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.: 12932
MEPA Analyst: Arthur Pugsley
Phone: 617-626-1029

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: College of the Holy Cross Parking Garage		
Street: College Street		
Municipality: Worcester	Watershed: Middle River	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates:	Latitude: 42-14-25 N Longitude: 71-48-36 W	
Estimated commencement date: Jan. 2003	Estimated completion date: November 2003	
Approximate cost: $7.1 million	Status of project design: 75 %complete	
Proponent: College of the Holy Cross		
Street: One College Street		
Municipality: Worcester	State: MA	Zip Code: 01610-2395
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Paul F. Avery		
Firm/Agency: Oak Engineers	Street: Brown's Wharf	
Municipality: Newburyport	State: MA	Zip Code: 01950
Phone: 978 465-9877	Fax: 978 465-2986	E-mail: pavery@oakengineers.com

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
☐ Yes X No

Has this project been filed with MEPA before?
☐ Yes (EOEA No._) X No

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
X Yes (EOEA No. 8909, 7752, 3073) ☐ No

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

a Single EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.06(8))	☐ Yes	X No
a Special Review Procedure? (see 301CMR 11.09)	☐ Yes	X No
a Waiver of mandatory EIR? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐ Yes	X No
a Phase I Waiver? (see 301 CMR 11.11)	☐ Yes	X 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): $7 million of financial assistance is being provided through Mass Development Finance Agency Revenue Bond

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Site Plan Approval – Worcester Planning Board
Order of Conditions – Worcester Conservation Commission
Sewer Connection Permit – Worcester Sewerage Department

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

- ☐ Land
- ☐ Water
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ ACEC
- ☐ Rare Species
- ☐ Wastewater
- ☐ Air
- ☐ Regulations
- ☐ Wetlands, Waterways, & Tidelands
- **X** Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	2.5 Acres		
New acres of land altered		0	
Acres of impervious area	1.1	(0.9)	0.2
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	±152,000	±152,000
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	0	±58	±58
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	133	316	449
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	200	200
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	200	200
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0.1	0.1

State Permits & Approvals

- **X** Order of Conditions
- ☐ Superseding Order of Conditions
- ☐ Chapter 91 License
- ☐ 401 Water Quality Certification
- ☐ MHD or MDC Access Permit
- ☐ Water Management Act Permit
- ☐ New Source Approval
- ☐ DEP or MWRA Sewer Connection/ Extension Permit
- ☐ Other Permits (*including Legislative Approvals*) – Specify:

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_____) **X** No

Will it involve the release of any conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction, or watershed preservation restriction?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** 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_____) **X** 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_____) **X** No

If yes, does the project involve any demolition or destruction of any listed or inventoried historic or archaeological resources?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** No

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN: Is the project in or adjacent to an Area of Critical Environmental Concern?

☐Yes (Specify_____) **X** 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 project consists of constructing a 443-space parking garage with an adjacent 6-space surface lot on the site of an existing 133-space paved surface lot at the College of the Holy Cross. The overall campus area is approximately 174 acres. The project site itself is an approximately 2.5-acre portion of the campus which includes the area of the existing parking lot as well as the embankment to the south. The proposed garage will include five stories of parking plus an attendant's office and restroom.

The project will is proposed in order to alleviate an existing parking shortage on the Holy Cross campus. The project itself will not result in any additional vehicle trips or traffic impacts on surrounding streets.

The project site is not located in proximity to resource areas subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. However, an Order of Conditions will be required from the Worcester Conservation Commission due to a local bylaw that extends a protection zone to activities within 100 feet of storm drains which ultimately discharge to the Middle River.

The preferred alternative being proposed provides the greatest yield of additional parking spaces with minimal environmental impacts. Other alternatives considered were as follows:

No-Build: During 2001, Holy Cross performed an overall assessment of their parking needs including an inventory of existing parking spaces. The results of this study concluded that the campus just meets the minimum parking requirements set forth by the City of Worcester. The College, however, has experienced a shortage of on-campus parking. The No-Build alternative would not mitigate this problem and result in potential impacts from off-campus parking on surrounding streets. Accordingly, this alternative was not considered viable.

Additional Surface Parking: The College considered several locations on campus for additional surface parking. However, these alternatives would have resulted in greater environmental impacts by paving areas which are currently undeveloped and resulted in a lesser net increase in available parking.

Alternate Location: The College considered an alternate location adjacent to playing fields east of the location being proposed. The alternate location was on a vegetated embankment and therefore would not have displaced existing surface parking. However, the alternate location would have resulted in environmental impacts to the embankment and adjacent playing fields. In addition, the topography in that location posed challenges in terms of both construction logistics and traffic circulation.

Mitigation measures include storm water management. Best Management Practices, including deep-sump catch basins and grit separators will be used to treat storm water in accordance with the DEP's Storm Water Management Policy. Rooftop runoff from the garage will be routed to storm drains, consistent with runoff from the existing parking lot at the site. Floor drains within the garage itself will be routed to the sanitary sewer. The potential increase in peak runoff will be mitigated by an underground detention structure.

The project itself will not generate additional vehicle trips and therefore will not create off-site traffic impacts.

The garage will be visible from Interstate 290 and surrounding streets. The College will be working closely with the project architect to ensure that the façade and overall aesthetics are compatible with prevailing architectural themes of the campus.