Auburn 2021 Annual Report to the Community

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A Note From the City Manager

Thank you for taking the time to review the City of Auburn’s 2021 Annual Report. Our team is excited to share with you the amazing work being done by our outstanding staff. Our staff is committed to serving each one of you. Our team is made up of some new faces and they bring a fresh perspective to old problems. We are also fortunate to have many employees who have served Auburn for several years. They bring a level of institutional knowledge that is valued beyond measure.

If I had to use a few words to describe the Annual Report, they would be caring, outreach, and sustainability.

Caring
• We truly care about our citizens
• We care about providing the information our elected officials need to make difficult policy decisions
• We care about serving our most vulnerable populations

Outreach
• Our mayor and councilors see the value in having community events
• Our outreach events strengthen our community in countless ways
• Our staff enjoys connecting with the community at events, public information sessions, and programs

Sustainability
• We must be able to control cost to our taxpayers
• We must be focused on renewable energy and climate impacts
• We must be focused on sustaining a strong workforce

Please enjoy this annual report. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Phil Crowell
City Manager
City Leadership

MAYOR
Mayor Jason J. Levesque
JLevesque@auburnmaine.gov

WARD 1
Councilor Richard S. Whiting
RWhiting@auburnmaine.gov

WARD 2
Councilor Ryan A. Hawes
RHawes@auburnmaine.gov

WARD 3
Councilor Stephen G. Milks
SMilks@auburnmaine.gov

WARD 4
Councilor Joseph R. Morin
J.Morin@auburnmaine.gov

WARD 5
Councilor Leroy G. Walker, Sr.
LWalker@auburnmaine.gov

AT-LARGE
Councilor Belinda A. Gerry
BGerry@auburnmaine.gov

AT-LARGE
Councilor Dana N. Staples
DStaples@auburnmaine.gov

CITY MANAGER
Phillip L. Crowell, Jr.
PCrowell@auburnmaine.gov

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
Brian Wood
BWood@auburnmaine.gov

Map by Rosemary Mosher
City Data Analytics & Visualization
Auburn By the Numbers
Interesting city-wide statistics for 2021

Auburn Police Department:
- Offenses: 2,919
- Total arrests: 1,313
- Motor vehicle crashes: 1,163
- Traffic stops: 5,008 (4,407 warnings / 601 citations / 15 arrests)
- Average speeding violation: 19MPH over the posted limit

Auburn Fire Department:
- Fire (non EMS) calls: 994
- EMS/Rescue calls: 4,796
- Structure fires (homes/apartments, schools, industry): 49
- Other fires (mobile property/outdoors): 75
- Civilian fire deaths: 0
- Civilian fire injuries: 6
- Estimated property loss from fire: $4,918,000
- Total EMS patient encounters: 4,409
- Total EMS transports: 3,411

Lewiston-Auburn 9-1-1 Communications:
- Calls for service generated: 101,996
- EMD performed: 10,727 total
- EFD performed: 2,880

Public Works:
- 12 New trees
- Swept 470 lane miles of road
- Cleaned 1,697 catch basins
- 23 Storm events as of 2/10/2022
- Plowed 470 lane miles of road
- Cleared 50 miles of sidewalked

Auburn Public Library
- Visitors to the library: 37,147
- Cardholders: 7,148
- New cards issued: 540
- Borrowed by other libraries: 17,799
- Programs attended: 7,431
- Visits to our website: 115,288
- Social media followers: 3,683

Human Resources
- Jobs advertised: 20
- Out-of-state applicants: 41
City Council Vision: Auburn will embrace possibilities and create opportunities.

Council Goals: We will make our vision a reality by...

