

ENF Environmental Notification Form

<i>For Office Use Only</i> <i>Executive Office of Environmental Affairs</i>	
EOEA No.:	<u>14184</u>
MEPA Analyst:	<u>Bill Gage</u>
Phone:	617-626- <u>1025</u>

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: Prospect Hill Park--Conversion and Replacement			
Street: 314 Totten Pond Road			
Municipality: Waltham		Watershed: Charles River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: See Insert 1		Latitude: See Insert 2	
		Longitude:	
Estimated commencement date: 1974		Estimated completion date: 1974	
Approximate cost: N/A		Status of project design: N/A %complete	
Proponent: City of Waltham			
Street: 610 Main Street			
Municipality: Waltham		State: MA	Zip Code: 02452
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Alison Steinfeld			
Firm/Agency: Planning Department		Street: 119 School Street	
Municipality: Waltham		State: MA	Zip Code: 02451
Phone: 781-314-3370	Fax: 781-314-3376	E-mail: asteinfeld@city.waltham.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. _____) 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): See Insert 3.

Are you requesting coordinated review with any other federal, state, regional, or local agency?
 Yes (Specify National Park Service) No
 Division of Conservation Services--Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: N/A

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 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 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 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> Article 97
Total site acreage	0.81			
New acres of land altered		-		
Acres of impervious area		0.81	0.81	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		-		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		-		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		-		
STRUCTURES				
Gross square footage		35,344	35,344	
Number of housing units		-	-	
Maximum height (in feet)		-	-	
TRANSPORTATION				
Vehicle trips per day		0		
Parking spaces		0		
WATER/WASTEWATER				
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 parkland to water tanks) 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.)

The subject site, consisting of 0.81 acres, rests within Prospect Hill Park, a 250-acre park located on the western part of Waltham near Route 128/I-95. A narrow parcel containing two main summits that provide some of the best views of the Boston basin, the park is the largest and oldest (1893) public open space in Waltham.

In the mid-1970's, the City of Waltham's Public Works Department installed two water tanks and a water main in Prospect Hill Park to meet the community's drinking needs. The tanks, which are constructed of prestressed concrete and hold over 8 million gallons of public drinking water, provide water to over 70% of Waltham's population. One of the tanks was built on a former borrow pit. Unfortunately, the City inadvertently constructed the tanks without securing the requisite approvals from either the Federal or State governments. Since the records of the Waltham Park and Recreation Department were destroyed in a fire, the City has no information on how or why its Public Works Department proceeded without securing the appropriate authorization.

The City of Waltham is seeking to remedy the situation by replacing the .81 acres of land that houses the two water tanks with 78,364 square feet of land contiguous to Prospect Hill Park. To that end, the City has worked closely with the Division of Conservation Services. The City has secured appraisals for both the "converted" land and the proposed "replacement" land and is committed to responding to all requirements of the Federal and State governments in order to rectify a 34-year old mistake. Given its location relative to Prospect Hill Park and the fact that it is a natural extension of the park, the replacement land represents the best possible alternative under the circumstances.

With approval of the State and Federal governments, the City of Waltham is anxious to continue improving the park (including the annexation) and making it available to the public as an extraordinary public asset to be enjoyed and preserved. An award-winning "Master Plan for the Restoration and Improvement of Prospect Hill Park" has been developed and partially implemented with the assistance of State funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROSPECT HILL PARK—CONVERSION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT INSERTS

Insert 1—Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates

Subject Parcel (Conversion Parcel): 808379.258, N 4699927.35 and 4.936, N 4699942.993

Proposed Replacement Parcel: E 808507.128, N 4699512.41

Insert 2—Latitude and Longitude

Subject Parcel (Conversion Parcel): Lon/Lat: W 71 15' 13.4", N 42 23" 25.3" and 15' 10.3", N 42 23" 25.9"

Proposed Replacement Parcel Lon/Lat: W 71 15' 10.3", N 42 31' 12.1 08.6"

Insert 3—Financial Assistance

The City of Waltham has received the following grants to improve Prospect Hill Park, which includes the subject site:

- 1971: Federal Land and Water Conservation Grant in the amount of \$41,400.
- 2001: Urban Self Help Grant in the amount of \$232,000.
- 2002: Urban Self Help Grant in the amount of \$232,000.

Insert 4—III. Consistency

A. The City's goals and objectives relative to the use of land and open space are set forth in Waltham's *Natural Resources and Open Space Plan, 2006*, submitted to the Division of Conservation Services on April 20, 2006, and incorporated into the City's *Master Plan*. According to *The Open Space Plan*, Prospect Hill Park is the most visited recreational site in the City: "This large park is not used at anywhere near capacity and has the potential to serve many more residents." Preserving and enhancing Prospect Hill Park are paramount and pervasive goals of the Plan. Some relevant excerpts of *The Open Space Plan* include:

- For Waltham to retain its character, an aggressive effort must be made to preserve the large remaining open spaces.
- Preserve open space and scenic areas

The Open Space Plan states that "[i]t is imperative that the City of Waltham implement the entire [Prospect Hill Park] Master Plan and target the restoration of Prospect Hill Park as a priority open space objective." *The Prospect Hill Park Master Plan*, prepared by a consultant on behalf of the City, expressly states that the adjacent Water Department parcel at the end of Dale Street [i.e. the replacement parcel] should be incorporated into the park.

The City of Waltham is committed to implementing *The Prospect Hill Master Plan* in order to protect and restore the park and to maximize awareness, appreciation and use of the recreational opportunities of Prospect Hill Park. However, the City cannot proceed to secure grant funding to implement the remainder of *The Prospect Hill Park Master Plan* until the tank conversion issue is resolved to the satisfaction of all parties. Therefore, not only is the plan to replace the converted property consistent with City-promulgated plans, but it must be undertaken in order to implement the plans.



Source:
Office of Geographic and Environmental
Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of
Massachusetts Executive Office of
Environmental Affairs

**PROSPECT HILL PARK
CONVERTED AND REPLACEMENT PARCELS
WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS**

0 250 500 1,000
Feet

