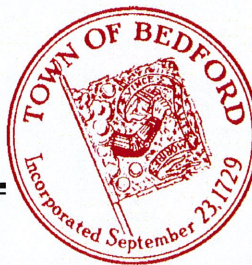


TOWN OF BEDFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



314 THE GREAT ROAD
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730
TEL: 781-275-7605
FAX: 781-275-9010

August 31, 2022

Jeffrey Summers, Conservation Administrator
Bedford Conservation Commission
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

RE: NOI – Proposed Trail Improvements to the Elm Brook CA Trail (16-B & 22 Railroad Avenue)

Dear Jeff and Commission Members,

Attached is a Notice of Intent package for proposed improvements to restore and repair the existing blue trail at the Elm Brook Conservation Area and Miller-Moore Conservation Restriction on the east side of the Mongo Brook. This permit application is being filed by both the Bedford Trails Committee and the Department of Public Works.


The permit package includes a site plan that depicts the proposed improvements to the trail, which includes removal of a rotted bog bridge, repairs to existing bridges including the addition of new planks to increase width, installation of one new bog bridge, and the addition of clean gravel and wood chips per details. Portions of the trail have exposed tree roots that have become tripping hazards due to compaction of the surrounding soils with increased use during the pandemic. The addition of wood chips, with some sections including a gravel base, will offer protection to the exposed roots and restore the original surface of the trail while increasing usability.

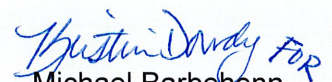
The existing trail and proposed improvements are located within jurisdictional areas including bordering vegetated wetland, bordering land subject to flooding, riverfront area, and the associated buffer zones.

The proposed project will not remove existing vegetation, with the exception of standard trail brushing to maintain the typical 4-ft wide access along the path. The existing bog bridges are narrower than the Committee's current standard bog bridge design, so the addition of a third plank, while utilizing the existing bases, will widen the bridges to provide a minimum 30-inch width.

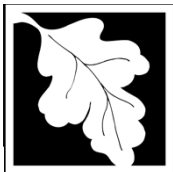
We look forward to the Commission's review of this request at the next scheduled public meeting.

Sincerely,


David Manugian
Public Works Director


Michael Barbehenn
Trails Committee Chair

cc: MassDEP Northeast Regional Office



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:
MassDEP File Number
Document Transaction Number
Bedford
City/Town

Important:
When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Note:
Before completing this form consult your local Conservation Commission regarding any municipal bylaw or ordinance.

A. General Information

1. Project Location (**Note:** electronic filers will click on button to locate project site):

<u>16B & 22 Railroad Avenue</u>	<u>Bedford</u>	<u>01730</u>
a. Street Address	b. City/Town	c. Zip Code
Latitude and Longitude:		
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
d. Latitude	e. Longitude	
<u></u>	<u></u>	
f. Assessors Map/Plat Number	g. Parcel /Lot Number	

2. Applicant:

<u>Town of Bedford Trails Committee & Department of Public Works</u>	<u></u>	
a. First Name	b. Last Name	
c. Organization		
<u>314 Great Road</u>		
d. Street Address		
<u>Bedford</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>01730</u>
e. City/Town	f. State	g. Zip Code
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
h. Phone Number	i. Fax Number	j. Email Address

3. Property owner (required if different from applicant): Check if more than one owner

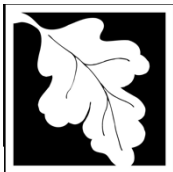
<u>Town of Bedford</u>	<u></u>	
a. First Name	b. Last Name	
c. Organization		
<u>10 Mudge Way</u>		
d. Street Address		
<u>Bedford</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>01730</u>
e. City/Town	f. State	g. Zip Code
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
h. Phone Number	i. Fax Number	j. Email address

4. Representative (if any):

<u>Michael</u>	<u>Sprague</u>	
a. First Name	b. Last Name	
<u>Town of Bedford Department of Public Works</u>		
c. Company		
<u>314 Great Road</u>		
d. Street Address		
<u>Bedford</u>	<u>MA</u>	<u>01730</u>
e. City/Town	f. State	g. Zip Code
<u>781-275-7605</u>	<u>781-275-9010</u>	<u>msprague@bedfordma.gov</u>
<u>x4256</u>	i. Fax Number	j. Email address

5. Total WPA Fee Paid (from NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form):

<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>	<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>	<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>
a. Total Fee Paid	b. State Fee Paid	c. City/Town Fee Paid



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:
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Bedford
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A. General Information (continued)

6. General Project Description:

The proposed project is to improve an existing trail to protect exposed tree roots and repair or modify existing bog bridges on Town-owned conservation land and within a conservation restriction. Portions of the existing trail are located within bordering vegetated wetland, riverfront area, bordering land subject to flooding, and associated state & local buffer zones.

7a. Project Type Checklist: (Limited Project Types see Section A. 7b.)

- 1. Single Family Home
- 2. Residential Subdivision
- 3. Commercial/Industrial
- 4. Dock/Pier
- 5. Utilities
- 6. Coastal engineering Structure
- 7. Agriculture (e.g., cranberries, forestry)
- 8. Transportation
- 9. Other

7b. Is any portion of the proposed activity eligible to be treated as a limited project (including Ecological Restoration Limited Project) subject to 310 CMR 10.24 (coastal) or 310 CMR 10.53 (inland)?

- 1. Yes No If yes, describe which limited project applies to this project. (See 310 CMR 10.24 and 10.53 for a complete list and description of limited project types)

2. Limited Project Type

If the proposed activity is eligible to be treated as an Ecological Restoration Limited Project (310 CMR10.24(8), 310 CMR 10.53(4)), complete and attach Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Limited Project Checklist and Signed Certification.

8. Property recorded at the Registry of Deeds for:

Middlesex South

a. County

Bk. 13394 & Bk. 26525

c. Book

b. Certificate # (if registered land)

Pg. 650 & Pg. 467

d. Page Number

B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent)

- 1. Buffer Zone Only – Check if the project is located only in the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Inland Bank, or Coastal Resource Area.
- 2. Inland Resource Areas (see 310 CMR 10.54-10.58; if not applicable, go to Section B.3, Coastal Resource Areas).

Check all that apply below. Attach narrative and any supporting documentation describing how the project will meet all performance standards for each of the resource areas altered, including standards requiring consideration of alternative project design or location.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands
WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:

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B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent) (cont'd)

For all projects affecting other Resource Areas, please attach a narrative explaining how the resource area was delineated.

Resource Area	Size of Proposed Alteration	Proposed Replacement (if any)
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Bank	1. linear feet	2. linear feet
b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bordering Vegetated Wetland	3,200 s.f. +/- 1. square feet	0 2. square feet
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways	1. square feet 3. cubic yards dredged	2. square feet

Resource Area	Size of Proposed Alteration	Proposed Replacement (if any)
d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bordering Land Subject to Flooding	3,000 s.f. +/- 1. square feet 620 c.f. +/- 3. cubic feet of flood storage lost	0 2. square feet 0 4. cubic feet replaced
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Isolated Land Subject to Flooding	1. square feet 2. cubic feet of flood storage lost	3. cubic feet replaced
f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riverfront Area	Elm Brook 1. Name of Waterway (if available) - specify coastal or inland	

2. Width of Riverfront Area (check one):

- 25 ft. - Designated Densely Developed Areas only
- 100 ft. - New agricultural projects only
- 200 ft. - All other projects

3. Total area of Riverfront Area on the site of the proposed project: 535,093 s.f. +/-
square feet

4. Proposed alteration of the Riverfront Area:

3,920 s.f. +/- 264 s.f. +/- 3,656 s.f. +/-
 a. total square feet b. square feet within 100 ft. c. square feet between 100 ft. and 200 ft.

- 5. Has an alternatives analysis been done and is it attached to this NOI? Yes No
- 6. Was the lot where the activity is proposed created prior to August 1, 1996? Yes No

3. Coastal Resource Areas: (See 310 CMR 10.25-10.35)

Note: for coastal riverfront areas, please complete **Section B.2.f.** above.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

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Provided by MassDEP:

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Bedford

City/Town

B. Buffer Zone & Resource Area Impacts (temporary & permanent) (cont'd)

Check all that apply below. Attach narrative and supporting documentation describing how the project will meet all performance standards for each of the resource areas altered, including standards requiring consideration of alternative project design or location.

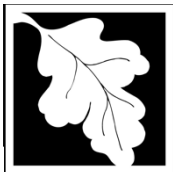
Online Users:
 Include your document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) with all supplementary information you submit to the Department.

