

Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Proposed Springfield Senior Center Public Facility at Blunt Park Springfield, Massachusetts

A public facility protected under Section 6(f) 3 of the
Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act

July 22, 2016

Submitted by:

City of Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management
Attn: Patrick J. Sullivan
200 Trafton Road
Springfield, MA 01108
413-787-7772
psullivan@springfieldcityhall.com

Submitted to:

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Attn: Melissa Cryan
100 Cambridge St., Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1171
Melissa.cryan@state.ma.us

For:

National Park Service
Northeast Region
200 Chestnut Street, Third Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106-2878

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Stateside Assistance Grant Program, provides funds to states, and through states to local agencies, for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation resources. Lands that have received funding through LWCF are protected by Section 6(f)3 of the Act unless a conversion is approved by the Secretary of the Interior as delegated to the National Park Service.

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1 Purpose, Need, and Background

1.1 Summary and Purpose

The Proposed Action is the use of 4.9± acres of 6(f) parkland to accommodate a new Senior Center within Blunt Park in the City of Springfield, in Hampden County, Massachusetts. The City of Springfield Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management is the agency proposing this public facility approval for parkland protected by the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act. The subject property is Blunt Park, which is located in the Bay neighborhood of the City of Springfield, MA.

The purpose of the public facility request is to allow the City of Springfield to construct a new Senior Center within the southern portion of Blunt Park, along Blunt Park Road and immediately adjacent to a Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Swimming Pool Facility.

This EA will provide the framework for the NPS to evaluate the environmental consequences of the proposed action on the human environment and includes information necessary to help the interested and affected public and decision-makers understand the context for the Proposed Action.

Alternatives considered in this EA include Alternative A (No Action) and Alternative B, the Proposed Alternative, which consists of use of a portion of the existing Blunt Park 6(f) area for the development of a public facility (the proposed Springfield Senior Center). Chapters 3 and 4 of this EA describe resources that may be affected by the two identified alternatives, including the following:

- Geological resources,
- Air quality,
- Noise,
- Water quality/quantity,
- Natural resources,
- Land use and planning,
- Circulation, transportation, and accessibility,
- Recreation,
- Aesthetics,
- Historical and cultural resources,
- Socioeconomic resources and economic justice, and
- Mandatory criteria.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a separate EA, dated March 9, 2016, related to the construction of the Senior Center in Blunt Park, because FEMA funding will partially fund the construction.

1.2 Background and Need

The City of Springfield, Massachusetts (the City) is located in western Massachusetts, in Hampden County, near the Massachusetts/Connecticut border. Springfield is the third largest city in Massachusetts, with an estimated population of 153,000 per the 2010 Census.

On June 1, 2011, tornadoes struck portions of Western Massachusetts causing widespread property damage. The largest tornado passed through the City and caused significant damage to the Howard Street Armory located at 29 Howard Street, Springfield MA, the building that housed the former Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch. The City has proposed construction of a new facility to re-establish a permanent location for the functions previously performed at Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch. The need for the facility stems from the loss of the Howard Street branch.

The proposed facility would be used for recreation and exercise activities, health clinics, community meetings, special events, and other services for the elderly community of Springfield, MA. The new proposed facility would also centralize branches of the current Springfield Senior Center network into a single location. To support this outcome the Senior Center will require space and accessibility for elderly citizens to include parking, recreational areas, program offices, storage, and assembly/meeting space. The building will be a public facility operated by the City of Springfield's Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management.

The Senior Center is expected to provide connectivity between seniors using the Senior Center and the numerous outdoor recreation facilities offered within Blunt Park. It is expected that seniors will take advantage of the walking trails and park amenities for outdoor recreation, as an extension of the indoor recreational programming space. In addition, they may choose to attend youth sporting events at the athletic fields within the park, or may use the State Pool facility adjacent to the proposed Senior Center location.

The City is also investing in multi-generational programming and activities at the Center and in Blunt Park as a whole. For example, students from Putnam Vocational School, which is across Roosevelt Avenue from the park, will be brought in for activities linked to their educational experiences, including culinary students to prepare meals. Younger students from the adjacent Margaret C. Ells School will be brought in for homework help and/or other recreational programming in the afternoons. The Center is also expected to be a public facility that all ages of community members may use for evening or weekend classes and events, such as team celebrations and commemorative events. All of these activities and recreation opportunities for interactions are expected to increase awareness about the resources and opportunities for outdoor recreation that Blunt Park can offer and to increase park usership by those persons onsite at the park for events and programming at the Senior Center.

The primary use of Blunt Park will continue to be outdoor recreation. The park currently contains outdoor recreational amenities including walkways, access drives, restrooms, a playground, water fountain, picnic areas, multiple ballfields for baseball, soccer and football, basketball and tennis courts, and a running track, with the majority of the land undeveloped with large wooded areas and wetlands. No current outdoor amenities will be lost, and the location of the Senior Center as

a public facility within the park is expected to increase park usership and make the park a more recognized resource within the City by bringing in residents that might otherwise not have been aware of the park.

The proposed public facility will be two stories, approximately 25,000 SF, and will include a large multi-purpose hall as its interior focal point which will be used to host many types of events. The public facility will also include a kitchen, library, coatroom and storage areas, a café, fitness area, common spaces, administrative office space, restrooms, and a billiard room among its features. There will be a large outdoor patio and lawn area for passive outdoor recreation at the rear of the facility. Specific programs and activities will also include exercise programs (such as tai chi, yoga, stretching, etc.) which may be held outside as seasonally appropriate), bingo, book clubs, arts and craft classes, computer instruction, dance instruction, public services for seniors (health, insurance, wellbeing), speakers, veteran's club, other clubs, and special interest activities such as a walking club which will take advantage of the park outdoor areas.

The locus map in Figure 1 shows the general locations of the former Howard Street Senior Center site, Blunt Park, and the Cottage Street Industrial Park site (reviewed as another potential site as described in Section 2), as listed above.

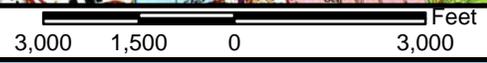
The Public Facility Plan (Figure 2) shows the boundary of the current protected 6(f) area of Blunt Park and shows the area that would be used for the proposed Springfield Senior Center public facility.



Cottage Street Industrial Park

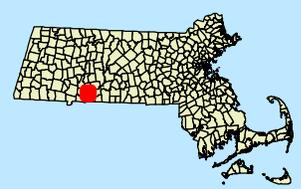
Blunt Park

Former Howard St. Senior Center



LOCUS MAP

Project No:
15.0166405.07



**Blunt Park 6(f) Conversion
Springfield, Massachusetts**

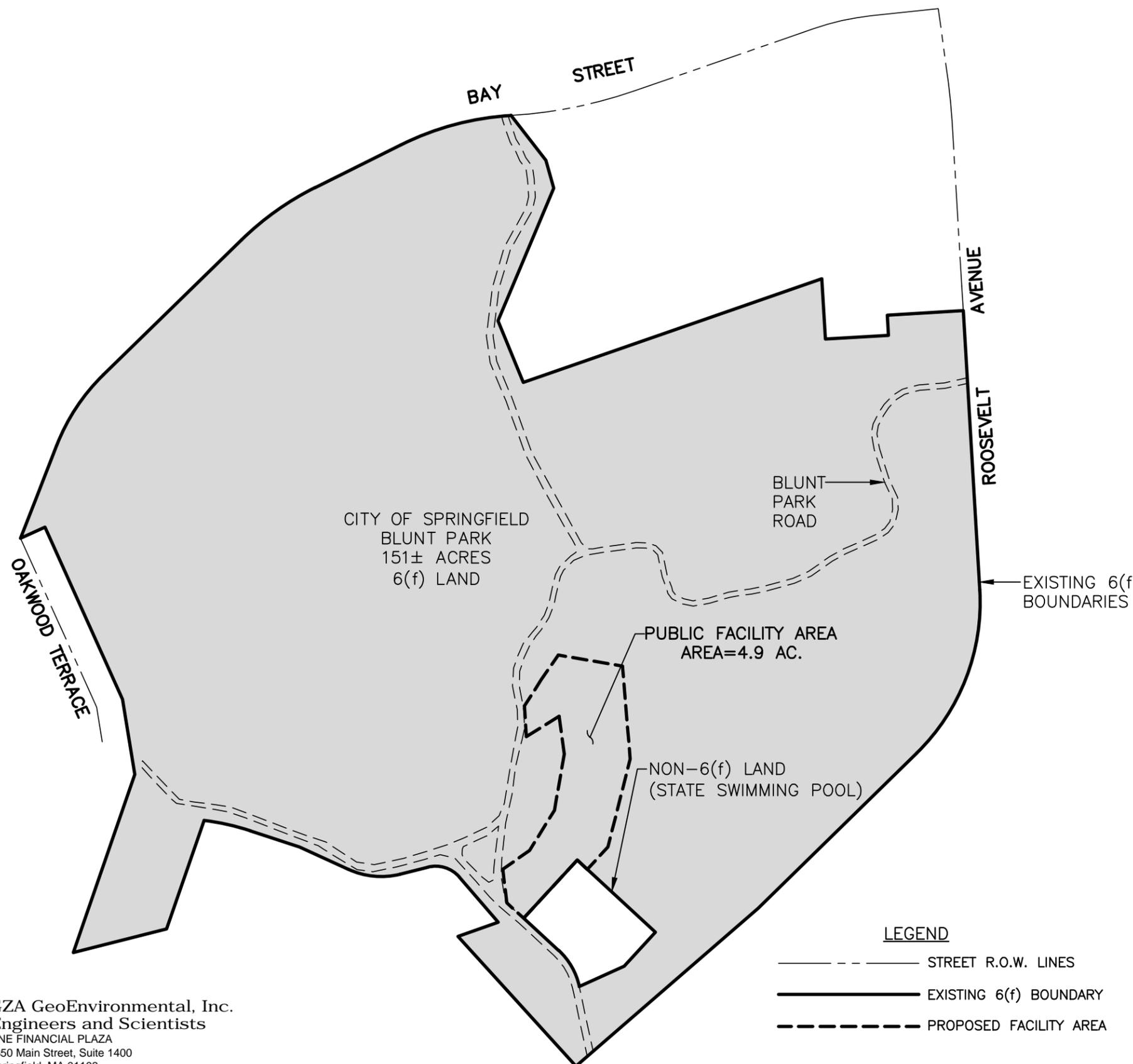
Drawn by:
JRB

Checked by:
TEJ

Date:
June 2016

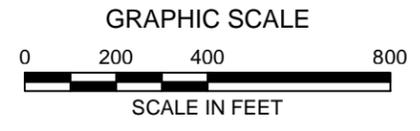
BASE MAP: USGS Topographic Map
SPRINGFIELD NORTH/SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, 1979

Figure No:
1



SOURCES:

1. BOUNDARY PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF STANHOPE E. BLUNT PARK"; PREPARED BY DEPT. OF STREETS & ENGINEERING, SPRINGFIELD, MASS.; DATED MARCH 1934.
2. PROPERTY PLAN ENTITLED "PLAN OF PROPERTY OWNED BY SPRINGFIELD PARK DEPARTMENT PROPOSED HIGH SCHOOL SITE", PREPARED BY SPRINGFIELD, MASS. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DATED 12-17-80.
3. SURVEY PLAN ENTITLED "BLUNT PARK LAND TO BE CONVEYED TO COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR PURPOSES OF A SWIMMING POOL FACILITY", PREPARED BY SPRINGFIELD, MASS. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, DATED SEPT. 1976.
4. PLAN ENTITLED "SURVEY & BORING LOCATIONS-NO. 1, NEW HIGH SCHOOL SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS" PREPARED BY ALDERMAN & MACNEISCH ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, DATED 1-20-83.
5. PLAN ENTITLED "SURVEY & BORING LOCATIONS-NO. 2, NEW HIGH SCHOOL SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS" PREPARED BY ALDERMAN & MACNEISCH ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, DATED 1-20-83.
6. 6(f) MAP OF BLUNT PARK, UNDATED, AS INCLUDED IN 6(f) PROJECT No. 25-00262.
7. MISCELLANEOUS HISTORICAL MAPPING, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, UNDATED.



**- FIGURE 2 -
PUBLIC FACILITY PLAN**

**PROPOSED SENIOR CENTER AT
BLUNT PARK**
Section 6(f) Public Facility Proposal
City of Springfield, Massachusetts

SCALE: 1"=400'

DATE: JUNE, 2016

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Engineers and Scientists
ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA
1350 Main Street, Suite 1400
Springfield, MA 01103
413-726-2100

LEGEND

- STREET R.O.W. LINES
- EXISTING 6(f) BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED FACILITY AREA

2 Description of Alternatives

2.1 Alternative A – No Action

For the No Action alternative (Alternative A), the portion of Blunt Park proposed for use as a public facility would remain intact as part of the 6(f) protected parkland and the Senior Center would not be constructed in the proposed location. The Springfield Senior Center functions and services would continue to be delivered by separate facilities in various existing branch locations across the City.

Alternative A was not selected because it would not allow for the construction of the Senior Center in the best location to serve the City's residents. By locating the Senior Center within Blunt Park, the City's residents can take advantage of the adjacent outdoor recreational facilities that offer synergistic educational and recreational amenities and programs.

2.2 Alternative B – Proposed Alternative

The current 6(f) area of Blunt Park is approximately 151± acres, as shown in Figure 2, which also identifies the abutting roadways and the location of the State Pool Facility, which is within Blunt Park, but not within the 6(f) boundary. The park is along the boundary of the Bay neighborhood between Bay Street and Roosevelt Ave., bounded by Bay Street and Central High School to the north and generally by residential area to the south and west, with Roosevelt Ave. to the east. The park contains amenities including walkways, access drives, restrooms, a playground, water fountain, picnic areas, multiple ballfields for baseball, soccer and football, basketball and tennis courts, and a running track, with the majority of the land undeveloped with large wooded areas and wetlands.

