

PUBLIC FORUM

September 21, 2011

Fort Williams Park Master Plan Update



Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Purpose of the Master Plan Update

- To re-affirm the overall vision, goals and objectives.
- To continue to guide the Town and FWAC in its deliberations and establish a framework for decision-making.
- To identify new issues and concerns as well as future needs and improvements.
- To suggest recommendations and propose design concepts for various projects identified as part of the process.

Cape Elizabeth Town Council Policy Statement (1976)

Fort Williams is a unique community resource which has irreplaceable scenic, natural and historical qualities. As such it should be dedicated to predominantly park, recreational, and cultural uses, which uses preserve or enhance, or are otherwise fully compatible with its unique qualities, and which uses are within the financial capabilities of the town.

Set of Goals for Fort Williams Park

- Goal One: Promote safe access, circulation and easy way-finding for Park visitors.*
- Goal Two: Enhance visitor's awareness and understanding of Park resources.*
- Goal Three: Preserve and protect the Park's natural resources.*
- Goal Four: Maintain and strengthen the Park's historic identity.*
- Goal Five: Facilitate implementation of compatible uses within the Park.*
- Goal Six: Establish a sustainability plan to maintain the quality and enjoyment of the Park.*

FORT WILLIAMS PARK



Master Plan Update Process

- Prepare Base Map of the Park
- Review Current Documentation: reports and studies completed for park features
- Review 1990 and 2003 Master Plan Documents
- Conduct Site Inventory and Analysis
- Prepare Public Survey Questionnaire
- Conduct Monthly Meetings with FWAC
- Meet with Special Interest Groups
- Conduct Public Informational Meeting
- Prepare Recommendations
- Prepare 2011 Master Plan Update

Interested Parties

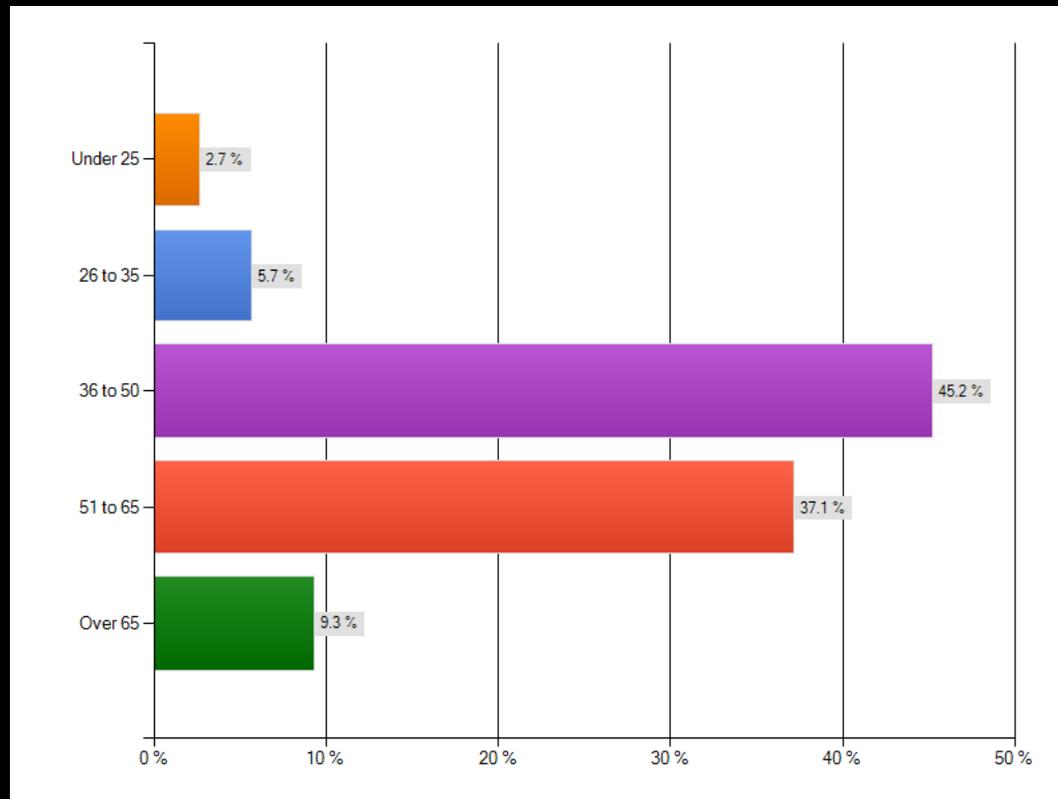
- Fort Williams Charitable Foundation
- Portland Head Light
- Friends of Battery Blair
- Friends of Goddard Mansion
- Arboretum Steering Committee
- Dog Walkers
- Little League
- Community Services
- School Athletic Department

Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- Survey open from June 7 through July 22, 2011
- Survey Monkey and paper copies
- 24 Questions to solicit input
- Results are posted on Town's Website

Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- 395 Respondents
- 78% Cape Elizabeth Residents

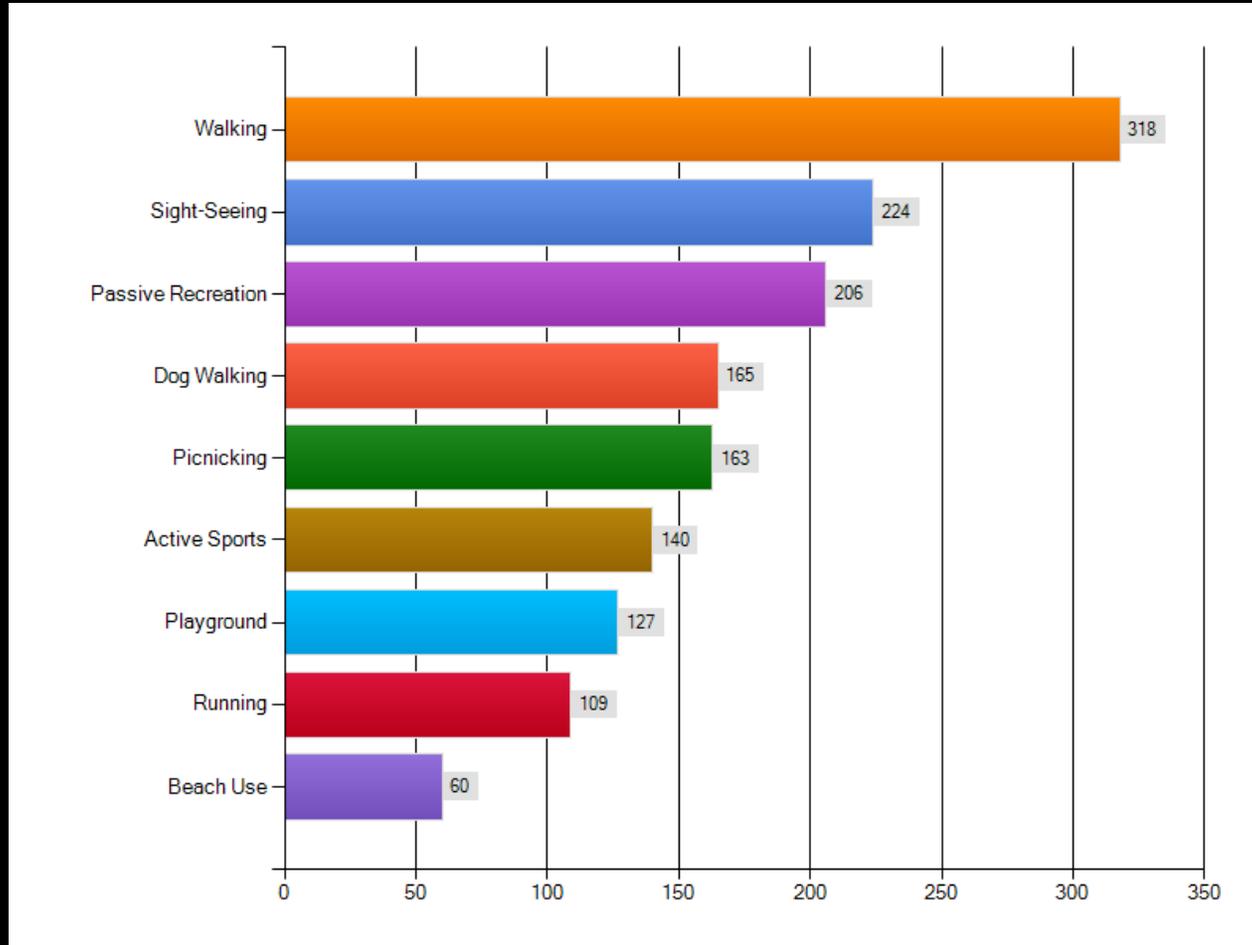


Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- What do you like the most about the park?
 - Views and Access to Ocean
 - Open Space
 - Natural Beauty
 - Accessibility/Walking/Cliff Walk
 - Dog Walking/Off-Leash Area
 - Lighthouse
 - Athletic Activities/Uses
 - Free Access
 - History
 - Relaxation / Contemplation
 - Family/Child Friendly
 - Well Maintained



