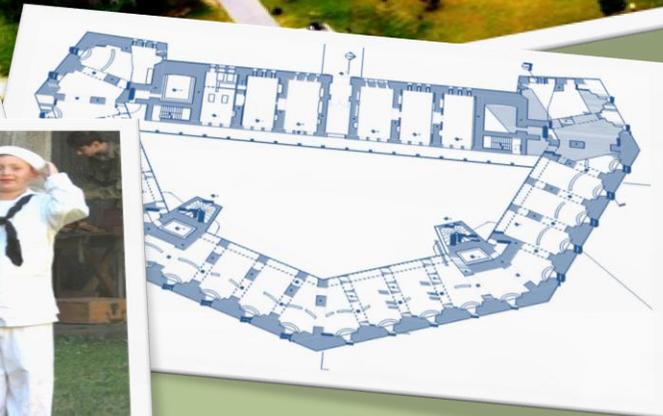


Fort Taber Park Master Plan



City of New Bedford
Jon Mitchell, Mayor

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Fort Taber Master Plan represents the combined effort of many people including members of the general public and city staff over a period of six months. Without many voices, this plan would not have been possible:

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CONTENTS



	PAGE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
2.0 INTRODUCTION	6
3.0 COMMUNITY INPUT	9
4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS	11
5.0 NEEDS	33
6.0 FORT TABER PARK USE POLICY	44
7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	51
8.0 APPENDICIES	59



1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Fort Taber Master Plan is the product of the City of New Bedford’s examination into existing conditions and declaration of its future vision for the overall use of the Fort Taber Park located at the southernmost tip of this Massachusetts coastal city.

Typically, master plans focus on articulating a broad vision for the future of an area of land and developing an implementation strategy for executing goals and objectives. In this respect, this master plan is, on its surface, no different. Section 4 of this work provides a review of the natural and physical features within the park and concludes with an assessment of its historical and existing conditions, and contrasting them with anticipated needs. These realities are then distilled through the lens of community input detailed in Section 5.

However, in addition to these more traditional elements, this particular narrative places significant focus on the management aspect of Fort Taber Park in Section 6. It concludes with a careful blending of these sections in an implementation strategy documented in Section 7.

As the backbone of this master plan, the management discussion begins with a review of the prohibitions placed on the use of the park resulting from conveyance deeds recorded as the varying park parcels were assembled over a twenty-five year period. Each of those conveyances carries perpetual restrictions that affect the use of the property. Having not yet provided the National Park Service with a master plan addressing such uses, and in recognition of the importance and value master plans have in coordinating future site activities and articulating how such activities may take place, this Fort Taber Master Plan has been created and submitted to the National Park Service.

In addition to the traditional sections already noted, this master plan’s uniqueness stems from two areas. First, because the park is largely built-out and enjoys use restrictions in perpetuity, this master plan is, in some respects, more of a “management plan” providing the kind of guidance and direction the city needs in operating the park in a manner consistent with National Park Service expectations.



Secondly, this master plan also:

- Has been developed through a public participation process. (Section 3)
- Provides a comprehensive list of all covenants/restrictions which apply to the park accompanied by a map that shows how each parcel that makes up the park is restricted. (Section 4)
- Lists all features/amenities which are currently constructed/placed in the park including concessions and how they are run, along with a map that highlights the park's different uses. (Section 4)
- Addresses recreational, historical and landscape issues. (Section 4)
- Provides a spreadsheet of how all sections of the park have been historically used, how they are currently being used for recreation purposes and what possible anticipated changes may be made over the next twenty years. (Section 5)
- Discusses the criteria/guidance/process on how requests for future "improvements" or concession agreements will be considered and addressed. This section states the roles of various city entities and defines which one is the ultimate authority as it relates to Fort Taber Park. (Section 6)
- Articulates a clear policy as to the prohibition of monuments/memorials. (Section 6)



The entirety of the master plan process has been undertaken as a cooperative venture involving community constituencies and multiple city departments. As a result, the master plan recommends significant improvements to ensure a comprehensive plan that works for everyone now, and in perpetuity, as expressed through six major goals:

<p style="text-align: center;">STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>Preserve and protect the park's natural, cultural and historical resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">USE, OPERATION & MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Ensure compatible uses within the park which adhere to the recorded deeds and covenants.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MAINTENANCE</p> <p>Maintain the park in a safe, clean and sustainable manner that protects the historic, natural and cultural resources.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>Develop facilities and funding needed to preserve the park's resources and operate it in a safe, sustainable and fiscally responsible manner.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION</p> <p>Develop opportunities for education and interpretation of the historic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">COLLABORATION</p> <p>Work with partners on programs and events that are mutually beneficial to the park and the community.</p>

2.0 INTRODUCTION



The City of New Bedford is recognized as the largest municipality in Southeastern Massachusetts with just under 100,000 residents in 2013¹. Nicknamed "The Whaling City" because of its importance as a whaling port during the 19th century, New Bedford has long enjoyed its relationship to the ocean and has provided careful stewardship of the resources that have long defined both its history, and its future.

One such resource is Fort Taber Park located on the Clark's Point peninsula lending shape to the City of New Bedford's southernmost tip. This ten-acre multi-purpose public park is one of the most popular destinations for residents and visitors alike.

2.1 Why create a master plan?

Much of the park land was acquired by the city from the United States Government by the General Services Administration [GSA] through a series of land conveyances more fully described in Section 4.2 between 1967 and 1992. As the result of those covenanted transfers, public outdoor recreation and preservation are the designated uses of the property in perpetuity. Having received these parcels, the city is required to provide the NPS with regular reporting and an overarching plan describing the overall vision and management of the park and its facilities.

The development of this area of land into a park has resulted in an important space that combines unique historical landmarks and natural resources while offering residents and visitors a range of opportunities for both passive and active recreation. Because of its geography, the park offers visitors views of Buzzards Bay and the Elizabeth Islands while featuring significant open space used for both informal, individualized activities and for larger public events. At almost every turn the beautiful vistas of the bay provide impressive backdrops to the important historical landmarks, buildings, and recreational areas enjoyed by the public. Likewise, the site's historical importance as a fort and military installation, dating back to the Civil War, along with the presence of a centerpiece



¹ U.S. Census 2013 estimate at <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/25/2545000.html>

fort, leaves no doubt as to the park's pre-eminence as a highly significant part of the city's, and region's, past.

When coupled with the National Park Service's request to provide it with a plan addressing the future operations of the park in a manner consistent with the perpetual restrictions on the site, the city's interest in ensuring the future of such attributes has resulted in the creation of this master plan.

In so doing, this master plan takes a fresh look at the park's future over the next twenty years, both in terms of operations and with respect to facility management. This plan articulates the original vision of the park and ensures that it will continue to be universally accessible, sustainable, well-maintained and safe--meeting the needs of individuals, families, and the greater community. The focus on non-programmed, flexible open space and preservation of the fort continues with a strong emphasis on connecting people to the land and water, and to each other.

2.2 How was this plan written?

The Fort Taber Master Plan process coincided with the City of New Bedford's 2014-2021 Open Space & Recreation Plan process beginning in 2013 that identified the need to enhance and improve the conditions of recreational and sporting facilities for city residents by developing and/or revising "...master plans for all major parks and the waterfront including facilities improvements, maintenance, staffing, management and summer programs."² Through multiple public meetings, community forums, and written surveys, information about what city residents valued in their open spaces and recreational opportunities was collected.

The Fort Taber Master Plan process benefited from the city's Open Space & Recreation Plan community engagement efforts, eventually relying on them as a springboard for its own development. In early 2014, the city contracted with a consultant to undertake a comprehensive existing conditions survey of the park which staff reviewed with a newly formed master plan steering committee discussed at greater length in Section 3.0 of this plan. City staff garnered the input of community stakeholders and the public at large both in a public hearing forum as well as through a written survey. City staff also generated an

"Fort Taber is a model facility for accessibility. Accessible parking, pathways, seating areas, overlooks (with accessible telescopes by approach and height), play areas, picnic areas, beaches and a wide range of choices allows an individual to experience the entirety of the amenities offered at this facility."

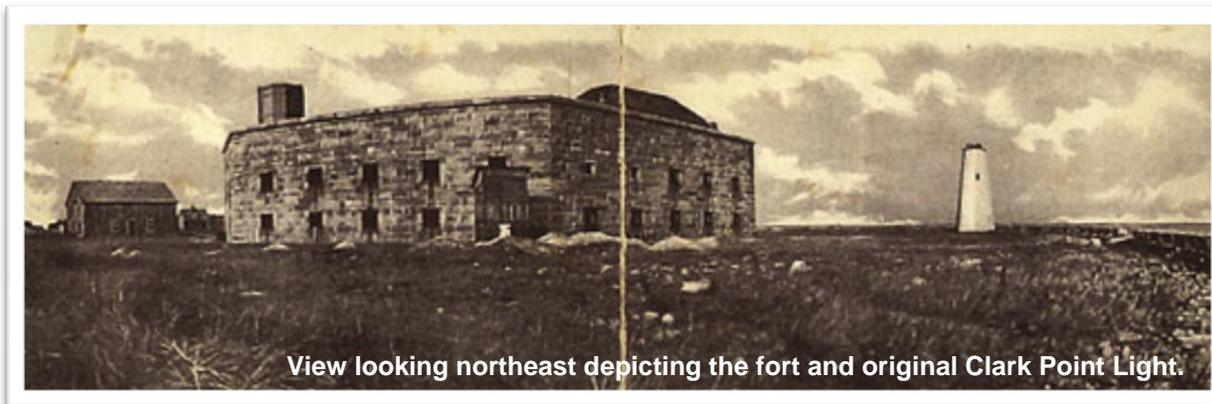
--City of New Bedford 2014-2021 Open Space & Recreation Plan



² City of New Bedford Open Space and Recreation Plan 2014-2021

assessment of existing park conditions (Section 4) and anticipated needs (Section 5). This information was woven into the work of city staff as informed by multiple conversations with the National Park Service resulting in the articulation of goals, and operational policies (Section 6), culminating in implementation strategies (Section 7). Relying on this information, the draft master plan was completed in December 2014. After an internal review and buy-in by city staff representing the Mayor's Office, the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development, the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches and the Park Board of Commissioners, the Department of Public Infrastructure and the Department of Facilities and Fleet Management, a second public hearing was conducted at Fort Taber. This second public hearing allowed the community to discuss their review of the draft master plan and offer final recommendations.

The final version of the plan will be forwarded to the National Park Service for their approval in February 2015 and will require adoption as final by the City of New Bedford.



View looking northeast depicting the fort and original Clark Point Light.

3.0 COMMUNITY INPUT



Plans mean nothing without the voice of the community authentically integrated throughout.

Any master plan prepared without meaningful civic dialogue will not only run the risk of failing, but chances are, it *will* fail. This Fort Taber Master Plan reflects a collaborative process involving City of New Bedford staff and the general public. The voice of the community came through in a number of forums: individual conversations, community meetings, and larger public meetings as part of the City's Open Space & Recreation Plan hearings; additional input was received through a written survey specific to Fort Taber Park. As such the comments and conversations around the existing conditions and future needs and vision for the park percolate through each section of this master plan.³

3.1 Early Public Input

The City of New Bedford was updating the Open Space & Recreation Plan in 2013 when the need arose to concurrently draft a master plan for Fort Taber Park. The synchronicity of this occurrence aided the city in its ability to solicit input for all of its open space areas, including Fort Taber Park, in an effective manner. The public process of the Open Space & Recreation Plan began with neighborhood group meetings held in each of the city's six wards focusing on citywide open space and recreation needs. The city then held one meeting dedicated solely to the topic of Fort Taber Park on July 28th, 2014 and the community input process for the creation of the Fort Taber Master Plan began in earnest.

Prior to that July 2014 meeting, the planning process had already begun with background research and analysis being undertaken by city staff. Additionally, the city engaged the services of consultant Camp Dresser and McGee Smith to complete an "existing conditions" survey of the site. Following this preliminary research and conditions analysis, needs were discussed and identified for the park's building facilities, administration, visitor services, maintenance, and the overall site grounds.



³ Additional information about how the community's voice was incorporated into this plan, specifically in identifying needs, is also highlighted in Section 4.0 Existing Conditions.

Armed with the existing conditions analysis, the July 2014 public meeting brought together the voice of the community. After reviewing city and consultant data on what the park's present status revealed, the participants' comments, conversations and suggestions resulted in the articulation of existing conditions (as highlighted in Section 4.0) and the development of a set of goals and objectives to guide future actions and investments for the park. These goals and strategies form the basis of the implementation plan found in Section 7.0 of this plan.

3.2 Community Meetings

During the summer of 2014 the City of New Bedford's Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development convened a community meeting inviting representation from groups with particular historic, recreational and educational interests germane to Fort Taber Park. In the course of that meeting city staff provided background information about the Park and extended an opportunity for those present to speak about their perceptions of what worked well at the park and what areas could use improvement or attention.

The ideas generated in the course of that meeting, along with the results of a publicly conducted survey, were carefully explored during the needs and assessment phase of this plan's preparation and were integrated into the park's new policies and the implementation plan. This material is presented in the Appendices in Section 8.

This Fort Taber Master Plan will be made available to the general public while in its draft form so that final comments and suggestions can be reflected in the final version forwarded to the National Park Service for approval.

Aware of its value to their lives, residents are proud stewards and supporters of this extraordinary park and its recreation system.

Fort Taber Community Meeting included representation from the following groups and associations:

- Clark's Point Neighborhood Association
- Fort Rodman-Fort Taber Historical Association
- New Bedford Whaling National Park Service
- New Bedford Whaling Museum
- Waterfront Historic Area League
- Park Board of Commissioners (represented by board member Elaine Safiolas)
- City of New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches
- City of New Bedford Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development



4.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS



4.1 History

Fort Taber Park was created on the heels of a storied military and strategic history dating back to the 18th century. For hundreds of years, Fort Taber proved to be an important battery charged with the protection of New Bedford’s harbor and important whaling, and later, fishing fleets. Shortly after the World War II, the complex was declared surplus by the federal government. By the mid 1960’s, the fort was no longer used as an active coastal defensive station. Although the fort was used for Army Reserve Training through the end of the Vietnam War, it was eventually deeded by the federal government with covenants (*See Section 4.2 Legal for information on acquisitions and deed restrictions*) to the City of New Bedford for future educational and recreational purposes. Those property transfers took place between 1967 – 1992.