The proposed area for the development of a new City of Springfield Senior Center public facility is a wooded area of 4.9± acres abutting the park access drive (Blunt Park Road) and immediately adjacent to the existing State Pool Facility owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. There are no structures, park amenities, or outdoor recreational improvements in the area proposed for the use as a public facility.

It is expected that the Senior Center project will be completed in October 2017.

2.3 Other Alternatives Considered But Not Selected

In the selection of a site for the proposed Senior Center, a set of specific siting criteria was utilized to evaluate potential locations on City of Springfield owned properties, as listed below. The desired location was listed as being:

- Centrally located in the heart of the City to ensure accessibility to all seniors;
- On a public transportation (bus) route;
- Able to provide opportunities for passive and active recreation;
- Able to support multi-generational programming opportunities; and

- Of sufficient size to allow for the construction of the scheduled space with allowances for on-site parking and outdoor spaces.

The City of Springfield is a historically industrialized city with limited City-owned property and opportunities to support this development. Based on these criteria, two sites showed potential: Cottage Street Industrial Park and Blunt Park (see Figure 1). The former location on Howard Street was determined to not be in the best interest for public welfare to rebuild/restore the damaged facility and was not considered to be a viable option. Upon further review, the available area at Cottage Street Industrial Park was determined to be insufficient to support the Senior Center. As such, this alternative was excluded from further consideration, leaving Blunt Park as the only alternative to meet the siting criteria.

The location at Blunt Park is in the heart of the City at a centralized location in the second largest park in the City, is located along a bus route, is proximate to existing senior housing, has opportunities for active and passive outdoor recreational use within the park, allowing for increased park usership and promoting park usage, and has the potential for intergenerational programming at the nearby Putnam School, across the street from Blunt Park. These factors led to the selection of the Proposed Alternative and the other options identified above not being selected for further consideration.

3 Affected Environment

Based on the review performed to complete the National Parks Service (NPS) Environmental Screening Form (ESF) submitted to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (MA EEA), the resource categories listed below are potentially affected by the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) or the Proposed Alternative (Alternative B). This Chapter of the EA describes the existing characteristics of each resource within the Project Area for the proposed public facility that may potentially be affected. The potential adverse environmental consequences of the Proposed Action are described in Chapter 4.

3.1 Geological Resources

There are no unique geologic resources (soils or bedrock) at the proposed public facility area. Based on a review of the Soil Survey for the area, the soils at the proposed Senior Center site are primarily classified as Windsor loamy sand, 0-3 percent slopes (USDA SCS, 1978).

3.2 Air Quality

Under the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) and its associated amendments, the federal government regulates and sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six “criteria” air pollutants through the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by developing human health-based and/or environmentally based criteria which are used to set primary standards (based on human health) and secondary standards (based on prevention of environmental and property damage). The six “criteria” air pollutants are listed below:

- Particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM₁₀) and 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5}),
- Ground level ozone (O₃),
- Nitrogen oxides (NO_x),
- Sulfur dioxide (SO₂),
- Lead (Pb), and
- Carbon monoxide (CO).

The Clean Air Act requires states to develop a plan to attain and maintain NAAQS and specific plans for areas which are designated as nonattainment areas. 310 CMR 6 and 310 CMR 7 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations are EPA-approved Massachusetts Air Quality Regulations.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) Air Assessment Branch (AAB) operates 30 monitoring stations in 20 cities and towns across Massachusetts, the nearest of which to Blunt Park is located at Liberty Street in Springfield (approximately 2.5 miles from the conversion and replacement sites). This information provides an overall view of air quality in the state.

According to the *Massachusetts 2013 Air Quality Report* (2014), all of Massachusetts was designated as having:

- Below the PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} standards (EPA developing designation rule),
- Unclassifiable/attainment for ozone (except for Dukes County),
- Unclassifiable/attainment of the NO₂ standard,
- Below the standard for SO₂ (EPA developing designation rule),
- Unclassifiable/attainment of the 2008 Lead standard, and
- Attainment of CO standards.

Sources of air pollution in the immediate area of the park and proposed public facility location within it are derived primarily from mobile sources.

3.3 Noise

Noise levels are measured in decibels (dB), a unit of sound pressure. Because any sound is composed of many frequencies/pitches, it is important to consider the sound frequencies that are received by humans. A method weighting that frequency range to more closely represent how humans hear and perceive noise is called A-weighting. When a noise level is weighted with this method, its level is written as dBA.

Federal regulations include the Noise Pollution Act of 1972, which placed the primary responsibility for noise control with state and local governments. In the City of Springfield, noise is regulated under Chapter 259, the Noise Control City ordinance. The Chapter protects residential areas against “unreasonable noise”, and limits the creation of noise at night. This Chapter applies to the control of all sound originating within City limits including:

power lawn mowers, engine-powered equipment, air conditioners, animals, birds, loud amplification devices, firecrackers, firearms, pile drivers, shovels, graters, scrapers, tractors, jackhammers, and other construction equipment. This chapter is intended to prohibit preventable and unnecessary noise and is not intended nor shall it be construed to regulate the usual and customary noise incidental to urban life.

Chapter 259-6 pertains to limitations on Construction Hours and states that:

No erection, demolition, alteration, or repair of any building and excavation in regard thereto shall take place except between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays or except in the interest of public safety or welfare, upon the issuance of and pursuant to a permit from the Code Enforcement Commissioner, which permit may be renewed for one or more periods not exceeding one week each and so as not to be plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet from the lot line of the lot on which said construction activity is located, except for emergency work of public service utilities or general public works repairs of an emergency nature. Other special exceptions may be only authorized by the Code Enforcement Commissioner in a written format.

Chapter 259-12 prohibits excessive noise that is plainly audible at a distance of 100 feet or, in the case of loud amplification devices or other similar equipment, noise plainly audible at a distance of fifty feet from its source by a person of normal hearing.

No specific dB or dBA limits are set as part of this Chapter.

Based on a review of land uses in the neighborhood surrounding the park which includes recreational, residential, and institutional uses and the proximity of the site to Roosevelt Avenue, a major roadway, the primary source of noise in the area of Blunt Park would appear to be related to vehicle traffic, typical of an urban environment.

3.4 Water Quality/Quantity

No surface waters or water courses exist on the proposed public facility site. The proposed Senior Center location is not located within water supply (drinking water) resource areas (MA DEP Interim Wellhead Protection Areas, Zone IIs, etc.). The eventual discharge point for this area is to Watershops Pond which discharges to the Mill River.

Stormwater runoff from the proposed Senior Center site would discharge to onsite infiltration basins, with no expected discharges offsite.

3.5 Natural Resources (Wetlands, Floodplain, Species/Habitat)

Wetland resources are present to the east of the proposed Senior Center site along the Roosevelt Avenue boundary of Blunt Park (but outside the project area).

Blunt Park and the proposed Senior Center site is not within the 100-year floodplain, as delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City of Springfield also has a Floodplain Overlay District, but Blunt Park is not located within the 100-year floodplain and is thus not included within the overlay district.

A review of the Federally-listed Endangered and Threatened Species in Massachusetts from the National Fish and Wildlife Service (NFWS) dated January 2015 (when the process for the public facility began) indicates that the Northern Long-Eared Bat is listed as Proposed Endangered for the entire state. The listing is attached in Appendix A. Since that listing date, the Northern Long-eared bat has been granted Threatened Species status, per 50 CFR Part 17, as published in Vol. 80, No. 63 of the Federal Register on April 2, 2015. An excerpt from that Federal Register publication is also included in Appendix A. Habitat is listed as mines and caves in the winter and a variety of forested habitats in the summer. The proposed Senior Center area is set within a generally urbanized area on parcels with forested areas but with no known caves/mines.

A review of the MA Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (MA NHESP) Estimated and Priority Habitats and Potential Vernal Pools GIS datalayers for Massachusetts did not identify any habitats for such species at Blunt Park.

3.6 Land Use and Planning

Blunt Park is zoned as Open Space. The Proposed Alternative was reviewed for consistency with the Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). The public facility process will allow for construction of the proposed Senior Center at the park, which will provide for increased recreation opportunities and access for a diverse urban population and will allow for multi-generational programming at/near the park, which is in keeping with the SCORP goal of responsive programming and increased access. Blunt Park will continue to be pedestrian friendly.

The Proposed Action meets the SCORP goals of investing in recreation areas that are close to home for short visits within a short walk or ride to a large number of residents and investing in racially, economically, and age-diverse neighborhoods.

There are no known easements, rights-of-way, leases, or other agreements for the Senior Center site and within Blunt Park, nor is there a known history of contamination that would affect the public facility process. The Senior Center would be operated and maintained by the Springfield Department of Public Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management, as Blunt Park is as a whole.

3.7 Circulation, Transportation, and Accessibility

Blunt Park and the proposed Senior Center site within the park is linked to the neighborhood via pedestrian sidewalks along Roosevelt Avenue and surrounding streets and crosswalk areas where Blunt Park Road crosses Roosevelt Avenue. In addition, Blunt Park has direct linkages to local schools which abut or are in the immediate vicinity and walkable to the park areas, including Central High School, Putnam Vocational Technical High School, the STEM Middle Academy, the Springfield High School of Science and Technology, the Margaret C. Eells Elementary School, and a portion of American International College. Many of the surrounding streets have pedestrian sidewalks and cross walks which provide safe access to the park for pedestrians. Roadway layouts can be seen on the Locus Map provided in Figure 1.

Vehicular access to Blunt Park is currently provided within parking lots and spaces dedicated to the park. The nearest transit access is along the roads surrounding Blunt Park and along Blunt Park Road.

3.8 Recreation

Amenities within the current 6(f) boundary of Blunt Park include lawn areas, walkways, internal roadways and parking areas, restrooms, a playground, water fountain, trash receptacles, picnic areas, multiple ballfields for baseball, soccer, and football, basketball and tennis courts, and a running track. In undeveloped wooded areas of the park, there is passive recreation. The area proposed for the Senior Center is wooded and does not contain any amenities or improvements.

The Proposed Action meets the SCORP goals of investing in recreation areas that are close to home for short visits within a short walk or ride to a large number of residents and investing in

racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods. Linkages via interior roadways and trails in the vicinity of the proposed Senior Center will also provide for increased programming and usership.

3.9 Aesthetics

Large areas within Blunt Park are wooded with large wetland areas, or are developed areas with park amenities such as ballfields and parking/picnic areas. The surrounding streets and neighborhood area are a mix of residential and institutional uses. Aesthetic resources within the 6(f) area include natural wooded vegetation. There are no structures or other amenities within the 6(f) area proposed for the Senior Center public facility.

3.10 Historical and Cultural Resources

Blunt Park does not appear to contain a historic listed property or be within a historic district, based on a review of the MassGIS layer for the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Historic Inventory.

Formal consultation with the Massachusetts Historical Commission was undertaken regarding the Project, as discussed in Section 4.

3.11 Socioeconomic Resources and Economic Justice

The area in which Blunt Park is located is mapped in the Environmental Justice (EJ) dataset available from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts GIS (MassGIS). The EJ datalayer was compiled from the Census 2010 block groups from the 2010 Census and from the American Community Survey 2006-2010 Five-Year Estimate Data Tables, according to metadata available from the MassGIS website. Blunt Park and the proposed Senior Center serve or will serve the immediate neighborhood area and users from beyond, as well as events which may include surrounding neighborhoods.

Blunt Park is located within Census Tract 8014.01. The total population of Tract 8014.01 was identified as 4,823 by the American Community Survey 2006-2010, with approximately 12.6% of the population identified as White, 53.4% as Black, and 42.8% Hispanic. Approximately 55% of the population over 25 has less than a high school diploma. Over 30% of the population of the tract is identified as being below the poverty level.

3.12 Mandatory Criteria

The following table is taken from the LWCF Proposal Description and Environmental Screening Form (ESF). The table provides a list of mandatory impact criteria, any one or more of which may preclude the use of categorical exclusions for NPS review/decisions. Potential impacts relative to these criteria will be addressed in Section 4.

Table 1. Mandatory Criteria for LWCF proposals.

MANDATORY CRITERIA
If your LWCF proposal is approved, would it...
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands, wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O 11988); and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office.(Attach SHPO/THPO Comments)
8. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.
9. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?

4 Environmental Impacts

4.1 Geological Resources

4.1.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts to geological resources are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.1.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – The project will involve minor changes in grading associated with the Senior Center development. Because the total project area includes earth disturbance of one or more acres of land, the project will be subject to the EPA Construction General Permit and a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed to address erosion and sediment control during construction. Appropriate controls will be used to limit/prevent erosion and sediment migration from the construction area.

4.2 Air Quality

4.2.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts to air quality are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.2.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts - Temporary air quality impacts may result from construction-generated emissions. Construction related to the proposed Senior Center would result in a short-term increase in construction-generated particulates, which would be minimized using dust control measures, such as surface wetting. Temporary increased emissions related to construction vehicles may also occur during construction, but can be minimized by restricting idling of vehicles.

Based on a recent study completed for a similar size and type of City project (the South End Community Center in Emerson Wight Park), it is expected that the Proposed Alternative will have below the conformity de-minimus level effect on air quality. The study for that project indicated that the vehicle emissions associated with the increase in traffic would be below “de minimus” levels specified in the Clean Air Act and would not likely cause or contribute to a potential Carbon monoxide exceedance of the NAAQ (as per the South End Community Center Project Air Quality Report dated May 25, 2015, as cited in the FEMA EA prepared for the Senior Center project).

4.3 Noise

4.3.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.3.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – Temporary increases in noise levels are anticipated related to construction of the proposed Senior Center. Construction would be performed within the standard work hours defined in the City noise ordinance and would follow the conditions of that ordinance.

Post-construction noise impacts would be related to vehicle and public transportation trips to the Senior Center, and snow removal seasonally, as well as noise related to building operation (HVAC units, patrons using the Senior Center when outside). This noise would primarily occur during typical hours of operation for the Senior Center and would be expected to be characteristic of noise typically observed in the park which has ballfields and other group recreation areas. Many of the activities at the Senior Center would be indoors, with the noise contained within the structure. No detrimental impacts are expected.