Results of Public Survey Questionnaire



How do you use the park?

Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

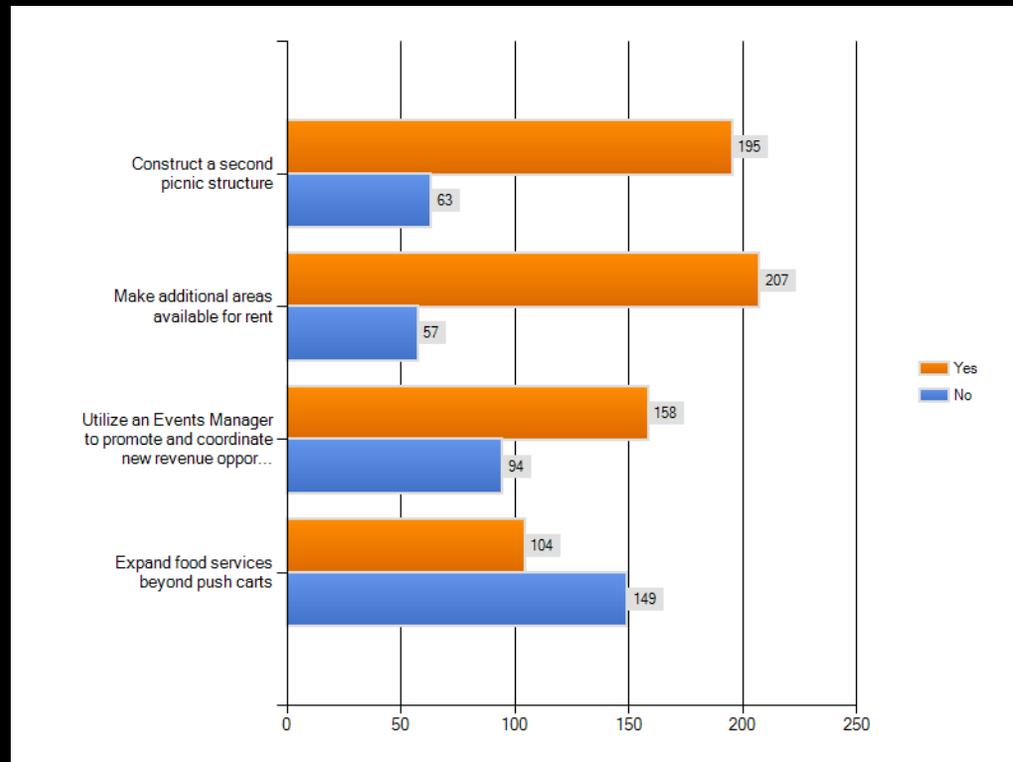
- **Concerns**

- **Vandalism/Theft**
- **Pedestrian Circulation**
- **Vehicle Speed**
- **Busses/Air-Quality**
- **Safety Along Edge of Cliff Walk**
- **Walking in Remote Areas or Off-Season**
- **Condition of Bleachers, Stair, Walls**
- **Condition of Batteries and Goddard Mansion**
- **Better signage for off-leash dog walking**



Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- Revenue generation
 - 78% support expanding opportunities to rent areas of the park



Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- Expanded use
 - Farmers market
 - Concerts – theatre
 - Year round events/Festivals
 - More drinking fountains for people and pets
 - Permanent public restrooms
 - Better signage (History and Off Leash Areas)
 - Leave it just the way it is
 - Opportunities for weddings/catered events
 - Restoration/preservation of structures
 - Extend pathway for off leash area to create a loop trail
 - More picnic tables
 - More opportunities for concessions - food / low key vendors

Results of Public Survey Questionnaire

- **Conflicts**
 - Use of off leash area by runners and others who complain about dogs off leash
 - Unleashed dogs in other areas of the park
 - Idling buses – air quality
 - Too many tour busses
 - Unsightly food vendors
 - Vehicle speed
 - Bicycle use of walking trails

Proposed Recommendations



Proposed Recommendations

- A. Vehicular Circulation
- B. Pedestrian Circulation
- C. Parking Lot Facilities
- D. Improved Elderly and Handicap Accessibility
- E. Safety Concerns
- F. Restoration of Eroded Areas
- G. Potential Improvement Opportunities
- H. Restoration of Existing Structures and Site Features
- I. Group Use Facilities
- J. Park Maintenance

Proposed Recommendations

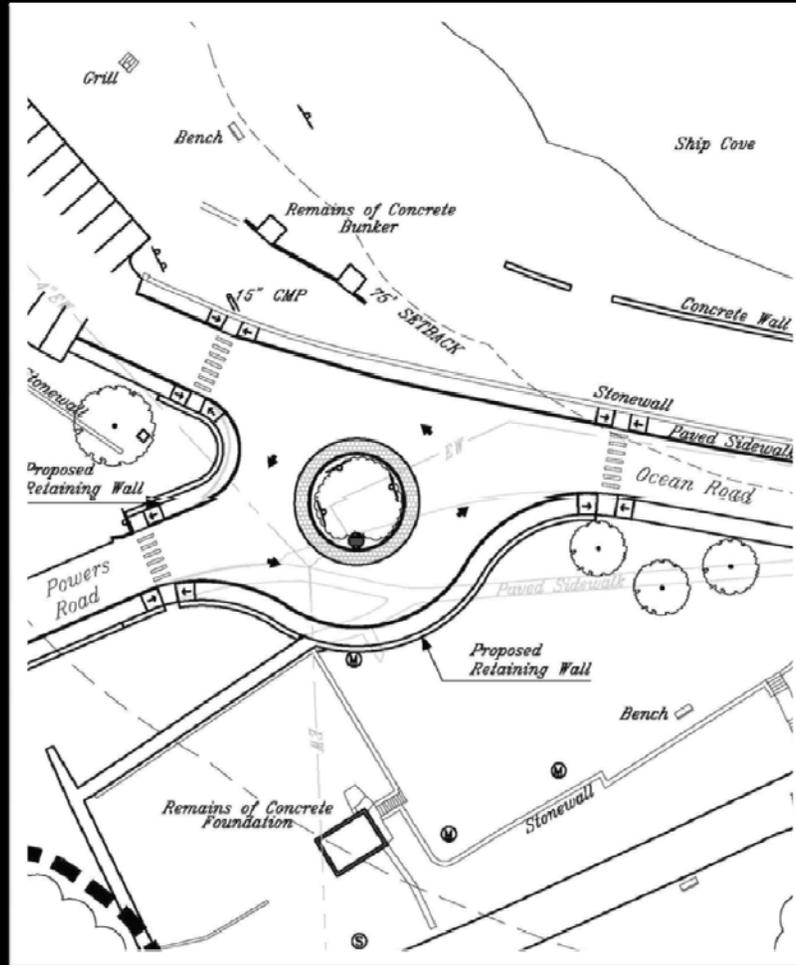
A. Vehicular Circulation

- Round-about at the entrance to Ship Cove Parking Area
- Intersection Improvement at the Entrance to the Overflow Parking Area

