

Ecology Project Report

September 2021

Hello!

1. Intern: Stephanie Taylor from SMCC's Horticulture program volunteered with the Friends this summer and also joined us as an employee. She will continue to work this fall.
2. Garden Tour: The Friends' Garden Tour was a success! We raised over \$40,000. Thank you for your support and for allowing our registration to take place in front of the Children's Garden.
3. Slide hillside: Work to build scrambling walls on both sides of the slide was completed in July by Hanlon Stone. Jamie Hanlon and his team also built a rock retaining wall at the foot of the hillside to the east and installed a rounded rock bench/mulch retaining wall at the foot of the slide. Slide work was inspected by Maine Municipal Association on August 12, 2021. Future projects include a cedar post and rope railing for both scrambling walls and plantings for the area.
4. Maintenance: We've been hard at work at our sites. Projects for this month and next: Planting new shrubs in Cliffside, delineating paths in the Children's Garden, and creating space in the Children's Garden meadow for new wildflowers. We are adding species diversity, including a State-listed threatened species among others.
5. Volunteers: The Rotary Club cleared invasive plants to the west of the Children's Garden and along Shore Road on June 18. They were joined by FFWP staff and volunteers. Twenty-seven students and five faculty members from Waynflete cleared invasive plants on September 3 from the Fruit Orchard area (near Battery Garesche). They also cut-back wildflowers that had grown over the upper Cliff Walk path. Upcoming volunteers: possibly Tom's of Maine.
6. Programming: Anna Fialkoff from Wild Seed Project led a walk on native plants in the Children's Garden on August 26. I gave an invasive plant walk to SMCC students in August. I'm giving two talks in October to the Cape Elizabeth Garden Club and to the Harpswell Garden Club on native plants and management practices. We are going to schedule at least two walks/talks this fall to review our habitat restoration success along the Cliff Walk.
7. Invasive plants: Vegetation Control Service (VCS) worked in the Park in early July to clear black swallowwort and were in the Park last week to tackle Japanese knotweed. VCS will return this week to treat Asiatic bittersweet and other invasive plants. Please note that the Battery Blair woods are looking fantastic as far as invasive plants are concerned. Question: Have you considered how this space will be managed in the coming years?

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8. Planting at the Parade Ground parking lot: Some of the shrubs that were planted in the spring have made it and have grown. Additional shrubs will be planted this fall and the site will be weeded. Eroded sites on the Cliff Walk will also be planted in the fall.
9. Project Canopy planning and planting: We are drawing plans and reviewing potential plant lists for areas in the Cliff Walk Landscape, specifically near the largest overlook on the upper Cliff Walk path. We hope to plant some trees and shrubs this fall and plant the remaining trees and shrubs in the spring. I will review the plant list with Jay Reynolds before ordering and will send the list and planting map to the Park Committee.

Thank you!

Andrea