

WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION GRANTS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO ENTITIES SERVED BY THE PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT (MAINE)

(Please answer all questions. Applicants may be disqualified if required fields are not completed.)

If you would like to confirm receipt of your application, please [contact](#) the public relations office.

Name * Jay Reynolds

Company or Organization * Town of Cape Elizabeth

Street Address *

City *

State *

Zip Code *

Phone Number *

Email Address *

Installation Year * 2022

Which type of unit are you applying for? *- Select -Stand Alone Outside Unit

Describe the location of proposed installation *

The proposed location of the outdoor bottle filling station is the spectacular Fort Williams Park located at 1000 Shore Road in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The site of a former U.S. Army fort, Fort Williams played an important role in fortifying the Portland Harbor from the time it went into service in 1898 until it was decommissioned in 1962. In 1964, the land was sold to the town of Cape Elizabeth and redeveloped into a park which now attracts more than 800,000 visitors per year.

Fort Williams Park is comprised of 90 acres of natural and designed landscapes, military and historic structures, walking trails, playing fields, recreational sites, a beach, children's garden, picnic facilities, arboretum, food stalls, and more. The most popular attraction is the stunning and historic Portland Head Light and adjoining maritime museum and gift shop.

First lit in 1791, this lighthouse is the oldest lighthouse in Maine and the most frequently photographed. If awarded this grant, the outdoor bottle filling station will be installed on the promontory containing the Portland Head Light. This location was chosen because of the huge volume of visitors who visit this iconic structure. While there are no existing water fountains next to the Portland Head Light, there is an accessible water line which will simplify installation of a new filling station. This location was also selected because there are two seasonal food stalls in close proximity which sell beverages in plastic bottles. A bottle filling station next to this heavily-visited location will enable and encourage visitors to refill a reusable bottle, rather than purchase a plastic bottle for one-time use.

Describe exposure, approximate number of people passing by the unit, current use of fountains, etc. *

Fort Williams Park is a “must-see” tourist attraction in the Portland area and is also a heavily utilized community amenity for local residents. Owned and managed by the Town of Cape Elizabeth, the park is free to visit and open to the public from sunrise to sunset 365 days a year. Located just 15 minutes from downtown Portland, Fort Williams Park is readily accessible to more than 500,000 people who live in the Greater Portland area and to the growing number of tourists who visit Portland each year. The Park receives more than 800,000 visitors each year from places far and near, including 6,500 local, national, and international runners participating in the annual Beach to Beacon 10K Road Race, who cross the finish line near Portland Head Light . Thus, a bottle filling station in Fort Williams Park will have huge exposure and benefit for public use.

Explain your organization's need / reason for applying for a grant and interest in a bottle filling fountain *

This application was completed on behalf of the Town of Cape Elizabeth by the Cape Elizabeth Recycling Committee, a seven-member town committee appointed by the Town Council. Cape Elizabeth is a nonprofit municipality located within the Portland Water District territory and is a customer of the District. The Recycling Committee’s charter is to promote and educate the public in recycling and other environmental stewardship efforts. The Committee believes an outdoor bottle filling station in Fort Williams Park will need meet two significant and connected needs: 1) reduce the number of single use plastic water bottles used by visitors and 2) increase the availability of free, quality drinking water in the Park.

The 800,000 annual visitors to Fort Williams Park are rewarded with spectacular ocean views from nearly every vantage point in the park. However, the Casco Bay, Atlantic Ocean and all of the world’s oceans are in grave danger. It is estimated that 8 million metric tons of plastic waste enter the ocean each year from land, posing risks to marine wildlife and potentially human health. Installing a bottle filling station in Fort Williams is an opportunity for our town to do our part to reduce the tremendous amount of waste generated by the production and disposal of single use plastic water bottles.

Visitors to Fort Williams generally have to bring water with them, as there is very limited access to drinking water in the Park. Currently, there are just three water fountains in the 90-acre park, none of them close to the Portland Head Light. As previously mentioned, there are also seasonal food stalls that sell beverages in single-use plastic bottles. A water bottle filling station in the highly trafficked area next to the light house will be highly visible and frequently utilized by the public, who otherwise might purchase water in plastic bottles.

Who is your primary audience for the unit? *

The primary audience for the water bottle filling station is the 800,000 annual visitors to the park. The filling station will benefit those come to the park with reusable bottles and need to re-fill, who otherwise would have to purchase water in plastic bottles or do without.

Who will be installing the unit? *- Select -Internal Facilities StaffContractorOther
How did you learn of the grant program? *- Select -Direct Mail: BrochureOther:
BrochureMediaInternetSocial MediaOther

Does your organization agree to pay all installation, maintenance, and water costs associated with the unit? *

Yes

No

Do you need to pursue additional approvals in order to install the unit? *

Yes

No