



**Environmental
 Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
 EOEA No.: **14253**
 MEPA Analyst: **Deirdre Buckley**
 Phone: 617-626-

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: Westport Youth Athletic Association Sports Field Complex		
Street: American Legion Highway (Route 177)		
Municipality: Westport	Watershed: Taunton	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 325183W 4610516N	Latitude: 41° 37' 38"	Longitude: -71° 05' 55"
Estimated commencement date: Fall 2008	Estimated completion date: Fall 2013	
Approximate cost: \$3.0 million	Status of project design: 50%complete	
Proponent: Westport Youth Athletic Association		
Street: PO Box 1567		
Municipality: Westport	State: MA	Zip Code: 02790
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Briscoe B. Lang		
Firm/Agency: Pare Corporation	Street: 8 Blackstone Valley Place	
Municipality: Lincoln	State: RI	Zip Code: 02865
Phone: (401) 334-4100	Fax: (401) 334-4108	E-mail: blang@parecorp.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): None.

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, State Highway Access Permit, NPDE Construction Stormwater Permit, Site Plan Review, Disposal System Construction Permit



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

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater | <input checked="" 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
LAND				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Superseding Order of Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 91 License <input type="checkbox"/> 401 Water Quality Certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MHD or MDC Access Permit <input type="checkbox"/> Water Management Act Permit <input checked="" 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> USEPA Construction Stormwater
Total site acreage	76.7± ac			
New acres of land altered		35.2 ± ac		
Acres of impervious area	0.0± ac	+6.9 ac	6.9 ac	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage	0	32,000 sf	32,000 sf	
Number of housing units	0	0	0	
Maximum height (in feet)	0	35' max.	35' max.	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day	N/a	+835	835	
Parking spaces	0	530	530	
WATER/WASTEWATER				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	3,500	3,500	
GPD water withdrawal	0	3,500	3,500	
GPD wastewater generation/treatment	0	3,500	3,500	
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	<0.01	<0.01	

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.*)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Introduction

The Westport Youth Athletic Association (WYAA) Sports Fields project involves the development of a privately operated youth league sports field complex on Town-owned land in northern Westport. The WYAA was granted a 30-year lease on the property in 2005.

The WYAA, formed in 1997, is an all-volunteer, registered 501-c(3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing a permanent home for Westport's youth sports leagues. Currently, more than 1,500 children between the ages of 5 and 15 participate in one or more of the organized youth athletic leagues in town.

The WYAA exists to help the leagues overcome the greatest challenge they face in continuing to offer their quality programs: a shortage of available fields. Publicly available athletic facilities in Westport are limited to three public basketball courts in two locations. There are no public baseball, soccer, or softball fields; these leagues use fields at the high school and middle school for games and other fields at all town schools for practices. The school department has been extremely supportive and cooperative to this point, however this situation is not sustainable for a number of reasons.

- Even with school department support, there are still not enough fields. The baseball league has had to reduce their number of games in the season for lack of fields.
- Teams are playing on fields that are the wrong size for their age and ability level: soccer fields are not regulation-sized and the baseball league plays most of their games on softball fields with potentially dangerous crushed stone infields.
- The fields are so overused the grass cannot recover, resulting in poor playing surfaces affecting both high school and youth sports teams.
- When the schools need the fields, the leagues are not able to use them, resulting in cancelled or rescheduled games.
- Field improvements and repairs have to go through the School Department instead of being done on the spot by volunteers.
- Westport is growing with most of the new growth being young families with children who participate in youth sports. The sports leagues grow every year, however that growth is severely restricted by the lack of suitable court and field space.

To address this need, the WYAA has committed to pursue a privately funded, privately built and privately managed sports

field facility. The 78.8 acre project site was purchased by the Town of Westport using Community Preservation and Agricultural and Open Space Trust Fund funds, and was leased to the WYAA. Funding for construction will be obtained through direct fundraising by the WYAA.

Municipal and Regional Master Plans

Goal 5 of the Town of Westport Master Plan includes the construction of additional open space and recreation. The Plan promotes the development and enhancement of indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for residents of all ages including increasing the number of ballfields and "open space" recreational facilities. Objective 5.3 of the Plan calls for the Community Preservation Committee and the Recreational Committee to add ballfields within 3 years of Spring 2004.