<u>Resource Area</u>	<u>Size of Proposed Alteration</u>	<u>Proposed Replacement (if any)</u>
a. <input type="checkbox"/> Designated Port Areas	Indicate size under Land Under the Ocean, below	
b. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under the Ocean	_____	
	1. square feet	

	2. cubic yards dredged	
c. <input type="checkbox"/> Barrier Beach	Indicate size under Coastal Beaches and/or Coastal Dunes below	
d. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Beaches	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. cubic yards beach nourishment
e. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Dunes	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. cubic yards dune nourishment
	<u>Size of Proposed Alteration</u>	<u>Proposed Replacement (if any)</u>
f. <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Banks	_____	
	1. linear feet	
g. <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Intertidal Shores	_____	
	1. square feet	
h. <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Marshes	_____	_____
	1. square feet	2. sq ft restoration, rehab., creation
i. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Under Salt Ponds	_____	
	1. square feet	

	2. cubic yards dredged	
j. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Containing Shellfish	_____	
	1. square feet	
k. <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Runs	Indicate size under Coastal Banks, inland Bank, Land Under the Ocean, and/or inland Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways, above	

	1. cubic yards dredged	
l. <input type="checkbox"/> Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage	_____	
	1. square feet	
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration/Enhancement	If the project is for the purpose of restoring or enhancing a wetland resource area in addition to the square footage that has been entered in Section B.2.b or B.3.h above, please enter the additional amount here.	
	_____	_____
	a. square feet of BVW	b. square feet of Salt Marsh
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Project Involves Stream Crossings		
	_____	_____
	a. number of new stream crossings	b. number of replacement stream crossings



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:	
MassDEP File Number	_____
Document Transaction Number	_____
Bedford	_____
City/Town	_____

C. Other Applicable Standards and Requirements

- This is a proposal for an Ecological Restoration Limited Project. Skip Section C and complete Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Limited Project Checklists – Required Actions (310 CMR 10.11).

Streamlined Massachusetts Endangered Species Act/Wetlands Protection Act Review

- Is any portion of the proposed project located in **Estimated Habitat of Rare Wildlife** as indicated on the most recent Estimated Habitat Map of State-Listed Rare Wetland Wildlife published by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)? To view habitat maps, see the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas* or go to http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/PRI_EST_HAB/viewer.htm.

- a. Yes No **If yes, include proof of mailing or hand delivery of NOI to:**

**Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
1 Rabbit Hill Road
Westborough, MA 01581**

- August 1, 2021 _____
b. Date of map

If yes, the project is also subject to Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) review (321 CMR 10.18). To qualify for a streamlined, 30-day, MESA/Wetlands Protection Act review, please complete Section C.1.c, and include requested materials with this Notice of Intent (NOI); *OR* complete Section C.2.f, if applicable. *If MESA supplemental information is not included with the NOI, by completing Section 1 of this form, the NHESP will require a separate MESA filing which may take up to 90 days to review (unless noted exceptions in Section 2 apply, see below).*

- c. Submit Supplemental Information for Endangered Species Review*

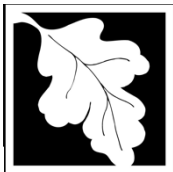
- Percentage/acreage of property to be altered:
 - (a) within wetland Resource Area _____ percentage/acreage
 - (b) outside Resource Area _____ percentage/acreage
- Assessor's Map or right-of-way plan of site

- Project plans for entire project site, including wetland resource areas and areas outside of wetlands jurisdiction, showing existing and proposed conditions, existing and proposed tree/vegetation clearing line, and clearly demarcated limits of work **
 - (a) Project description (including description of impacts outside of wetland resource area & buffer zone)
 - (b) Photographs representative of the site

* Some projects **not** in Estimated Habitat may be located in Priority Habitat, and require NHESP review (see <https://www.mass.gov/endangered-species-act-mesa-regulatory-review>).

Priority Habitat includes habitat for state-listed plants and strictly upland species not protected by the Wetlands Protection Act.

** MESA projects may not be segmented (321 CMR 10.16). The applicant must disclose full development plans even if such plans are not required as part of the Notice of Intent process.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:
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Bedford
City/Town

Online Users:
Include your document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) with all supplementary information you submit to the Department.

C. Other Applicable Standards and Requirements (cont'd)

- 4. Is any portion of the proposed project within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?
 a. Yes No If yes, provide name of ACEC (see instructions to WPA Form 3 or MassDEP Website for ACEC locations). **Note:** electronic filers click on Website.
 b. ACEC

- 5. Is any portion of the proposed project within an area designated as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) as designated in the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards, 314 CMR 4.00?
 a. Yes No
- 6. Is any portion of the site subject to a Wetlands Restriction Order under the Inland Wetlands Restriction Act (M.G.L. c. 131, § 40A) or the Coastal Wetlands Restriction Act (M.G.L. c. 130, § 105)?
 a. Yes No
- 7. Is this project subject to provisions of the MassDEP Stormwater Management Standards?
 a. Yes. Attach a copy of the Stormwater Report as required by the Stormwater Management Standards per 310 CMR 10.05(6)(k)-(q) and check if:
 - 1. Applying for Low Impact Development (LID) site design credits (as described in Stormwater Management Handbook Vol. 2, Chapter 3)
 - 2. A portion of the site constitutes redevelopment
 - 3. Proprietary BMPs are included in the Stormwater Management System.
 b. No. Check why the project is exempt:
 - 1. Single-family house
 - 2. Emergency road repair
 - 3. Small Residential Subdivision (less than or equal to 4 single-family houses or less than or equal to 4 units in multi-family housing project) with no discharge to Critical Areas.

D. Additional Information

- This is a proposal for an Ecological Restoration Limited Project. Skip Section D and complete Appendix A: Ecological Restoration Notice of Intent – Minimum Required Documents (310 CMR 10.12).

Applicants must include the following with this Notice of Intent (NOI). See instructions for details.

Online Users: Attach the document transaction number (provided on your receipt page) for any of the following information you submit to the Department.

- 1. USGS or other map of the area (along with a narrative description, if necessary) containing sufficient information for the Conservation Commission and the Department to locate the site. (Electronic filers may omit this item.)
- 2. Plans identifying the location of proposed activities (including activities proposed to serve as a Bordering Vegetated Wetland [BVW] replication area or other mitigating measure) relative to the boundaries of each affected resource area.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Provided by MassDEP:	
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Document Transaction Number	
Bedford	
City/Town	

D. Additional Information (cont'd)

- 3. Identify the method for BVW and other resource area boundary delineations (MassDEP BVW Field Data Form(s), Determination of Applicability, Order of Resource Area Delineation, etc.), and attach documentation of the methodology.
- 4. List the titles and dates for all plans and other materials submitted with this NOI.

<u>Proposed Trail Improvements - Elm Brook Conservation Area Trail</u>	
a. Plan Title	
<u>Bedford Department of Public Works</u>	
b. Prepared By	c. Signed and Stamped by
<u>August 2022</u>	<u>1 inch = 100 feet</u>
d. Final Revision Date	e. Scale
<u>Details and Site Photographs</u>	
f. Additional Plan or Document Title	g. Date
	<u>August 2022</u>
- 5. If there is more than one property owner, please attach a list of these property owners not listed on this form.
- 6. Attach proof of mailing for Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, if needed.
- 7. Attach proof of mailing for Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, if needed.
- 8. Attach NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form
- 9. Attach Stormwater Report, if needed.

E. Fees

- 1. Fee Exempt: No filing fee shall be assessed for projects of any city, town, county, or district of the Commonwealth, federally recognized Indian tribe housing authority, municipal housing authority, or the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Applicants must submit the following information (in addition to pages 1 and 2 of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form) to confirm fee payment:

<u>2. Municipal Check Number</u>	<u>3. Check date</u>
<u>4. State Check Number</u>	<u>5. Check date</u>
<u>6. Payor name on check: First Name</u>	<u>7. Payor name on check: Last Name</u>



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands

Provided by MassDEP:

WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent

Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

MassDEP File Number

Document Transaction Number

Bedford

City/Town

F. Signatures and Submittal Requirements

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing Notice of Intent and accompanying plans, documents, and supporting data are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the Conservation Commission will place notification of this Notice in a local newspaper at the expense of the applicant in accordance with the wetlands regulations, 310 CMR 10.05(5)(a).

I further certify under penalties of perjury that all abutters were notified of this application, pursuant to the requirements of M.G.L. c. 131, § 40. Notice must be made by Certificate of Mailing or in writing by hand delivery or certified mail (return receipt requested) to all abutters within 100 feet of the property line of the project location.

1. Signature of Applicant

2. Date

3. Signature of Property Owner (if different)

4. Date

5. Signature of Representative (if any)

6. Date

8/31/22

For Conservation Commission:

Two copies of the completed Notice of Intent (Form 3), including supporting plans and documents, two copies of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form, and the city/town fee payment, to the Conservation Commission by certified mail or hand delivery.

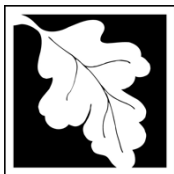
For MassDEP:

One copy of the completed Notice of Intent (Form 3), including supporting plans and documents, one copy of the NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form, and a **copy** of the state fee payment to the MassDEP Regional Office (see Instructions) by certified mail or hand delivery.

