City of Portsmouth
Weston & Sampson’s Design Studio
Gene Bolinger, RLA
Cheri Ruane, RLA
blue ribbon committee

- Councilor Chris Dwyer, Chair
- Mayor Jack Blalock
- Councilor Nancy Pearson
- Stefany Shaheen, resident representative
- Phyllis Eldridge, Trustee of Trust Funds
- Dana Levenson, Trustee of Trust Funds
- Thomas Watson, Trustee of Trust Funds
presentation outline

- Next Steps & Timeline
- Project Understanding & What We’ve Been Up To
- Existing Conditions & What We’ve Heard So Far
- Design Opportunities
- Project Schedule
Project Phases / Scope of Work

**Next Steps**
- Site Analysis
- Public Input & Participation
- Conceptual Design
- Master Plan & Facilities Plan

**Timeline**
- Spring / Summer
- Project Duration
- Summer
- Fall / Winter

Timeline:
- April
- August
- December
Project Phases / Scope of Work

Next Steps
- Site Analysis
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Timeline
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WE ARE HERE!

April  
August  
December

Prescott Park Master Plan
June 22, 2016
Most important project of this generation

Legacy undertaking that continues the rich history of access to public open space established by Prescott sisters

Master planning process of a wildly successful place

Breakthrough possibilities
What we’ve been up to...
Community & Park Events
what makes a great park?

This program is available on the PBS website and will be screened at the Portsmouth Public Library **August 9th at 6:30 p.m.**
what makes a great park?

Central Park, New York City
what makes a great park?

Savannah, Georgia
what makes a great park?

Boston Common and Public Garden, Boston
variety of experience
opportunities to play
connections to water
AREA 1: Four Tree Island

existing conditions
AREA 1 - WHAT WE’VE HEARD

- Improve the entrance to be more obvious and a welcoming gateway with better signage.
- Consider beach access or viewing for tide pooling.
- Boardwalks in key locations to get closer to the water in an accessible way.
- More seating along the walkways and at the sculpture.
- Improve pedestrian walkways across the entire island.
- Add stuff to look at and do along the walkway from gate to picnic area. Maybe interpretive moments that tell the story of the place.
- It would be really cool if there were actually Four Trees here, or at least four "focal" trees. Once upon a time, this was the case.
existing conditions

AREA 2: Formal Entry / North Parking Lot / Public Forum / North and South Docks
AREA 2 - WHAT WE’VE HEARD

- Pedestrian circulation is not intuitive and pathways are failing.
- North Pier is aging rapidly.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Innovative site furnishing strategy (lighting, benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.) including charging stations.
- Integrate public art, including temporary installations.
- Less pavement, more green space (parking lot, public forum, etc.)
- Relocate the dumpsters.
**existing conditions**

- **AREA 3:** Open Lawn A / PPAF Stage and Support Structures / Whale Lawn / Prescott and T Pier / Open Lawn B / Sheafe and Shaw Warehouse and Marine Railway Headhouse
AREA 3 - WHAT WE’VE HEARD

- Don’t change a thing!
- Change everything!
- Better pathway layout and materials are needed.
- Introduce a children’s play area.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Tell the story of the Prescott Sisters.
- Make this a four-season public resource.
- Consider integrating public art, including temporarily installations.
- Open the Shaw and Sheafe Warehouses up for public use.
- Expand food sales to better support the general park user.
WHAT WE’VE HEARD - continued

Prescott Park Arts Festival

PROGRAMMING:
- Keep the arts programming as it is.
- Cap the usage at a level to be determined to better protect the park and limit the impacts of the festival.
- Expand the programming of the Arts Festival.
- The Arts Festival belongs somewhere else.

PHYSICAL PRESENCE:
- Make the stage and support structures more efficient.
- Consider the use of a permanent structure.
- Create a new stage that is less intrusive during the off season, multi-functional, and better facilitates the performances.
existing conditions

4. **AREA 4**: Open Lawn C / Gundalow Dock / Liberty Pole / Trial Gardens / Anchor Garden
existing conditions
AREA 4 - WHAT WE’VE HEARD

- Keep open lawn areas for informal uses.
- Consider a children’s play area.
- Improve access to water while keeping public safety in mind.
- Allow Gundalow Company to have more of a presence in the park.
- Reconsider Trial Gardens shape, size and location.
- Review the 1964 Master Plan for this area.
- Historical interpretation and connections to Strawberry Banke.
- Improved site furnishing strategy including charging stations.
- Make this a four-season public resource.
- Consider integrating public art, including temporarily installations.
AREA 5: Formal Garden

existing conditions
AREA 5 - WHAT WE’VE HEARD

- Don’t change a thing!
- Historical interpretation references to the Prescott Sisters.
existing conditions & uses
existing conditions & uses
existing conditions & uses
Mary and Josie Prescott

The trust states that the property donated to the City be used for "park and recreational purposes".
design opportunities: celebrating park history
design opportunities: optimize green space
People are interested in improving connections to the water.

Current edge conditions vary but are mostly barriers.

Public safety is always a priority.
Considerations on cost, phasing and the importance of capital investment in public open space / waterfront infrastructure.
What We Need From You

- Site Observations  
  *the good, the bad, and the rest*
- Ideas for Improvement
- Features to Remain
- Locations in Need of Repair
- Fondest Memories

Opportunities to Provide Feedback

- Walkabout Guide*
- Email images with captions:
  [prescottpark@wseinc.com](mailto:prescottpark@wseinc.com)
- Website Comment Form
  *see postcards for address*

*leave them with us / mail to City Hall / scan them to the email address / leave responses in the web form*
Public Input & Participation

- Weekend Design Workshop
- Community Information & Listening Session
- Park Presence Day
- CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PHASE
- Community Conceptual Design Presentation
- Community Preferred Master Plan Presentation
- Design Forensics Site Walk with DPW and Site Staff

Schedule

- June 12, 2016
- June 22, 2016
- June 25, 2016
- Summer 2016
- September 2016
- October / November 2016
- November 2016