

## PRESS RELEASE

February 1, 2022

Lewiston's new athletic park on Bartlett Street will be celebrated in multiple ways on Saturday, February 12, 2022, from 1 – 4 p.m. hosted by the City of Lewiston and Healthy Neighborhoods.

The family-fun afternoon will commence with Mayor Carl Sheline and Cadence Nadeau of the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) announcing the park's new name—the result of a naming contest that LYAC launched in November 2021. Thirty-nine name suggestions were submitted. Nadeau notes, ***“This park is a great addition to the Lewiston community! It will be a beautiful gathering space, and I can't wait to join the Mayor in announcing the new park name.”***

The event will also feature a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the park's sledding hill, and then sledding will begin, with LYAC members leading the descent! Attendees are encouraged to bring their own sleds, although the Lewiston Police Athletic League (PAL) has contributed funding to provide extra sleds on site.

Mayor Carl Sheline is eagerly looking forward to joining the celebration, ***“Our new city park and sledding hill represent positive investment in making Lewiston a great place to live and work. I can't wait to go sledding!”***

In addition to Sheline & Nadeau speaking, Ashley Medina, President of the Healthy Neighborhoods Board of Directors, will share comments, as well as hopefully comments by a surprise guest!

In anticipation of the event, Medina notes, ***“We are thrilled to be part of unveiling this first new asset from the Choice Neighborhoods grant. The idea for a family sledding hill came out of community conversations with downtown residents about what new things they'd like to see in their neighborhood, and it's so exciting to see that idea come to life! It's a great example of how when neighbors come together and City officials support that effort, great things can happen. We are so happy to be hosting this grand opening with the City and to be able to bring the community together during this time of isolation, to celebrate this great new community resource and to encourage people to enjoy and help take care of it.”***

City Administrator Heather Hunter is also looking forward to the festivities, ***“This is a wonderful winter asset located in the heart of the downtown where kids of all ages can enjoy fresh air and the thrill of downhill sledding.”***

The afternoon will also include: free cold-weather clothing & gear; free hot cocoa & donuts; snow sculpture building; and voting to choose new public art sculptures. Attendees may park at the former Longley School, 145 Birch Street, and follow signage to the gathering. Tips for sledding safety can be found at [www.lewistonmaine.gov/sledsafety](http://www.lewistonmaine.gov/sledsafety) More info on the event itself is available at Facebook link: [bit.ly/lewistonsleds](https://bit.ly/lewistonsleds).