

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOE No.: 13426
 MEPA Analyst: Aisling Eglinton
 Phone: 617-626-1024

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: Pierce Mill Park		
Street: Belleville Ave.		
Municipality: New Bedford	Watershed: Acushnet River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: 19:03:39:889E / 46:13:367N	Latitude: 41° 39' 38" N Longitude: 70° 55' 23" W	
Estimated commencement date: May 2005	Estimated completion date: November 2005	
Approximate cost:	Status of project design:	25 %complete
Proponent: City of New Bedford		
Street: 291 Liberty Street		
Municipality: New Bedford	State: MA	Zip Code: 02740
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Robin Johnson		
Firm/Agency: Camp, Dresser, & McKee	Street: 50 Hampshire St.	
Municipality: Cambridge	State: MA	Zip Code: 02139
Phone: 617-452-6595	Fax: 617-452-8595	E-mail: johnsonrl@cdm.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):
Urban Self Help Grant (\$500,000), New Bedford Harbor Trustees Council (\$450,000).

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Order of Conditions – City of New Bedford (DEP File # SE49-487), Army Corps of Engineers Permit

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

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> Air | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid & Hazardous Waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ACEC | <input type="checkbox"/> Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Historical & Archaeological Resources |

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total	State Permits & Approvals
1) LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input type="checkbox"/> New Source Approval <input type="checkbox"/> DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i>
Total site acreage	10.8 Ac.			
New acres of land altered		0 Ac.		
Acres of impervious area	1.6 Ac.	+0.7 Ac.	2.3 Ac.	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		800 sf permanent		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		70,810 sf (66,940 sf LSCF, 2,280 sf RFA, 660 sf Salt Marsh, 930 sf isolated vegetated wetland)		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0 Ac.		
2) STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
3) TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	0	90-120	90-120	
Parking spaces	0	+42	42	
4) WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	+2400 (spray pool)	2400	
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0	
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0	

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

i) **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

ii) **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

iii) **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.*)

- (a) The site is an approximately 11-acre underutilized industrial parcel located on the Acushnet River in New Bedford with an approximately 1,360 foot-long waterfront. All structures have been demolished, but residual paved areas and urban fill remain on the site. The site is generally flat with a slight grade towards the Acushnet River, from approximately elevation 18 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) along Belleville Ave. to mean high water at approximately el. 2.4 feet NGVD along the river. Surface water runoff is by overland flow to the Acushnet River. A playground, skate park, hockey rink, and basketball court currently occupy the north half of the site. The land surrounding the proposed park site includes residences along Belleville Ave., Sawyer St., and Coffin Ave., an auto repair shop to the south, and the Acushnet River to the east. An EPA Superfund work site associated with the PCB harbor clean-up project is located nearby on Sawyer Street. The Pierce Mill site is regulated by the Wetlands Protection Act as Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), 25-ft Riverfront Area (RFA), Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), and Salt Marsh.
- (b) Three alternatives were evaluated for the redevelopment of the site: 1) no-build option, 2) park construction with no grading, and 3) park construction with grading.
- 1) No-Build Option: This option involves leaving the site in its current state as a cleared, underused former industrial site. Access to the site would be restricted by a perimeter fence. All existing wetland areas on-site would be left in their current state. Note, the current state includes invasive species and debris in resource and buffer areas. Soils are urban fill and contain visible building debris (brick, concrete, etc.) This option was discarded in favor of reusing the site for a public waterfront park to provide recreational resources to the neighborhood and access to the waterfront.
- 2) Alternative 2 involves leaving the existing site grades "as is" as sub-grades and establishing of final grading by placing 6 inches of loam across prior to planting. This alternative was rejected because it would not improve the poor drainage of the site. Also, the existing uneven

topography of the site creates potential safety concerns for users of the proposed park, and would prevent construction of a new soccer field.