4.4 Water Quality/Quantity

4.4.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.4.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – Development of the proposed Senior Center will include practices to manage stormwater runoff from the site, in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, and the owner and contractor for the proposed project will file for coverage under the EPA CGP (if total disturbance is one or more acres) to address potential stormwater impacts related to construction activities and address/prevent erosion and sediment deposition.

Because there are no surface waters/watercourses/drinking water resources on the proposed public facility site, there is no anticipated impact to these resources associated with the project.

4.5 Natural Resources (Wetlands, Floodplain, Species/Habitat)

4.5.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.5.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – No wetland resources, 100-year floodplain, or state listed species habitat were identified on the proposed public facility area. As such, no impacts would be expected to these resources.

According to the NFWS and the aforementioned Federal Register listing, the Northern Long-Eared Bat is federally-listed as Threatened throughout all of Massachusetts (Appendix A). Habitat for this species is listed as mines and caves in the winter and a variety of forested habitats in the summer.

A consultation was undertaken with USFWS regarding the Senior Center project and is included in Appendix A. The response from the agency indicated that no effects were likely to occur, based on the project information provided and was based on tree clearing as an activity. Further, the Senior Center EA prepared by FEMA received a similar response indicating that there are no known Northern long eared bat occurrences in the vicinity of the proposed project and that the project would not have an impact on the species. As a result of this process, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats are expected associated with the Proposed Alternative.

In addition, construction of the Senior Center will not likely result in the introduction of non-native noxious plants to the project area.

4.6 Land Use and Planning

4.6.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.6.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – The proposed public facility and overall park are currently zoned as Open Space. The proposed Senior Center area will remain zoned Open Space. No negative impacts are expected relative to zoning. In addition, the proposed public facility site does not occur on identified Native American land.

4.7 Circulation, Transportation, and Accessibility

4.7.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No traffic related impacts related to the 6(f) process are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.7.2 Alternative B

Minor Impacts – A “traffic operations review” was conducted in the Fall of 2015 by Alfred Benesch & Company for the intersection of the Blunt Park Access Road and Roosevelt Avenue. The intersection will serve as the primary ingress and egress point for new Senior Center vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Proposed improvements to safely accommodate additional traffic include additional signage, relocation of the traffic signal “stop bar” [painted on the pavement], and adjustment of an existing microwave detector under the Blunt Park Access Road. The FEMA EA concluded that the

project “will have a negligible impact on traffic density and pattern” which will be mitigated by the above stated safety improvements/management practices.

4.8 Recreation

4.8.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated to the 6(f) area of Blunt Park if it remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.8.2 Alternative B

Minor Impacts –The area proposed for conversion is undeveloped without amenities and is used for passive recreation only. The proposed area of the public facility is only a small portion of the forested undeveloped area available for use by park patrons, so no significant effect is anticipated. In addition, the addition of the new public facility is expected to increase park usership for outdoor activities by drawing new users to the park and by creating a programming space in the form of the proposed Senior Center which will provide linkages and programming to expand the diversity of recreation opportunities available at Blunt Park.

4.9 Aesthetics

4.9.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.9.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – The proposed Senior Center public facility will result in a small loss of open space at the park within a large wooded area. It will be visually screened from the roadway and walking areas and the architectural style will be a two- story lodge style building, in keeping with its surroundings in a wooded park setting. It will be oriented in such a way to preserve the larger open space of the park with appropriate access and lighting to match the adjoining park setting and to create a connection between the park and Senior Center.

4.10 Historical and Cultural Resources

4.10.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed.

4.10.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts – A Section 106 consultation letter was filed by FEMA regarding the Senior Center Project. The official MHC response indicated concurrence with the information FEMA provided indicating no adverse effect. The FEMA EA MHC response is included in Appendix B.

In addition, a Project Notification Form (PNF) was filed by the City of Springfield Dept. of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management with the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) relative to the 6(f) process and potential impacts. NPS consulted with the relevant tribes regarding the project. The MHC and tribal responses are pending and will be included in the final EA.

4.11 Socioeconomic Resources and Minority and Economic Justice

4.11.1 Alternative A

No Impacts – No impacts related to the 6(f) process are anticipated if the 6(f) area of Blunt Park remains intact and the proposed public facility is not constructed. However, if the Senior Center cannot be built at Blunt Park, there may be negative impacts to the community, due to the potential for lack of adequate facilities if another site meeting the siting criteria cannot be found, or the potential selection of a less suitable site, with less safe access or a lack of linkage to the community and outdoor recreation opportunities.

4.11.2 Alternative B

Negligible Impacts –The proposed Senior Center will require the use of a small portion of land within Blunt Park (less than 5 acres out of a 151 acre park), which would slightly reduce the amount of undeveloped parkland available to the Economic Justice community of the neighborhood. However, the new public facility will be within the park and open to the public, creating a new resource with programming and facilities that is expected to draw new users to the park and support existing ones. The inclusion of the proposed Senior Center at Blunt Park will also provide for outdoor linkages for seniors and promote intergenerational programming and increased use of Blunt Park, providing benefits for those in the community. No fees are anticipated, which will allow users of all incomes to participate. The site is located near public transportation and in a pedestrian accessible area, near schools, allowing for direct connections for those that would otherwise be unable financially to travel a greater distance.

4.12 Mandatory Criteria

4.12.1 Alternative A

The Mandatory Criteria evaluation is not applicable to the No Action Alternative, Alternative A.

4.12.2 Alternative B

No mandatory criteria, as presented in Table 1, are anticipated to be impacted or affected by the proposed public facility.

5 Coordination and Consultation

5.1 Public Availability of Draft EA

This Draft Environmental Assessment was released for public comment for a period commencing on July 27, 2016, and ending August 25, 2016. Notice of the availability of the Draft EA was published in *The Republican* newspaper on July 27, 2016, and posted on the City of Springfield website. Copies of the EA were made available for review during normal business hours at the City of Springfield City Hall Office of Procurement located at 36 Court Street (Room 307), the City Library Main Branch located at 220 State Street, at the City of Springfield's Department of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management office at 200 Trafton Road within Forest Park, and on the City of Springfield's website.

5.2 Previous Opportunities for Public Comment

There have been multiple opportunities for the public to receive information and/or to provide comment on the proposed Senior Center public facility project.

The information provided herein is excerpted from a summary of public meetings, press conferences, and public notices regarding the Senior Center Project.

A City Council meeting held on Monday, May 4, 2009, included discussion about centralizing senior center branches to a single location. The City Council Special Committee on Elderly reported that the city did not own a facility that could accommodate the seniors and their needs. A decision was made to publish request for proposals (RFP) for a centralized senior center. This meeting was held prior to the tornado which struck areas of Springfield and affected the former Howard Street Senior Center.

City officials unveiled the design plans for Blunt Park Senior Center during a noontime press conference conducted at the Springfield Park Department's conference room building at Forest Park on Wednesday, December 15, 2010. Schematic designs of the proposed facility, prepared by Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, were displayed and discussed.

On July 16, 2014, the City posted a "Request for Qualifications" on their website for Architect and Engineering firms interested in developing designs for the project.

On October 6, 2015, the City unveiled final design plans in a public forum held at the park.

On November 17, 2015, the City posted a "Sealed Bid Solicitation" on their website for a primary construction contractor.

On November 19, 2015, the City Park Commission voted in a public meeting forum to name the proposed Senior Center in honor of the former State Representative, Raymond A. Jordan, Jr. The vote was held in response to a petition signed by 125 City residents.

The draft FEMA EA and FEMA FONSI regarding the proposed Senior Center were made available on the City's website and at City Hall on January 22, 2016. Public notices were also published in the local newspaper, the Republican, on January 22 and 30, 2016, and February 8, 2016, announcing availability of the documents and the length of the public comment period. The draft and final FEMA EA were also published on FEMA's website.

5.3 References Consulted

The following references were consulted in the preparation of this EA:

1. City of Springfield Regulations, Codes, Ordinances (accessed electronically in 2015)
2. City of Springfield Geographic Information System datalayers (accessed in 2015).
3. FEMA (March 9, 2016). *FEMA Region 1 EA – FINAL: Springfield Senior Center New Construction, Blunt Park Road, Springfield, MA, DR 1994 MA, Public Assistance Grant Program.*
4. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) Bureau of Waste Prevention, Division of Air and Climate Programs, Air Assessment Branch (2014). *Massachusetts 2013 Air Quality Report.*
5. Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (2012). *Massachusetts Outdoors 2012 – Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.*
6. Massachusetts Geographic Information System (MassGIS) datalayers (accessed in 2015 and 2016).
7. National Fish and Wildlife Service (2015). *Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in Massachusetts.* Available at: <http://www.fws.gov/newengland/pdfs/MA%20species%20by%20town.pdf>. Accessed June 15, 2015.
8. National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior (2008). *Land and Water Conservation Fund State Assistance Program Federal Financial Assistance Manual Volume 69.*
9. South End Community Center Project Air Quality Report (May 2015). Prepared by KB Environmental Services, Inc. for Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
10. United States (U.S.) Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (May 1978). *Soil Survey of Hampden County, Massachusetts, Central Part.*
11. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2015). *Endangered Species Consultation – Consultations with Federal Agencies (Section 7).* Available at:

<http://www.fws.gov/newengland/EndangeredSpec-Consultation.htm>. Website accessed August 2015 and in 2016.

5.4 List of Preparers

The following individuals, firms, and resources contributed, directly or indirectly, to the development of this EA which was prepared in consultation with the National Parks Service:

Patrick J. Sullivan, Executive Director, Springfield Dept. of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management

Laura Walsh, Senior Project Manager, Springfield Dept. of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management

Peter J. Garvey, Director, City of Springfield Department of Capital Asset Construction

Melissa Cryan, State Liason Officer, Division of Conservation Services (DCS), MA EEA

Thomas Jenkins, P.E., Principal-in-Charge, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Steven Riberdy, CWB, PWS, CE, Certified Wildlife Biologist, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Jennifer Burke, P.E., Civil Engineer, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Kasie Collins, Environmental Scientist, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Appendix A

Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Species in Massachusetts
(from NFWS New England Field Office website and
Federal Register Excerpt)

Section 7 Consultation Documentation



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5087
<http://www.fws.gov/newengland>

November 16, 2015

Reference: Project Location
Senior Center Project Springfield, MA

Anja Ryan Duffy
Stephan T. Roy
Tom E. Jenkins
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
1350 Main Street, Suite 1400
Springfield, MA 01103

Dear Ms. Duffy and Messrs. Roy and Jenkins:

This responds to your correspondence, dated September 22, 2015, requesting that we review the proposed project referenced above for potential impacts to the federally threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Our comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended: 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*).

The City of Springfield proposes to build a new senior center and associated infrastructure to be located adjacent to an existing State swimming pool in Blunt Park, a 151-acre urban park. Blunt Park consists of ball fields, a running track and other associated recreational and operational facilities. The surrounding landscape consists of residential, commercial and industrial areas of the City. Approximately 3.9 acres of forested area will be removed between December 2015 and January 2016. There are no known northern long-eared bat occurrences (hibernacula, positive acoustic data, or mist net data) in the vicinity of the proposed project.

Based on your proposed schedule for tree clearing activities, we anticipate that the project will not result in direct adverse effects to the northern long-eared bat, because tree clearing is proposed to occur in December and January when bats are not expected to be present.

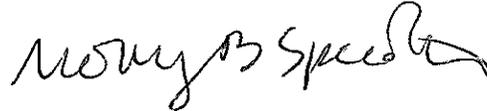
Indirect effects to roosting habitat are also not likely to occur because the limited amount of forested area surrounding the project site would not be sufficient to support a core roosting area. The surrounding landscape is highly developed and there are no contiguous forested habitats to provide sufficient roosting and foraging areas for northern long-eared bats.

Anja Ryan Duffy
Stephan T. Roy
Tom E. Jenkins
November 16, 2015

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Further consultation with us under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is not required at this time. Should project plans change, this determination may be reconsidered. Thank you for your cooperation, and please contact Ms. Maria Tur of this office at 603-223-2541, extension 6419, if you need any further assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Acting
for

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office

**FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES
IN MASSACHUSETTS**

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Barnstable	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	All Towns
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	All Towns
	Northeastern beach tiger beetle	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Chatham
	Sandplain gerardia	Endangered	Open areas with sandy soils.	Sandwich and Falmouth.
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Bourne (north of the Cape Cod Canal)
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Berkshire	Bog Turtle	Threatened	Wetlands	Egremont and Sheffield
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Bristol	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Westport
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Fairhaven, New Bedford, Dartmouth, Westport
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Taunton
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Dukes	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	All Towns
	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	All Towns
	Northeastern beach tiger beetle	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Aquinnah and Chilmark
	Sandplain gerardia	Endangered	Open areas with sandy soils.	West Tisbury
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

**FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES
IN MASSACHUSETTS**

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Essex	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Gloucester, Essex and Manchester
	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Gloucester, Essex, Ipswich, Rowley, Revere, Newbury, Newburyport and Salisbury
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Franklin	Northeastern bulrush	Endangered	Wetlands	Montague, Warwick
	Dwarf wedgemussel	Endangered	Mill River	Whately
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Hampshire	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Hadley
	Puritan tiger beetle	Threatened	Sandy beaches along the Connecticut River	Northampton and Hadley
	Dwarf wedgemussel	Endangered	Rivers and Streams.	Hatfield, Amherst and Northampton
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Hampden	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Southwick
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Middlesex	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Groton
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Nantucket	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Nantucket
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Nantucket
	American burying beetle	Endangered	Upland grassy meadows	Nantucket
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

**FEDERALLY LISTED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES
IN MASSACHUSETTS**

COUNTY	SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	GENERAL LOCATION/HABITAT	TOWNS
Plymouth	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Scituate, Marshfield, Duxbury, Plymouth, Wareham and Mattapoissett
	Northern Red-bellied Cooter	Endangered	Inland Ponds and Rivers	Kingston, Middleborough, Carver, Plymouth, Bourne, Wareham, Halifax, and Pembroke
	Roseate Tern	Endangered	Coastal beaches and the Atlantic Ocean	Plymouth, Marion, Wareham, and Mattapoissett.
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Suffolk	Piping Plover	Threatened	Coastal Beaches	Revere, Winthrop
	Red Knot ¹	Threatened	Coastal Beaches and Rocky Shores, sand and mud flats	Coastal Towns
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide
Worcester	Small whorled Pogonia	Threatened	Forests with somewhat poorly drained soils and/or a seasonally high water table	Leominster
	Northern Long-eared Bat	Proposed Endangered	Winter- mines and caves, Summer – wide variety of forested habitats	Statewide

¹Migratory only, scattered along the coast in small numbers

-Eastern cougar and gray wolf are considered extirpated in Massachusetts.