Powers Road Round-About



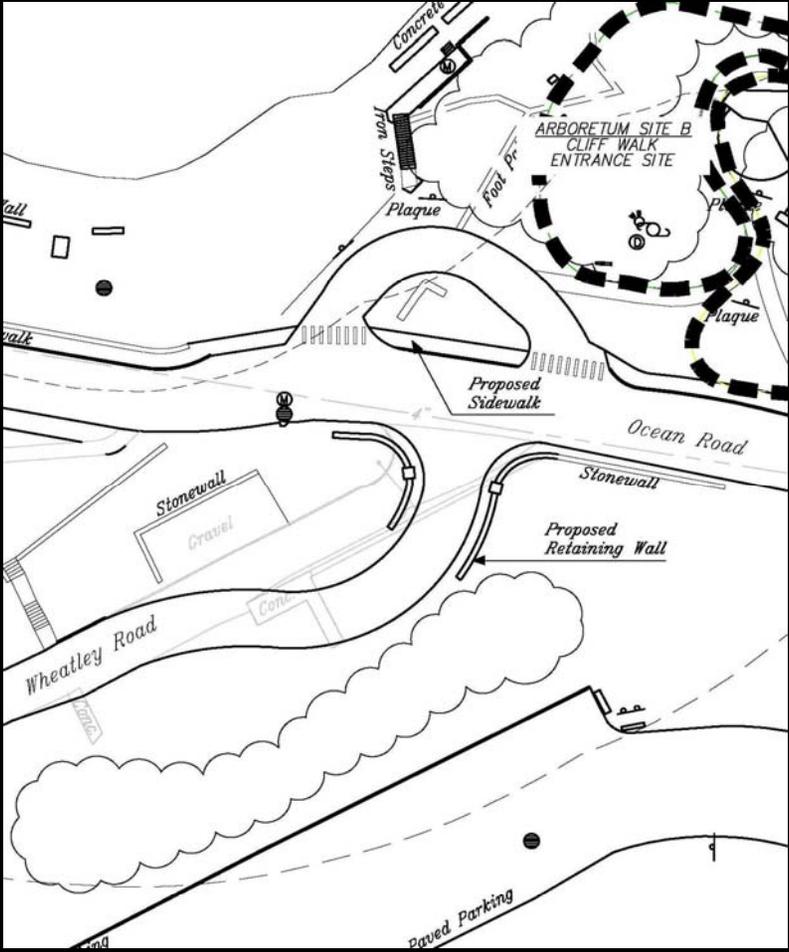
Powers Road Round-About



Wheatley and Ocean Roads



Wheatley and Ocean Roads



Proposed Recommendations

B. Pedestrian Circulation

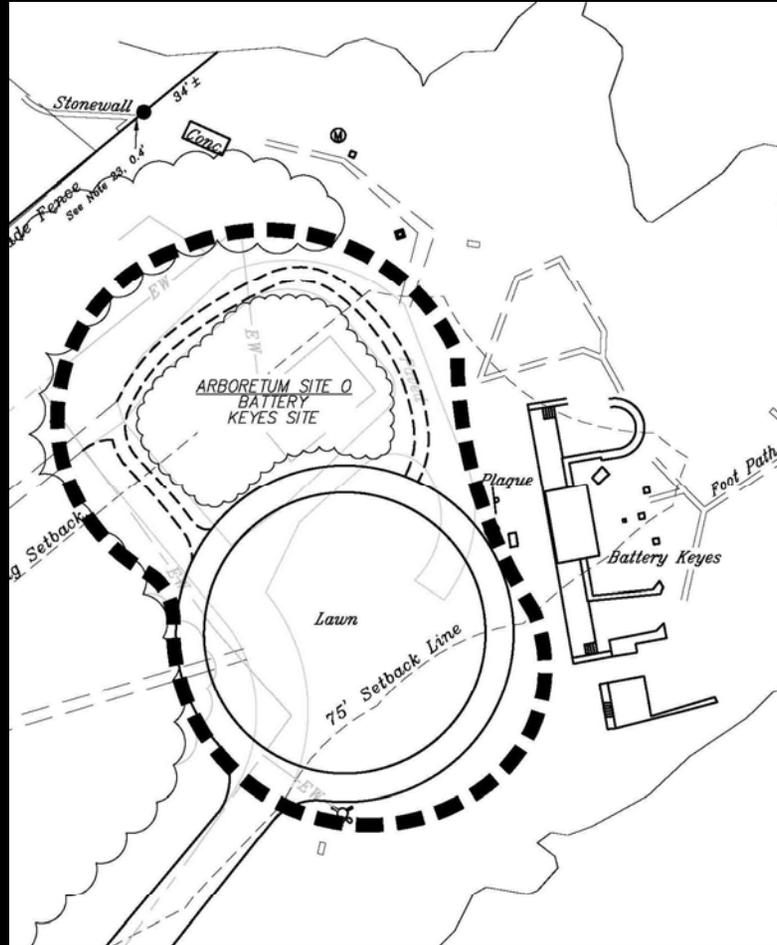
- Battery Keys
- Ocean Road at Turn-out
- From Battery Knoll to Kitty's Point
- From the Former Entrance to the Officers' Quarters



