



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

PUBLIC NOTICE

Comment Period Begins: August 7, 2018
Comment Period Ends: September 7, 2018
File Number: NAE-2012-2550
In Reply Refer To: Paul Sneeringer
Phone: (978) 318-8491
E-mail: paul.j.sneeringer@usace.army.mil

The District Engineer has received a permit application to discharge dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, associated with the Mill River from the Smith College Facilities Management Office, 126 West Street, Northampton, Massachusetts 01063. This work is proposed within Paradise Pond and in downstream reaches of the Mill River adjacent to College Lane in Northampton, Massachusetts. The Paradise Pond site mid-coordinates are: Latitude 42.318476 N Longitude – 72.641790 W.

Smith College has requested that the Corps authorize Section 404 discharges associated with their 10-year sediment management plan for the in-river Paradise Pond (Mill River). Sediment from upstream areas of the Mill River watershed normally accumulate in the pond. Smith College's goal for this sediment management plan is to maintain at least a 2-foot minimum normal pool depth throughout Paradise Pond in order to support existing recreational and academic uses.

As part of this plan, Smith College proposes to dewater the 9.4 acre Paradise Pond up to once a year and to redistribute bottom sediments to areas where they can be more easily transported (sluiced) downstream. The applicant has requested to access areas throughout the entire pond during bottom sediment redistribution operations. Bottom sediments will be physically moved by bulldozers or excavators into adjacent primary channels (thalwegs) or non-mechanically sluiced to the plunge pool area downriver of the Paradise Pond dam. Equipment will access the pond from the existing boat ramp adjacent to the athletic fields.

Dewatering and refilling activities associated with the sediment redistribution operations are entirely dependent upon seasonal water levels within the Mill River. Smith College estimates that the total dewatering and refilling activities associated with sediment redistribution operations typically take 4-6+ weeks per event. The applicant is requesting authorization to complete sediment redistribution operations during the time periods between October and May of any year.

In addition, Smith College proposes to open the Paradise Pond Dam low-flow outlet during periods of high flow (over 200 cfs) to promote the downstream sluicing of accumulated bottom sediments. High flow events of this scope occur approximately 20-30 times a year. Utilizing this sediment management plan, Smith College estimates that they can sluice between 1,500 and 3,000 cubic yards of bottom sediment from Paradise Pond per year. The applicant proposes to continue sediment and biological (freshwater mussel, dragonfly, and macroinvertebrate) monitoring studies of Paradise Pond and downriver areas over the course of this 10-year authorization period.

The work is shown on the attached plans entitled "PARADISE POND SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT NORTHAMPTON, MA," on a total of five sheets, and dated "MAY 2017" and revised "JUNE 2018".

In developing this sediment management plan, Smith College has worked to limit the scope of proposed sluicing operations so that it is in line with normal expected annual downriver sediment distribution quantities. The Corps is still evaluating if additional compensatory mitigation is required for this sediment sluicing project.

AUTHORITY

Permits are required pursuant to:

_____ Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899

XX Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

_____ Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (Corps), is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. The Corps will consider all comments received to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Essential Fish Habitat describes waters and substrate necessary for fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity. The District Engineer has made a preliminary determination that project specific EFH adverse effects will not be substantial. Further consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding EFH conservation recommendations is being conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work may impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfil requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION

The Corps has reviewed the application for the potential impact on Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and their designated critical habitat pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. It is our preliminary determination that the proposed activity for which authorization is being sought is designed, situated or will be operated/used in such a manner that it is not likely to adversely affect a listed species or their critical habitat. We are coordinating with the NMFS and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on listed species under their jurisdiction and the ESA consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision.

The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (XX) Permit, license or assent from State.
- (XX) Permit from local wetland agency or conservation commission.
- (XX) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

COMMENTS

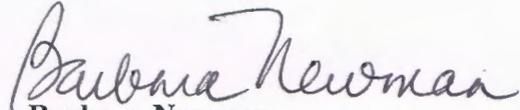
In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Paul Sneeringer at (978) 318-8491, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

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The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



Barbara Newman
Chief, Permits and Enforcement Branch
Regulatory Division

If you would prefer not to continue receiving Public Notices by email, please contact Ms. Tina Chaisson at (978) 318-8058 or e-mail her at bettina.m.chaisson@usace.army.mil. You may also check here () and return this portion of the Public Notice to: Bettina Chaisson, Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____



SITE LOCATION MAP

SCALE: 1"=2,000'

