

Memorandum

To: Board of Selectmen

From: Jason Lamoreau, Recreation Director

Date: June 4, 2026

Re: Authorization to Award Maine Trails Program Contract to OBP

Summary

In August 2025 the Select Board unanimously approved applying for the Maine Trails Program Grant. In December 2025 the Select Board accepted a \$62,820.97 award from the Maine Trails Program and approved and \$6,982 of match from the Rideout Family Trust for Cathance Meadow Trail System Improvements.

The funds will be used for the design and development of an accessible trail at the new Bowdoinham Riverfront Park in the Cathance Meadow Trail system. The 0.15 mile section of trail would begin with new gate features at the entrance(s) of the trail along the railroad tracks and off of the new parking area. The trail will be constructed to be fully accessible by users of all ages and abilities by utilizing methods laid out in the 2023 Trail Assessment Report completed for the Age Friendly Committee by Community Geographies

The trail would extend to the concrete observation platform (east of existing "blue" trail). Grant funding would also allow for the construction of a new platform walking surface area, safety handrails and ramp to the observation platform.

This spring staff solicited bids for the construction portion of the project (trail construction, culvert replacement, ramp creation, and concrete work to secure the platform). We received two bids for the trail construction portion: OBP at \$36,830.00 which was (\$1,420.07) more than NextGen Landscapes. Staff is asking for the Select Board's approval to enter into a contract with OBP.

OBP's proposal was much more detailed, they have much more experience, provided relevant certifications, good references, and a better understanding of the project. Moreover, NextGen was proposing to demolish the platform and create a simple pad instead of working with the existing pad which is the basis for the viewing platform, a major element of the project. The State has approved us to contract with OBP Trailworks.

Cathance Meadows Trail System Proposed Improvements 2025

★ = updated wayfinding posts

★ = new wayfinding post

★ = updated trail map

Green line = gate locations

Orange line = new culvert

Blue path line = improved trail section

Red path line = new trail section

■ = 20'x20' observation platform with railings and 4' opening with 16' ramp with hand rail

