

ENF Environmental Notification Form

For Office Use Only
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

EOEA No.: 14305
 MEPA Analyst: Bill GAGE
 Phone: 617-626-1025

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: Neponset River Reservation Master Plan Phase II		
Street: Brush Hill Rd & Truman Parkway		
Municipality: Boston & Milton	Watershed: Neponset	
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: Central Ave: 19 328983E, 4681857 N Paul's Bridge: 19 324805E, 4677977N	Latitude: Central Ave 42°16'13", Paul's Br. 42°14'4" Longitude: Central Ave -71°4'23", Paul's Br. -71°7'22"	
Estimated commencement date: Nov. 2008	Estimated completion date: Phase IIA – 2010 Phase IIB – 2023	
Approximate cost: Phase IIA - \$5 million Phase IIB - \$10 million	Status of project design: Phase IIA – 80 % complete	
Proponent: Department of Conservation and Recreation		
Street: 251 Causeway Street		
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02114
Name of Contact Person From Whom Copies of this ENF May Be Obtained: Heather Vaillant		
Firm/Agency: BSC Group, Inc.	Street: 15 Elkins Street	
Municipality: Boston	State: MA	Zip Code: 02127
Phone: 617-896-4351	Fax: 617-896-4301	E-mail: hvillant@bscgroup.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): DCR has obtained \$5 million in funding for Phase IIA through Governor Patrick's Commonwealth Urban Park Initiative.

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

List Local or Federal Permits and Approvals:

Local: Boston and Milton Conservation Commissions – Orders of Conditions

Federal: Army Corps of Engineers – MA PGP Category II Screening; EPA – NPDES Construction General Permit

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 checked="" 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>
Total site acreage	125 acres			
New acres of land altered		Phase IIA: 5 Phase IIB: 20 Total: 25		
Acres of impervious area	Phase IIA: 17 Phase IIB: 16 Total: 33	Phase IIA: +0.3 Phase IIB: +6 Total: +6.3	Phase IIA: 17.3 Phase IIB: 22 Total: 39.3	
Square feet of new bordering vegetated wetlands alteration		Phase IIA: 0 Phase IIB: 13,000 Total: 13,000		
Square feet of new other wetland alteration		Phase IIA: 140,000 Phase IIB: 38,000 Total: 178,000		
Acres of new non-water dependent use of tidelands or waterways		Phase IIA: 0 Phase IIB: 0 Total: 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	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

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 See Attachment E) 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 Adjacent to Fowl Meadow and Neponset River Estuary ACEC) 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.)

(a) The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's ("DCR") Neponset River Reservation Master Plan – Phase II ("Phase II Master Plan") proposes for a greenway located in Boston and Milton between Paul's Bridge on the Neponset Valley Parkway in Hyde Park to the existing Lower Neponset River Reservation Greenway, which currently terminates at Central Avenue on the Boston/Milton line. Generally, the Phase II Master Plan area includes approximately 125 acres of parkland, with over 11 miles of riverbanks. The dominant land use within the area is residential, with commercial uses concentrated along the river at intersections of major roadways. Industrial properties in the project area are located in clusters along the north bank of the river, and where the MBTA rail crosses the river. In addition to the Neponset River Reservation, existing open space in the vicinity includes Stony Brook Reservation, Blue Hills Reservation, the Fowl Meadow Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Mother Brook Reservation, and Reservation Road Park.

The Phase II Master Plan provides a continuous Greenway trail connecting to the Lower Neponset River Estuary Area of Critical Environmental Concern via the Phase I Master Plan Greenway. Connections along the proposed Greenway include five MBTA stations, and several private developments along the river, as well as a wide range of recreation opportunities for the adjacent neighborhoods and region. The plan includes a primary bituminous trail, secondary and tertiary trails, scenic overlooks, new canoe landings, proposed parking facilities, conservation area enhancements, improvements to existing parks, and signage and interpretative elements. The Phase II Master Plan represents a long-term plan to be funded and incrementally implemented over a 10-15 year period. The elements of the plan are described in the Phase II Master Plan (Attachment D) and are shown in Attachment C. (Please note the Phase II Master Plan and associated maps are also available at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/pe/neponset.htm>)

The DCR currently has funding in place to design and construct an initial phase of the Phase II Master Plan Greenway from the DCR Field House near Mattapan Square to the Martini Shell in Hyde Park ("Phase IIA"). As part of this phase, DCR will also make improvements to the Field House and Martini Shell park areas. A community meeting on Phase IIA was held on August 13, 2008.

The Phase IIA Greenway will extend along Brush Hill Road and Truman Parkway from the Stop and Shop located at 1025 Truman Highway in Hyde Park to Mattapan Square. The portion of the Greenway from Dana Avenue to roughly 1,300 feet north of Fairmont Avenue is excluded from this phase of the project. The proposed Phase IIA Greenway (less the excluded portion) is approximately 14,700 linear feet or 2.8 miles. Construction of the Phase IIA Greenway will include reducing the width of the existing paved shoulder along the roadway, and creating a bicycle lane within the roadway and a paved 8-foot wide off-road primary trail with associated landscaping, stormwater management improvements, and grading.

