

Preliminary work lays foundation for future Harbor Park project

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NEWS



Summit Geoengineering conducts soil tests Tuesday, March 7 at Rockland Harbor Park.

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ROCKLAND — Soil tests were performed this week at Harbor Park as the city eyes a future project that would relocate the harbormaster's office.

The city was informed in December that it had been awarded a \$50,000 grant to design land-side changes to prepare for expected sea level rise.

The grant from the Governor's Office of Innovation and the Future is helping pay for preliminary engineering of the land-side infrastructure included in the conceptual design for the downtown waterfront. This includes relocation of the harbormaster's office and filling and regrading parking, restrooms and utilities. The engineering will also propose stormwater management, pedestrian connections, hillside seating and handicapped accessibility.

The city received another grant earlier in 2022 to do preliminary engineering for water side changes. That included the piers, floats, dinghy docks, seawall and the Harbor Trail boardwalk that will connect them. The city wants to increase the height of the two piers and to extend the boardwalk from its current terminus near the harbormaster building to continue along the seawall and to the middle pier.

Upon completion of the preliminary engineering, the city can apply for larger grants to make the changes.

The project area includes nearly seven acres and more than 1,000 feet of publicly-owned waterfront. Harbor and Buoy Parks with their associated piers — the Public Landing and Middle Pier — are included, as are Mildred Merrill Park and Gilbert & Adams Central Park.

The Downtown Waterfront Advisory Committee has been working on a plan for these properties with help from planning and design consultants. The consultants were made possible with a grant from the Maine Coastal Program.