

Yankee Engineer

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Building Strong



**District Team, Volunteers celebrate National
Public Lands Day**
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Yankee Voices



Hanscom Resident Office Team

Follow these tips for workstation safety

Most of us spend a lot of time at the computer—and that puts us at risk for injuries to the neck, back, and arms. Every so often then, it's worthwhile to review some basic precautions for working safely:

Use a chair with a seat height, angle of recline, and tilt that can be adjusted.

- Place your feet flat on the floor (preferable) or flat on a footrest.
- Hold your wrists as straight as possible, rather than angled sharply up, down, or to the side.
- Place the monitor directly in front of you, so you look straight at it, rather than having to twist your neck toward the screen.
- Position the monitor 18 to 28 inches from your eyes. Set the height of the monitor so that its top is approximately an inch below your eye level.
- Place the items you use frequently (such as pens, reference books, etc.) near you, so you don't have to stretch or twist to reach them.
- Adjust your lighting to reduce glare on your work surface or the monitor.

(First Draft Magazine)

Corps awards contract for service bridge painting, repairs to the Knightville Dam

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

Service Bridge painting and repairs to the Knightville Dam in Huntington, Massachusetts, will be completed under the terms of a \$295,000 contract recently awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Work will be accomplished by P.S. Bruckel, Inc. of Avon, New York. The contract was awarded on Sept. 18. Once a notice to proceed is issued by the Corps of Engineers, work will be authorized to start. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2019 and will extend over two months.

Work involves constructing a suspended scaffolding system and containment system for the service bridge; removing the existing paint system from all steel substructure elements and bearing points by an abrasive blasting technique; and applying a primer and two top coats of a coating system to the steel substructure elements and bearing points.

Work also includes tightening and/or moving back into place any loose cables on the underneath side of the deck; removing the existing paint and then repainting the expansion joint cover plates; removing and replacing the sealant at the contraction joints; removing paint that is on the gatehouse front door and frame; applying a primer and two top coats of a coating system on the outside of the gatehouse door and frame; and removing and replacing the chain link gate and gate support and hinge elements in place across the service road where it intersects the dam crest road.

The project will be managed by the Corps of Engineers under the supervision of a Corps' Quality Assurance Representative to assure compliance with contract requirements.

Knightville Dam, on the Westfield River in Huntington, was constructed at a cost of \$3.3 million. The 1,200-foot-long, 150-foot-high dam can impound a 49,000-acre-foot reservoir (equivalent to 15.8 billion gallons of water). Since its construction in 1941, it has prevented damages of \$338 million. More than 41,000 visitors enjoy the variety of recreational pursuits available at Knightville, including picnicking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding and cross country skiing and snowmobiling in season. For up-to-date recreation information call (413) 667-3430 or visit the website at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/Knightville-Dam/>.





Photos by Brian Murphy

Col. William Conde (left) joins school and base officials in cutting the ribbon on the new primary school. Above: The playground at the new primary school.

New England District, customer, cut ribbon on new primary school

Children who attend school on Hanscom Air Force Base (HAFB) in Bedford, Massachusetts now have a brand new school, courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Col. William Conde, New England District Engineer; Col. Chad Ellsworth, Installation Commander at Hanscom Air Force Base; J&J Contractors, Stephen Donley, Facilities Chief for the Department of Defense Education Activity and members of the Lincoln Public Schools cut the ribbon on the new primary school located on the HAFB, Oct. 2. About 450 students age kindergarten through 3rd grade will go to the school, which is operated by the Lincoln Public School System.

J&J Contractors of Lowell, Massachusetts constructed the 80,000 sq. ft., multi-story structure replacing the antiquated 52,637 sq. ft. existing school. Work on the \$37 million project began on March 16, 2017 and was completed on Aug. 16, 2019. Despite the tight deadline, the project was completed on time and within budget, allowing the children to start the 2019 school year in the new building. The contractor worked closely with the New England District's Hanscom Resident Office during construction. "This project consisted of demolishing the old primary school and constructing the new primary school," said Project Manager Robert Leitch. "The new primary school was constructed adjacent to and

physically connected to the recently constructed Middle School Building, creating the HAFB school complex."

According to Leitch, the new school has 21st Century school concepts such as learning neighborhoods, central hubs surrounded by learning studios, flex labs, an information center annex, food service area, supply areas, specialist rooms, art room, music room, a common area for dining and social networking, therapy rooms, teacher work areas, counseling areas, storage, administrative offices and other required areas.

The students will discover some unique learning opportunities in their new school. "As part of the school 'complex,' there is a working windmill, a vegetated green roof and solar panels incorporated as teaching tools," said Leitch.

