Work Task 92-7.2

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Municipal Complex, P.O. Box 628
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802-0628
(603) 431-2000 FAX (603) 427-1526

July 18, 1993

Ms. Joanne Cassulo
N.H. Office of State Planning
2 1/2 Beacon Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Peirce Island Park Project
Grant No. NA270Z0286-01

Dear Joanne:

We are pleased to inform you that the Peirce Island Park project has been completed. Please find enclosed a brief overview of work completed as well as a payment request form.

Thanks again for all your assistance and moral support on this project. If you need any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Cindy Hayden
Planner

HT
168
.P6
P45
1993

1 Junkins Avenue

AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

PEIRCE ISLAND PARK PROJECT
Final Report
(Grant #NA270Z0286-01)

from

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

to the

NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL PROGRAM

July 1993

Introduction

Peirce Island is a 27-acre city-owned island which separates the deep channel of the Piscataqua River and the City's historic "South End". The Island, connected to the mainland by a 60-foot fixed bridge, is located within easy walking distance from downtown Portsmouth. The 3-acre Peirce Island Park project site is located adjacent to the handicapped accessible municipal pool, municipal boat launch, Four Tree Island picnic area, and state fish pier. The park has 2,000 feet of shoreline on Peirce Island.

Peirce Island was identified repeatedly in local planning documents as underutilized and in need of revitalization. The development of the Peirce Island Park was intended to tap the educational and recreational potential of this unique waterfront environment by enhancing the natural amenities of the area and making it a destination point for children and families. An important theme in revitalizing this area was to develop a recreational facility that served the needs of disabled as well as able-bodied children and adults.

The specific goals of the Peirce Island Park project were:

- to enable the entire community, including individuals with disabilities and their non-disabled peers, to benefit from the recreational opportunities offered;
- to revitalize and create an awareness of public open space through redesign into an inviting and exciting park to be used year round by all members of the community; and
- to promote art within the community.

In an effort to address these goals, the Portsmouth Planning and Community Development Department sought, and received grant funds from, a variety of federal, state, and private sources to create a handicapped accessible park and playground on the 3-acre Peirce Island site. These efforts included a proposal to the N.H. Coastal Program for a $20,000 grant.

The Peirce Island Park project involved the construction of a handicapped accessible stonedust walking path and 21-space gravel parking area and turnaround; installation of two interpretive signs; removal of overhead utility lines; construction of erosion control measures; general site clean-up and loaming and seeding; and purchase and installation of handicapped accessible play equipment. With the exception of the play equipment installation, the park was constructed by CSSI, Inc. under a contract with the City of Portsmouth.

