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.: 12811
MEPA Analyst: Sky Wickersham
Phone: 617-626-1022

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: **Aquatic Vegetation Management at Bass Pond**		
Street: **South Branch Parkway**		
Municipality: **Springfield**	Watershed: **Connecticut River**	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: UTM NAD 83 Meters Zone 18 **N: 46 64 842 to 46 64 426** **E: 07 06 655 to 07 06 564**	Latitude:**42°6'30" to 42°6'17" N** Longitude:**72°30'1" to 72°30'6" W**	
Estimated commencement date:**7/1/02**	Estimated completion date:**Yearly**	
Approximate cost: **$10,000 yr 2002**	Status of project design: **100% complete**	
Proponent: **Bass Pond Association**		
Street: **1305 South Branch Parkway**		
Municipality: **Springfield**	State: **MA**	Zip Code: **01129**
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: **Ann Pieroway**		
Firm/Agency: **Bass Pond Association**	Street:**1305 South Branch Parkway**	
Municipality: **Springfield**	State: **MA**	Zip Code: **01129**
Phone:**413-787-9193**	Fax:	E-mail:

Does this project meet or exceed a mandatory EIR threshold (see 301 CMR 11.03)?
☐Yes

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

Has any project on this site been filed with MEPA before?
☐Yes (EOEA 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: **Order of Conditions** _____

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
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Solid & Hazardous Waste
- ☐ Historical & Archaeological Resources

Summary of Project Size & Environmental Impacts	Existing	Change	Total
LAND			
Total site acreage	12		
New acres of land altered		0	
Acres of impervious area	0	0	0
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		0	
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		9.5*	
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		0	
STRUCTURES			
Gross square footage	0	0	0
Number of housing units	0	0	0
Maximum height (in feet)	0	0	0
TRANSPORTATION			
Vehicle trips per day	0	0	0
Parking spaces	0	0	0
WATER/WASTEWATER			
Gallons/day (GPD) of water use	0	0	0
GPD water withdrawal	0	0	0
GPD wastewater generation/ treatment	0	0	0
Length of water/sewer mains (in miles)	0	0	0

State Permits & Approvals

- ☒ Order of Conditions
- ☒ Superceding 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:
- ☐ USACOE 404 Permit PGP II
- ☐ NPDES Construction
- ☒ BRP WM 4 License to apply Chemicals for Control of Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation

Based on DEP comments on site walk of 5/9/02; alteration constitutes environmental improvement and will not result in impairment of aquatic habitat.

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.*)

Site Description:

It is proposed to treat and manage the excessive growth of aquatic vegetation in Bass Pond, Springfield, MA. Bass Pond is a 12 acre, abandoned quarry pond located in southeastern portion of Springfield, Massachusetts. Presently, Bass pond is abutted by several residential homes as well as City owned park property. Bass Pond has a drainage of approximately 107 acres which drains a predominately urban watershed. Currently Bass Pond has no inlet, except for runoff discharge pipes, and no outlet. Over the past decades Bass pond has deteriorated to its present eutrophic state. This has been brought on by a decrease in inflow due to urbanization of the area, loss of a pond outlet, which has reduced mixing to wind action only. Presently, Bass Pond is plagued by green algal scum and dense milfoil at near 90% subsurface accumulations as well as dense stands of phragmites along the shoreline. Only the central portion of the pond (2.5± acres) does not have dense weed growth due to the water depth. Such conditions have greatly diminished the aquatic habitat of the ponds, in addition to creating adverse aesthetic conditions. The proposed method of treatment and management will be through a combination of the licensed application of chemical herbicides, algicides, and alum. The targeted aquatic plant reduction is 80%. This reduction of the dense growth will potentially allow non-invasive/nuisance species to become established including such species such as Nitella, which colonize the pond bottoms and provide cover for aquatic organisms. Aquatic plant surveys will be conducted before and after treatment(s) to assess the results of the treatment and establish the need to follow-up maintenance applications. Follow-up treatment during the summer season and during subsequent years will be based upon the monitored degree of regrowth. All vegetation control will be performed within the pond. Areas of bordering vegetated wetland will not be treated.

License to apply these chemical controls in Bass Pond was issued by the Division of Watershed Management, Department of Environmental Protection on May 8, 2002 to Lycott Environmental Research, Inc. The herbicide Rodeo will be applied at 2% solution, and will require one to two treatments per year

over a three-year period to substantially reduce the Phragmites growth. The Rodeo will be applied with hand held equipment and sprayed directly onto the surface of the Phragmites plants. The herbicide Reward (diquat) will be place in a mixing tank aboard an airboat or jonboat. It will then be injected below the water's surface and evenly distributed throughout the treatment area will be applied at a rate of one gallon per surface acre. Aluminum sulfate (alum) will be used at a rate of 1-2 ppm to flocculate nutrients and suspended matter from the water column to aid in precluding the growth of algae.

The project has been developed to meet the performance standards for Land Under Water in conformance with the MA Wetlands Protection Act 310 CMR 10.56(4)(a). The water carrying capacity of the waterbodies will be unaffected by the treatment. Water quality will be protected through conformance with the DEP licensing process for chemical application. The aquatic vegetation reduction is considered an improvement to aquatic habitat within the ponds. Important wildlife habitat characteristics along the waterbody shorelines has been identified and appropriate setback limits have been established in coordination with DEP under the Superceding Order of Conditions process (issuance pending MEPA completion).

The alteration of vegetation within a total of 9.5 acres of Land Under Water is the regulatory trigger for MEPA compliance, requiring the submission of an ENF but not exceeding the threshold for a mandatory EIR. Although the application of herbicide and alum will be within the entire area of the pond (12 acres), the milfoil coverage does not extend to the central 2.5± acre portion of the pond. Therefore, the alteration of vegetation will not exceed the areal threshold for a mandatory EIR.