-Endangered gray wolves are not known to be present in Massachusetts, but dispersing individuals from source populations in Canada may occur statewide.

-Critical habitat for the Northern Red-bellied Cooter is present in Plymouth County.



FEDERAL REGISTER

Vol. 80

Thursday,

No. 63

April 2, 2015

Part V

Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat With 4(d) Rule; Final Rule and Interim Rule

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024;
4500030113]

RIN 1018-AY98

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for the Northern Long-Eared Bat With 4(d) Rule

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule, and interim rule with request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), determine threatened species status under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), a bat species that occurs in 37 States, the District of Columbia, and 13 Canadian Provinces. The effect of this final rule will be to add the northern long-eared bat to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife.

We are also establishing an interim rule under the authority of section 4(d) of the Act that provides measures that are necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of the northern long-eared bat. We are seeking public comments on this interim rule, and we will publish either an affirmation of the interim rule or a final rule amending the interim rule after we consider all comments we receive. If you previously submitted comments or information on the proposed 4(d) rule we published on January 16, 2015, please do not resubmit them. We have incorporated them into the public record, and we will fully consider them in our final determination on the 4(d) rule.

DATES: *Effective dates:* The final rule amending 50 CFR 17.11 and the interim rule amending 50 CFR 17.40 are both effective May 4, 2015.

Comments on the interim rule amending 50 CFR 17.40: We will accept comments on the interim rule amending 50 CFR 17.40 received or postmarked on or before July 1, 2015. Comments submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date.

ADDRESSES: *Document availability:* The final listing rule is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024 and at <http://www.fws.gov/>

midwest/Endangered. Comments and materials we received, as well as supporting documentation we used in preparing the final listing rule, are available for public inspection at <http://www.regulations.gov>, and by appointment, during normal business hours at: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Services Office, 4101 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425; telephone (612) 725-3548, ext. 2201; or facsimile (612) 725-3609.

Comments on the interim rule amending 50 CFR 17.40: You may submit comments on the interim rule amending 50 CFR 17.40 by one of the following methods:

(1) Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024, which is the docket number for this rulemaking. Then click on the Search button. Please ensure that you have located the correct document before submitting your comments. You may submit a comment by clicking on "Comment Now!"

(2) By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS-R5-ES-2011-0024; Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: BPHC; 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.

We request that you send comments only by one of the methods described above. We will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Public Comments Solicited on the Interim 4(d) Rule section, below, for more information).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Mandell, Deputy Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities Ecological Services Field Office, 4101 American Blvd. East, Bloomington, MN 55425; telephone (612) 725-3548, ext. 2201; or facsimile (612) 725-3609. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Executive Summary

Final Listing Rule

Why we need to publish a rule: Under the Endangered Species Act, a species may warrant protection through listing if it is endangered or threatened throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Listing a species as an endangered or threatened species can only be completed by issuing a rule. This rule will finalize the listing of the

northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) as a threatened species.

The basis for our action: Under the Endangered Species Act, we can determine that a species is an endangered or threatened species based on any of five factors: (A) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (C) disease or predation; (D) the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (E) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. We have determined that white-nose syndrome is the predominant threat to the species.

Peer review and public comment: We sought comments from independent specialists to ensure that our designation is based on scientifically sound data, assumptions, and analyses. We invited these peer reviewers to comment on our listing proposal. We also considered all comments and information we received during the comment periods.

Interim 4(d) Rule

The need for the regulatory action and how the action will meet that need: Consistent with section 4(d) of the Act, this interim 4(d) rule provides measures that are tailored to our current understanding of the conservation needs of the northern long-eared bat.

Statement of legal authority for the regulatory action: Under section 4(d) of the Act, the Secretary of the Interior has discretion to issue such regulations as she deems necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of the species. The Secretary also has the discretion to prohibit by regulation with respect to a threatened species, any act prohibited by section 9(a)(1) of the Act.

Summary of the major provisions of the regulatory action: The interim species-specific 4(d) rule prohibits purposeful take of northern long-eared bats throughout the species' range, except in instances of removal of northern long-eared bats from human structures and authorized capture and handling of northern long-eared bat by individuals permitted to conduct these same activities for other bats (for a period of 1 year after the effective date of the interim 4(d) rule).

In areas not yet affected by white nose syndrome (WNS), a disease currently affecting many U.S. bat populations, all incidental take resulting from any otherwise lawful activity will be excepted from prohibition.

In areas currently known to be affected by WNS, all incidental take prohibitions apply, except that take

attributable to forest management practices, maintenance and limited expansion of transportation and utility rights-of-way, prairie habitat management, and limited tree removal projects shall be excepted from the take prohibition, provided these activities protect known maternity roosts and hibernacula. Further, removal of hazardous trees for the protection of human life or property shall be excepted from the take prohibition.

Previous Federal Action

Please refer to the proposed listing rule for the northern long-eared bat (78 FR 61046; October 2, 2013) for a detailed description of previous Federal actions concerning this species. On October 2, 2013, we published in the **Federal Register** (78 FR 61046) a proposed rule to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the Act. The proposed rule had a 60-day comment period, ending on December 2, 2013. On December 2, 2013, we extended this comment period through January 2, 2014 (78 FR 72058). On June 30, 2014, we announced a 6-month extension of the final determination on the proposed listing rule for northern long-eared bat, and we reopened the public comment period on the proposed rule for 60 days, ending August 29, 2014 (79 FR 36698). On November 18, 2014, we again reopened the comment period on the proposed listing for an additional 30 days, ending December 18, 2014 (79 FR 68657). During the comment period we received one request for a public hearing, which was held in Sundance, Wyoming, on December 2, 2014. On January 16, 2015, we published a proposed rule to create a species-specific rule under section 4(d) of the Act (a “4(d) rule”) that would provide measures that are necessary and advisable to provide for the conservation of the northern long-eared bat, if it were to be listed as a threatened species (80 FR 2371). At that time, we also reopened the public comment period on the October 2, 2013, proposed listing rule; we accepted public comments on both proposals for 60 days, ending March 17, 2015.

Background

Taxonomy and Species Description

The northern long-eared bat belongs to the order *Chiroptera*, suborder *Microchiroptera*, family *Vespertilionidae*, subfamily *Vespertilioninae*, genus *Myotis*, and subgenus *Myotis* (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1). The northern long-eared bat was considered a subspecies of Keen’s long-eared myotis (*Myotis keenii*) (Fitch

and Schump 1979, p. 1), but was recognized as a distinct species by van Zyll de Jong in 1979 (1979, p. 993), based on geographic separation and difference in morphology (as cited in Caceres and Pybus 1997 p. 1; Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1; Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 87; Whitaker and Hamilton 1998, p. 99; Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207; Simmons 2005, p. 516). The northern long-eared bat is currently considered a monotypic species, with no subspecies described for this species (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1; Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 90; Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 214; van Zyll de Jong 1985, p. 94). Reynolds (2013, pers. comm.) stated that there have been very few genetic studies on this species; however, data collected in Ohio suggest relatively low levels of genetic differentiation across that State (Arnold 2007, p. 157). In addition, Johnson *et al.* (2014, upaginated) assessed nuclear genetic diversity at one site in New York and several sites in West Virginia, and found little evidence of population structure in northern long-eared bats at any scale. This species has been recognized by different common names, such as: Keen’s bat (Whitaker and Hamilton 1998, p. 99), northern myotis (Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 87; Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207), and the northern bat (Foster and Kurta 1999, p. 660). For the purposes of this finding, we refer to this species as the northern long-eared bat, and recognize it as a listable entity under the Act.

A medium-sized bat species, the northern long-eared bat’s adult body weight averages 5 to 8 grams (g) (0.2 to 0.3 ounces), with females tending to be slightly larger than males (Caceres and Pybus 1997, p. 3). Average body length ranges from 77 to 95 millimeters (mm) (3.0 to 3.7 inches (in)), tail length between 35 and 42 mm (1.3 to 1.6 in), forearm length between 34 and 38 mm (1.3 to 1.5 in), and wingspread between 228 and 258 mm (8.9 to 10.2 in) (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1; Barbour and Davis 1969, p. 76). Pelage (fur) colors include medium to dark brown on its back; dark brown, but not black, ears and wing membranes; and tawny to pale-brown fur on the ventral side (Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 87; Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207). As indicated by its common name, the northern long-eared bat is distinguished from other *Myotis* species by its relatively long ears (average 17 mm (0.7 in); Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207) that, when laid forward, extend beyond the nose up to 5 mm (0.2 in; Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1). The

tragus (projection of skin in front of the external ear) is long (average 9 mm (0.4 in); Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207), pointed, and symmetrical (Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 87; Whitaker and Mumford 2009, p. 207). There is an occasional tendency for the northern long-eared bat to exhibit a slight keel on the calcar (spur of cartilage arising from inner side of ankle; Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 87). This can add some uncertainty in distinguishing northern long-eared bats from other sympatric *Myotis* species (Lacki 2013, pers. comm.). Within its range, the northern long-eared bat can be confused with the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) or the western long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*). The northern long-eared bat can be distinguished from the little brown bat by its longer ears, tapered and symmetrical tragus, slightly longer tail, and less glossy pelage (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1; Kurta 2013, pers. comm.). The northern long-eared bat can be distinguished from the western long-eared myotis by its darker pelage and paler membranes (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 1).

Distribution and Relative Abundance

The northern long-eared bat ranges across much of the eastern and north-central United States, and all Canadian provinces west to the southern Yukon Territory and eastern British Columbia (Nagorsen and Brigham 1993, p. 89; Caceres and Pybus 1997, p. 1; Environment Yukon 2011, p. 10) (see Figure 1, below). In the United States, the species’ range reaches from Maine west to Montana, south to eastern Kansas, eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, and east to South Carolina (Whitaker and Hamilton 1998, p. 99; Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 2; Simmons 2005, p. 516; Amelon and Burhans 2006, pp. 71–72). The species’ range includes all or portions of the following 37 States and the District of Columbia: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

The October 2, 2013, proposed listing rule included Florida within the range of the northern long-eared bat; however, since that time we have learned that the species was known from only a single historical winter (1954) record in

Jackson County, Florida, and all other historical and recent surveys at this cave and 12 other caves (all in Jackson County) since this record was observed have not found the northern long-eared bat. Further, there are no known summer records for the State (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2013, in litt.). Historically, the species has been most frequently observed in the northeastern United States and in the Canadian Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, with sightings increasing during swarming and hibernation periods (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 2). Much of the available data on northern long-eared bats are from winter surveys, although they are typically observed in low numbers because of their preference for inconspicuous roosts (Caceres and Pybus 1997, p. 2) (for more information on use of hibernacula, see *Biology*, below). More than 1,100 northern long-

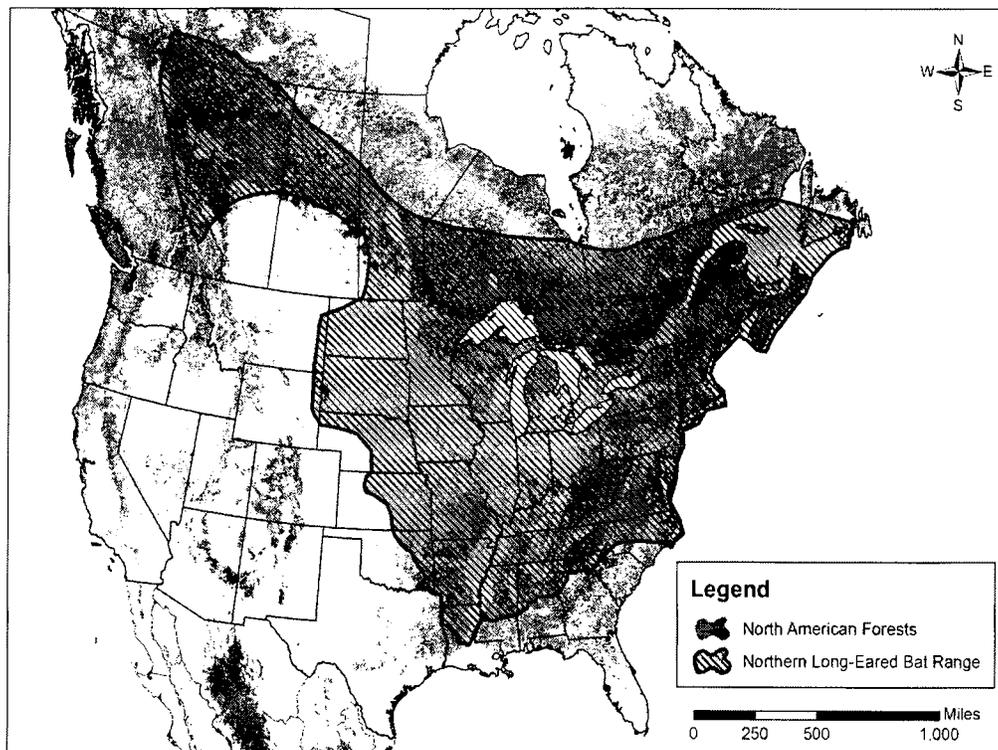
eared bat hibernacula have been identified throughout the species' range in the United States, although many hibernacula contain only a few (1 to 3) individuals (Whitaker and Hamilton 1998, p. 100). Known hibernacula (sites with one or more winter records of northern long-eared bats) include: Alabama (2), Arkansas (41), Connecticut (8), Delaware (2), Georgia (3), Illinois (21), Indiana (25), Kentucky (119), Maine (3), Maryland (8), Massachusetts (7), Michigan (103), Minnesota (11), Missouri (more than 269), Nebraska (2), New Hampshire (11), New Jersey (7), New York (90), North Carolina (22), Oklahoma (9), Ohio (7), Pennsylvania (112), South Carolina, (2), South Dakota (21), Tennessee (58), Vermont (16), Virginia (8), West Virginia (104), and Wisconsin (67). Northern long-eared bats are documented in hibernacula in 29 of the 37 States in the species' range. Other States within the species' range

have no known hibernacula (due to no suitable hibernacula present, lack of survey effort, or existence of unknown retreats).