Other:

If the applicant has checked the "yes" box in any part of Section C, Item 3, above, refer to that section and the Instructions for additional submittal requirements.

The original and copies must be sent simultaneously. Failure by the applicant to send copies in a timely manner may result in dismissal of the Notice of Intent.



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands
NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

Important: When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



A. Applicant Information

1. Location of Project:

16B & 22 Railroad Avenue Bedford
 a. Street Address b. City/Town
 Fee exempt
 c. Check number d. Fee amount

2. Applicant Mailing Address:

Bedford Trails Committee
 c. Organization
 314 Great Road
 d. Mailing Address
 Bedford MA 01730
 e. City/Town f. State g. Zip Code
 781-275-7605 781-275-9010 kdowdy@bedfordma.gov
 h. Phone Number i. Fax Number j. Email Address

3. Property Owner (if different):

Town of Bedford
 c. Organization
 10 Mudge Way
 d. Mailing Address
 Bedford MA 01730
 e. City/Town f. State g. Zip Code
 h. Phone Number i. Fax Number j. Email Address

B. Fees

Fee should be calculated using the following process & worksheet. **Please see Instructions before filling out worksheet.**

Step 1/Type of Activity: Describe each type of activity that will occur in wetland resource area and buffer zone.

Step 2/Number of Activities: Identify the number of each type of activity.

Step 3/Individual Activity Fee: Identify each activity fee from the six project categories listed in the instructions.

Step 4/Subtotal Activity Fee: Multiply the number of activities (identified in Step 2) times the fee per category (identified in Step 3) to reach a subtotal fee amount. Note: If any of these activities are in a Riverfront Area in addition to another Resource Area or the Buffer Zone, the fee per activity should be multiplied by 1.5 and then added to the subtotal amount.

Step 5/Total Project Fee: Determine the total project fee by adding the subtotal amounts from Step 4.

Step 6/Fee Payments: To calculate the state share of the fee, divide the total fee in half and subtract \$12.50. To calculate the city/town share of the fee, divide the total fee in half and add \$12.50.

To calculate filing fees, refer to the category fee list and examples in the instructions for filling out WPA Form 3 (Notice of Intent).



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
 Bureau of Resource Protection - Wetlands
NOI Wetland Fee Transmittal Form
 Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act M.G.L. c. 131, §40

B. Fees (continued)

Step 1/Type of Activity	Step 2/Number of Activities	Step 3/Individual Activity Fee	Step 4/Subtotal Activity Fee

Step 5/Total Project Fee: _____

Step 6/Fee Payments:

Total Project Fee:	<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>
	a. Total Fee from Step 5
State share of filing Fee:	<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>
	b. 1/2 Total Fee less \$12.50
City/Town share of filing Fee:	<u>FEE EXEMPT</u>
	c. 1/2 Total Fee plus \$12.50

C. Submittal Requirements

- a.) Complete pages 1 and 2 and send with a check or money order for the state share of the fee, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Department of Environmental Protection
 Box 4062
 Boston, MA 02211

- b.) **To the Conservation Commission:** Send the Notice of Intent or Abbreviated Notice of Intent; a **copy** of this form; and the city/town fee payment.

To MassDEP Regional Office (see Instructions): Send a copy of the Notice of Intent or Abbreviated Notice of Intent; a **copy** of this form; and a **copy** of the state fee payment. (E-filers of Notices of Intent may submit these electronically.)

NOTICE OF INTENT

Submitted to the Bedford Conservation Commission
Under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act
and
the Bedford Wetlands Protection By-law
for
Proposed Trail Improvements
at
16B Railroad Avenue (Elm Brook Conservation Area)
22 Railroad Avenue (Miller-Moore Conservation Restriction)
Bedford, Massachusetts

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Documents: Cover Letter
Wetlands Protection Act Form 3—Notice of Intent
Project Narrative

Attachments: USGS Locus Map
GIS Base Plan
Abutter Notification
Trail Cross-Sections
Bog Bridge Details
Trail Photographs

AUGUST 2022

PROJECT NARRATIVE

1.0 Project Summary

The Bedford Trails Committee, with assistance from the Department of Public Works, is proposing trail improvements along the existing blue trail within the Elm Brook Conservation Area and the Miller-Moore Conservation Restriction located at 16B and 22 Railroad Avenue in Bedford. The existing trail begins at the intersection with the Reformatory Branch Trail and follows the Mongo Brook south and the Elm Brook east, before circling counter-clockwise back to the start. The existing trail sections along the rivers are in excellent condition and benefit from regular trail brushing maintenance activities. The section of trail that moves away from the rivers has sections that need various trail improvements. The surface of the trail has become degraded due to soil compaction, which has led to an increase in exposed tree roots that need protection and are also creating tripping hazards to trail users. The existing bog bridges are also in need of varying upgrades.

As shown on the attached plans, the proposed improvements to the existing trail to protect the exposed tree roots includes the addition of 2-inch depth wood chips along sections of trail with smaller tree roots; or the addition of 2-inch depth clean gravel with 1-inch depth wood chips for sections of trail with larger exposed tree roots. The bog bridge improvements include removal of one rotted bog bridge (no longer needed), the addition of one new bog bridge, rehabilitation of an existing bog bridge to lengthen and widen, and widening of the remaining bog bridges to a minimum 30-inch width, while utilizing the existing 48-inch base. As shown in the attached photographs, a majority of the bog bridges have two 10-inch wide planks on a 4-ft wide base, which has been deemed too narrow for some users. These bog bridges would be retrofitted to add a third plank (or stringer), with either a new 10-inch wide plank to provide a minimum width of 30 inches, or three new 12-inch wide planks to provide a width of 36-inches. As shown on the attached details, the existing bridges are a mixture of low-profile mud-crosser bog bridges on wooden sills and higher profile bog bridges on pipe sills, depending on soil conditions, and no changes will be made to the existing sills as part of this project.

A portion of the exiting trail is within Bordering Vegetation Wetland (BVW), Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), Riverfront Area (RFA) associated with the Elm Brook, and the protected buffer zones. While the trail is existing and no vegetation is proposed to be removed, the approximate area of disturbance was quantified for the placement of wood chips, or gravel with wood chips, for each resource area as follows, assuming a maximum trail width of 4 feet: BVW (3,200 s.f.), BLSF (3,000 s.f.), and RFA (3,920 s.f.). For the RFA calculations, the proposed area of alteration is approximately 1.1% of the total RFA on the site. For the BLSF calculations, the approximate volume of wood chips or gravel with wood chips is 620 cubic feet, which is approximately 0.07% of the total flood storage area for the site.

As shown on the attached plans, the average elevation of the existing trail is 115 feet and the 1% Annual Chance Floodplain elevation is 115.5 feet for the project site. There is no proposed floodplain storage compensation for the project as it is intended that the proposed materials would have a negligible effect on the capacity of the land to provide flood storage. The heavy trail use by the public has compacted the soils and caused tree root exposure; as such, the wood

chips or gravel base with wood chips, will serve to protect the tree roots while also alleviating the tripping hazard concerns and bringing the trail back in line with the surrounding grades on a relatively flat site.

As noted above, since the volume of proposed material to be added to the existing trail is approximately 0.07% of the total flood storage area for the site, the applicant is not proposing any floodplain storage mitigation, as this would cause more damage to the surrounding woodlands and would require removal of existing vegetation within the wetland area. If necessary, the proposed project would meet the Variance provisions of the Bedford Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Section 54.4.3(a), and Section 2.4 of the Regulations, as an Overriding Public Interest for the community to accommodate improving access to public lands for recreational use.

2.0 Construction Standards

The following limitations will be adhered to for work within the resource areas to meet applicable performance standards:

- There shall be no alteration to hydrology, drainage patterns or drainage pathways.
- Alterations to vegetation shall be minimized and no live trees may be removed for trail maintenance. Any removal of vegetation shall avoid native shrub species, and shall in any case be accompanied by an equal removal of non-native, invasive species along the edges of the trail corridor.
- When possible, unwanted shrubs including Glossy buckthorn will be uprooted or cut to be flush with the ground.
- The trail surface shall be no wider than the standard four feet.

The Notice of Intent proposes that these limitations will render the alteration to wetlands negligible and reparable, and will in fact improve the native plant communities along the trail corridor through the removal of non-native, invasive species.

The new bog bridge will be laid on the ground, with minor leveling adjustments accomplished using nearby rocks. The bog bridges serve to protect the underlying soils and adjacent vegetation by channeling foot traffic onto the bridges. In the absence of bog bridges, foot traffic compacts wetland soils and destroys ground cover.

