YES! I’d like to become a member of Greater Portland Landmarks

You’ll receive free admission to the Portland Observatory, the Landmarks Observer, discounts on all Landmarks merchandise and much more! Your membership supports historic preservation in greater Portland, including advocacy, education and preservation services.

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❑ $40 Individual  ❑ $60 Household  ❑ $100 Lemuel Moody Membership

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FLAG DAY

Portland Observatory Museum
FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2013

FREE ADMISSION • 10 AM - 5 PM

Spend one hour or all day celebrating the opening of the 1807 Portland Observatory Museum and the rich history of Munjoy Hill!

10 am Welcome and raising flags
11 am - 4 pm Tours of the Portland Observatory Museum
10 am - 2 pm Craft activities for children
11 am - 3 pm Meet author John McDonald
11 am - 3 pm Sea songs and music by David Peloquin
3 pm Walking tour of Munjoy Hill
3 pm Walking tour of Eastern Cemetery

Presented by Greater Portland Landmarks in cooperation with the City of Portland. The Portland Observatory Museum is open daily May 25 through Columbus Day, October 14, from 10 am - 5:00 pm. For more information: www.portlandlandmarks.org
Dear Members and Friends:

HE 2013 OLD HOUSE TRADE SHOW was a great success in bringing together the preservation community and celebrating the tremendous talent and expertise in the field. We are fortunate in New England to be both blessed with the authentic buildings and landscapes that tell our story, but also with the people who can bring these special places back to life. So, the Trade Show was a chance to re connect with our colleagues from throughout the region and to share information, “war stories,” latest projects, and new discoveries.

With 54 exhibitors, 17 workshops and information sessions, over 900 attendees and an additional 250 volunteers and booth participants and presenters, we were thrilled with the outcome. After a six-year break from presenting the Show (the last was in 2007), we were delighted to see so many previous exhibitors and to welcome many new ones. Attendees came from all over the state, and many beyond our borders, and 47 became members of Greater Portland Landmarks. Their enthusiasm, along with their commitment to learning the best ways to preserve their older homes and buildings, is very encouraging.

Workshops with top experts examined window repair, timber frame restoration, mold abatement and prevention, planning a project, among other topics. Many attendees stayed through multiple sessions to gather information and ask questions.

With today’s increasing emphasis on sustainability, we partnered with Efficiency Maine and the US Green Building Council to offer case studies and information sessions highlighting retrofits of older buildings, and strategies to save energy. From sealing air leaks to shared solar arrays that power historic neighborhoods, these thought-provoking discussions helped address the very real challenges residents in northern climates face to operate buildings more sustainably.

A new feature this year was the 10 Minute Architect, a program offered with the Portland Society for Architecture, where attendees could bring ideas and plans for a consultation with a design professional. All available tables quickly filled as participants engaged in intensive dialogue about their projects.

The two day event was exhilarating and exhausting – we made many connections, shared a great deal of information, and inspired attendees, presenters, and colleagues. It could not have come together so well without the dedication of the exhibitors, the Landmarks board and staff, our advisory committee, partner organizations, and our sponsors: Benchmark Real Estate/Cornerstone Construction, Taggart Construction, Marvin Windows and Doors, Artifacts, Hancock Lumber, Old Port Specialty Tile, and Sutherland Consulting. A complete listing of exhibitors and contact information is on our website at www.portlandlandmarks.org.

– HILARY BASSETT Executive Director

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Preservation Services Advisor
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PRESERVATION UPDATES

Architect Henry Cobb to Discuss Portland’s Streets & Squares

oted founding architect Henry N. Cobb of Poi Cobb Freed & Partners on June 18th will present “The Streets of Falmouth Neck: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. The talk, made possible by the Bernard A. Osher Fund at the Portland Museum of Art, celebrates the 30th anniversary of a symposium Building and will discuss Portland’s streets and squares in the past, present, and future.

