rounded up to closest whole number but will always be a value of at least one EVCS to be available at the time of development occupancy.

5.1.2. To meet anticipated demand for EV charging stations as the technology becomes more widespread, Column B and C of Table 5.1 specifies the required increased electrical capacity to enable future EV charging station installations. Electric capacity requirements for EVCS-ready are met by providing a cabinet, box or enclosure connected to a conduit linking parking spaces with 208/240V or higher voltage AC electrical service for the suitable for the number of charging stations. Capacity requirements will be rounded to the closest whole number. A parking facility will meet the requirement for future capacity if column A, B, and C are less than or equal to the EVCS installation.

- Site design must provide electrical, associated ventilation, accessible parking, and wiring connection to electrical transformer to support the additional potential future electric vehicle charging stations.

Table 5.1
EV Charging Requirements for new and reconstructed parking structures

Land use type	A. EVCS-installed parking spaces required (as % of total parking spaces)	B. EVCS-ready parking spaces required (as % of total parking spaces)	C. EVCS-capable parking spaces required (as % of total parking spaces)
One or two family residential	-	100%	-
Multi-family residential w/o dedicated spaces	10%	2 40%	5 20%
Multi-family residential w/ dedicated spaces	-	100%	-
Lodging	10%	4 20%	3 20%
General office, medical	5% (Min. one [1] space)	10%	20%
Industrial	5% (Min. One [1] space)	5%	10%
Institutional, municipality	10% (Min. one [1] space)	10%	20%
Commercial (retail, dining, recreational, entertainment, etc.)	5% (Min. one [1] space)	10%	10%

5.1.3. Multi-family residential units may meet the required number of EVCS-ready parking spaces by installing current and/or future capacity for level-1 EVCS not to exceed ~~one-quarter~~ 10% of all parking spaces.

5.1.4. For only one or two family residential and multi-family residential with dedicated parking spaces, a parking spot shall be considered EVCS-ready if a level-2 EVCS is able to reach that parking spot in such a way that makes safe charging possible (i.e. slack in the cable). Therefore, the number of parking spots does not need to match the number of EVCS units, but there must be at least 1 EVCS-ready plug per residential unit when there is dedicated parking. Level-1 EVCS-ready spaces installed per 5.1.3 must be dedicated for only a single parking spot.

5.1.5. DC Fast~~er~~ Charging equipment may be installed to partially or fully meet the above requirement at one third the rate prescribed by table 5.1. One or two family residential buildings may not install DC fast charging to meet the requirements in table 5.1.

5.1.6. These requirements may be revised upward or downward by the Planning Board as part of an application for a conditional use permit or planned unit development based on verifiable information pertaining to parking.

5.1.7. When the cost of installing EVSE required by this ordinance would exceed five percent of the total project cost, the property owner or applicant may request a reduction in the EVSE requirements and submit cost estimates for city consideration. When City Council approval of the project is not required, the Zoning Administrator may administratively approve a reduction the required amount of EVSE to limit the EVSE installation costs to not more than five percent of the total project cost.

5.1.8. Affordable housing projects (120% AMI in 33% of dwelling units) can reduce requirement in table 5.1 by 50%.

5.1.9. Those who do not wish to meet the EVCS requirements may pay an in-lieu fee to the City of Biddeford at a rate of ~~\$510,000~~ per EVCS-installed parking space, ~~\$52,000~~ per EVCS-ready parking space, and ~~\$2,500~~ per EVCS-capable parking space. For residential units, the in-lieu fee shall be reduced to \$250 per EVCS-ready parking space and \$100 per EVCS-capable parking space if a level-one EVCS equivalent space is provided, otherwise the fee is \$500 per EVCS-ready parking space and \$200 per EVCS-capable parking space. EVCS in-lieu fees collected by the City shall be ~~deposited into a specific account, segregated from the City's general revenue, and created used~~ for supporting electric vehicle infrastructure in the City of Biddeford. These funds shall be used in accordance with the following:

- a. The funds ~~contributed to the specific account, entitled the~~ shall be used for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Fund, shall be used to further the electric vehicle infrastructure within the City. ~~More specifically, these~~ funds may be used for equipment, and/or construction costs of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in existing or new City owned parking lots.
- b. A portion of these funds may also be used for administrative, legal, engineering, or other costs related to the planning, design, permitting, and property acquisition for electric vehicle charging.
- c. A portion of these funds may also be used to establish a grant or revolving loan program to provide direct financial assistance to offset the cost of retrofitting existing parking areas with electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- d. These ~~sc Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Funds~~ may be used in combination with other City funds and other private, non-profit, and government funding for expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure within Biddeford.
- e. The in-lieu fees contributed by a development shall not be used by the same or other developments to fund the electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is required to meet the minimum standards described in Table 5.1.

f. The in-lieu fees collected by the City shall not be utilized to fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure that is otherwise required to meet minimum zoning standards.

6. General Requirements for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

6.1. Electric vehicle charging stations within single-family and two-family residences are exempt from the below general requirements. This does not exempt electrical or other permit obligations.

6.2. General station requirements

6.2.1. Size. A standard size parking space shall be used for an electric vehicle charging station where such a station is required or planned.

6.2.2. Equipment Standards and Protection. Where provided, parking for electric vehicle charging purposes shall meet the standards of subsections 6.2.2 (1) through (4) of this section.

1. Clearance. Charging station equipment mounted on pedestals, light posts, bollards or other devices shall be a minimum of 24 inches clear from the face of curb.
2. Charging Station Equipment. Charging station outlets and connector devices shall be no less than 36 inches or no higher than 48 inches from the top of surface where mounted, and shall be designed and located as to not impede pedestrian travel or create trip hazards on sidewalks.
3. Charging Station Equipment Protection. When the electric vehicle parking space is perpendicular or at an angle to curb face and charging equipment, adequate equipment protection, such as wheel stops or concrete-filled steel bollards shall be used.
4. Maintenance. Charging station equipment shall be maintained in all respects, including the functioning of the charging equipment. A phone number or other contact information shall be provided on the charging station equipment for reporting when the equipment is not functioning or other problems are encountered.

6.2.3. Signage. Electric vehicle charging stations, other than in residential use, shall have posted signage allowing only charging electric vehicles to park in such spaces. For the purposes of this subsection, “charging” means that an electric vehicle is parked at an electric vehicle charging station and is connected to the charging station equipment. Signage for parking of electric vehicles shall include:

- Information on the charging station to identify voltage and amperage levels and any time of use, fees, or safety information.
- Restrictions shall be included on the signage, if removal provisions are to be enforced by the property owner

- As appropriate, directional signs to effectively guide motorists to the charging station space(s).

6.2.4. Lighting. Site lighting shall be provided where EVCS is installed unless charging is for daytime purposes only. Lighting standards should be met pursuant to the Biddeford's zoning ordinance.

6.2.5. Time limits may be placed on the number of hours that an electric vehicle is allowed to charge, prohibiting indefinite charging/parking. If applicable, warnings shall be posted to alert charging station users about hours of use and possible actions affecting EVCS that are not being used according to posted rules.

