

Appendix A: Supplemental Environmental Project

Town of Camden

Name of Project:

Aldermere Farm, Riparian Zone Enhancement Work and Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Focused on Stream and Shoreline Protection.

Project implementer:

Maine Coast Heritage Trust - Aldermere Farm
70 Russell Ave. Rockport, ME
207-236-2739
Project point person: Emily Marshall, emarshall@mcht.org

Staff Names:

Heidi Baker
Emily Marshall
Kevin Walter
Hannah Matson
Mimi Rebein
Aaron Englander
Liv Caron
Seasonal staff persons

Geographic area to benefit from the project:

Camden-Rockport region:

- Lily Pond
- Rockport Harbor
- Camden and Rockport coastal waterfronts
- Rural-agricultural land along Russell Ave, Calderwood and Limerock St. in Rockport, ME

Enforcement action:

This Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) is being funded as part of the settlement of an Administrative Consent Agreement (ACA) between the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the City of Camden pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S. § 349(2-A). The ACA addresses effluent violations and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) over the past six years in Camden. The SEP will be conducted at Aldermere Farm, located about two miles south of where the SSOs occurred, which discharges to Camden's neighboring Rockport Harbor.

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Type of project:

Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 349(2-A), this project falls within the following categories: an environmental enhancement project designed to remove invasive species and restore native plants on preserved lands; and a pollution reduction project designed to protect stream and pond embankment integrity and significantly reduce pollutants, specifically nutrients and bacteria that are primarily generated from agricultural animal waste, from being discharged into the waters of the State.

Project description:

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is a non-profit land conservation organization that conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. Aldermere Farm is a working farm preserve and educational center, owned and managed by MCHT.

Using SEP and other funds, the farm will expand efforts around invasive plant management and planting of native plant species to provide vegetative buffers for streams and critical habitats to reduce the addition of pollutants to the waters of the State. Many of the riparian zones are overrun with invasive species. The plan is to manually remove the invasive shrubs and replace with native grass, forbs, shrubs, and trees. An invasive plant management plan will be provided for by Mid-Maine Forestry with consultation from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) or another specialist.

Additionally, Aldermere Farm's herd of cattle are pastured near the shores of Lily Pond and on a coastal property. Aldermere Farm will better protect water quality through fencing improvements to focus where its cattle graze and walk to restore stream bank integrity and reduce the addition of pollutants to waters of the State. Specifically, this involves replacing old, broken, poorly located fencing at Aldermere Farm to exclude animals from streams within the pastures and create a wider riparian zone for the streams and Lily Pond just outside the existing pastures.

Existing Regulatory Requirements:

This SEP complies with 38 M.R.S. § 349(2-A)(B)(2-3) by being a voluntary project that is neither required by law nor previously planned or budgeted for by the violator.

Total project budget:

Item	Amount	Funding Provided By
Invasive plant management plan	\$1,900	SEP
Native plantings seed and plant stock	\$900	SEP

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Fencing materials	\$7,200	SEP
Labor for fencing and native plantings	\$27,000	In-kind MCHT
Total budget	\$37,000	\$10,000 (SEP), \$27,000 (In-kind MCHT)

Project schedule:

All fencing replacement projects, the Invasive Management Plan, and protecting the shoreland and streams at Aldermere Farm, as part of this SEP, shall be completed by March 31, 2023.

Milestones:

- *10/1/2021-12/30/22 Removal of existing fencing and installation of new fencing:* Sections of fencing will be removed and replaced as we go. Therefore, the timeline for removal of all existing fencing will be completed on the same timeline as the installation of new fencing. Fencing location will be based on Natural Resource Inventory and other data, incorporating buffers around riparian zones, wetland areas and shorelines using untreated 8' cedar posts and 48" woven wire or high tensile electric construction (or other similar materials) along approximately 2200 linear feet of Rockport Harbor, watershed streams, and within Lily Pond shoreland zones. Labor will be provided by Aldermere Farm staff and seasonal hired help, as needed.
- *9/30/22: Creation of an Invasive Plant Management Plan:* Created for this property by Mid-Maine Forestry or a licensed forester specializing in Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry (DACF) invasive plant management plans, to inform practices and future work.
- *3/31/23: Purchase native plant seed stock:* Conducted according to the Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Expected project benefits:

The Aldermere Farm project will increase the width of the stream and pond riparian zones, manage invasive plant species, and restore native species within these areas, which will enhance wildlife habitat and restore ecological diversity and resilience of this farm-nature ecosystem and improve water quality. Also, the project will exclude livestock to manage nutrient loads along the Lily Pond, Camden shoreline, and Rockport Harbor watersheds.

Additionally, this project provides a publicly accessible example of how working farms can balance farming with wetland resources. Aldermere Farm staff work with many area farmers and will talk about the importance and benefits of this project with those other farms.

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Reporting:

A project interim report will be provided by MCHT to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by June 15, 2022, with a project final report to be provided by MCHT to DEP by April 30, 2023.

Remaining Funds:

Within 30 days of either the completion of this project or notification that the project cannot be completed, any and all remaining funds provided as part of the ACA that are not expended as part of this SEP shall be paid by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to the *Treasurer, State of Maine*, to be deposited into the General Fund.

Certification:

The Town of Camden certifies that this proposed SEP project is not the result of substantive planning that occurred prior to this enforcement action.


Town of Camden

BY:  DATE: 9/21/2021
 Audra Caler, Town Manager

Recipient Acknowledgment:

For and in consideration of the payments described herein Maine Coast Heritage Trust agrees to perform, or be responsible for obtaining performance of, the services, study, or projects described in this document pursuant to the terms set forth herein.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

BY:  DATE: 10-6-21
 Heidi Baker, General Manager, Aldermere Farm