3.0 Stormwater Summary

The following section shows how the proposed project complies with the Stormwater Management Standards. The proposed trail will not add any impervious area. The limit of work for the project will minimize disturbance to existing vegetation, as work is proposed within an existing established trail. Additionally, as noted in 310 CMR 10.05, the Stormwater Management Standards shall apply to the maximum extent practicable for footpaths, bikepaths and other path for pedestrian and/or nonmotorized vehicle access.

Standard 1- No New Untreated Discharges

N/A - There will be no new untreated discharges associated with the project.

Standard 2- Peak Rate Attenuation

N/A – No impervious area is proposed as part of this project, therefore peak rate attenuation will remain the same.

Standard 3- Recharge

N/A - As there is no impervious area associated with the project, no recharge is needed.

Standard 4- Water Quality

N/A – This project will have no effect on water quality.

Standard 5- Land Uses With Higher Potential Pollutant Load (LUHPPLs)

N/A - This standard is not applicable.

Standard 6- Critical Areas

N/A - This standard is not applicable.

Standard 7- Redevelopments and Other Projects Subject to the Standards only to the maximum extent practicable

N/A – No additional stormwater flows are proposed.

Standard 8- Construction Period Pollution Prevention and Erosion & Sedimentation Control

A Construction Period Pollution Prevention Plan is included in this Notice of Intent and will be the responsibility of the Bedford Trails Committee.

Standard 9- Operation and Maintenance Plan

An Operation and Maintenance Plan is included in this Notice of Intent and will be the responsibility of the Bedford Trails Committee, however no stormwater related facilities are proposed.

Standard 10- Prohibition of Illicit Discharges

N/A - There are no illicit discharges associated with the proposed project.

4.0 Compliance with Regulations

Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW)

Compliance with State Wetlands Protection Act: 310 CMR 10.55; and Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw: Section 2.2.2.4

As noted in the application, the area of wetland disturbance is approximately 3,200 square feet, which is below the 5,000 square foot threshold. There are no alternative locations that would reduce the area of disturbance as the trail will remain in the same location, with no proposed re-routing.

The addition of wood chips, or gravel with wood chips along the existing trail will not result in the loss of BVW or significant alteration of functions provided by BVW. There is no existing vegetation with the trail bed.

The proposed bog bridge bases will be laid on the ground, but it is presumed that soil will not be impacted and vegetation would be capable of reestablishment if the bridges were removed. Some vegetation may be trimmed back as necessary, as part of standard trail brushing maintenance. When possible, root systems of non-native, invasive species within the work area will be removed.

Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF)

Compliance with State Wetlands Protection Act: 310 CMR 10.57; and Local Wetlands Protection Bylaw: Section 2.2.2.6

As noted in Section 1.0, a portion of the proposed project (approximately 3,000 s.f.) is within the 1% Annual Chance Floodplain of the Elm Brook, however the addition of clean gravel and wood chips to protect the exposed tree roots and restore the original surface of the trail is considered a de minimus change with a negligible effect on the flood storage capacity of the site as the 620 cubic foot volume is approximately 0.07% of the total flood storage area on the site, and will not restrict flows. If necessary, the applicant requests a Variance from the provisions of the local Bedford Wetlands Protection Bylaw and Regulations. Additionally, as there is no proposed impervious cover, the infiltration rate for groundwater will not change.

The proposed project will not alter wildlife habitat nor the ability of the land to provide breeding habitat, escape cover, or food for wildlife. Additionally, according to the latest mapping available from MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP), the proposed project site is not located in priority or estimated habitat of rare species.

Riverfront Area (RFA)

A portion of the proposed trail improvements are within the 200-foot Riverfront Area for the Elm Brook. However, the bog bridge improvements and trail maintenance are within the existing previously developed trail, and will be done in accordance with the general performance standards listed in 310 CMR 10.58(4).

(a) Protection of Other Resource Areas

As discussed in other sections, the proposed work will be completed in accordance with the performance standards for other resource areas.

(b) Protection of Rare Species

As discussed above, the proposed work will not be performed in habitat areas for rare and endangered species.

(c) Practicable and Substantially Equivalent Economic Alternatives

The only alternative is the no-build alternative, which is not preferred because it has greater impacts than the proposed trail improvement alternative.

(d) No Significant Adverse Impact

The work will have no adverse impact on the riverfront area. Disturbances within the 200-foot buffer zone are within the limits of the existing trail and total approximately 3,920 square feet; below the 5,000 s.f. threshold. The bog bridges, wood chips and gravel will not result in increases in stormwater runoff, nor will they impair the habitat functions of the resource areas as they are placed along previously disturbed trails. The proposed trail work will result in an improvement over existing conditions. Neither groundwater nor surface water resources will be impacted by the project.

LONG-TERM POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN

The Town of Bedford Trails Committee will maintain proper management of vegetation for the trail and will train any persons who may be involved with work on the site as to compliance with this Notice of Intent and the associated Order of Conditions.

Inspections and clean-up of any trash will be completed on a regular basis at a minimum of twice per year by the Bedford Trails Committee or designee.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN

The Bedford Trails Committee will be responsible for trail construction to be in compliance with all pollution prevention and erosion control measures required.

There will be no stockpiling of soil or other materials within wetland resource areas.

Any debris that results from bog bridge retrofits shall be removed immediately by hand.

Work will be done during low flow periods or in dry or frozen conditions.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PLAN

The Bedford Trails Committee or its designee will be responsible for Post-Construction Operation and Maintenance of the new trail and bog bridges.

The trail will be inspected twice annually to ensure the area is in good condition.

The gravel and wood chips will be inspected periodically to determine if the materials are surrounding and protecting exposed tree roots, as intended. Additional material may be added as needed to maintain the path for trail users.

The bog bridges will be inspected periodically based on age for visual evidence of rot, sagging, shifting, sinking, or level change. Rotted boards will be replaced as necessary.

USGS Locus Map Elm Brook CA Proposed Improvements

Map by Bedford Public Works
August 2022

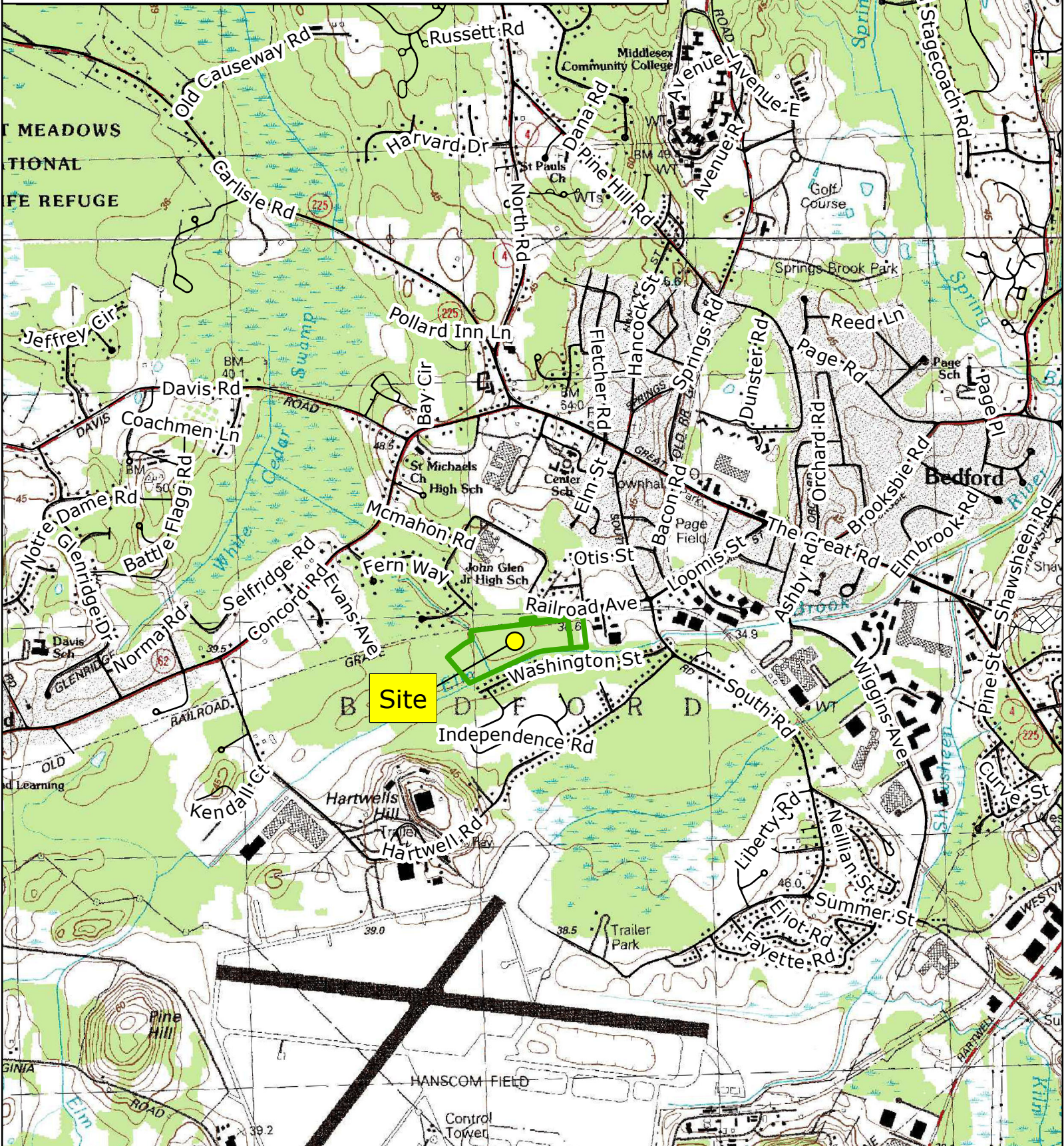
0 0.25 0.5 Miles

1 inch = 1,800 feet



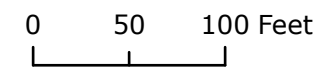
The information displayed on this or any other map produced by the Town of Bedford is for reference purposes only. The Town of Bedford does not guarantee the accuracy of the data. Users are responsible for determining the suitability for their own individual needs.