According to the project manager, the project also included parking areas, mechanical rooms, delivery areas, playgrounds, fencing, paving, landscaping and exterior lights.

Representatives from the offices of Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Sen. Edward Markey, U.S. Rep. Seth Moulton and U.S. Rep. Katherine Clark all attended the ceremony.

New England District's Hanscom Primary Middle School team were Jim Conway, Steve Chase, Justin Lecuyer, Emily Pottier, Paul Paris, Mark Walsh, Wendy Sylvia, Michelle O'Donoghue, Cesar Lopez, Tom Boutilier, Joanne Burnham, Susan MacDonald and Robert Leitch.



Volunteers scour the banks of the Cape Cod Canal looking for trash during National Public Lands Day.

Photo by Elisa Carey.

District, volunteers celebrates National Public Lands Day

Team members from four of New England District's projects celebrated National Public Lands Day (NPLD) with cleanup activities that celebrated land stewardship and volunteerism. Hundreds of people gathered at the Cape Cod Canal, West Hill Dam, Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam, all located in Massachusetts, to participate in the project's events.

The Cape Cod Canal team hosted their Canal Cleanup event, Sept. 28. About 155 volunteers, 125 of whom were students from local schools, came out to participate. The Canal team and the volunteers removed 155 pounds of trash from the Canal. "This is our second year hosting a National Public Lands Day Canal Cleanup," said Park Ranger Elisa Carey. "All of the trash that we collected was sorted and weighed. The data collected from the cleanup will be combined with data collected from other cleanups held at the Canal this year and used to create an educational display."

Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam hosted their 26th annual National Public Lands Day event, Sept.

28. "Seventy-four volunteers, and nine Park Rangers were joined by all nine park hosts who stayed on a little longer to serve as team leaders," said NPLD organizer Jamie Kordack.

The volunteers worked on 11 projects in three areas – Hodges Village, Buffumville and Buffumville

Park. Projects at Hodges Village included installing posts and tee signs and removing invasives from Greenbriar Park. Volunteers made repairs to the Wellington Bridge and upgraded the Augguteback Picnic Area with wood chips and mulch. At Buffumville, workers picked up trash,



Photos by Jamie Kordack

A team of volunteers install an Impact Trail with pea stone at Buffumville Lake.

reblazed and performed lopper work on the Buffumville Trail and installed an impact trail with pea stone.

Buffumville Park saw many improvements during NPLD. The volunteers spray painted grills, overhauled the main staircase and stained the park barn. Boy Scout Troops from Blackstone, Auburn and Dudley as well as young people from Dudley, Auburn and Shepard Hill High Schools all came out to join the adults to make the improvements to Hodges Village and Buffumville Lake.

At West Hill Dam, Boy and Girl Scouts made up many of the 25 volunteers that headed out to the project Sept. 21 to do cleanup work. A troop of Girls Scouts worked on their Silver Award by removing two truckloads of Oriental Bittersweet from the park. Eagle Candidate Joshua Pinoos, along with 12 volunteers, constructed and installed cement footings and dug holes for frost and required wildlife usage depth for his project. Eagle Candidate Hayden Page and his team of 10, constructed a Water Safety USACE-Foundation Corn Hole Game for shelter use groups and ranger programs, complete with stenciling of Corps Water Safety messages. Page and his team also constructed and installed four worn and/or damaged Blue Bird houses, and constructed a wheelchair, youth and adult accessible life jacket loan station for West Hill Park to be installed in spring.

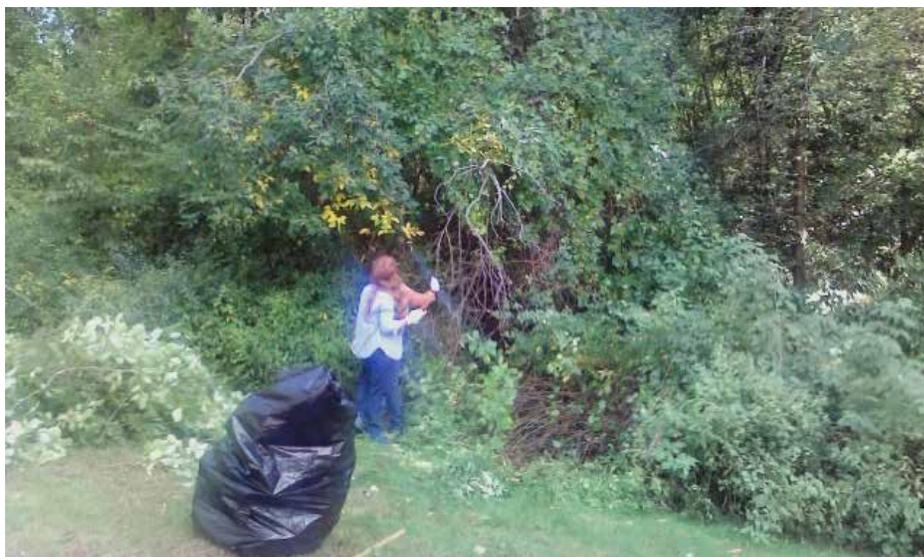
According to the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF), this year over 156,000 people—up 38-percent from last year—participated in volunteer activities at more than 2,000 public lands sites in 49 states, including Puerto Rico and Washington, DC, for the 26th annual NPLD.