Fort Allen Rehabilitation Project

Friends of the Eastern Promenade (Friends) has been advocating for improvements to the landscape along Portland’s most scenic drive – the Eastern Promenade. Based on a master plan approved in April 2012, the Fort Allen Rehabilitation will begin this summer. Major improvements include: making the Casco Bay overlook handicapped accessible, restoring the earthen berms and the horsehoe drive, updating lighting and utilities, restoring pedestrian circulation and the central walkway to the bandstand, replacing the historic row of benches, repairing the wrought iron fence, and restoring the allee of trees along the Promenade. The City of Portland is funding these projects through a Community Development Block Grant and the capital improvement program. The Friends are seeking additional funds to rehabilitate the historic cannons and place historical and informational exhibits. Diana Davison, President of the Friends says: “We look forward to the completion goal of celebrating Fort Allen Park’s Bicentennial in October 2014!” For more information: www.EasternPromenade.org

Meet the Authors: Maine Books for Kids!

Children’s authors will be featured at the Observatory every Saturday in July from 1-2 pm. Authors include: Chris Van Dusen, If I Built a House, on July 6; Connie Smith, Pea Soup Fog, on July 13; Paula Benoi, Baxter in the Blaine House, on July 20; and on July 27, a new author to be announced.

Great Portland Landmarks promotes preservation and revitalization of historic buildings, neighborhoods, and landscapes and encourages high-quality new architecture to enhance the livability and economic vitality of Portland and surrounding communities.

Greater Portland Landmarks is supported by a generous Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Lincoln Park Poised for Renewal

The cherubs on the fountain in Lincoln Park in Portland aren’t anywhere near flowing water anymore, but they cling to the base like they will never give up hope. Now, a new friends group has begun to bring the lovely park to its former glory, including, they hope, turning the water back on.

I walk through Lincoln Park three times a week to get to my yoga class on Congress Street, and I love it,” says Frank Reilly, who with his wife, Sharon Reilly, last October gathered people to their house to begin a concerted effort to rehabilitate the park.

One day as Frank, a playwright and actor, walked through the park, he encountered a city worker cleaning the fountain, getting it ready for a “First Friday” lecture about its history. In recent years, the park’s upkeep has been like that generally: sporadic and often done on an as-needed basis. Frank and Sharon went to learn about the fountain and resolved then to take steps to restore the park and maintain it properly. They have drummed up support and launched a website www.lovelincolnpark.org allowed to begin to deteriorate, according to earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., writing in Bold Vision, the Development of the Parks of Portland, Maine, published in 1999 by Greater Portland Landmarks.

They have since met with Greater Portland Landmarks, city park officials, neighbors of the park, and others and are confident that they will make great progress swiftly in gathering support and needed funds. The park’s spot in the city’s renewal, and served as a fire break following the Great Fire of 1866. In 1909, at the celebration of Abraham Lincoln’s 100th birthday, it was renamed Lincoln Park. In the mid-20th century, a quarter of the park’s east end was appropriated to widen Franklin Arterial and it was allowed to begin to deteriorate, according to earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., writing in Bold Vision, the Development of the Parks of Portland, Maine, published in 1999 by Greater Portland Landmarks.

Thanks to “Love Lincoln Park” and the efforts of Frank and Sharon Reilly, that deterioration stops now. “We strongly support the new Lincoln Park friends group and their work to advocate for improvements that will bring the park back into the mainstream of city life,” says Hilary Bassett, Greater Portland Landmarks executive director.

One of the park’s most ardent supporters, and a supporter of this new effort, is the law firm Murray Plumb and Murray, a neighboring business on Pearl Street that regularly sponsors caretaking days. This May 1, in fact, the firm celebrates its 40th anniversary with a clean-up day. The firm has already donated benches and has helped repair the fence. The park, according to firm lore, was where the founders decided to begin their law firm together, even as they were taking a lunchtime break from litigating against each other in the nearby courthouse. The firm is helping the group establish a 501(c)(3) non-profit so that it can receive donations.

“It’s a central location and it’s a much-needed green space in the city,” says Christopher Branson, a partner at the firm. “The time is right. There are a lot of people in the city who are going to support this effort and benefit from this effort.”

As long as I’ve known, city parks have always been a haven for me, even as a kid,” says Frank Reilly. “Lincoln Park is one of the only downtown parks that we have.”

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Despite Tough Budgets, Portland-area GREEN SPACES FLOURISHING

Even in this era of tight government budgets, green spaces in the Portland area are enjoying strong levels of support in their communities, thanks to advocacy efforts and vision by volunteers and city officials. South Portland and Westbrook are two communities that have recently made improvements to their parks and are planning more.

