



## **Memorandum**

TO: Cape Elizabeth Town Council  
FROM: Fort Williams Park Foundation  
SUBJECT: Full Project Approval for the Cliff Walk Landscape  
DATE: July 9, 2018

### **Cliff Walk Landscape, Phase IV of the Arboretum Project**

#### **Project Update**

OBP Trailworks recently completed installation of the entire network of trails and overlooks. The trail begins from the south at the top of the pre-existing wooden steps that lead from the lighthouse vendor plaza to Battery Knoll, and it ends with a new set of stone steps that leads from Battery Knoll back down to the Cliff Walk at the south end of Cliffside.

Along the way, the trail connects three new overlooks; two of them oriented towards the lighthouses, islands and ocean, and the third a shady, cool retreat overlooking a great oak, with a glimpse of the lighthouse to the south. All spaces provide seating.

Since presenting the project to the Council last August 2017, we have made significant progress in controlling invasive plants across the site. This has involved multiple teams of corporate and school volunteers working with staff to cut back and haul honeysuckle shrubs and bittersweet vines, followed by applications of herbicides by Vegetation Control Services of Athol, MA. We also hosted the entire 7<sup>th</sup> grade from Cape Elizabeth Middle School, split into competitive teams to harvest seed pods and capsules from invasive plants, to reduce the proliferation of seeds across the site.

VCS returned this past May with a high-powered excavator mower to mow and chip thickets of invasive shrubs and vines. Cuttings were chipped on-site to serve as a natural mulch, preventing erosion and rebuilding soil life. Any re-sprouting plants mowed in May will be treated with herbicides this fall. In mid-June, VCS applied herbicides to black swallow-wort and poison ivy.

#### **Request for Approval to Complete Ecological Restoration**

As all the built components of this project are now complete, we would like to focus exclusively on continuing the multi-year restoration of the site's ecology.

Having received full project approval from the Fort William Park Committee on April 27, 2017, the Foundation requests full project approval from the Town Council, with the understanding that the Foundation will honor its agreement with the Committee by checking in each year - before continuing work - to show available cash on-hand and the scope of restoration adjusted accordingly.

Please refer to the budget summary for EXPENSES – ONGOING WORK, which includes total expenses, paid expenses, and remaining expenses spread across the next four fiscal years. Note that all proposed work is to be paid in full by the Fort Williams Park Foundation, with no financial assistance from the Town of Cape Elizabeth.



**BUDGET SUMMARY for the CLIFF WALK LANDSCAPE PROJECT: Phase IV of the Arboretum Project**  
July 2, 2018

**EXPENSES - COMPLETED WORK**

	Expense	Paid	In-Kind	Remaining
<b>Planning</b>				
Survey (completed by Owen Haskell in January 2013)	\$3,500	\$3,500	N/A	\$0
Landscape Management Plan (completed by Regina Leonard in June 2015)	\$10,000	\$10,000	N/A	\$0
<b>Site Amenities for Passive Recreation</b>				
Trails & Overlooks (completed by OBP Trailworks in June 2018; <i>In-Kind = \$4,000 from OBP Trailworks + \$500 from Phineas Sprague, Jr</i> )	\$58,820	\$54,320	\$4,500	\$0
<b>TOTALS for COMPLETED WORK</b>	<b>\$72,320</b>	<b>\$67,820</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENSES - ONGOING WORK**

	Expense	Paid	In-Kind	Remaining
<b>Education</b>				
Interpretive Signage (Qty 2)	\$5,448	\$1,750	TBD	\$3,698
Plant Labels (Qty 200)	\$2,000	\$0	TBD	\$2,000
<b>Restoration *</b>				
Invasive Plant Control (phased over next 4 years: professional mowing & herbicide applications by Vegetation Control Services)	\$64,400	\$13,150	TBD	\$51,250
Native Plant Communities (phased over next 4 years: erosion-control, amendments, extended water line, plants <seeds, plugs, container-grown>)	\$91,730	\$1,650	TBD	\$90,080
<b>TOTALS for ONGOING WORK</b>	<b>\$163,578</b>	<b>\$16,550</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>\$147,028</b>

**FY 2019 FY 2020 FY 2021 FY 2022**

\$3,698	N/A	N/A	N/A
\$300	\$300	\$600	\$800
\$13,750	\$13,750	\$13,750	\$10,000
\$15,080	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$30,000
<b>\$32,828</b>	<b>\$34,050</b>	<b>\$39,350</b>	<b>\$40,800</b>

**EXPENSES - OVERHEAD**

	Expense	Paid	In-Kind	Remaining
<b>Donor Recognition</b>				
Bronze Plaques (engraved bronze plaques, affixed to existing stones on trails & overlooks)	\$6,700	\$0	N/A	\$6,700
<b>Overhead Transfers</b>				
Transfers from Project Income (for Administration, Project Management, and Maintenance)	\$44,265	\$13,519	N/A	\$30,746
<b>TOTALS for OVERHEAD</b>	<b>\$50,965</b>	<b>\$13,519</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$37,446</b>

**FY 2019 FY 2020 FY 2021 FY 2022**

N/A	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,700
TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

**INCOME & AVAILABLE CASH**

Individual Contributions (45 gifts from 37 donors)	\$33,214
Grant Awards (8 grants from 7 charitable foundations)	\$65,950
Interest Earned	\$460
Less Transaction Fees (credit card processing)	-\$92
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$99,532</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES PAID</b>	<b>\$97,889</b>
<b>AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE (July 2, 2018)</b>	<b>\$1,643</b>

**GRAND TOTAL AMOUNTS \$286,863 \$102,389 \$184,474**

\* **NOTE:** The restoration budget for each year is difficult to determine in advance, given the unpredictability of invasive plant growth and other factors such as the rate and success of native plant establishment. The level of effort and expenses for each year will be determined by the measure of success in previous years.

## The Arboretum at Fort Williams Park

- ❖ Reverse damage done by invasive plant species
- ❖ Restore native plant communities, biodiversity and wildlife habitat
- ❖ Improve open space, amenities, and access for visitors
- ❖ Foster educational resources, community participation and stewardship

### ARBORETUM SITES

#### COMPLETED

- 1 Cliffside
- 3 Lighthouse View
- 2 Children's Garden

#### IN PROGRESS

- 2 Cliff Walk Landscape

#### FUTURE

- 4 Crossroads
- 5 Fruit Orchard
- 6 Pond
- 8 Tree Succession
- 9 Fort Williams Gateway
- 10 Woodland Garden
- 11 Meditation Point
- 7 Edible Nut Grove
- 13 Mansion Windbreak
- 14 Battery Keyes

- Natural Areas
- Open/Lawn Areas
- Historic Sites
- Parking

### PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (TOWN & FOUNDATION)

Battery Blair Landscape



*It is the mission of the Fort Williams Park Foundation to preserve and enhance the natural and historic resources of Fort Williams Park for future generations by providing funding support and stewardship for selected projects in the Park.*