Although some work had been done to the park in those intervening years, it wasn’t until the year 2000 that a renewed interest in Fort Taber brought about the city’s creation of a new bicycle/walking path which meanders throughout the site. The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum opened in 2004. Today Fort Taber Park is considered one of the most popular parks in the City of New Bedford.

4.2 Legal

Fort Taber is a 10.87-acre waterfront park⁴ on the “Clark’s Point” peninsula in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts. By virtue of its location projecting into Buzzards Bay, the park easily provides over a mile of ocean frontage. In addition, Fort Taber Park incorporates historical landmarks, offers many amenities and provides various opportunities for passive and active recreation.

The geographic siting of Clark’s Point as the southernmost entry to the city’s port historically positioned it as an important location for the provision of national coastal defense. In light of its strategic location the federal government purchased the Edward Wing Howland farm on Clark’s Point in 1857 for the purpose of building a fort.



⁴ Fort Taber Park technically includes 47.07 acres of land, 10.87 acres of which is “land acreage” and the balance of 36.20 acres being land underwater.

Acquisition Chronology

Although originally designed to be three-tier fort, construction on the fort halted at the end of the Civil War with the completion of the second-tier. Fort Rodman remained an active military base leading up to World War II. After World War II, the military base was decommissioned and the military complex became a reserve base in the 1960's and 1970's for the Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army and Navy. Throughout that time period, Fort Taber never participated in any military action. The Clark's Point parcel was eventually deemed surplus government property and was conveyed with restrictions to the City of New Bedford in separate land parcel transactions between 1967–1992 as follows here and as depicted in Figures 1 and 2: *Fort Taber Park's Acquisition Chronology*.

- **August 30, 1967** Surplus land assigned to the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare was conveyed to the City of New Bedford with a thirty year restriction limiting the land to public health purposes.
- **July 11, 1973.** The National Park Service Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) conveyed surplus property from the former Fort Rodman Military Reservation to the City of New Bedford for public park and recreation purposes in perpetuity.
- **August 22, 1973** Surplus land assigned to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare was conveyed to the City of New Bedford with a thirty year restriction limiting the land to educational purposes.
- **November 30, 1973** The General Services Administration (GSA), through the National Park Service's Historic Surplus Property program (HSP), conveyed the parcel to the City of New Bedford that included Fort Taber, itself, along with most of the batteries: Walcott, Gaston, Cross, Craig and Barton. This parcel is also restricted and must be used and maintained as a historic monument and for purposes incidental to that historic monuments only, in perpetuity.
- **October 1992** In order to comply with a federal court order to build a new secondary waste water treatment plant, the City identified another location at Clarks Point for the plant and the federal government released the educational and health restrictions placed on the previous conveyed surplus parcels.⁵ The Release Agreement & Declaration of Covenants was executed on October 8, 1992. On October 22, 1992, the federal government conveyed additional parcels to the city and along with previously owned city land; these parcels were restricted for public park and recreation purposes in perpetuity.



⁵ Parcels were #1, #1A and #4 as identified on the "Tibbetts Plan" recorded in the Bristol County Registry of Deeds and on file with the City of New Bedford's Planning Department.

Fort Taber Park's Acquisition Chronology

Figure 1

This map is an approximation and is not intended to be an accurate surveyed plan of the park; rather, it is a visual aide to assist the reader in following the chronology presented in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan.

- August 1967
- July 1973
- August 1973
- November 1973
- October 1992

July 1973
NPS FLP conveyance for public park and recreation purposes in perpetuity

August 1973
DHEW conveyance with a thirty (30) year restriction limiting land to educational purposes

August 1967
A thirty (30) year restriction limiting the land to public health purposes. (Expired 1997).

July 1973
NPS FLP conveyance for public park and recreation purposes in perpetuity

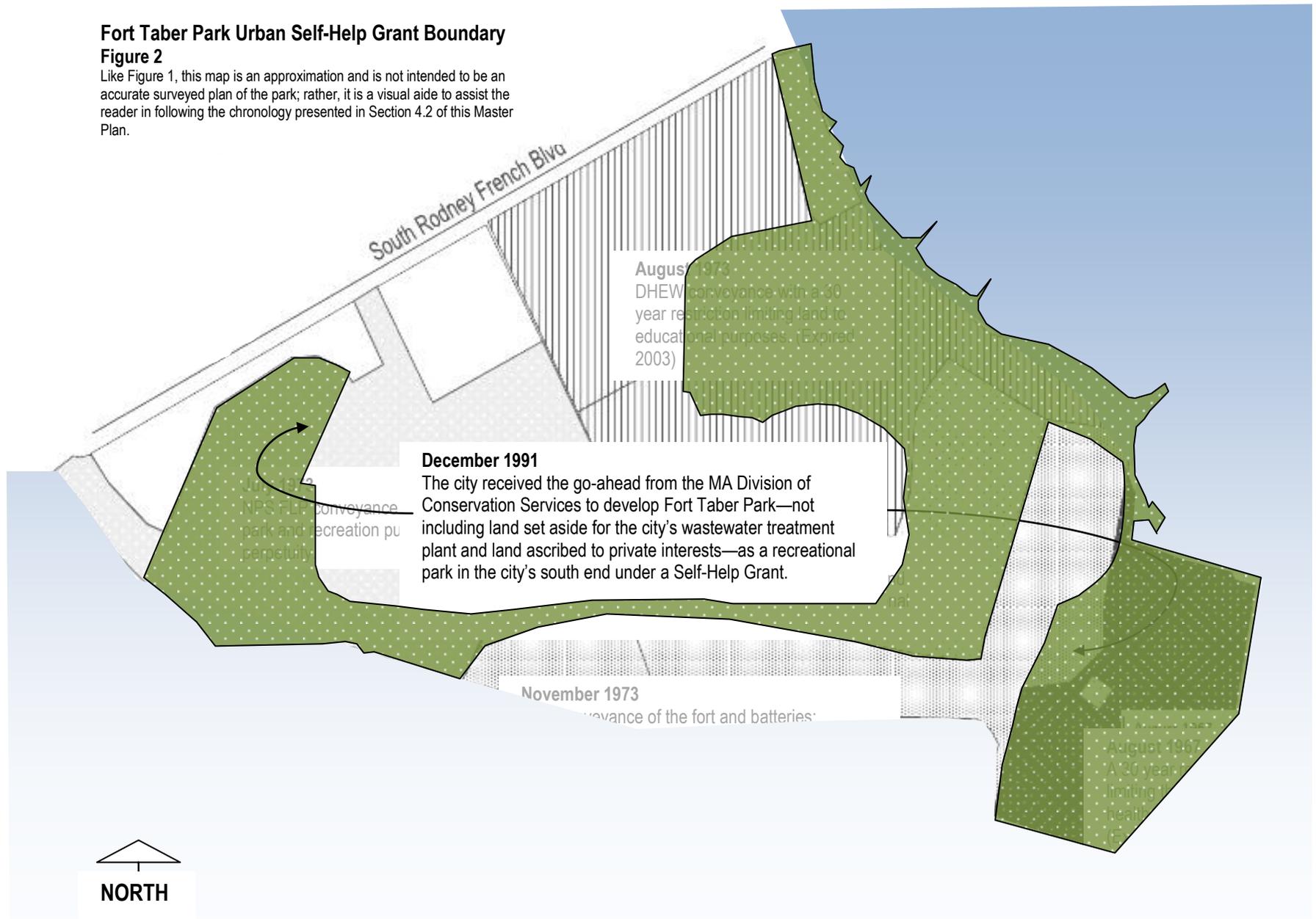
November 1973
NPS conveyance of fort and batteries; restricted to use as historic monument and for purposes incidental to historic monuments in perpetuity.

October 1992
Federal government conveyance of land restricted for public park and recreational purposes in perpetuity.

Fort Taber Park Urban Self-Help Grant Boundary

Figure 2

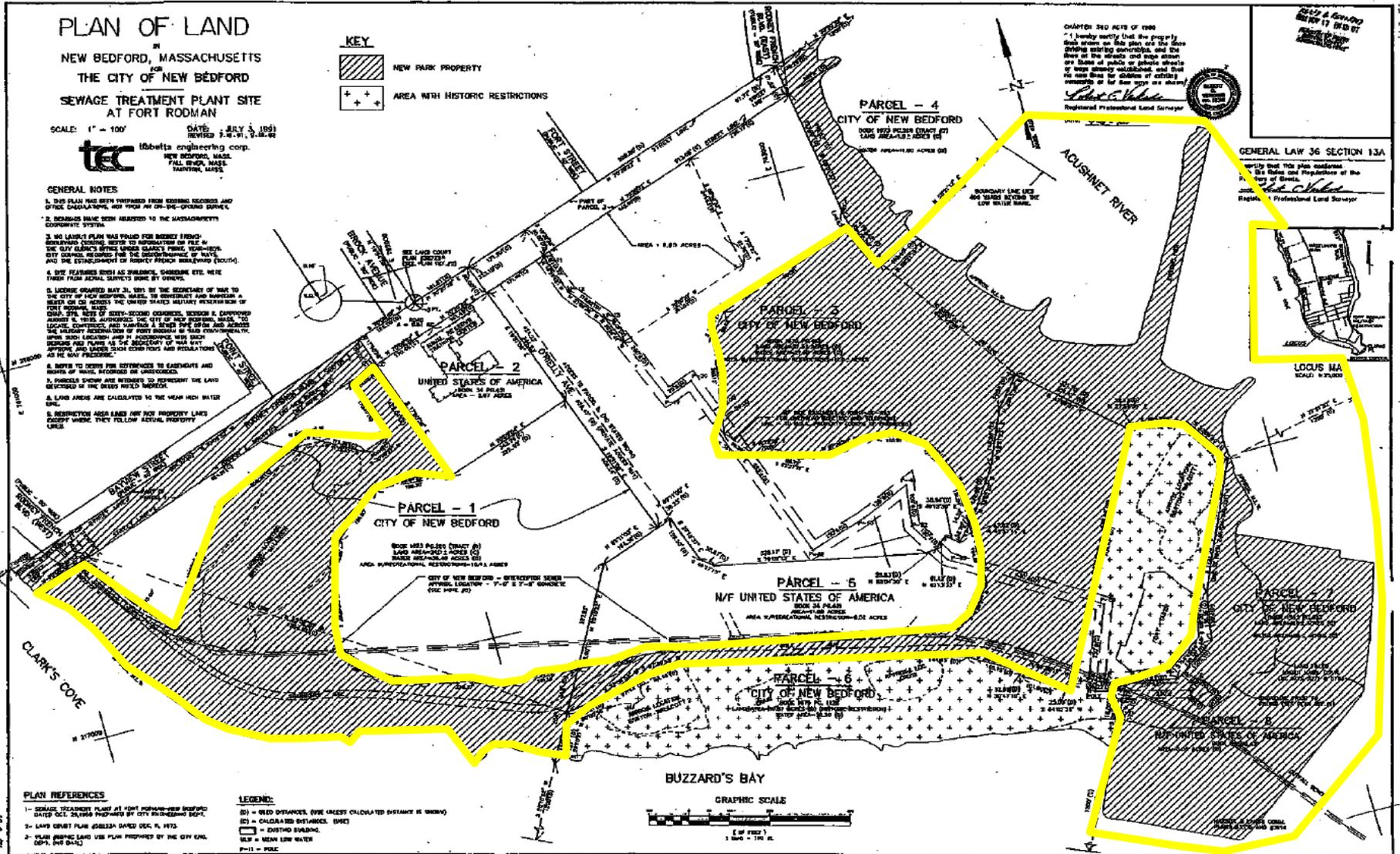
Like Figure 1, this map is an approximation and is not intended to be an accurate surveyed plan of the park; rather, it is a visual aide to assist the reader in following the chronology presented in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan.



Fort Taber LWCF Boundary

Figure 4

Like Figure 1, this map is a visual aide to assist the reader in following the chronology presented in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan.



Deed Restrictions

Fort Taber Park is a diverse mix of trails, beaches, historical resources, a playground, fishing and boating areas, as well as many acres of undeveloped passive open space. The use of all the park parcels is subject to three types of deed restrictions. Because of this, the park's use policy must also conform to the applicable deed restrictions placed upon the park:

A. Recreation Restriction (FLP)

Land acquired through the Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program must be used for public park and recreational use in perpetuity. By acquiring property through the Federal Lands to Parks Program, the City promised to adhere to the terms of conveyance and commit the funds necessary to properly develop, operate, and maintain the property for public park and recreational use in perpetuity.

Operating Requirements within the Quitclaim Deed of Conveyance

In all cases related to Fort Taber Park, the federal government placed requirements within the Federal Lands to Parks program (FLP) deeds that conveyed federal property to the City of New Bedford. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program

The National Park Service (NPS) generally conveys land through the FLP program at no cost in return for the benefits derived by its public use. By acquiring property through the FLP program, the city has promised to commit the funds necessary to properly develop, operate, and maintain the property for public park and recreational use, and to protect natural and cultural resources protected under related established federal laws in perpetuity. After the land is conveyed, the NPS periodically monitors the property's use and development to make sure that it is managed according to the terms and conditions of the deed and approved use plan. Several operating stipulations (as noted in this section) are incorporated within the conveyance and require adherence.