All information is from the Town of Bedford's Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the Town GIS Analyst.



Proposed Trail Improvements Elm Brook Conservation Area Trail

Map by Bedford Public Works
August 2022



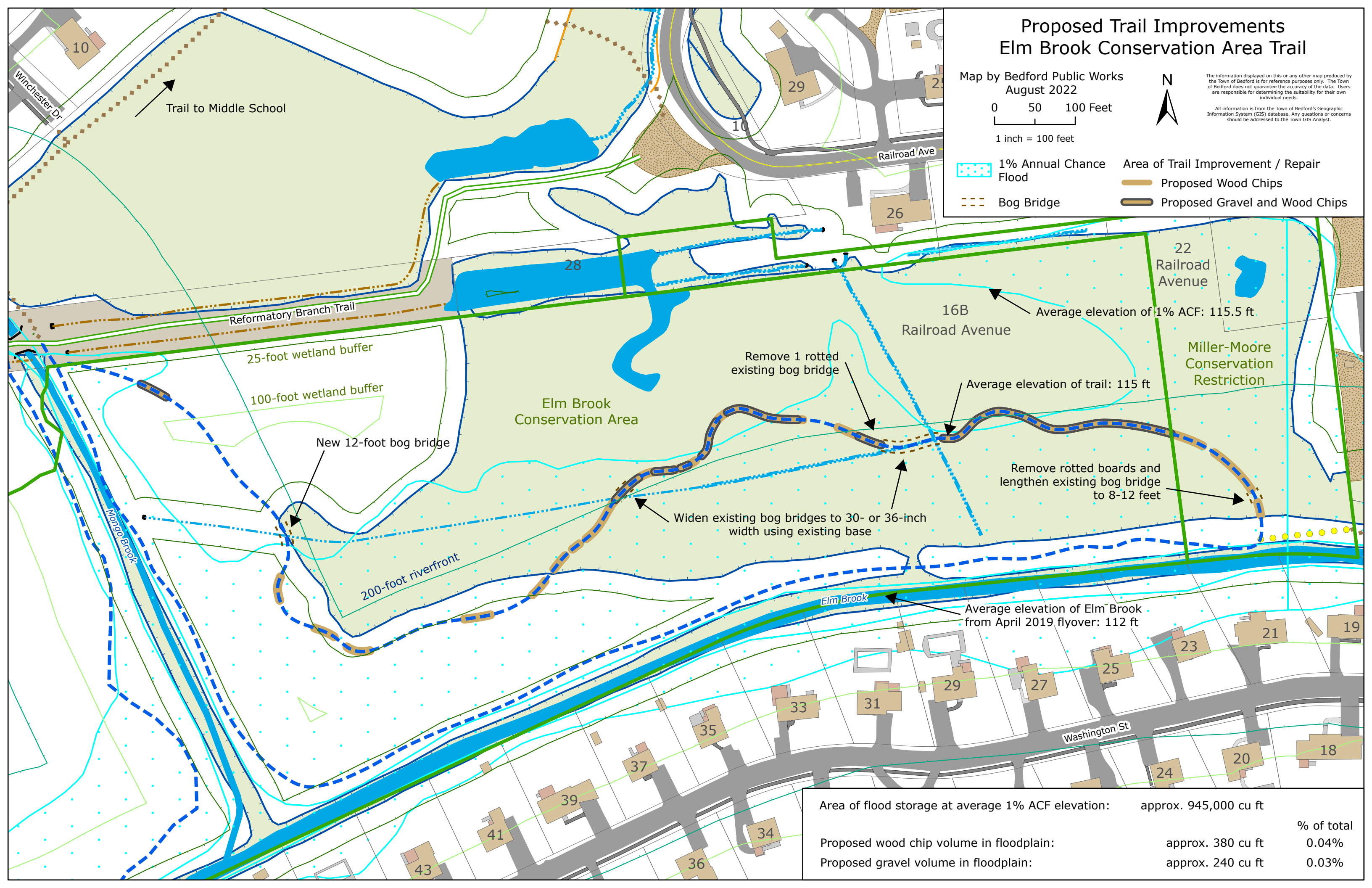
1 inch = 100 feet



The information displayed on this or any other map produced by the Town of Bedford is for reference purposes only. The Town of Bedford does not guarantee the accuracy of the data. Users are responsible for determining the suitability for their own individual needs.

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- 1% Annual Chance Flood
- Bog Bridge
- Area of Trail Improvement / Repair
- Proposed Wood Chips
- Proposed Gravel and Wood Chips



