



**Environmental
Notification Form**

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
EOEA No.: 13993
MEPA Analyst: Anne Canaday
Phone: 617-626-1085

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: BALLARD STREET MARSH – GATEWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT		
Street: INTERSECTION OF BRISTOW STREET / EASTERN AVENUE		
Municipality: SAUGUS	Watershed: NORTH COASTAL (SAUGUS RIVER)	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: X=242,056.84; Y=910,653.23 METERS NAD83, STATE PLANE	Latitude: N 42.45	Longitude: W 70.99
Estimated commencement date: April 2007	Estimated completion date: June 2007	
Approximate cost: \$72,000	Status of project design:	100 %complete
Proponent: Massachusetts Dept. of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway St. 7 th Floor		
Municipality: BOSTON	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: James Comeau		
Firm/Agency: DCR	Street: 251 Causeway St. 7 th Floor	
Municipality: BOSTON	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Phone: (617) 626-1403	Fax: (617) 626-1349	E-mail: James.Comeau@state.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. EOEA NO. 12889) 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 Land is Owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:
Wetland Order of Conditions DEP File # 67-916 Issued 9/18/06 Saugus Conservation Commission

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 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 checked="" 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 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>
Total site acreage	0.77			
New acres of land altered		0		
Acres of impervious area	0.04	0.04	0.04	
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	
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	90	35	55	
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: _____) No

Although there are no recorded archaeological sites in the project area, it is located in the estuarine zone of the Pines and Saugus rivers, so it must be considered highly sensitive for archaeological resources. Demonstrating this sensitivity is the fact that 19-ES-258 is located less than 1/2 mile to the north.

Thomas Mahlstedt, DCR's Chief Archaeologist, will monitor construction activities to ensure compliance with all applicable regulations.

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: **RUMNEY MARSHES**) 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 Site Description: The Ballard Street Gateway Improvement Project (Project) is the kick-off project for the encompassing Ballard Street Marsh improvement initiative which involves the restoration of portions of the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Gateway Improvement Project activities involve improvements to the existing parking lot located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Bristow Street and Eastern Avenue in Saugus, MA. The 0.8-acre Project Area is bordered by Eastern Avenue on the west and Rumney Marsh on the north and east and the abandoned Bristow Street right-of-way to the south. The Project Area is an existing parking area and is comprised of compacted soil and gravel that is generally flat in grade with numerous potholes. The site improvements are intended to create an aesthetically pleasing entrance for the local community to enjoy the surrounding Rumney Marsh as well as to provide enhanced stormwater management utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) stormwater techniques. Lands within the Project Area are owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

Completion of the Project will accomplish two goals: 1) enhancing the drainage at the current parking lot; and 2) providing the community with a recreational area which also provides access to the DCR Reservation. The proposed improvements to the parking area include regrading the parking area to eliminate surface ponding and resurfacing the area with gravel. The existing parking lot area is comprised of approximately 0.76 acres of compacted earth with a 1,700 square foot area of standard asphalt (to be left in place - abandoned portion of Bristow Street). The parking lot is being used as a dumping ground for construction debris and currently has approximately 8 cubic yards of yard waste and concrete and brick debris, which will be removed before construction begins. The overall footprint of the proposed gravel parking area will be smaller than the existing compacted earth parking area. The proposed plans reduce the parking lot area to 0.45 acres (a reduction of 0.31 acres) which will be graded to eliminate ponding and to ensure proper drainage to the eastern perimeter of the site, towards a proposed storm water infiltration trench.

A stormwater infiltration trench is proposed to treat stormwater runoff from the gravel areas associated with the

existing parking lot and the proposed parking lot improvements. The infiltration trench is designed to mitigate sediment and filter stormwater, reducing nutrient loading to the adjacent wetlands. The infiltration trench site is currently a grassed area along the northern perimeter of the site between the existing parking lot and Rumney Marsh. Stormwater infiltration trenches have been shown to provide exceptional water quality benefits compared with detention facilities. The proposed system is expected to achieve in excess of the state policy of 80% TSS removal specified in the Massachusetts DEP Stormwater Policy Handbook.

An area surrounding the proposed gravel parking lot will be retrofitted into a picnic area and grassed areas to provide a larger buffer between the parking lot and the bordering wetlands of Rumney Marsh than is currently provided. The proposed picnic area will be located east of the gravel parking lot and will be bark mulched and planted with trees (White Birch) to provide an area for the community to gather and enjoy Rumney Marsh. Additional trees (Quaking Aspen) will be planted along the eastern perimeter of the site, just beyond the gravel parking lot and before the proposed infiltration trench. The proposed trees will provide an additional buffer between the parking lot and the marsh, further reducing erosive flows and filtering the runoff before entering the marsh system. The existing gravel path leading into the Rumney Marsh will be extended into the proposed gravel parking lot area to provide easy access into the marsh's trails.

The proposed parking lot improvements also include the installation of guardrail along Eastern Avenue and Bristow Street to restrict inappropriate access and to secure the area overnight. A single entrance and exit will be located on Bristow Street and a gate with a lock will be installed to limit access. Additional improvements include trash receptacles and an information kiosk at the trailhead.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative 1 – No Action: If there is no attempt at parking lot improvement and the current situation remains, the existing parking lot will continue to be used as an illegal dumping ground for construction material. Pedestrian access to Rumney Marshes ACEC will be limited by the access point at the parking lot and the lack of communication of that access point to the community.

Alternative 2 – Paved Parking Lot with Drainage Connections: The entire parking surface could be paved with asphalt requiring the installation of catchbasins and drainage piping. This alternative was eliminated from consideration due to the potential for off-site migration of stormwater into the Ballard Street marsh. Portions of the marsh near the parking lot are currently in design, planning and permitting for a major restoration effort.