For purposes of organization, the U.S. portion of the northern long-eared bat's range is discussed below in four parts: eastern range, midwest range, southern range, and western range. In these sections, we have identified the species' historical status, in addition to its current status within each State. For those States where white-nose syndrome (WNS) has been detected (see Table 1), we have assessed the impact the disease has had on the northern long-eared bat's distribution and relative abundance to date. For a discussion on anticipated spread of WNS to currently unaffected States, see "White-nose Syndrome" and "Effects of White-nose Syndrome on the Northern Long-eared Bat" under the *Factor C* discussion.

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) Range



BILLING CODE 4310-55-C

Eastern Range

For purposes of organization in this rule, the eastern geographic area includes the following States and the District of Columbia: Delaware, Connecticut, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia,

West Virginia, New York, and Rhode Island. Historically, the northern long-eared bat was widely distributed in the eastern part of its range (Caceres and Barclay 2000, p. 2). Prior to documentation of WNS, northern long-eared bats were consistently caught during summer mist-net surveys and detected during acoustic surveys in the eastern United States (Service 2014,

unpublished data). Northern long-eared bats continue to be distributed across much of the historical range, but there are many gaps within the range where bats are no longer detected or captured, and in other areas, their occurrence is sparse. Similar to summer distribution, northern long-eared bats were known to occur in many hibernacula throughout the East. Since WNS has been

documented, multiple hibernacula now have zero reported northern long-eared bats. Frick *et al.* (2015, p. 6)

documented the local extinction of northern long-eared bats from 69 percent of sites included in their analyses (468 sites where WNS has been present for at least 4 years in Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia).

In Delaware, the species is rare, but has been found at two hibernacula within the State during winter or fall swarming periods. Summer mist-net surveys have documented 14 individuals all from New Castle County, and there is also a historical record from this county in 1974 (Niederriter 2012, pers. comm.; Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife 2014, in litt.). WNS was confirmed in the State in the winter of 2009–2010, and WNS was confirmed in Delaware in the two northern long-eared bat hibernacula during the winters of 2011–2012 and 2012–2013 (Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife 2014, in litt.). Mortality of northern long-eared bats due to WNS has been documented at both of these hibernacula during winter surveys.

In Connecticut, the northern long-eared bat was historically one of the most commonly encountered bats in the State, and was documented Statewide (Dickson 2011, pers. comm.). WNS was first confirmed in Connecticut in the winter of 2008–2009. Prior to WNS detection in Connecticut, northern long-eared bats were found in large numbers (*e.g.*, often greater than 400 and up to 1,000 individuals) in hibernacula; however, no northern long-eared bats were found in any of the eight known hibernacula in the State (where the species was found prior to WNS) in 2012 or 2013 surveys (Service 2015, unpublished data).

In Maine, three bat hibernacula are known, and northern long-eared bats have been observed in all of these sites. The species has also been found in the summer in Acadia National Park (DePue 2012, unpublished data), where northern long-eared bats were fairly common in 2009–2010 (242 northern long-eared bats captured, comprising 27 percent of the total captures for the areas surveyed) (National Park Service (NPS) 2010, unpublished data). Recent findings from Acadia National Park show a precipitous decline in the northern long-eared bat population in less than 4 years, based on mist-net surveys conducted 2008–2014 (NPS 2014, in litt.). WNS was first confirmed in the State in the winter of 2010–2011. Prior to WNS, the northern long-eared bat was found in numbers greater than 100 at two of the three regularly

surveyed hibernacula; however, in 2013, only one northern long-eared bat was found during surveys conducted at all three of the State's primary hibernacula (Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) 2013, in litt.). In addition, the northern long-eared bat was infrequently found in summer acoustic surveys conducted in the State in 2013, which contrasts with widespread, frequent acoustic detections of *Myotis* species and mist net captures of northern long-eared bats prior to WNS impact (MDIFW 2015, in litt.).

In Maryland, there are eight known hibernacula for the northern long-eared bat, three of which are railroad tunnels (Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) 2014, unpublished data). WNS was first confirmed in Maryland in the winter of 2009–2010. In all five of the known caves or mines in the State, the species is thought to be extirpated due to WNS (MD DNR 2014, unpublished data). It is unknown if the species is extirpated from the known railroad tunnel hibernacula in the State, primarily because the majority of bats in these hibernacula are not visible or accessible during winter hibernacula surveys; however, no northern long-eared bats have been observed in accessible areas in these tunnel hibernacula during recent winter surveys (MD DNR 2014, unpublished data). Acoustic surveys conducted since 2010 (pre- and post-WNS) in the western portion of Maryland have also demonstrated northern long-eared bat declines due to WNS (MD DNR 2014, unpublished data).

In Massachusetts, there are seven known hibernacula. WNS was first confirmed in the State in the winter of 2007–2008. Previous to WNS confirmation in the State, the northern long-eared bat was found in relatively larger numbers for the species in some hibernacula. In 2013 and 2014 winter surveys conducted in Massachusetts hibernacula, either zero or one northern long-eared bat individual were found in all known hibernacula (Service 2015, unpublished data).

In New Hampshire, northern long-eared bats were known to inhabit at least nine mines and two World War II bunkers, and have been found in summer surveys (Brunkhurst 2012, unpublished data). The northern long-eared bat was one of the most common species captured (27 percent of captures) in the White Mountain National Forest in 1993–1994 (Sasse and Pekins 1996, pp. 93–95). WNS was confirmed in the State in the winter of 2008–2009. Data from both hibernacula surveys and summer surveys have

shown a dramatic decline (99 percent) in northern long-eared bat numbers compared to pre-WNS numbers (NHFG 2013, in litt.). Results from hibernacula surveys conducted at four of New Hampshire's hibernacula in 2014 found no northern long-eared bats; previous to WNS infection, the species was found in relatively high numbers (*e.g.*, 75–127 individuals) in most of these hibernacula. Furthermore, a researcher conducted mist-net surveys over 7 years pre-and post-WNS (2005–2011) at Surry Mountain Lake in Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and found a 98 percent decline in capture rate of northern long-eared bats (Moosman *et al.* 2013, p. 554).

In New Jersey, one of the seven known northern long-eared bat hibernacula is a cave, and the rest are mines (Markuson 2011, unpublished data). Northern long-eared bats consisted of 6 to 14 percent of the total number of summer captures at Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge from 2006–2010 (Kitchell and Wight 2011, in litt.). WNS was first confirmed in the State in the winter of 2008–2009. There have been limited consistent hibernacula and summer surveys conducted in the State to enable analyses of northern long-eared bat population trends pre- and post-WNS. Although small sample sizes precluded statistical comparison, Kitchell and Wight (2011, in litt.) and Bohrman and Fecske (2013, p. 77) documented a slight, overall decline in annual northern long-eared bat mist-net captures at Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge following the outbreak of WNS. For 3 years prior to the disease's local emergence (2006–2008), northern long-eared bats represented 8–9 percent of total bats captured. Although the northern long-eared bat capture rate rose to 14 percent in 2009, it dropped to 6 percent in 2010, and further to 2 percent in 2012, suggesting a downward trend.

Historically, the northern long-eared bat was found in both summer and winter surveys conducted across Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) 2014, in litt.). Historically, the species was found in 112 hibernacula in the State. Fall swarm trapping conducted in September and October of 1988–1989, 1990–1991, and 1999–2000 at two hibernacula with large historical numbers of northern long-eared bats had total captures ranging from 6 to 30 bats per hour, which demonstrated that the species was abundant at these hibernacula (PGC 2012, unpublished data). WNS was first confirmed in the State in 2008–2009. Since that time, northern long-eared bat

Appendix B

MHC Correspondence

950 CMR: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

APPENDIX A
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASS. 02125
617-727-8470, FAX: 617-727-5128

PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM

Project Name: Proposed Springfield Senior Center Public Facility within Blunt Park

Location / Address: Blunt Park, off Roosevelt Ave. and Blunt Park interior roadway

City / Town: Springfield, MA 01104

Project Proponent

Name: City of Springfield Dept. of Parks, Buildings, and Recreation Management

Address: 200 Trafton Road

City/Town/Zip/Telephone: Springfield, MA 01108 (413) 787-7770

Agency license or funding for the project (list all licenses, permits, approvals, grants or other entitlements being sought from state and federal agencies).

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of License or funding (specify)</u>
Energy and Env. Affairs/National Park Service (NPS)	6(f) public facility approval
US EPA	NPDES Construction General Permit
FEMA	funding

Project Description (narrative):

The Project is to construct a Senior Center as a public facility within Blunt Park, set on approx. 5 ac. of forested land in the park near the State Pool. FEMA prepared an EA for this Project and already conducted a Section 106 review (attached as Exhibit C) for the site. This PNF is being filed for the Section 106 process for the National Park Service review and approval of the public facility.

Does the project include demolition? If so, specify nature of demolition and describe the building(s) which are proposed for demolition.

The only demolition will be tree clearing. There are no existing structures in the Project area.

Does the project include rehabilitation of any existing buildings? If so, specify nature of rehabilitation and describe the building(s) which are proposed for rehabilitation.

No, the Project does not include rehabilitation of existing buildings. There are none in the Project area.

Does the project include new construction? If so, describe (attach plans and elevations if necessary).

Yes, the project includes construction of a new Senior Center for the City of Springfield. A plan is attached to this PNF as Exhibit B.

950 CMR: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

APPENDIX A (continued)

To the best of your knowledge, are any historic or archaeological properties known to exist within the project's area of potential impact? If so, specify. None known.

What is the total acreage of the project area?

Woodland	4.9	acres	Productive Resources:	
Wetland		acres	Agriculture	_____ acres
Floodplain		acres	Forestry	_____ acres
Open space		acres	Mining/Extraction	_____ acres
Developed		acres	Total Project Acreage	_____ acres

What is the acreage of the proposed new construction? 4.9 acres

What is the present land use of the project area?

The Project area is currently wooded, undeveloped land.

Please attach a copy of the section of the USGS quadrangle map which clearly marks the project location.

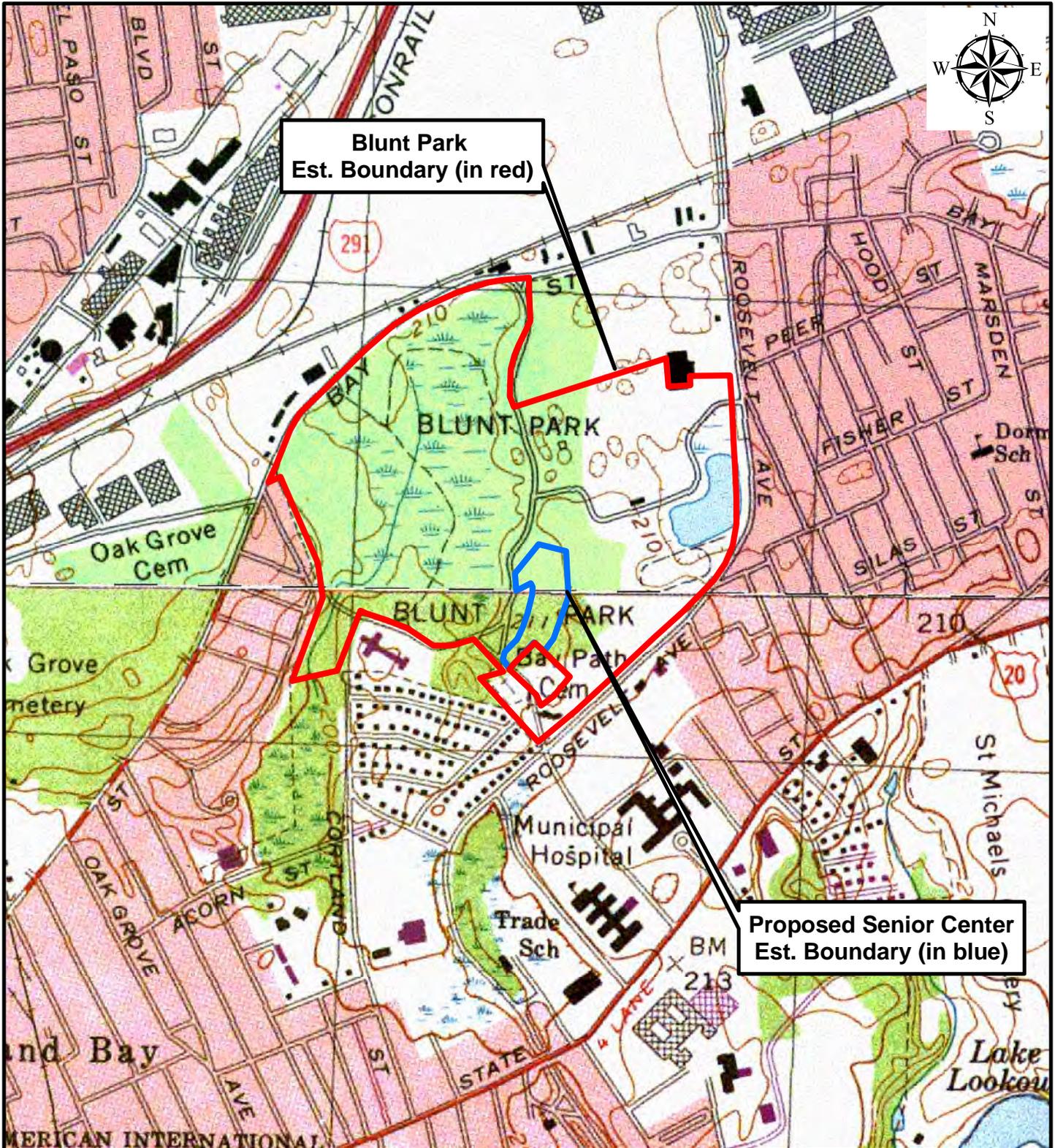
Please see attached Exhibit A.

