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.: 14398
MEPA Analyst: Nick Zavolas
Phone: 617-626- 1030

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: Chelsea Greenspace and Recreational Committee Mill Creek Ecological Improvements		
Street: 1040 Revere Beach Parkway		
Municipality: Chelsea and Revere	Watershed: Charles (01090001), Lower Mystic	
Universal Tranverse Mercator Coordinates: (UTM Coordinates NAD 83 Zone 19) Northwest corner: N 4696751 E 333633 Southeast corner: N 4696555 E 333705	Latitude: 42°24'15" N Longitude: -71°1'17" W (center of project)	
Estimated commencement date: Spring 2009	Estimated completion date: Summer 2009	
Approximate cost: $250,000	Status of project design: 95 %complete	
Proponent: Chelsea Greenspace and Recreation Committee		
Street: 300 Broadway		
Municipality: Chelsea	State: MA	Zip Code: 02150
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Kenneth Fields		
Firm/Agency: Tetra Tech EC, Inc.	Street: 133 Federal Street, 6th Floor	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02110
Phone: 617-457-8232 (office)	Fax: 617-457-8498	Email: Ken.Fields@tteci.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. 13294) ☐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, but 1.81 acres of the project site are owned by the Massachusetts 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:
+ Chelsea Conservation Commission Order of Conditions, Revere Conservation Commission Order of Conditions, Section 404 Clean Water Act (U.S. Army Corps PGP, Category II)

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

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

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	2.76 ac		
New acres of land altered		0.31 ac	
Acres of impervious area	0.04 ac	0.00 ac	0.04 ac
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0.00 ac	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		0.75 ac	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0.00	
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	N/A	N/A	N/A
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

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ 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_____) ☒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 proposed project site (Site) is 2.76 acres, and is located directly downstream of the Parkway Plaza Road bridge at its intersection with Revere Beach Parkway (Rt. 16) in Chelsea and Revere, Massachusetts. The site is bordered by Mill Creek to the north and the former Parkway Plaza to the south and west.

The mostly undeveloped site is owned by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), with a small portion in Chelsea owned by Parkway Plaza II, LLC. Three areas are proposed for restoration. Area 1 is a Salt Marsh resource area. Area 2 is a mix of Coastal Bank, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Riverfront Area, Coastal Bank buffer zone, and Upland. In the Upland portion of Area 2, a relatively new cul-de-sac provides pedestrian access to Mill Creek. Area 3 is located approximately 400 linear feet downstream of Areas 1 and 2 on Mill Creek. The space in between Area 3 and Areas 1 and 2 is not part of the Site.

Vegetation on-site is characterized by a mix of invasive species and native grasses, shrubs, and trees. In 2008, an ecological inventory conducted by BSC Group, Inc. found that Area 1 had 63-98% *Phragmites* total cover, Area 2 had 10-85%, and Area 3 had 98% *Phragmites* cover.

The Mill Creek is tidally influenced, and the adjacent flood zone appears to LSCSF. However, the proponent understands that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has previously indicated that the 100-year flood zone has the characteristics of BLSF. Temporary alterations for both LSCSF and BLSF impacts will be accounted for in the Wetlands, Waterways, and Tidelands Section of this ENF. The LSCSF and BLSF temporary alterations were not both

counted in the boxes labeled "New acres of land altered" or "Square feet of new other wetland alteration" in the table above and they will not both be counted in the Land Section. To count both LSCSF and BLSF in these ENF sections would erroneously increase the actual acreage of land altered.

Restoration activities for our project will coincide with 19,400 square feet of Riverfront Area, but there will be no alteration as defined in the Riverfront Area section of the Wetland Regulations. According to the Wetlands Regulations, restoration projects that occur in the Riverfront Area are not included in calculation of alteration (*310 CMR 10.58(4)(d)1*).