National Public Lands Day is the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort for America's public lands.



Volunteers attach Wood Duck Boxes at West Hill Dam during NPLD.

Photo by Joshua Pinoos



Girl Scouts remove invasives from West Hill Dam during National Public Lands Day.

Photo by Viola Bramel



Photos by Jeff Mangum

A German Shepard takes down a suspect during training at Birch Hill Dam.

K-9s on the job during training exercise at Birch Hill Dam

New England District's Birch Hill Dam and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (MA DCR) hosted the Northeast Houndsman, Oct. 3 and 4 for a special training event.

About 20 K-9 officers brought their four legged partners for a tracking and trailing training session at the dam.

The officers, whose dogs were German Shepherds and bloodhounds, came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. Phillipston Sargent Bill Chapman served as the lead trainer and used the reservoir area of the dam for the training.

Park Rangers at the dam were able to watch one of the training exercises as it went on. "What Ranger Jon Cheney and I observed was a bloodhound and German Shepherd team working

together to find two police officers posing as suspects, one of whom had walked the property three days ago, meaning the dogs were following a

three-day old scent trail," said Project Manager Jeff Mangum.

According to Mangum, the dogs were given a bullet shell casing handled



K-9 officers get ready to take a bloodhound and German Shepard out for tracking and trailing training at Birch Hill Dam.

by the two suspects. "From that small piece of evidence they were able to follow the path of the suspects over miles of terrain," said Mangum.

The bloodhound alerted its trainer that one of the suspects was hiding in the woods near the Beaver Pond picnic area.

"The officers secured the bloodhound, then advanced with the German Shepherd who was released to take the suspect by the arm," said Mangum.

According to Mangum, once the first suspect was arrested, the bloodhound went on to find the second suspect by pawing him as he hid next to a log.

At the end of the training, the German Shepherd received toys and the bloodhound was rewarded with food. "The officers were very appreciative of the Army Corps of Engineers and the MADCR in allowing this training to occur on our property," said Mangum. "We have been happy to host them and strengthen our relationship with law enforcement."



A German Shepard tries to sniff out one of two suspects during the training.



A bloodhound is hot on the trail of the suspects during the tracking and trailing exercise.

Corps awards contract to dredge Cape Porpoise Harbor Federal Navigation Project in Kennebunkport

by **Timothy Dugan**
Public Affairs

Maintenance dredging of Cape Porpoise Harbor Federal Navigation Project in Kennebunkport, Maine, will be conducted under the terms of a \$1,677,500 contract issued recently by the New England District.

Work will be accomplished by Coastline Consulting and Development, LLC of Branford, Connecticut. The contract was awarded on Aug. 19.

Maintenance dredging of approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sandy and fine-grained material will be dredged from the 6-foot channel and 15-foot anchorage and channel and

placed at the Cape Arundel Disposal Site, located approximately 5 nautical miles from the harbor, according to Project Manager Coral Siligato.

The dredging operation is scheduled to take between two to four months to complete and occur between Nov. 1, 2019 and Feb. 28, 2020 to minimize impact to natural resources in the area.

Natural shoaling processes have reduced available depths to as little as 1.0 foot in the 15-foot Mean Low Water (MLLW) channel and anchorage, and 2.0 feet in the 6-foot MLLW channel, making navigation hazardous or impossible at lower stages of the tide.

The Corps' most recent dredging

of the harbor was in 1976 when a mechanical dredge removed approximately 123,000 cubic yards of sediment from the 15-foot channel, 15-foot anchorage, and 6-foot channel, and placed the material at the Cape Arundel Disposal Site.

For more information on the Cape Porpoise Harbor federal navigation project visit the website at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Navigation/Maine/Cape-Porpoise-Harbor/>.

A map is available at: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/Maine-Projects/>. Select Cape Porpoise Harbor.

Dredging up the past



Park Ranger Rick Magee (left) plays one of the ghouls haunting Buffumville Lake's gatehouse during the project's Haunted Dam Tour in October 2002.

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