This Project Notification Form has been submitted to the MHC in compliance with 950 CMR 71.00.

Signature of Person submitting this form: Jennifer R. Burke Date: 6/21/16
Name: Jennifer Burke
Address: 1350 Main St. Suite 1400
City/Town/Zip: Springfield, MA 01103
Telephone: 413-726-2117

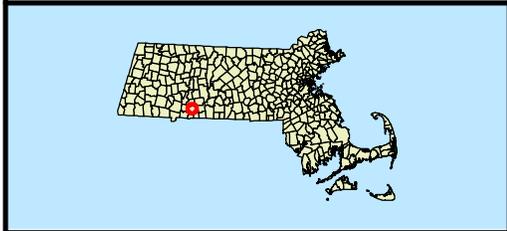
REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 71.00: M.G.L. c. 9, §§ 26-27C as amended by St. 1988, c. 254.



Blunt Park Est. Boundary (in red)

Proposed Senior Center Est. Boundary (in blue)



GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Springfield, Massachusetts

LOCUS MAP

Proposed Springfield Senior Center Public Facility within Blunt Park Springfield, Massachusetts

BASE MAP: USGS Topographic Map
SPRINGFIELD NORTH/SPRINGFIELD SOUTH, 1979

Data obtained from the Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS),
Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Information Technology Division

Project No:
15.0166405.07

Drawn by:
JRB

Checked by:
TEJ

Date:
June 2016

Exhibit No:

A

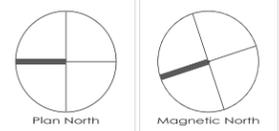
GENERAL NOTES:

1. ALL NEW STORM DRAINS SHALL BE HIGH DENSITY POLYETHYLENE (HDPE) PIPE, UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED ON THESE PLANS.
2. ALL FLARED END SECTIONS SHALL BE REINFORCED CONCRETE.

REVISION NO. 2 OF THIS DRAWING HAS BROADLY MODIFIED THE PROPOSED CONTOURS, SPOT GRADES, AND DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE SITE. THOSE CHANGES ARE NOT INDIVIDUALLY CLOUDED AS REVISIONS ON THIS DRAWING. REVISIONS TO THE SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROLS AND THE LIMITS OF CLEARING WERE ALSO MADE. REFER TO DRAWING C-1(R) "SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL PLAN - REVISED", REV. 2., DATED 10/28/2015.

Revisions:

1.	10/14/2015	- DRAWING ISSUED BY ADDENDUM NO. 4
2.	10/28/2015	- REVISIONS AS NOTED
3.	01/06/2016	- CONFORMING SET, REVISED PER ADDENDUM WHERE APPLICABLE



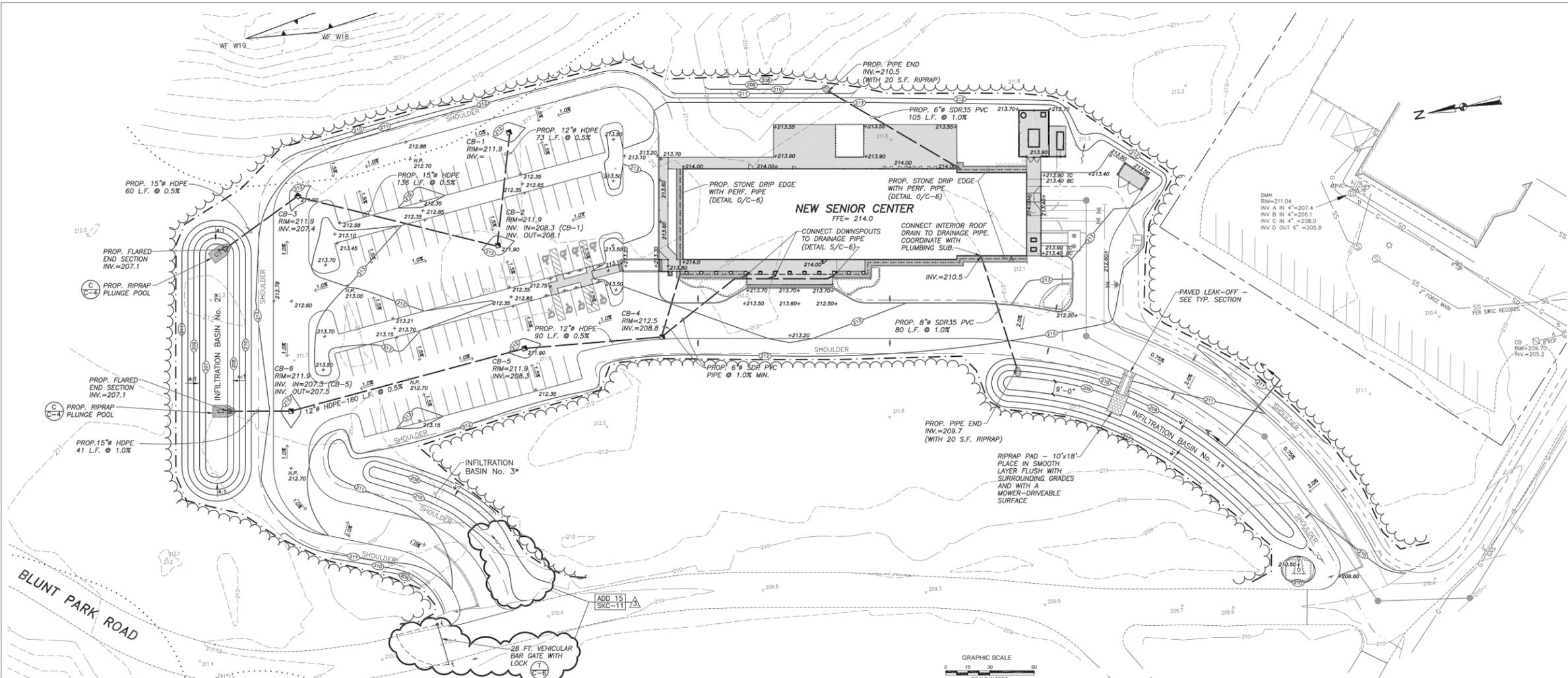
Project
BID NO. 16-060
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
**NEW SENIOR CENTER
AT BLUNT PARK**
BLUNT PARK ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
CONFORMING SET

Sheet Title

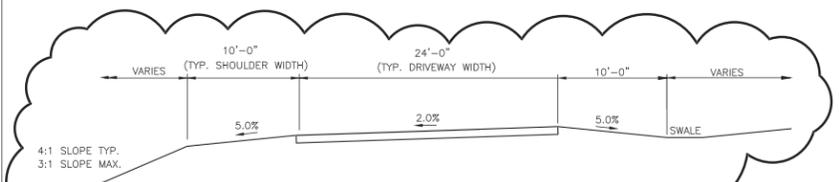
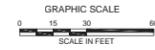
**GRADING &
DRAINAGE PLAN
- REVISED**

Date: 10/14/2015 Sheet No.
Project No.: 2014250
Scale: AS NOTED
Drawn By: ARD

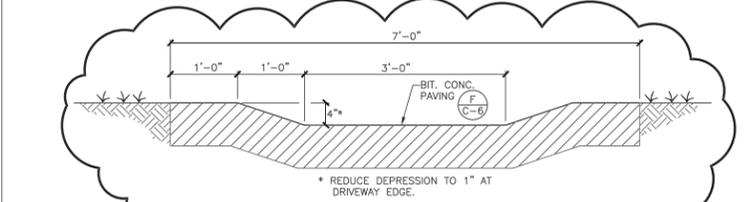
C-4(R)



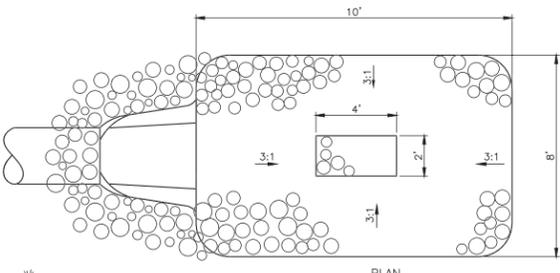
GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN
1"=30'



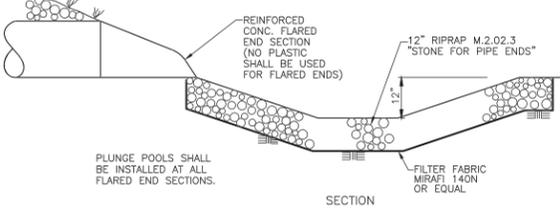
TYPICAL ROAD SECTION A-A
NTS



TYPICAL SECTION - PAVED LEAK-OFF
NTS



PLAN



SECTION
PLUNGE POOL DETAIL
NTS

*NOTES FOR INFILTRATION BASINS:

1. TO LIMIT SMearing OR COMPACTING SOILS, NEVER CONSTRUCT THE BASIN IN WINTER OR WHEN IT IS RAINING. USE LIGHT EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT TO EXCAVATE THE INFILTRATION BASIN BECAUSE HEAVY EQUIPMENT COMPACTS THE SOILS BENEATH THE BASIN FLOOR AND SIDE SLOPES AND REDUCES INFILTRATION CAPACITY.
2. BECAUSE SOME COMPACTION OF SOILS IS INEVITABLE DURING CONSTRUCTION, ADD THE REQUIRED SOIL AMENDMENTS AND DEEPLY TILL THE BASIN FLOOR WITH A ROTARY TILLER OR A DISC HARROW TO A DEPTH OF 12 INCHES TO RESTORE INFILTRATION RATES AFTER FINAL GRADING.
3. USE PROPER EROSION/SEDIMENT CONTROL DURING CONSTRUCTION. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING BASIN CONSTRUCTION, STABILIZE THE FLOOR AND SIDE SLOPES OF THE BASIN WITH TURF. DO NOT SOD THE BASIN FLOOR OR SIDE SLOPES.
4. AFTER THE BASIN IS COMPLETED, KEEP THE BASIN ROPED OR FENCED OFF WHILE CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS ON OTHER PARTS OF THE SITE. AFTER CONSTRUCTION IS COMPLETED, DO NOT DIRECT RUNOFF INTO THE BASIN UNTIL THE BOTTOM AND SIDE SLOPES ARE FULLY STABILIZED.
5. NEVER DIRECT CONSTRUCTION PERIOD DRAINAGE TO THE INFILTRATION BASINS.

LEGEND:

WF W19	WETLAND	SS	EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
WF W18	WETLAND FLAG	G	EXISTING GAS LINE
.....	100 FT. WETLAND BUFFER	W	EXISTING WATER LINE
---	PROPERTY LINE	---	EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
---	EXISTING 2 FT. CONTOUR	---	EXISTING OVERHEAD WIRES
---	EXISTING 10 FT. CONTOUR	---	PROPOSED LIMIT OF CLEARING
---	EXISTING SPOT GRADE	---	PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL PRIVACY FENCE
---	EXISTING EDGE OF PAVEMENT	---	PROPOSED CONTOUR
---	EXISTING TREE LINE	+	PROPOSED SPOT GRADE
○	EXISTING TREES	■	PROPOSED CATCH BASIN (DETAIL H/C-6)
□	EXISTING FENCE POSTS	○	PROPOSED DRAIN MANHOLE (DETAIL L/C-6)
□	EXISTING CATCH BASIN	○	PROPOSED FLARED END SECTION
□	EXISTING DRAIN MANHOLE	○	PROPOSED HYDRANT
□	EXISTING SANITARY MANHOLE	○	PROPOSED WATER GATE
□	EXISTING GAS GATE	○	PROPOSED SANITARY MANHOLE
□	EXISTING UTILITY POLE	○	PROPOSED SITE LIGHTING
□	EXISTING LIGHT POLE	---	PROPOSED STORMDRAIN
SD	EXISTING STORM DRAIN	---	EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
		---	PROPOSED WATER LINE
		---	PROPOSED GAS LINE
		---	PROPOSED ELECTRIC LINE

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT C

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region I, Mitigation Division
Environmental & Historic Preservation Office
99 High Street, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02110

RECEIVED



FEMA JUN 18 2014
MASS. HIST. COMM

8 54748

June 17, 2014

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical
Commission 220 William T.
Morrissey Blvd Boston, MA 02125

Section 106 Consultation: *No Adverse Effect*
Undertaking: *New Construction for the Senior Center in Blunt Park, Springfield MA*
Grant Applicant Name: *City of Springfield*
FEMA Grant Program: *Public Assistance Grant Program (PA)*

Dear Ms. Simon:

This letter is an update your office on the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program (PA) application for the construction of a new Senior Center in Blunt Park in Springfield, MA. FEMA made a determination that an Intensive Archaeological Survey would be necessary if natural soils were present due to the proximity of water resources and other previously recorded archaeological sites. FEMA requested a soil probe to identify the soil type in the project area, as based on historic accounts, much of this region of Springfield was referred to as, "unimprovable swamp". Upon creation of the public park much of this area was filled to allow for construction. Results indicated that there was no fill located in the designated Area of Potential Effect (APE). The City then proceeded to hire an archaeological consultant (The Public Archaeology Lab, Inc.) to apply for a permit to conduct an intensive survey.

Survey Results (Attached)

The Public Archaeological Lab, Inc. (PAL) staff conducted a walkover survey of the project area to document and assess present environmental conditions. Environmental information documented the presence, types, and extent of fresh water; drainage characteristics, presence of any bedrock outcrops and surface boulders; and the angle of any sloping ground surfaces. Small-diameter handheld soil augers (40 centimeters [cm] long) were used to sample soil profiles. Soil auger cores taken at judgmentally selected locations within the project area were examined for evidence of previous disturbance or pre-contact Native American archaeological sites, such as small charcoal fragments or oxidized subsoil.

