

*EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY
and Attributions*

Attributions

Cape Elizabeth Town Council

John (Jack) E. Roberts, Jr. Chairman
Henry Berry
Penelope P. Carson
Carol Fritz
Mary Ann Lynch
Anne Swift-Kayatta
John W. McGinty

Michael K. McGovern Town Manager

Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Paul Phillipps Chairman 2002
Elizabeth Crane Secretary 2002
Alan Barthelman Chairman 2003
Daniel Fisher
Glenn Israel
Charles McCarthy
Steve Parkhurst
New Members (January 2003)
Tina Harnden Secretary 2003
John Snowden

Robert C. Malley Director of Public Works

Executive Summary

The Town Council, at the request of the Fort Williams Advisory Commission (FWAC), agreed that there was a need to address a variety of issues and needs within Fort Williams Park. Land Use Consultants, Inc. of Portland, Maine was retained by the Town to work with FWAC to prepare an update of the original 1990 Fort Williams Master Plan Report. The complete report follows this summary.

The Fort Williams Advisory Commission identified the issues and needs to be addressed by the master plan update report. The **overall goal** of the master plan update report was to preserve and maintain the character of Fort Williams Park. The **purpose** of the report included:

- To serve as a reference for new FWAC members.
- To provide a continuum from Commission to Commission for implementing public policy.
- To serve as a basis for more detailed studies, e.g., improvements to Battery Garesche.
- To assist future FWAC members in annual goal setting.
- To assist in fund raising efforts for the Park.

It is noted that the Portland Head Light was not a focus of the report.

Policies that guided the conclusions and recommendations presented in the report included:

1. The Park's parking facilities will not chase the demand: no additional parking spaces will be constructed.
2. The assessment and development of recommendations regarding the Park's sanitary utility needs will not cater to tour buses.
3. A comprehensive list of maintenance needs will be prepared as part of an annual budget process. This list will include:
 - Roads and parking
 - Sidewalks and steps
 - Stone walls
 - Defense structures
 - Buildings
 - Fields and lawns and landscaping.
4. The regulatory boundary of the Southwest Preserve would be adjusted.

The report was divided into two basic **categories: Part 2.0 - Park-wide Issues and Concerns** and **Part 3.0 - Area Specific Issues and Concerns**. The fundamental organization of the update was to reflect the 1990 Park Master Plan. **Part 2.0 - Park-wide Issues and Concerns** included:

- Circulation and parking
- Signage
- Utilities (with emphasis upon sanitation)
- Structures
- Park ecology
- Landscape materials and features
- Park management

**Fort
Williams
Park**

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Shore Road
Cape Elizabeth, Maine 04107



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary (continued)

Part 3.0 - Area Specific Issues and Concerns were organized according to the identified Park areas. These included:

Area 1	The Meadow and Chapel Road (including Ship Cove)
Area 2	Goddard Mansion to Battery Keyes
Area 3	Battery Knoll
Area 4	Cliff Walk
Area 5	Portland Head Light Grounds
Area 6	The Green and Battery Garesche
Area 7	The Pond to Parade Grounds
Area 8	Officers' Row
Area 9	Battery Blair and Central Parking Area
Area 10	Southwest Preserve

Issues and concerns specifically identified in these areas included:

- Parking and circulation
- Preservation of historic structures
- Maintenance and preservation of landscape features
- Preservation of desired views
- Protection of natural resources
- Recognition of educational resources and opportunities
- Public safety
- Maintenance
- Preservation of Park character
- Park amenities

The **conclusions and recommendations** of the master plan update report are as follows:

- It was agreed that the Fort Williams Park philosophy adopted in 1976 remains applicable as a guide for the Park's management and administration.

- The master plan update primarily addresses issues and concerns within the Park that are necessary to preserve and maintain its existing functions within the community. The need for a master plan update was not perceived as a request for capital improvements. Accordingly, the report contains only selected proposals for new construction.

Recommendations for **new construction** were limited to the following items:

1. Complete the plans for landscape improvements to the Portland Head Light Grounds and implement.
2. Extend the Cliff Walk Trail southward to Battery Garesche.
3. Reconstruct Ship Cove Parking Lot.
4. Relocate playground to open space behind Officers' Row.
5. Upgrade of sanitary facilities based upon FWAC's decision regarding use of either porto-lets or a central rest facility. This issue will be further discussed and debated.

- The update is based upon extensive field inventory and documentation of the Park's existing conditions. It uses a combination of aerial and field photography. The update is a completely electronic document. This technological advance from the 1990 Master Plan Report offers a document that can be used for ongoing planning and decision-making purposes by the Town and the FWAC.

- The recommendations presented in both the park-wide and area specific categories are presented in a manner that allows present and future Fort Williams Advisory Commissions to **select and define their own priorities** and agendas. Each section provides clear descriptions of how the recommended work or activity may be approached. The recommendations presented enable the Commission(s) to set time schedules and budgets according to available resources.

In conclusion, The Fort Williams Advisory Commission wishes to thank the Town Council, Town Manager, Michael K. McGovern and the Town Public Works Director, Robert C. Malley for their support and guidance. We also wish to thank Land Use Consultants, Inc. for their work. Since 1964 when Fort Williams Park became the responsibility of Cape Elizabeth, its value, meaning, and significance to the Town's people has grown. Cape Elizabeth is better prepared, by virtue of this master plan update, to address the needs of Fort Williams Park and thereby preserve a cherished community resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Paul Phillipps	Chairman 2002
Elizabeth Crane	Secretary 2002
Alan Barthelman	Chairman 2003
Daniel Fisher	
Glenn Israel	
Charles McCarthy	
Steve Parkhurst	
Tina Harnden	Secretary 2003
John Snowden	

Fort Williams Park

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Land Use Consultants, Inc.

Fort Williams Park Master Key Plan



- Area 1** THE MEADOW and CHAPEL ROAD (including SHIP COVE)
- Area 2** GODDARD MANSION to BATTERY KEYES
- Area 3** BATTERYKNOLL
- Area 4** CLIFFWALK
- Area 5** PORTLAND HEAD LIGHT GROUNDS
- Area 6** THE GREEN and BATTERY GARESCHÉ
- Area 7** THE POND to PARADE GROUNDS
- Area 8** OFFICERS' ROW (including KITTY'S POINT, PICNIC SHELTER, and FIELD OFFICERS' and BACHELOR OFFICERS' QUARTERS BUILDINGS)
- Area 9** BATTERY BLAIR and CENTRAL PARKING AREA
- Area 10** SOUTHWEST PRESERVE

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