Battery Keyes



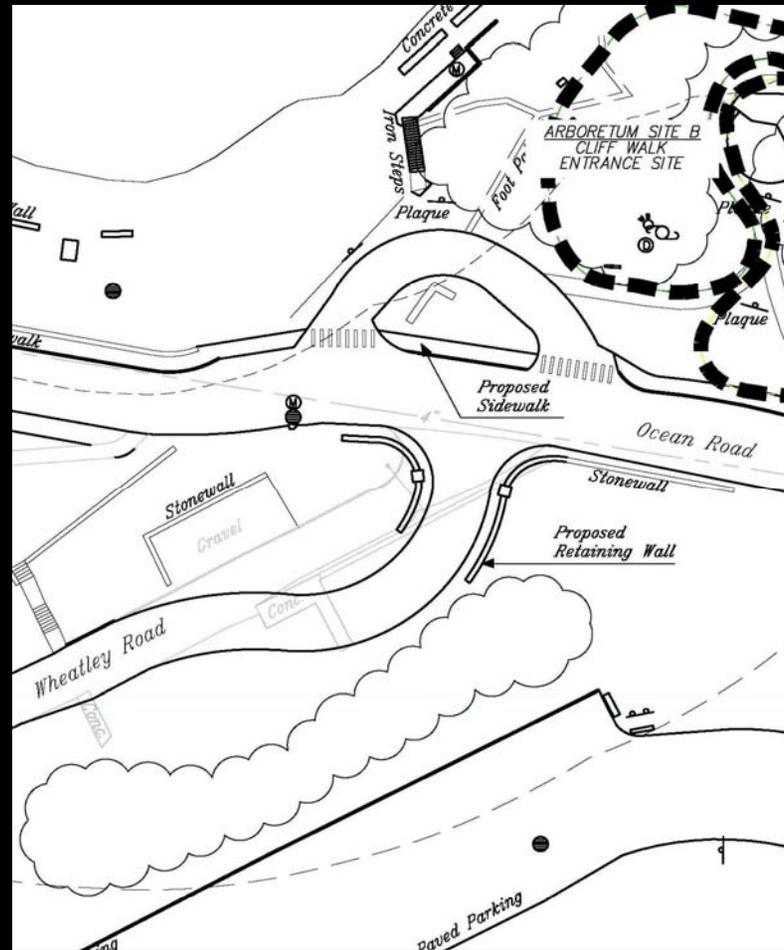
Battery Keyes



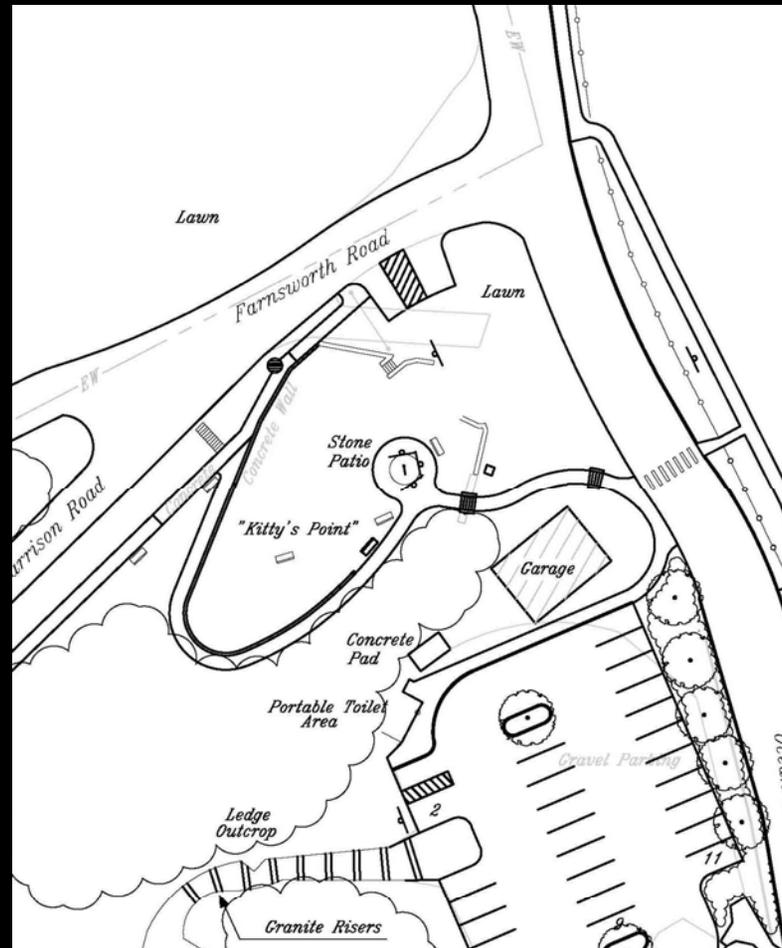
Ocean Road at Turn-Out



Ocean Road at Turn-Out



From Battery Knoll to Kitty's Point



From the Former Entrance to the Officers Quarters



Southwest Preserve



Proposed Recommendations

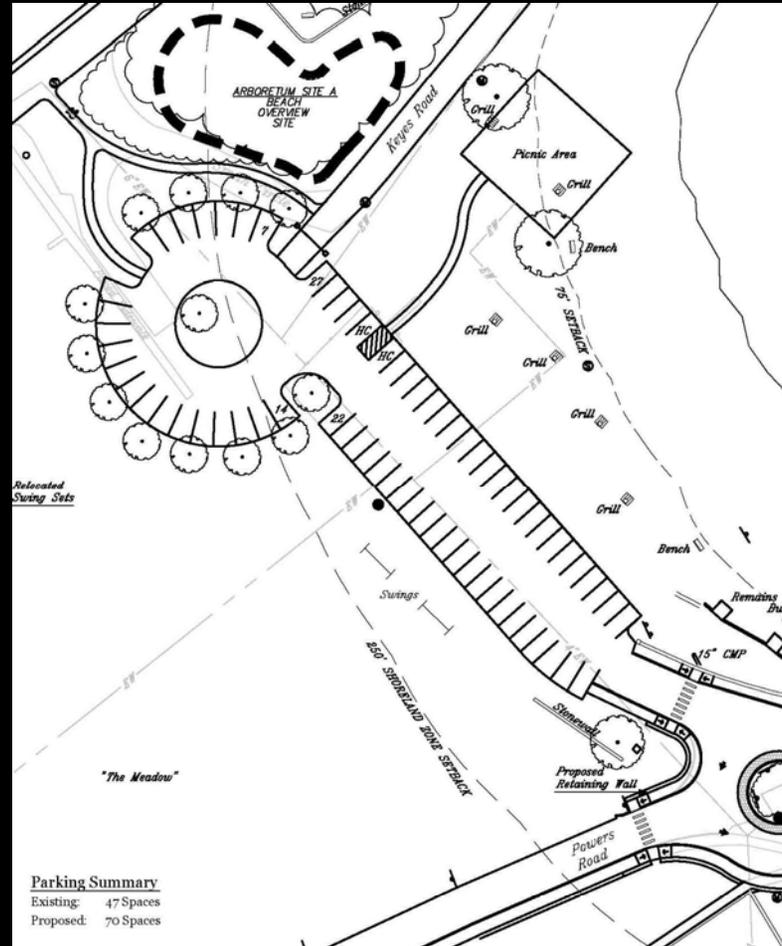
C. Parking Lot Facilities

- Ship Cove Parking Lot
- Former Entrance off Shore Road
- Picnic Shelter Parking Area
- Maintenance Buildings / Children's Playground