PAL used the data collected during archival research and environmental and topographic information from the walkover survey to rank the Springfield Senior Center project area for its potential to contain archaeological resources. Subsurface testing was

planned for areas assigned high and moderate sensitivity and where project impacts will occur.

Subsurface testing was conducted in those portions of the project area considered to have high and moderate archaeological sensitivity and to locate and identify any archaeological resources. Thirteen (13) 50-x-50-cm test pits (26 total) arranged in a staggered grid pattern were placed within each of two (2) 30-x-30-m sampling blocks. Sampling blocks of this size have a 50 percent likelihood of intercepting precontact sites that are less than 10 m in diameter and have a 100 percent likelihood of intercepting sites that are at least 30 m in diameter. EVALSTP and PLACESTP statistical computer programs were used in this evaluation. Linear transects, with 50-x-50-cm test pits located at 10-m intervals, were used in areas too small or narrow for block testing. Test pits were also excavated along six judgmentally oriented transects placed within the proposed location of the Springfield Senior Center building, parking lots, sidewalks and landscape plantings. A total of seventy (70) 50-x-50-cm test pits were excavated within the Springfield Senior Center project area during the intensive survey.

All test pits were excavated by shovel in 10-cm levels to a maximum depth of 85 cm below surface (cmbs) or to C-horizon subsoils, whichever came first. Excavated soil was hand-screened through V4-inch hardware cloth. Soil profiles, including depths of soil horizons, colors, and textures, were recorded for each test pit. All test pits were filled and the ground surface was restored to its original contour following excavation. Digital photographs were taken to document the general project area, representative test pit profiles, and any significant features. A record of digital images was maintained on standard PAL Photograph Log forms. A daily record of observations and procedures was maintained by the project archaeologist.

Finding of Effect and Request for Concurrence

Blunt Park (SPR.900) is an historic resource listed in the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) state-wide inventory. Although archival research indicated that the Springfield Senior Center project area had the potential to contain both pre-contact and post-contact period archaeological resources, no cultural materials or archaeological sites were found during the intensive survey. PAL concluded that, no further archaeological investigation of the Springfield Senior Center project area is recommended.

FEMA recommends the following project conditions:

- In the event of the discovery of archeological deposits (e.g. Indian pottery, stone tools, old house fountains, old bottles) the City shall immediately stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The City shall secure all archaeological discoveries and restrict access to discovery sites. The City shall immediately report the discovery to MEMA (Grantee) (Scott Macleod, 508-820-1445) and the FEMA Deputy Regional Environmental Officer (Lydia Kachadoorian 857-

Ms. Simon
June 17, 2014

205-2860); FEMA will determine the next steps.

- In the event of the discovery of human remains, the City shall immediately stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The City shall secure all human remain discoveries and restrict access to discovery sites. The City shall follow the provisions of applicable state laws, including Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 38, section 6 (Discovery of skeletal remains likely to be Native American); Chapter 9, Section 26A (State archaeologist; duties; reservation of lands from sale; cooperation of governmental agencies) & 27C (Projects; notice; adverse effect; review); and Chapter 7, section 38A (Skeletal remains; preservation; excavation; analysis) or any amendments or supplanting laws and regulations. Violation of state law will jeopardize FEMA funding for this project. The City will inform the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (617-267-6767), the State Archeologist (Brona Simon, 617-727-8470), MEMA/Grantee (Scott MacLeod, 508-820-1445) and the FEMA Deputy Regional Environmental Officer (Lydia Kachadoorian, 857-205-2860). FEMA will consult the SHPO and Tribes, if remains are of tribal origin. Work in sensitive areas may not resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

FEMA concurs with the recommendations made by PAL and adopts them; those conditions along with FEMA's aforementioned discoveries project conditions will become part of the conditions on the grant award to the City of Springfield. Based on these reasons, FEMA finds that the proposed undertaking would result in *No Adverse Effect* to Blunt Park in the City of Springfield, MA. Per 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2) and under the terms of the FEMA-SHPO-MEMA Programmatic Agreement for Massachusetts (2011) and FEMA requests SHPO concurrence with this determination of effect within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of this transmittal.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our project reviewer Marcus Tate at (617) 784-4712 or Marcus.Tate@fema.dhs.gov. I can be reached by phone at 857-205-2860 or email Lydia.Kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov. Thank you for your prompt review.

CONCURRENCE: *Brona Simon*
6/19/14
BRONA SIMON RC-54748
STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICER
MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Sincerely,



Lydia Kachadoorian, RPA
Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 1, New England

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PAL Report

Appendix C

Supporting Documentation

(Public Notices, etc.)

City of Springfield, Massachusetts

Springfield City Hall

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103 ([map](#)) Phone: 413.787.6000
TTY: 413.787.6641
Mon-Fri 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

City Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Monday, May 4, 2009 7:30 pm

Meeting Location: City Hall Council Chambers

C I T Y O F S P R I N G F I E L D

City Clerk's Office April 29, 2009

Hereby notify you that at twelve o'clock noon today the following items of business had been filed with this office and can be acted upon at the meeting in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, Monday evening May 4, 2009 at seven-thirty o'clock according to Section 12, Rules and Orders of the City Council.

Wayman Lee, Esq.
City Clerk

Roll Call

Present: Councilors Jose F. Tosado, Bud L. Williams, Kateri B. Walsh, Bruce W. Stebbins, Patrick J. Markey, Rosemarie Mazza-Moriarty, James J. Ferrera, III, Timothy J. Rooke, William T. Foley, Jr.

Moment of Silence Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(1.) From City Council Planning & Economic Development Committee – Special Permit – 18 Berkshire Avenue (Petition Attached) - Hearing held on March 30, 2009 and after debate on Motion by Councilor Markey and seconded by Councilor Mazza- Moriarty the Special Permit was referred to the Planning and Economic Development Committee by a unanimous voice vote. The City Council Planning and Economic Development Committee met on April 28, 2009 and Chairperson Bud L. Williams gave a verbal and written report relative to a special permit for 18 Berkshire Avenue amending an existing special permit by allowing a change in petitioner and adding 4 new conditions. Councilor Williams stated that the petitioner and the Pine Point Citizens Council had approved of the changes and added conditions. The Council accepted the report by a unanimous voice vote. Councilor Williams made a motion to allow a change of the petitioner and to add the 4 new conditions and was seconded by Councilor Walsh and passed a unanimous voice vote. The Special permit was granted as amended by the following roll call vote: Yes, Eight (8); Councilors Jose F. Tosado, Bud L. Williams, Kateri B. Walsh, Bruce W. Stebbins, Rosemarie Mazza-Moriarty, James J. Ferrera, III, Timothy J. Rooke, William T. Foley; No, One (1) Councilor Patrick J. Markey.

(2.) From City Council Maintenance and Development Committee – Amending Revised Ordinance 1986 – Abandoned Motor Vehicles (Order #8 Attached) - Read and debated on April 4, 2009 and passed 1st step and on a motion by Councilor Tosado and seconded by Councilor Walsh referred to the Maintenance and Development Committee. The Maintenance and Development Committee met April 13, 2009 and Chairperson Patrick J. Markey gave a verbal and written report stating that after meeting with Hal King, Director of the Springfield Parking Authority the Committee was in favor of raising the fees to \$250 for 1st offense and \$500 for 2nd and subsequent offenses and \$25 for an expired registration for cars abandon on a public way. The Council accepted the report by a unanimous voice vote. The City Council passed 2nd step and referred to Committee on Enrollment by a unanimous voice vote on May 4, 2009; the Committee on Enrollment met and referred the Ordinance to the full City Council; passed 3rd step to be ordained by the following roll call vote, Yes, Nine (9); Councilors Jose F. Tosado, Bud L. Williams, Kateri B. Walsh, Bruce W. Stebbins, Patrick J. Markey, Rosemarie Mazza-Moriarty, James J. Ferrera, III, Timothy J. Rooke, William T. Foley; No, Zero (0).

(3.) From City Council Special Committee on Elderly – Elderly Senior Center (Report; only) – The Council Special Committee on Elderly met April 16, 2009 and Chairperson Bruce Stebbins gave a verbal and written report relative to a update on the new Senior Center that would include better parking and a centralized location and Pat Sullivan Director of Facilities Management and Park and Recreation stated that the City did not own a facility that could accommodate the seniors and suggested a RFP to find a better location and he would work the Jan Denny, Director of Elder Affairs and the seniors on the RFP. The Council accepted the report by a unanimous voice vote.

(3A.) From City Council Finance Committee – Council Chamber Renovations (Report only) – The Council Special Committee on Elderly met May 4, 2009 and Chairperson Kateri B. Walsh gave a verbal report relative to a renovations of the City Council Chambers and stated that the Committee had met with Pat Sullivan Director of Facilities Management and Park and Recreation and the would meet

with Comcast and Springfield Media and Telecommunications Group to see if non-city fund could be used to pay the cost of renovations. The Council accepted the report by a unanimous voice vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

(4.) ORDINANCE # 9 – Amending of Ethics Commission (2nd Step) – Read and debated on April 4, 2009 and passed 1st step and referred to Committee on Ordinance. The City Council Committee on Ordinance met on May 4, 2009 and passed 2nd step and referred to Committee on Enrollment by a unanimous voice vote; the Committee on Enrollment met and referred the Ordinance to the full City Council; passed 3rd step to be ordained by the following roll call vote, Yes, Nine (9); Councilors Jose F. Tosado, Bud L. Williams, Kateri B. Walsh, Bruce W. Stebbins, Patrick J. Markey, Rosemarie Mazza-Moriarty, James J. Ferrera, III., Timothy J. Rooke, William T. Foley; No, Zero (0).

NEW BUSINESS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

(5.) From Board Public Works re: Abbe Avenue – Installing Conduits (WMECO) - Read and Council received the Report and Passed the Order by a unanimous voice vote.

(6.) From Board Public Works re: Hillmont Street – Installing a New Pole (WMECO) - Read and Council received the Report and Passed the Order by a unanimous voice vote.

(7.) From Board Public Works re: Laverne Street – Installing a New Pole (WMECO) - Read and Council received the Report and Passed the Order by a unanimous voice vote.

(8.) From Board Public Works re: Rowland Street – Installing a New Manhole, Transformer, 2 Handholes & Conduits (WMECO) - Read and Council received the Report and Passed the Order by a unanimous voice vote.

(9.) From Board Public Works re: Rowland Street – Installing Conduits (WMECO) - Read and Council received the Report and Passed the Order by a unanimous voice vote.

ORDERS

(10.) Resolve: Requesting the CPO to Release the RFP for the School Dept Relocation (Rooke) - Read and debated and passed by a majority voice vote with City Council President Foley voting present.

ORDINANCES

(11.) Amending RO 1986 - Barber Shop and Salon Regulations (Williams) – Read and debated and passed 1st step and on a motion by Councilor Tosado and seconded by Councilor Walsh referred to Veterans, Administration and Human Services Committee.

MATTERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Special Permit - 603 Hendee Street - No Action Taken

Special Permit- 29 & 61 Chandler Street - No Action Taken

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Possible Public Speak-out time at 6:45 P.M

New Senior Center Plans to be Unveiled

Event: Senior Center Plans Unveiling

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Place: Blunt Park, Springfield, MA

Contact: Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director, 787-6444

October 5, 2015 -Springfield, MA- Mayor Domenic Sarno, will present Bid plans to the Springfield Park Commission and the General Public outlining the proposed Senior Center to be built in Blunt Park which is now out to for public bidding. The Mayor will be joined by a subcommittee working on the plans for the past six months, members include: Health and Human Director Helen Caulton-Harris, City Councilor Claudio Conception, (Chair of the city Council subcommittee on Aging), Peter Garvey Director Capital Asset and Construction, Brian Santaniello, Chair of the Park Commission and Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director Parks Buildings and Recreation Management.

The Schematic Design includes a variety of activity spaces throughout a 25,000 sq. ft. two story building. Rooms include and are not limited to Dance, Library, billiards, sewing, ceramics, carpentry, music, and computer access. The focal point is a 3,000 sq. ft. banquet room which will hold daily luncheons, special events and a teaching kitchen. It is the intent to create a park/resort atmosphere to the building.

The Park setting will lend itself to outdoor activities that may include proposed walking trails and outdoor vegetable gardens. The proposed building includes wood and stone elements on the exterior and large windows throughout for natural daylighting. The front entrance also calls for a diner/ coffee room. This will allow seniors to gather and create a social area for a snack or a cup a coffee before or after activities. Tim Murphy Architects completed the final designs.

Mayor Sarno stated; "I am grateful to the committee for completing the bids and final designs which will ensure Springfield Seniors have a quality building to enjoy in their golden years. I am proud of our two corporate citizens, Mass Mutual and Sodexo for their generous donations. Their commitment will ensure our seniors have a quality environment and will provide the resources to purchase exercise equipment, computers, furniture and general supplies. It is our goal to raise an additional \$350,000 from the Springfield community to ensure our seniors have the best and only the best."

Public Health Commissioner, Helen Caulton-Harris stated; "I am very proud to be part of this exciting process. The planning process is a monumental step in providing a facility to properly serve our seniors. I applaud the Mayor for this important milestone in our city and I look forward to continue the hard work necessary in making this building a reality."

City Councilor Clodo Concepcion stated, "The City Council subcommittee on Elder Affairs is very pleased to have been represented in this planning process. We are impressed with the thorough work of the Capital Asset Department and the Park Commission and the comprehensive approach in completing the designs. This design is a good representation of what the seniors requested for their building."

Peter Garvey stated "This building will represent the commitment our city has for our seniors. This center will allow anyone over the age of 55 to take part and socialize on daily basis. I am proud of our city and Mayor for taking this positive step forward and ensuring we have a facility that promotes the well-being for our seniors."

Brian Santaniello stated "The Park Commission has taken an active role working the Mayor in securing the funds to build the City's new Senior Center. The siting of the building in Blunt Park will provide: a central location, a site that is on a bus line and a facility that will provide quality activities for all seniors."