Use of N.H. Coastal Program Funds

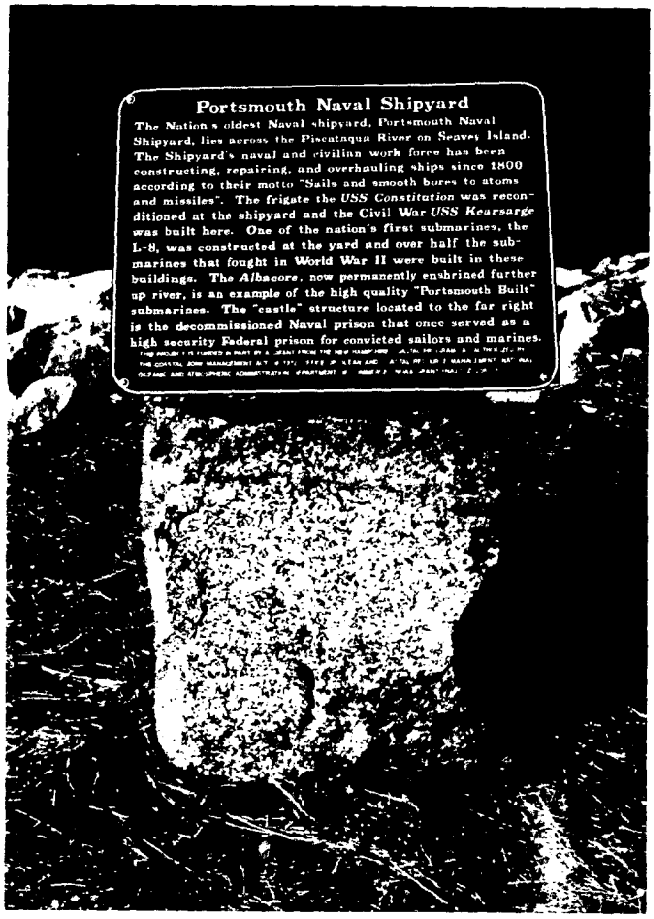
The N.H. Coastal Program's grant of $20,000 was used to construct approximately 1,000 linear feet of stonedust walking path, two waterfront interpretive signs, and a portion of the waterfront rip rap, and miscellaneous mileage and xeroxing. The stonedust walking path leads from the gravel parking area around the perimeter of a scenic waterfront point of land with two interpretive signs, "Life in the Cove" and "Portsmouth Naval Shipyard". The rip rap around the point was necessary for the integrity of the trail in this location in order to prevent further shoreline erosion.

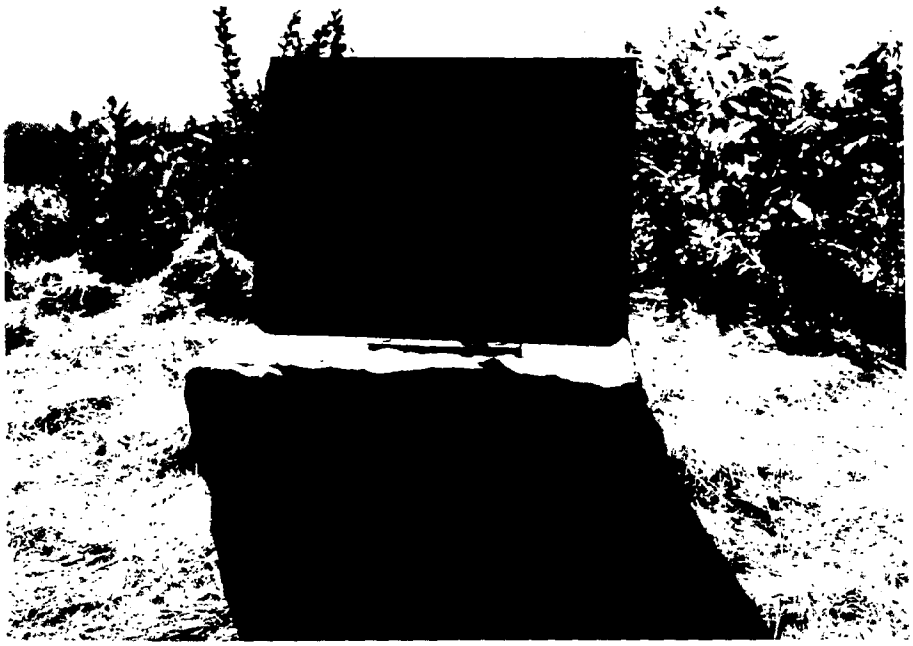
Matching funds for this project consist of $8,000 of contributed engineering services by Appledore Engineering, Inc., a $10,000 cash match from the Foundation for Seacoast Health, and a $10,000 cash match from the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation.