Ship Cove Parking Lot



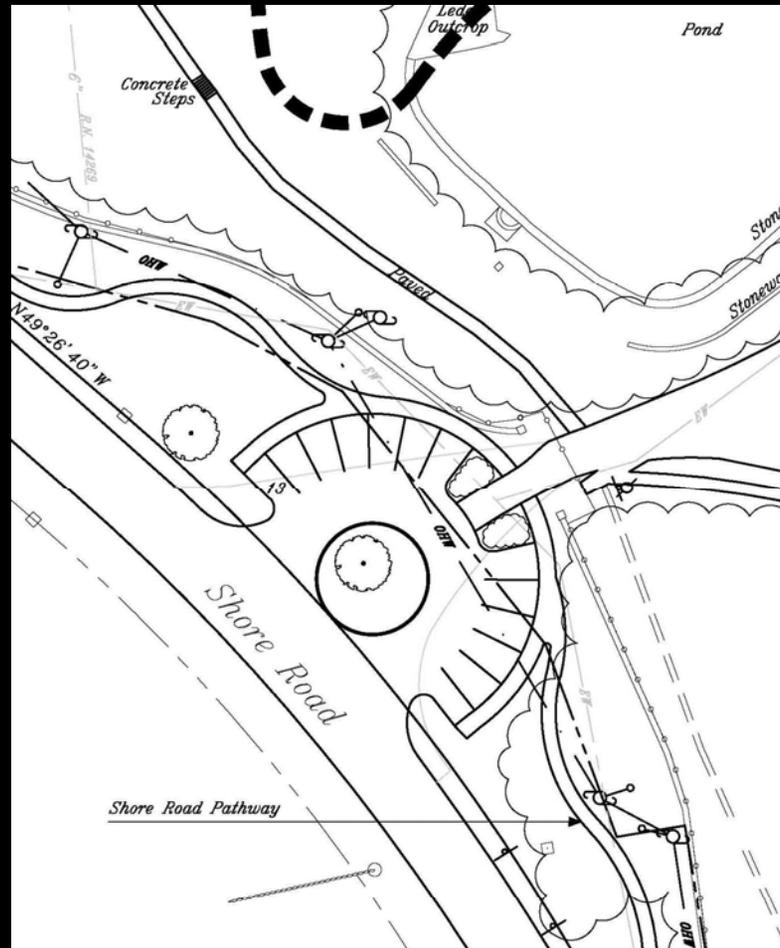
Ship Cove Parking Lot



Former Entrance off Shore Road



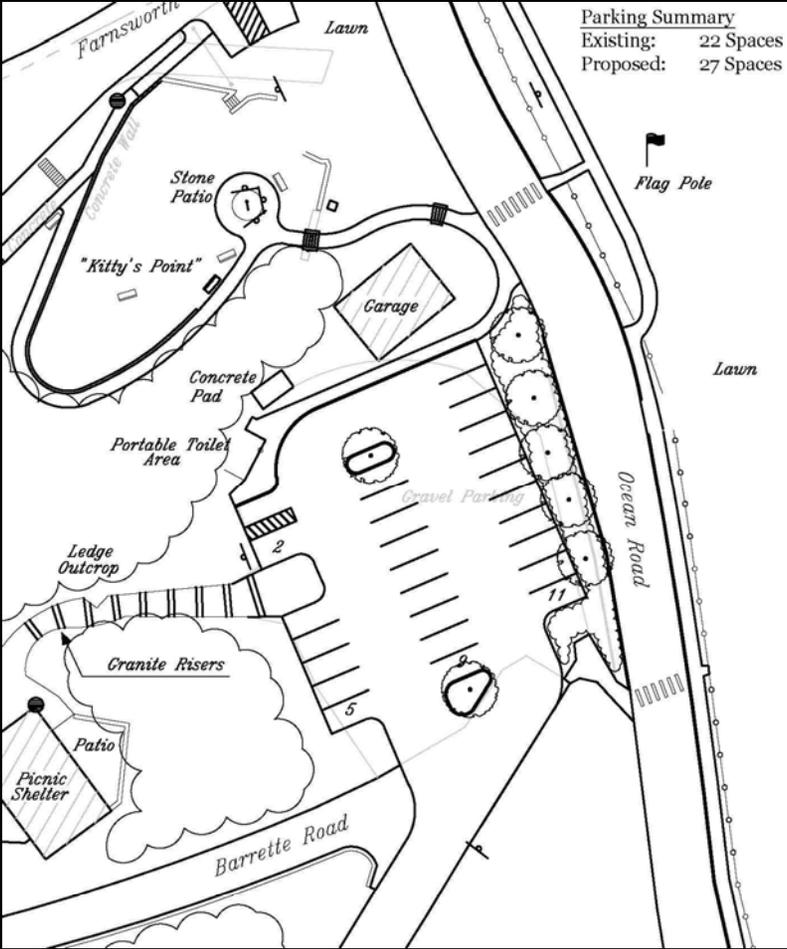
Former Entrance off Shore Road



Picnic Shelter Parking Area



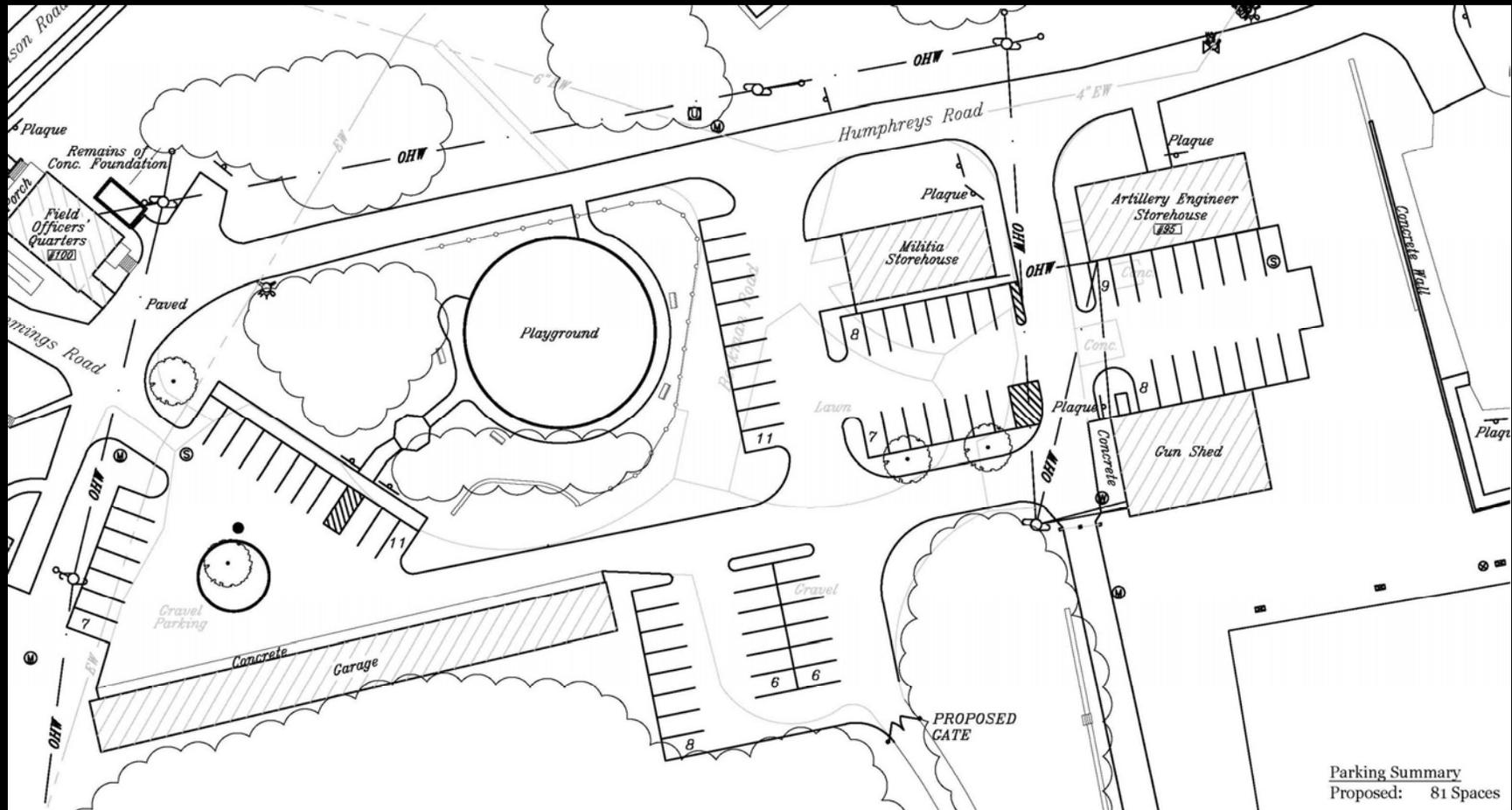
Picnic Shelter Parking Area



Maintenance Buildings/Children's Playground Parking Area



Maintenance Buildings/Children's Playground Parking Area

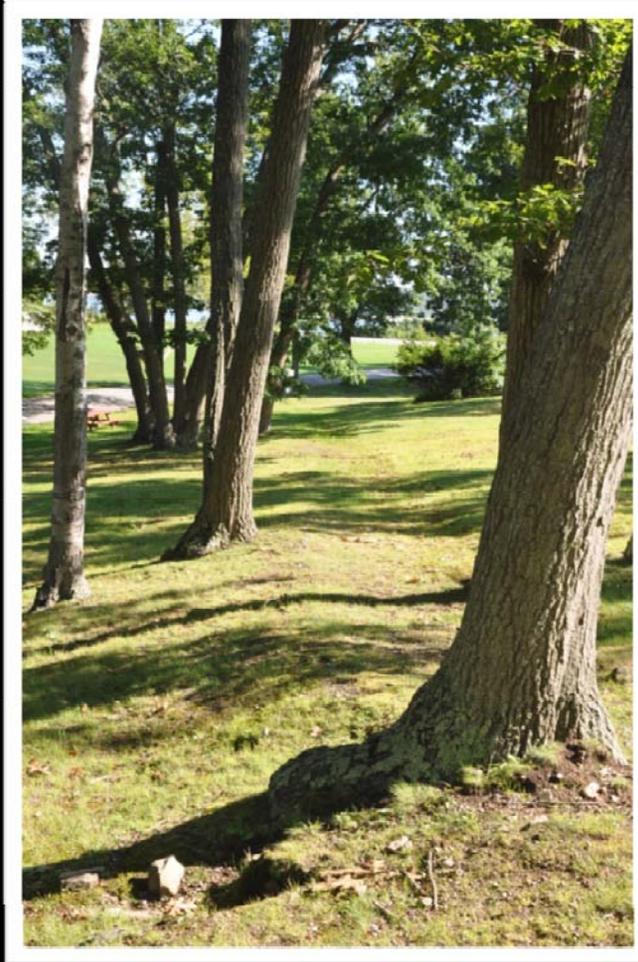


Proposed Recommendations

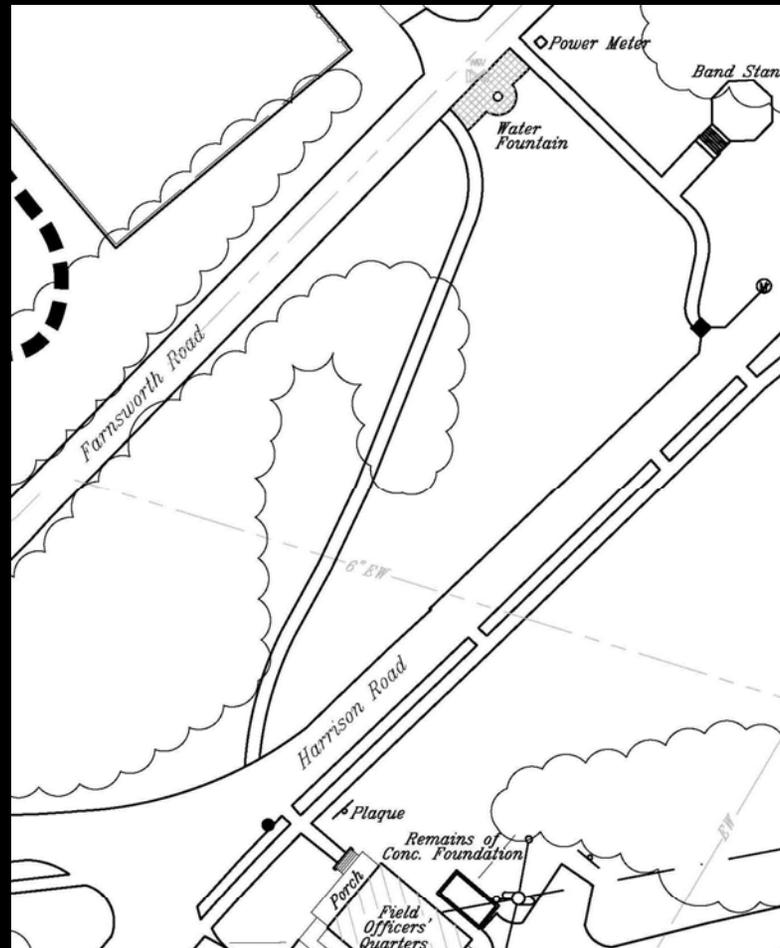
D. Improved Elderly and Handicap Accessibility

- Wooded Slope Area West of the Band Stand
- Kitty's Point

Wooded Sloped Area West of the Band Stand



Wooded Sloped Area West of the Band Stand



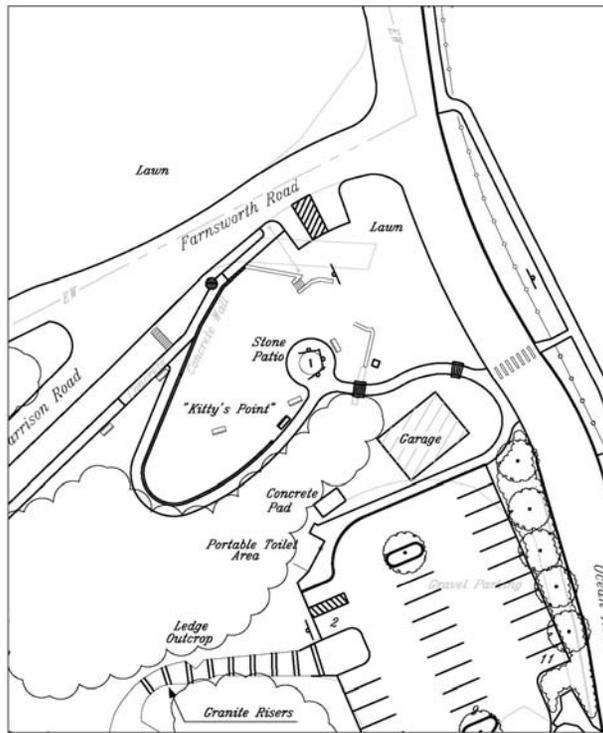
Kitty's Point