RIVERBANK PARK AND BEYOND, WESTBROOK

Westbrook developed around the Presumpscot River because it powered the mills that in turn spurred the community’s growth. Now, the city is embracing the river’s preeminence in its design and use of green space.

“Somebody long ago had the vision to create Riverbank Park right through town,” says Peter Burke, a landscape architect who volunteers on the city’s recreation and conservation committee and in its environmental improvement commission. Among other pro-bono activities, he consults with the city and designed the new River Garden. “And Riverbank Park is not alone, it’s connected to the Riverwalk, a phenomenal stretch of trail that connects Congin Falls to a park with ball field after ball field. It cuts right through downtown and reaches out to all of urban Westbrook so that everyone has access to it by a five- to 10-minute walk from their homes, which I think is pretty spectacular,” Burke says.

That “somebody” was John E. Warren, agent for the S.D. Warren mill, and the park celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. To preserve the land, Warren bought and held the land to protect it from development, selling it back to the city for his original purchase price, according to the Westbrook Historical Society. Warren also had a pathway built along the banks of the Presumpscot River to Riverbank Park. It was dedicated in 1913 during Westbrook’s Centennial celebration, and named “Riverbank” at Warren’s urging. Saccarappa Falls, west of Bridge Street, and other views of the river are perfect for bird watchers and sightseers, and Burke said the city is hoping to make it easier for kayakers and canoists to put in and out. The city is planning three spots: at Ash Street in the urban core, another in Riverbank Park, and the third in the small River Garden Park.

“Even in winter, it’s so nice to have,” Burke says. “The Riverwalk is plowed so it’s still a great walk.” The committees on which Burke serves have also given money to Portland Trails to extend the Stroudwater Trail. That goes up to really interesting woods, it will be a zig-zagging trail with pedestrian bridges,” he says.

That project will continue Portland Trail! “Sebago to the Sea” trail project begun in 2007. Plans are to follow the Mountain Division corridor from Route 202 in South Windham to Bridge Street in Westbrook. Until that’s realized, the Sea Trail will follow the Presumpscot River via a five-mile paddling route to downtown Westbrook, according to Portland Trails. Sappi Fine Paper North America and the city also announced recently that they are working on an agreement to remove the mill’s Saccarappa Dam. This major development would help Sappi meet a federal requirement to build a fishway there by 2015. The river is just 25 miles long, but has a watershed of 650 square miles and is the largest freshwater input into Casco Bay. In its short distance it drops more than 270 feet, and before it was dammed had even more falls. The dams on the Presumpscot, an Abenaki name meaning “many rough places,” and their stymying effect on fish passage have been controversial since Abenaki Chief Polin in 1735 went to Boston and obtained a federal order that required mill owners to build fish passages. That order went ignored for years, until the dams began to affect colonial fishermen, according to Deering: A Social and Architectural History (Greater Portland Landmarks, 2010) by William David Barry and Patricia McGraw Anderson. “This is not just good for fish, it’s also good for aesthetics and for fishermen and kayakers,” Burke says. “Saccarappa Falls is really prime whitewater rafting, and it’s right there, highly visible in downtown Westbrook. People need this, they need green spaces and to get outdoors. It’s important to have easy access to spaces like this.”

MILL CREEK PARK, SOUTH PORTLAND

As the former town dump, Mill Creek Park is a startling work of metamorphosis. It is now the centerpiece of South Portland, not only as an enjoyable passive green space but also a nexus of cultural development, selling it back to the city for his original purchase price, according to the Westbrook Historical Society. Warren also had a pathway built along the banks of the Presumpscot River to Riverbank Park. It was dedicated in 1913 during Westbrook’s Centennial celebration, and named “Riverbank” at Warren’s urging. Saccarappa Falls, west of Bridge Street, and other views of the river are perfect for bird watchers and sightseers, and Burke said the city is hoping to make it easier for kayakers and canoists to put in and out. The city is planning three spots: at Ash Street in the urban core, another in Riverbank Park, and the third in the small River Garden Park.

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Choosing Green While Maintaining Your Old Home’s Interior Finishes

BY KATIE T. CHARETTE, LEED AP BD+C, Executive Director, U.S. Green Building Council, Maine Chapter

Maintaining your home’s interior finishes is a necessary part of upkeep and can yield impressive results. There’s nothing like a fresh coat of paint to revitalize your living space. Here we discuss interior wood finishes and paints and how to “choose green.” These will give long-lasting results and high indoor air quality while treading gently on the planet and honoring the architectural heritage of our old New England homes.

