

## CITY OF SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE



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#### General

The City of South Portland is located on the southern coast of the State of Maine in the southeastern section of the County of Cumberland, the State's most populous county. The land area of the City consists of residential, local business, industrial and coastal land areas with a total area embracing 12.93 square miles, supporting a population of 23,473 residents. A city charter was granted on March 22, 1898 and adopted on December 5, 1898 as the City of South Portland. South Portland is the fourth largest city in Maine and the second largest in its region. Once principally a residential community, the City now enjoys a diversified commercial, industrial and advanced technology aspect to its economy. The City comprises several villages, all being contiguous to another, the major neighborhoods being: Cash Corner, Country Gardens, Ferry Village, Knightville, Ligonias, Loveitt's Field, Meadowbrook, Meetinghouse Hill, Ocean Street, Pleasantdale, Redbank, Stanwood Park, Sunset Park, Thornton Heights and Willard.

The Fore River separates South Portland from the City of Portland for a major portion of its northern border. The remaining portion of the City's northern border is formed by the land portion of the Portland/South Portland line and a portion of the City of Westbrook. South Portland is bordered by the towns of Scarborough at its southwest and Cape Elizabeth at its southeast. The Atlantic Ocean forms South Portland's eastern border as Portland Harbor and Casco Bay. Convenient access to South Portland is provided by Exits 44 and 45 of U.S. Interstate Route 95 (the Maine Turnpike), which diagonally intersects the City's northwestern plain; the U.S. Interstate Route 295 spur, which bisects the City through its western region; U.S. Route 1, which flows through the center of South Portland; State Route 9, which enters the southern section of the City as part of U.S. Route 1 and then departs to the City's northwest; and State Route 77, which intersects the City's eastern plain in a north-south direction, to cross on the Casco Bay Bridge, connecting South Portland and Portland.

The area of which the City is comprised was originally the northern part of the Town of Cape Elizabeth. This area was first settled with a trading station being established in 1627 on Richmond Island. A grant of land on the mainland near the Spurwink River was conveyed

in 1631 and in 1632 development of the Spurwink settlements began. The Colonial and native population conflicts forced abandonment of the area for several lengthy periods from 1675 to 1713. Old Falmouth was incorporated in 1718, forming the area now encompassing the Cities of Portland, South Portland and Westbrook and the Towns of Cape Elizabeth and Falmouth. Due to the inconvenience of crossing the Fore River, Cape Elizabeth (then including the City) became established as the Second Parish of Falmouth in 1733, and on November 1, 1765 separated from Falmouth, being incorporated as the Town of Cape Elizabeth. On March 15, 1895 South Portland divided and set off the northern portion of Cape Elizabeth to become a town.

The City's port area serves as major distribution facility for foreign oil shipments for transmission to Canada as well as refined products for domestic consumption. The Maine Mall in South Portland forms the hub of the largest shopping district in the State. The City is the location for Willard Beach, Bug Light, Spring Point Light, the Southern Maine Community College campus and numerous marinas. Fairchild Semiconductor and National Semiconductor Corporation manufacture sophisticated electronic circuits used in personal computers, laptops computers, cellular phones and other devices.

## **Government**

The City operates under a charter initially adopted December 5, 1898, as amended, most recently in November 2004 (the "Charter") providing for a Council-Manager form of government with a seven-member City Council. The Council is composed of seven members, one elected from each of the City's five voting districts, and two members who are elected at-large. The Council members are elected for three-year staggered terms. The Charter grants to the City Council all powers to enact, amend, or repeal rules, ordinances and resolutions relating to the City's property, affairs and government, to preserve the public peace, health and safety, to establish personnel policies and giving effect to any vote of the City and to authorize the issuance of debt subject to referendum approval by the voters of the City. Through its Charter, the Council adopts an annual budget and provides for an annual audit.

The City Manager is the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the City government.

## **Municipal Services**

The City provides general governmental services for the territory within its boundaries, including police and fire protection, maintenance of highways, streets and sidewalks, parks, recreation, library and coastal areas, sewer service and wastewater treatment. The City also operates a public bus service. Public education is provided under the City's supervision for grades Kindergarten ("K") through 12.

Water service is provided by the Portland Water District, a quasi-municipal entity whose operations and direct obligations are not part of the City.

***Public Safety***

The Police Department is staffed by fifty-three sworn officers, nine dispatchers and four support staff.

The Fire Department is staffed by 64 full-time employees and supplemented by 51 call company personnel. The Fire Department operates from three fully staffed stations -- Central, Cash Corner and Western Ave as well as two call company stations -- Willard Hose and Thornton Heights.

***Parks, Recreation and Public Works***

The Parks and Recreation Divisions provide services which improve the quality of life for the residents of South Portland.

The Parks Division is responsible for grounds maintenance and upkeep of all City parks, the nine-hole Municipal Golf Course, school athletic complexes, Greenbelt Walkway, Wainwright Fields and Spring Point Shoreway as well as forestry activities.