2. Program of Utilization (POU)

One requirement of the FLP program is the development of a Program of Utilization (POU) for the property acquired, in this case, a POU for Fort Taber Park. In 1973 when the NPS conveyed surplus property to the City of New Bedford, an original POU and site plan were prepared. That POU describes the proposed public park and recreational uses of the site. The original POU and site plan are legally incorporated into the deed and any changes must be requested by the city, approved by the NPS, and be incorporated in the official file. Over the years the POU has been amended to reflect changes within Fort Taber Park. In particular, the city's Secondary Wastewater



Treatment Plant was constructed in the 1990's on a parcel of land carved out of a larger parcel originally deeded to the city in 1973.

3. Compliance Reports

The City of New Bedford must submit biennial compliance reports to the NPS every five (5) years to demonstrate that the property is being developed and used according to the amended POU and in conformance with the terms of conveyance. The compliance report must include the following items: an assessment of the POU; any concession agreements; a financial statement; narrative as to the extent of public use; future programs; and any other additional information germane to the park and its use as requested by the FLP program.

4. Selling or Leasing of Land/ Third Party Concessions

Fort Taber Park property cannot be sold, leased, assigned, or disposed of except to another eligible governmental agency that the Secretary of the Interior agrees to in writing and who can assure the continued use and maintenance of the property for public park or public recreational purposes subject to these terms and conditions. However, nothing in this precludes the city from providing recreational facilities and services compatible with the POU through concession or other agreements, operating agreements or licenses entered into with third parties, provided such recreational facilities and services are compatible with the POU. Third party concessions are private or non-profit businesses operating under contract with the City of New Bedford within the park and who provide products or services designed to enhance the park visitor's experience. Concession agreements require approval, obtained in writing, from the Secretary of the Interior's representative, NPS, prior to execution.

5. Civil Rights Act

The Deed of Conveyance requires the city's compliance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

6. Accessibility

The Deed of Conveyance requires that the facilities and the programs on the property be accessible to the handicapped.

7. Historic Properties

The city agrees to comply with all requirements pertaining to historic buildings on the park property.



8. Breach of Conditions or Covenants

In the event that there is a breach of any of the conditions or covenants within the Deed of Conveyance, the city needs to provide the NPS with a full disclosure of the breach accompanied by a plan to remedy the situation. Otherwise, the NPS has the option to revert all rights, title and interest in and to the park property.

B. Historic Surplus Property (HSP) Restriction

Under the Historic Surplus Property program, surplus historic property was conveyed by the federal government to the city at no cost for use as a historic monument in perpetuity—meaning, there are no restrictions on how the city uses the land so long as any use/program for the property meets the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.” As a recipient of historic surplus property, the city has committed—and will continue to commit—the funds necessary to preserve and maintain the property in perpetuity. There are additional requirements within the conveyance deeds under the HSP program:

1. State Restrictions.

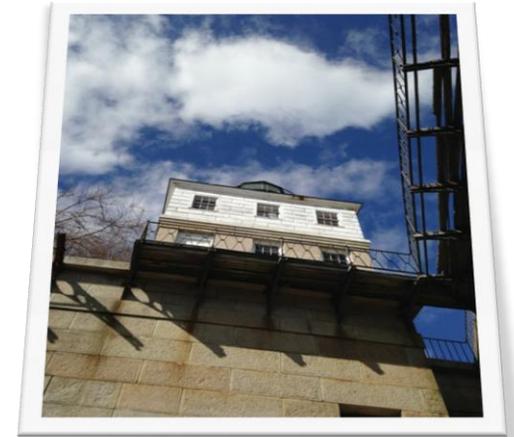
In addition to having to comply with these federal standards, the historic parcel also has a preservation restriction on it that is held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). This state restriction expires in 2023.

2. Program of Preservation and Utilization

A requirement of HSP is the development of a Program of Preservation and Utilization (PPU) for the property acquired. In 1979, when the General Services Administration (GSA) conveyed surplus historic property from the former Fort Rodman Military Reservation to the City of New Bedford for use as a historic monument, an original PPU was prepared. The PPU included three major sections: a preservation plan, a use plan, and a financial plan. The original PPU is legally incorporated into the deed and any changes must be requested by the city, approved by the NPS in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s “Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties” and be incorporated in the official file. Any changes must also be submitted to the MHC for its review.

3. Biennial Compliance Reports

The city must submit biennial compliance reports to the NPS to demonstrate that the property is being preserved and maintained according to the PPU as amended. The compliance report must include the following items: improvements and maintenance to



the property, a financial statement, legal involvements, future programs, photographs and any other relevant information.

4. Selling or Leasing of Land/ Third Party Concessions

Transferred historic surplus properties may be used for a wide variety of public facilities or revenue-producing activities. Private and not-for-profit organizations cannot acquire property under this program, but they may enter into long-term leases with recipients of historic surplus properties. All leases must be approved by the NPS.

5. Breach of Conditions or Covenants

In the event that there is a breach of any of the conditions or covenants within the Deed of Conveyance, the City must provide the NPS with a full disclosure of the breach accompanied by a plan to remedy the situation. Otherwise, the NPS has the option to recommend to the GSA that all rights, title and interest in and to the property be reverted to the federal government.

C. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Restriction

Fort Taber Park received LWCF assistance from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 1981 (See Figure 4, “Fort Taber LWCF Boundary”). The LWCF is a federal program which provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. LWCF funding is provided to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by the NPS and is administered by the Division of Conservation Services (DCS). The LWCF Act requires that all property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance be maintained perpetually as public recreation. No property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior’s representative, NPS, be converted to anything other than public outdoor recreation uses. In addition, the LWCF places specific requirements on the property:

1. Compliance

The NPS requires on-site inspections of all grant-assisted areas and facilities (such as Fort Taber Park) at least once every five years most of which are conducted by cooperating state agencies; in the case of Fort Taber Park, the DCS oversees compliance. The LWCF sites are inspected every five years in partnership with grant recipients.

2. Protected Open Space



In compliance of LWCF requirements, Fort Taber Park must be open to the general public (not just residents only) for appropriate passive or active recreational use. The land is dedicated to recreational use in accordance with MGL Chapter 45.

3. Civil Rights Act

In compliance of LWCF requirements, Fort Taber Park must comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

4. Accessibility

In compliance of LWCF requirements, the facilities and the programs on the property must be accessible to the handicapped.

5. Operation and Maintenance

In compliance with LWCF requirements, the park shall follow, at a minimum, the following operation and maintenance standards:

- The property shall be maintained so as to appear attractive and inviting to the public;
- Sanitation and sanitary facilities shall be maintained in accordance with applicable health standards;
- Properties shall be kept reasonably open, accessible, and safe for public use. Fire prevention, lifeguard, and similar activities shall be maintained for proper public safety;
- Buildings, roads, trails, and other structures and improvements shall be kept in reasonable repair throughout their estimated lifetime to prevent undue deterioration and to encourage public use;
- The facility shall be kept open for public use at reasonable hours and times of the year, according to the type of area or facility;
- A posted LWCF acknowledgement sign shall remain displayed at the project site.



6. Fees

Section 6(f)(8) of the LWCF Act says preferential reservation, membership or annual permit systems are prohibited in areas acquired with LWCF assistance like Fort Taber Park except to the extent reasonable differences in admission/other fees may be maintained on the basis of residence. In the case of Fort Taber, this means:

- Fort Taber Park cannot charge nonresidents more than twice the amount charged to city residents.

- Where there is no charge for residents, but a fee is charged to nonresidents, nonresident fees cannot exceed fees charged for residents at comparable state or local public facilities.
- Reservation, membership or annual permit systems available to residents must also be available to nonresidents and the period of availability must be the same for both residents and non residents.

7. Leasing of Land /Third Party Concessions

A LWCF funded site may lease the area/facility to a private organization or individual by entering into a concession agreement with an operator to provide a public outdoor recreation opportunity at the fund-assisted site. All lease documents and concession agreements for the operation of Fort Taber Park by private organizations or individuals must address the following:

- The ability for the city to periodically review the performance of the lessee/concessioner and terminate the lease/agreement if its terms and the provisions of the grant agreement, including standards of maintenance, public use, and accessibility are not met;
- The lease/agreement document should clearly indicate that the leased/concession area is to be operated by the lessee/concessioner for public outdoor recreation purposes in compliance with provisions of the LWCF Act and implementing guidelines (36 CFR 59). As such, the document should require the area be identified as publicly owned and operated as a public outdoor recreation facility in all signs, literature and advertising, and is operated by a lessee/concessioner as identified in the public information to eliminate the perception the area is private;
- The lease/agreement document should require all fees charged by the lessee/concessioner to the public must be competitive with similar private facilities;
- The lease/agreement document should make clear compliance with all civil rights and accessibility legislation is required, and compliance will be indicated by signs posted in visible public areas, statements in public information brochures, etc.

8. Anti-Conversion Requirement

Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity. Conversion of any portion of Fort Taber Park property subject to the LWCF provisions to any other use other than public outdoor recreation use requires the approval of the NPS. Converted land must be replaced with other property of equal or greater monetary value and recreational use, at the city's expense.



9. Breach of Conditions or Covenants⁶

Responsibility for compliance and enforcement of the LWCF provisions rests with the State LWCF manager (in Massachusetts that is the Division of Conservation Services-DCS), who works closely with the NPS.

The NPS Regional Director has the authority to disapprove conversion requests and/or to reject proposed property substitutions. This approval is a discretionary action and should not be considered a right of the city. Situations that trigger a conversion include:

- Property interests are conveyed for private use or non-public outdoor recreation uses;
- Non-outdoor recreation uses (public or private) are made of the project area, or a portion thereof, including those occurring on pre-existing rights-of-way and easements, or by a lessee;
- Unallowable indoor facilities are developed within the project area without NPS approval, such as unauthorized public facilities and sheltering of an outdoor facility;
- Public outdoor recreation use of property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance is terminated.

D. Urban Self-Help Grant

The City of New Bedford received an Urban Self-Help Grant for Fort Taber which carries with it, a deed restriction on the property in 1991. The Urban Self-Help Grant is a program of the Commonwealth (now known as the PARC program) established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.

The City of New Bedford received funding to create Taber Park as “a 40+ acre park with over a mile of ocean frontage” from the MA Division of Conservation Services (DCS). The



⁶ Pursuant to 43 CFR Part 12.83, when the NPS determines a State has violated or failed to comply with applicable federal law, or the regulations governing this program with respect to a project, NPS may withhold payment of federal funds to the State on account of such project, withhold funds for other projects of the State, withhold approval of further projects of the State, and take such other action deemed appropriate under the circumstances, including debarment and suspension pursuant to Executive Order 12549 at 43 CFR 12.100-.510, until compliance or remedial action has been accomplished by the State to the satisfaction of NPS.

park was to incorporate the preservation of significant historic military structures, museum space for site documentation and history, over a mile of walking, jogging and bicycle paths, interpretive trails, natural areas, opportunities for fishing, community boating, picnic areas, panoramic ocean views and considerable access for the handicapped and elderly including a handicapped accessible playground structure. Each of these elements has been designed and implemented. The Urban Self-Help Grant requires the designated land to be maintained as recreational use in perpetuity. This land does not include the westernmost entrance off of South Rodney French Boulevard, the area designated for the city's Wastewater Treatment Plant, the privately held parcels immediately abutting South Rodney French Boulevard nor the public pier. All other land so designated is highlighted in Figure 2 within this Section.



4.3 Natural Resources

Fort Taber Park is surrounded on three sides by water including New Bedford Harbor to the east, and Clarks Cove to its west. The peninsula, on which the fort is located, juts into Buzzards Bay. A sandy swimming beach is located on the east side of the park, and in total there is over a mile of waterfront. The site is relatively flat with natural vegetation and eel grass along the water's edge and planned native plantings throughout the interior of the park. Grass-covered open fields compose most of the park, with a heavily wooded and shrub area in the northwest section.

Although Fort Taber Park is close to residential and active recreational uses, the site is also a habitat for a variety of wildlife. Gray squirrels, turkeys, and rabbits are commonly observed on site, as are a variety of common bird species. Both Buzzards Bay and Clarks Cove offer quality fishing areas for scup, flounder, mackerel, bluefish, and striped bass, all of which are commonly caught off of the park's pier, jetties, and shoreline.

4.4 Cultural Resources

Fort Rodman-Fort Taber

Because of its extensive military history, the park's most familiar feature and cultural resource is the Civil War era granite pentagonal fort known as both Fort Rodman and Fort Taber⁷ which serves as the commanding center piece of the park. The fort and its associated five Endicott-period batteries were listed as a National Register District in 1973. Fort Taber illustrates two centuries of U.S. military history, culture, and technology. Built between 1857 and 1871, the



⁷ Fort Taber was the name given to the earthen fort originally constructed and completed on this site in 1861 and named for New Bedford's chief executive at that time, Mayor Taber. In 1898 the entire property was named in honor of Lt. Col. William Logan Rodman, a New Bedford resident, who had been killed in battle during the Civil War. Despite the removal of the earthen works and the old fort's replacement with a new granite fort, the name "Fort Taber" remained in use as the fort's name Today, despite its official name of "Fort Rodman," the entirety of the subject property is most often called Fort Taber.

granite-faced Fort Taber is an example of the compact and symmetrical forts erected during the final stages of “Third System” construction. The fort and its adjacent garrisons represent the evolution of U.S. coastal defense from the Civil War and beyond. The reinforced concrete batteries built largely in the late 1890s, recall the defensive philosophy and technology of the Endicott era. Battery Milliken, though not included in the National Register District as it was not from the Endicott period, was constructed from 1919-1921 as a direct response to World War I and the obsolete armament of the earlier batteries.

Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc.

The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist in the restoration, preservation, and perpetuation of Fort Taber and its surroundings; and demonstrate how this fort is representative of the development of coastal fortifications from the Revolutionary period through the mid-20th century. The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association is dedicated to preserve the memory and legacy of area veterans and their service to our nation.