6.2.6. The EVCS must be operational during the normal business hours of the use(s) that it serves. EVCS may be de-energized or otherwise restricted after normal business hours of the use(s) it serves. If applicable, warnings shall be posted to alert charging station users about hours of use.

6.2.7. Usage Fees. The property owner or operator is not restricted from collecting a service fee for the use of an electric vehicle charging station made available to visitors of the property.

6.3. Accessible Facilities

6.3.1. Where electric vehicle charging stations are provided in parking lots or parking garages, excluding garages in single-family or two-family residential units, accessible electric vehicle charging stations shall be provided according to the ratios shown in Table 6.2. The first column indicates the number of electric vehicle stations being provided on-site and the second column indicates the number of accessible charging stations that are to be provided for the corresponding number(s) of charging stations.

Table 6.2 Minimum Number of Accessible Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

Number of EV charging stations	Minimum accessible EV charging stations
1-50	1
51-100	2
101-150*	3

*One additional accessible EV charging station for each 50 EVCS

6.3.2. Accessible electric vehicle charging stations should be located in close proximity to the building or facility entrance and shall be connected to a barrier-free accessible route of travel. It is not necessary to designate the accessible electric vehicle charging station exclusively for the use of disabled persons.

6.4. Charging and Parking

6.4.1. EVCS parking spaces are to be included in the calculation for both the number of minimum and maximum parking spaces required, as provided by [Chapter and Section number for Parking Requirements].

6.4.2. EVCS parking spaces, where provided for public use, are reserved for charging electric vehicles only.

6.4.3. Electric vehicles may be parked in any space designated for public parking, subject to the restrictions that would apply to any other vehicle that would park in that space.

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6.5. Parking Restrictions

6.5.1. No person shall stop, stand or park any non-electric vehicle in a space designated through signage as an electric vehicle charging station. Any non-electric vehicle is subject to removal by the property owner or the property owner's agent.

6.5.2. Any electric vehicle in an electric vehicle parking stall that is signed exclusively for electric vehicle charging and that is either (1) not electrically charging or (2) parked beyond the days and hours designated on regulatory signs posted at or near the space shall be subject to removal as posted by the property owner or the property owner's agent. For purposes of this subsection, "charging" means an electric vehicle is parked at an electric vehicle charging station and is connected to the charging station equipment.

6.6. **Decommissioning:** Unless otherwise directed by Biddeford, within ninety (90) days of cessation of use of the EVCS, the property owner or operator shall restore the site to its original condition. Should the property owner or operator fail to complete said removal within ninety (90) days, Biddeford shall conduct the removal and disposal of improvements at the property owner or operator's sole cost and expense.

7. Violations

7.1. If the owner of an EVCS is found to be in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance, Code Enforcement Officer shall be responsible for administering the violation.

8. Effectiveness, Interpretation, Severability

8.1. This ordinance shall become effective ~~immediately upon~~ January 1 after its adoption. Applications already in review at time of adoption shall not be subjected to the above requirements.

8.2. All other portions, parts, and provisions of the Zoning Ordinance of Biddeford

as heretofore enacted and amended shall remain in force and effect.

8.3. The invalidity of any section or provision of the ordinance shall not be held to invalidate any other section or provision of this Ordinance.

8.4. If any part of this ordinance conflicts with any other applicable federal, state, or local regulation, the more restrictive regulation shall control.

DRAFT

Concern: required infrastructure for single family homes

Response: We have reduced the in-lieu fee to \$250 if the parking area has a level-1 (normal 120-volt outlet) installed. Otherwise, the fee would be \$500.

Concern: \$5000 was excessive for in-lieu fee for EVCS-ready spaces

Response: We reduced all in-lieu fees, now only \$2,000 for EVCS-ready spaces not in residential buildings.

Concern: 5.1.5 – explicitly add that it does not apply to residential buildings

Response: added so that DC fast charging does not apply to residential buildings

Concern: 5.1.9 a – dedicated revenue was done away with, example of ambulance fund in the past

Response: We have allowed the funds to go to the general fund now, but are saying the money will be used for EV infrastructure

Concern: 8.1 – should say that previous applicants do not apply

Response: We edited this so that now it will only apply to new applicants after January 1 after the ordinance is adopted

Concern: What happens if the use changes? What can the planning board do?

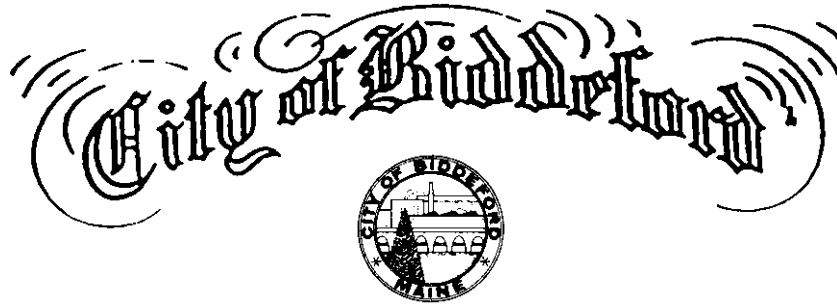
Response: This is only for new parking infrastructure or if 30% or more of the parking area is expanded. If the use of the building changes, it would not have any impacts on the parking, so the owner would not have any requirements to update the EV charging.

Concern: Violations – What happens at codes if there is a violation?

Response: WAITING ON ROBBIE

Concern: Want to know if Waterville or Augusta have similar ordinances

Response: To our knowledge, Waterville and Augusta do not have EV charging ordinances. The cities we are aware of that do have such ordinances are Scarborough, Portland, and South Portland.



2025.108 In Board of City Council August 19, 2025

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Biddeford that the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV Specific Street Regulations, **Section 42-90 NO Parking**, be amended by adding or ~~deleting~~ to read as follows:

Hill Street, even numbered side, beginning at the intersection with Birch Street, thence southerly to the intersection with West Street.

Hill Street, odd-numbered side, beginning at the intersection with Granite Street, thence southerly to the intersection with West Street.

NOTE: This action will accommodate a proposed bike lane and sidewalk expansion program.

The Traffic Committee unanimously approved this parking restriction at its July 29, 2025 meeting, and to forward it to the City Council for approval.

August 19, 2025

Motion: Councilor Whiting

Second: Councilor LaFountain

Vote: 6 yeas – Councilors Ortiz, Doughty, Beaupre, Whiting, Emhiser and LaFountain.

3 nays – Councilors Lessard, Belanger and Gross.

Motion passed.