WOOD FINISHES

Wood finishes are coatings that protect wood while enhancing its natural beauty. They can also change wood’s appearance by adding sheer color to hide defects. A finish is a liquid, paste, or gel that can be spread thinly onto wood. There are two basic types of wood finishes: those that form a film over the wood and those that penetrate the surface. Film finishes, which cure hard and can be built up in layers, include varnish, shellac, lacquer, water- and latex-based semitransparent stains, and solid-color stains. Penetrating finishes are oil-based and don’t cure to a hard film. They include tung and linseed oil and oil-based stains. (See Healthy House Institute, www.healthyhouseinstitute.com.)

Historically, many of these products have contained high levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), solvents, heavy metals and carcinogenic chemicals, contributing to poor indoor air quality and toxicity. Fortunately, due to public demand, the Clean Air Act, and the rising popularity of green building rating systems like LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the availability of water-based finishes has increased substantially.

WHAT IS A VOC?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. They include a variety of chemicals, which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Car emissions or paints and coatings, which contain many VOCs, are up to 10 times higher when released indoors. VOCs are emitted by a wide array of products, including paints and lacquers, paint strippers, cleaning supplies, pesticides, building materials and furnishings, office equipment like copiers and printers, correction fluids and carbonless copy paper, graphics and craft materials including glues and adhesives, permanent markers, and photographic solutions, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

When choosing a wood finish, opt for lower-VOC or water-based finishes. Green Seal standards offer an excellent tool for selecting a safe and high-performing wood finish. The applicable standard for wood finishes is Green Seal Standard for Stains and Finishes, GS-47, which includes product performance requirements and health requirements. (See www.greenseal.org.) As of this writing, however, the list of products bearing the Green Seal certification is limited.

The LEED green building rating system specifies that clear wood finishes, stains, sealers, and shellacs “applied to interior elements must not exceed the VOC content limit established in South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, rules in effect on January 1, 2006.” This means that you should look for products whose VOC contents do not exceed 275 grams per liter (gpl) for clear wood finishes, varnish, sanding sealers, and lacquer; 350 gpl for faux finishes like clear topcoat, decorative coatings, and glazes; and 250 gpl for interior stains.

GREEN PAINT

Like wood finishes, the hallmark of a green paint is the glazes; and 250 gpl for interior stains. Finish coatings like clear topcoat, decorative coatings, and varnish, sanding sealers, and lacquer; 350 gpl for faux exceed 275 grams per liter (gpl) for clear wood finishes, stains, sealers, and shellacs “applied to interior elements must not exceed the VOC content limit established in South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, rules in effect on January 1, 2006.” This means that you should look for products whose VOC contents do not exceed 275 grams per liter (gpl) for clear wood finishes, varnish, sanding sealers, and lacquer; 350 gpl for faux finishes like clear topcoat, decorative coatings, and glazes; and 250 gpl for interior stains.

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GREEN PAINT

Like wood finishes, the hallmark of a green paint is the glazes; and 250 gpl for interior stains. Finish coatings like clear topcoat, decorative coatings, and varnish, sanding sealers, and lacquer; 350 gpl for faux exceed 275 grams per liter (gpl) for clear wood finishes, stains, sealers, and shellacs “applied to interior elements must not exceed the VOC content limit established in South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1113, Architectural Coatings, rules in effect on January 1, 2006.” This means that you should look for products whose VOC contents do not exceed 275 grams per liter (gpl) for clear wood finishes, varnish, sanding sealers, and lacquer; 350 gpl for faux finishes like clear topcoat, decorative coatings, and glazes; and 250 gpl for interior stains.
Although as a college intern [Jim Cram] was tasked with giving out eviction notices to several downtown Portland businesses in the “Golden Triangle” in the name of urban renewal, he has been dedicated in his working life to historic preservation and to helping guide responsible and respectful built environments. He works as a LEED Green Associate in sales and pre-construction at Porter Panel and Truss, Inc., and has served on several historic, development, and architectural review boards around New England, including in Freeport and in Hollis, N.H. He was president of the Greater Portland Landmarks board of trustees in the late 1970s and now serves again on Landmarks’ board. He has worked as a builder in several projects overseas, including Japan, Albania, Russia, Germany, Israel, and England, and he brings that international perspective to much of his work.