At the Field House Park, a Secondary Trail, constructed with stabilized stone dust, is proposed to bring walkers and cyclists into the park and along the riverfront. The new path system will also link the parking area to the riverfront and the existing non-motorized boat launch. To bring visitors closer to the river, narrowing of the trail and removal of the underbrush and selected trees is necessary where the tree growth is too dense to accommodate the Secondary Trail. Reconfiguration of the parking and vehicular circulation is also proposed in order to allow for safer entry and exiting and to accommodate more vehicles. Additional park improvements proposed include a new, accessible picnic area with views to the river, new wood deck overlooks located along the Secondary Trail, rehabilitation of the existing boat launch, and signage and plant beds marking trail entrances. The work will also include renovations to the Field Office building for future programming, however this work is considered routine maintenance and therefore is not subject to MEPA review.

At the Martini Shell Park, a new stabilized stone dust Secondary Trail will be constructed to provide a scenic route along the river's edge. The trail will connect to a proposed new non-motorized boat launch and two wood deck overlook areas with seating. Additional improvements proposed for the park include the re-grading of the oval lawn in front of the Martini Shell to accommodate a larger audience, new benches around the Martini Shell, re-surfaced pathways, new park signage, and riparian buffer planting along the railroad and the adjacent Stop and Shop property line. Low plant beds are proposed to mark the entrances to the park at both entrances to the Secondary Trail. Improvements to the Martini Shell structure are also proposed to renovate the exterior of the structure and to allow for use of existing rear rooms that are currently in disrepair and inaccessible. As with the Field Office, this work is routine maintenance and is not subject to MEPA review.

(b) Alternatives for the Phase II Master Plan reflects public participation and input received throughout the planning process. The public process was carried out over the course of five months. Three public meetings were held:

- March 8, 2006: Public Meeting to discuss Existing Conditions Inventory & Analysis
- April 26, 2006: Public Meeting to discuss Master Plan Alternatives
- June 14, 2006: Public Meeting to discuss Recommended Master Plan

A newsletter summarizing the project progress was widely distributed prior to each meeting.

Alternative primary, secondary, and tertiary trail alignments were evaluated based on topography, environmental constraints, conservation value of undeveloped land, property ownership, and existing informal pathways. Alternate trail locations within each section of the Reservation are discussed within Chapter III of the Phase II Master Plan. Master Plan alternatives were presented and discussed at a public meeting on April 26, 2006. Comments from the meeting are included on pp. A-4 to A-5 of the Phase II Master Plan.

Several areas of the Phase II Master Plan area, most notably from Mattapan Square to Central Avenue, were identified for further study to refine the preferred alternative. This area involves a pedestrian crossing of the River connecting to trails in one of the largest consolidated open spaces in the Masterplan area. As there have been conflicting community visions for this segment and no design or funding in place, review of improvements is

expected to be presented in a future Notice of Project Change (“NPC”). Said NPC would also include the Greenway section between Paul’s Bridge and the Martini Shell. This section has not gone under final design as due to anticipated construction at the Truman Highway Stop & Shop, property constraints and complications related to mitigation or reduction of vegetated wetland impacts. Likewise secondary and tertiary Greenway diversions and the primary segment from Dana Avenue through the residential section by Fairmont Avenue, have yet to be designed and lack funding for construction. Collectively, the un-funded project components discussed in this paragraph are referred to as Phase IIB in this document.

Alternative alignments of the Phase IIA Greenway considered included the removal or partial removal of the median on Truman Parkway to accommodate the Greenway’s expansion into Truman Parkway. This alternative was dismissed because it involved altering a historic, Olmstead-era parkway. The Greenway alignment was slightly modified from the Master Plan document during the design phase to minimize the elimination of public shade trees along the parkway.

The preferred alternative under this ENF is to permit and construct those portions of the project for which consensus and funding is in place. That being the Phase IIA Greenway which will extend along Truman Parkway from the Stop and Shop located at 1025 Truman Highway in Hyde Park to Mattapan Square, Field House Park improvements, and Martini Shell Park improvements.

(c) Mitigation for the proposed Phase II Master Plan includes construction phase erosion and sedimentation control, replanting trees or to replace those to be removed (other than invasive or noxious trees), new landscaping and functional circulation in the park areas. A post-construction maintenance plan for trash pick up, debris removal, and snow management will be developed and implemented. New impervious areas will require stormwater management system implementation and future Greenway segments in vegetated wetland will require replication or improvements to offset impacts. Stormwater management will be provided in accordance with DEP’s Stormwater Management Standards.

The Phase IIA Greenway design incorporates a 2-foot wide infiltration trench along the length of the pathway that will provide stormwater treatment, groundwater recharge, and attenuation. Overflow from the trenches will overtop the curb and flow through existing catch basins located within the roadway that outlet to the Neponset River at multiple locations. The proposed Phase IIA Greenway also results in a reduction in the amount of impervious surfaces subject to vehicular traffic, reducing the overall pollutant load.

Appropriate mitigation for unavoidable wetland impacts will be provided in accordance with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Section 401 and 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. Wetland replication areas will be designed to compensate for any wetland impacts associated with future components of the Phase II Master Plan. The Phase IIA Greenway and park improvements will not result in any direct impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The Phase IIB Greenway will be designed to avoid impacts to wetlands through the use of existing informal footpaths and bridges or boardwalks to span wetlands where avoidance is not practicable.