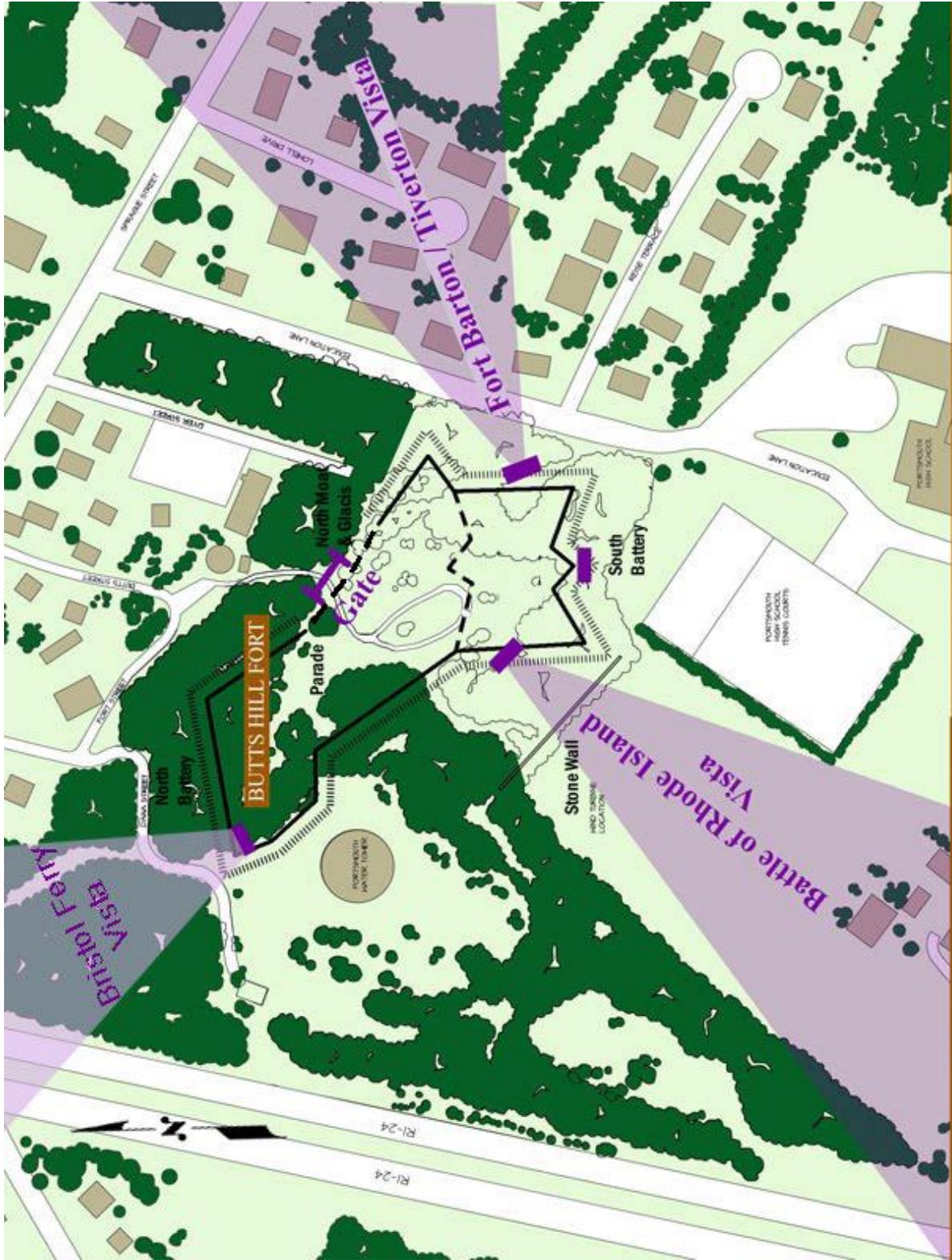
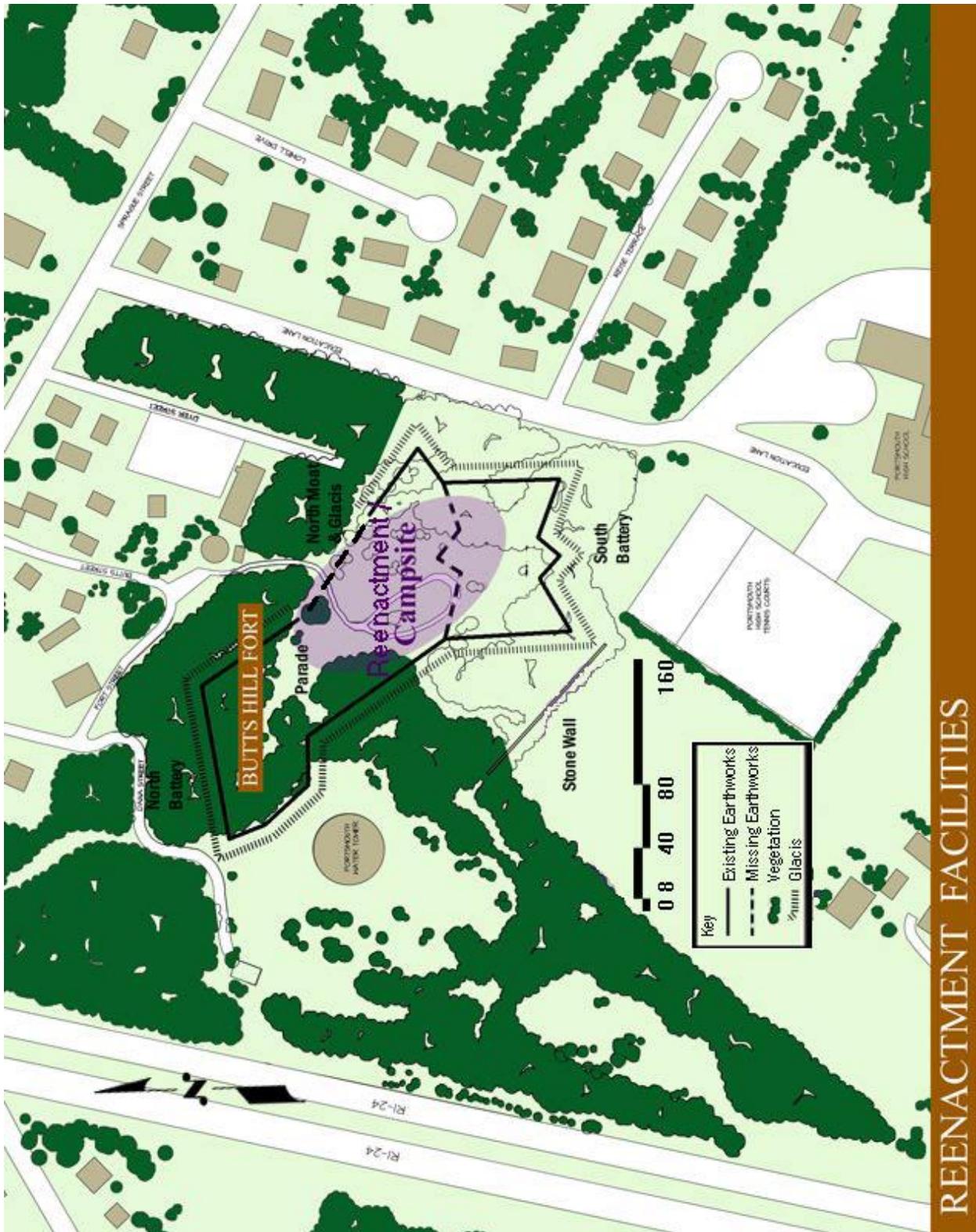


