

Deal reached to protect Ballard Park



The undisturbed beauty of Ballard Park might be preserved in perpetuity after an agreement was reached to place 75 acres under permanent conservation easements. [JESSICA POHL PHOTO]

By Derek Gomes

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NEWPORT — The undisturbed beauty of Ballard Park and its surroundings might be preserved in perpetuity after the city, Aquidneck Land Trust and Ballard family have reached an agreement to place 75 acres under permanent conservation easements.

The arrangement spelled out in a memorandum of understanding signed by all three parties would bring three adjacent parcels under city ownership protected

by ALT-held conservation easements. The parties would create a park endowment with \$300,000 in seed money for activities and improvements.

Conservation opportunities of this scope are hard to come by on an island where so much land is already developed. “There aren’t very many,” land trust Executive Director Charles Allott said. “I think there are a couple opportunities, but I would say this is extremely unique for Newport and quite unique for the island.”

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