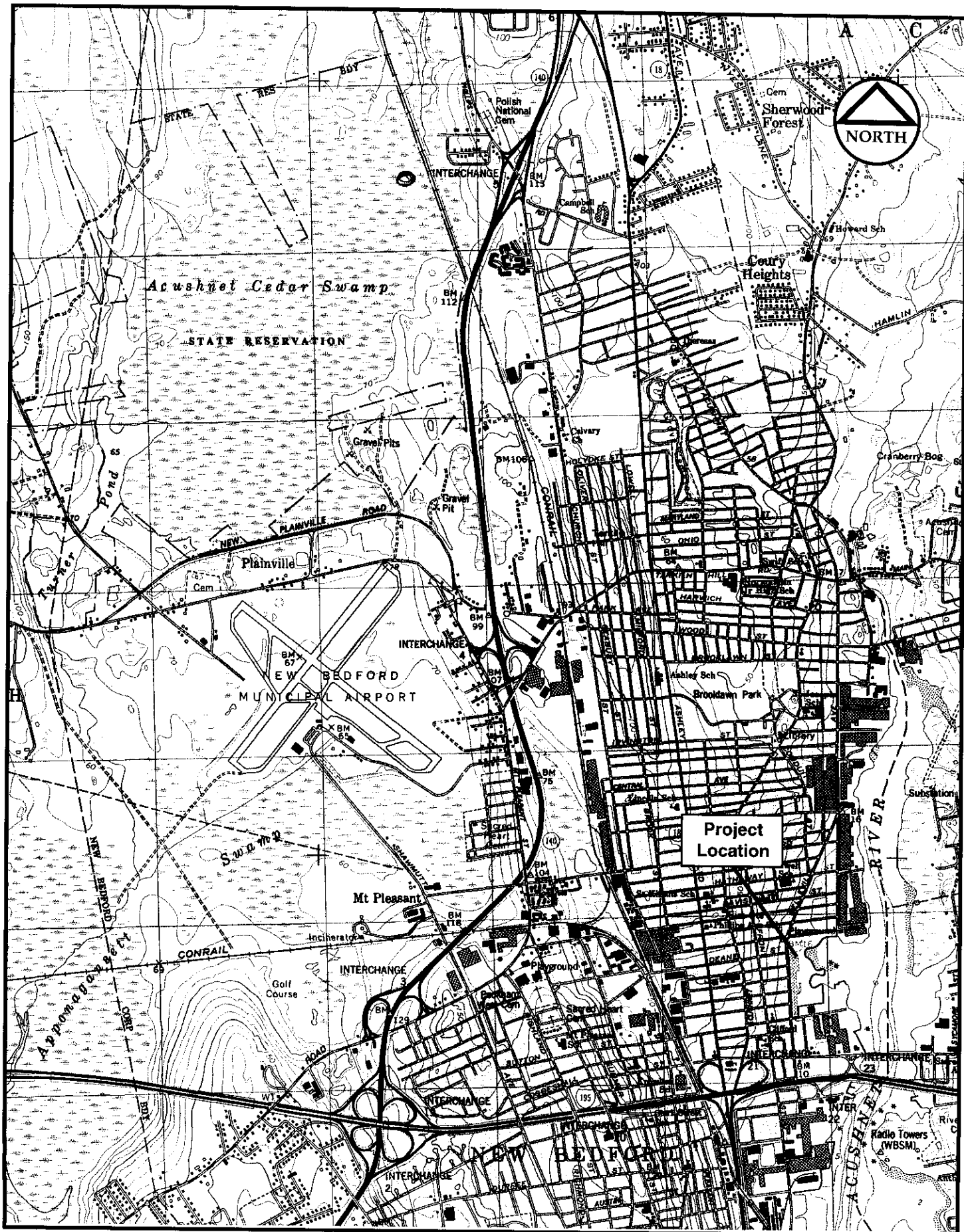
- 3) Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative and the subject of this ENF. It involves the placing of a minimum of 12 to 18 inches of clean fill on the site, and 6 inches of loam to support site landscaping. This alternative provides an 18 to 24-inch zone of common fill between final ground surface elevations and any urban soils present on the site. It allows for grading that will improve drainage and eliminate ponding, in addition to smoothing the rough topography of the site. This alternative will result in the filling of one isolated wetland (930 square feet), altering a second isolated wetland (former site of a 150,000-gallon underground storage tank (UST)) and a reduction of LSCSF on the site, but will protect much of the site from flooding. This alternative will not significantly decrease the flood storage capacity of the Acushnet River because it is a coastal floodplain. This alternative will also result in the removal of invasive species and debris from the site.

Other work in wetlands is proposed to enlarge an existing isolated vegetated wetland to compensate for wetland losses on-site. This wetland formed from the removal of a UST on the site. Modifications of this isolated wetland will occur in two phases. During park construction (Phase I), the isolated wetland formed by the removal of the former fuel oil tank will be enlarged from 3,895 square feet to 6,305 square feet. This will compensate for filling the small isolated wetland (930 square feet) and for the future excavation of BVW and Salt Marsh. Phase II will occur after PCB cleanup in the vicinity of this site is completed and will involve excavation of a channel through BVW and Salt Marsh to connect the larger isolated wetland to the river. The connection will introduce tidal flow to this depression, which will support a salt marsh and tidal pool community.

- (c) Mitigation for alteration of wetland resource areas is described above so there is no net loss of vegetated wetlands on-site. The project as presented herein has received an Order of Conditions without the requirement for mitigation of the placing of fill in LSCSF, due to the fact that the flood storage capacity of the tidal Acushnet River will not be significantly reduced by increasing the grades on the site.

Construction period mitigation measures for sediment/erosion control will include sediment barriers, a stabilized construction entrance, street sweeping, and inlet protection for catch basins. A silt fence will be installed at the downgradient limits of work to prevent the transport of sediment to the Acushnet River and fringing wetland vegetation during park construction and will remain until disturbed soils upgradient support 80 percent vegetative cover. During construction, disturbed soils will be wetted as needed to prevent fugitive dust. All grading for the connection of the isolated wetland to the Acushnet River will occur during low tide periods.

To contain any accidental releases of fuel or hazardous material, a construction equipment storage and refueling area will be established on the site in an area set back from the Acushnet River. All fluids will be stored in a sheltered area in their original containers, which will be tightly sealed and clearly marked. Spill containment equipment will also be stored in the equipment storage and refueling area. Should there be an accidental release, the proper authorities will be notified in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws. The contractor will be required to abide by the 5-minute idling law, comply with DMV emissions standards, and have functioning mufflers on all motorized equipment.



City of New Bedford, Massachusetts
Pierce Mill Park

Figure 1
Project Location Map