September 2, 2025

Draft landscaping ordinance

For planning staff:

- Can a developer currently receive a waiver to open space minimums? Is there an in-lieu fee?
- Can “discouraged” plantings be prohibited?
- Do you have a performance guarantee ordinance or cost estimate template
- Do we want any more verbiage on encouraging bio-swales?
- Do we want a “pervious” or “porous” pavement credit?
- Can we get feedback from a developer?
- Thoughts on the proposed incentives?
- Suggest amending the “definitions” section in article 2 to add the definitions we are adding here
- Amend parts of site plan and subdivision plan ordinance to reference landscaping ordinance (need code blocks from city planner)
- Incorporate any existing landscaping standards elsewhere in the code (need code blocks from city planner)
- Create specific regulations for each district (needs input from city planner)
- Tweak landscaping per district table (with input from city planner)
- Zone specific regulations
 - Downtown areas: prefer street trees and maybe parking landscaping instead of landscape planters (MSRD 1, MSRD 2, MSRD 3)
 - I zones can have additional screening when industrial uses abut a residential use/zone, or vice versa
 - Screen residential between non-residential in general
- <https://ecode360.com/attachment/BI3074/BI3074-Vb%20Table%20B%20Dimensional%20Reqs.pdf>
- <https://ecode360.com/15174565?highlight=plan&highlight=review&highlight=site&searchId=1676980971560815#15174565>
- <https://ecode360.com/15150308?highlight=subdivisions&searchId=1676923291149587#15150308>
- <https://ecode360.com/15169378#15169378>
- <https://ecode360.com/15150247#15150244>
- <https://ecode360.com/15169847?highlight=landscape&highlight=landscaped&highlight=landscaping&searchId=1677108579165742#15169847>
- <https://ecode360.com/15170079#15170079>

To do:

- Propose a permeable paver credit
- Re-write the thresholds for expansion of parking areas and impervious surfaces

Purpose

A. The intent of this ordinance is to provide minimum requirements for landscaping of future development to maintain a base standard of quality of life and general appearance for private and public properties in the City. It is also the purpose of this ordinance to encourage the use of landscaped areas to promote Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater management systems and to reduce the amount of impervious surface heat islands in urban areas, both of which are recommended strategies in the Biddeford Climate Action Plan.

B. Landscaping shall be designed as an integral part of an overall site or subdivision plan with the purpose of enhancing building design, public views, and spaces, while also providing buffering and screening to abutting properties and roads when appropriate.

C. To ensure longevity and resilience to changing climate conditions, the City has also adopted a preferred planting list of vegetation that is resistant to drought and other climate-related impacts, promotes native habitats, or is otherwise ideal for New England environmental conditions. The preferred plantings list will be updated at least every two years to reflect changing conditions due to climate impacts.

D. To avoid long-term adverse impacts to the environment, infrastructure, or public health, the City has also adopted a discouraged planting list of vegetation that is either invasive, creates unfavorable environmental conditions, or has proven vulnerable to impacts of climate change such as rising temperature and migrating pest species.

Definitions

Open space: All dedicated portions of a parcel that has vegetated surfaces or is in an undisturbed natural state, such as a wetland or forested area. Vegetated rooftops or portions of a parking area that are landscaped are considered open space per this definition. Areas designated as outdoor storage are not considered open space even if currently containing vegetation.

Impervious surface: The total area of a parcel that consists of buildings and any associated structures as well as roads, driveways, and parking areas, whether paved or unpaved and any additional area that is covered with a low-permeability material such as asphalt, stone or concrete or compacted through design or use to reduce permeability

Landscape Planter strip: A vegetated area (naturally vegetated and/or landscaped) located adjacent and parallel to a road or street and designed to visually and functionally separate the roadway from the abutting property upon which it is located.

Buffer: A combination of physical space and vertical elements, such as but not limited to plants, berms, fences or walls, the purpose of which is to separate and screen incompatible land uses from each other.

Screening: A method of significantly reducing the impact of noise and unsightly visual intrusions with less offensive or more harmonious elements, such as plants, berms, fences, walls, or any appropriate combination thereof. This is accomplished either by a strip of dense existing or planted vegetation at least four feet in height, an opaque wall of at least six feet in height, or a uniformly covered fence of at least six feet in height

Street Tree: A tree that grows within a right-of-way or twenty five feet from the edge of a right-of-way, intended to provide shade for pedestrians and a separation between the property and abutting streets and structures.

Invasive Species: an organism not native to the region that is likely to cause harm to the environment, infrastructure, or public health.

Outdoor Storage Area: a designated space outside of a building for the storage of commercial inventory including but not limited to equipment, vehicles, construction materials, or packaged goods.

Applicability

A. Unless otherwise waived by the Planning Board or City Planner, a landscaping plan is required for the following projects that propose site work:

1. The construction or replacement of structures large enough to trigger site plan review per [Article XI, Site Plan Review \(is this the right citation?\)](#)
2. Any residential development large enough to trigger subdivision review per [Chapter 66, Subdivision Review. \(is this the right citation?\)](#)
3. An expansion or addition to an existing structure large enough to trigger site or subdivision plan review.
4. A change of use in an existing site or structure large enough to trigger site plan or subdivision review.
5. The creation of a new parking lot including 15 or more parking spaces
6. The creation of 20,000 or more square feet of impervious surface
7. The creation of 20,000 or more square feet of outdoor storage area
8. [The cumulative expansion of an existing parking space by more than 20% of total spaces measured over a five-year period.](#)
 - a. [Except when the number of existing spaces is less than 10 spaces](#)
9. [The cumulative expansion of an existing impervious surface area by more than 20% of the total square footage, over a 5-year period](#)
 - a. [Except when the number of impervious surface area is less than 4,000 square feet.](#)
10. [The cumulative expansion of an existing outdoor storage area by more than 20% of the total square footage, over a 5-year period.](#)

B. The following exceptions do not require a landscaping plan (Requiring every pave-job to go to Planning Board with a full landscaping plan will cause deterioration by neglect).

1. Paving, re-paving, or resurfacing of an existing parking area with no proposed expansion of parking area
2. Paving, re-paving, or resurfacing of an existing impervious surface area with no proposed expansion of impervious surface
3. Paving, re-paving, or resurfacing of an existing outdoor storage area with no proposed expansion of outdoor storage area.

Landscaping plan

A. For any proposed development that requires a landscaping plan and has not had such requirement waived, a landscaping plan prepared by a registered landscape architect must be presented and approved prior to issuance of a building permit. Additionally, any Planning Board projects with landscaping requirements must include a landscaping plan with their plan submission prior to final approval.

B. The landscape plan may be done by design professionals other than a registered landscape architect at the Planning Board's or City Planner's discretion.

C. For projects that require landscaping, this ordinance grants the authorized reviewing body (Planning Board or City Planner) the authority to waive some or all of the landscaping plan requirements in special circumstances to ensure the fulfillment of the stated purposes of this ordinance and to allow for flexibility and innovation of design. Said special circumstances and/or a reasoning for a modification should be documented in writing with the full plan application. Examples of what might constitute special circumstances requiring a waiver may include but are not limited to:

1. The preservation of unique wildlife habitat
2. The preservation of mature vegetation or natural areas

3. Compliance with easements such as those providing public access, conservation, or utility maintenance.
4. Redevelopment of existing properties where the requirements in this title are impossible to meet
5. Insufficient distance between an existing structure and a property line for required landscaping
6. Unique site uses such as including vegetation that provides food, foragables, or medicinal properties (committee suggestion, is this what people had in mind?)