Kitty's Point

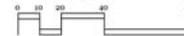
Area 8 - Kitty's Point

Fort Williams Park
Master Plan Update 2011



Mitchell
& Associates
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Scale: 1"=40'



Proposed Recommendations

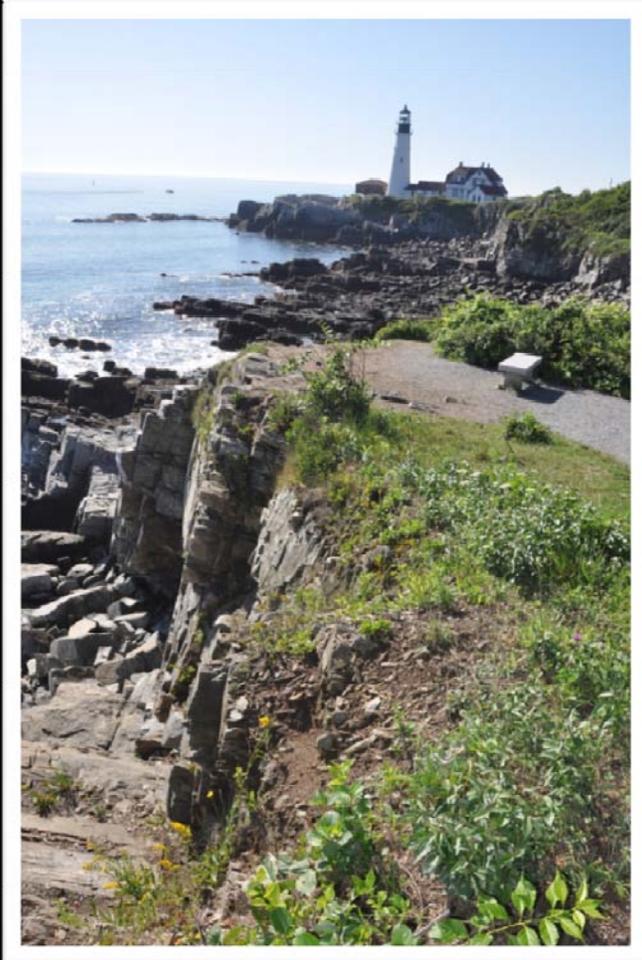
E. Safety Concerns

- Cliff Walk
- Battery Garesche Shed

Danger Points Along Cliff Walk



Danger Points Along Cliff Walk

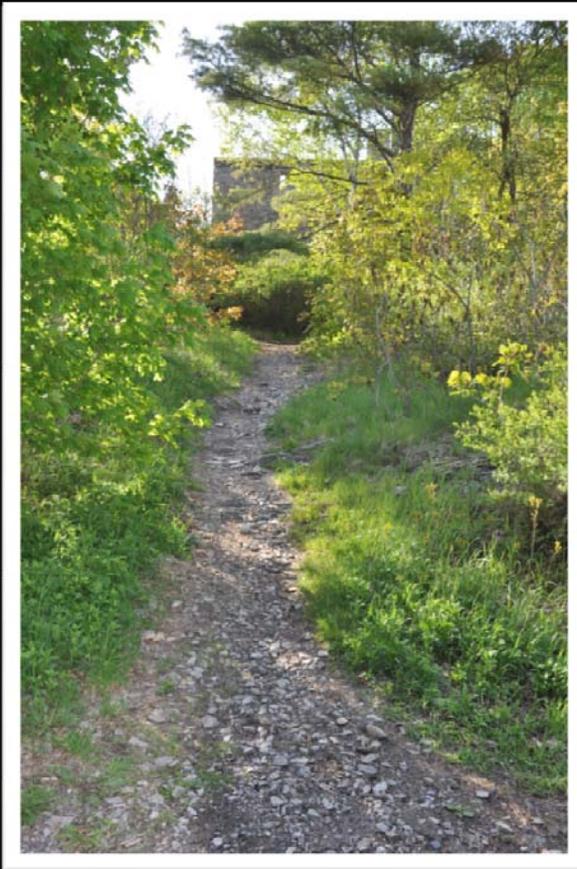


Battery Garesche



Proposed Recommendations

F. Restoration of Eroded Areas



- Social Pathways

Eroded Pathways



Proposed Recommendations

G. Potential Improvement Opportunities

- Picnic Area at Ship Cove near Beach
- Fence Enclosures around Porto-lets
- Fort Williams Park Perimeter Fence
- Landscape Plans
- Shipwreck Sign Area