The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association was originally established on June 29, 1972, under the name “the Friends of Fort Taber”, by a group of individuals interested in the preservation and restoration of the stone fort and the gun batteries. They renamed the association the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc. in 1999 and operate under a license agreement with the city. The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association and its volunteers operate the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum that illustrates the history of the former military base as well preserving the memory of area veterans from the American Revolution to those currently serving throughout the world. The museum is located in one of three former military buildings, the P-28 or Post Exchange, that have been renovated.

4.5 Physical (Built) Environment

Fort Taber Park is located adjacent to a densely settled residential neighborhood and public beaches at the southernmost point of the city. Although it is largely defined by extensive natural features, a variety of built features similarly lend definition to today’s park. (See *Figure 2, Fort Taber Site Amenities Map.*) Multi-purpose paths encircle the entirety of the site while a newly rehabilitated pier provides passive and active recreation opportunities. Picnic areas with site furniture, a beach house, snack bar, benches, and a children’s playground are some of the features that support the recreational, historic and educational activities of the park. Foremost, however, is the presence of the city’s secondary wastewater treatment plant located in the middle of the original Fort Taber land area transferred to the city. Despite its sheer size, the nature of its use and its location, careful and precise planning utilizing earthen berms vegetated with grass, shrubs and trees has helped to conceal much of the plant’s view from the



average park visitor. Finally, the presence of the actual fort, itself, and defensive batteries surround and define most of the site. Those significant features are further described as follows and as depicted on the map entitled, Fort Taber Site Amenities Map:

- ① FORT TABER AND CLARK'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE
- ② BATTERY WALCOTT
- ③ BATTERY GASTON
- ④ BATTERY CROSS
- ⑤ BATTERY CRAIG
- ⑥ BATTERY BARTON
- ⑦ BATTERY MILLIKEN
- ⑧ FORT TABER ~ FORT RODMAN MILITARY MUSEUM AND FORT RODMAN MARINE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION / LOW TIDE YACHT CLUB
- ⑨ FORT TABER COMMUNITY CENTER
- ⑩ PLAYGROUND
- ⑪ WALKING/BIKE PATHS
- ⑫ FISHING PIER

- ⑬ FOOD CONCESSION BUILDING AND RESTROOM FACILITIES
- ⑭ RESTROOM FACILITIES AND CYCLE AID STATION
- ⑮ THE BOATING CENTER
- ⑯ PUBLIC BEACH



1 Fort Taber and Clark's Point Light

Fort Taber is a two-tier, seven-sided granite fort constructed in the period between 1857-1871. The fort and its associated five Endicott-period batteries were listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District in 1973. In 1973, the General Services Administration (GSA) conveyed a Historic Surplus Property parcel to the City of New Bedford which included Fort Taber and five batteries. In 2013 the City received a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission which funded a full architectural/structural assessment and feasibility study for universal access. The conditions assessment and recommendations contained in the study indicated that a full restoration of the fort will cost over eleven million dollars. In addition, the lighthouses of Clarks Point have served as important navigational aids to generations of mariners. The first lighthouse was an independent standing traditional wooden lighthouse. This was replaced when, in 1869, the light was placed atop Fort Taber where it remains today.

2

7 Batteries

The installation of the five Endicott Period batteries at Fort Taber took place between 1898 and 1901. All of these batteries of the Fort Taber installation are examples of the "Endicott-Taft Era of Coastal Defenses" and are included in the Fort Taber National Register District. A larger battery, Battery Milliken, was constructed in 1921. Battery Milliken is not included in the 1973 District.

8 Post Exchange Building

The "Post Exchange Building" was constructed in 1906 and is one of three original military buildings remaining on the site from the era of the fort's construction. The building was moved to its present location in 1996 when it was restored and partially modified for its new use as the home for the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association and the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum. In addition, the northern half of the building is currently licensed to the non-profit Fort Rodman Marine Educations Association which works in the conjunction with the Low Tide Yacht Club to offer community sailing programs.

9 Fort Taber Community Center

The Fort Taber Community Center building was constructed when the city created the Fort Taber Park to serve a range of recreational programs. In the summer, the community center is the hub of operations for the Kennedy Summer Day Program. The center has a large function hall with a small kitchen, restrooms, an adjacent lawn area, and outdoor picnic style seating. It comfortably seats up to 150-175 people and has a parking area in



front of the building. The community center is often rented by organizations hosting fund raisers and private celebrations.

10 Playground

The universally accessible playground is located on the northern side of the fort, and is appropriate for toddlers and small children. It includes slides, climbing equipment, and swings. Benches are strategically placed around the playground for adults to supervise play while enjoying select views toward the fort and water.

11 Multi-use paths

The park offers a wide array of multi-use paths that offer views of Buzzards Bay, Clarks Cove and New Bedford Beaches. The paths cover all areas of the park and connect to the Joseph Saulnier Bike Path, which is located on the northern edge of the park. A nature trail exists on the west side of the park, along Clark's Cove and behind the batteries.

12 Fishing Pier

The park includes a generously-sized fishing pier where passive and active recreation enthusiasts can enjoy a long stroll, run or bike ride in addition to fishing opportunities directly off the pier, itself.

13 Food Concession Building

The building that houses the park's food concessions is located adjacent to the playground built in 1992. It was built to be sensitively compatible to the original military complex buildings. The concession provides the public with food items and drinks during the park's regular daytime hours of operation, Memorial Day through Columbus Day. In 2011 the city issued an RFP for the food concession services for a one year period, renewable for two additional one-year terms. That contract is now expired, but because the \$1,500 fee charged by the city is below the city's \$25,000 threshold, the selection of the vendor is not going out to bid again. Instead, the city is looking to simply renew its written agreement with the vendor at this time.

14 Restroom Facilities

One of three original buildings to remain on site is the "P-75" building. Constructed in 1941 during WWII, it was originally used to test gas masks and train soldiers in their use. The building now serves as a handicapped-accessible restroom facility with outdoor showers.



15 The Boating Center

The Boating Center (“P-13”) is one of the three original military buildings in the park. Constructed in 1902 for the storage of underwater mines, the renovated building is currently licensed to the Community Boating Center of New Bedford (CBC), a non-profit organization teaching positive life values to at-risk youth through boating. The primary program is a youth summer sailing program, although adult and family lessons, as well as boating licensing and school outreach programs, are also offered.

16 Beach

Fort Taber park also includes a sandy beach along its eastern edge. The beach area provides shallow swimming opportunities as well as deeper water access that makes the resource attractive to families with small children as well as serious swimmers. Amenities include some seating and grills directly adjoining the beach, itself.

Other Amenities:

Parking

Onsite parking is available along the eastern edge of Fort Taber Park within multiple lots that both parallel the entry drive as well as end in a multi-rowed parking lot that effectively functions as the terminus loop for vehicles. There are 170 parking spaces within the park including 10 ADA spaces. Parking passes are required everyday at Fort Taber Park during the summer beginning June 21st through Labor Day. Parking attendants are available at Fort Taber to serve the public’s parking pass needs. Visitors to the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum may obtain a waiver for parking fees. There are 17 spaces dedicated to museum visitors and parking passes from the museum docent are available. (See also Section 4.2 Legal C. 6 addressing fees).

Memorials/Monuments

Fort Taber Park is home to multiple memorials—largely military in nature—located throughout the site. Those memorials are dedicated both to those who fought in different wars, military campaigns and even individuals. Most of the monuments/memorials are located on FLP parcels and are not considered a recreational use of the land. Future actions to ensure that no further monuments or memorials will be erected are further discussed in this Master Plan within Section 7.3 Fort Taber Park Policy, Monuments and Memorials.

FORT TABER MONUMENTS

World War I Memorial

World War II Memorial

Women in Military Service Monument

Exercise Tiger Memorial

Army Staff Sgt Joseph M. Camara Memorial

Felix S. Witkowicz Memorial Bench and Meditation Garden

Merchant Mariners of World War II memorial

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Memorial

PARKING FEES

Daily parking passes may be purchased as follows:

New Bedford residents	Non-residents
\$5/vehicle	\$10/vehicle

Seasonal Pass :
New Bedford residents
\$5

Relevant Adjacent Properties

The uniqueness of Fort Taber Park's geography and the fact that it shares the tip of the New Bedford peninsula with other uses makes the discussion of adjacent properties, their ownership and uses, relevant in creating a comprehensive assessment of the park.

▪ **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

The city's wastewater treatment facility is located in the central portion of the park and shares its main entryway. Designed and constructed in 1996 in conjunction with the Fort Taber Park, the facility's siting uses grassy berms and plantings to screen and conceal it from the public areas. The facility includes three separate odor control systems, and noise is addressed by soundproof walls in the buildings and silencers on the stacks.

▪ **University of Massachusetts' School of Marine Science and Technology**

Located on the far northwest corner of the original Fort Taber parcel is the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth's (UMASS) School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST). The City of New Bedford sold this 2.33 acre parcel to UMASS in 1994 with certain rights and easements and in turn, UMASS constructed an educational and laboratory facility for the study of marine sciences. An easement was provided for SMAST to construct a boat ramp and dock abutting their property to the southwest in Clark's Cove. SMAST and the City share an important 10' wide paved easement right of way for public use that connects the Joseph Saulnier Bike Path into Fort Taber Park.

▪ **Neighborhood and Beaches**

Fort Taber Park is physically separated from the rest of the peninsula by South Rodney French Boulevard. The dense residential neighborhood located to the north of the park was not established until the mid-20th century, as the city owned much of the land adjacent to the fort up until that time period. This neighborhood is primarily composed of single family residences, a small number of businesses, and the beaches with associated parking lots located along East Rodney French Boulevard.

▪ **Old Naval Reserve Center**

Also located on South Rodney French Boulevard, on the north perimeter of the park, is the old Naval Reserve Center. This 2.02 acre parcel of land was transferred to the city by the federal government, through the Secretary of Education in 1997 with a thirty-year educational use restriction. Pursuant to the conditions contained in the 1997 transfer, the city sought permission in 2011 from the U.S. Department of Education to transfer the property to UMASS. The U.S. Department of Education agreed, and UMASS has plans to expand SMAST at this location.



▪ **Cable Access Studio**

The city's cable access studios are located at 918 South Rodney French Boulevard on the northern perimeter of the park, directly behind the Fort Taber Community Center. This building and its parking lot are screened from the park by a heavily wooded area.

Circulation

Fort Taber provides easy circulation for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists and those using either motorized or wheeled assistance.

A. Vehicles

Automobiles have a single point of entry into the park from the northeast corner of the site off of South Rodney French Boulevard at the terminus of East Rodney French Boulevard. Cars proceed into the park on a two-lane roadway that provides a straight route from entrance, past or through three different parking lots totaling 67 parking spaces and 10 ADA spots all of which terminate at the park's large multi-rowed parking lot. This lot provides an additional 110 parking spots and offers an appropriate area in which vehicles can loop around and return out of the park along the road they used to come in. Service vehicles have additional access around the park by using an existing pedestrian network of trails that are wide enough to accommodate vehicles if necessary.

B. Pedestrians

Fort Taber provides an exceptional system of walking trails, both flat and with some incline, throughout its site. Smaller internal loops or larger loops are equally possible using existing walkways throughout the park. In addition, the extension via easement at the park's northwestern point provides an important pedestrian and cycle access connecting the entire length of East Rodney French Boulevard's waterside walk with the Fort Taber trail system. This same connector allows pedestrians to also have access to South Rodney French Boulevard thus facilitating a large two mile walking loop around the entirety of the Fort and its peninsula. Pedestrians can also walk along the Joseph M. Saulnier bike path at East Rodney French Boulevard and connect directly with walking trails leading right into the park. All walking trails are of asphalt and range from 6' to 10' in width and are heavily used by the walking public all day long throughout most of the year.

C. Bicycles

Walking paths double as bicycle pathways throughout Fort Taber Park and similarly offer those using this system options that are either internal loops within the park or connecting with other trail systems beyond the park's boundaries.



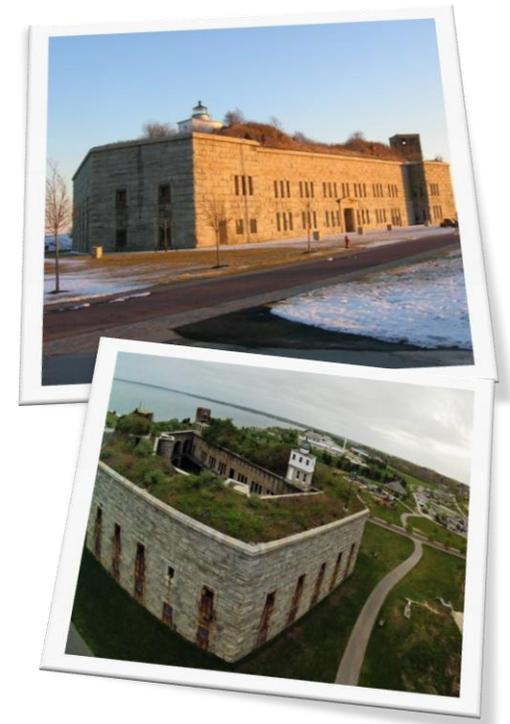
D. ADA Accessibility

Fort Taber provides universal ADA-accessibility. All public buildings within the park are ADA-compliant and provide the highest standards of accessibility for the public. Wheelchair accessible restrooms and an ADA compliant community center, playground and food concession stand, provide important amenities for the public using the park.

Operations & Maintenance

Park operations and maintenance responsibilities currently fall under two city departments. The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches [DPRB] is responsible for Fort Taber Park, particularly its programming, events and day to day operations. The Mayoral-appointed Park Board of Commissioners works with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches to set priorities, policies and regulations for the parks. The Park Board of Commissioners approves License Agreements and Concession Agreements. In addition, they review Special Event Applications for approval of use of park land and facilities as well as setting bonds, and other fees for Special Event use. The Park Board of Commissioners reviews requests for changes in parks including removal or addition of amenities and trees and structural changes to the landscape. Conversely, the Department of Public Infrastructure [DPI] is responsible for the maintenance of the park including, but not limited to, mowing lawns, litter and trash pick-up, painting and repairs.