Patrick Sullivan stated "The Mayor's proactive approach has made a dream of a new senior center into reality. The proposed design will be a building that will provide seniors with a sanctuary to escape the day to day routine to a place that is equal to a resort. We look forward to the continued work necessary in making this building the best it can be."

Bid Detail: 15-012 - Designer Selection for New Senior Center

End date: Wednesday July 16, 2014 at 2 p.m.

BID# 15-012

Bids Available: 6/25/14

Bids Due: 7/16/14, 2:00 P.M.

Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Services of experienced, qualified Architect/Engineer Designer Services for a new Senior Center located within the confines of Blunt Park, 1492 Roosevelt Avenue. RFQ documents and specifications will be available at no charge beginning June 25, 2014 at 9:00 AM at the office of Procurement.

The City is seeking design services to conduct a Programming Study which will include the development and evaluation of potential solutions and continue through the Schematic Design Phase of the preferred alternative. Subject to City Council approval and adequate funding by the City, the contract between the City and selected Designer may be amended to include continued designer services through design development, construction contract documents, bidding, award of construction contracts, construction administration, final closeout and warranty period.

Project Description: The City is seeking design services of a qualified Designer, as defined in M.G.L. Ch. 7C, §1, to provide professional design and construction administration services for a new Senior Center located within Blunt Park on 1492 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield MA 01109. The Senior Center has been preliminarily programmed for 22,000 Square Feet for use by 6,000 to 7,000 seniors as central location for the Department of Elder Affairs. The City intends the new building to be a high performance "green" building. The project cost for this project is estimated range from nine to ten million dollars, depending on the solution that is agreed to between the City and Designer, and approved by the City Council. Target occupancy for the Senior Center is August 2016.

Proposal Requirements:

1. Applicants must have an up to date status on file with the Department of Capital Asset Management Maintenance (DCAMM) for the state of Massachusetts.
2. Applications shall be made via the "Standard Designer Application Form for Municipalities and Public Agencies not within the DSB Jurisdiction" developed by the State of Massachusetts's Designer Selection Board, and available at the following link: <http://www.mass.gov/anf/docs/dcam/dlforms/dsb/14-6-5-cities-townsapplication.pdf>.
3. Applications must be accompanied by a concise cover letter that is a maximum of two (2) pages in length. A copy of the cover letter should be attached to each copy of the application.
4. Applicants may supplement proposals with graphic materials and photographs that best demonstrate design capabilities of the team proposed for this project, subject to any page limitations enumerated in the Standard Designer Application Form.

All interested parties should attend a briefing session/site walk through at the Forest Park Conferencing Center scheduled for July 1, 2014 at 3:00 PM.

In order to provide prompt answers to questions, all proposers must submit written questions seven (7) days prior to the RFQ response deadline, or July 9, 2014. Questions may be faxed or emailed. The Office of Procurement fax number is (413) 787-6295. The RFQ Committee will compile written answers which will be mailed back to all Proposers who requested a copy of the RFQ, no later than July 12, 2014.

To obtain a copy of the Bid Specifications or to submit a written question, please use the following address:

The Office of Procurement
Theo Theocles, Esq. Deputy Procurement Officer
36 Court Street, Room 307, Springfield MA 01103
Phone (413) 787-6284
FAX 787-6295

ttheocles@springfieldcityhall.com

All Proposals becomes the property of the City of Springfield.

The City of Springfield supports the goal of twenty percent minority and women participation in all contracts. No questions will be answered unless received by the Chief Procurement Officer at least 7 days prior to the expiration of the time set for submitting bids or proposals. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any informality in and to reject any or all bids if it is in the public interest to do so.

Bid Detail: 16-060 - New Senior Center at Blunt Park

End date: Tuesday November 17, 2015 at 2 p.m.

ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

Bid No. 16-060; New Senior Center at Blunt Park

Department of Capital Asset Construction

Sealed bids for a Prime Contractor contract and Filed Sub-Bid contracts are requested through the Office of Procurement. Bidding procedures are per Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) Chapter 149 as amended and other applicable statutes. Chapter 149 requires that the Prime/General Contractor be certified by the State Division of Capital Asset Management in the category, "General Contractor."

Bids for Prime/General Contractor will be accepted at the Office of Procurement (Room 307 City Hall) until 2:00PM on November 17, 2015, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

Sub Bids will be accepted at the Office of Procurement (Room 307 City Hall) until 12:00PM on October 27, 2015, at which time they will be publicly opened and read.

The project comprises construction of a new building of approximately 24,000 square feet for the Springfield Senior Center. The building will be of steel frame and masonry construction with a wood roof. Estimated cost of the project is not to exceed \$9.5 Million. The Sub-Bidders must be certified by the State Division of Capital Asset Management in the following categories: Unit Masonry, Miscellaneous and Ornamental Iron, Waterproofing, Damp proofing, and Caulking, Roofing and Flashing, Tile, Acoustical Panel Ceilings, Resilient Flooring, Painting, Elevator, Fire Protection, Plumbing, HVAC, and Electrical.

Bidders will be required to pay Prevailing Wages whenever applicable. This project is subject to the City of Springfield Responsible Employer Ordinance (REO).

Site Visit: Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend a site visit scheduled for September 30, 2015, at 10:00 A.M. For questions regarding the site visit, contact Jodi Poplawski, Timothy Murphy Architects, at 413-532-7464. All questions must be made in writing and directed to the Office of Procurement in order to be accepted. No Sub-Bidder questions will be accepted within 72 hours of the Sub Bid opening. No General Bidder questions will be accepted within 72 hours of the General Bid opening.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for pick-up at www.biddocsonline.com on September 23, 2015 (may be viewed electronically and hard copy requested) or at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167).

Bidders requesting Contract Documents to be mailed to them shall include a separate check for \$40.00 per set for UPS Ground (or \$65.00 per set for UPS overnight), payable to BidDocs ONLINE Inc. to cover mail handling costs.

The City reserves the right to waive any informality in, or to revoke, any or all bids, if in the public interest to do so.

City of Springfield, MA, Office of Procurement

Lauren Stabilo, Chief Procurement Officer

The City of Springfield supports the goal of twenty percent minority and women participation in all contracts. No questions will be answered unless received by the Chief Procurement Officer at least 7 days prior to the expiration of the time set for submitting bids or proposals. The Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any informality in and to reject any or all bids if it is in the public interest to do so.

\$12 million Blunt Park senior center plan applauded by Springfield senior citizens, officials



By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com [<http://connect.masslive.com/user/pgoonan/posts.html>]

on October 06, 2015 at 1:16 PM, updated October 06, 2015 at 4:21 PM

SPRINGFIELD – After two decades of anticipation, residents and city officials gathered Tuesday to unveil final plans and to announce the city is advertising for bids for the construction of a \$12 million senior center at Blunt Park.

A 25,000-square-foot senior center is planned at the park on Roosevelt Avenue and will include space for a banquet room, kitchen, special events, dance, library, billiards, sewing, ceramics, carpentry, music and computer access among other activities, officials said.

Mayor Domenic J. Sarno praised the park as a beautiful setting for the senior center, and thanked senior citizens "who have given so much to our city and hung in there through thick and thin and the trials and tribulations to finally gain a centrally located senior center."

The senior center is being funded by local and federal funds and private donations. The city received \$7.5 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the mayor and City Council also approved \$4.5 million in city bond funds

The press conference included announced donations of \$100,000 from MassMutual Financial Group and \$50,000 from Sodexo to help with furnishings and equipment. Both gifts triggered applause and cheers from many senior citizens and officials who gathered for the event at the park site.

The Springfield Council for Cultural and Community Affairs is also raising private funding.



City officials including Mayor Domenic Sarno, center, gather at Blunt Park to laud plans for a new senior center at Blunt Park in Springfield, now advertised for bids. Photo by: Peter Goonan / The Republican

Residents said they are excited the project is about to move forward. Bids will be opened in early November, and the ground breaking is planned for March 2016, with construction expected to take 18 months.

"It's great, terrific," said Cecile Benoit, of East Forest Park. "We can't wait for it to open – been waiting a long time.

Jerry Roy, a senior citizen of Sixteen Acres, said it is "exceptional" that local representatives are working on behalf of seniors.

"I give credit to all the people who have done this and helped out, and this is amazing," Roy said. "We are looking forward to it and I am happy to be here."

Park Commission Chairman Brian Santaniello praised Sarno, councilors and other officials for their roles in making the project come to fruition after so many years.

"The seniors are so important to me, so important to the community," Santaniello said. They give back so much. This is going to be a great project."

Officials attending the event included City Councilors Clodovaldo Concepcion, Kateri Walsh, Bud L. Williams, Kenneth Shea, and Timothy Allen, along with members of the Park Commission and representatives of various city departments involved in the project.

Patrick Sullivan, the city's director of parks, buildings and recreation management said the senior center will be centrally located in the city and seniors will have easy access.

"It's really going to expand the opportunities for seniors by having a meal program right on site as well as all the activities that they would enjoy," Sullivan said.

Helen Caulton, the city's director of health and human services, said the new center will allow for the closing of some satellite senior centers, but not all, with the consolidation plans still under review.

Elder Affairs Director Janet Rodriguez Denney said "it is exciting that in just a couple of years we are going to have a wonderful facility.'

Concepcion said senior citizens are the "backbone of this country" and deserve the Springfield center after many years of anticipation.

New senior center at Blunt Park named in Raymond Jordan: A 'tireless' worker

By Peter Goonan | pgoonan@repub.com <http://connect.masslive.com/user/pgoonan/posts.html>

on November 19, 2015 at 3:11 PM, updated November 19, 2015 at 3:13 PM

SPRINGFIELD — The Park Commission voted unanimously this week to name the future senior center building at Blunt Park in honor of former state Rep. Raymond A. Jordan Jr., in response to a petition from residents that praised his decades of public service.

The vote was 3-0 in favor of naming the building after Jordan, 72, of Springfield, who retired after serving 20 years in the state Legislature and after working 18 years for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"I've known Ray for many, many years," Park Commission Chairman Brian Santaniello said. "He's a gentleman. He has Springfield, and always has had Springfield first. When he was in Boston, to coin a phrase, he brought home the bacon for the city of Springfield. No matter what neighborhood it was, he was there."

The petition, signed by more than 125 residents from around Springfield, and city officials spoke of Jordan's "tireless" work for the good of Springfield.

Santaniello said Jordan has always cared about the senior citizens of Springfield, and a petition submitted for the naming of the senior center was signed by people from throughout the city.

Commissioners Gregory Drew and Jay Griffin joined in voting for the name and praising Jordan's public service.

Jordan, reached for comment Thursday, said he is honored and appreciative of the honor.

"I'm very pleased, and very, very proud," Jordan said.

Jordan said he is a regular visitor to the Kenefick Park Fitness Center for seniors on Plainfield Street. He said senior centers are important places for seniors to gather, have discussions and "take care of one another."

Jordan served as state representative in the 12th Hampden District that included the Blunt Park area, and was credited with playing a key role in getting state funding for the construction of Central High School and for funding for the Blunt Park 5A (academic athletic arts achievement association) program.

His daughter Denise Jordan, who serves as chief of staff for the city, attended the Park Commission meeting.

"He has really been a role model. He is a man who got it done for the city."

"I was very excited that folks from the community thought of my father," Denise Jordan said. "My father has dedicated all of his professional life to the city of Springfield. While he retired from the position of state representative well over 20 years ago, in his retirement he still continues to serve this community."

"He worked tirelessly for his district," said Patrick J. Sullivan, the city's director of parks, buildings and recreation management. "He has really been a role model. He is a man who got it done for the city."

Construction of the new, 25,000-square-foot senior center is scheduled to begin in the early spring at Blunt Park off Roosevelt Avenue and will take 18 months to complete.

The city is reviewing bids submitted by contractors. The new center will have space for a banquet room, kitchen, special events, dance, library, billiards, sewing, ceramics, carpentry, music and computer access among other activities, officials said.

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD NEW
SENIOR CENTER**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, with construction of a new two-story 25,000 square foot Springfield Senior Center in 8.6 acres of Blunt Park between Bay Street and Roosevelt Avenue (Latitude: N42.12417, Longitude: W-72.55147). Once this facility is constructed, several branches of the Springfield Senior Center network will be consolidated into this single location and the loss of function of the former Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch will be restored in this alternate location. The City would like to begin construction in the spring of 2016 and anticipates that the project will take 18 months to complete.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate human, historic, and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed construction of the new SECC facility. FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA and to provide FEMA with information it may not have considered in its review. If FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the EA, will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment after the public comment period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA's Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, Lydia Kachadoorian. However, if a change in the scope of work occurs FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Beginning on Friday, January 22, 2016, the Draft EA and the Draft FONSI will be available for online viewing on the City's website at <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/cos/> and FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>, and in person at the City of Springfield Office of Pro-

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Springfield

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD NEW SENIOR CENTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, with construction of a new two-story 25,000 square foot Springfield Senior Center in 8.6 acres of Blunt Park between Bay Street and Roosevelt Avenue (Latitude: N42.12417, Longitude: W-72.55147). Once this facility is constructed, several branches of the Springfield Senior Center network will be consolidated into this single location and the loss of function of the former Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch will be restored in this alternate location. The City would like to begin construction in the spring of 2016 and anticipates that the project will take 18 months to complete.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate human, historic, and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed construction of the new SECC facility. FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA and to provide FEMA with information it may not have considered in its review. If FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the EA, will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment after the public comment period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA's Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, Lydia Kachadoorian. However, if a change in the scope of work occurs FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Beginning on Friday, January 22, 2016, the Draft EA and the Draft FONSI will be available for online viewing on the City's website at <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/cos/> and FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>, and in person at the City of Springfield Office of Procurement located at Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street Room 307, Springfield, MA 01103, Monday through Friday 8:15AM-4:30 PM. The comment period will last for 15 days, ending on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Comments on the draft documents can be submit-

Springfield

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Comments on the draft documents can be submitted by mailing Lydia Kachadorian, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at, FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, by emailing Lydia.Kachadorian@fema.dhs.gov, or by sending a fax to 617-956-7574.

(Jan. 22, 30, Feb. 8)