

## Public Works Department



The Public Works Department provides a number of services to the citizens of Berlin. They include: the maintenance of over 60 miles of streets and many more miles of sidewalks that need to be swept, patched and overlaid with pavement. We also provide snow removal, street striping, street marking, and the fabrication and installation of street and traffic signs. We construct retaining walls, install guard rails and guard fence. We maintain sewer and storm water collection systems. We provide equipment maintenance for all of the Public Works, Fire, Recreation, Health, Police and Engineering Departments as well as the Berlin Municipal Airport. We maintain the gas and fuel distribution system for all City Departments. We also provide and maintain 151 sand and salt barrels for winter use.

We periodically seal concrete sidewalks, retaining walls and bridge abutments. Members of the Department also provided utility information and project inspection for water and sewer capital improvement projects.

### Transportation - Street Markings

Center lines, edge lines, railroad crossings and crosswalks were painted as they are every year, excluding three exempt railroad crossings this year. The cost of this work is approximately \$11,000. The work includes approximately 220,000 linear feet of striping and 5 railroad crossings. The PWD crew painted over 130 crosswalks throughout the

City including all the “Stop” bars”, yellow “No Parking” zones and the “Handicap Parking” areas.

### Projects Completed in the 2012-2013 Season

PWD continued to work with the NH Trails Bureau and ATV clubs on ATV trails including a cross town connection trail, installing signs, and road markings. A paved pathway was installed through the Dead River Park to reduce dust and corrosion.

The public works crew replaced over 600 feet of sidewalk on State Street between High and Willard Streets. Retaining walls and railings on Portland Street, Elm Street were repaired and a drain line on Blais Street was replaced.

The storm collection system was extended on Hillsboro Street. A storm collection system was installed in the Marston School parking and playground area.

Worked with Burgess Biomass Storm Water Collection to tie into municipal collection system. Used the City’s engineering consultant to review hydrology study and municipal storm water collection system capacity to accept additional flows from Biomass site.

### Solid Waste

The East Milan Road Landfill closure was substantially completed in October of 1996. Closure of the landfill launched the 39 year post-closure monitoring program. Groundwater quality and methane gas production is being monitored in accordance with the program.

The Cates Hill Landfill Closure project was completed in August of 2006. Groundwater quality and methane gas production is being monitored in accordance with the program. The cost for engineering services, lab testing services, gas monitoring, administrative services and grounds maintenance is almost \$18,000.

The Public Works Department does curbside pickup of household garbage. We pick up approximately 4,000 tons per year to landfill at a cost of \$67/ton = \$268,000.

The Public Works Department collects paper, glass, plastics, tin, aluminum and cardboard for recycling. Efforts increased to reduce household garbage tonnage to the landfill. We applied for and received a 50% grant to purchase 1500 recycle bins to distribute to residents. We worked with the local media to inform and educate the public on the need to improve our recycling efforts. We have also worked with the school system to inform students on the solid waste collection process.

## **Recreation and Parks Maintenance**



The maintenance crew for Recreation and Parks now falls under the direction of the Public Works Director. The past few years have been challenging for us with project completion and field issues. The new field at the Community College was completed and was left dormant for three years to build up turf strength. This field was put in service this season. We are over the hurdle with the major issues with bug infestation and fertilization on our major fields (Memorial, High School and Community College). We have been closely working with Northeast Agriculture to guide us past these obstacles. In working with Northeast we also have gained the valuable knowledge that will help us avoid these issues in the future. The fields are currently in good shape.

The demands for field use have increased with the addition of high school aged football and high school women's soccer being added next season.

Following is a summary of the tasks and services provided by the crew listed by seasons.

### **Winter :( Dec., Jan., & Feb.)**

We continue with downtown Christmas decorations, repairs, replacements, etc. All snow, ice, and rain events are attended to as they occur. This involves plowing, shoveling, sanding and salting parking lots, walkways, stairs and entrances. The places we maintain are; 1) Police Station-Recreation Center; 2 First Ave. parking lots. 2) City Hall 3) Court House 4) Heritage Park's two lots. 5) Bickford Place. 6) Memorial and Community Fields storage. 7) Five skating rinks (as long as weather permits). These rinks are located at Green Street, River Street, Ramsey Park, Horne Field, and Hutchins Park. Everyday custodial duties are performed at the Recreation Center, and the building is maintained for all winter programs. Equipment maintenance, usually performed during springtime, is started in the garage when the weather is not favorable.

### **Spring :( March, April, & May)**

All equipment is inspected and repaired, painted, or replaced. As snow melts, the crew gets outside and starts to "spring clean" (litter pick up, leaves, sweep, and sod repairs) to all areas that we take care of. High School baseball and softball games, Boys and Girls Tennis are first on the schedule. They play and practice on the two Little League Fields at Memorial and Community Fields and tennis is at the Glen Avenue and Horne Field tennis courts. JV and Varsity play about 20 home ball games not counting playoffs. We started a new field maintenance program with Northeast Agricultural to restore all our fields to excellent condition. The main fields involved in this program are: the new Community College field where the High school will have all their field hockey and

soccer practices. Games will be at the High School Track Field, and Memorial Baseball Field. This summer will show significant improvement. Grass mowing starts and the cemetery crew from Northern Human Services starts in May. We equip them and they do a great job. The Community Gardens are tilled and staked out.

**Summer :( June, July, & Aug.)**

High school athletic seasons wind down with playoffs usually done by June. Grass mowing and trimming are everyday tasks. We maintain: Track Field, Memorial Field and Memorial Annex, Green Street Soccer Field, Veterans Park, all downtown parks (Vodoukis, PSNH Park, Gill Park, Library, St. Anne Park, Dead River Park, all Pleasant Street, Green Street, and Cole Street islands, Tondreau Parking Lot,) Cleveland Bridge Road and Laura Lee Viger Botanical gardens, Central Playground, Community Fields, Skateboard Park, Hutchins Street Park, the ball field at Horne Field and playground, Rotary Park, Brown School Playground, and Ramsey Park Playground. There is a full schedule of girls' softball (Bobcats) games at Horne Field, Cal Ripken at Community, and their respective tournaments. Summer Soccer league games are at Community Field. There is a Summer Playgrounds program and free lunches at parks throughout the City. There is ongoing field maintenance at all fields that includes, aerating, seeding, topdressing, fertilizing and weed-killing. Cemetery work; trash removal, tree pruning, fence repairs, and playground safety, etc., are attended to weekly.

**Fall :( Sept., Oct., and Nov.)**

There is a very busy fall schedule of High School field hockey and soccer games as well as practices that start in August. Every day practices at Community Field and Community College Field for JV and Varsity teams, with ten home games for each team at the Track Field; 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at Horne Field and Memorial Annex Field; 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at

Memorial and Community fields. A new addition this fall was the high school level football which had daily practices at Memorial Annex Field and four home games at Eagles Field on East Milan Road. The Berlin Gladiators had a successful season making it into the play-offs. This playoff game was held at the High School Track Field. The Recreation Department has a Soccer program at the Green Street Field. The Recreation crew repairs worn areas of all fields and continues the field maintenance program. All bleachers, nets, benches, picnic tables, and summer equipment, are put away for the winter. The crew does the downtown Christmas decorating and assists Main Street Program with their decorations. We prepare areas for the skating rinks.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
*Michael P. Perreault*  
Public Works Director