In the past when requests for new memorial/monuments have been made to the DPRB, the requests have received approval from the City Council's Committee on Memorials and the Park Board and DPI was directed to install the monument. (See Section 5.1 for a discussion of this oversight in the context of park needs and in Section 7.3 Fort Taber Park Policy: Monuments and Memorials for clarity as to how this policy has been amended for the future).



5.0 NEEDS



In approaching its understanding of what kinds of needs exist at Fort Taber Park, the city first conducted extensive reviews both internally with its professional staff and externally through its community input efforts. As previously discussed in Section 3.0 of this plan, public input—particularly that which was gained during the summer of 2014 through a broad community meeting and public survey process—informed the development and shape this plan has taken. Detailed meeting notes from the July 28, 2014 hearing along with survey results are provided in the appendix of this report.

One's review of this material where the public articulated its concerns and aspirations for Fort Taber Park will reveal much of what has been memorialized in this Needs narrative. Items like heightened security measures, concerns about noise, the desire for better signage, clarity about parking regulations, concerns with the presence of litter in some park areas, requests for adjusted opening and closing of public restrooms, the expansion of recreational activities and programs around the water, wildlife viewing areas with informational panels and cleaned up brush throughout the park highlight just a few of the many areas about which city residents spoke out and have been included within this plan's operational, maintenance and management needs as follows.

5.1 Priorities

Operational Clarity

Going forward, the City of New Bedford recognizes the importance of having clear lines of communication and a clear authority responsible for the overall operation of Fort Taber Park. This is a significant need for this park space—particularly because of the legal restrictions placed upon its use. This master plan clarifies and establishes who carries responsibility for the park, who makes decisions about its use including the construction/introduction of new memorials and monuments on park land, and who serves as a resource to changing mayoral administrations so as to ensure continuity of park operations and ongoing compliance with deed restrictions and reporting requirements.



Additionally, the City of New Bedford has created a maintenance plan and management plan discussed further in this section. Both plans are realistic and comprehensive, and must be funded and executed by the responsible parties.

Maintenance Plan

Every New Bedford property, including its parks, has a clear maintenance plan that articulates all of the work that needs to be done to ensure long term sustainability of the city’s assets. Such a management plan for Fort Taber Park includes monthly and seasonal maintenance tasks as determined by the Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches based on first-hand site inspections and park board priorities. The most current annual maintenance plan follows:

Monthly Maintenance Schedule

PLAYGROUNDS	WINTER	Inspect playgrounds for damage.
		Prune trees and shrubs for health of plants and safety of community
	SPRING	
	March/April	Replace swings and other equipment as needed/funding allows
		Ensure playground mulch is at appropriate depth for safety
		Mulch planting beds
		Check grades and drainage for repairs
	May	Plant new beds and trees as appropriate/funding allows
	FALL	
	October	Check and repair picnic tables, benches, grills and other site amenities
	Plant new beds and trees as appropriate/funding allows	
November	Mulch planting beds as needed	
PARKS	WINTER	Inspect for damage
		Prune trees and shrubs for health of plants and safety of community
		Mow areas that receive an annual or biennial mowing (wet meadows)
	SPRING	
	March	Replace damaged signs and other amenities
	April	Mulch planting beds
		Weed whack around fences and other objects, continue throughout growing season
		Trim vines off fence and other objects, continue throughout growing season
		Check grades and drainage for repairs
	May	Plant new beds/trees as appropriate/funding allows
	June	Turn on irrigation/water features
		Fertilize planting beds
	FALL	Remove picnic tables and other amenities as needed and store
		Plant new beds and trees as appropriate or funding allows
		Mulch planting beds as needed
	Deep feed trees as needed	

LAWN CARE SCHEDULE	FALL		Apply fertilizer
			Remove leaves from the lawn
			Prepare for Winter: Aerate, spread seed, top dress, water and lime
	SPRING		Water the area two to three times a day for about five minutes to keep the seed moist until grass appears
			Apply herbicide when appropriate
	SUMMER		Fertilize in late spring to early summer.
			Mow lawn as needed.
		Water once a week as deep watering is best.	
MONUMENTS and MEMORIALS	SPRING		Mulch planting beds, prune shrubs as appropriate
	SUMMER	Maintain	Prepare and plant existing beds as appropriate/funding allows Ensure adequate watering and weeding throughout the growing season.
	FALL	Winterize	Remove and winterize planting beds.

Execution of the Maintenance Plan will be the responsibility of the City's Department of Public Infrastructure [DPI].

Management Plan

A Fort Taber Management Plan is similarly important to ensure that the operation of the park's programming is efficient and effective. This plan, created by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, includes the following items:

A. The Role of Private Associations

The management plan includes clarity about the role of any/all private groups partnering with the city at the park, including those with whom the city has issued operating licenses. The management plan also addresses the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association on-site as it relates to the park's overall operations, in general, as well as their operation of the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum.

B. Concessions

Clarity as to how concession agreements are considered (competitive bid process and frequency) are addressed within the management plan. The city needs to ensure a single point of contact for such concession agreements—that being through its Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches—and it must continue to execute a clear contractual agreement with the concession operators that includes, but is not limited to, those items noted here:

Service to be provided	Compliance with Laws
Term of Agreement	Compliance with National Park Service Covenants
Scope of Concession	Signage
Employees	General Operations/Management Requirements
Maintenance of Premises	Proposal Price
Hours and Dates of Operation	Concession Payments
Insurance	General Operations
Equipment	Concessionaire is Licensee
Utilities, Taxes & Other Charges	Assignment & Subletting
Alterations, Repairs & Improvements	Non-Discrimination in Employment/Affirmative Action

Additionally, concession agreements must address those items articulated in Chapter 8-2 of the LWCF State Assistance Program Manual:

- In order to protect the public interest, the city must have a clear ability to periodically review the performance of the lessee/concessioner and terminate the lease/agreement if its terms and the provisions of the grant agreement, including standards of maintenance, public use, and accessibility, are not met.
- The agreement should clearly indicate that the leased/concessioned area is to be operated by the lessee/concessioner for public outdoor recreation purposes in compliance with provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and implementing guidelines (36 CFR 59). As such, the document should require the area be identified as publicly owned and operated as a public outdoor recreation facility in all signs, literature and advertising, and is operated by a lessee/concessioner as identified in the public information to eliminate the perception the area is private.
- The agreement should require all fees charged by the lessee/concessioner to the public must be competitive with similar private facilities.

- The agreement should make clear compliance with all Civil Rights and accessibility legislation (e.g. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Americans with Disabilities Act) is required, and compliance will be indicated by signs posted in visible public areas, statements in public information brochures, etc.

As of 2014, the City had several concession agreements including, but not limited to, one with the West End Grill for its food concession and with the Community Boating Program for its boating concession. *See Section 4.5 Physical Environment under Food Concessions and Section 7.3 Fort Taber Park Policy under Third Party License Agreements for greater detail.*

C. Programming

The Management Plan includes specific guidelines as to programming, both educational and/or entertaining in nature including the city's goals in this regard and the manner with which such programming should be undertaken and executed.

D. Public Use of Facilities

Policies that would describe the extent of public use permitted for private purposes within the park, particularly in the scheduling and use of the community center and park grounds, is an important component of the management plan. Such policies include information about the application process and objective criteria which the city will consistently apply in considering such applications. Special event permit applications outlining this process are available from the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches.

E. Fort Taber Park Policy

Those items noted under Section 7.3 of this master plan which speak to the operations of the Fort Taber Park are included in the management plan, particularly language and protocols around the handling of requests for memorials.

F. Funding

In order to ensure the highest level of stewardship of Fort Taber Park, the City of New Bedford will need to commit funding from local appropriations and/or obtain from public funding sources, private funders and most likely, a combination of the two. Funding for the park is needed on an ongoing basis; as such, a creative approach in developing an appropriate and diversified revenue stream will be needed each year to ensure an ongoing condition of excellence in facilities and programming. Similarly, the city needs to develop a careful budget in advance of a budgeting cycle that fiscally describes the expectations of the city as it works towards achieving its daily, intermediate and long-term park goals. To



this end, the management plan includes a discussion around budgeting, funding sources and uses, leveraged funding and community partnerships and resources.

5.2 Additional Needs

The process of identifying the current and future needs of Fort Taber Park involved a synthesis of the information received throughout the Fort Taber Master Plan process from public meetings, resource assessments, city staff and consultants. This information is organized by geographic features/areas in addition to a final category around operations, as a whole.⁸ This material, presented in chart format within this section, includes the historical uses of the relevant feature/park area, information as to its current uses and resulting needs, and concludes with its proposed/anticipated use with what is needed to achieve those ends.

⁸ The needs addressed in this section have been further organized into seven categories in Section 8 of this Plan. Those categories—structures, landscape materials and features, signage, land use, park management and maintenance, education, and funding—coalesce the needs and community input further into an implementation plan for future action.

Feature	Historical Use	Current Use	Anticipated Use (and work needed to get to this point)	20 Year Funding Estimate
Fort Taber	<p>This Civil War-era fort was used as a military defensive stronghold to protect the city.</p>	<p>Currently, the fort is rarely used for public purposes. It has been closed for several years and remains so, due to safety concerns. Although the fort is closed to the general public, it is sometimes used for special events. Several community, historical, and military events take place throughout the year inside the fort. Events in the fort such as living history programs, war and historical reenactments on the grounds around the fort, as well as the military museum displays, has kept visitors coming back to this site for many years. The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association coordinates seasonal living history programs encompassing King Phillip's War in the 17th century to World War II.</p>	<p>Safety concerns have served as the impetus to initiate an architectural and engineering assessment study of the fort structure which will act as the blueprint for future rehabilitation of the fort as the city moves forward to make it accessible to the public.</p> <p>The city is participating in the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS). This program, implemented in the fall of 2014, has now provided safety gates and rails in the fort. The gates are located at the four stairway entrances on the 1st tier, stairway entrances on the 2nd tier, and a fenced in observation area on the terreplein. The city anticipates that once the safety rails and observation deck are in place (as of this writing the project is not yet complete), the fort will be accessible on a limited basis for small group guided tours. The City's the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches will collaborate with the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association to conduct and coordinate these tours. Additional work shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a second means of egress in the fort to accommodate visitors/events to meet building code requirements; • Paint Clark's Point Lighthouse, and repair the light to working order <p>Restoration and additional universal access upgrades to the fort will dramatically increase public understanding and enjoyment of the fort and will greatly enhance the visitor experience at Fort Taber Park.</p>	<p>\$10,000,000 estimated funding for complete renovation of the fort with accessibility improvements. <i>(This reflects capital costs, not operational costs).</i></p>

Feature	Historical Use	Current Use	Anticipated Use	20 Year Funding Estimate
Batteries	Military defensive embattlements.	All batteries have been abandoned and all armaments removed. Batteries currently serve as historic sites that allow visitor “interaction” insofar as they may be explored and visitors may now ascend to the uppermost levels of the battery thanks to recent railing/stairway improvements.	No changes are anticipated to the current use outside of ongoing stewardship of the sites and facilities with the exception of Milliken Battery where the City will explore opportunities for adaptive reuse that honors the historical significance of the installation while looking toward engaging the public. This will require consultation with the SHPC, FLP and HSP.	\$500,000 estimated funding for Milliken Battery and upkeep of all batteries through the life of the plan.
The Great Lawn	Used as ancillary space that supported military operations during periods when the fort was in active use.	Open space surrounded by walking trails. Used as a community performance venue, an open space for informal leisure activities (e.g. kite flying and Frisbee) and space for private events.	The great lawn will be retained for passive recreation use and enjoyment. No alteration to the space is anticipated over the next twenty years as it is the city’s intent to retain the lawn in its present condition.	\$20,000 estimated for funding to maintain the Great Lawn over the life of this plan.
Central Promenade and Pier	Used as ancillary space that supported military operations during periods when fort was in active use. Pier was rebuilt in 2004.	This area is used for passive recreation enjoyment including fishing off of the pier and walking. The central promenade traverses east to west across the park and provides important access to the fort, walking trails and open space. This area is also used for military re-enactments and historical events.	The central promenade and pier will remain as they are currently into the foreseeable future. They will retain passive recreation use, with no programmed sport activities. The central promenade will occasionally host military encampments and reenactments and events directly related to the history of the site and fort. No changes are anticipated to the current use outside of ongoing stewardship of the site.	\$20,000 estimated for funding to maintain the Central Promenade and Pier over the life of this plan.

Feature	Historical Use	Current Use	Anticipated Use	20 Year Funding Estimate
Food Concessions and Playground Area	Today's food concession building and playground occupy land that historically served as an open grassy area for the military complex.	The building in this area houses the complete operation of a seasonal food concession for the park. The playground includes a complete set of apparatus that provides active recreation for youth ages 4-12. Picnic tables and seating are provided for patron convenience and parental oversight of children on playground equipment.	The city will continue hosting and engaging the food concession operation and will continue to ensure that the building and site facilities are maintained in a manner that ensures long-term suitability. No changes are anticipated to the current use outside of ongoing stewardship of the site and facilities.	\$20,000 estimated for funding to maintain the Food Concessions and Playground Area over the life of this plan.
Beaches/ Boating Areas	The beach was historically not used for public bathing as the entirety of the site was dedicated to military defensive installations. The boating center is located in the fort's former commissary.	The beaches are enjoyed by many residents and visitors in the summertime and seasonally. Individuals and families use picnic tables as part of their beach experience. Beaches are guarded June 26 th through Labor Day weekend. The Community Boating Program operates under the terms of a Concession Agreement providing boating lessons to area residents, particularly those children and youth from households with low and moderate incomes.	The current use of the site and facilities is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. In order to increase water access for boaters, it is anticipated that a dingy/small boat dock may be proposed for installation in this area when funding allows. An assessment of boater use/needs relative to such a dock must be completed and a proposed dock designed. Once funding is identified, that design will be presented to the National Park Service and DCS for approval.	\$100,000 estimated for funding to increase water access and maintain the Beaches and Boating areas over the life of this plan.
Public Restrooms	Building was originally used to test gas masks during WWII.	The building is currently used as an accessible public restroom facility serving men and women. A single stanchion bike repair station is also located just outside of this building.	Despite the need to adjust and extend restroom facility hours, particularly during peak summer season, the current use of the facility is expected to continue into the foreseeable future. Over time, a water fountain near the restrooms should be added to serve the public.	\$20,000 estimated for funding to maintain the Public Restrooms over the life of this plan.