Picnic Area at Ship Cove near Beach



Fence Enclosures around Porto-lets



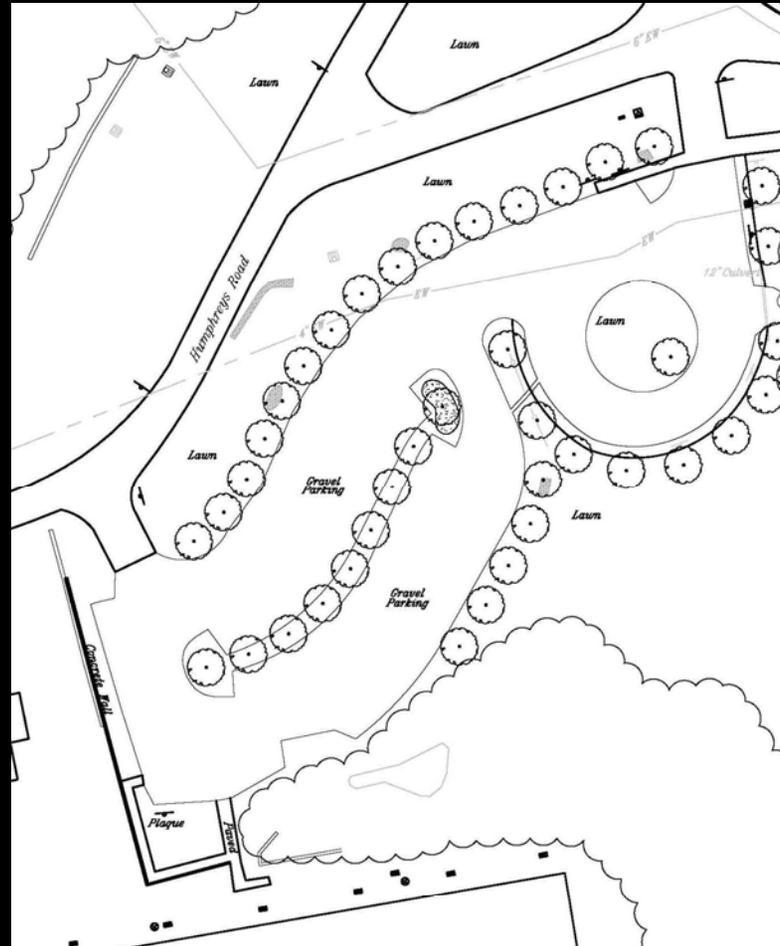
Fort Williams Park Perimeter Fence



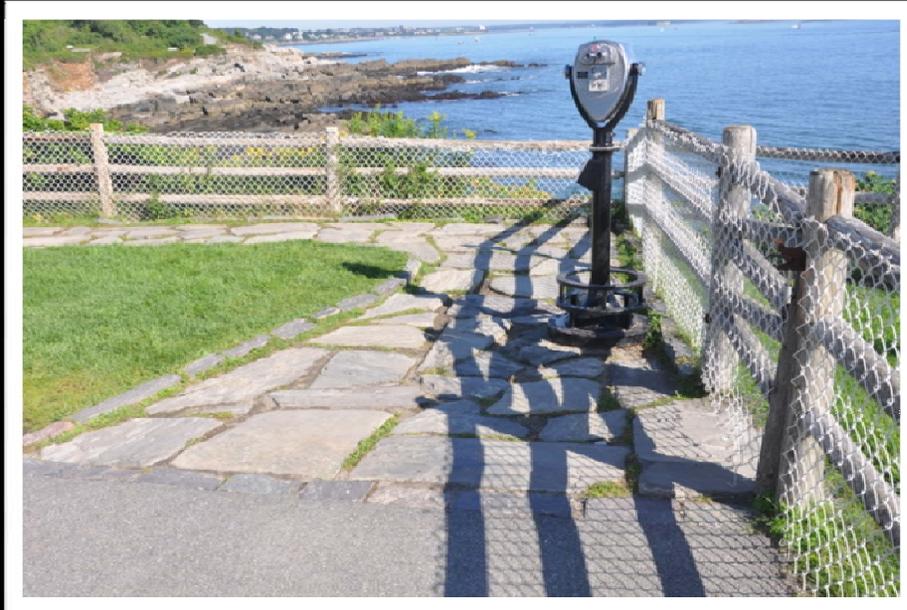
Landscape Plans



Landscape Plans



Shipwreck Sign Area



Proposed Recommendations

H. Restoration of Existing Structures and Site Features

- Central Power Station
- Goddard Mansion
- Battery Blair
- Bleachers

Central Power Station



Goddard Mansion



Battery Blair



Bleachers



Proposed Recommendations

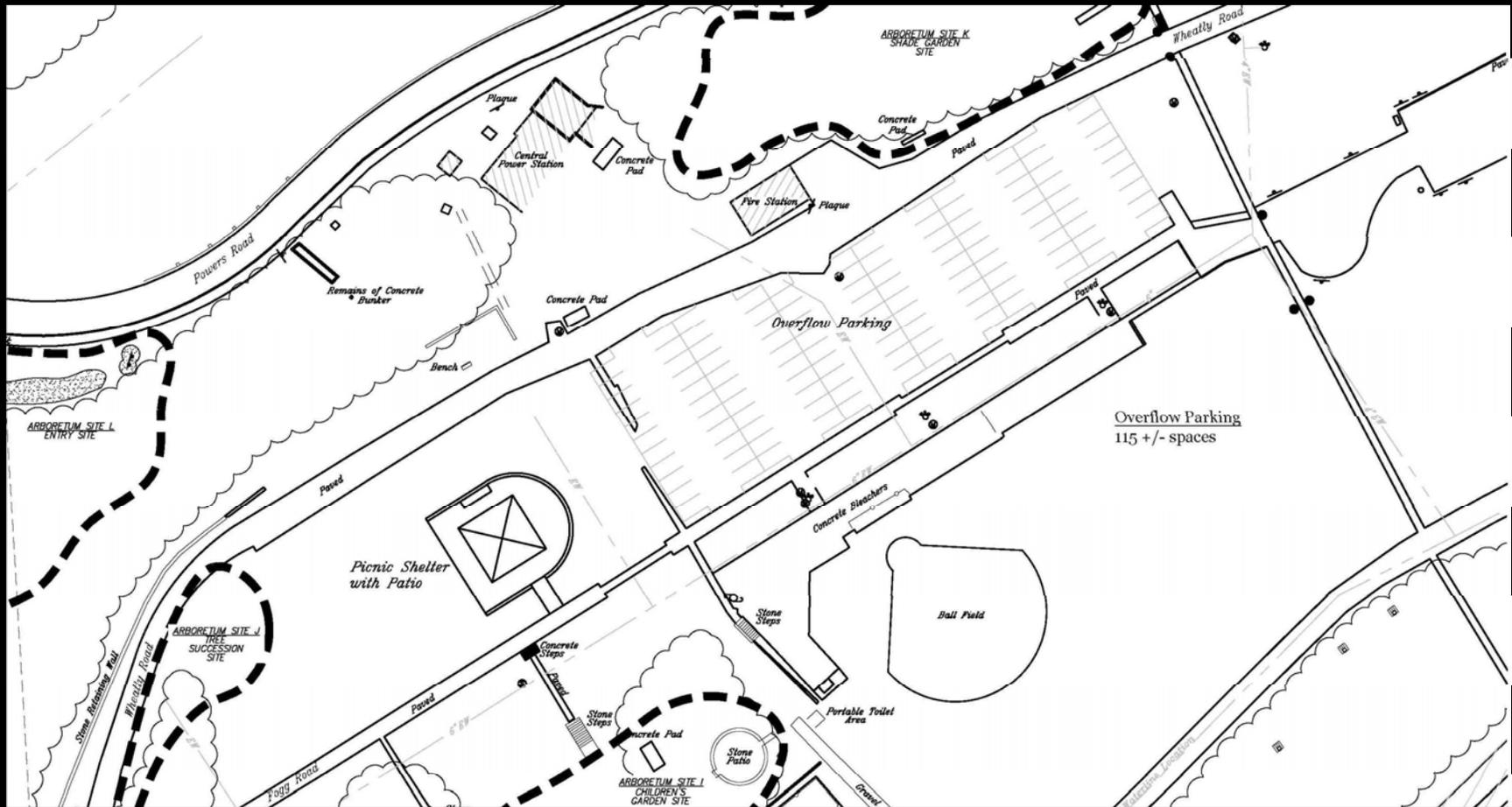