You have traveled extensively around the world and have worked in both building new architecture and in restoring historic buildings. Do you have a favorite type of architecture? I do love elaborate, sophisticated, and complicated buildings of the past and present – buildings with great budgets and where the best building technology has been used, along with tremendous creative inspiration, to build the architectural monuments we all know. At the same time I am especially attracted to the architecture that people use every day to live in and to advance their lifestyle and personal comfort.

How do you view preservation now that the fight against urban renewal is over? Having been a builder and also active in preservation groups, I have a practical perspective on preservation. I feel strongly that the best buildings of our communities should be preserved and that we should have public policy around certain historic buildings. But we need activism to save average buildings as well because streetscapes as a whole can be very important. You have a certain scale that works. There’s no easy formula to describe that.

For example, I would be opposed to these super tall buildings in Portland. So, part of Landmarks’ important work is to slow down government when they have bad ideas. Often with some extra time and consideration a Bad Idea can be made better. If an old building is to go, then you’ve got to be reasonable about your replacement. I was active at Landmarks when we agreed to tear down the Libby Building. It was quickly replaced with the new Portland Museum of Art, so that was an excellent tradeoff. As opposed to the “Golden Triangle” that sat vacant for several years. And the Franklin Arterial, at least, accomplished something, a connection between downtown and the waterfront, while the Spring Street massacre accomplished nothing.

How do you think new construction fits with preservation? If you do new construction properly it fits very well. Landmarks’ Public Issues Committee and the Portland Society for Architecture both support well thought out new architecture, which often fits very well in historical settings. It’s about scale, proportion, materials — all those things matter a great deal.

We are working on the new Hyatt, which is a contemporary building with seven stories on Fore Street. It’s a very different approach from the buildings around it. The buildings on opposite corners are brick. This one will have a black composite stone material, sleek and new. It’s clean. It’s not mocking the other, the old.

What have you learned from your work abroad? Overall, I found great friends everywhere. But there are cultural differences. In Japan, for example, there is a lot of focus on nature. They have different views on architectural preservation, except in preserving their temples. There’s such a shortage of land, they have just had to put houses where they could without necessarily siting them well. That’s in contrast to England, where the whole country is a historic district, and where the land was owned by the king for generations. They’re more accepting of many land use and design regulations.

In general, other parts of the world are much more restrictive than here. The government has much higher requirements on what you’re allowed to build, for health and safety as well as durability, aesthetics, and energy reasons – and people more readily accept those controls. There’s a stronger sense of individual property rights in America, although we’ve started to change when it comes to energy codes. It’s becoming more accepted that we have the right to say you can’t create buildings that waste energy.

What are some current challenges faced by the preservation movement? Organizations like Landmarks have a very important role in maintaining an awareness of the value of existing significant buildings and neighborhoods, and in helping guide the process of maintaining, upgrading, and rebuilding a community. Preservation of the traditional building trades is critical to keeping these buildings in shape. At the same time, building science has come a long way, and advances need to be incorporated in compatible ways. And stopping a Bad Idea that seems popular in the moment is very important.

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Application forms available June 2013; Exhibition January/February 2014 at the Portland Public Library
More information coming soon: www.portlandlandmarks.org

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Landscape Features Can Aid Sustainability

The natural landscape is an integral aspect of a historic property. A site may have significance in its own right, including landscape design, specimen trees, or plantings. Its significance may come from a prominent owner, architect, or landscape architect, events that occurred there, or the presence of important archaeological remains.

It’s important to understand the dynamic relationship between landscape and building performance when planning any work, in part to avoid damaging or removing irreparable historic elements. In the early stages of property acquisition or rehabilitation, site location, slope, solar aspect, air and water drainage patterns, wind direction, and vegetative cover should be considered. These passive features can affect the preservation, maintenance, and operational efficiency of the buildings.

Understanding the Site

The first consideration in developing a contemporary site plan is to determine the original design and which elements remain intact. You may want to reestablish some of the original, subtle, functional relationships of the site plan to determine the original design and which historic elements. In the early stages of property acquisition or rehabilitation, site location, slope, solar aspect, air and water drainage patterns, wind direction, and vegetative cover should be considered. These passive features can affect the preservation, maintenance, and operational efficiency of the buildings.