Remove 1 rotted existing bog bridge

Average elevation of trail: 115 ft

Remove rotted boards and lengthen existing bog bridge to 8-12 feet

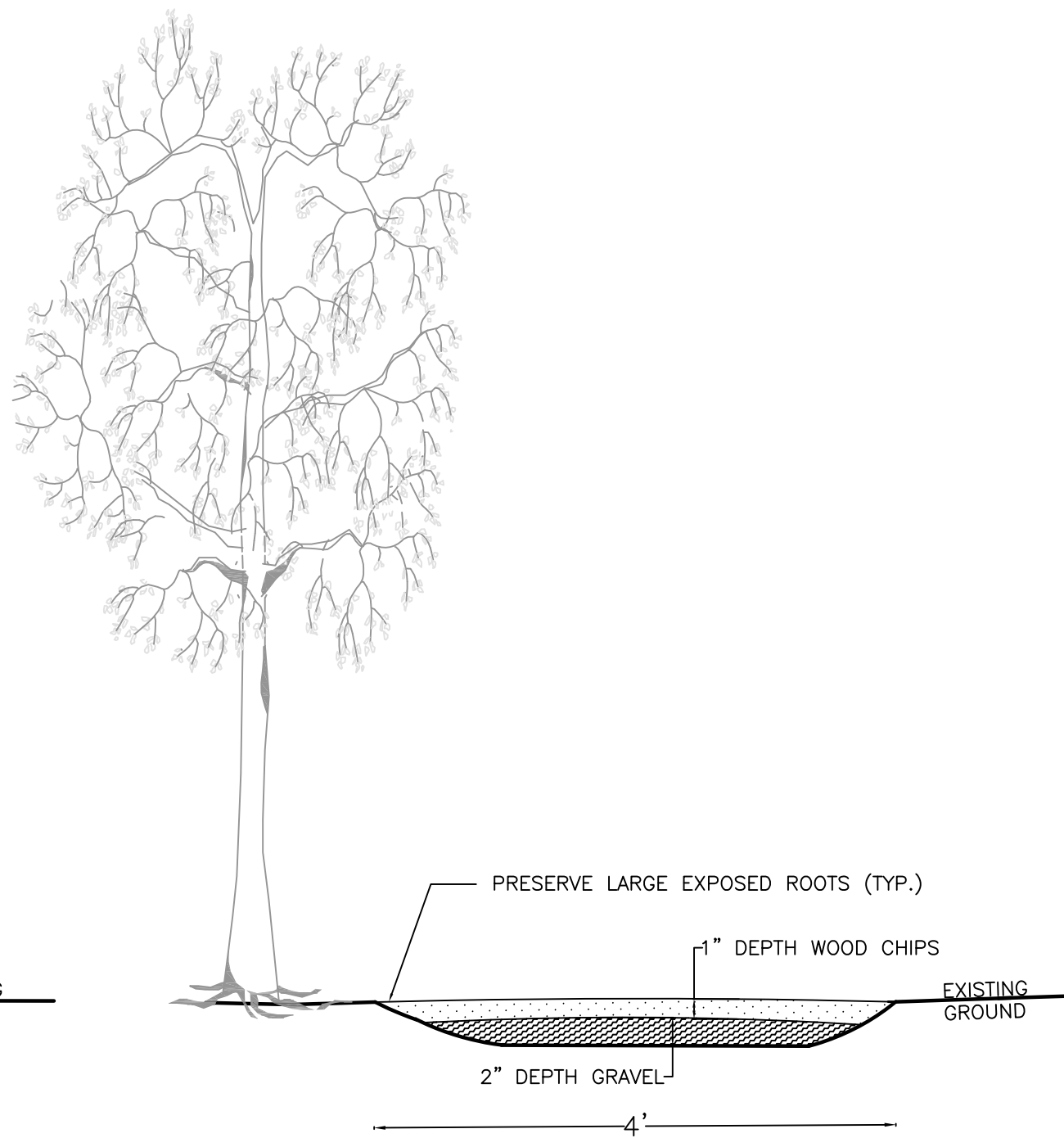
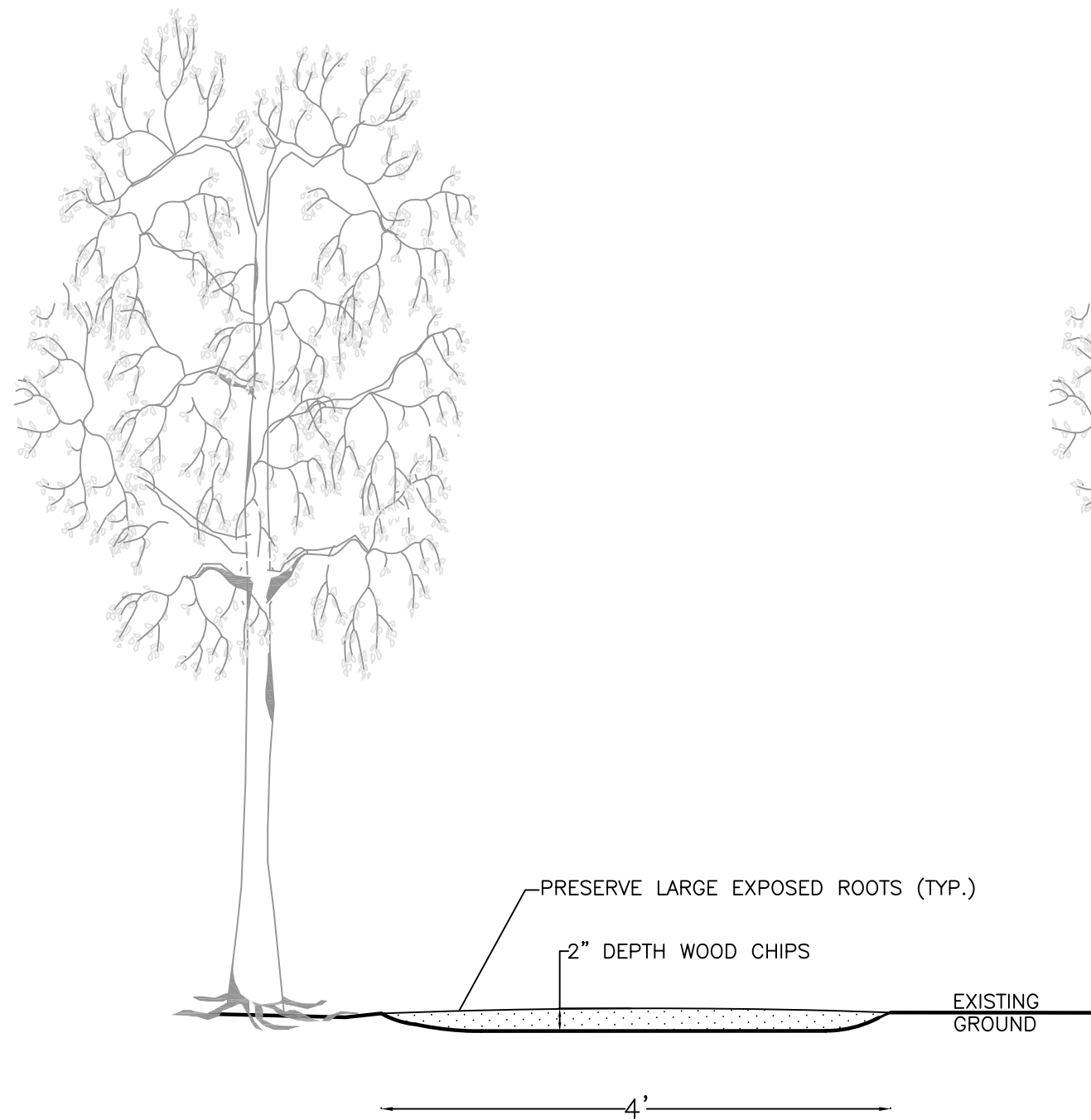
Widen existing bog bridges to 30- or 36-inch width using existing base

Average elevation of Elm Brook from April 2019 flyover: 112 ft

Area of flood storage at average 1% ACF elevation:	approx. 945,000 cu ft	
Proposed wood chip volume in floodplain:	approx. 380 cu ft	0.04%
Proposed gravel volume in floodplain:	approx. 240 cu ft	0.03%

General Notes

Proposed cross-sections of gravel and wood chip placement along existing blue trail

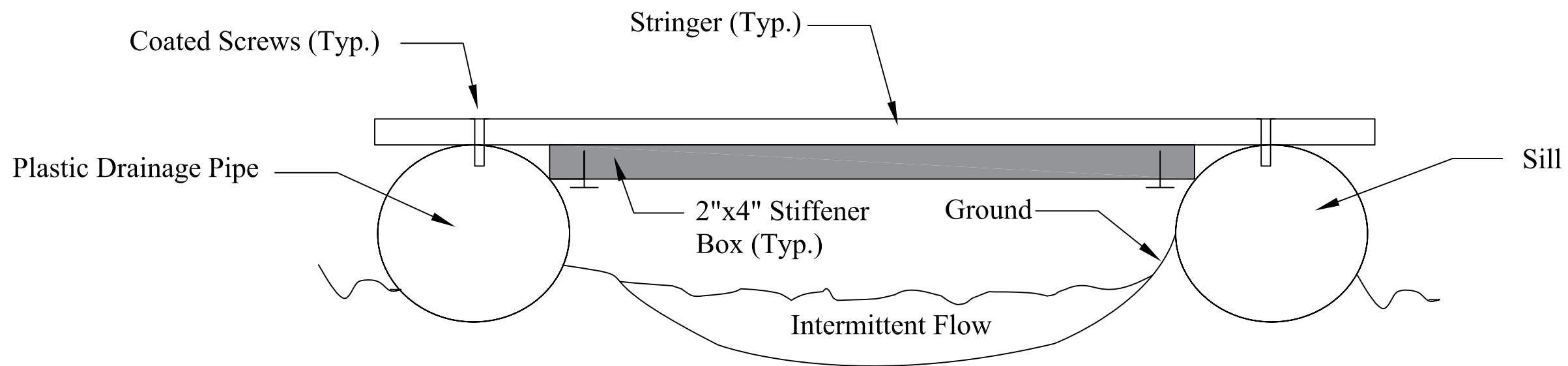
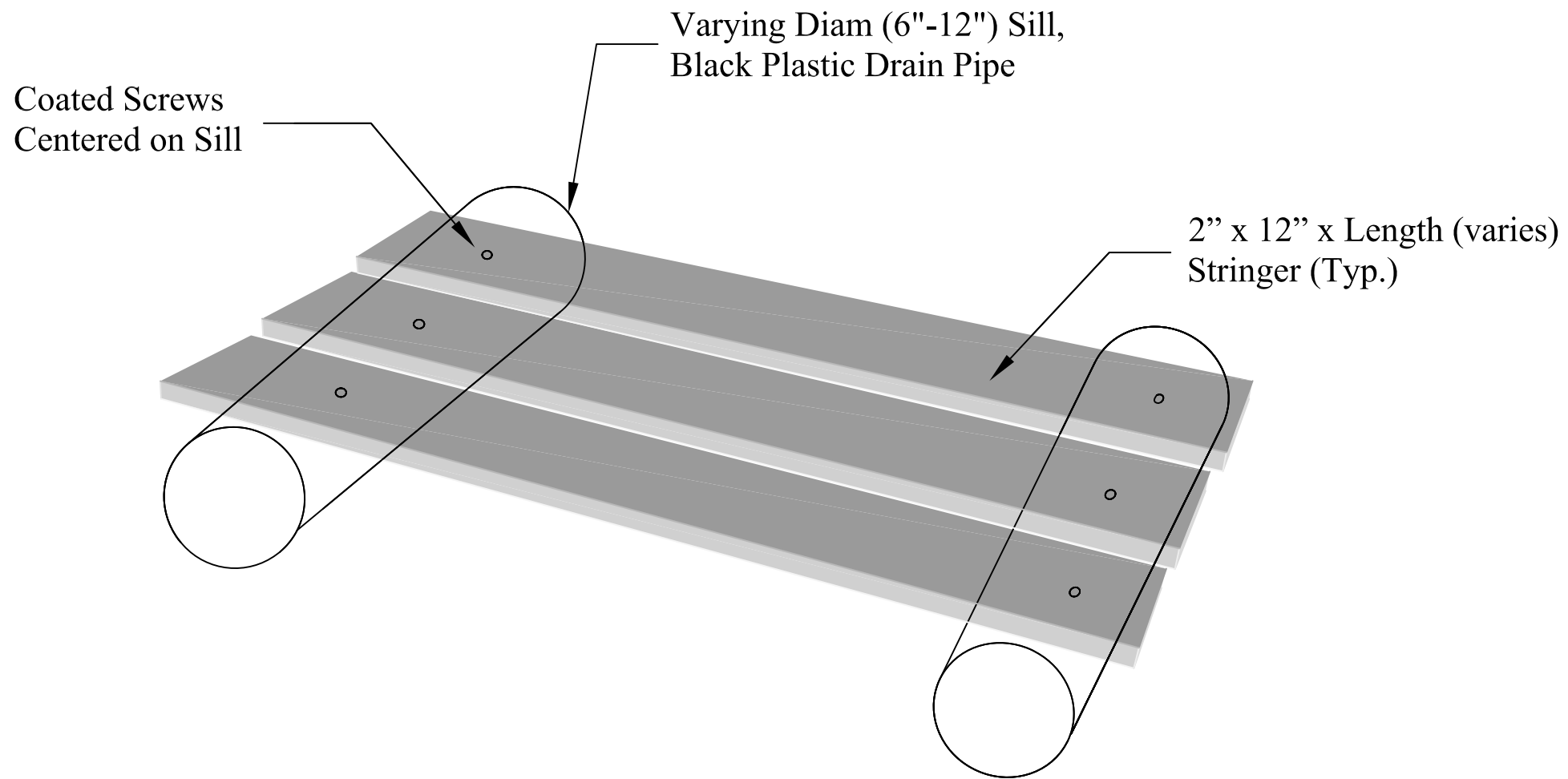


