

Safety, Recreational Access, and Visual Appeal: Everybody wins with relocation of Saco's Transfer Station

Background: Since 2009, Public Works staff had identified the existing Transfer Station as a high priority for replacement due to its condition, safety concerns, and location. In 2005, the abutting landfill property to the transfer station was revitalized and reused as athletic fields. Over the past decade, the use of these fields has grown exponentially. While great for the City, it created constant logistical and safety issues at the shared entrance and parking areas for the athletic complex and the existing Transfer Station waste storage areas. In 2014, a bond referendum for \$850,000 that included a new transfer station as well as tennis courts and other athletic complex enhancement failed by a narrow margin. Unfortunately, all of the logistical and safety issues still required addressing.

How would Public Works address safety and compliance issues, while respecting the view of the voter that the project was too expensive?

Staff went back to the drawing board and identified all possible cost saving measures and looked to the minimum that could be spent to relocate the transfer station. Through creative design changes, and a consideration of what could, and could not be done by DPW staff, it was determined that the City could relocate and improve upon the existing facility, while saving taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars. Staff presented the project saving measures to Council at budget time and they responded positively to the savings efforts and approved funding in the annual capital plan that could be spent on the project beginning in July 2016.

Where does the project stand today?

Through an adaptive approach of utilizing multiple methods to carry out design, permitting, and construction, Public Works opened the new Transfer Station on December 13, 2016. While City crews performed many aspects of the project, the positive and collaborative efforts of Stantec Engineers and Shaw Brothers Construction contributed to the cost savings and success of the project. Capital costs to date on the project total approximately \$330,000, with an additional \$90,000 anticipated to complete the project in spring 2017. The remaining work includes a storage building with a designated "Swap Shop" area where people can drop off used items of value for reuse by fellow Saco residents.

Please visit the new facility. Whether it's the paved surfaces, improved material storage areas, separation from recreational areas, or general aesthetic improvements to the Foss Road Complex, we're confident everyone will find this to be a long overdue enhancement to our community.