Managing Stormwater Runoff

Soil around the base of buildings tends to build up over time, due to natural vegetative decay or overfill from mismanaged guidance. The “building apron,” the two- to three-foot wide strip that extends from the foundation and around the perimeter, must be sloped away from the foundation at least one-quarter inch to the foot in order to shed rainwater. Failure to maintain the pitched profile can saturate foundations and subject them to the freeze-thaw action of harsh New England winters. This is the primary cause of sub-surface deterioration, upsetting stone and brick masonry and causing foundation walls to bulge. This contributes to wet basements, too, leading to mildew and mold.

Maintaining drainage and regularly inspecting roofs, chimneys, rain caps, valleys, flashings, and the gutter system are essential. Clean and flush gutters, collector boxes, and downspouts annually. Install splashboards at the base of every downspout to discharge roof runoff. If profile grades can’t be improved, you could connect sub-surface drain pipes to the downsputs, which can discharge rainwater into underground cisterns or drywells. The collected rain can be used to irrigate lawn, shrubs, and gardens, saving on city water charges.

Slope Aspect: Natural Ventilation and Cooling and Passive Solar Heating

Favorable site conditions are in part determined by prevailing winds along the Maine coast, which in summer emanate from the southwest and in winter from northerly directions. Designers and builders of older properties typically captured the advantages of sloped, south-facing parcels when stairs. Hills sites offered morning and evening breezes, providing natural ventilation and cooling. High ceilings and large, well-placed windows provided ample natural lighting. Maximizing use of gravity-induced ventilation and daylight can lower cooling loads while cutting electricity costs.

In contrast, however, passive solar gain in buildings facing south, east, or west from early morning to afternoon can warm the interior and lower fuel costs, if windows have storm panels and thermal shades. Avoid placing tall evergreen trees and shrubs along easterly, south and west-facing walls, where dense growth would block light.

Vegetation Management

Identify all plants, shrubs and trees while noting approximate age and diameter of each. Some specimens may be original. With storm ferocity increasing, prune mature tree canopies, especially those close to building roofs and utility lines, to prevent costly damage.

Don’t place shrubs and planting beds against the structure or in the building apron because they can block air and trap moisture, causing mildew, mold, and rot in wooden structures. Climbing vines are also not advised for wood or masonry.

Landscape Buffering

Where buildings and grounds are exposed to frigid northwesterly winds, a wind-break can help contain heating costs. Some land forms, embankments, or ledge may offer a natural opportunity, which tree and shrub cover may enhance. Coniferous trees like fir, spruce, hemlock, and white pine provide good wind protection. Vegetative buffers can also provide privacy and shade while blocking noise. Such amenities, when planned appropriately, can increase a property’s market value and take advantage of natural features that enhance passive environmental sustainability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes: National Park Service
  www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/landscape-guidelines/

- Historic Landscape Preservation Initiative: Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation & Recreation
  www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/histland/publications.htm

- Preservation Brief No. 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: National Park Service
  www.nps.gov/history/hps/pb/pb36.brief.htm

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Landmarks’ Preservation Services Advisor
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ccloss@portlandlandmarks.org
Providing historic preservation technical assistance and tax credit pre-assessments.
Our offices have always been downtown. But that’s not what makes us part of the community.

For over 150 years, we’ve been supporting the neighborhoods where we live and work through our pro bono efforts and community service. Because being part of a community isn’t just about having an office downtown.

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Landmarks Launches New Workbook for Third Graders

Greater Portland Landmarks has produced a new, completely revised educational workbook for 3rd graders. The City is a Classroom. Originally created in 1998, the workbook links Portland’s history and architecture. It fulfills a required curriculum goal for local history, using real examples of buildings and landscapes. Each student can keep the workbook as their own, as they learn about their city and gain pride in their community.

Generously funded by the Leonard C. and Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation and the CPB Foundation, the new workbook includes an expanded local history time line and totally new sections highlighting nine local, historic buildings and landscapes with specially designed activities. Sites include the Portland Observatory, Tate House, the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum, the Longfellow House, the 5th Maine Regiment, Evergreen Cemetery, Eastern Cemetery, Victoria Mansion, and the Abyssinian Meeting House.