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) prepared a Regional Open and Recreation Space Plan in June 2000 including the Town of Westport. The WYAA is proposing a development which will provide both passive and active recreational opportunities to the surrounding community which is in line with SRPEDD's goals of promoting open space and recreational areas.

Existing Conditions

The gently sloping site is almost entirely wooded. Soil types include Paxton, Woodbridge, Windsor, and Ridgebury soils, all of which are hydrologic group C or D. A Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), tributary to Kirby Brook, and the East Branch of the Westport River, extends from north to south across the western part of the property. The wetland edge delineated on the attached site plans was reviewed and accepted by the Town of Westport Conservation Commission. The Order of Resource Area Delineation is included in Section 5 of this ENF.

Proposed Conditions

The project will include the development of seven new baseball and softball diamonds, three soccer fields, a field house with two indoor basketball courts and concession area, an access driveway and gravel parking areas, onsite sanitary sewage disposal system, and water supply well. One of the baseball fields, a regulation-sized hardball field, will be located partially on other land owned by the Town for which the WYAA does not yet have a lease agreement. That field is included in this ENF, however, in anticipation that such an agreement will be worked out. The project site currently under lease totals approximately 72.8 acres. The portion to be leased for the hardball field totals an additional approximately 3.9 acres, for a total site area of approximately 76.7 acres, of which approximately 35.2 acres will be developed.

Site access is proposed from American Legion Highway (Route 177). Due to the configuration of the property boundary and the location of the BVW, the access drive will extend approximately 1,200 feet into the site before reaching the field complex.

Total access road length is approximately 3,100 linear feet. Several parking areas with a total 530 10' x 18' spaces are proposed between the access drive and the fields. The access drive will be paved and for the purposes of designing, analyzing, and permitting this project, it has been assumed that the parking fields are to be paved as well. However, these surfaces will be crushed gravel until such time that the WYAA has the funds in place to pave them.

Storm Water

Drainage and stormwater management will include a combination of surface swales, catch basins, sub-surface piping, and surface detention basins, mimicking the peak flow rate and drainage patterns of the existing site. Peak flow rates discharged from the site in the post development condition will be less than the flow rates exhibited in the predevelopment condition. Since the site is comprised entirely of C and D soils, stormwater infiltration will be difficult to accomplish though some infiltration will occur through the grass swales and detention basins designed for the project. An Order of Conditions from the Westport Conservation Commission will be required, and the stormwater management system will be designed to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Storm Water Management Standards.

Total suspended solids removal will be achieved through the use of catch basins with sumps and outlet hoods, grass swales, a detention basin with sediment forebay, and a water quality basin. The detention basins are designed with water quality orifices to extend detention time allowing for additional settlement of suspended solids. The water quality basin will detain water to promote settlement of suspended solids. Water will empty through a pervious stone berm. These best management practices combine to achieve the required net 80% total suspended solids removal annually from the storm water discharged from the site.

Field Maintenance

Maintenance of the fields will include regular grass cutting. Fertilizer will be applied only where and when needed, and only in accordance with manufacturer's instructions and/or actual soil testing. Irrigation is not proposed.

Alternatives

Alternatives to the project include the no-build alternative, alternative sites, alternative layouts, and a reduction in project scale.

The no-build alternative would retain the existing characteristics of the site and would not result in any impacts to the environment, however it would also deprive the Town of Westport and its youth sports leagues of modern, regulation-sized athletic facilities and would require the school department, whose ongoing support can not be guaranteed, to continue to provide sports facilities for the leagues. The WYAA does not consider the no-build alternative to be feasible.

A number of alternative sites were considered by the WYAA prior to selecting the proposed site. All of the alternative sites were either too small or too expensive to accommodate the program.

Essentially the entire upland portion of the site is proposed to be utilized and alternative layouts do not yield any additional field space. No reduction in environmental impact would result from alternative layouts that retain the types and numbers of the various facilities proposed.

Originally, the WYAA projected 9 baseball, 4 softball, and 3 soccer fields for the project as well as several tennis and basketball courts. Once accurate wetland mapping became available, the number of fields was scaled back significantly. The proposed fields are the minimum necessary to accommodate the Town's youth sports leagues. Any further reduction would threaten the viability of the project.

END.