

Community Preservation Committee Grant Application

Applicant Information

Applicant

Nahant Open Space & Rec
Committee and Town of Nahant

Applicant's Phone #

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Applicant's Email

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Applicant's Address

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Town Committee or Board (if applicable)

Open Space and Recreation Committee and Town of Nahant

Application Purpose

- Open Space
- Recreation

Project Information

Project Name

FY2025 Bailey's Hill Complex-Fort Ruckman
Restoration, Phase Three

Project Description

Land Management Planning and Native Plant Restoration

Grant Amount Requested

\$131,500

Contribution to the Preservation of Nahant's Unique Character

Bailey's Hill and the Fort Ruckman area occupy a significant portion of open space in our small town with its limited open space. This area is our largest wooded area and a frequent site for passive recreation activity.

Bailey's Hill has historical significance not only for our local community but also for the state and the nation. For more than a century, this portion of Nahant was a place of major defense installations, as was East Point, another major open space in Nahant. This area was first deemed essential to U.S military defense during the Spanish American War in 1898. A 45 acre plot of land incorporating Bailey's Hill and Bass Point area, named Fort Ruckman, was soon acquired by the government in 1900. Various military structures and installations were added as needs changed over World Wars I and II. Although decommissioned in 1951, the Cold War in the 1950's required a military presence until the early 1960's. The various concrete structures including a portion of the Battery Augustus P Gardner from WW I are listed as Heritage Sites on the Massachusetts Historical Commissions' Index of Historic Sites (MACRIS NAH 934 and 935). The entire area has been the subject of extensive surveys and historical recording by Nahant's resident historian, Captain Gerald W Butler. (See Gerald W Butler in Fort Ruckman Through Time, Nahant Historical Society 2013 and Bayley's or Bailey's Hill, Nahant Historical Society, 2017.)

A portion of the Heritage Trail, which runs from Short Beach to Bailey's Hill, traverses this Bunkers section, providing passive recreation opportunities for Nahant residents.

The paths in this and other sections of Bailey's Hill are frequently used by Nahant residents for walking, jogging, biking, scenery viewing and dog walking. The recently completed and approved 2022 OSRP (Open Space and Recreation Plan)

emphasizes the importance of Bailey's Hill to our town. Results of an Open Space Committee Community Survey conducted in June and July 2021 list Bailey's Hill as one of the most frequently visited open space areas (2022 OSRP, Figure 44, p 82).

Planning Context

IS part of a Program Plan

If so, when was the plan prepared?

2022

Who has approved the plan?

MA EOEa, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, October 4, 2022

Evaluation Criteria

The proposed project is consistent with town planning documents, including the Goals and Objectives of the 2022 OSRP. The 2022 OSRP includes an Action Plan for both general town-wide goals and those specific to the Bailey's Hill. (2022 OSRP, Fig 54, p 97-102) These are:

Goal 1: Protect and improve Nahant's parks, open space and natural resources

Action 1.1.1 :Work with the DPW to develop preventative maintenance standards and site-specific plans for parks, playgrounds, open spaces, beaches, trails and recreational facilities.(p 97)

Goal 4: Develop procedures for further evaluation of open spaces

Action 4.1.3: Implement plan to remove invasive species and restore natural vegetation at Bailey's Hill Complex as described in OSRC CPA Grant approved at Town Meeting May 2021. Seek additional funding to continue restoration of Bailey's Hill Complex. (p 100).

The project is feasible. It has the support of Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator, and Zachary Taylor, Superintendent of Nahant Dept of Public Works. Zach participated in three other recent CPA-funded projects at Bailey's Hill and completed much of that work. We have discussed this Phase of the Bailey's Hill Restoration Project and conducted a site visit with the Superintendent and he is supportive of this plan and its time line.

This project will also begin to establish the natural aesthetic appeal of the area for visitor enjoyment.

The project serves multiple CPA categories: Open space, recreation

The project has community support Survey results:

Frequently visited open space site, OSRP 2022,(p 82)

Importance of maintaining open space

Protect scenic quality,

Control of invasive species OSRP 2022 (p 80) as above

The project protects currently owned town assets. Baileys Hill is Nahant's largest open space wooded area. In the past, neglecting this area has created considerable damage to the ecology of Nahant's natural resources. It is long past due that open spaces in Nahant adopt up to date management plans to ensure sustainability, security and aesthetic appeal.

This project will stimulate other projects.

Following the approval at Town Meeting 2021 of Phase One of this project, involving the East Slope of Fort Ruckman of Bailey's Hill Complex, a second project was approved by Town vote in 2022 to eliminate the invasive species on the South Hill of Bailey's Hill Complex, in a CPC grant submitted by the Town of Nahant. CPC FY 2023 Bailey's Hill Restoration (See Figure One). A FY2024 CPC grant funded continued restoration work at the Fort Ruckman section of the east slope of Bailey's Hill, using ecological landscape management professionals to assist with control of invasive plants and with the installation of designated native plants. Realistic and successful eradication of invasive species

involves years of successive work, employing a variety of techniques. Further work will be needed to restore the adjacent areas of this north hill in the future.

These projects are small steps in a wider town effort to introduce sustainable open space management that addresses our specific coastal climate change issues. The ongoing work of our DPW and Open Space and Recreation Committee through management in Bailey's Hill and Lodge Park will generate a change in the way Nahant plans for management of its public spaces in the future.

Estimated Cost and Schedule

Attach cost estimates for construction projects and state how costs were derived.

Is your project expected to continue over more than one year?

Yes

Funding Information

Explanation

As the attached Land Management Planning and Native Plant Restoration Proposal and Budget Overview show, we propose to hire a professional firm to assist us with initial land management planning, invasive plant management and native plant restoration at Bailey's Hill/Fort Ruckman. The work will start by writing a Land Management Plan that makes recommendations for restoration practices on Bailey's Hill/Fort Ruckman over three years, including but not limited to a project introduction, identifying invasive and native plant populations, best management practices for managing invasive plant species, and making recommendations for native restoration planting over the phased timeline. We will also prepare and install a sign as part of the educational process to ensure residents understand the ecological issues present at the Park. Cost estimates are based on a proposal prepared by Miles Connors, Director of Ecological Services at Parterre Ecological, with whom The Open Space Committee and DPW Superintendent Zachary Taylor have worked well with at Bailey's Hill and Lodge Park.

Other Funding Sources

List of Independent Funding Sources	Amount of Grant / Gift
Nahant SWIM	3000.00

Total

3000.00

Previous Town Meeting Action

FY2021 Bailey's Hill Complex-Fort Ruckman East Slope Restoration

FY2024 Bailey's Hill Complex-Fort Ruckman East Slope Restoration, Phase Two

Project Priority

NA

Time Sensitivity

See contingency planning section below

Contingency Planning

If funding is not available, the DPW will maintain the area as best as possible, until funding is established. This project is dependent on further invasive plant removal and replanting of area with native species. Without this further work,

the area will revert to its previous state of uncontrolled invasive and destructive vegetation.

Order

Product	Qty	Unit Price	Price
1st Yr: Total of CPC Funds Requested	1	\$91,367.00	\$91,367.00
1st Yr: Other Funding Sources	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
2nd Yr: Total of CPC Funds Requested	1	\$27,566.00	\$27,566.00
	Total		\$121,933.00