D. The Planning Board or City Planner may not grant modifications to landscaping or open space requirements unless the applicant proposes to do at least one of the following:

1. Include multi-purpose vegetation that provide habitat for wildlife, or food and foragable goods for individual use, as part of the landscaping plan.
(committee suggestion, is this what people had in mind, or did they want it in the incentives section?)
2. Provide an invasive species management plan that details how invasive plant species will be removed from the site as part of the development and properly removed in the future,
 - a. For projects that require a Homeowner's or condominium's association, this will require a draft association document with appropriate verbiage prior to final approval.
3. Provide a conservation easement for any critical habitat currently on the site,
4. Donate a portion of the site as conserved open space to the City or a third-party landholder,
5. Provide publicly accessible amenities, such as a park, boat launch, or multi-use trail as part of the development,
6. Provide an easement for public access on the site, primarily via a park or trail,

7. Meet all heating and cooling needs for the development through electric systems such as heat pumps.
8. Provide affordable housing in excess of what is required in the City's inclusionary zoning ordinance.
9. Provide significant improvements to stormwater management on the site.

Enforcement

- A. For any building permit issued, occupancy will be withheld until all required landscaping elements are installed, unless requirements are modified by the relevant reviewing authority.
- B. The Planning Department may issue temporary occupancy prior to installation of required plantings. Failure to install required plantings within 6 months of occupancy will constitute a code violation
 - a. If temporary occupancy is granted, it shall be the responsibility of the project manager or business owner to contact The Planning Department upon completion of the landscaping work and request an inspection. Staff may inspect landscaping upon request by the developer or property owner. (this grants flexibility to projects that finish in the winter, end of fall, or sub-optimal plantings seasons)
- C. Modifications to originally approved landscaping plans must be made as a written request to the Planning Department
 1. Changes to landscaping plans that do not reduce the number of originally approved plantings may be considered a field change and reviewed by the City Planner.
 2. Changes to a landscaping plan that would reduce the number of originally approved plantings are considered a modification to an approved plan, which will require approval from the City Planner or Planning Board.

Incentives

- A. To help facilitate the goals of the Climate Action Plan, development review applications may receive modifications to density, setback, lot size, and/or height requirements if the development meets all requirements of the landscaping plan as well as one or more the following additional benefits:
- a. Ensure the landscaping plan includes at least 50% (too high or too low?) of the plantings as pollinator friendly, drought resistant and/or invasive pest tolerant, and agreeing to a condition of approval that vegetation from the discouraged planting list will not be planted on the site, (is it feasible to add lawn grass to the discouraged planting list?)
 - b. Utilization of open space areas for food production such as greenhouses, community gardens, or food plots
 - c. Provision of public access easements, conservation easements, or public access trails on the site.
 - d. Donation of a portion of the land to be conserved open space or a public amenity, such as a park.
 - e. Inclusion of pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, including but not limited to secure bike storage areas, shade trees, pocket parks, or seating areas, in the landscaping plan
 - f. Landscaping proposed beyond the scope of what is required by this title, to the satisfaction of the Planning Board or City Planner

General requirements

- A. Landscaping development requirements: All portions of a lot undergoing development review not devoted to buildings, future buildings, parking, storage, or accessory uses shall be landscaped in a manner appropriate to the stated purposes of this chapter.
- 1. If any part of this ordinance contradicts any other part of this ordinance or in this Title, the more restrictive of the two shall apply (is this the right location for this line?)

2. All ingress or egress easements that provide corridors to a subject lot, and are not adjacent to a public right-of-way, shall be considered the same as a public right-of-way. Landscape requirements for easement corridors shall be the same as those required for areas adjacent to public rights-of-way (would like to hear planning department's thoughts before I re-write)
3. When landscaping is required along the frontage of a right-of-way, landscaped areas shall extend to the curbline or to the street edge unless determined infeasible by an applicant's professional staff to the satisfaction of the Planning Board or City Planner.
4. If a landscape plan includes plantings located within a public right-of-way, said plan must clearly notate that maintenance of plantings remains the responsibility of the property owner in perpetuity.
5. Pedestrian infrastructure (including but not limited to sidewalks, walkways, trails, bike lanes, multi-use paths, pocket parks, and seating areas) may be included within the required dimensions for landscaped areas, such as width of landscaped area along the frontage of a road.
6. Landscaped areas required to front inappropriate features (such as railways) may be relocated to other portions of the site, to the satisfaction of the Planning Board or City Planner. (thoughts from planning department?)
7. Required landscaping may be integrated with LID stormwater management facilities, such as vegetated stormwater swales, where feasible. LID facilities shall not compromise the purpose or intent of required landscaping, and landscaping shall not result in the disruption of the function of the LID facilities.
8. The configuration and plant species of landscape areas on a site shall be designed so as to not disrupt the functions of stormwater systems.

B. Buffering and Screening Requirements

1. For the purposes of screening and buffering, existing vegetation can be used to meet the standard, so long as the existing vegetation is determined to not be an invasive species **or on the discouraged planting list (is this too hard to enforce?)**.
2. All parking, maneuvering, and loading areas of over 20,000 square feet shall have a minimum of 10% of the parking area, maneuvering area, and loading space landscaped with Type 5 landscaping as a means to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and uninterrupted impervious surface area. Perimeter landscaping, such as screening along property lines, shall not be included as part of the 10% figure.
3. The perimeter of all parking lots that abut residential zones or uses shall be landscaped in a manner that shields residential zones or uses from lights and provides aesthetic separation between uses. This shall include at minimum a depth of 5 feet of Type 2 landscaping, unless otherwise provided by this chapter, or otherwise approved by the planning director.
4. All new developments abutting Interstate 95 shall be landscaped with Type 3 landscaping to a minimum depth of 10 feet between the property and highway to provide a visual and audio buffer, unless otherwise modified by the City Planner or Planning Board
5. All property abutting the portion of Alfred Road west of US Route 1, and the portion of US Route 1 south of Alfred Road, shall be landscaped with Type 3 landscaping to a minimum depth of 10 feet unless otherwise modified by the City Planner or Planning Board
6. All dumpsters or outside storage areas shall be screened by fencing and landscaping a minimum of 5 feet in depth unless it is determined by development plan review that such screening is not necessary, due to storage area location, existing fencing or landscaping, or because stored materials are not visually obtrusive.

7. Landscaping shall be placed outside of sight-obscuring fences, unless it is determined by the Planning Director or Planning Board that such arrangement would be detrimental to the stated purposes of this chapter or would compromise site safety.
8. The perimeter of all stormwater detention ponds shall be landscaped to a minimum depth of 10 feet of Type 2 landscaping. If perimeter fencing is required based on Public Works Department standards, it shall be constructed of vinyl-coated chain link or solid screen fencing. The fencing shall be located between the pond and the landscape area.