Peirce Island Park
Riprap

Peirce Island Park
Stonedust Path on the Point

Peirce Island Park
Interpretive Signs





Peirce Island Park
Stonedust Path

PRESS RELEASE

Phase I of the Peirce Island Arts in the Parks Project
Slated for Construction June 7, 1993

Residents and visitors to Peirce Island will soon have a new park at which to relax and enjoy the waterfront, or to bring children to play on the new handicapped accessible play structure. Phase I of the Peirce Island Park Project will kick off the week of June 7, 1993. A contract to construct the initial elements of the park was awarded to CSSI, Inc. of Merrimack, NH on June 2, 1993. This will include general site work, layout and construction of a handicapped accessible strolling path along the perimeter of the park, installation of 350 linear feet of stone rip rap along the waterfront, construction of a gravel turn-around/drop off area, and a gravel 23 space parking area. The gravel parking and turn-around area will be upgraded in the next phase to include granite curbing, a six foot wide concrete sidewalk, and bituminous paving.

The new 34 event play structure purchased from Landscape Structures, Inc. will be installed the week of June 14, 1993 with the help of members of the submarine crew from the USS Augusta and members of the City's Departments of Public Works and Recreation and from Challenges Unlimited--Access to Fun, Inc. of Springfield, MA. Currently, there are **no** municipal playgrounds in Portsmouth or the surrounding areas which have equipment that is accessible to children with disabilities. Portsmouth is excited to offer a park designed to enable the entire community, including individuals with disabilities and their non-disabled peers, to benefit from the recreational opportunities offered.

Appledore Engineering, Inc. of Newmarket, NH donated its services for construction drawings, preparation of bid documents and construction oversight. According to Gregg Mikolaities, a principal in the firm, the reason for the donation is because it is a community-based project which they strongly believe deserves support of local businesses. Planner Cindy Hayden stated that "without the services of Appledore Engineering, the project could not have gone forward. They have devoted a great deal of time and energy to help us make this park a reality."

The impetus for the Arts-in-the-Park project came from a grant from the Papoutsy Arts Venture Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation. The Arts in the Park project targets significant parks in the City for revitalization efforts which highlight the cultural and natural resources of the park area, and place them within a handicapped accessible, artistic design. A design competition was held during the spring of 1992 and the winning design was approved by the City Council on June 22, 1992. The design team which won the competition is composed of Kelly Davis, Architect; Flynn Donovan, Artist; Etoile Holzaepfel, Landscape Architect; Maureen Reardon, Sculptor.

Fundraising for the park consists of several grants totaling $95,000. Grant sources include the Portsmouth Rehab Center Fund and the Helen Kelly Trust of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the Foundation for Seacoast Health, the Office of State Planning Land and Water Conservation Fund, the NH Coastal Zone Program, Community Development Block Grant, and a Small Business Association Tree Planting Grant (pending). The $5000 grant from the Papoutsy Arts Venture Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation has been the catalyst for leveraging these grants. R.P. Millette and Assoc. donated a site survey.

Implementation of the balance of the park design will require further fund raising. Included in the elements still left to complete are installation of the artistic elements in the park such as a granite grist stone inlaid with metal forms, a stone arch, a 60 foot long wooden footbridge and a placement of granite "walls." Other park amenities such as picnic tables, benches, landscaping, signage, and a small stage are slated for installation as funding permits. Anyone interested in fund raising for the park should contact the City Planning Department.

Construction of Pierce Island Park set to begin next week

By MARY MacDONALD
Democrat Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH - A handicapped accessible park will soon be included among the city's recreational opportunities.

The city Planning Department announced Thursday that the initial phase of the Pierce Island Park Project will begin next week.

When completed, the park will be the first in the Seacoast area to feature equipment that is accessible to children with disabilities.

The 34-event play structure was purchased from Landscape Structures Inc. and will be installed during the week of June 14. The play structure will be installed with the volunteer effort of the submarine crew from the USS Augusta, members of the city Department of Public Works and Recreation and from Challenges Unlimited - Access to Fun Inc. of Springfield, Mass.

A contract to construct the initial phase of the park project was awarded this week to CSSI Inc. of Merrimack. The contract will include the layout and construction of a handicapped-accessible strolling path along the perimeter of the park, site work and construction of a 23-space, gravel parking area.