Feature	Historical Use	Current Use	Anticipated Use	20 Year Funding Estimate
West Side Walkway	The westernmost area of the park previously served as defensive fortifications and where the largest battery and last built— Battery Milliken—is located.	Today a well-used walkway system that serpentine along the western edge of the park provides recreation opportunities for park visitors. Oftentimes fishermen will perch on the large rocks along the shore that parallel that walkway and fish from a variety of points along the west side of the park.	Although there is no anticipated change to the walkway, itself, the city may consider the possibility of creating a wildlife viewing area and install osprey (habitat) platforms on the west side of the park. The city will consider replacement of the existing gate to define the northwestern most edge of the park from the terminus of West Rodney French Boulevard with a more aesthetically appropriate, more secure gate in accordance with the National Park Service.	\$20,000 estimated for funding to maintain the West Side Walkway over the life of this plan.
Site Features	The entirety of the Fort Taber Park was originally the Howland Farm until later becoming an important defensive stronghold, particularly significant in its protection of the port of New Bedford.	In terms of its site furnishings, the park features lit walkways, picnic tables/benches and trash receptacles.	The park will continue in its primary use as an historic and recreational resource in perpetuity. However, occasional assessments are anticipated to determine whether: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Existing lighting is sufficient or if additional lighting is necessary. ▪ Existing picnic tables are adequate in serving the seasonal demand or if additional tables/benches are needed. ▪ Existing waste receptacles are consistent in design with the park’s historic nature or if additional and/or new barrels are needed. 	\$40,000 estimated for funding to maintain the site furnishings over the life of this plan.
Signage	N/A	There are several wayfinding signs throughout the park describing historically relevant facts about the park and the individual sites.	While existing signage will remain, additional wayfinding signage that currently exists for each battery can be taken out of storage and considered for reinstallation at the respective sites. The city will also consider the installation of an orientation kiosk in a central location pending funding and NPS approval as well as signage describing the park’s plants, wildlife and Buzzard’s Bay’s geographical markers.	\$10,000 estimated for funding signage installation/repair and maintenance over the life of this plan.

Feature	Anticipated Use/Needs	20 Year Funding Estimate
Park Operations	<p>Ultimately, the authority over the park, its maintenance and its management rests with the mayor of the city. He/she is responsible for galvanizing the personnel and resources together needed to undertake this work on an ongoing basis. Because the mayor is an elected position and administrations change over time, the city gives the Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches the authority to educate not only the mayor, but also city councilors and other departments as to this Fort Taber Master Plan and any future maintenance and management plans developed and approved. The Director shall be held accountable by the City of New Bedford Park Board of Commissioners, an appointed group of New Bedford residents.</p> <p>In addition, it is anticipated that the following will be done in accordance with this plan, its goals/strategies and the expressed interest of the general public, all in keeping with/with the authority of, the National Park Service and the MA Division of Conservation Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submit timely and complete compliance reports to the appropriate state and federal agencies. ▪ Revisit, revise as necessary, and update, the fee structure for park use. ▪ Annually revisit and update as needed, a maintenance plan specific to Fort Taber Park as also discussed in Section 5.1.2 and ensure excellence in park maintenance in perpetuity. ▪ Annually revisit and update as needed, a management plan specific to Fort Taber Park as also discussed in Section 5.1.3 and ensure excellence in the programming and oversight of the park in perpetuity. ▪ Create a self-guided tour that facilitates an understanding of the history of the fort. ▪ Expand, and develop, partnerships with local business, civic and cultural organizations, and the private sector to promote the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive, interpretive, cultural, recreational and educational programming to the general public. ▪ Pursue investment and management partners, volunteers, grants, in-kind assistance and fund-raising strategies to implement many of the goals listed. Partners may include private individuals or companies, other agencies and non-profits groups; ▪ Explore state, federal, and other grant opportunities. 	<p>\$200,000 estimated for funding to maintain the Park Operations over the life of this plan.</p>

6.0 FORT TABER PARK USE POLICY



6.1 Purpose

The Fort Taber Park Use Policy establishes guidelines regarding the use, management, development, and maintenance of Fort Taber Park in the City of New Bedford. This policy functions as a guide to city residents, staff and officials and as an outline of the responsibilities of the City of New Bedford's Park Board Commissioners as it relates to the requirements of the National Park Service (NPS) and the Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services (DCS).

6.2 Background

The City of New Bedford acquired the land that comprises Fort Taber Park from the federal government through several land transactions beginning in 1967. A Historic Surplus Property parcel, a Federal Lands-to-Parks parcel, and a state-administered Land and Water Conservation Fund grant each carry perpetual restrictions that affect the use of the property. This Fort Taber Park Use provides the policy by which the city will operate the facility in light of the restrictions placed on the property.

6.3 Fort Taber Park Policy

Users

The park is intended for use by both New Bedford residents and the general public beyond the city.

Hours

The park is open to the public from dawn to dusk, seven days a week including public holidays.

Group Gatherings

Group gatherings within the park shall submit a special event application to the City of New Bedford's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches. To preserve the city's natural resources while still offering entertainment, the city may permit the temporary use of public properties and/or roadways for special activities. The Department of Parks Recreation and Beaches coordinates the review of these events with various city departments to ensure that



events are conducted safely. The authorized user is required to demonstrate that adequate provisions have been made to comply with all local ordinances, as well as state and federal laws. All applicants must demonstrate they have fulfilled these requirements prior to the authorization of any event/special activities and the issuance of a permit.

Programming

The City of New Bedford's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches provides recreational and educational programming. This programming must and shall be compatible to the resources and conform to the requirements of the FLP, HSP and LWCF.

Fees

Fees are charged for the use of the Fort Taber Community Center and a contractual agreement must be executed between the city and the applicant. The City of New Bedford's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, as the managing agent on the City's behalf and the Park Board of Commissioners is responsible for establishing the fee levels and rendering determination as to whether or not a bond is required in addition to the fee and if so, what the dollar value of that bond must be. Ticket based or revenue based rentals and events are required to pay an additional per ticket charge. Non-profit based will be charged \$3 per ticket sold and for-profits will be charged \$5 per ticket sold as instructed by the Park Board of Commissioners.

All non-bonded events are required to provide a security deposit. Security deposits are returned if all of the contractual agreement is, according to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, "followed and respected."

Revenue

Revenue generated from activities on site must be reinvested in the park property until the POU for the property has been completed. After such time, only then may revenue be used to support other parks/recreation programs owned by the City of New Bedford.

Police Enforcement

Enforcement of applicable laws in and around the park falls under the purview and authority of the City of New Bedford Police Department. The Park Board of Commissioners has established a list of park regulations. Any person(s) violating the established rules and regulations or constituting a public nuisance may be required to leave the premises.

FEE STRUCTURE for FORT TABER COMMUNITY CENTER

During a non-peak period:

Resident (personal)	\$50/hr
Non-Resident (personal)	\$80/hr
Not for Profit	\$80/hr
For Profit	\$100/hr

During a peak period:

Resident (personal)	\$60/hr
Non-Resident (personal)	\$90/hr
Not for Profit	\$90/hr
For Profit	\$120/hr

Peak period begins the Friday of Memorial Day weekend and ends the Monday of Labor Day weekend.

During peak periods, parking accommodations are required at Fort Taber. An additional \$20/hour rate may be added to waive parking costs for all attending the event. If not, each person attending the event must pay his/her own parking fees.

FORT TABER, ITSELF:

\$150 for residents/private event
\$300 nonresident/private event, non-profit event or for profit event

*--City of New Bedford's Department of Parks,
Recreation and Beaches*

Maintenance

The City of New Bedford's Department of Public Infrastructure is responsible for the maintenance of all city-owned parks and playgrounds, as well as numerous areas of open space owned by the city.

Third Party License Agreements

Third party agreements require the city to seek written permission from the NPS prior to entering into the agreement. As of 2014 the city held four agreements with third parties related to Fort Taber: The Low Tide Yacht Club, the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, the Community Boating Center, and the West End Grill.

Third Party Requirements

The city cannot convey an estate or interest in the Fort Taber Park property or enter into agreements which surrender absolute control and possession of the property. The city can enter into terminable at-will license agreements for concession operations which take place on the FLP parcels. The city can enter into leases with not-for-profit organizations for third party operations which take place on HSP parcels. All concession agreements must be in accordance with the current, approved POU for Fort Taber Park.

The city is responsible to ensure that all property/facilities used by a concessionaire are used for public park and recreation purposes and that the property is maintained in a safe and environmentally appropriate condition.

The FLP requires that certain elements be included in a concession agreement, although the city may add any additional provisions that are necessary. The agreement requirements can be found in the NPS Concession Agreement Template.

Signage

- A. FLP** A permanent sign must be erected within the park in a location visible to the public with language stating: *This park land was acquired through the Federal Lands-to Parks Program of the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for use by the general public.*
- B. LWCF** Permanent signs shall be installed within the park to acknowledge the federal-state-local partnership role in providing new high-quality outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Use of the LWCF Logo on project signs is required. NPS encourages its use as a part of the acknowledgement of LWCF assistance at entrances to outdoor recreation sites, at other appropriate on-site locations, and in folders and park literature.

Monuments and Memorials

Fort Taber Park has eight monuments, largely military in nature, currently located throughout the grounds commemorating people and events significant to the City of New Bedford's history.

A. Public Monuments.

The National Park Service and DCS has determined that any kind of monument is not a public recreation use and has prohibited further such objects within the park. In light of this and in recognition of the covenants within the conveyance documents, the city shall no longer permit the construction, installation and/or commemoration of any additional monuments and/or memorials honoring or remembering groups, efforts or events of any kind at Fort Taber Park. The City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement and will actively educate city leadership and staff on this policy so as to maintain compliance in perpetuity.

B. Individual Memorials or Monuments.

In keeping with the finding by NPS and DCS, no further individual memorials or monuments shall be allowed within the park. As such the city shall not permit the construction, installation, alteration and/or commemoration of any existing and/or additional individual monuments and/or memorials at Fort Taber Park. The city's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this requirement and will actively educate city leadership and staff on this policy so as to maintain compliance in perpetuity.

Changes to the Park

All contemplated changes to the FLP and HSP parcels, its use, and the facilities including, but not limited to, additions or reconfigurations of existing buildings and/or historical/cultural site features, construction of new or demolition of existing buildings and/or historical/cultural site features, significant change to any natural/landscape features and/or addition of, or alteration to, any monuments shall require prior approval from the NPS and DCS.⁹ Prior to review by the NPS and the DCS, the city shall abide by the following process:

A. Internal Review

a. Origin. Changes considered to the park may originate from either public or private sources. Regardless of its point of origin, all proposed changes must be vetted through

⁹ Nothing within this Section shall prohibit or prevent the city from undertaking simple maintenance to structures, site amenities or site features provided such maintenance is in-kind and not introducing any new design, color, shape, size, etc. Like repairs, only, shall be permitted by right under this section.

the city prior to submission to the DCS and the appropriate program within the NPS following the guidelines set forth in this section.

- b. Proposal.** Whether the idea for the proposed change originates from the public or private sector, a complete proposal shall be developed that includes, at a minimum:
- Brief narrative describing the proposed change, the need for this change, and what the effect of the proposed change on the existing park conditions. Detail any specific systems [such as pedestrian access] that may be affected by the proposed change.
 - Plot plan depicting area of change within the park and its relationship to existing park features and amenities.
 - Specifications of proposed change.
 - Detailed and scaled picture of proposed change from multiple vantage points.
 - Schedule of work proposed including cost of work, sources/uses of funding and anticipated ongoing maintenance needs.
- c. City Review.** Review protocols differ based on the point of origin for the request as follows:
- If the proposed change originates with the public, the proposal will require the approval of an internal review team comprised of one representative from each of the following departments: Department of Public Infrastructure, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development; in addition the Board of Park Commissioners shall have final approval. The Mayor shall decide any split decisions. All decisions shall be made prior to submitting requests to the NPS and DCS and before any work proceeds.
 - If the proposed change originates with the Department of Public Infrastructure, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches or the Park Board of Commissioners, the proposal will require the sign-off of the internal review team comprised of one representative from each of the following departments: Department of Public Infrastructure, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development; in addition the Board of Park Commissioners shall have final approval. The Mayor shall decide any split decisions. All decisions shall be made prior to submitting requests to the NPS and DCS and before any work proceeds.
 - If the proposed change originates with any city entity outside of those already noted, the proposal will require the sign-off of the internal review team comprised of one representative from each of the following departments: Department of Public

Infrastructure, Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches and the Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development; in addition the Board of Park Commissioners shall have final approval. The Mayor shall decide any split decisions. All decisions shall be made prior to submitting requests to the NPS and DCS and before any work proceeds.

B. Public Comment

Once the internal review of a proposal is complete, a public comment session shall be conducted for the purpose of getting community feedback on the proposal. Such public comment sessions shall only be necessitated if there is a change in use for the park or a park facility and/or a significant change in or to the park land or park facility.

C. External Review: Forwarding to DCS and NPS

Once the proposal has been determined to be complete and has been approved as described in this section, the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches may, on behalf of the city, formally submit the request to DCS and the appropriate program within the NPS. Final determinations shall be shared across relevant city departments and the change shall be instituted, modified or dismissed, accordingly.