C. Planting requirements

1. Bark mulch, gravel, or other non vegetative material shall only be used in conjunction with landscaping to assist vegetative growth and maintenance or to visually complement plant material. Non vegetative material is not a substitute for plant material.
2. Required landscape areas shall be provided with adequate drainage. All new landscape areas shall incorporate soil amendments as follows: the uppermost twelve (12) inches of soil shall be tilled and two (2) inches of composted material shall be fully incorporated into the tilled soil; or to specifications proposed by a landscape architect that meet the satisfaction of the relevant reviewing authority.
3. Slopes shall not exceed a three (3) to one (1) ratio (width to height), in order to decrease erosion potential and assist in ease of maintenance.
4. To prevent future damage to utilities, roads, or pedestrian travel ways, trees proposed within the public right-of-way must remain under 20 feet tall at maturity.
5. A diversity of tree species (three to five species per every 12 trees) is required to provide greater resiliency to threats from introduced insect pests and diseases. Planting beds may be mulched, but no dyed mulching material may be used. (is the species variety too excessive?)

6. Drip irrigation is recommended for plantings proposed to accompany any new trees. Irrigation systems incorporated into a landscaping area shall include rain sensors to promote water conservation.

Types of Landscaping

Category	Type 1 Solid Screen	Type 2 Visual Screen	Type 3 Visual Buffer	Type 4 Low Cover	Type 5 Open Area
Purpose	Intended to provide a solid sight barrier to totally separate incompatible uses.	Intended to create a visual separation that is not necessarily 100% sight-obscuring between incompatible uses.	Intended to provide visual separation of uses from streets and main arterials and between compatible uses so as to soften the appearance of streets, parking lots, and building facades.	Intended to provide visual relief where clear sight is desired or as a complement to larger, more predominant planting materials.	Intended to visually interrupt large open spaces of parking areas.
Description	Shall consist of evergreen trees or tall shrubs with a minimum height of six 6 feet at planting, which will provide a 100% sight-obscuring screen within 3 years	Shall be evergreen or a mixture of evergreen and deciduous trees with large shrubs and ground cover interspersed with the trees.	Shall be evergreen and deciduous trees planted not more than 30 feet on center interspersed with large shrubs and ground cover.	Shall consist of a mixture of evergreen and deciduous shrubs and ground cover, to provide solid covering of	Shall consist of trees planted with supporting shrubs or ground cover. Each landscape area shall be of sufficient size

	from the time of planting; or a combination of evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs backed by 100% sight-obscuring fence	A sight-obscuring fence may be required if determined by during plan review that such a fence is necessary.	Where used to separate parking from streets, plantings must create a visual barrier of at least 42 inches in height at time of planting and form a solid screen 3 years after planting.	the entire landscaping area within 3 years of planting and to be held to a maximum height of three and one-half (3 1/2) feet.	to promote and protect growth of plantings, with a one hundred 100 square foot minimum area and no dimension less than 5 feet.
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Planting requirements

- A. Deciduous trees shall be a minimum of one and one-half (1 1/2) inch caliper at the time of planting. Evergreen trees shall be six (6) feet high at planting. Tree spacing shall be as appropriate for the species.
- B. *Ground cover* means low-growing vegetative materials with a mound or spreading manner of growth. Spacing is dependent on the type and size of the plant material and must be adequate to provide total coverage of the landscape area within three (3) years. Ground cover plants, other than grasses, must be at least the four (4) inch pot size at time of planting.
- C. Shrubs shall be a minimum of eighteen (18) inches in height, or two (2) gallon container size, at the time of planting.
- D. Any proposed plantings and fencing must not violate sight area safety requirements at street intersections.
- E. Exclusive of the B-1 District, commercial and industrial uses shall maintain the first 25 feet from the edge of the right-of-way (excluding driveways) in front of all buildings, structures and impervious areas as a landscaped planter strip. The

planter strip shall consist of a maintained vegetated area with a two-and-one-half-inch diameter or larger deciduous shade tree, spaced every 25 feet, or a shrub, two to three feet in height, minimum, placed the equivalent of one per 10 feet, along the green strip and parallel to the right-of-way. In order to ensure proper visibility for entering and departing vehicles, all driveway entrances and exits shall be kept free from visual obstructions higher than three feet above street level for a distance of 25 feet measured along the intersecting driveway and street lines.

- F. All uses in the Institutional Zone shall maintain a landscaped green strip in front of all buildings, structures, and parking lots adjacent to any public street. This green strip shall be treated and maintained as set forth in the approved institutional master plan and may include pedestrian facilities and amenities such as walkways, plazas, sitting areas, fountains, bus stops, passenger loading and unloading areas, porticos information kiosks, and similar improvements.

Regulations for specific districts **(work in progress)**

Zone(s)	Abutting street (front yard)	Side yard	Rear yard	Abutting residential district or use	Zone specific requirements
SR-1		NA	NA		
R1a - R1b	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R2 - R3	Five feet Type 4	NA	NA	NA	NA
SR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
CR	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
B1	Five feet	NA	NA	NA	NA

	Type 4				
B2	Ten feet Type 3	Five feet type 3	Five feet type 3	Ten feet type 2	Parking areas that front the road require Five feet of Type 5 landscaping
I1 - I3	Fifteen feet type 1	Five feet type 2	Five feet typ 2	Fifteen feet type 1	
W1 - W3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
R-F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
LR-F	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
M	Ten feet Type 3	Five feet type 2	Five feet type 2	Ten feet Type 3	
CZ					Determined by Council and Planning Board
IN					See note below
OR	Five feet type 4	NA	NA	Five feet type 4	
MSRD1 - MSRD 3					

Maintenance of Landscaping

- A. Whenever landscaping is or has been required in accordance with the provisions of this title or any addition or amendments to this title, or in accordance with the provisions of any previous code or ordinance of the city, the landscaping shall be permanently maintained in such a manner as to

accomplish the purpose for which it was initially required. All landscaping which, due to accident, damage, disease, lack of maintenance, or other cause, fails to show a healthy appearance and growth shall be restored, or replaced with the same type of landscaping elements and in the same location as required in the approved landscape plan. These requirements also apply to landscaping for LID stormwater management systems, such as bioretention swales. Failure to restore or re-plant landscaping within one year of removal or damage will result in a code violation against the property.

B. *Maintenance assurance.* To ensure the maintenance of new landscaping, the City Planner may require a performance and maintenance guarantee or other acceptable maintenance assurance device, such as an irrevocable letter of credit, set-aside letter, assignment of funds, or certificate of deposit, prior to permit issuance. In determining whether to require an assurance device, the City Planner may consider elements such as the size and complexity of the project, the likelihood of plant survival, and the likelihood of adequate maintenance. The value of the maintenance assurance device shall equal at least one hundred ten (110) percent of the total landscape materials plus installation. If a maintenance assurance device is required, the property owner shall comply with the following provisions:

1. If the development is large enough to require a performance guarantee for site work prior to construction, the applicant may include the estimated cost of landscaping in the overall guarantee or may issue a separate performance guarantee related to landscaping. In either case, the funds tied towards landscaping and maintenance will not be released until the requirements in this ordinance have been met.
2. If the landscaping is not being properly maintained, the City Planner shall notify the property owner that the owner must restore the landscaping to its required condition, to the satisfaction of the director, within thirty (30) days. If the property owner does not restore the landscaping to the satisfaction of the City Planner within thirty (30)

days of the notification, then the city may use the proceeds of the assurance device to perform any type of maintenance or replacement necessary to ensure compliance with this ordinance.