No.	Revision	Date

Firm Name:
Bedford DPW

Project Name:
Elm Brook CA
Trail
Improvements

Aug 2022	Sheet
N.T.S.	1



General Notes

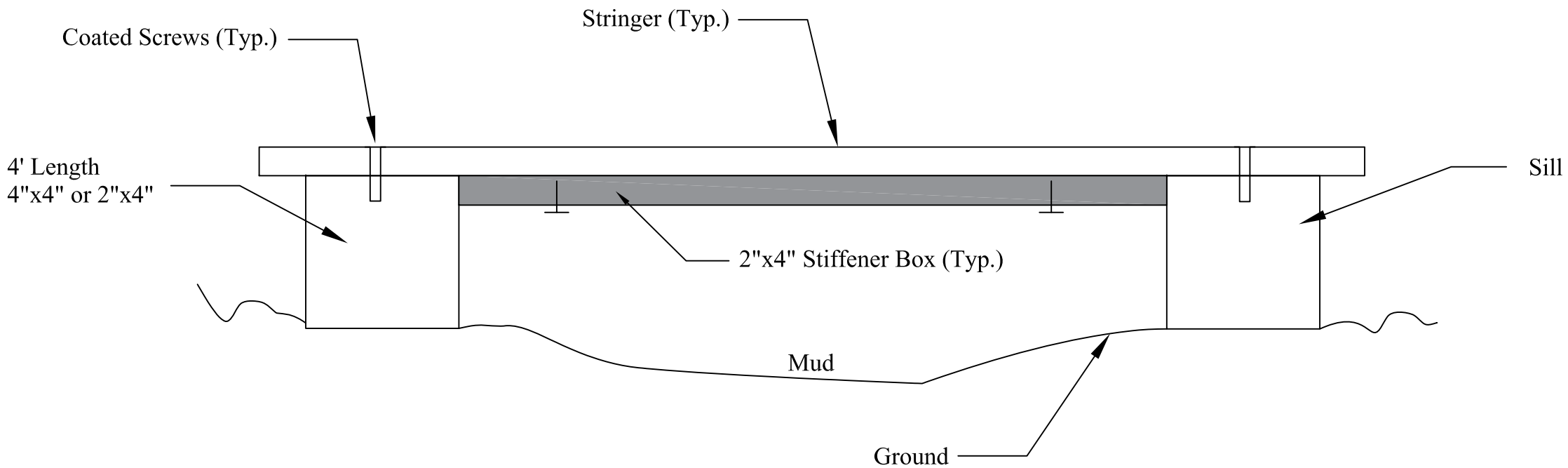
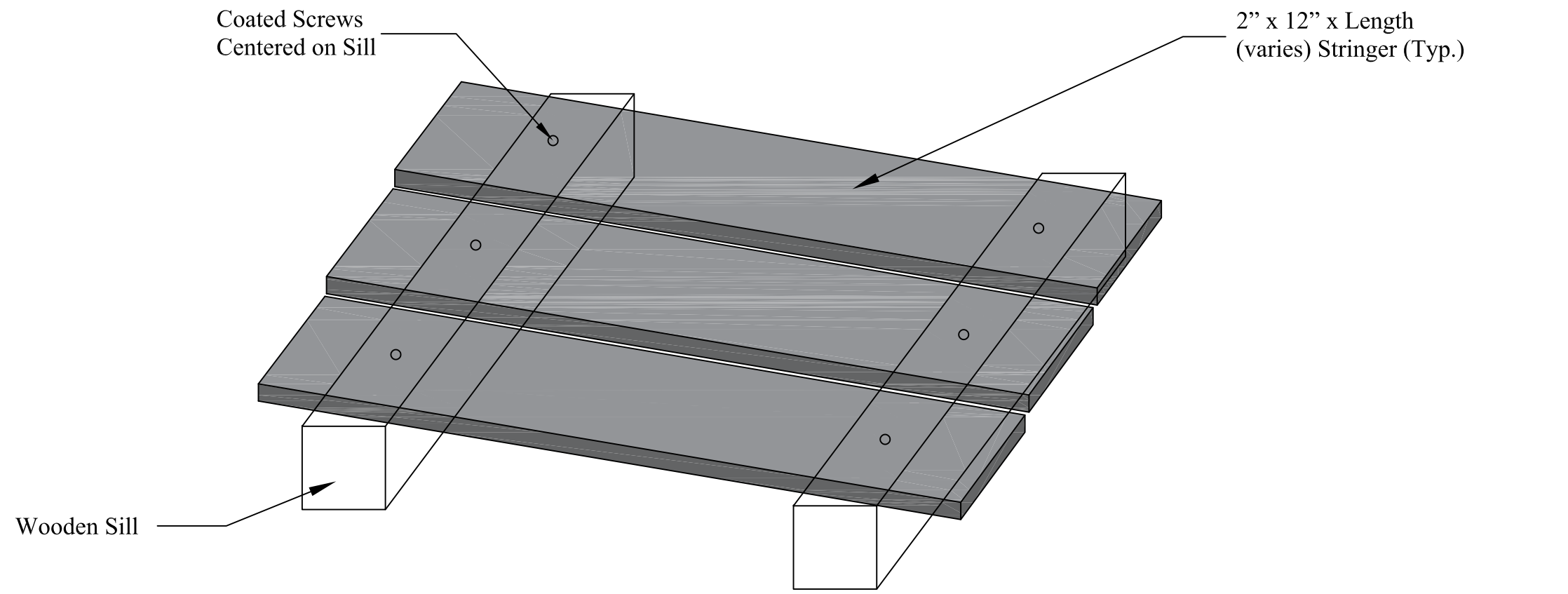
Pipe Sill Bog
Bridge Detail
& Profile

No.	Revision	Date

Firm Name:
Bedford DPW

Project Name:
Elm Brook CA
Trail
Improvements

Aug. 2022	Sheet
N.T.S	1



General Notes

Mud-Crosser
Style Bog
Bridge Detail
and Profile

No.	Revision	Date

Firm Name:
Bedford DPW

Project Name:
Elm Brook CA
Trail
Improvements

Aug. 2022	Sheet
N.T.S.	1



August 31, 2022

Jeffrey Summers, Conservation Administrator
Bedford Conservation Commission
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

RE: Support for Trail Improvements to the Elm Brook CA

Dear Jeff and Commission Members,

On behalf of the Bedford Athletic Department, we are sending this letter in support of the proposed improvements to the trails at the Elm Brook Conservation Area. The Notice of Intent (NOI) that is being filed by the Bedford Trails Committee and Bedford Department of Public Works seeks to make a variety of improvements along the existing blue trail, that would in part, allow this area to be considered as part of a new route for the high school's cross-country course next fall.

