



**Environmental  
 Notification Form**

*For Office Use Only*  
 Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
 EOE No.: 14374  
 MEPA Analyst: Bill GAGE  
 Phone: 617-626-1025

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: Robinson Pond Dredging Project		
Street: North Street		
Municipality: Agawam	Watershed: Westfield River	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 196519E 4666304N	Latitude: 42 05' 25.06"	Longitude: 72 40' 10.75"
Estimated commencement date: Oct 2009	Estimated completion date: April 2010	
Approximate cost: \$75,000	Status of project design: 75% %complete	
Proponent: Department of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway Street		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Dan Herzlinger		
Firm/Agency: ESS Group, Inc.	Street: 401 Wampanoag Trail, Suite 400	
Municipality: East Providence	State: RI	Zip Code: 02915
Phone: (401) 434-5560	Fax: (401) 434-8158	E-mail: dherzlinger@essgroup.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. 12054)  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 301 CMR 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):  
 Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

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

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
<b>LAND</b>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input 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 (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:
Total site acreage	~2 acres			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	NA	NA	NA	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		~ 2 acres		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage				
Number of housing units				
Maximum height (in feet)				
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day				
Parking spaces				
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use				
GPD water withdrawal				
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment				
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)				

**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 (Estimated & Priority Habitat of Rare Species & Wildlife)  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.*)

**Project Site** – Robinson Pond (the pond) is a shallow (average depth approximately 3 feet), 2-acre pond located within Robinson State Park, which is managed by the project proponent, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The pond is fed by several groundwater seeps, which originate on its steep western shore; surface water from a stream, which enters through a detention basin outlet; and three, non-potable groundwater wells. Pond outflow is controlled by a gate valve structure that discharges to the Westfield River. Each winter, DCR draws the pond down for public safety as well as water quality protection and refills it in the spring from the three wells. The pond is not stocked with fish and, according to DCR, has no significant fisheries resources.

Most of the area adjacent to the pond, which consists of a mowed, grassy area, a small sandy beach, and a paved access road, is managed for public recreation. Native species proximate to the pond include white pine (*Pinus strobes*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), specked alder (*Alnus rugosa*), witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), and spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*). Invasive species also proximate to the pond include Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*).

The broader landscape surrounding the pond includes a mixed oak forest, red oak-sugar maple transition forest, and floodplain forest. The Robinson State Park is home to several rare plant and animal species but, as documented by the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) (NHESP, 2008. Robinson State Park Survey for Rare and Protected Species and Uncommon and Priority Natural Communities), no endangered, threatened, or species of special concern were identified in the pond.

The pond provides wildlife habitat and flood storage capacity. In addition, because the pond has a hydrologic connection to the Westfield River, it protects water quality in the river by attenuating nonpoint source pollution associated with stormwater runoff that discharges to the pond.

**Project Purpose** – DCR proposes to remove excess sediment that has resulted from many years of infilling in order to improve wildlife habitat, enhance storage capacity, improve water quality, and limit the pioneer spread of invasive species. Once completed, water quality will improve, wildlife habitat will be enhanced through greater diversity of depth zones, and the ponds ability to limit nonpoint source pollution will increase.

DCR proposes to dry-dredge the pond in accordance with the requirements of the Wetlands Protection Act and implementing regulations (310 CMR 10.53(4)). The project has been designed consistent with the *Eutrophication and Aquatic Plant Management Final Generic Environmental Impact Report, The Practical Guide to Lake and Pond Management in Massachusetts*, and the *Guidance for Aquatic Management in Lakes and Ponds As It Relates to the*

*Wetlands Protection Act (2004, MassDEP).*

The project will remove approximately 2,900 cubic yards of material through dry-dredging, after DCR draws down the pond by opening the gate valve outlet structure and shutting off groundwater well inputs. The materials will be excavated into piles (not exceeding 5,000 square feet in total bottom area) within the pond for dewatering. Water from the dewatering operation will be collected and pumped to the existing gate valve outlet for discharge downstream. Sediment de-watering, stockpiling, and on-site re-use will be performed in accordance with the requirements of a 401 Water Quality Certificate, the MassDEP Guidance identified above, and Best Management Practices for work in resource areas.

**Alternatives** – DCR has evaluated the No-Action alternative to the project for the ENF. Without implementing the proposed project, continued sedimentation, resulting in water quality degradation, decreased flood storage capacity, wildlife habitat degradation, and continued opportunities for proliferation of invasive species will result.

The dredging alternative proposed by DCR will, as set forth above, result in improved water quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, and nonpoint source pollution attenuation, interests integral to the Wetlands Protection Act, as well as minimization and control over pioneering invasive species.

**Mitigation Measures** – Impacts associated with pond drawdown and dredging are anticipated to be temporary, of short duration, and subject to natural mitigation. DCR will commence drawdown activity between November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> and will re-fill the pond no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. DCR will also consult with the DFG to identify specific methods that will further minimize impacts to wildlife within the pond.

The drawdown rate will not exceed 3 inches of pond elevation per day, consistent with MassDEP guidance. Erosion control measures will be used to reduce potential turbidity during sediment de-watering and a turbidity curtain or other sediment control measures will be placed at the mouth of the gate valve outlet to minimize downstream migration of suspended solids. The ends of hoses used for de-watering will employ appropriate erosion control measures ensuring no increase in turbidity to the Westfield River. Hay bales and/or silt fences will be placed at the limits of work and will be inspected and maintained on a regular basis.