Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs ■ MEPA Office

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 14357
MEPA Analyst: Nick Zavolas
Phone: 617-626- 1030

The information requested on this form must be completed to begin MEPA Review in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, 301 CMR 11.00.

Project Name: Williston Pond Restoration Project		
Street: Park Street		
Municipality: Easthampton	Watershed: Connecticut River- Manhan River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: N4681520 m, E991580 m	Latitude: 42°15'52.56" Longitude: 72°40'60.36"	
Estimated commencement date: 7/1/2009	Estimated completion date: 9/1/2009	
Approximate cost: $100,000±	Status of project design: 80 %complete	
Proponent: The Williston Northampton School		
Street: 19 Payson Avenue		
Municipality: Easthampton	State: MA	Zip Code: 01027
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Anja Ryan		
Firm/Agency: Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Street: 296 North Main Street	
Municipality: East Longmeadow	State: MA	Zip Code: 01028
Phone: (413) 525-3822	Fax: (413) 525-8348	E-mail: aryan@b-e-c.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)? ☐Yes ☒No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before? ☐Yes (EOEA No._____) ☒No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before? ☐Yes (EOEA No._____) ☒No

Is this an Expanded ENF (see 301 CMR 11.05(7)) requesting:

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	☐Yes	☒No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	☐Yes	☒No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐Yes	☒No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐Yes	☒No

Identify any financial assistance or land transfer from an agency of the Commonwealth, including the agency name and the amount of funding or land area (in acres): The proponent will not be receiving financial assistance from any agency of the Commonwealth.

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency? ☐Yes(Specify_____) ☒No

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

MA Wetlands Protection Act, Order of Conditions, Easthampton Conservation Commission
MA DEP 401 Water Quality Certification
USACE 404 Wetlands fill permit
NPDES Construction Permit

Which ENF or EIR review threshold(s) does the project meet or exceed (see 301 CMR 11.03):

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ ACEC
- ☐ Rare Species
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Air
- ☐ Regulations
- ☒ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	3.0± (pond) 5.0± (overall sediment reuse site)		
New acres of land altered		1.0± (sediment reuse site)	
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		LUW- 3.0± acres (temporary pond dewatering) 0.85± (pond dredge)	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	NA	NA	NA
Number of housing units	NA	NA	NA
Maximum height (in feet)	NA	NA	NA
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	NA	NA	NA
Parking spaces	NA	NA	NA
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☐ Chapter 91 License
- ☒ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☒ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

NPDES Construction

CONSERVATION LAND: Will the project involve the conversion of public parkland or other Article 97 public natural resources to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

RARE SPECIES: Does the project site include Estimated Habitat of Rare Species, Vernal Pools, Priority Sites of Rare Species, or Exemplary Natural Communities?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

HISTORICAL /ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Does the project site include any structure, site or district listed in the State Register of Historic Place or the inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

☐Yes (Specify_____) ☒No

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description should include **(a)** a description of the project site, **(b)** a description of both on-site and off-site alternatives and the impacts associated with each alternative, and **(c)** potential on-site and off-site mitigation measures for each alternative (*You may attach one additional page, if necessary.*)

The primary goal of the Williston Pond Restoration Project is to restore and maintain an aesthetically appealing campus pond. Williston Pond is located near the center of the City of Easthampton, Massachusetts within the central campus of the Williston Northampton School, immediately north of the football field (Figure 1; latitude 42°15'52.56", longitude 72°40'60.36"). The pond has 3.0± acres of open water and is shaped as a narrow, elongated flooded stream valley without significant coves or embayments (Figure 2: Aerial Photo). The pond is formed by a small dam across Wilton Brook, located near a former railway embankment (presently a bike path). Wilton Brook enters the pond at the west end of the pond via a culvert beneath Park Street and is the primary hydrologic contribution to the pond. The watershed of Williston Pond is about 674 acres. Williston Pond outlets into Rubber Thread Pond through a 4± foot wide arch culvert beneath the bike path embankment. Lower Williston Pond discharges via a culvert to the northern end of Nashawannuck Pond, just above the dam for that pond.

As part of BEC's 2006 'Diagnostic Evaluation and Recommendations for Management' report, the bathymetry of Williston Pond was estimated. Depth contours for Williston Pond increase in depth from west to east, in the direction of flow. One-third of Williston Pond is less than 3 feet in depth, mostly in the western basin where there has been significant sediment accumulation associated with the inflow of Wilton Brook and organic infilling. The buildup of soft sediments in the pond has provided a nutrient rich substrate, which has accelerated the growth of algae and aquatic plants. The primary indicators of this are the highly visible, episodic duck weed and watermeal blooms. Water quality in Williston Pond is predominantly a function of the quality of water entering the pond via Wilton Brook and local storm drains. The City of Easthampton has implemented several measures to mitigate water quality of the stormwater runoff, including the improvement of catch basins and routine sump cleaning. In 2008, the Easthampton Conservation Commission approved a permit to allow herbicide treatment of Williston Pond; however, the school was strongly encouraged to pursue the recommendations of the BEC 2006 Study which included maintenance dredging to more permanently address the management problems. A full evaluation of pond management alternatives was included in this study.

Off-site alternatives for mitigating the water quality in the Williston Pond drainage area are not under the

Williston Northampton School's control. The City of Easthampton is a NPDES Phase II community and has taken significant measures to address stormwater quality throughout the city. As with any pond, especially in an urban, developed setting, sedimentation and nutrient impacts are significant ongoing issues and are beyond the control of the Williston Northampton School. Thus, on-site restoration measures of Williston Pond are necessary to maintain the health and viability of the waterbody.

The proposed partial dredging to deepen the western portion of pond is the minimum recommended dredging management solution for the pond. Removal of the accumulated sediments will also have the benefit of reducing future growth of aquatic vegetation within the pond basin. Approximately 3,000 cubic yards of sediment are estimated to be dredged from the pond after complete drawdown. Flexible diversion piping starting at the culvert where Wilton Brook flows into Williston Pond will follow the edge of the emptied basin before it discharges into Rubber Thread Pond. After the sediments have dewatered in place, conventional excavation will be used to remove the sediments. The removed sediments will be reused as a grading material at an approved off-site location. The details of the sediment reuse site currently under consideration and will be clearly identified in the upcoming 401 Water Quality Certification application.

The results of the solids and sieve analyses indicate the sediment within the portion of Williston Pond to be dredged are granular and predominantly mineral in composition, typical of an urbanized pond. Some of the chemical constituents detected were elevated above background levels to be anticipated in non-urban surficial soils; however, none of these levels indicate that the sediments are hazardous or represent any significant reuse concerns. In fact, for all constituents tested, the laboratory results were below the MCP Method 1 S-1/GW-1 Soil Standards and indicate that reuse of the sediments in an upland location will present no significant risk of harm to health, safety, public welfare, and the environment. Refer to Appendix B for sediment test results.