3. The maintenance assurance device shall be accompanied by an agreement granting the city and its agents the right to enter the property and perform any necessary work. The agreement shall also hold the city harmless from all claims and expenses, including attorney's fees.
4. Upon completion of the development, and inspection by the city to determine that the landscaping has been maintained to the satisfaction of the planning director, the city shall release the maintenance assurance device, less any proceeds previously used by the city pursuant to this section.
5. The property owner is responsible for all costs incurred by the city in doing any work covered by the assurance device. The property owner shall reimburse the city for any amount expended by the city that exceeds any proceeds of the assurance device actually used by the city. The city shall have a lien against the subject property for the amount of any excess.

Discouraged Plantings (source <https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2500e/>)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Reason
<i>Acer ginnala</i>	Amur maple	
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	

<u><i>Aegopodium podagraria</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Bishop's Weed (PDF)</u>	
<u><i>Ailanthus altissima</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Tree of Heaven (PDF)</u>	
<u><i>Alliaria petiolata</i></u>	<u>Garlic Mustard</u>	
<u><i>Amorpha fruticosa</i></u>	<u>False Indigo</u>	
<u><i>Ampelopsis glandulosa</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Porcelainberry (PDF)</u>	
<u><i>Berberis thunbergii</i></u>	<u>Japanese Barberry</u>	
<u><i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i></u>	<u>Asiatic Bittersweet</u>	
<u><i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i></u>	<u>Autumn Olive</u>	
<u><i>Euonymus alatus</i></u>	<u>Winged Euonymus</u>	
<u><i>Fallopia baldschuanica</i></u>	<u>Chinese Bindweed</u>	
<u><i>Fallopia japonica</i></u>	<u>Japanese Knotweed</u>	
<u><i>Frangula alnus</i></u>	<u>Glossy Buckthorn</u>	
<u><i>Hesperis matronalis</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Dame's Rocket (PDF)</u>	
<u><i>Impatiens glandulifera</i></u>	<u>Ornamental Jewelweed</u>	
<u><i>Iris pseudacorus</i></u>	<u>Yellow Iris</u>	
<u><i>Lonicera japonica</i></u>	<u>Japanese Honeysuckle</u>	
<u><i>Lonicera maackii</i></u>	<u>Amur or Bush Honeysuckle</u> (PDF)	
<u><i>Lonicera morrowii</i></u>	<u>Morrow's Honeysuckle</u>	
<u><i>Lonicera tatarica</i></u>	<u>Tatarian Honeysuckle</u>	
<u><i>Lythrum salicaria</i></u>	<u>Purple Loosestrife</u>	
<u><i>Microstegium vimineum</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Japanese Stilt Grass (PDF)</u>	
<u><i>Persicaria perfoliata</i></u> (PDF)	<u>Mile-a-Minute Weed (PDF)</u>	

Populus alba (PDF)	White Cottonwood (PDF)	
Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	
Rosa multiflora	Multiflora Rose	

Preferred Plantings

Trees					
NAME					
Common	Scientific			Height	Comments
Balsam fir	<i>Abies balsamea</i>	F,P	M	75'	Open growth in hot, dry locations; evergreen; coastal trees susceptible to adelgids

Red maple, Swamp maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	F,P	M	60'	Excellent fall color; tolerates wet spring soils
Sugar maple, Rock maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	F,P	M	75'	Excellent orange-red fall color; beautiful large shade tree
Mountain maple	<i>Acer spicatum</i>	F,P	M	30'	Good for naturalizing
Yellow birch	<i>Betula alleghaniensis</i>	F,P	M	100'	Does best in cool soils and cool summers; beautiful bark; long lived
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>	F	M	70'	Beautiful white bark year-round; tolerates poor, dry soils
Gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>	F	M	40'	Does well in poor soils; good for naturalizing

American hornbeam, Blue-beech	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> spp. <i>virginiana</i>	F	M	30'	Good for naturalizing; tolerates periodic flooding
Cockspur hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	F	M	30'	Glossy green leaves; 2" thorns; persistent dark red fruits
White ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	F	M	80'	Due to the spread of Emerald Ash Borer in Maine, this native tree is no longer recommended. You can find the most up-to-date information on Emerald Ash Borer at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation,

					and Forestry website.
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	F,P	M	60'	Due to the spread of Emerald Ash Borer in Maine, this native tree is no longer recommended. You can find the most up-to-date information on Emerald Ash Borer at the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation,

					and Forestry website.
Larch, Hackmatack, Tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i>	F	H,M	80'	Good in well-drained and moist-to-wet naturalized sites
Black gum, Black tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	F,P	M	50'	Excellent yellow-orange fall leaf color
American hop-hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	F,P	M,S	40'	Slow to establish after transplanting; good medium-sized tree

White spruce, Cat spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>	F,P	M	60'	Good specimen or windbreak; evergreen
Black spruce	<i>Picea mariana</i>	F,P	M	40'	Tolerates wet sites; evergreen
Jack pine	<i>Pinus banksiana</i>	F	S,X	50'	Useful for windbreaks or mass plantings in sandy soil; evergreen
Red pine, Norway pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	F	S,X	80'	Good windbreak; tolerates dry soils well; evergreen
White pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	F	M,S	80'	Handsome specimen; not tolerant of salt; evergreen
Bigtooth aspen	<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	F	M,S	70'	Fast growing, short lived; good yellow fall leaf color

Quaking aspen, Trembling aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	F	M	50'	Fast growing, short lived; good yellow fall leaf color
Pin cherry, Fire cherry, Bird cherry	<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	F	M	35'	Adaptable; fast growing; tolerates poor soil; susceptible to disease
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	F	M	60'	Interesting black bark; white flowers in spring; wildlife food source; susceptible to disease
White oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	F	M	80'	Large tree; transplant when young
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	F	M	75'	Transplants readily; good fall red leaf color

Black willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	F	H,M	35'	Tolerates wet soils; twigs can cause lawn litter
American mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus americana</i>	F	M	30'	Fruit eaten by wildlife
Showy mountain-ash	<i>Sorbus decora</i>	F	M	30'	Fruit eaten by wildlife
Pagoda dogwood	<i>Swida</i> <i>(Cornus) alternifolia</i>	F,P	M	25'	Moist soil is important; white flowers in early June
Northern white-cedar, Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	F,P	M	60'	Useful hedge or specimen plant; tolerates alkaline soil; susceptible to deer browse
Basswood, American linden	<i>Tilia americana</i>	F,P	M	80'	Large tree; tolerates alkaline soil; good for urban landscape

Eastern hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	F,P, S	M	70'	Graceful evergreen; does not tolerate drought or windy sites; susceptible to adelgids on coast
Shrubs					
NAME					
Common	Scientific			Height	Comments
Downy serviceberry, Downy shadbush	<i>Amelanchier arborea</i>	F,P	M	25'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; excellent orange fall color
Eastern serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	F,P	M	20'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; yellow-gold fall color