I. Group Use Facilities

- Second Picnic Shelter (Option A)
- Second Picnic Shelter (Option B)
- Visitor's Center
- Events Area

Second Picnic Shelter (Option A)



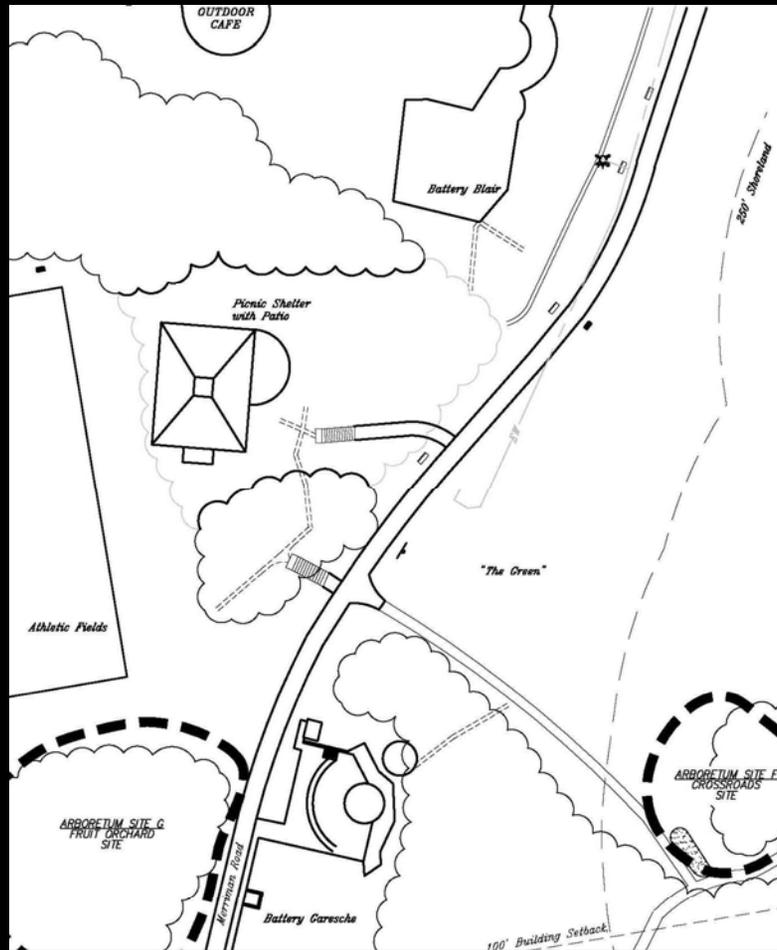
Second Picnic Shelter (Option A)



Second Picnic Shelter (Option B)



Second Picnic Shelter (Option B)

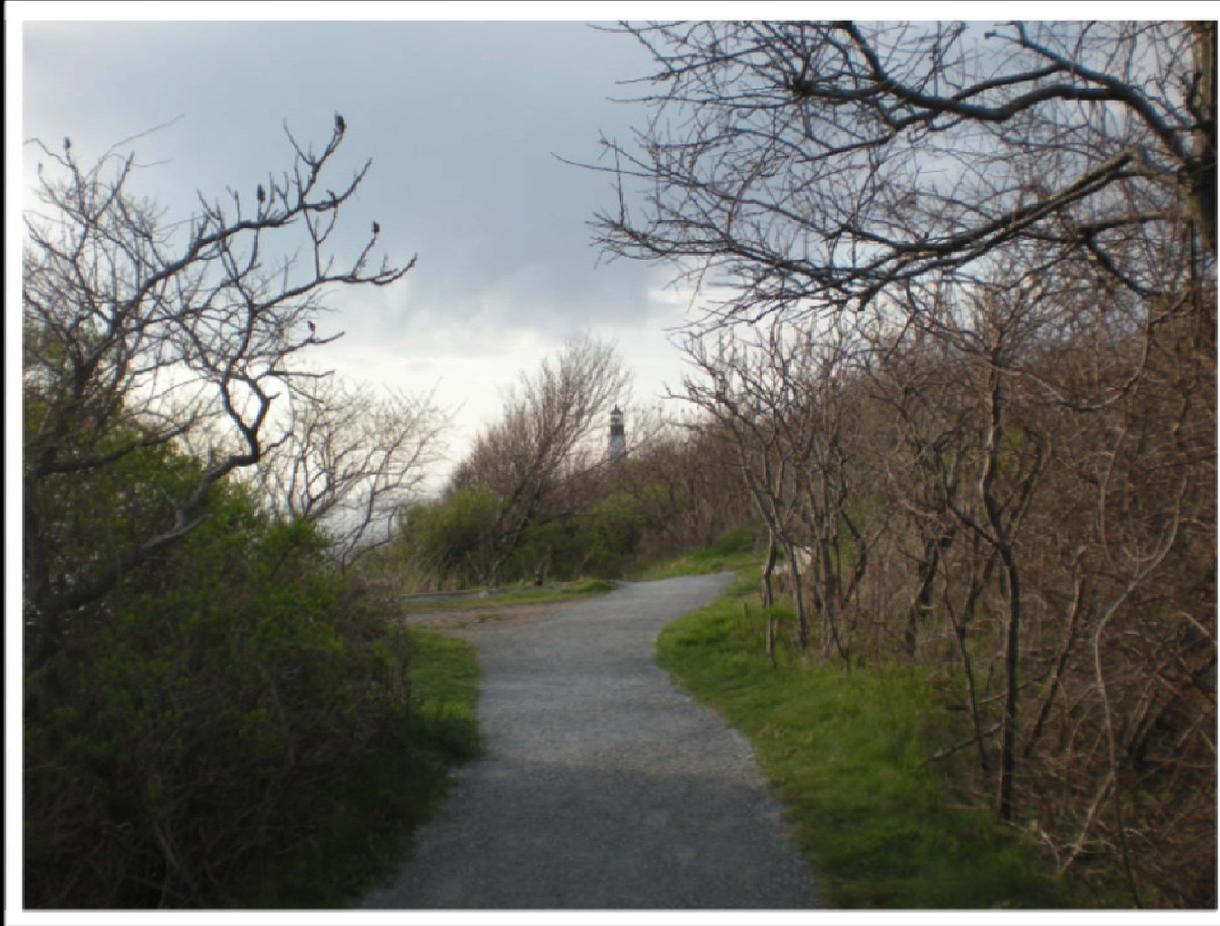


Proposed Recommendations

J. Park Maintenance

- Removal of Invasive Plant Material

Removal of Invasive Plant Material



Contact Us

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COMMENTS?

QUESTIONS?