Changes to the Historic Resources

All contemplated changes to the historic resources require prior approval of the NPS and DCS. In addition, a secondary preservation restriction on the surplus historic parcel is held by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts by and through the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) which expires in 2023. All changes, other than ordinary maintenance and repair require MHC approval. Any proposed change to an historic resource of Fort Taber Park shall be required, at a minimum, to follow the process noted in section 3.13 with the addition of forwarding material to the MHC as indicated within this section and as articulated within the preservation restriction, itself.

Responsible Party

The custody of public playgrounds, playfields and recreational facilities is assigned to the Park Board of Commissioners pursuant to Sec. 18-6 of the city code of ordinances:

“The board of park commissioners shall provide, conduct, institute and supervise any form of recreation or cultural activity it deems advisable to ensure the proper, constructive and wholesome enjoyment of the leisure time of the citizens of the city in all age groups. It may have care, custody control and management of such public playgrounds, playfields, indoor recreation centers and other recreational areas and facilities as may be turned over to it by proper public



authorities for such period and on such terms and conditions as the particular public authority may determine. The board of park commissioners shall manage, direct, equip and care for such properties placed under its supervision and accepted by it in compliance with its purposes.”

The Park Board of Commissioners has at their discretion the option, pursuant to Sec. 18-3, to appoint all necessary personnel to act in such parks, defined their powers and duties and do all acts needful for the proper execution of their powers and duties. The Park Board in conjunction with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Beaches are the responsible city entities for ensuring that the use, management, development, and maintenance of Fort Taber Park is in accordance with the requirements of the FLP and HSP programs, as well as the provisions of the LWCF assistance.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



1

GOALS & STRATEGIES ¹⁰	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ¹¹	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
STEWARDSHIP ⊕ Preserve and protect the park's natural , cultural and historical resources.				
Ensure clarity regarding roles, responsibilities and protocols to ensure the preservation and protection of the park's resources.	Director of DPRB	Ongoing	n/a	
Adhere to all Fort Taber Park policies, particularly those concerning the prohibition of monuments and memorials to ensure compliance with NPS and DCS restrictions.	All City Leadership	Ongoing	n/a	
Extract responsibilities by department from this master plan and provide them in writing to the director's of the various departments noted herein to clarify their respective roles.	City Planner	1 - 2 Months	n/a	
Memorialize park policies in a separate document designed expressly for the park board so that they inform the board in ensuring excellence in park stewardship in accordance with the Fort Taber Master Plan.	Director of DPRB with the City Planner	1 – 3 Months	n/a	
Provide clear review of park policies, responsibilities and Fort Taber Master Plan to relevant/incoming staff directors/mayoral administration upon change of administrations and/or leadership staff changes to ensure continuity.	Director of DPRB <i>(Where there is a change in the Director of the DPRB, the Park Board of Commissioners shall have responsibility)</i>	Ongoing	n/a	

¹⁰ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services as may be applicable.

¹¹ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

1

GOALS & STRATEGIES ¹²	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ¹³	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
STEWARDSHIP, <i>Cont'd</i> # Preserve and protect the park's natural , cultural and historical resources.				
Preserve the significant historical, cultural and environmental resources at Fort Taber through operational clarity and annual updates of written maintenance and management plans.	Directors of DPRB DFFM, and DPI	Annually	n/a	Use BH&A Assessment Study ¹⁴ as a guide.
Ensure the Program of Preservation and Utilization (PPU, the Program of Utilization (POU) and all requirements under the HSP, FLP and LWCF deed restrictions are followed in accordance with the conveyance documents.	Director of DPRB	Ongoing	n/a	
Ensure compliance with all agreements with licensees and concessionaires.	Director of DPRB and City Solicitor	Ongoing	n/a	

2

USE, OPERATION, AND MANAGEMENT	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ¹³	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
USE, OPERATION, AND MANAGEMENT # Ensure compatible uses within the park which adhere to the recorded deeds and covenants.				
Submit timely and complete compliance reports to the National Park Service and MA Division of Conservation Services as prescribed by the conveyance documents and as discussed in the Fort Taber Master Plan.	Director of DPRB with City Planner	Every 2 or 5 years	n/a	
Annually revisit/adopt management plans around programming, use of facilities and operations of the park to ensure efficient, coordinated park use and management.	Directors of DPRB and DPI	1—6 Months Annually Thereafter	n/a	

¹² No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Conservation Services as may be applicable.

¹³ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

¹⁴ The BH&A Assessment Study was titled “Architectural / Structural Assessment & Feasibility Study for Universal Accessibility” by Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype, Inc. in September 2013. It is available for review at the City’s Planning Office.

2

GOALS & STRATEGIES ¹⁵	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ¹⁶	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
<p>USE, OPERATION, AND MANAGEMENT, <i>Cont'd</i></p> <p>⊕ Ensure compatible uses within the park which adhere to the covenants within the park land deeds.</p>				
<p>Articulate the role of the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc. in the context of fort operations and the military museum as a written agreement.</p>	<p>Director of DPRB and City Planner</p>	<p>1-6 Months</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>Review (and revise if/as necessary), any/all third party agreements to ensure their comprehensive nature and ongoing appropriate legal standing per the Fort Taber Master Plan, particularly insofar as they receive the appropriate concurrence from the National Park Service prior to local execution.</p>	<p>City Solicitor with Director of DPRB</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>Explore the creation of a “Friends of Fort Taber” resident support organization and park volunteer program.</p>	<p>Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>Year 1- 2</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>Adjust and extend restroom facility hours, particularly during peak summer season.</p>	<p>Director of DFFM</p>	<p>1-6 Months</p>	<p>n/a</p>	
<p>Assess current security and develop an enhanced security plan.</p>	<p>Director of DPRB, Police Chief and Park Board of Commissioners</p>	<p>1-6 Months and Annually Thereafter</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Engage Police Department</p>
<p>Review, revise and rewrite a new Master Plan for Fort Taber to ensure continuity, collaboration and excellence in stewardship for succeeding twenty year increments in perpetuity.</p>	<p>Director of DPHCD</p>	<p>2035+</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>This plan should be reviewed on an ongoing basis but completely updated no later than every 20 years.</p>

¹⁵ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Conservation Services as may be applicable.

¹⁶ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

	GOALS & STRATEGIES ¹⁷	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ¹⁸	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
3	MAINTENANCE ⊕	Maintain the park in a safe, clean and sustainable manner that protects the historic, natural, and cultural resources.			
	Annually revisit/adopt a maintenance plan to ensure coordination between maintenance and park utilization, comprehensive repair/replacement planning and efficacy in ensuring the park is kept in the best condition possible including, but not limited to, enhanced litter management and clearing of vegetation at the batteries.	Directors of DPRB, DFFM and DPI	1—6 Months Annually Thereafter	n/a	
	Evaluate park furnishings annually and replace when necessary.	Directors of DFFM and DPI	Annually	\$2,000 Annually	Coordinating with the DPRB
	Provide a safe and highly functioning site through a program of regular maintenance improvements, securing National Park Service concurrence for all major/significant repairs and improvements.	Directors of DFFM and DPI	Ongoing	n/a	Coordinating with the DPRB
	Assess all landscape features and plantings and address needed replacements and improvements.	Directors of DFFM and DPI	Ongoing	n/a	Coordinating with the DPRB
	Paint Clark's Point Lighthouse and repair light to working order.	Director of DFFM	Year 1 Thereafter As Needed	\$3,000 Annually	
4	DEVELOPMENT ⊕	Develop facilities and funding needed to preserve the resources and operate the park in a safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible manner.			
	FACILITIES				
	Identify strategic locations to add comfort and convenience features (such as drinking fountains, seating, shade; and safety features such as lighting) to enhance the visitor experience.	Director of DPRB	Ongoing	\$10,000	
Expand areas for picnicking.	Director of DPRB	Year 2	\$5,000		

¹⁷ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Conservation Services as may be applicable.

¹⁸ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively..

4

GOALS & STRATEGIES¹⁹

RESPONSIBLE PARTY²⁰

TIME FRAME

FUNDING

NOTES

DEVELOPMENT, *Cont'd*



Develop facilities and funding needed to preserve the resources and operate the park in a safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible manner.

FACILITIES

Develop a comprehensive and consistent directional and interpretive signage program, including an informational kiosk and directional signage.	Director of DPRB	Years 2 - 4	\$25,000	
Install identification signage on all buildings.	Director of DFFM	Year 2	\$2,000	Coordinating with the DPRB
Create downloadable on-line maps with distances marked and add distance markers along multi-use paths.	Director of DPI	Year 2	\$5,000	Coordinating with the DPRB
Explore the installation of a dingy/small boat dock for increased water access	Directors of DPRB and DPI	Year 2	\$10,000	
Improve bike route identification.	City Planner	Year 2 - 3	\$1,000	
Establish a second means of egress in the fort to accommodate visitors/events and to meet Building Code requirements.	Director of DFFM	Year 1 - 3	\$100,000	Coordinating with the DPRB
Replace gate on west multi-use path with a more aesthetic, secure entryway.	Director of DPI	Year 3	\$25,000	Coordinating with the DPRB
Improve parking regulations/cost protocols and ensure that parking attendant/s are well-versed in policy.	Director of DPRB	1 – 6 Months and Ongoing Thereafter	n/a	

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	GOALS & STRATEGIES ²¹	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ²²	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
4	DEVELOPMENT, <i>Cont'd</i> #	Develop facilities that are needed to preserve the resources and operate the park in a safe, sustainable, and fiscally responsible manner.			

FUNDING

Identify both capital and operational funding to ensure the appropriate preservation and programming of Fort Taber so as to maximize its utilization and enjoyment for the general public.	Directors of DPRB and DPHCD	Ongoing	\$10million+	
Secure additional staffing and/or funding equivalent to meet increased management demands if/as additional programming and/or interpretive opportunities arise.	Director of DPRB and Park Board Commissioners	As Needed	\$50,000 Annually	Partner with Military Museum
Pursue diversified funding alternatives.	Directors of DPRB, DPI and DFFM	Ongoing	n/a	
Ensure fee structure remains consistent with MA Division of Conservation Services.	Director of DPRB	Ongoing	n/a	

5	EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION #	Expand the opportunities for education and interpretation of the historic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.			
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Expand public access to the fort and batteries as areas are stabilized and made safe to the public.	Director of DPRB	As Available	Part of \$10million noted	Partner with Military Museum
Provide guided tours and living history programming to enhance an understanding of the site and the fort and the history of the site.	Director of DPRB	Ongoing	In-kind	Partner with Military Museum
Develop a self-guided tour that facilitates an understanding of the story of the fort and the history of the site.	Directors of DPRB and DPHCD	Year 2	In-kind	Partner with Military Museum

²¹ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Conservation Services as may be applicable.

²² Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

	GOALS & STRATEGIES ²³	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ²⁴	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
5	EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION, <i>Cont'd.</i> †	Expand the opportunities for education and interpretation of the historic, natural, cultural and recreational resources of the park.			
	Develop interpretive signage describing the park's plants, animals, and natural communities.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Year 3 – 5	\$5,000	Partner with Lloyd Center/ Buzzards Bay Coalition
	Consider creating a wildlife viewing area; install osprey platforms on the west side of the park.	Directors of DPRB and DFFM	Year 5 - 7	\$5,000	Trustees of Reservations
	Review efficacy of existing park entrance signage (on west and east entry points) and replace as determined necessary.	Directors of DPRB, DPI and DFFM	Year 2	In-kind	

	GOALS & STRATEGIES ²³	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ²⁴	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
6	COLLABORATION †	Work with partners on programs and events that are mutually beneficial to the park and the community.			
	Expand and develop partnerships with local business, civic and cultural organizations, and the private sector to promote the delivery of high-quality, comprehensive, interpretive, cultural, recreational, and educational programming to the general public.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Ongoing	In-kind	
	Revisit existing relationship with Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association and assess opportunities for greater collaboration.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Year 1	n/a	
	Develop formal partnerships with other providers, historical associations, etc. that can offer interpretive programs designed for the park visitors and assess for fit, capacity and sustainability.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Ongoing	In-kind	

²³ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and Massachusetts Conservation Services as may be applicable.

²⁴ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials “DPRB” stands for the City’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while “DPI” and “DFFM” stand for the City’s Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

6

GOALS & STRATEGIES ²⁵	RESPONSIBLE PARTY ²⁶	TIME FRAME	FUNDING	NOTES
COLLABORATION, <i>Cont'd</i> 				
Work with partners on programs and events that are mutually beneficial to the park and the community.				
Continue to collaborate with local schools and other groups to develop and deliver educational programming for youth.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Ongoing	In-kind	Continue partnership with Buzzards Bay Coalition
Pursue fiduciary partnerships to implement the Fort Taber Master Plan. Partner with private individuals, corporate, non-profit and other agencies and/or groups.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Ongoing	n/a	
Continue to develop activities, particularly with partners, which are compatible with the historic character of the park and contemporary uses of the park's resources.	Director of DPRB and Park Board of Commissioners	Ongoing	In-kind	

²⁵ No specific action strategy will be undertaken until appropriate written concurrence has been granted by the National Park Service and the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services as may be applicable.

²⁶ Throughout this Section, the Responsible Party denotes a point person to simplify coordination; this individual is not responsible for singularly undertaking the listed task/strategy. Additionally, the initials "DPRB" stands for the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches while "DPI" and "DFFM" stand for the City's Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Fleet & Facility Management, respectively.

8.0 APPENDICIES



A. FORT TABER PARK PUBLIC MEETING – JULY 28, 2014

Meeting Notes

The City of New Bedford Office of Planning, Housing & Community Development along with the Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches held a Public Meeting at the Fort Taber Community Center on Monday, July 28th, 2014 at 6pm. The meeting was to solicit input on Fort Taber Park existing conditions and future improvements to the existing site and structures. E-mail notifications were sent out to various stakeholders across the City with fliers attached in English, Portuguese, and Spanish for distribution.