The park site is located beside the municipal swimming pool on Pierce Island.

Appledore Engineering Inc. of Newmarket donated its services for construction drawings, preparation of bid documents and construction oversight.

The impetus for the Arts-in-the-Park project came from a grant from the Papoutsy Arts Venture Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation.

Playground project begins this week

PORTSMOUTH — The first chunk of the long-awaited campaign to improve Pierce Island begins this week with construction of a new playground with special equipment for children with physical handicaps.

The Pierce Island Arts in the Parks Project begins with a ground-breaking ceremony this week. A crew of volunteers from the submarine USS Augusta will help install the playground equipment beginning Monday, according to City Planner Cindy Hayden, who is working on the project along with City Planner Nancy Carmer. There are currently no playgrounds in Portsmouth or the surrounding towns that are accessible to children with disabilities.

"It has always been an area that the city wanted to make more accessible to the public because it's such a beautiful ara, and it's so close to downtown," Hayden said.

ONCE COMPLETED, the three-acre playground area will be completely re-landscaped, and will include a 23-space parking area, handicapped accessible strolling path, stonework along the waterfront, a gravel turnaround and drop-off area, and sidewalk. More amenities like picnic tables and benches, a small stage, decorative stonework, an arch and a wooden footbridge will be added depending on the success of a fund-raising campaign.

"Pierce Island has been slated for some kind of recreational improvement for 30-40 years," Hayden said. "A design was done about 15 years ago for the whole island, which is about 28 acres, but it would have been enormously expensive. We decided on the phased approach."

To get the playground project off the ground planners had to secure grants from six different agencies — including the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the Foundation for Seacoast Health, the Office of State Planning Land and Water Conservation Fund, the New Hampshire Coastal Zone Program — for a total of $90,000. Appledore Engineering Inc. of Newmarket donated engineering services like construction drawings, preparation of bid documents and construction oversight.

The design was chosen through a competition using a $5,000 grant from the Piscataqua Foundation's Papoutsy Arts Venture Fund. A team consisting of architect Kelly Davis, artist Flynn Donovan, landscape architect Etoile Holzaepfel, and sculptor Maureen Reardon.

— *Mike McGrail*

Portsmouth Herald June 8, 1993

Pierce Island Park is nearly complete

Features handicapped accessible playground

By MARY F. MacDONALD
Democrat Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — After a month of effort by private contractors, city employees and volunteers, the Pierce Island Park is almost completed.

The small park beside the municipal pool includes a $30,000 play structure that is accessible to both disabled and non-disabled children.

The play structure includes elevated walkways for children using wheelchairs, and a variety of hoops, bars and ladders for kids to climb.

A pathway, lined with crushed stone circles around a grove of pine trees near the shore, offers a nice waterfront view of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Memorial Bridge and Prescott Park.

Several informational signs have been installed, one illustrating what types of wildlife and plants are found in a small pond near the entrance to Pierce Island.

Signs also are posted throughout the area welcoming residents to the new park, but asking that they keep off the newly seeded areas until the grass comes in.

When it is completed, the park will feature the only handicapped accessible playground in the Seacoast area.

The $30,000 set was purchased from Landscape Structures Inc. and was installed earlier this month by crews from the city Department of Public Works, Planning Department, Recreation Department and volunteers including crew from the USS Augusta.

Appledore Engineering Inc. of Newmarket donated its services for construction drawings, preparation of bid documents and construction oversight.

The initial phase of the park project, now nearly completed, was constructed by CSSI Inc. of Merrimack.