- Planning for a better future
- Reclaiming our streets
- Making housing more attainable
- Enriching neighborhood identities
- Enacting resilient solutions
# Municipal Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Council Adopted Budget FY 19-20</th>
<th>Council Adopted Budget FY 20-21</th>
<th>Manager Proposed Budget FY 21-22</th>
<th>Council Adopted Budget FY 21-22</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>City Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>30,061,555</td>
<td>30,769,645</td>
<td>31,876,303</td>
<td>31,876,303</td>
<td>1,106,658</td>
<td>3.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service/TIF</td>
<td>10,384,493</td>
<td>10,627,538</td>
<td>10,783,972</td>
<td>10,783,972</td>
<td>156,434</td>
<td>1.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total City Expenses</td>
<td>40,446,048</td>
<td>41,397,183</td>
<td>42,660,275</td>
<td>42,660,275</td>
<td>1,263,092</td>
<td>3.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Expenses</td>
<td>44,594,669</td>
<td>45,120,245</td>
<td>46,227,214</td>
<td>46,227,214</td>
<td>1,106,969</td>
<td>2.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>742,768</td>
<td>682,367</td>
<td>2,114,152</td>
<td>2,114,152</td>
<td>1,431,785</td>
<td>209.83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total School Expenses</td>
<td>45,337,437</td>
<td>45,802,612</td>
<td>48,341,366</td>
<td>48,341,366</td>
<td>2,538,754</td>
<td>5.54%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intergovernmental</strong></td>
<td>1,926,442</td>
<td>1,905,442</td>
<td>1,833,479</td>
<td>1,833,479</td>
<td>(71,963)</td>
<td>-3.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Tax</td>
<td>2,482,721</td>
<td>2,629,938</td>
<td>2,611,080</td>
<td>2,611,080</td>
<td>(18,858)</td>
<td>-0.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Intergovernmental</td>
<td>4,409,163</td>
<td>4,535,380</td>
<td>4,444,559</td>
<td>4,444,559</td>
<td>(90,821)</td>
<td>-2.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>90,192,648</td>
<td>91,735,175</td>
<td>95,446,200</td>
<td>95,446,200</td>
<td>3,711,025</td>
<td>4.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less: Non-Tax Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>15,946,974</td>
<td>17,224,109</td>
<td>18,281,464</td>
<td>18,281,464</td>
<td>1,057,355</td>
<td>8.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>27,440,176</td>
<td>27,905,351</td>
<td>30,298,286</td>
<td>30,298,286</td>
<td>2,392,935</td>
<td>8.05%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>126,217</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(126,217)</td>
<td>-100.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Non-Tax Revenues</strong></td>
<td>43,387,150</td>
<td>45,255,677</td>
<td>48,579,750</td>
<td>48,579,750</td>
<td>3,450,290</td>
<td>7.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax Levy</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>24,499,074</td>
<td>24,174,074</td>
<td>24,378,811</td>
<td>24,531,955</td>
<td>204,737</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>17,897,261</td>
<td>17,897,261</td>
<td>18,043,080</td>
<td>18,043,080</td>
<td>145,819</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>4,409,163</td>
<td>4,409,163</td>
<td>4,444,559</td>
<td>4,444,559</td>
<td>35,396</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Tax Levy</strong></td>
<td>46,805,498</td>
<td>46,480,498</td>
<td>46,866,450</td>
<td>47,019,594</td>
<td>385,952</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assessed Value</strong></td>
<td>1,957,006,058</td>
<td>1,956,632,371</td>
<td>1,956,632,371</td>
<td>1,973,954,411</td>
<td>16,322,041</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax Rate</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>12.52</td>
<td>12.35</td>
<td>12.45</td>
<td>12.39</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>9.15</td>
<td>9.22</td>
<td>9.17</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>2.26</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>23.92</td>
<td>23.75</td>
<td>23.94</td>
<td>23.82</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>0.31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Auburn Rec the Numbers

Interesting recreation statistics for 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth sports programs</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth enrichment programs (childcare, summer camp, fishing derby)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth enrichment participants</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult programs (yoga, walking)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult program participants</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult sports leagues (basketball, softball, soccer)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult sports participants</td>
<td>1,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior programs (crafting, chair yoga, hikes, senior groups)</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior program participants</td>
<td>4,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Events (Winter Fest, Fright Fest, NYA, Farmers' Market)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic state-wide events (Bicentennial Parade)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special event participants</td>
<td>10,000+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail systems (private &amp; public)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City parks</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgrounds (city &amp; school)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boat launches</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres of land throughout Auburn</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs offered</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs canceled due to COVID 19</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs continued in response to COVID (GNG, senior kits, Auburn Adventures, snowshoe rentals)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
City Departments

Capital Investments & Purchasing
Engineering
City Clerk
City Manager
Communications & Community Engagement
Economic and Community Development
Economic Development
Business & Community Development
Planning, Permitting & Code
Finance
Assessing
Tax
Fire
Human Resources
Information Technology (IT)
Police
Public Works
Parks
Recreation & Sports Tourism
Recreation
Norway Savings Bank Arena
Ingersoll Turf Facility
School
9-1-1

Visit auburnmaine.gov to apply for a board/committee
Elections & Vital Records

It was a busy year for the City Clerk’s Office, with two elections and requests for vital records.

TWO ELECTIONS
June 8, 2021 School budget validation referendum election
Votes cast - 706  Voter Turnout - 4%

November 2, 2021 State referendum and municipal election
Votes cast - 5,981  Voter Turnout - 36%

LICENSES AND PERMITS
321 Business licenses issued
166 Garage sale permits issued
6 Taxi driver permits issued
110 Notary public services provided

VOTER REGISTRATION
357 New voters registered
522 Changed
545 Canceled

VITAL RECORDS
Birth certificates issued - 343
Death certificates issued - 1,789
Marriage certificates issued - 398
Burial permits issued - 221
Marriage licenses issued - 151
Auburn is a caring community; a place where neighbors take care of neighbors and city hall is a place to turn for help. City leadership, council and staff take deep pride in our service to the people of this community.

