

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 paved. 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, and Police Departments as well as the Berlin Municipal Airport. We also provide and maintain 157 sand/ 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. The cost of this work is

approximately \$14,000. The work includes approximately 220,000 linear feet of striping and 5 railroad crossings. PWD crew paints over 130 crosswalks and parking locations throughout the City, all the Stop Bars, and Yellow No Parking Zones as well as the Handicap Parking areas.

Projects in progress/completed during the 2017-2018 Season

The Rt. 16 Roadway Reconstruction project was substantially completed this summer. The project will achieve final completion in the fall of 2018.



*Photo: Joe Klementovich

The Hillside Avenue Bridge over the Dead River began construction in the summer of 2018. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2018.

The Riverwalk Multi-Use Pathway project, administered through the NHDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), is currently in the design phase. This project is slated for construction in 2020.

Solid Waste - The East Milan Road Landfill closure was substantially completed in October of 1996. Closure of the landfill launched the 30 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 Public Works Department does curbside pickup of household garbage and recycling. Household garbage is brought to the AVRRDD Mt. Carberry Landfill for disposal. The Public Works Department collected 3,617 tons of household garbage this fiscal year, which is up 2.75% from last fiscal year. This resulted in an increase in tipping fees of \$6,450. Recycling became mandatory in September of 2012, therefore continued due diligence with removing recyclables from the household waste stream is much appreciated!

The Public Works Department collects paper, glass, plastics, tin, aluminum and cardboard from businesses for recycling. The department increased efforts to reduce the household garbage tonnage to the landfill and worked with local media to inform and educate the public for the need to improve our recycling efforts. In addition we worked to reduce/eliminate curbside bulky and yard waste pick-up to

have residents use the AVRRDD transfer station for these items.

Sanitary Sewer & Storm Collection Systems - The Engineering Design for Phase 2 of the Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Reduction Project. During wet weather events, significant volumes of I/I (storm water, groundwater, etc.) enter the City's sewer collection system, which results in combined sewer overflows (CSOs) at the Watson Street Pump Station. Excess flows discharge to the Androscoggin River. Means for reducing I/I include replacing sewer mains, re-routing illicit connections to the sewer system (sump pumps, perimeter and roof drains), and relining sewer mains. We plan to have another project ready for the 2019 construction season.

Disaster Recovery and Relief - Due to a severe storm event and subsequent flooding during the period of October 29 to November 1, 2017, a major disaster was declared by both Governor Sununu and President Trump, which included Berlin and all of Coos County.

We sustained a wide range of damage throughout the City from minor debris/tree removal to complete roadway washouts.



*Heritage Park



***Howland Street**

Through the FEMA Public Assistance Program, the City was awarded funding towards disaster relief efforts. This amount was approximately \$534,500 and represented 75% reimbursement towards the City's costs.



***Howland Street Repaired**

It should be noted that all City departments and citizens of Berlin did an exceptional job getting the community back on its feet. This is a testament to the community spirit that can only be found in Berlin!

Recreation and Parks Maintenance



Our major fields (Memorial, High School and Community College) have been well maintained with the help of Diamond Turf to guide us to keep up the good field condition. In working with Diamond Turf we continue to gain the valuable knowledge that will help us avoid the reoccurrence of the past issues of bug infestation. The fields are currently in tremendous shape even with the increased demands with the addition of youth and high school aged football and high school women's soccer for the past four seasons.

Projects in progress/completed the 2017-2018 Season.

The Rec. & Parks Maintenance crew replaced portions of the post and chain fencing along the New City Cemetery. This project will be completed in the summer 2019.



***New City Cemetery**

The Disaster Recovery & Relief efforts included many of the City parks/fields as well. The Parks & Rec Dept. spent many hours repairing the fields to pre-disaster conditions. These efforts included removing debris, fixing damage to infrastructure, and repairing the fields and playing surfaces.



*Community Field Flood



*Rotary Park

The Parks & Rec Department annually helps the Chamber of Commerce with many local events, including RiverFire and ATV Festivals.



The Skate Park project is currently in the final design stage, and it is anticipated that construction will begin in the fall of 2018.

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

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

- Continue with downtown x-mass 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/Rec. center, 2) First Ave. parking lots. 2) City Hall 3) Court House 4) Heritage Park 2 lots. 5) Bickford Place. 6) Memorial and Community Fields storage. 7) 5 skating rinks as weather permits.

Skating rinks are located at Green St., River St., Ramsey Park, Horne Field, and Hutchins Park. Everyday custodial duties are performed at the Rec. 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 for skating rink maintenance activities.

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 swept, and sod repairs) 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 Community and at Memorial and at the Glen Ave. 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 and games, 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 service them, but 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 at their fields and Jr. High games at Community and Horne Fields finish up their schedules. Grass mowing and trimming are everyday tasks. All places we maintain are: Track field, Memorial and Memorial Annex, Green St., Veterans Park, all downtown (Vodoukis, PSNH, Gill, Library, St. Anne, Dead River, all Pleasant St., Green St., and Cole St. islands, Tondreau,) parks, Cleveland Bridge road and Botanical gardens, Central Playground, Community Fields, Hutchins park, the ball field at Horne field and playground, Rotary Park, Brown School playground, Ramsey Park playground. – Full schedule of girls' softball (Bobcats) games at Horne Field, Cal Ripken at Community, and their respective tournaments. – Summer Soccer

league games at Community –summer playgrounds program and free lunches. Ongoing field maintenance at all fields that include, 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.)

-Very busy fall schedule of High School field hockey and soccer games and practices that start in August. Every day practices at Community Field and Community College field for JV and Varsity teams, with 10 home games for each team at the Track field. -7th and 8th grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at Horne field and Memorial Annex field -5th and 6th grade soccer and field hockey games and practices at Memorial and Community fields. New addition this fall was the addition of high school level football which had daily practices at Memorial Annex Field and for home games at Memorial Field.

– Rec. Dept. Soccer program at Green St. Field –repair worn areas of all fields and continue field maintenance program – put away all bleachers, nets, benches, picnic tables, summer equipment, etc. for winter. Crew does the downtown x-mass decorating and assists Main St. Program with their decorations also. We prepare areas for the five skating rinks.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Eric J. Grenier, PE
Public Works Director