The Recreation Division is responsible for providing a number of diverse recreational and leisure activities for the community. This includes programming of aquatic activities at the Municipal Swimming Pool, a variety of recreation and special events including basketball, tennis, softball leagues, dance and ballet, recreation camps, supervision of the Clubhouse activities at the Municipal Golf Course and other activities. The Parks and Recreation Divisions are staffed with roughly 40 full and permanent part-time employees augmented by hundreds of temporary and seasonal employees.

The Public Works Department provides for all summer and winter road and sidewalk maintenance, weekly residential rubbish collection and disposal, operations of recycling/transfer facility, esplanade repairs and street and traffic signs. The Department is staffed with a Director and 20 full time and 5 temporary employees, supplemented by temporary seasonal employees and private contractors.

***Sewerage and Stormwater***

The Water Resource Protection Department manages all administrative, operations, and maintenance functions of the storm and sewer collection and treatment systems or publicly owned treatment works (POTW) within the City. The department is organized into three working divisions; Treatment Systems Division, Collection Systems Division, and Engineering. Each division has a responsibility for Industrial Pretreatment, Stormwater Management, and CSO programs that supplement the mission of collection and treatment of waterborne pollutants. The Water Resource Protection Department is staffed by a Director and 26 employees. The POTW is made up of one 9.3 mgd treatment plant, 30 pump stations and approximately 170 miles of sewer and storm collection systems. The department continues to progress toward continued implementation and completion of the treatment plant, pump stations, and combined sewer overflow facility plans that have been developed for regulatory compliance, modernization, and capacity maximization of the city's POTW.

The Treatment Plant System is established as an Enterprise Activity in that the intent of the City is to provide certain services on a continuing basis financed entirely through user charges. Fees are charged to System users which provide sufficient revenue to the Treatment Plant Sewer User Fund for operations, including debt repayment, of this activity.

### ***South Portland Public Library***

The South Portland Library was constructed at its present location in 1966, and a branch was built in 1976. As the fourth largest public library in Maine and 2005 winner of the Maine Library Excellence Award, South Portland Public Library offers access to over 115,000 items at its Main and Branch libraries. The library department offers library service seven days a week. Included are special services to the homebound, summer reading programs for adults and children, and unique discussion groups that address conversational French and philosophical exploration. Inspired by Children's Author James Otis Kaler, South Portland Public Library maintains a list of South Portland authors and highlights them at The Author Speaks... Series. The Library website is [www.southportlandlibrary.com](http://www.southportlandlibrary.com). The two libraries circulate 225,000 items annually and are staffed by five full-time and thirteen part-time employees. The Library Director is appointed by the City Manager and is guided by an Advisory Board. The Board members are appointed by the City Council for three-year terms. The library is a department of the City with the budget being a component of the municipal appropriation process.

### ***Public Education***

The City operates its educational program for grades K through 12 under its own supervision. Article IX of the City's Charter, as amended, provides that the Department of Education for the City be administered by a Board of Education comprised of seven members, one elected from each of the City's five voting districts, and two members who are elected at-large. The Board of Education members are elected for three-year staggered terms. The Board performs all duties and functions in regard to the care and management of the public schools of the City including preparation and submission of its budget to the City Manager, who includes it in the budget process. The School's staff consists of a Superintendent, 8 full-time principals, 5 full-time assistant principals and 306 full-time equivalent teachers.

### ***South Portland Bus Service***

The South Portland Bus Service operates a fleet of seven 30-foot, handicapped accessible, transit buses which provide direct, fixed-route bus service over three routes through the City of South Portland, the City of Portland and the Maine Mall area in Scarborough. The Bus Service is managed by a Director and staffed by 13 employees. The Bus Service operates 17 hours per day, Monday thru Friday, with reduced hours on Saturday. It provided 211,634 passenger trips in FY11.

The following table provides employment figures in various City departments.

**Police Department – 69**

Chief	1	Court Officer	1	Detectives	4
Deputy Chief	1	School Resource Officers	1	Patrol	30
Lieutenants	3	MDEA	2	Animal Control	1
Sergeants	6	Dispatchers	9	Evidence Technician	1
Community Response	3			Support Staff	4

**Fire Department – 64**

Chief	1
Deputy Chief	3
Captains	3
Lieutenants	9
Firefighters	46
EMS Coordinator	1
Support Staff	1

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**Other Departments**

Library (7 FT – 11 PT)	18
Parks & Recreation (FT and PT)	40
Public Works (21 FT – 5 TEMP)	26
Water Resource Protection	27
Bus Service	14

**School Department – 542– Full and part-time – 2011/12**

Teachers	306
Principals	8
Assistant Principals	5
Other	223

## School Enrollment Trend

The City's schools are listed as follows:

School	Grades	Estimated Capacity	2011/2012 Enrollment
<b>Elementary Schools</b>			
Frank I. Brown	K - 5	260	288
Helena H. Dyer	K - 5	240	304
Kaler	K - 5	240	181
Skillin	K - 5	360	421
Dora L. Small	K - 5	260	340
<b>Middle Schools</b>			
Daniel F. Mahoney Middle	6 - 8	450	331
Memorial Middle	6 - 8	450	376
<b>Secondary Schools</b>			
South Portland High	9 - 12	1,200	873
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3,480</b>	<b>3,114</b>

Source: The City of South Portland School Department.