Smooth serviceberry, Allegheny serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	F,P	M	25'	Useful in edible and wildlife landscapes; leaves are bronze in spring
Bog rosemary	<i>Andromeda polifolia</i> <i>var. glaucophylla</i>	F,P	H	1-2'	Leathery evergreen leaves; requires very moist acid soil
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	F	H	6'	Good for wetland plantings
Sweet-fern	<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	F,P	S,X	3'	Aromatic foliage; interesting texture; good in dry sandy soil
Gray dogwood	<i>Swida (Cornus) racemosa</i>	F,P, S	M	15'	Spreads by suckering stems; many birds eat its white fruits in fall

Red-osier dogwood	<i>Swida (Cornus) sericea</i>	F	H,M	6'	Red stems attractive in winter; spreads by suckering stems; tolerates wet soil
American hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	F,P	M	15'	Good for naturalizing; fruit eaten by wildlife; tolerates alkaline soil
Bush cinquefoil	<i>Dasiphora floribunda</i> (<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>)	F	M,S,X	4'	Good summer-flowering shrub; tolerates alkaline soil
Bush-honeysuckle	<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	S,P	M	5'	Spreads by suckering stems; very hardy, adaptable
Leatherwood	<i>Dirca palustris</i>	S	M	4'	Yellow fall color; thrives in moist, shady sites

Common witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	F,P	M	15'	Avoid droughty sites; yellow flowers in October; yellow fall leaf color
Winterberry, Black-alder	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	F,P	H,M	10'	Bright red fruits persist into midwinter; excellent wetland plant
Common juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i> <i>var. depressa</i>	F	M,S,X	3'	Tolerates drought, wind, sterile or alkaline soils; evergreen
Sheep, laurel, Lambkill	<i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>	F,P	M,S	3'	Adaptable to many soils; best in very acid soil; good for naturalizing
Northern bayberry	<i>Morella caroliniensis</i> (<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>)	F,P	S,X	6'	Good for massing; useful in poor soil sites; aromatic foliage

Sweetgale	<i>Myrica gale</i>	F	S,X	4'	Bushy plant; dark green foliage; aromatic foliage
Black chokeberry	<i>Aronia (Photinia) melanocarpa</i>	F,P	H,M,S	6'	Spreads by suckering stems; wine-red fall color; good wildlife plant in wet or dry soils
Beach plum	<i>Prunus maritima</i>	F	M,S	6'	Good for edible landscape; salt- tolerant
Choke-cherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	F	M	30'	Spreads by suckering stems; white flowers in spring; wildlife food source
Rhodora	<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>	F,P	H,M	3'	Magenta flowers in spring; best in very acid soil

Labrador tea	<i>Rhododendron (Ledum) groenlandicum</i>	F,P	H,M	3'	Transplants well; good for moist-to-wet naturalized sites
Staghorn sumac	<i>Rhus hirta (R. typhina)</i>	P	M,S,X	25'	Spreads by suckers; good mass plant for dry slopes
Meadow rose	<i>Rosa blanda</i>	F	M	5'	Spreads by suckering stems; single light pink flowers; red hips in fall and winter
Pasture rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	F	M	5'	Pink single flowers in midsummer; small red hips persist into winter

Virginia rose	<i>Rosa virginiana</i>	F	M,S	5'	Spreads by suckering stems; good in dry and seaside sites; good barrier/hedge
Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>	S	H,M	15'	Fuzzy flowers in early spring; good for naturalizing; tolerates wet soil
Black elderberry	<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>canadensis</i>	F	M	12'	Useful in edible landscape; tolerates alkaline soil
Red elderberry	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> subsp. <i>pubens</i>	F	M	20'	Flowers in mid to late July; handsome red fruit in midsummer
Gray dogwood	<i>Swida (Cornus) racemosa</i>	F,P, S	M	15'	Spreads by suckering stems; many birds eat its

					white fruits in fall
Red-osier dogwood	<i>Swida (Cornus) sericea</i>	F	H,M	6'	Red stems attractive in winter; spreads by suckering stems; tolerates wet soil
Canadian yew	<i>Taxus canadensis</i>	P,S	M	6'	Hardest yew; good for naturalized shady landscape; evergreen
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	F	M	8'	Good for edible or wildlife landscapes; best in very acid soil
Mapleleaf viburnum	<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	P,S	M,S	6'	Suckering; good for mass plantings in shady sites

Hobblebush	<i>Viburnum lantanoides</i> (V. <i>alnifolium</i>)	P,S	M	8'	Open shrub; good for naturalized landscape
Arrowwood viburnum	<i>Viburnum dentatum</i> var. <i>lucidum</i>	F,P	M	15'	Durable; good for hedges; tolerates alkaline soil
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	F,P	M,S	15'	Good for wildlife and naturalized landscapes
Witherod, Wild-raisin	<i>Viburnum nudum</i> var. <i>cassinoides</i>	S,P	M	10'	Excellent fall foliage and fruit color
Highbush cranberry	<i>V. opulus</i> var. <i>americanum</i> (V. <i>o.</i> var. <i>trilobum</i>)	F,P	M	12'	Excellent for screening; good for wildlife landscapes
Vines and Ground Covers					
NAME					
Common	Scientific			Height	Comments

Running serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier spicata</i> (<i>A. stolonifera</i>)	F,P	M	2'	Stoloniferous groundcover; forms thickets
Bearberry	<i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>	F,P	S,X	6"	Best in poor, sandy, very acid soils; salt-tolerant; groundcover
American bittersweet	<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	F,P	M,S	—	Climbing vine; separate male and female plants; tolerates alkaline soil
Bunchberry	<i>Chamaepericlymenum canadensis</i> (<i>Cornus canadensis</i>)	P,S	M	6"	<i>Spreading groundcover; white flowers in spring; red fruit in fall</i>
Virgin's bower	<i>Clematis virginiana</i>	F	M	—	Climbing vine; white flowers in late summer; best in alkaline soil

Checkerberry, Wintergreen	<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	P,S	M	6"	Evergreen groundcover; leaves fragrant when crushed; reddish in fall
Creeping juniper	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	F	M,S,X	1' or less	Adaptable; tolerates hot, dry sites and alkaline soil; evergreen
Partridgeberry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	S	M	2"	Delicate plant; red fruits persist into winter
Woodbine, Virginia creeper	<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	F,P, S	M,S,X	—	Vigorous vine; tough; maroon fall color; tolerates alkaline soil
Lowbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	F	M	2'	Slow; good for edible or wildlife landscapes; requires acid soil

Large cranberry	<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>	F	H,M	6"	Slow; good for edible or wildlife landscapes; requires acid soil
Fox grape	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>	F	M	—	Handsome foliage; good vine for arbors and fences

Perennials: Flowering Plants

NAME					
Common	Scientific			Height	Comments
White baneberry; Red baneberry	<i>Actaea pachypoda</i> , <i>A. rubra</i>	P,S	M	24"	Attractive, but poisonous fruits
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	F,P, S	M,S	12"	Early spring flowers
Spikenard	<i>Aralia racemosa</i>	P,S	M,S	36"	Good for back of border