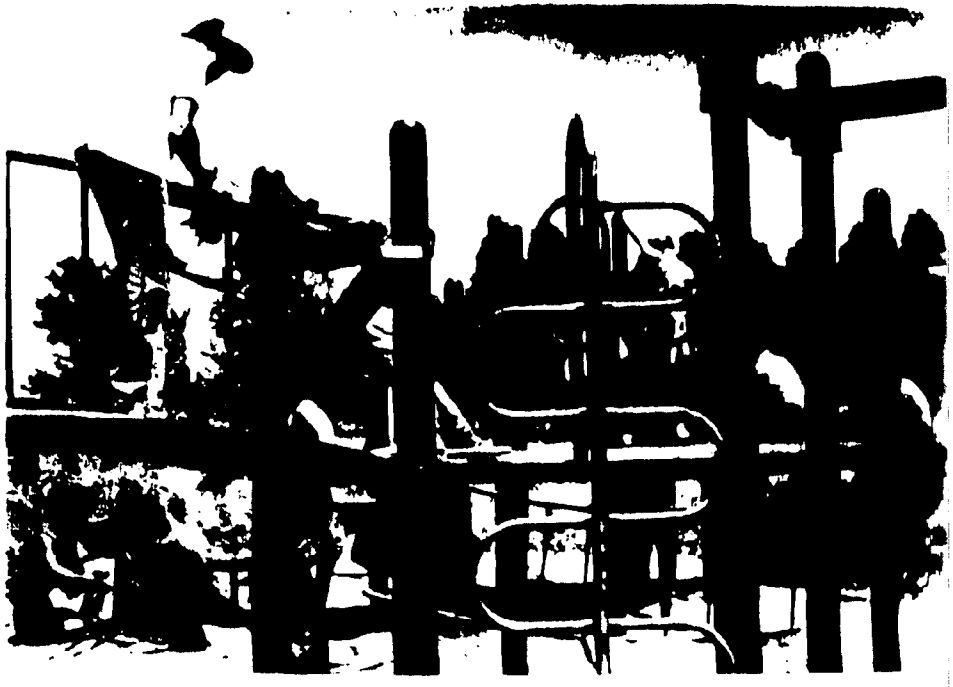
The park was designed by a four-person team including architect Kelly Davis, artist Flynn Donovan, landscape architect Etoile Holzaepfel and sculptor Maureen Reardon.

The park is being paid for through several grants that total about $95,000. The project began with a $5,000 grant from the Papoutsy Arts Venture Fund of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, which acted as a catalyst for other funding.

Other sources include the Portsmouth Rehabilitation Center Fund, the Helen Kelly Trust of the Greater Piscataqua Community Foundation, the Foundation for Seacoast Health, the Office of State Planning Land and Water Conservation Fund, the New Hampshire Coastal Zone Program, Community Development Block Grant and the donation of a site survey from R.P. Millette and Associates.

Fund raising will still be needed for the second phase of the park plan, including the installation of artistic elements including a granite grist stone inlaid with metal forms, a stone arch, a 60-foot-long wooden footbridge and placement of granite walls.

Park features, including picnic tables, benches, landscaping, signs and a small stage, are added as funding permits.



A crew of Department of Public Works employees and volunteers have spent the better part of a month building a new handicapped-accessible park on Pierce Island, including playground structure.

(Democrat photo – MacDona

Island Park poses no barriers

New playground expected to open in early July

By Dylan J. Ratigan
Herald Staff

Workers help construct the new playground for handicapped children at Pierce Island. (Staff photo by Deb Cram)

PORTSMOUTH — Virtually every community in America is outfitted with at least one, and probably more than one set of monkey bars, super spiral slides and merry go rounds all designed to bring laughter and joy into the hearts of every child in that community.

Or almost every child.

Most of the existing playgrounds are not equipped to accommodate the millions of American children with a physical handicap.

Michael Oestricher a designer from "Challenges Unlimited-Access to Fun," specializes in designing playgrounds that can accommodate children with and without handicaps. His latest design recently began construction on Pierce Island. The play structure is outfitted with 34 different activities that are all accessible to some one in a wheel chair as well as to someone without a disability.