In 2021, with federal, state and local funding, and together with local businesses, generous corporate partners and incredible community volunteers, the City of Auburn was able to provide support, relief and assistance to those who needed it the most.

Grant Funding
From January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, the City of Auburn received $7,224,566.75 in grant funding. This amount includes Parks & Recreation related grants, COVID 19, as well as Police and Fire Department grants.

Sandbuckets for Seniors
Auburn Public Works delivered more than 250 buckets of sand to Auburn seniors during the winter.

HOME Rehabilitation Loans
$95,906 in Federal HOME rehabilitation loans & grants to low/moderate income homeowners.

Forgivable Loans
The City provided $63,750 in CDBG forgivable loans to 4 businesses (start-up or affected by the pandemic).

Building Rehabilitation
The City provided $203,743 in Federal CDBG funds in loans & grants to rehabilitate rental units across Auburn.

Community Development Block Grant
The city provided $121,498.30 in Federal CDBG funds in the form of grants to local public service providers, including Promise Early Education, Safe Voices, Tedford Housing, Community Youth Services, Literacy Volunteers, St. Mary’s Nutrition Center, Auburn Rec Summer Camp Scholarships, and the “Work with Me” program through the Auburn Police Department.
A Year to Remember
A look back at some of Auburn’s most memorable moments from 2021

1 January
- Winter Festival
- Mayor Delivers “State of the City” address

2 February
- Auburn turns 152 years old

3 March
- Opened COVID 19 vaccine site at Auburn Mall
- Auburn Senior Community Center receives an award from the MRPA

4 April
- Community clean-up event held by the Auburn Conservation Commission

5 May
- Auburn’s Strategic Plan wins an award from AVCOG

6 June
- “Block Party” on Whitney St. to build beds for Auburn’s newest Community Garden
- Summer Acoustic Music Series kicks off in Anniversary Park

July
- Liberty Festival fireworks
- Public Art Installation of “The Fish” in Anniversary Park

August
- Auburn hosts Maine’s bicentennial parade
- Auburn Community Band celebrates 40th concert season

September
- Public art installation of “Bud Form” in Longley Park
- Riverwalk Blues & Brews Festival

October
- Sustainable Auburn matching rebate program launches
- The City of Auburn’s first futsal court is completed in “The Gully”

November
- Auburn partners with L-A Metro Chamber and Staples Connect to launch “StartUp Auburn”
- The City of Auburn presents the Fair Housing Matters summit

December
- Auburn holds the Inauguration Ceremony for our mayor, city council & school committee
- The Auburn Police Department celebrates K9 Rocky’s retirement
- 3rd Annual New Year’s Auburn celebration
Auburn Community Gardens

Grow with your neighbors! Auburn’s community gardens produce fresh fruits and vegetables for residents. With three locations throughout the city, the work put into these gardens is helping to grow a healthier and more sustainable Auburn.

**Garden Locations:**

61 Webster Street - 24 plots consisting of 4x10 foot raised beds.

88 Newbury Street - 40 raised beds approximately 4X10 feet each.

115 Whitney Street - 24 raised beds approximately 4X10 feet each.

For more information on how to participate please visit the Auburn Community Gardens webpage, email Auburncommunitygardens@gmail.com or call (207) 200-7101.
Trash, Recycling & Composting

TRASH & RECYCLING
The City of Auburn provides trash and recycling collection Monday through Friday, with the occasional exceptions for holidays.

Please remember to have all trash & recycling curbside no earlier than 6pm the night before or by 7am on collection day.

To see when your day is, click here.

RECYCLABLE MATERIALS:
- Clear & Colored glass
- #1-7 Plastic
- Tin Cans
- Cardboard
- Newspapers & Magazines
- Mixed paper

Find and download the recycling calendar here.

COMPOSTING
In 2021, Auburn announced our new composting program. Residents can drop compostable materials at Public Works (296 Gracelawn) or the New Auburn Fire Station (181 South Main).

Composting is simple and environmentally friendly. It’s also a great way to lower greenhouse emissions, regenerate soil, revitalize water sources and foster food security in the future.
Sustainable Auburn

Auburn is committed to becoming a cleaner, greener city. Since 2013, the city has made a conscious effort to apply a “sustainable lens” when making decisions on purchasing, energy consumption and usage, vehicles, infrastructure and much more. Below are the changes we’ve made to create a cleaner future for Auburn.