## Building Activity

The following shows the trend of the City's building activity.

FY End June 30,	New Construction	Alterations	Total
1990	\$21,012,740	\$5,286,216	\$26,298,956
1991	19,084,941	5,496,591	24,581,532
1992	5,869,651	6,513,260	12,382,911
1993	12,759,438	5,046,020	17,805,458
1994	16,663,253	9,402,668	26,065,921
1995	8,917,137	9,213,469	18,130,606
1996	58,606,789	8,795,325	67,402,114
1997	18,260,573	12,814,860	31,075,433
1998	10,652,540	10,429,257	21,081,797
1999	14,622,169	12,014,137	26,636,306
2000	17,323,039	15,056,958	32,379,977
2001	23,784,876	19,976,480	43,752,356
2002	10,355,145	19,416,341	29,771,486
2003	48,031,348	15,035,127	63,066,475
2004	22,844,810	19,821,229	42,666,039
2005	21,573,491	29,977,433	51,550,924
2006	19,970,163	21,527,297	41,497,460
2007	30,875,553	11,974,855	42,850,408
2008	10,759,460	22,129,167	32,889,427
2009	7,360,574	8,554,657	15,915,231
2010	7,010,044	9,407,736	16,417,780
2011	9,425,423	13,068,484	22,493,907

Source: City of South Portland

## Labor Relations

The City employs approximately 1074 employees that are either full, part-time, permanent part-time (set hours or no set hours), seasonal and temporary. Of these, there are approximately 310 full and part-time. City employees not included in the below table are not represented by unions. The School Department has 542 employees. The contracts for the various bargaining units represented by a union are effective and expire as follows:

Union	Employed	Unit	Effective	Expire
AFSCME (AFL/CIO)	30	Parks, Public Works	7/1/2009	6/30/2012
SPFCO	12	Fire Command Officers	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPPCSU(MAP)	9	Police Command Officers	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
IAFF 1476	12	Dispatch	7/1/2009	6/30/2012
IAFF (AFL/CIO)	48	Firefighters	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
AFSCME (AFL/CIO)	11	Bus Operators	No Agreement	
SPPPA (MAP)	42	Police Patrolmen	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPAA	13	School Administrators	7/1/2011	6/30/2014
SPTA (MEA)	306	School Teachers	9/1/2010	6/30/2012
SPESPA (MEA)	133	Education Techs, & Clerks	9/1/2010	8/31/2013
SPSEA(MEA)	90	Maintenance, Transportation & Food Service	7/1/2007	6/30/2011

## Largest Employers

A representative list of the City's largest employers are listed as follows:

Name	Business	Approximate Average # of Employees
UnumProvident Life Insurance Co.	Insurance	3,180
National Semiconductor/Fairchild	Mfg. Semiconductors	1,645
Anthem/Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Maine	Health insurance	1000
City of South Portland	Municipal government	1074
Southern Maine Community College	College	180
Wright Express	Fleet & corporate charge cards	670
Marriott Corp.	Hotel	160
Macy's	Retail sales	150
Portland News Co.	Wholesale distributor	150
J.C. Penny Co.	Retail sales	145
United Parcel Service	Package delivery	140

## Economic Development

### *National Semiconductor/Fairchild Expansion*

National Semiconductor has completed the acquisition, installation and construction of an eight-inch wafer fabrication facility at a site acquired on Western Avenue. The National Semiconductor Capital Program involved construction of a 483,000 square foot modular facility that

cost approximately \$28,000,000; and included the acquisition and installation by National Semiconductor of approximately \$800,000,000 of new process fixtures, machinery and equipment relating to eight-inch wafer technology used by National Semiconductor at the South Portland facility. The assessed value of the project was \$446,871,400 as of April 1, 1998. Full commercial production capacity started in autumn of 1998. The chip-making line at the South Portland plant represents the corporation's most technologically advanced production facilities and the largest industrial investment ever in Maine. The semiconductor chips made from the eight-inch wafers carry sophisticated electronic circuits used in personal computers, laptops, cellular phones and other devices. In March 1997, National Semiconductor sold its Fairchild Semiconductor division. Fairchild Semiconductor operates as an autonomous semiconductor facility with its worldwide headquarters located in South Portland, Maine.

#### *Maine Mall Shopping Center*

The Maine Mall Shopping Center, opened in 1971, forms the hub of the largest shopping district in the State. Situated on 98 acres, the Maine Mall consists of approximately 140 stores and 18 restaurants employing more than 3,000 people. A \$30 million expansion project in the mid-1980's has made the mall complex one of the largest enclosed facilities of its kind in New England.

The success of the Maine Mall has stimulated adjacent shopping areas including the Shops at Clark's Pond, the Mall Plaza, Mallside shopping center and Hannaford Plaza. The combined shopping areas, including the Maine Mall, encompass approximately 165.33 acres. In other areas of the City, the Knightville and Mill Creek shopping areas provide additional retail sales. The Mill Creek Shopping Center and the Shaw's Mill Creek Plaza have both undergone renovations totaling \$4.5 million.