The alternatives identified for the Site are a no-build alternative, the preferred restoration alternative, and other restoration alternatives discussed in Attachment E. In the no-build alternative, *Phragmites* remains a visual block to views of the Salt Marsh and Mill Creek from the pedestrian access way. The preferred restoration alternative is discussed below.

The preferred alternative will temporarily alter 0.31 acres of land. The project initially required an access Permit from Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which was obtained by BSC Group, Inc. *Phragmites* will be removed by excavation, manual removal, dark sheeting, and if necessary, herbicide application. The option of herbicide application (Rodeo) is the least preferred restoration option, and will only be used for maintenance or if manual removal is deemed unfeasible on the Coastal Bank and Secondary Coastal Bank of Area 2 (See Attachment E).

To restore Area 1, a long stick excavator will remove approximately 536 square feet of soil material from the salt marsh to a depth of 6 inches to lower the elevation of the bank. This will allow for twice daily inundations by salt water at high tide. Mill Creek's salinity is expected to be sufficient to kill *Phragmites*. If the long-stick excavator's arm is not long enough to reach from the Upland portion of Area 2 to the Salt Marsh, *Phragmites* will be removed by hand and placed in the long-stick excavator's bucket. *Phragmites* rhizomes and aboveground stems will be screened and sifted from the soil. The sifted soil will then be redistributed and stabilized into the Upland portion of Area 2. The organic refuse will be disposed of in a manner that is consistent with local, state and federal laws.

The excavated Salt Marsh area will be immediately stabilized by a bio-degradable fiber roll and *Spartina sp.* plugs will be planted through the top of the roll. The fiber roll will be secured to the soil. Prior to construction, sand bags or coconut fiber rolls will be installed at the bottom of the Salt Marsh to prevent migration of sediment into Mill Creek. Also, due to the small square footage altered and shallow depth of our excavation it is not expected that sheet flow will occur across the restored Salt Marsh. Rather, precipitation will percolate through the biodegradable fiber matting and into the soil. All restoration activities in Area 1 will occur during the lower end of the tide cycle.

The Upland portion of Area 2 will be restored by excavating *Phragmites* aboveground stems and rhizomes to a depth of 1.5-2 feet, screening and sifting soil of *Phragmites* rhizomes, and disposing of *Phragmites* biomass in a manner consistent with local, state, and federal laws. The sifted soil will be screened and may be augmented with nutrients or compost. This will provide a layer of good topsoil that will be applied back to Area 2 and then native vegetation will be

planted. The layer of topsoil and planting of mature, fast-growing native species is intended to inhibit *Phragmites* from returning to the area. To prevent erosion and sediment problems in this area, techniques such as silt fencing and hay will be used to temporarily stabilize the soil. Silt fencing will be removed when permanent plantings have successfully taken root.

The Non-Upland portion of Area 2 (Area 2A) is mostly a Secondary Coastal Bank. There is anecdotal evidence that they may have been a waste disposal site here. Initially, the proponents will dig test pits in Area 2A prior to choosing the restoration method to ascertain if the area could withstand excavation of *Phragmites* rhizomes to a depth of 1.5-2 feet, and also to discover if any trash exists at that depth. The proponents understand that destabilization of a Secondary Coastal Bank that contains trash near its surface would be deleterious to surrounding Resource Areas and Mill Creek. If Area 2A is found to be stable and free of trash, *Phragmites* and other noxious weeds will be removed, the soil will be screened and sifted of *Phragmites* biomass, and *Phragmites* will be moved off-site. Biodegradable fiber rolls will be installed to prevent erosion and native species will be planted through the fiber rolls. Erosion and sediment control techniques such as silt fencing and hay bales will also be used to temporarily stabilize the soil. If Area 2A is found to be unstable, cutting of aboveground stems and herbicide application may occur. Only a Massachusetts certified herbicide applicator will apply herbicide, being as careful as possible not to kill native plant species. The existing trees and cluster of Bayberry (*Myrica sp.*) will not be disturbed.