CLEAR TREES AND SHRUBS



VIEW PLATFORMS AND INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE



REENACTMENT FACILITIES

IX: Butts Hill Fort Site Improvements and Maintenance Budgets

These budgets were created through site visits with relevant contractors (landscape clearing, maintenance, planting, fences/wall repairs) or with recent pricing from comparable projects (security gates, interpretive panels, viewing platforms).

These are construction dollars only.

Capital Investments

Initial debris cleaning	\$ 6,500
Initial clearing of overgrowth	\$ 35,500
Grass overplanting	\$ 8,700
Repair of existing stone walls and fences	\$ 47,500
Rework site access and gates	\$ 7,600
Interpretive panels (three @ \$2,400)	\$ 7,200
Viewing areas/platforms (two @ \$3,200)	<u>\$ 6,400</u>
Capital Investments Total	\$119,400

Annual Site Maintenance

Annual trash cleanups by volunteer groups	\$ 0
Annual mowing (once/season)	\$ 4,800
Annual clearing of understory/hazardous trees	\$ 8,500
Wall/fence repairs	\$ 4,000
Interpretive panels maintenance	\$ 1,200
Viewing areas/platforms	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Annual Maintenance Total	\$19,500

X: The Long Term Maintenance Plan: A Summary

The immediate needs of the Butts Hill Fort preservation plan are relatively simple to implement because this is an earthwork fort. Inappropriate plant coverage should be removed and walkways, signage, and viewing areas created. Once the site is more active and inviting to the public, current vandalism and other threats to the site should diminish. Development of more elaborate public outreach programs will depend on securing financial support, but that should be forthcoming through growing public interest generated by the early process of making the park more accessible.

As the owner of Butts Hill Fort, the Town of Portsmouth is in need of a partner to take the lead in the improvement of the site, in its appropriate interpretation, in its long-term maintenance, and in its financial support. Given the deed restrictions on the property, it will be vital to have a not-for-profit organization step in to fill this partnership role. In order to build predictability and legal protections into this relationship, the Town of Portsmouth might follow the method that has been used at several other historic forts in the United States by transferring ownership (or by providing a long-term lease of at least 100 years) to a not-for-profit organization to operate and occupy the site.

The not-for-profit manager of the site can then design improvements to the Fort which are controlled by Federal, State and local regulations, as well as professional archeological ethics and practices. The not-for-profit organization can use its 501(c)3 tax-exempt status to raise money from foundations, corporations and individual donors to carry out the work. In this way, the Town can relieve itself of the fiscal and liability obligations that have weighed heavily, while the not-for-profit organization can fulfill its mission to preserve, interpret, and maintain the historic Butts Hill Fort complex.

The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project is such a not-for-profit organization, with a proven track record of Revolutionary War scholarship, public outreach, education, and networking with related organizations. The Rhode Island Marine Archaeology Project and its partner organizations are poised to take the leadership role in the protection and preservation of Butts Hill Fort.