Silverweed	<i>Argentina anserina</i>	F	S,X	6"	Yellow flowers, silvery leaves
Jack-in-the-pulpit	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	P,S	H,M	12"	Flower green and brown; bright red fruits
Milkweed	<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	F	S,X	36"	Flowers attract bees; monarch butterflies lay eggs on leaves
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	F,P	H,M	12"	Showy yellow flowers in early spring
Harebell	<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	F,P	M,S,X	12"	Delicate blue- purple flowers
Blue cohosh	<i>Caulophyllum thalictroides</i>	P,S	M,S	36"	Blue fruits; back of border
White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	P,S	H,M	24"	Interesting white flowers in midsummer
Bluebead-lily	<i>Clintonia borealis</i>	P,S	M,S	12"	Pale yellow flowers; fruits poisonous

Trout-lily, Dog's-tooth- violet	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>	P,S	M	6"	Flowers early spring
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	F	H,M	24"	Green flowers; good for drying
Joe-pye weed	<i>Eutrochium (Eupatorium) maculatum</i>	F	H,M	48"	Purple flowers in fall; attracts pollinators; good for drying
Blue flag	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	F,P	H,M	24"	Elegant form; blue-purple flowers; easy to grow
Indian cucumber-root	<i>Medeola virginiana</i>	P,S	M	12"	Interesting magenta floral bracts
Obedient plant	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	F,P, S	M,S,X	24"	Flowers pink, leaves dark green; good cut flower
Solomon's seal	<i>Polygonatum pubescens</i>	P,S	M	18"	Arching stems; white flowers in early spring; tall

					groundcover for shade
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	P,S	M	12"	Showy white flowers in early spring
New England aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) novae-angliae</i>	F,P	M,S,X	24"	Fall flowers are deep purple
New York aster	<i>Symphyotrichum (Aster) novi-belgii</i>	F,P	M,S,X	24"	Fall flowers are purple
Foam-flower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	P	M	6"	Delicate white flowers in early spring
Wild-oats	<i>Uvularia sessilifolia</i>	P,S	M	6"	Creamy, bell-shaped flowers in early spring
Violet	<i>Viola species</i>	P	M	2-6"	Various species and colors; most self-sow to form groundcovers

Perennials: Ferns					
NAME					
Common	Scientific			Height	Comments
Maidenhair fern	<i>Adiantum pedatum</i>	P,S	M	18"	Graceful black stem; nearly circular fronds; tolerates alkaline soil
Lady fern	<i>Athyrium angustum</i>	P,S	H,M	18"	Lacy fronds; reddish in spring
Hay-scented fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>	F,P	S,X	12"	Fragrant lacy fronds; tolerates hot, dry sites; spreading
Spinulose wood fern	<i>Dryopteris carthusiana</i>	P,S	M,S	24"	Lacy fronds; reddish in spring
Marginal wood fern	<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	F,P	S,X	24"	Easy to grow; fronds blue-

					green; tolerates rocky sites
Ostrich fern	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> <i>var.pennsylvanica</i>	P,S	M	36"	Edible fiddleheads; beautiful green fronds; plume-like fertile fronds
Sensitive fern	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	F,P	H,M	12"	Easy to grow; spreads; persistent bead-like fertile fronds in winter
Cinnamon fern	<i>Osmundastrum cinnamomeum</i> (<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>)	P,S	H,M	36"	Easy to grow; attractive cinnamon-colored fertile fronds in spring
Interrupted fern	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>	F,P, S	H,M,S,X	36"	Easy to grow; spreads well; luxuriant spring growth

Royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i> var. <i>spectabilis</i>	F,P, S	H,M,S	36"	Vase-shaped; interesting fertile fronds; sterile fronds finely dissected
Long beech fern	<i>Phegopteris connectilis</i>	P,S	M	6"	Small size fern, low growing; spreads well
Christmas fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	P,S	M	12"	Leathery, evergreen fronds

Whitten, Nan

From: Belanger, Norman
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 1:59 PM
To: Sustainability Commission
Subject: Fw:

Hi all,

I received the email below from a constituent who among other things was suggesting that we ban disposable plastic lids and straws and replace them with straws and lids, out of paper/cardboard materials. I'm not sure if this is something you are looking into, but wanted to pass the suggestion along.

Norm

[Norman R. Belanger \(he/him\)](#)
[Councilor Ward 6](#)

NOTICE: Under Maine's Freedom of Access (Right to Know) Law, documents, including emails, in the possession of public officials about City business are classified as public records. This means if anyone asks to see them, we are required to provide them. There are very few exceptions. We welcome citizens' comments and want to hear from our constituents, but please keep in mind that what you write in an email is not private and could show up in the media.

From: Craig Dube <craigdube300@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2025 3:04 PM
To: Belanger, Norman <Norman.Belanger@Biddefordmaine.org>
Subject:

Caution: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.
When in doubt, contact the IT Department

Hello, Mr. Belanger. My name is Craig Dube. I have been a biddeford resident for the vast majority of my life. My father grew up in town Biddeford and spent the vast majority of his life here, too. Biddeford has had many changes through each generation. And we're always trying to get better here, even if it doesn't always go the way we would've liked. For example, downtown has returned to its former glory, no longer riddled with pawn shops, but that promise on remodeling Waterhouse missed the mark. The smaller metal stands, the turf... no longer the proud home of Lobsterbowl. Whiff! I at least propose returning to a safe grass surface. Need it mowed? Give me a mower, and i'll do it for free.

Our school population dropped. Not because people moved out of Maine, but because they don't want to live in town, to raise their children, where there's constant drug dealing. They move to Dayton, Arundel, Lake Arrowhead, etc. The high-school's once great weight room that made boys into young men now looks like a physical therapy office, except not as good. Whiff! I've shutdown a narcotics dealer on my street by installing a camera. The same neighborhood where one guy as knew as a kid shot another guy I knew as a kid, in the back, less than a year ago... coincidentally I had bad run-ins with both of them as a kid. I propose Biddeford starts a program for people who want to put up a camera to deter drug dealing in their neighborhood. The dealers should be held accountable and a camera accomplishes that, while we

as citizens should be holding ourselves accountable for how we want our neighborhoods to be. Buying a gun won't make the problem go away and it doesn't make your community any safer.

Now we have this great recycling thing going on in Biddeford, right? What could possibly be wrong with that??? Do you know that only 10% of what you throw in that bin actually gets recycled? 90% is either incinerated or buried. Plastics... plastics are a problem on a global scale, and we contribute to it daily. 100% of the disposable lids on bought drinks are NOT recyclable. We put them in our recyclables, and then when it gets sorted at the next destination, it's discarded as trash. Straws are no better. I propose a ban on all disposable plastic lids and/or straws. There are already companies that make both, straws and lids, out of paper/cardboard materials. We should start. No more whiffing! Let's be a hit! Let's be the innovators of our state and represent Maine the way it should be. Because Maine is supposed to be life how it should be, not just for us but for the next generation. Nobody understands how much impact we have on our generations more than the ones who have lived through it to see it.

If you read all this, I appreciate the time you took to just do that. Thank you!