



For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 13117
MEPA Analyst: Nick ZAVOLAS
Phone: 617-626-1030

ENF

Environmental Notification Form

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: Magazine Beach Site Improvements | | |
| Street: Memorial Drive | | |
| Municipality: Cambridge, MA | Watershed: Charles River Watershed | |
| Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 32508.88 E; 4691188.47 N | Latitude: 42° 21' 27.43 ' N | Longitude: -71° 6' 52.25 ' W |
| Estimated commencement date: 2003 | Estimated completion date: 2005 | |
| Approximate cost: 3 million (total cost) | Status of project design: 80 %complete | |
| Proponent: Division of Urban Parks and Recreation | | |
| Street: 20 Somerset Street | | |
| Municipality: Boston | State: MA | Zip Code: 02108 |
| Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Joseph Freeman | | |
| Firm/Agency: Earth Tech, Inc. | Street: 196 Baker Ave. | |
| Municipality: Concord, MA | State: MA | Zip Code: 01742 |
| Phone: (978) 371-4208 | Fax: (978) 371-2468 | E-mail: joseph.freeman@earthtech.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):

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals: Cambridge Order of Conditions, Army Corps PGP Category II Approval

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 |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|--|
| LAND | | | | <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 type="checkbox"/> Other Permits <i>(including Legislative Approvals) – Specify:</i> MWRA 8(M) permits for work within MWRA sewer and water easements * Minor Modification |
| Total site acreage | c. 15 acres | | | |
| New acres of land altered | | 0 | | |
| Acres of impervious area | 47,000 s.f. 1.1 Ac. | - 15,399 sf - 0.35 Ac. | 31,602 s.f. 0.7 Ac. | |
| Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration | | N/A | | |
| Square feet of new other wetland alteration | | LUW – BLSF – | | |
| Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways | | N/A | | |
| STRUCTURES | | | | |
| Gross square footage | 9,298 (bath house and pool house) | 0 | 9,298 s.f. | |
| Number of housing units | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Maximum height (in feet) | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| TRANSPORTATION | | | | |
| Vehicle trips per day | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Parking spaces | 70 | 0 | 70 | |
| WATER/WASTEWATER | | | | |
| Gallons/day (GPD) of water use | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| GPD water withdrawal | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| GPD wastewater generation/ treatment | N/A | N/A | N/A | |
| Length of water/sewer mains (in miles) | N/A | N/A | N/A | |

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 Bathhouse, Charles River Basin) 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 Magazine Beach Site Improvements project is a joint undertaking of the Division of Urban Parks and Recreation (formerly the Metropolitan District Commission) and the City of Cambridge. The DUPR and the City have entered into a joint management and license agreement for a portion of Magazine Beach, comprised of the current playing field area on the eastern half of the property.

Magazine Beach is one of several "parks within the park" of the Charles River Basin, located on Memorial Drive along the northern shore of the Charles River, between the Boston University Bridge and the Riverside Boat Club. The Basin, from the Charles River Dam at the Museum of Science to the Eliot Bridge near Harvard Square, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Cottage Farm Combined Sewer Overflow lies to the eastern end of the property, the Charles River Relief Sewer runs beneath the site, parallel to the river.

Magazine Beach has a long and varied history. In 1818, a military powder magazine was built on Captain's Island, an isolated and defensible location for explosives. The small hill and the stone storage structure are all that remain of the island and the magazine. Frederick Law Olmstead designed a park and bathing beach on the filled marshlands of the site in 1899, and reused the stone of the magazine for the bathhouse. The public beach remained open until degrading river water quality forced its closing in the 1950s, and bathing at the site has been restricted to the pool since that time. A boat launch and large parking lot were developed at the site at this time.

A phased improvement has been developed for the project, including a Phase 1 component to be implemented jointly with the City of Cambridge, has been developed.

Phase 1A will be implemented after the completion of the City's Pearl Street Outfall project and will improve a 750-foot long stretch of river edge through:

- Removal and relocation of existing degraded rip-rap to make a secure river's edge to alleviate scour;
- Stabilization between the newly placed rip-rap and the top of bank with riparian plant material, including herbaceous plant material at the water edge and woody plant material higher on the slope;
- Realignment of an existing 4.5-foot wide walkway. Existing path material is bituminous concrete. The proposed path is made of stabilized stone dust;

- Regrading of the area to eliminate the point source outfall of storm water into the river at the end of the parking lot;
- Pulling the existing bituminous concrete parking lot away from the river by 60 feet and replacing it with a narrower stabilized stone dust path to provide access for non-motorized boats to the river; and
- Realigning part of the MWRA truck turn-around loop to move pavement further from the river and provide room for storm water retention and treatment.

Phase 1B includes improvements to the existing playing field, and includes:

- Regrading to reduce the uncontrolled discharge of stormwater runoff from the field area and providing drainage swales and stormwater retention areas;
- Renovation of fields including an upgraded Little League field; and two soccer fields including bleachers, and benches;
- Removal of the existing exercise circuit and replacement with new equipment on other side of MWRA driveway;
- Addition of picnic area and composting toilet facility; and
- Addition of 19 parking spaces along MWRA driveway.

Phase 2 includes the “Site Core”, is located on the western half of the property, and will include:

- Removal of driveway turnaround across from Magazine Street;
- Addition of turnaround loop at boat house driveway;
- Reconfiguration of parking area at boat house;
- Addition of stabilized stone dust path from boat house running along river edge;
- Addition of picnic area in vicinity of historic bath house;
- Removal of existing wading pool (MDC pool and pool house will not change);
- Addition of children’s water spray play area;
- Upgrade of children’s play equipment;
- Realignment of multi-use recreational path along Memorial Drive edge of parcel; and
- Continuation of river edge restoration as described in Phase 1A.

Phase 2 will be implemented at a later date, as funding allows.