

Fort Williams Picnic Shelter Proposed Landscape Improvements

Submitted by the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth
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Overview

The Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth proposes improvements to the landscape at the picnic shelter at Fort Williams. The proposed improvements are consistent with the Fort Williams Master Plan prepared by Mitchell and Associates (2011). See attachment #1.

The picnic shelter was donated to the Town of Cape Elizabeth by the SP-CE Rotary Club in 1981. The site is heavily used as a rental space for gatherings and celebrations. Situated on a promontory, the shelter provides beautiful views of the Bay.

The site is in need of some attention. In the intervening years since the shelter was first erected, the site has become eroded both in its access path from the parking lot and the circulation immediately around the structure. The Rotary Club would like to be part of bringing the site up to a level worthy of Fort Williams Park.

Funding:

Some or all of the funding for the first two phases (see below) would be provided by the SP-CE Rotary Club. The Club has a long history of funding projects at Ft Williams (see attached sheet). Funding for Phase 3 is to be determined.

Schedule:

The schedule and order of phases are open to discussion and input. One option is to phase the project over three years, with one phase per year.

Phase 1: New patio area– south side:

Major funding to be provided by Rotary

Demolish the asphalt apron that leads up to the south side of the structure and replace with a bluestone patio that reflects the existing patio on the north side. A new patio, as proposed in the Fort Williams Master Plan, will provide space to move picnic tables on sunny days.

Rough Cost Estimate: \$15,000-20,000

Phase 2: New pathways and plantings**Major funding to be provided by Rotary**

Stone dust pathways, similar to those at Cliff Walk, would replace the eroded grass around the structure. New plantings of shrubs and perennials on either side of the new proposed patio would soften the building and provide shelter and food sources for pollinators. A grove of trees on the south side of the building will reflect the existing grove of birch trees on the north side and provide some shade. The Cape Elizabeth Tree Warden will be consulted on tree selection for the site.