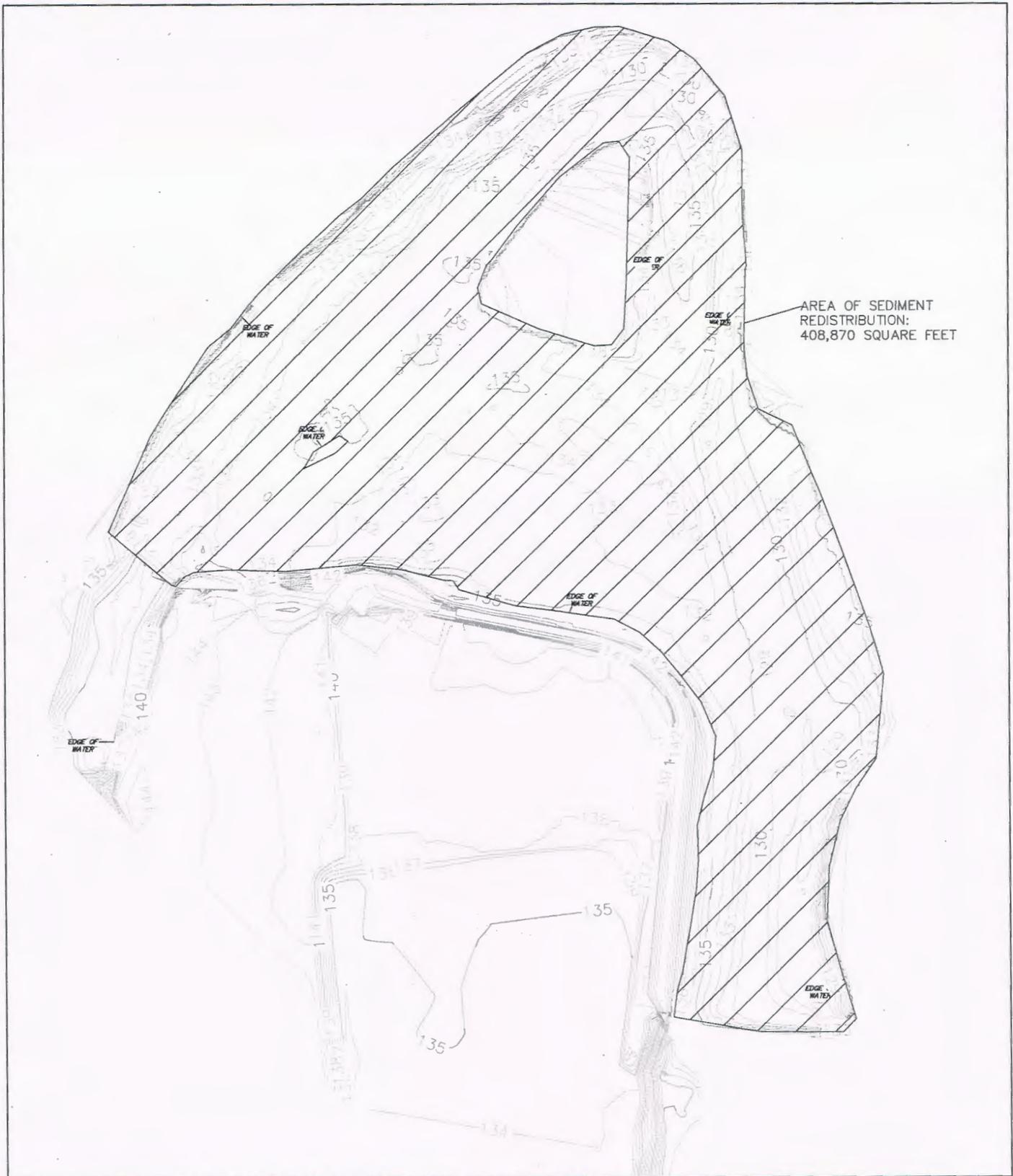


8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
(401) 334-4100



10 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 210
FOXBORO, MA 02035
(508) 543-1755

FIGURE 1
PARADISE POND AT SMITH COLLEGE
NORTHAMPTON, MA



AREA OF SEDIMENT
REDISTRIBUTION:
408,870 SQUARE FEET



PARE CORPORATION
ENGINEERS - SCIENTISTS - PLANNERS
8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
401-334-4100

PROJECT NO. 12148.00

DATE: MAY 2017

PARADISE POND
LIMITS OF SEDIMENT REDISTRIBUTION

SMITH COLLEGE

NORTHAMPTON, MA



CONSTRUCTION ACCESS LOCATION PLAN

SCALE: 1"=200'



8 BLACKSTONE VALLEY PLACE
LINCOLN, RI 02865
(401) 334-4100

10 LINCOLN ROAD, SUITE 210
FOXBORO, MA 02035
(508) 543-1755

PARE PROJECT No. 12148.01

MAY 2018

PARADISE POND
SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT
NORTHAMPTON, MA



Photo 1 – Plunge Pool



Photo 2 – Plunge Pool





**PARADISE POND
SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT**
NORTHAMPTON, MA

REVISIONS

PROJECT NO. 12148.01
 DATE: JUNE 2018
 SCALE: AS SHOWN
 DESIGNED BY: _____
 CHECKED BY: _____
 DRAWN BY: _____
 APPROVED BY: _____
 DRAWING TITLE:
POND VOLUME SURVEY
 DRAWING NO.: _____
 SHEET NO. 1 OF 2