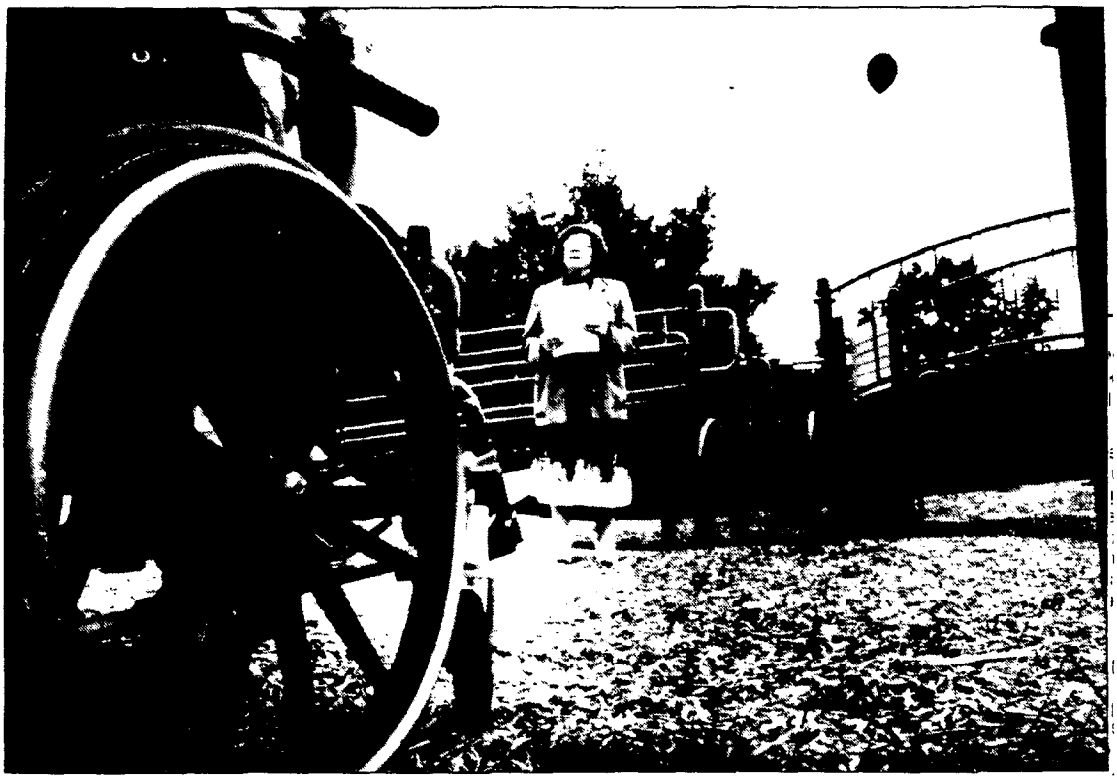
CITY PLANNER Cindy Hayden said, "this park is significant because of the fact that it will be the only handicapped accessible park in the Portsmouth area which has a rather large number of children with a physical handicap, the best part is that the structure will allow those children with a handicap to play alongside their non-disabled peers."

The project was coordinated locally by two Portsmouth city planners, Nancy Carmer and Hayden. They held a design contest last year in Portsmouth and then proceeded to select the winning team, which consisted of Kelly Davis, architect; Flynn Donovan, artist; Etoile Holzaepfel, landscape architect; and Maureen Reardon, sculptor.

These people, in conjunction with Oestricher and his firm, have created and begun construction on the only handicapped accessible park in the Seacoast.

Labor for the project was provided by the city workers as well as the volunteers from the crew of the submarine U.S.S. Augusta which was coordinated by Chief Petty Officer James Gettman.

FUNDING FOR Phase I of the project has come from a variety of grants, as well many contributing foundations and local businesses. Some aspects of the project, however, still need to be funded.



Mayor Foley greets onlookers yesterday as the handicapped-accessible park at Pierce Island was officially opened.