The Athletic Department, in conjunction with the DPW, has been pursuing potential options to re-route the course to improve the safety of runners by avoiding paved roadways. The current course uses Evans Avenue, a section of Concord Road, and the Woodmoor Drive/Fern Way/Winchester Drive neighborhood for a portion of the route. By making some improvements to the trail surface in the Elm Brook Conservation Area, the 5-kilometer course could be revised to avoid busy neighborhood roads with potential vehicle conflicts, and instead use the high school, middle school and Elm Brook conservation area parcels to achieve the desired distance for both the boys' and girls' cross-country races.

As described in the NOI package, the proposed improvements include upgrades to the existing bog bridges to achieve a minimum width of 30 inches, and the spreading of gravel and wood chips along various portions of the trail to cover exposed tree roots that could be potential tripping hazards to both runners and walkers alike.

The Athletic Department would also welcome the opportunity to involve the students in implementing the improvements to both the bog bridges and the trail, if feasible. We look forward to the Commission's review of this request at an upcoming public meeting.

Sincerely,

Keith Mangan

Keith Mangan
Athletic Director

cc: David Manugian, Bedford Public Works Director
Michael Barbehenn, Bedford Trails Committee Chair
Philip Conrad, Bedford Public Schools Superintendent

Additional Property Owner Information

Notice of Intent: Proposed Trail Improvements in Bedford, MA

Address: 22 Railroad Avenue

Owner: Leonard Goodman

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book #: 26525/Page #: 467

Proposed trail improvements are within a Conservation Restriction on 22 Railroad Avenue, granted to the Town of Bedford in September 1991. This restriction is administered by the Bedford Conservation Commission. The adjacent Elm Brook Conservation Area at 16B Railroad Avenue has an existing trail that loops through a portion of the Conservation Restriction in the rear, wooded section of the lot at 22 Railroad Avenue.

Proposed Trail Improvements - Elm Brook Conservation Area Trail
Abutters Notification List

Parcel ID	Abutters Owner 1	Abutters Owner 2	Abutters Address	Abutters City	Abutters State	Abutters Zip	Abutters Book/Page	Parcel Address
063-0174-3	TAYCON LLC		297 CONCORD ROAD	BEDFORD	MA	01730	50549-58	3 COMMERCIAL AVENUE
063-0174-B1	LUTHER, KENNETH W TRUSTEE	SHEILA A LUTHER	4 KIRIN X-ING	PEPPERELL	MA	01463	53638-383	1 COMMERCIAL AVENUE UNIT 1
063-0174	MCDONOUGH LINE CONSTRUCTION, L		10 COMMERCIAL AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	67013-149	4-10 COMMERCIAL AVENUE UNIT 10
063-0174-B2	CALLAHAN, MARJORIE	C/O JMT REALTY	19 DICKENS LANE	TYNGSBOROUGH	MA	01879	33684-403	1 COMMERCIAL AVENUE UNIT 2
070-0001-A	NATHANIEL K BROWN TRUSTEE	ELDERBERRY TRUST	110 GREAT ROAD	BEDFORD	MA	01730	49566-246	24 EVANS AVENUE
070-0001	BROWN, NATHANIEL K TRUSTEE	ELDERBERRY TRUST	110 GREAT ROAD	BEDFORD	MA	01730	25212-186	22-A EVANS AVENUE
053-0045	TOWN OF BEDFORD	JR & SR HIGH & CENTER	10 MUDGE WAY	BEDFORD	MA	01730		9 MUDGE WAY
063-0034	KNOEDLER, ANDREW & AUDRA		19 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	68723-455	19 RAILROAD AVENUE
063-0176	BEDFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY		1 ASHBY PLACE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	21614-390	20 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0076-B	SILVER, MARK J & ANNEMARIE E		21 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	51724-575	21 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0075-A	GOODMAN, LEONARD I		22 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	26525-467	22 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0075	YOUNG, WILLIAM Y & SHARON M		24 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	24015-257	24 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0073	COLLINS, TRS, MATTHEW R & ANNA	THE MATTHEW R COLLINS TRUST	26 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	71697-311	26 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0073-A	COLLINS, ANNA V		26 RAILROAD AVENUE	BEDFORD	MA	01730	27002-486	28 RAILROAD AVENUE
062-0074	TOWN OF BEDFORD	ELM BROOK CONS AREA	10 MUDGE WAY	BEDFORD	MA	01730	13394-650	16-B RAILROAD AVENUE
071-0002	ROBERTSON, THOMAS C &	SALIH, MAHA AHMED	19 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	75842-455	19 WASHINGTON STREET
071-0001	ZHAO, HANWEI & WU, NAN TRS		21 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	77076-238	21 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0003	ROBINSON, PAUL DAVID &	ROBINSON, ROXANNE ANGELICA	23 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	80473-39	23 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0004	BOWDITCH, DAVID & KELLY, JUDITH		25 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	19012-2	25 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0005	CAHILL, JOHN J &	BARR-CAHILL, PAULINE	27 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	32263-019	27 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0006	DESMOND, JASON D & SARAH F		29 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	77435-573	29 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0007	KANG, DONGLAI & FAN, DEZHI		31 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	30470-189	31 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0008	FRIESEN, PAUL A & VIRGINIA		33 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	24745-394	33 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0009	DAS, AJIT K & PADMAJA		35 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	56525-47	35 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0010	READY, JAMES R, MANAGER	WASHINGTON ST HOLDING CO, LLC	6 GARDEN STREET	BEVERLY	MA	01915-2910	64324-5	37 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0011	FORMAN, BRIAN J & FREIER, DANA		39 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	33083-406	39 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0012	BLACK, DAVID R & MARILYN S		41 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	13540-491	41 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0013	KENNERLY, SHAUN PATRICK &	KENNERLY, JENNIFER M	43 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	52348-283	43 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0014	FIATO, DIANNE L & MARK L TRUSTEES	FIATO FMLY TRUST THE	45 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	47658-489	45 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0015	HOBEN, MARK A & GAIL A		47 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	27330-451	47 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0016	SERVI, AMELIA TEPPER		49 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	79182-424	49 WASHINGTON STREET
070-0017	BLAKELEY, TR, GEOFFREY	BLAKELEY, TR, DOROTHY	51 WASHINGTON STREET	BEDFORD	MA	01730	72390-552	51 WASHINGTON STREET

**NOTIFICATION TO ABUTTERS
UNDER THE
WETLANDS PROTECTION ACT**

In accordance with the second paragraph of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40, you are hereby notified of the following:

- A. The name of the Applicant is the Bedford Trails Committee & Department of Public Works. The proposed work involves making trail improvements along the existing blue trail with the protection of exposed tree roots and widening and repair of bog bridges.
- B. The Applicant has filed a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission for the municipality of Bedford seeking to work in an Area Subject to Protection Under the Wetlands Protection Act (General Laws Chapter 131, Section 40).
- C. The address of the lot where the activity is proposed: 16B Railroad Avenue, Bedford MA (Elm Brook Conservation Area) & 22 Railroad Avenue (Miller-Moore Conservation Restriction; rear portion of wooded lot along existing trail)
- D. Copies of the Request for an Amendment may be examined at the Code Enforcement/Conservation Commission Office, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Mondays, 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Tuesday through Thursday, or 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Fridays.
- E. Copies of the Notice of Intent may be obtained from either (check one) the:
 Applicant, or the Applicant's representative.
- F. Further information about the date, place, and time of the meeting may be obtained from: the Conservation Commission, by calling 781-275-6211 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM on Mondays, 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM Tuesday through Thursday, or 8:00 AM and 1:00 PM on Fridays.
- G. General information regarding the project may be obtained from the Bedford DPW, by calling (781) 275-7605 x 4263.

NOTE: Notice of public hearing, including its date, time, and place, will be published at least five (5) days in advance in the Bedford Minuteman.

NOTE: Notice of the public hearing, including its date, time, and place, will be posted in the Town of Bedford Hall not less than forty-eight hours in advance.

NOTE: You may contact your local Conservation Commission or the nearest Department of Environmental Protection Regional Office for more information about this application or the Wetlands Protection Act. To contact DEP, call:

Northeast Region: 978-694-3200

NOI – Proposed Trail Improvements Elm Brook Conservation Area blue trail (2022)

Existing Conditions-
Exposed tree roots to be
protected and to
ease tripping hazard



Existing Conditions-
Exposed tree roots to
be protected and to
ease tripping hazard

NOI – Proposed Trail Improvements Elm Brook Conservation Area blue trail (2022)

Existing bog
bridge:
Replace existing
planks, lengthen
and widen to 30-
inch minimum
width



Existing bog bridge
to be removed

NOI – Proposed Trail Improvements

Elm Brook Conservation Area blue trail (2022)

Existing low profile mud-crosser bog bridge:

Keep existing wooden sills and widen to minimum 30-inch width



Existing trail to remain in current condition
(no improvements proposed aside from typical periodic trail brushing)