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To: Kevin Beuttell  
Boston (Causeway St), MA Office

From: Lori Benoit  
Northampton, MA Office

File: 210801455

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**Reference: Wetlands Delineation  
Reservation Road Park, Hyde Park (Boston), MA**

On Thursday, April 20, 2017, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) conducted a site visit to the Reservation Road Park, located in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston, Massachusetts, to delineate wetlands and waterways subject to protection under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and regulations (WPA; 310 CMR 10.00), and Sections 401 and 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). This memorandum describes the areas included in the wetland delineation (Study Area), the wetland delineation field methods, and provides a summary of field-delineated waterways and jurisdictional natural resource boundaries identified within the Study Area.

## **GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION**

The Study Area is bounded to the east by a commuter rail line, by a commercial property to the south, and to the west and north by Mother Brook, a perennial watercourse that borders the sides of the Study Area. Approximately two-thirds of the Study Area consists of developed lands including parking areas, an athletic field, and a skateboard park. The southern portion of the Study Area, south of Reservation Road, is characterized by an undeveloped forested area.

Mother Brook flows north along the western limit of the Study Area for approximately 1,000 feet before passing under Reservation Road and turning northeast and east to flow under the rail line. The slopes leading to Mother Brook as well as the undeveloped southern portion of the Study Area, are dominated by invasive species, including black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.). Native species observed include black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Web Soil Survey maps for the Study Area identify the soil type within the Study Area as wet substratum Udorthents (disturbed soils where the upper material has been removed, filled, or graded), with 0 to 3 percent slopes.

## **WETLAND DELINEATION METHODS**

The wetland delineation was conducted using the methodologies outlined in the WPA, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's (MassDEP) Delineating Bordering Vegetated Wetlands Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act: A Handbook; the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual; and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0, January 2012). The boundaries of field-delineated jurisdictional wetland resources identified within the Study Area were flagged with sequentially labeled flagging tape.

**Reference: Wetlands Delineation**

**The Rivers School, Weston, MA**

**DESCRIPTION OF FIELD-DELINEATED RESOURCE AREAS**

Jurisdictional boundaries delineated by Stantec include inland Bank and Mean Annual High Water Line (MAHWL) associated with Mother Brook. Field-delineated jurisdictional areas are described in the following sections. Representative site photographs are provided in Attachment A.

**INLAND BANK/MEAN ANNUAL HIGH WATER LINE OF MOTHER BROOK**

Blue wetland flags A-1 through A-57 delineate inland Bank and the MAHWL of Mother Brook, which are coincident within the Study Area. Limits of Bank/MAHWL were identified by observation of one or more field characteristics such as water-stained leaves, an abrupt break in slope, and lack of vegetation near the water's edge. Pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act regulations, Buffer Zone associated with Bank of Mother Brook extends 100 feet landward from the A-series flags.

**OTHER RESOURCE AREAS**

**RIVERFRONT AREA**

Mother Brook is shown as perennial on the current United States Geological Survey map for the Study Area. Pursuant to the WPA regulations, Riverfront Area extends 25 feet landward from the MAHWL as delineated by the A-series flagging. The outer limits of Riverfront Area were not delineated in the field.

**BORDERING LAND SUBJECT TO FLOODING (BLSF)**

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps on the MassGIS website, the limit of 100-year flooding (i.e., Bordering Land Subject to Flooding; BLSF) within the Study Area is shown as a narrow band, ranging from approximately 10-50 feet wide, located along Mother Brook, south of Reservation Road. The 100-year flood zone does not appear to occur within the portion of the the Study Area north of the crossing of Reservation Road over Mother Brook. The regulated floodway, zone AE, appears to be largely coincident with the field delineated limit of Bank/MAHWL of the brook. The limits of BLSF were not delineated in the field.

Sincerely,

**Stantec Consulting Services Inc.**



Lori Benoit, Ph.D.  
Project Manager, Environmental Services  
Phone: (413) 387-4516  
Lori.Benoit@stantec.com

Attachment: Site Photographs  
c. Simon Hildt - Stantec