

ENF Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	14013
MEPA Analyst:	BRIONY ANGUS
Phone: 617-626-	X1029

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: Abigail Adams Park/Stodder's Neck/Great Esker Park/Bare Cove Park Multi-Use Pathway Connections		
Street: Bridge Street / Lincoln Street (Route 3A)		
Municipality: Weymouth / Hingham	Watershed: South Coastal	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 4679032.5 N, 340619.3 E	Latitude: 42° 14' 50" N Longitude: 70° 55' 55" W	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2008	Estimated completion date: Spring 2009	
Approximate cost: \$2,000,000	Status of project design: 10 %complete	
Proponent: Department of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway Street – Suite 600		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Richard Corsi		
Firm/Agency: Dept. of Conservation & Recreation	Street: 251 Causeway Street – Suite 600	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Phone: 617-626-1431	Fax: 617-626-1349	E-mail: Richard.Corsi@state.ma.us

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. (see below))

EOEA # 523 Stodder's Neck - Hingham
 EOEA # 4832 MDC Hingham Forcemain - Weymouth
 EOEA # 5980 DERA – Bare Cove, Hingham
 EOEA # 10472 DERP – Bare Cove, Hingham

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

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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): **Project design is funded via an earmark in DCRs Fiscal Year 2007 O&M budget. DCR is investigating the option of SAFETEA-LU funding for project construction.**

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: **Orders of Conditions from Weymouth and Hingham Conservation Commissions; US Army Corps of Engineers MA PGP**

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 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 checked="" 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> MWRA 8(m) Permit Construction and Permanent Easements from MassHighway
Total site acreage	29.4 acres			
New acres of land altered				
Acres of impervious area	0	*		
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		6,150 Coastal Bank		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	0	0	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	600 (est.)	100 (est.)	700	
Parking spaces	116**	0	116	
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	

* Elevated sections of proposed path are wooden and considered pervious.

** Total number of spaces available at Abigail Adams Parks and Stodders Neck. Additional spaces are available at the North Weymouth shopping center and at Bare Cove Park.

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 Weymouth Back River) 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.*)

Site

The project area includes four public waterfront parks that are separated by the Weymouth Back River and Route 3A. Abigail Adams Park and Great Esker Park are located in Weymouth and Stodders Neck and Bare Cove Park are located in Hingham (see **Figure 1 – Project Locus** and **Figure 2 – Project Aerial**).

A significant portion of the Weymouth Back River shoreline is protected open space under the control of the towns and the Commonwealth. Abigail Adams Park and Stodder’s Neck are under the control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Bare Cove Park is controlled by the Town of Hingham, and Great Esker Park is controlled by the Town of Weymouth.

In 1982, the area south of Route 3A was designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (see **Figure 4 – Reserved and Protected Areas**). In 1986 the Weymouth Back River was designated a Scenic River and the following year Bare Cove Park was declared a Wildlife Refuge. The towns of Weymouth and Hingham have both completed master plans for these park systems in which they recommend linking DCR parks north of Route 3A with town-owned parks south of Route 3A. The proposed project is consistent with the recommendations and guidelines put forth by these master plan documents.

Proposed Project and Alternatives

Project: The proposed project includes connecting Stodder’s Neck with Bare Cove Park in Hingham and Abigail Adams Park with Great Esker Park in Weymouth (the “Project”). The connection will be established by means of a pathway that runs along the eastern and western shorelines of the Back River and underneath the Route 3A bridge with overlook/fishing access structures proposed along the shorelines in both Hingham and Weymouth south of Route 3A (see **Plan 1 - Conceptual Plans**). Two different options for elevated structures have also been developed: a timber structure and a steel pile structure (see **Plan 2 – Elevations**).

Path Alignment Alternatives: Several alternative pathway alignments have been developed for both the Hingham and Weymouth shorelines. These alternative alignments of the pathways are shown on **Plan 1 – Conceptual Plans**, and are briefly described below. No alternative alignments have been developed for the Abigail Adams

Park portion of the project area. DCR is evaluating the path alignments and will select the preferred alignments after public review and comment.

Weymouth – south of Route 3A. Two path alternative routes have been developed. The first alternative would follow an existing asphalt path running roughly parallel to Route 3A west to the existing Great Esker Park path system. This alignment would result in minimal additional vegetative clearing and land alteration. The second alignment alternative would follow a more south-westerly alignment and would involve construction of a bridge over a topographical depression, connecting to the Great Esker Park paths at a point further south. This alignment would also result in a greater amount of land alteration and vegetative clearing. It is possible that both alternative alignments will be constructed in this area.

Hingham – south of Route 3A. Two path alignment alternatives have been developed in Bare Cove Park. Option 1 would align the path nearer to the Back River shoreline, and would entail the construction of an elevated bridge over the coastal bank which lies along the edge of the tidal inlet south of the bridge. This alignment would provide a greater degree of safety for path users approaching or leaving the Route 3A bridge area by providing a more direct line of sight to and from the path under the bridge. This alternative would also add an overlook area on the Hingham shore. Option 2 aligns the path further inland in a general northwesterly-southeasterly direction, with a smaller bridge over the eastern edge of the coastal bank adjacent to the tidal inlet. This alignment reduces the amount of bridge structure, while still providing a pleasing approach to the Route 3A bridge area.

Hingham – north of Route 3A Two path alignment alternatives have been developed for the Stodders Neck area. The first path alignment option follows the Back River shoreline, passes to the west of the existing MWRA sewer pump station, and connects to the existing Stodders Neck path system immediately north of the parking lot, separating path users from Stodders Neck vehicular traffic. The second path alignment option travels to the south of the MWRA building, and connects to the Stodders Neck path and entrance roadway at the western end of the parking lot.

No-Build: Under this alternative, the area would remain as it is with no safe pedestrian connection between the four parks. Although there would be no impacts on the resource areas, the goals of the two Towns' master plans would not be met.