



Town of Bowdoinham

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Thomas K. Woodin, Town Manager

Municipal Planning Assistance Program
c/o Ruta Dzenis, Senior Planner
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Progress Report #4 – December 2019 to July 2020
Bowdoinham - Re-Development of Public Works Waterfront Property
NOAA Grant 17 & 18, Project ID #62

Purpose of the Grant

This project is part of the Town's efforts to re-develop the Town's former Public Works Property on the Cathance River. This property is located on the Town's riverfront and is underutilized given the area's potential for recreation-based economic development. In fact, Midcoast Economic Development District's 2018 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy lists the Bowdoinham's Waterfront re-development project as one of their Regionally Significant Projects.

This property is located in Beginning with Habitat Program's Kennebec Estuary Focus Area. The property includes large areas of tidal wetland and upland areas that serve important ecological and wildlife habitat functions. In the section of the April 2014 Beginning with Habitat Map for Bowdoinham shown at right, portions of the site are shown as Inland Wading Waterfowl Habitat, Tidal Wading Waterfowl Habitat, and Rare Plant Locations. Given the ecological and habitat considerations, it is especially important that the shoreline stabilization measures employed for this site preserve shoreline habitat and minimize impact. The site appears to be well suited for the application of a living shoreline.

The design would focus on the implementation of one or multiple low-impact or living shoreline stabilization measures and would be coordinated with the Master Site Plan for the Redevelopment of the Public Works Property. Circulation and access will be carefully and comprehensively shaped to ensure and maintain the long-term adaptive integrity of the shoreline, while heightening the public experience and awareness of the benefits of a well-functioning waterfront.

A final aspect to the shoreline stabilization work is the integration of improved water access for hand-carry vessels. Addition of a hand-carry ramp at this site has long been a goal of the Town in order to improve access to the Cathance River and separate hand-carry uses from the already busy public boat ramp at Maily Park. The shoreline stabilization project provides an

opportunity to design, permit, and construct a hand-carry access that is well integrated with the stabilization measures that are employed.

Project Participants

Project Manager and contact information:

Nicole Briand, Director of Planning & Development
Town of Bowdoinham
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Project partners:

Baker Design Consultants (consultant)
Travis Pryor, LEED-AP
7 Spruce Road
Freeport, Maine 04032-6202

Richardson & Associates (consultant)
Robert Massengale
rm@richardssonassociates.com

What's Happened So Far

Completed - Task 1 – Topographic Survey:

We have completed the survey work on the parcel with sufficient topographic data to generate 1' contours for the site, and additional detail along the shoreline including upland and bathymetric survey to support the proposed slope stabilization work.

Completed - Task 2 - Ecological Assessment and Wetland Delineation:

Completed the field assessment of the types and locations of natural resources on the property including vegetation types, wildlife habitats, and unique or sensitive features. Delineate wetland boundaries and identify wetland type and significance. This data will provide a detailed understanding of natural resource constraints related to the design and permitting of shoreline stabilization included in Task 4, as well as further site improvement opportunities.

Completed - Task 3 - Assessment of Flood Risk:

The detailed survey data obtained in Task 1 was reviewed and compared to the boundaries of the Special Flood Hazard Area mapped by FEMA in their effective (2015) and historic FIRM's to provide a more detailed understanding of flood risk at the site.

In Progress

Task 4 - Design and Permitting of Slope Stabilization Measures and Shoreline Access:

The design development for shoreline stabilization measures for the property's frontage on the Cathance River has been completed. The existing shoreline was assessed to determine locations and extent of required stabilization, and suitability of various stabilization methods. Design will focus on the implementation of one or multiple low-impact or living shoreline stabilization measures.

We had our first Design Workshop for the Non-Motorized Boat Launch and Shoreline Stabilization with our consultants, Richardson & Associates and Baker Design Consultants on September 17th. At that meeting, our consultants presented design options for both elements. For the non-motorized boat launch (aka paddle put-in), the public was in agreement, that they wanted a launch similar to the boat launch at Maily Waterfront Park: a hard bottom access ramp, floats with the rail and ADA float access. For the Shoreline Stabilization, the public was in agreement of which treatment options should be placed along the different areas of the shoreline and where overlooks and pathways should be located.

We had our second design meeting on Wednesday, November 20th. At this meeting, attendees had the opportunity to view and provide feedback on the preliminary designs. The public provided positive feedback on the design as shown. Now the consultants are working to finalize the design to begin the permitting process.

Permit applications were submitted to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Army Corp of Engineers and the Town of Bowdoinham in April 2020. We have received the Natural Resource Protection Act permits from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, as well as the Site Plan Review and Shoreline Zoning permits from the Town of Bowdoinham.

Task 5 - Education and Outreach:

The Town has contacted both Maine Geological Survey and Maine Natural Areas Program for their input on the shoreline stabilization design. Once the design is complete the Town will continue its communications with Maine Geological Survey to develop an outreach plan to educate the public on the benefits of a living shoreline.

In the future, after the living shoreline is completed, we look forward to having educational signage at the park about the living shoreline, as well as hosting living shoreline workshops for others at the park.

Schedule

As of the writing of this report, we are on schedule, please refer to our attached project schedule.

Payments and Requests

We have incurred the following expenses which have been paid by the Town. A reimbursement request was made in November, a final reimbursement request will be made once the project is complete.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Vendor</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
06-15-2019	Richardson & Associates	Project Coordination	\$460.50
06-15-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design, Outreach & Survey	\$9,720.75
08-29-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design, Outreach & Flood Assessment	\$8,193.98
09-16-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$4,401.60
10-14-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design, Outreach & Wetland Assessment	\$21,502.73
11-29-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$1,548.75
12-23-2019	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$2,902.44
02-07-2020	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$1,223.30
03-20-2020	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$2,327.47
05-19-2020	Richardson & Associates	Design & Outreach	\$7,676.00

Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole Briand
Director of Planning & Development
Town of Bowdoinham
207-666-5531