

September 3, 2021

Nicholas Moreno
Executive Director
Boston Conservation Commission
One City Hall Square, Room 709
Boston, MA 02201

Re: **2021 Annual Invasive Species Report**

Dear Mr. Moreno:

On behalf of our client, Head of the Charles Regatta (HOCR), and at your recommendation, Weston & Sampson is submitting this 2021 Annual Invasive Species Report of recent and proposed activities at Reunion Village. This year the report is provided in the form of a brief letter as the COVID-19 Pandemic has precluded normal activities over much of the last 18 months.

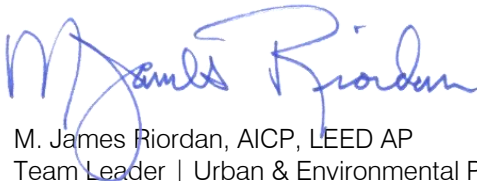
In 2020, the Regatta was held remotely, meaning that participants competed on a timed basis from their home waterbodies and did not gather at the Charles River; therefore, no late-season cutting or treatment was performed at Reunion Village last year. The Reunion Village site was monitored for invasive vegetation in July 2020. False indigo bush was observed to account for approximately 10% of vegetation. Purple loosestrife was observed to account for 1% of vegetation. This level of invasive vegetation presence is just at the threshold for intervention. In prior years, volunteer events to cut back invasive plants had been conducted; however, the pandemic made this unsafe in 2020. HOCR's funding became constrained due to the pandemic and did not allow for cut-and-dab treatment by a licensed applicator. No herbicide application was performed.

Plans and funding for the 2021 Regatta have remained uncertain through the spring and summer; however, recently, an in-person Regatta has been scheduled for October 22 – 24, 2021. To prepare Reunion Village for the event, HOCR plans to conduct field monitoring of the previously cut areas at Reunion Village. This is planned for September 13. HOCR requests that Boston Conservation Commission (the "Commission") allows maintenance cutting and treatment of invasive species of the previously cut areas at Reunion Village (i.e., no expansion of cutting) in accordance with the *Vegetation Management Plan for Head of the Charles Regatta Reunion Village Hospitality Area* (2018), which was approved by the Commission in May 2018. We understand that an informational discussion of activities at Reunion Village will be on the Boston Conservation Commission September 15, 2021 Hearing Agenda and we are looking forward to reviewing HOCR's plans with you at that time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly should you have any questions. I can be reached at 401-497-6705 or riordanj@wseinc.com.

Sincerely,

WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC.



M. James Riordan, AICP, LEED AP
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