In Area 3, *Phragmites* and other noxious weeds will be removed, sifted soil stabilized, and native plant species planted in a manner identical to Area 2A. However, Area 3 will not require soil test pits, as there is no evidence of a disposal area ever existing there.

Removal of *Phragmites* and other invasive species will increase biodiversity and is intended to create views to enhance understanding, appreciation and stewardship of local wetland resources.

LAND SECTION – all proponents must fill out this section

I. Thresholds / Permits

A. Does the project meet or exceed any review thresholds related to **land** (see 301 CMR 11.03(1)
___ Yes __X_ No; if yes, specify each threshold:

II. Impacts and Permits

A. Describe, in acres, the current and proposed character of the project site, as follows:

	Existing	Change	Total
Footprint of buildings	_0 _	_ 0	_0 _
Roadways, parking, and other paved areas	_0.04 ac	0.00 ac_	0.04 ac
Other altered areas (describe)	_0.31ac_	0.31 ac_	0.31 ac_
Undeveloped areas	_2.72 ac_	0.00 ac_	2.72 ac_

Other altered areas are detailed in Wetlands, Waterways, and Land Section

B. Has any part of the project site been in active agricultural use in the last three years?
___ Yes _**X**_ No; if yes, how many acres of land in agricultural use (with agricultural soils) will be converted to nonagricultural use?

C. Is any part of the project site currently or proposed to be in active forestry use?
___ Yes _**X**__ No; if yes, please describe current and proposed forestry activities and indicate

whether any part of the site is the subject of a DEM-approved forest management plan:

D. Does any part of the project involve conversion of land held for natural resources purposes in accordance with Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth to any purpose not in accordance with Article 97? ___ Yes **X**__ No; if yes, describe:

E. Is any part of the project site currently subject to a conservation restriction, preservation restriction, agricultural preservation restriction or watershed preservation restriction? _ Yes _**X**_ No; if yes, does the project involve the release or modification of such restriction? ___ Yes ___ No; if yes, describe:

F. Does the project require approval of a new urban redevelopment project or a fundamental change in an existing urban redevelopment project under M.G.L.c.121A? ___ Yes _**X**__ No; if yes, describe:

G. Does the project require approval of a new urban renewal plan or a major modification of an existing urban renewal plan under M.G.L.c.121B? Yes ___ No _**X**_ ; if yes, describe:

H. Describe the project's stormwater impacts and, if applicable, measures that the project will take to comply with the standards found in DEP's Stormwater Management Policy: N/A, no new impervious areas.

I. Is the project site currently being regulated under M.G.L.c.21E or the Massachusetts Contingency Plan? Yes ___ No _**X**__ ; if yes, what is the Release Tracking Number (RTN)?

J. If the project is site is within the Chicopee or Nashua watershed, is it within the Quabbin, Ware, or Wachusett subwatershed? ___ Yes **X**__ No; if yes, is the project site subject to regulation under the Watershed Protection Act? ___ Yes ___ No

K. Describe the project's other impacts on land: See project description

III.. Consistency

A. Identify the current municipal comprehensive land use plan and the open space plan and describe the consistency of the project and its impacts with that plan(s):

One of the City of Chelsea's main objectives in its 2004 Community Development Plan is, "Enhancing the City's open space by improving existing parks and creating new parks, including those promoting better, safer and great access to the City's waterfront;" The removal of *Phragmites* and other invasives from Mill Creek will serve to enhance both access to the creek and improve the biological and aesthetic value of the area by promoting biological diversity.

According to the City of Revere's Community Development Mission Statement, it is Revere's intent to, "create a stable community and living environment through the administration of...natural resource protection." Native plant species are a natural resource, and by removing invasive species, we are protecting plant biodiversity and enhancing wildlife diversity by providing a variety of food and shelter resources (Please see http://www.revere.org/departments_fr.htm for more details).

B. Identify the current Regional Policy Plan of the applicable Regional Planning Agency and describe the consistency of the project and its impacts with that plan:

The proposed project is consistent with *The MetroFuture* produced in May 2008 by the