

Community Preservation Committee Grant Application

Applicant Information

Applicant

Trish Aldrich, Chair

Applicant's Phone #

617-538-5758

Applicant's Email

welakahao@comcast.net

Organization(s)

Open Space Committee

Applicant's Address

163 Willow Road
Nahant, Massachusetts 01908
United States

Town Committee or Board (if applicable)

Nahant

CPC Category

- Open Space

If your project is proposed on town-owned property, have you coordinated with the Town Administrator?

Yes

Project Information

Project Name

FY2026 Bailey's Hill Complex-Fort Ruckman
Restoration, Year 2 Phase 3

Project Description

Invasive Plant Management and Native Plant Restoration

Grant Amount Requested

\$39,344.50

Contribution to the Preservation of Nahant's Unique Character

Bailey's Hill and Fort Ruckman occupy a significant amount of Nahant's open space. The area is used frequently for passive recreation and is also one of Nahant's largest wooded areas.

The area of Bailey's Hill holds historical significance for our small town as well as for the state of Massachusetts and for the United States. For more than a century this area of Nahant was a place of major defense installations. The 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 Fort Ruckman and leads to other

trails created at Bailey's Hill, 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, birding 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 EOE, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, October 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 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).

Town Manager Tony Barletta and DPW Superintendent Zach Taylor support this project.

This project will continue to improve the natural aesthetic appeal of the area for visitor enjoyment including access points, safety and scenic views.

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)

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 previously completed projects. The attached map, Bailey's Hill Area of Work Existing Conditions, shows the area of Bailey's Hill included in this proposal. Restoration work in the area of Bailey's Hill began in 2021, 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; a third grant was approved for the FY 2023 Bailey's Hill Restoration grant submitted by the Town of Nahant. A FY2024 and FY2025 CPC grant funded the continued restoration work at the

Fort Ruckman section of the east slope of Bailey's Hill. In addition, the Fire and Public Works departments removed ground fuel from the Bailey's Hill area near Trimountain Road made possible by a \$20,000 grant from the International Association of Fire Chiefs (FY2025).

This proposed plan will continue to use ecological landscape management professionals to assist with native perennial and tree plantings as well as invasive plant management throughout the area at Bailey's Hill and Fort Ruckman. Realistic and successful eradication of invasive species involves years of successive work, employing a variety of techniques. 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 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

It is a multi-year effort, however this proposal is for one year of work.

The attached Fiscal Year 2026 Invasive Plant Management and Native Plant Restoration Proposal provides a detailed description of plantings and invasive plant management costs associated with this proposal. The proposal was prepared by Miles Connors, Director of Ecological Services at Parterre Ecological, in January 2025. Miles prepared the Bailey's Hill Land Management Plan and has been involved in work on the ground and in planning throughout previous projects. We propose to hire Parterre Ecological, who have planned and completed previous grant funded work at Bailey's Hill and Fort Ruckman area. As outlined in the FY2026 proposal, the native perennial and tree planting includes 200 native perennials and 50 native trees for the area. The invasive plant management work will be completed by field technicians, who maintain a Massachusetts Pesticide Applicators license and are trained in the identification of invasive plant species.

Project Budget

- [BH-CPC-FY26-App-budget.pdf](#)

Other Funding Sources

| List of Independent Funding Sources | Amount of Grant / Gift |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Nahant SWIM | \$3000.00 |

Total

3000.00

For Acquisition projects, attach appraisals and agreements, if available. Please indicate name of present owner and attach a copy of most recent deed. In addition to property address, please provide Nahant assessor's office identification (Map, Block and Lot number).

- [Baileys-Hill-CPC-FY26-App-budget.pdf](#)
- [Baileys-Hill-Area-of-Work-Existing-Conditions-Map.pdf](#)
- [Baileys-Hill-FY2026-Park-Job-15202.pdf](#)

Coordination

This project will be completed with consultation and assistance of Nahant DPW.

Previous Town Meeting Action

FY 2025 Warrant Article 20 section E approved by town vote.

Contingency Planning

If the full funding is unavailable, the committee would suggest working on smaller planting scales and invasive plant management. Scaling down the original plantings and invasive management plans may affect the outcomes. It is worth considering that extending the planting deadline over multiple years may result in an increase in the overall cost of the plantings. Extending the management of invasive plants may also affect the overall efficacy and costs of work already completed to control the area.