Natural Gas Conversion
Natural gas systems have now been installed in several major city facilities. **Savings:** $100,000 +/- per year

LED Lighting Upgrades
Lighting within city buildings has been converted to LED. **Savings:** $25,000 +/- per year

Street Light Project
The city purchased every streetlight from CMP and converted them to LED, and added “smart controls.” **Savings:** $200,000 +/- per year

Hydropower
Auburn is one of the first municipalities in Maine to move to hydropower. As much as half of the city’s electrical needs will be met through clean, renewable hydropower, all of it locally generated at Hackett Mills. **Savings:** $100,000-150,000 per year
Electric Vehicles
The city has begun to invest in clean, efficient electric vehicles. Currently, we have 2 but are working on expanding our fleet. These vehicles are more efficient and boast zero emissions.

EV Charging Stations
The city installed six electric vehicle charging stations in the Mechanics Row Parking Garage.

AI Solution - “Brainbox”
Auburn Hall’s HVAC system has been enhanced by technology. The AI automatically adjusts for efficiency & comfort, resulting in less usage.

Solar
As soon as 2022, additional power for city facilities and infrastructure will come from a solar site under construction in Shapleigh. By the end of 2023, we estimate that 70-80% of Auburn’s total electric load will be sourced from clean, renewable LOCAL energy providers. **Savings: $30,000 per year**

Other Sustainability Initiatives

Matching Rebate Program
The city is proud to offer the Sustainable Auburn Matching Rebate Program. As of the end of 2021, the city has paid Auburn residents approximately $22,000 in matching rebate program.

Composting
In 2021, Auburn announced a new composting program, with two locations for residents to drop off.

More to Come...
- Additional EV charging stations
- Additional EVs in other city departments
- Explore other renewable energy solutions
- Increased public education
In 2021, the City of Auburn kept up its efforts to provide COVID relief, support and assistance to our community. Below are some of the incredible programs we’ve been able to offer residents.

- High-volume vaccination site launches at the Auburn Mall. During its year-long run, 60,000+ vaccines were administered.

- The City of Auburn and Auburn Recreation team up to create “Grab ‘n’ Go” initiative, which provides families and seniors in need with FREE meals and groceries.

- "Auburn Adventures" childcare program offers FREE daycare for children in grades K-6 on remote learning days.

- Auburn Schools serve FREE breakfast and lunch to students.

- Auburn creates an online hub for local businesses to list hours, availability of web orders, phone orders, pickup, takeout, gift cards, and other accommodations.
Municipal Directory

Auburn Hall
60 Court Street | 207.333.6601
Assessing: X1133
Capital Investment & Purchasing: X2156
City Clerk’s Office: X1121
City Manager’s Office: X1222
Community Development: X1157
Communications Dept.: X2070
Economic Development: X1133
Engineering: X1140
Finance Department: X1404
General Assistance: X1411
Human Resources: X1414
Information Technology: X1069
Planning, Permitting & Code: X1133
Tax Office: X1178

Fire Department
550 Minot Avenue | 207.333.6633

Police Department
60 Court Street | 207.333.6650

L-A 9-1-1
552 Minot Avenue | 207.786.5380

Public Works
296 Gracelawn | 207.333.6670

Recreation & Sports Tourism
48 Pettengill Park Rd. | 207.333.6611

Ingersoll Turf Facility
48 Pettengill Park Rd. | 207.333.6601
X2100

Norway Savings Bank Arena
985 Turner Street | 207.333.6688

School Department
60 Court Street | 207.784-6431

Auburn Public Library
49 Spring Street | 207.333-6640
Mark Your Calendar

Exciting events coming up in Auburn Now-December 2022

**April (Apr)**
- Spring Celebration

**May (May)**
- Auburn PD Bike Rodeo
- Riverfest Regatta
- Makers’ Fair
- Art in the Park
- Auburn Community Concert Series (Wednesdays)

**June (Jun)**
- Acoustic Music Series in Anniversary Park (Tuesdays)
- Movies in the Park (Wednesdays)
- Liberty Festival

**July (Jul)**
- Acoustic Music Series in Anniversary Park (Tuesdays)
- National Night Out

**August (Aug)**
- Acoustic Music Series in Anniversary Park (Tuesdays)
- Riverwalk Blues & Brews Festival

**September (Sep)**
- Fright Fest

**October (Oct)**
- Fright Fest

**December (Dec)**
- Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting
Connect with Us!

There are many ways to connect with the City of Auburn. Visit us in person at 60 Court Street or visit us online at www.auburnmaine.gov.

You can also get “social” with us:

- **Facebook**: “City of Auburn Maine”
- **Twitter**: “AuburnMaineGov”
- **Instagram**: “auburnmaine”
- **YouTube**: “City of Auburn, Maine”
- **LinkedIn**: “City of Auburn, Maine (official)”
- **Great Falls TV**: Cable Channel 11

Don’t miss out! Stream the Council meetings live or watch them later by clicking here.