

Beech Cliff's camp renovations reuses site materials galore

MOUNT DESERT — Camp Beech Cliff's renovation project may look like heaps of gravel and a wide expanse of bare dirt, but earth materials excavated from one place are being used in another in the upper part of camp.

"I'm really impressed by how carefully the designers planned the reuse of rocks and dirt on this project," said Joshua Saucier, project manager for R.F. Jordan & Sons Construction Inc., the earthwork contractor for the project. "Everything we're taking out above the old field will be used to level the new field and building sites."

Recycling of materials began weeks ago with MDI Housing Trust, Habitat for Humanity's Re-Store in Ellsworth and other local nonprofits salvaging windows, doors, fixtures and the like. Two of the program cabins were moved in their entirety to a new home at the Stanley Grierson Nature Foundation. E.L. Shea, the general contractor for the project, salvaged the scrap metal and in return, made a donation to support Camp Beech Cliff programs.

At the site now, one of the biggest reuse piles is the top soil that was removed so it can be spread again at the end of the project in preparation for landscaping. The landscape architect has designated individual trees and small groups of old growth native trees to be saved. Both contractors are also working with the landscape architect to preserve additional trees in the areas slated to be cleared on the original design. Small equipment is being used to access the wooded staff housing sites and the nature program cabin area.

"The site work is moving along really well, despite a large quantity of ledge between the old office building and the road," said Saucier.

Footings are already poured for the two gazebos that will be gathering areas for the Thunder and Lightning camp groups. This week, the crews are pouring foundations for many of the program cabins in the upper part of camp while the foundation for the maintenance building, which incorporates one of the foundation walls of the old Eagles' Nest, is being backfilled.

Photos and news about the renovation project are being posted online every few weeks — click the Renovation Project button at campbeechcliff.org.



Contractors backfill the foundation for the new maintenance building at Camp Beech Cliff. The back walls of this foundation are those of the old Eagles' Nest building.

In addition to top soil, boulders are also being saved for reuse in the Camp Beech Cliff renovation project.