(Staff photo by Deb Cram)

Pierce Island playground brings smiles to many faces

Dedication ceremony opens handicapped-accessible park

By Dylan Ratigan
Herald Staff

PORTSMOUTH — Of all the smiles that filled the playground area of Pierce Island yesterday, none was greater than that of 14-year-old Kim Werkeline.

The youngster, who participated in the grand opening ceremony of the new handicapped-accessible park, earned a special recognition for her advisory role in the project. Kim is wheelchair-bound.

"This is the only park like this in the area, at home (Rye) they just made the library handicapped accessible," she said. "Basically, I just told them (the parks designers) what I would like to have in a park."

Awards were also distributed to the contributing companies and foundations. Appledore Engineering, which designed the park, and New Hampshire Coastal Foundation, who designed and landscaped the area near the park, also received special recognition.

> *"I don't know if you were here about three months ago, but this was just a trash pile then, and now it's just gorgeous."*
>
> **— David Hartman**
> **New Hampshire Coastal Foundation**

DESPITE CLOUDY SKIES, everyone in attendance was in high spirits. "I don't know if you were here about three months ago, but this was just a trash pile then, and now it's just gorgeous," said David Hartman, the foundation's manager.

Cindy Hayden, a Portsmouth city planner who participated in the project, made the point that this park would be special because it would provide for fully integrated play between handicapped children, and those who do not have a disability.

The park is being used, and, according to Hayden, vandalism on that part of the Pierce Island has been reduced quite a bit. "It's always a challenge, you know," she said. "But nothing is better than hearing a child yell 'This is great, how do we get one in our back yard?' "

MANY ORIGINAL features of the park had to be delayed, due to a lack of funding. A wooden footbridge and stone arch, along with the sculpture that was designed by Maureen Reardon, await construction. A planned paving of the parking lot was also delayed.

All of these projects have been postponed pending the processing of certain grant applications and any possible private donations that local businesses may wish to contribute. The park still needs another $50,000 in funding in order to complete the project.

Appledore Engineering, Inc.

May 18, 1993

Ms. Cindy Hayden
City of Portsmouth
Portsmouth City Hall
1 Junkins Avenue
P.O. Box 628
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Re: Pierce Island Park
AEI/591

Invoice for Professional Engineering Services April 4 through May 15, 1993.

Engineering Services:

o	Principal	13.0	Hours x $60 =	$ 780.00
o	Senior Project Engineer	4.5	Hours x $60 =	270.00
o	Project Engineer	2.5	Hours x $55 =	137.50
	Engineering Total			$ 1,187.50

Reimbursable:

o	Mileage	$ 9.66
o	Postage	1.13
	Reimbursable Total	$ 10.79

Total This Period	$ 1,198.29
Previous Invoice	6,821.99
Total Billed To Date	$ 8,020.28
Balance Due	$ -0-

No Balance Due. Services Donated To City.

GMM

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHARITABLE FUND

1 South Street, P.O. Box 1335, Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1335 (603) 225-6641

Affiliated Trusts: New Hampshire Charitable Directed Fund, Ella Anderson Trust, Norwin S. and Elizabeth N. Bean Foundation, Lou and Lutza Smith Charitable Foundation, Couch Trusts, Alexander Eastman Foundation

COPY

TERMS OF AWARD

A grant is awarded for the purpose(s) described in the **Resolution** below, and subject to any conditions included therein.

To acknowledge this agreement, to accept the award and receive the funds, please return a signed copy of the **Terms of Award** together with adequate evidence that you have met any conditions described in the **Resolution**.

This form is used by the New Hampshire Charitable Fund and its Affiliated Trusts. All correspondence should be addressed to the New Hampshire Charitable Fund.