The following were in attendance at the meeting: Betty Anne and Jeff Silva, Robert C. Bromley, Karen B, Celine M. Saraiva, Chance Perks, Stephanie Reusch, Scott Humber, Charles Seguer, Joseph P. Lopes, Elaine Safeoleas, Jeanne M. Carreia, Joann Tschaen, John Fernandes, Marsha Fernandes, Kenneth Fortier, Frank Barrows, Donald Moss, Ana Beard, Gwen Fletcher, Ernest Pye, Ken Blanchard, Beth Goodhue, Michael Gemaly, Charles N. Buckley, Lorraine R. Buckley, Jill Maclean, Eddie Bates, Anne Louro, Patrick Day, Jen Gonet, Kreg Espindola, Kristine Arsenault, Mary Raposa.

Ms. Jill Maclean, City Planner gave a brief presentation and explained the goals of the meeting. Meeting participants were asked to fill out a brief questionnaire. Ms. Maclean then opened the floor for comments.

Security

- Entrance near SMAST building is a concern at night time. There is a problem with late night drinking. A request was made for a larger gate that closes completely, preferably on a timer.
- South Side and West Side of park were of security concerns
- Need more cameras, but feelings were expressed that camera's were not enough.
- Request for park police
- Request for security on a cart or bicycle
- Cut down the brush around the batteries-helps with visibility/security as well as integrity of batteries

Crowd Maintenance

- 5:30am picnic tables are already being claimed for the day.
- Concerns expressed for the availability of places to stop and rest as all are taken, request for more tables
- More tables near the peninsula

Residential Area/Event Permitting

- Concerns for noise – loud music during events, request to limit the hours (morning & night)
- Concerns for events disturbances on neighborhood, traffic, noise, timing of events etc.
- Suggested that these concerns be addressed in permitting events
- Residents expressed feelings that events should benefit the City, since they are taxing our infrastructure. There should be a concern for quality of events. Limit the number of events each year/season. Concerns were raised about for-profit entities (sport competitions and concerts) that cost the City more than the value they add to the City.

Signage

- Better signage that the park exists-Guests from out of town have no idea if they can enter the park on the west side of the park or what it is at main entrance.
- Bicycle/pedestrian signage is poor for cars.
- Suggestion for a kiosk about migrating birds- wildlife viewing area
- Request for a main sign with all the "Do's and Don'ts" of the park like at other parks. A "How to use the park" "no glass bottles" etc. type of informational sign at main entrances

Parking Prices & Rules

- Confusion was expressed over the parking regulations and cost – annual pass, day pass, free parking to visit museum, snack shack, and low tide yacht club?
- Concerns expressed that gate attendant staff were misinformed/confused

Litter

- Litter a concern particularly on West side of park
- Request that there be more trash pick-ups throughout the day especially on weekends.
- Suggested there be a management plan and agreement with any groups/organizations that use the park. They have responsibility/stewardship for their space – the Military museum explained they have stewardship over their area.
- Explanation of staffing for litter removal was given: 3 staff member clean the park across two shifts and there is staff on site on the weekends.
- Suggestion was made for Solar Compactors to help with trash collection
- Concerns Dartmouth residents are disposing of trash at the park
- Suggestion was made for an "Adopt-A-Park" program for litter pick-up/park stewardship

Public Restrooms

- Timing of opening/closing the restrooms for the season and day needs to be adjusted. The restrooms should open earlier in the season. Also, they should remain open later in the evening. Currently the restrooms close at 5pm which cause an influx of individuals using the museum restroom or using the port-o-potty until it is overflowing.
- Request the port-o-potty vendor empty the facility more frequently.

Department of Interior/Restrictions on Park lands

- Clarification about the deed and other restrictions on the park land was requested and provided

Recreational Activities/Programs

- Expansion of sailing and water sports was requested
- Dingy Dock to increase water access
- Someone believed there was a previous plan for a Dingy Dock on the North side
- Someone expressed the tides are unusual inside the pier, the dock would have to be elsewhere for boating sports
- A request for no soccer fields or baseball was made

Fort Restoration/ Historical Interpretation

- Access to inside the Fort is desired
- Discussed current project updating railings in the Fort to provide safer access for group tours. Also mentioned City is exploring a possible second egress so the Fort can have more individuals inside. Currently the number of individuals is limited by codes for safety.
- Belief was expressed that the Fort is the hub for history, more should be done to let the youth and general population know about the history
- Military museum expressed that they do tours and programs about the Fort and surrounding area

Nature Interpretation

- Wildlife viewing area was suggested with a informational kiosk about migrating birds
- Osprey platforms were suggested

Other Items

- Questions about cost sharing were raised between the City and Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Inquiry about what the Low-Tide Yacht Club is and why it exists in a City Park
- Belief expressed the City underestimates the use of the park
- A request for the final existing conditions map was made- City will make available online once report is completed.

Additional comments received via email from a resident unable to attend the meeting:

“As a resident in the Southend and one who walks that area every morning, I can say that the litter has improved a great deal (you can’t control when the birds get at it) and it’s very common for us to see a police car almost daily.”

“A couple comments would be that I would love to see the water fountain back and the showers (these were heavily used, including for pets!) Also, the area looked fabulous when all of the brush was cleaned up along the water and throughout the park. I do understand the barrier project may be taking staff away from this but would like to see that maintained.”

Additional comments online:

The meeting notice also was posted on a popular local social media news source, New Bedford Guide, which received many online comments similar to those expressed at the meeting.



To view comments made online visit:

www.facebook.com/NewBedfordGuide/posts/739178879452027

B. FORT TABER PARK PUBLIC MEETING – JULY 28, 2014

RESULT SAMPLING – PUBLIC MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE

Help us refine the vision for Fort Taber/Fort Rodman Park...

1. **If you had to design a short advertisement (approx. three sentences) highlighting the features at Fort Taber/Fort Rodman, what would your advertisement say?**
 - Visit the Fort, the museum, and walk by the Bay!
 - Stunning Ocean Views.
 - Best spot in the City!

2. **If you met someone who's never been to the park, what would you tell them they must see or do at Fort Taber/Fort Rodman?**
 - Military museum, walk to the point to enjoy the scenery.
 - Walk along the paths. Great place to sail/boating activities.
 - The Batteries-The mounds are very interesting.
 - Military museum is a wonderful tribute to the area veterans. It is a gem, a source of historical information.
 - Visit military museum.
 - Visit Fort/gun batteries.
 - Walking trails.
 - To walk the bike path and see everything.
 - Walk the pier.
 - Go out to the point.
 - See Museum.
 - Obviously the military museum, the Stone Fort/Batteries, and numerous memorials.
 - See the Military Museum and the head on top and walk around Fort.

3. **What enhancements would make it more comfortable, more inviting, or give it a stronger identity?**
 - Picnic areas need to be more closely monitored.
 - Better snack bar-I would visit more for sure! Even a small restaurant.
 - Tours of the Fort- I would like to be able to go inside the Fort.
 - Lighting! Along the walkway.
 - Sailing Destination!-Dingy Dock

- Better management, security, and enforcement of rules.
- I do not want any changes. Make some more signage along the walking paths i.e. Cuttyhunk over there, etc.
- Also, more sophisticated security all over the park.
- Stop people playing loud music.
- Install a dock to increase water sports/access.
- More security (especially after dark) - NOT restricted to cameras-should be “manned” police detail.
- Litter management plan
- More families, less crowds.
- Restore the Fort.
- Better signage with directions & locations.
- Improve security
- The Fort was open and wheelchair ramps
- List submitted behalf of Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, Inc. and Military Museum by Mr. Bob Bromley, Vice President & Curator:
- Re-designate the park to the proper name of this facility, i.e. Fort Rodman. It has long been a misnomer that the Stone Fort was Fort Taber. This is incorrect. The only names given to the fort are the Stone Fort at Clark’s Point and Fort Rodman.
- Review what the areas of the facility are designated on the Federal and State Historic Register. We believe this designation may only include Fort Rodman but none of the Endicott Period gun batteries or Battery Milliken.
- Keep each of the gun batteries clear of vegetation. This should be done at least once a year. This will aide in the preservation of the gun batteries, as well as to provide easier access for litter control, and will provide public safety.
- Install the last remaining historical panel for the west side batteries, Craig, Cross and Barton. The panel was purchased in 2004 or 2005 and is in storage.
- Insure the lighthouse is in operation.
- Relocate the flag pole from outside the fort to the inside and redo the older location as a plaza, perhaps reinstalling the 23rd Home Coast Artillery emblem in the center, (the original emblem vanished from the facility in the 1980’s).
- Provide safe usage of the fort and batteries for tours, historical presentations and for other public uses. This would involve implementing a plan to preserve and restore the various structures, and at least the barracks portion.
- Clean and provide a historic panel for the two remaining “Panama” gun mounts on the west side.
- Actively investigate obtaining at least one gun for Fort Rodman, and for Batteries Walcott and Gaston. Battery Walcott is the better battery to redo for tours.

- Expand to operation of the public restrooms. Currently, these were closed until June/July, and close at 5:00pm during the summer. The restrooms should be open longer in the season with longer daily hours, specifically July and August.
- Security issues.

4. I/we visit or use: (check all that apply)

	%
Walking Paths	100%
Military Uses	75%
Fort	58%
Batteries	50%
Memorials	42%
Beach	33%
Open Grass Area	33%
Community Center	25%
Picnic Areas/Grills	25%
Snack Bar	25%
Binoculars	17%
Sailing Club	8%
Playground	8%
Other: Yoga classes	8%

5. I/we go to: (check all that apply)

	%
Enjoy the scenic views	83%
Walk/jog	75%
Pay tribute at memorials	50%
Learn/teach about history	42%
Ride my bicycle	33%
Walk my dog	25%
Sail/Kayak/Canoe	25%
Fish	25%
Read	25%
Sunbathe/tan	17%
Picnic	17%

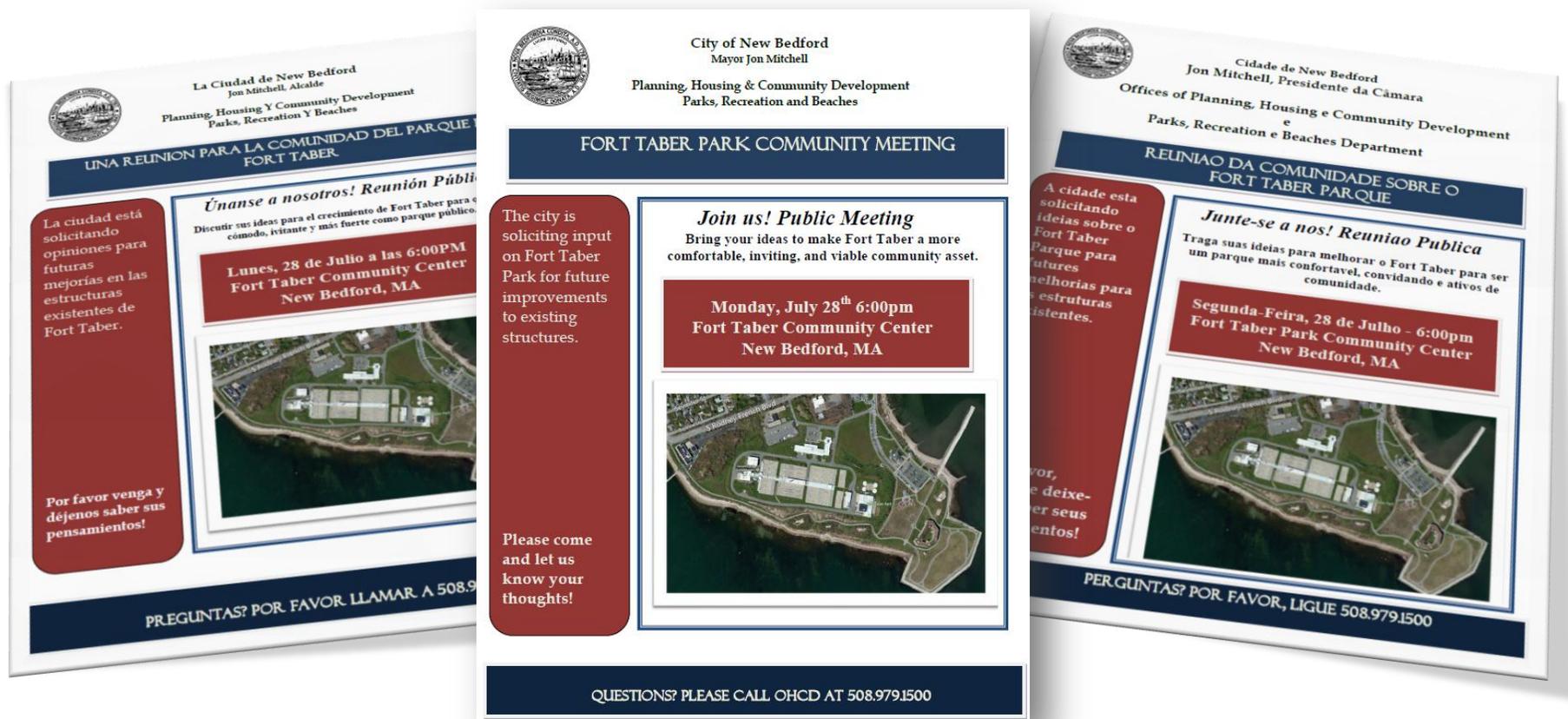
6. Additional thoughts or comments about Fort Taber/Fort Rodman:

- Osprey platforms and migrating bird info kiosk.
- Charge for entrance from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Consider raising fees for Beach Usage.

- Police presence required.
- Expand sailing/water programs.
- Important to preserve history of Fort, avoid commercialization.
- Monuments and “memorials” are too numerous-(marring the landscape and open space, which are the most attractive features to begin with)
- Please increase educational programs not concerts that bring large crowds. All activities should benefit the City, not corporations

C. FORT TABER PARK PUBLIC MEETING – JULY 28, 2014

MULTIPLE LANGUAGE ■ ADVERTISING FLYERS



Flyers advertising the public meeting were widely posted and distributed, presented in Spanish (left), English (center) and in Portuguese (right).