Rough Cost Estimate Walkways: \$7,000-9,000

Plantings: \$4,000-\$5,0000

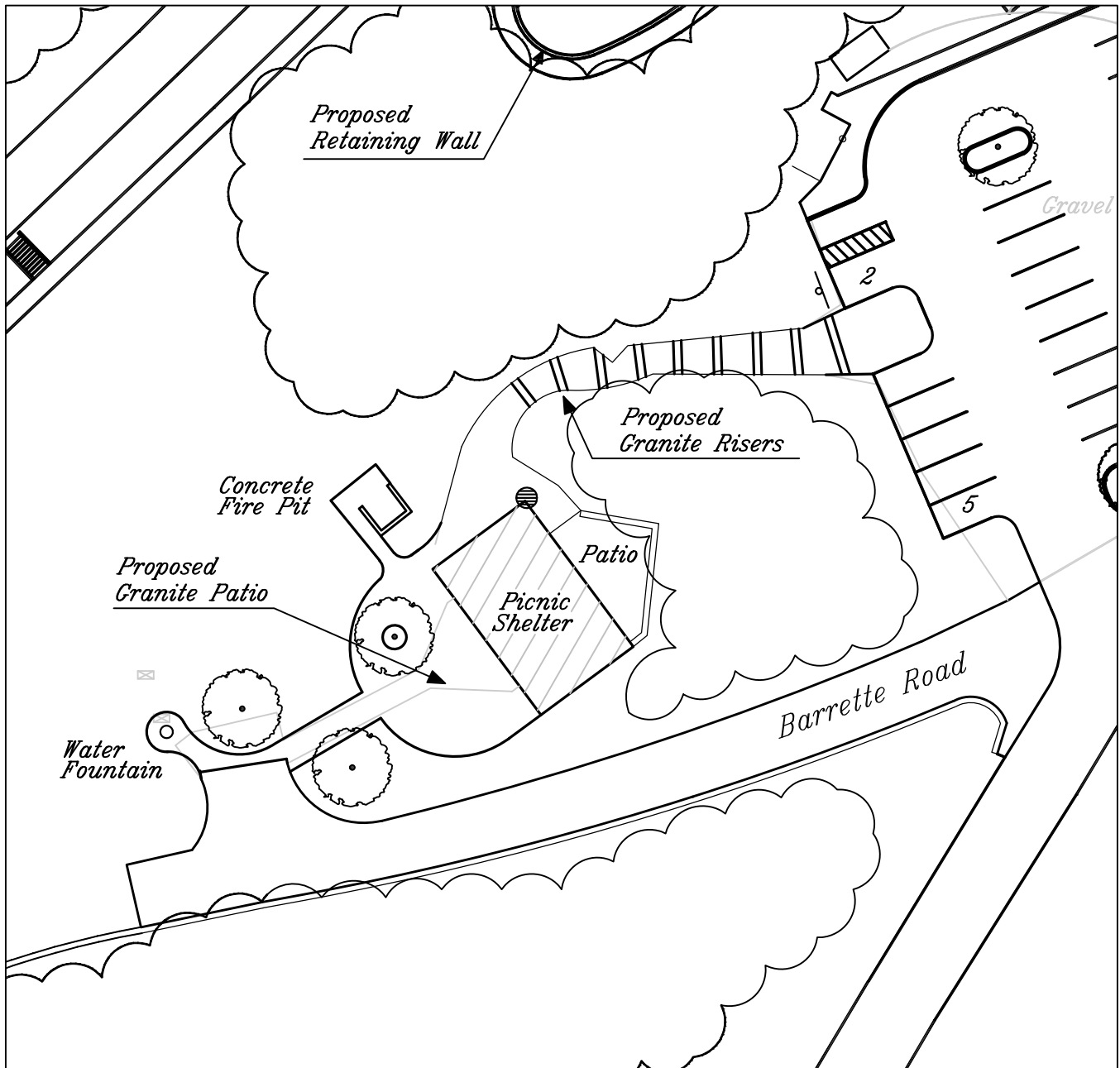
Phase 3: Improve the access path from the parking lot**Funding: TBD with potential Rotary involvement**

The existing access path from the parking lot is in poor condition. It is heavily eroded and very steep making it a challenge for anyone with mobility issues. If the existing access path is to continue to be used in the future, a staircase of stone steps and a handrail would improve safety. Further study and discussion is needed to determine the best course of action.

Alternate route: discontinue use of the current access path through plantings and re-route pedestrian traffic up existing paved roadway.

Cost Estimate: TBD

8.13 - Picnic Shelter Patio Concept









Description:

The relatively flat terrain on the southwestern side of the picnic shelter offers a great opportunity to provide expanded outdoor seating and patio space to use with the shelter. This area also serves as the vehicular access point for unloading supplies to use for rental activities.



South Portland – Cape Elizabeth Rotary
Involvement with Fort Williams

The South Portland – Cape Elizabeth Rotary club was founded in the same year that Fort Williams was de-activated. The club has been a faithful supporter of the Park throughout its existence. Major projects that have been supported by the club include:

-  Construction of the picnic shelter in 1980 - \$10,000
-  Purchase of the flagpole at the top of the hill in 1988 - \$3,500
-  Funding for an exhibit in the Museum in 1994 - \$8,000
-  Pond restoration work in 1999/2000 - \$12,000
-  Funding for the initial design of the Children's Garden in 2012 - \$17,500
-  Additional funding to bring Children's Garden to its goal in 2015 - \$5,000

In addition, we have taken on projects (involving labor and/or funds) that were smaller in scope from time to time. For instance in our current fiscal year (July 2015 – June 2016) we have painted the garage doors on the Fire Barn (labor + \$250), contracted to have the graffiti removed from the Fire Barn (\$870) and arranged for the purchase of the new flagpole in front of the lighthouse (\$1,000 donation from Bath Savings Institution + \$841.38 donation from our club).

In addition to the club's official involvement with the park, many club members have individually been supporters of the park in various capacities.