FOUNDATION:	GPCF	GRANT DATE:	06-29-92
RECIPIENT ORGANIZATION:	Portsmouth, City of		
GRANT AMOUNT:	$10,000.00		
GRANT NO:	92523-1, 92523-2		
ACCOUNT NO:	3345-222 ($1,000); 3345-203 ($9,000)		
RESOLUTION:	To construct a handicapped-accessible park		

Provisions:

1. **Payment of Award**—Payment will be issued once the Fund has received the signed **Terms of Award** and adequate evidence of compliance with any conditions described in the **Resolution**. This action should be completed within 12 months of the award date. Grants not paid within 12 months will revert to the balance of uncommitted funds.

2. **Expenditure of Grant Funds**—The award is made for the purposes stated in the **Resolution** and the provisions of your funding request and budget as approved. Modifications to the program originally proposed may be made only with the written approval of the Fund.

   No part of any grant may be used for a political campaign or to support attempts to influence legislation of any governmental body other than through making available the result of nonpartisan analysis, study and research unless expressly so permitted in the **Resolution** and either (i) the grant recipient has made the election to lobby referred to in Section 501 (h) of the Code and a copy of Form 5168 is forwarded to the Fund or (ii) no substantial part of the activities of the grant recipient is carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation.

   The grant recipient may not grant any portion of the award to a secondary grantee without the express permission of the Fund.

3. **Financial Records**—Grant recipients will maintain accounting records sufficient to identify grant funds and show expenditures made in furtherance of the grant purposes charged against the grant. These records will be available for inspection by the Fund and shall be maintained by grant recipients for at least four years after the grant funds have been expended.

4. **Return of Grant Funds to NHCF and Affiliated Trusts**
   (a) Awards which have not been qualified for and paid within 12 months of the award date revert to the uncommitted balances of the fundor, as explained under **Payment of Award.**
   (b) Grant funds should be expended within 12 months after payment is issued. At the end of this period any unexpended grant funds should be returned to the Fund, or a written request for an extension of time should be submitted to the Fund.
   (c) Grants will be returned if the Fund determines that the grant recipient has not performed in accordance with the **Terms of Award**, or met the conditions described in the **Resolution** and the approved program and its supporting budget.
   (d) Unexpended grant balances will be returned if the grant recipient loses its exemption from Federal income taxation as provided for under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

5. **Reports**—Within 30 days after the grant funds are expended a written grant report shall be submitted to the Fund. Grant reports should review and evaluate what was accomplished with grant assistance, and summarize expenditure of grant and other funds on the supported project.

Signature below will indicate acceptance of, and agreement with these **Terms of Award.**

SIGNATURE OF PRESIDENT/TREASURER	SIGNATURE OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
Kenneth Dahl	Kenneth Mahony
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)
Finance Director	City Manager
TITLE (PLEASE PRINT)	TITLE (PLEASE PRINT)
July 16, 1992	July 16, 1992
DATE	DATE

FOR NHCF USE:

CERTIFIED FOR PAYMENT:

SIGNATURE	DATE	AMOUNT	CHECK #	DATE

FOUNDATION
for Seacoast Health

PO Box 4606 • Portsmouth, NH 03802-4606
Tel. (603) 433-4001 • Fax (603) 433-4091

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President

Susan B. Meister, Ph.D.
Vice President

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Terry L. Morton
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G. Warren Wilder

Staff

Susan R. Bunting
Executive Director

Nancy L. Cutter
Administrative Asst.

June 15, 1992

Kenneth Mahoney, City Manager
City of Portsmouth
Municipal Complex
P.O. Box 628
Portsmouth, NH 03802-0628

RE: Grant #406ICA

Dear Mr. Mahoney,

I am pleased to enclose a check in the amount of $10,000.00 representing the grant awarded by the Foundation for Seacoast Health for purchase of "Handicapped Accessible Playground Equipment."

Please note that your narrative/financial report is due on or before **October 31, 1992**. The enclosed budget format should be utilized when accounting for expenditure of grant monies.

If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Susan R. Bunting
Executive Director

SRB:nlc
Enclosures
cc: Karen Jacoby

US Department of Commerce
NOAA Coastal Services Center Library
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405-2413

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