

**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.: 13405  
 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: Broad Meadows Marsh Restoration Project		
Street: South of Sea Street, behind the Broad Meadows Middle School		
Municipality: Quincy	Watershed: Boston Harbor	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 19:03:35:981E / 46:79:882N	Latitude: 042° 15' 20.75" North Longitude: 070° 59' 18.15" West	
Estimated commencement date: Summer 2005	Estimated completion date: April 2006	
Approximate cost: \$4,000,000	Status of project design: 10 %complete	
Proponent: City of Quincy		
Street: 1305 Hancock Street		
Municipality: Quincy	State: MA	Zip Code: 02169
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Isabel Simoes		
Firm/Agency: Camp Dresser & McKee Inc.	Street: 50 Hampshire Street	
Municipality: Cambridge	State: MA	Zip Code: 02139
Phone: (617) 452-6603	Fax: (617) 452-8603	E-mail: simoesim@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): No financial assistance from the Commonwealth is being requested.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Conservation Commission Approval – Order of Conditions; Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Chapter 91 Waterways License; and CZM Consistency Review.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Permits (including Legislative Approvals) – Specify: CZM Federal Consistency Review
Total site acreage	101 acres			
New acres of land altered		65 acres		
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		65 Acres: 38 acres restored to salt marsh & 27 acres for parkland		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Approx. 30 Acres of Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flooding		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0		
<b>STRUCTURES</b>				
Gross square footage		N/A		
Number of housing units		N/A		
Maximum height (in feet)		N/A		
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>				
Vehicle trips per day		N/A		
Parking spaces		N/A		
<b>WATER/WASTEWATER</b>				
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use		0		
GPD water withdrawal		0		
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment		0		
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)		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

**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

Please see correspondences from the United States Department of Interior-Fish and Wildlife Service and the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife-Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program in the Rare Species Section of this form. Review of the Natural Heritage Atlas (July 2003-11<sup>th</sup> Edition) indicates there are no Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife & Certified Vernal Pools nor Priority Habitats of Rare Species in or near the project area (See Figure 2).

**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

A letter requesting additional information on any significant historical or archaeological resources that may be located within the site boundaries was sent to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) on August 17, 2004. The MHC determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources. Correspondence is provided in the Historical/Archaeological Resources Section of this form.

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 Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (the Corps) completed a study per Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act (1986) - Project Modifications for Improvement of the Environment, in a joint effort with the City of Quincy (the City), the local sponsor for the project, to restore the Broad Meadows Marsh. The Corps is the lead agency on this project and will be responsible for construction at the site. The City will assist with project funding. The material provided in this ENF and attached sections were excerpted from the Corp's Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Broad Meadows Marsh project. The EA identified and evaluated opportunities, constraints, and alternatives for the restoration of salt marsh and estuarine habitat at Broad Meadows Marsh.

Broad Meadows Marsh was once a large, intertidal wetland comprised of irregularly flooded high marsh, regularly flooded low marsh, salt pannes, bordering uplands, hillocks, mudflats, and a network of intertidal creeks. The marsh was filled with dredged material from the Town River Federal Navigation Project when the channel was dredged in 1938 and again in 1956. Approximately 110 acres of marsh and estuarine habitat were filled and consequently converted to upland and non-tidal wetland habitat now dominated by common reed (*Phragmites australis*). Subsequently, the City of Quincy developed approximately 36 acres of the filled area to construct a school, public works maintenance yard, and youth hockey rink. Today, the site consists of approximately 24 acres of salt marsh and about 65 acres of *Phragmites* dominated marshland.

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore a significant portion of Broad Meadows Marsh to a healthy salt marsh ecosystem that can provide valuable ecological functions and a passive use public park. Restoring salt marshes is an important initiative of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Federal government.

a.) Broad Meadows Marsh is located in the southeastern portion of the City, adjacent to the upper reaches of Town River Bay (see Figure 1). The project area is approximately 65 acres and is owned by the City. The site is bordered by commercial and residential developments to the north and west. The marsh opens up to Town River Bay to the south and east. Bordering the northeast corner of the marsh is the Broad Meadows School.

Two berms are located on the site. One berm (the perimeter berm) lies along the southern and eastern perimeter of the project area. This perimeter berm separates the dredge disposal area from the remaining, undisturbed salt marsh seaward of the berm. The second berm runs along the southern and eastern boundaries of the Broad Meadows Middle School and separates the school from the marsh to the south and the creek to the east. As noted above, approximately 65 acres of dense *Phragmites* occupies the former disposal area inside the 12 foot high perimeter berm and approximately 24 acres of undisturbed tidal wetlands with pannes and creeks are located seaward of the perimeter berm. Presently, the dense stands of *Phragmites* create a safety hazard, eliminates native plant communities, and greatly limits the diversity of wildlife that utilize this area.

b.) The marsh site is highly degraded and with a No-Action Alternative the ecological functions and values will continue to degrade over time. Without restoration, increases in habitat and species diversity are not expected, nor are other improvements in ecological function expected. The area will remain in a degraded ecological condition and continue to provide few ecological functions and values. The proposed Federal project will restore Broad Meadows Marsh. As part of the Corps' EA several alternatives were evaluated based on an understanding of the opportunities presented by the site and design constraints. Various alternatives that met the project goals were screened for practicability, general engineering constraints and cost feasibility. An incremental analysis was performed on the remaining alternatives. That analysis compared the estimated costs and ecological benefits of the alternatives. A summary of the alternatives is provided in Section 1 of this ENF.

The alternative analysis in the EA identified the Recommended Plan (preferred alternative), which will restore approximately 38 acres of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) to Salt Marsh and 27 acres of BVW to upland parkland. Approximately 8 acres of the salt marsh will be graded to support a low marsh community and the remaining 30 acres will be graded to support a high marsh community. The plan will require the excavation of approximately 390,000 cubic yards of formerly deposited dredged material from the southern portion of the site to restore salt marsh. The excavated areas will be graded to elevations that will sustain both high and low salt marsh and estuarine habitat. The excavated material will be relocated to the northern portion of the site converting approximately 27 acres of *Phragmites* marsh to passive-use upland parkland.

c.) Restoration of 38 acres of salt marsh at Broad Meadows will significantly increase the ecological functions and values of the site and provide numerous benefits to residents who would use and enjoy the marsh. The Corps issued a *Finding of No Significant Impact* for the project which documents that the proposed project will not have a significant adverse effect on water quality or biological resources, based on the analyses presented in the EA. Best management practices will be employed to minimize environmental impacts during construction. It is expected that the long-term, positive benefits from restoration of salt marsh habitat will greatly outweigh short-term impacts during the construction period. Construction and post-construction mitigation measures are described in the ENF.

This salt marsh restoration project will be pursued as a Limited Project per 310 CMR 10.53(4) as a project that will enhance the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act by restoring 65 acres of *Phragmites* marsh (BVW) to 38 acres of Salt Marsh and 27 acres to open space parkland.