

## Herrick, Devin

---

**From:** Ken Linchey <klinchey@sau52.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 29, 2025 3:20 PM  
**To:** Almeida, Antone  
**Cc:** Herrick, Devin  
**Subject:** Re: LHS - Wetland Application Submission

Yes, please proceed as we discussed over the phone.  
Ken

*Sincerely,  
Ken Linchey CSFS, CSFM  
Director of Buildings & Grounds/Maintenance  
Portsmouth School Department  
SAU 52 Office: 603-431-5080  
Direct line: 603-610-4168 "This number has changed"  
Cell: 603-617-0665  
[klinchey@sau52.org](mailto:klinchey@sau52.org)*

On Mon, Dec 29, 2025 at 2:18 PM Almeida, Antone <[Almeida.Antone@wseinc.com](mailto:Almeida.Antone@wseinc.com)> wrote:  
Good afternoon Ken,

I hope you had a great holiday. My apologies if you're still taking time off!

We are seeking owner authorization to proceed with the Wetland Application submission. An email from you confirming that we may submit on your behalf as the authorized representative would be sufficient! Please let us know if this is possible.

For the NHDES Forms, we will need you to sign, which we follow up soon. For the City permit, we just need an authorization email.

Thank you very much,

**Antone Almeida** (he/him)  
PROJECT MANAGER  
direct: 617-372-9156  
mobile: 860-917-4568



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## Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application

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**December 2025**

Little Harbor School  
Playground Renovations  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH



December 29, 2025

Portsmouth Conservation Commission  
1 Junkins Ave, 3rd Floor  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

**Re: *Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application Submission  
Little Harbor School - Playground Renovations  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH***

To Conservation Commission Chair:

On behalf of the City of Portsmouth, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. is hereby enclosing one (1) copy of the Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application Submission for your review with regards to the proposed renovations to the playgrounds at the Little Harbor School. We are looking to be added to the next Conservation Commission Meeting agenda currently scheduled for January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Along with the required Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application Checklist, the following Attachments been included with this submission:

Attachment 1 Project Narrative  
Attachment 2 Site Maps  
Attachment 3 Wetland Delineation Report  
Attachment 4 Draft NHDES Major Impact Wetlands Application  
Attachment 5 Maintenance Plans  
Attachment 6 Site Plans

We expect the NHDES Major Impact Wetlands Application to be submitted concurrently with the submission of the Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application Submission. However, the application has not yet been submitted so it has been marked as Draft and is not signed.

As this application is being submitted on behalf of the City of Portsmouth we understand that all application fees are to be waived.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at 978-573-5802.

Very truly yours,

WESTON & SAMPSON



Devin Herrick, CWS  
Project Environmental Scientist



# City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire

## Wetland Conditional Use Permit Application Checklist

This wetland conditional use permit application checklist is a tool designed to assist the applicant in the planning process and for preparing the application for Conservation Commission and Planning Board review. The checklist is required to be uploaded as part of your wetland conditional use permit application to ensure a full and complete application is submitted to the Planning and Sustainability Department and to the online portal. A pre-application conference with a member of the Planning and Sustainability Department is encouraged as additional project information may be required depending on the size and scope of the project. The applicant is cautioned that this checklist is only a guide and is not intended to be a complete list of all wetland conditional use permit requirements. Please refer to Article 10 of the City of Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance for full details.

**Applicant Responsibilities:** Applicable fees are due upon application submittal to the Planning Board (no fees are required for Conservation Commission submission). The application will be reviewed by Planning and Sustainability Department staff to determine completeness. Incomplete applications which do not provide required information for the evaluation of the proposed site development shall not be provided review by the Conservation Commission or Planning Board.

Name of Applicant: Devin Herrick - Weston & Sampson Date Submitted: 12/29/2025

Application # (in City's online permitting): \_\_\_\_\_

Site Address: 50 Clough Drive Map: 206 Lot: 20

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required Items for Submittal	Item Location (e.g. Page or Plan Sheet/Note #)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Complete <a href="#">application</a> form submitted via the City's web-based permitting program	See City Online Filing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All application documents, plans, supporting documentation, this checklist and other materials uploaded to the application form in OpenGov in digital <b>Portable Document Format (PDF)</b> . One hard copy of all plans and materials shall be submitted to the Planning and Sustainability Department by the published deadline.	See City Online Filing and Hard Copy

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required Items for Submittal	Item Location (e.g. Page/line or Plan Sheet/Note #)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basic property and wetland resource information. <b>(10.1017.21)</b>	<b>Attachment 3</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Additional information required for projects proposing greater than 250 square feet of permanent or temporary impacts. <b>(10.1017.22)</b>	Attachment 1, Section 4.2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate impacts as they relate to the criteria for approval set forth in Section 10.1017.50 (or Section 10.1017.60 in the case of utility installation in a right-of-way). <b>(10.1017.23)</b>	Attachment 1, Section 4.7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Balance impervious surface impacts with removal and/or wetland buffer enhancement plan. <b>(10.1017.24)</b>	Attachment 1, Section 4.3

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Required Items for Submittal</b>	<b>Item Location (e.g. Page/line or Plan Sheet/Note #)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland buffer enhancement plan. <b>(10.1017.25)</b>	Plans, Sheet L600
<input type="checkbox"/>	Living shoreline strategy provided for tidal wetland and/or tidal buffer impacts. <b>(10.1017.26)</b>	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stormwater management must be in accordance with Best Management Practices including but not limited to: 1. <i>New Hampshire Stormwater Manual, NHDES, current version.</i> 2. <i>Best Management Practices to Control Non-point Source Pollution: A Guide for Citizens and City Officials, NHDES, January 2004.</i> <b>(10.1018.10)</b>	Plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetated Buffer Strip slope of greater than or equal to 10%. <b>(10.1018.22)</b>	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/>	Removal or cutting of vegetation, use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. <b>(10.1018.23/10.1018.24/10.1018.25)</b>	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All new pavement within a wetland buffer shall be porous pavement. <b>(10.1018.31)</b>	Attachment 1, Section 4.5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An application that proposes porous pavement in a wetland buffer shall include a pavement maintenance plan. <b>(10.1018.32)</b>	Attachment 5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Permanent wetland boundary markers shall be shown on the plan submitted with an application for a conditional use permit and shall be installed during project construction. <b>(10.1018.40)</b>	Attachment 1, Section 4.6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Requested Items for Submittal</b>	<b>Item Location (e.g. Page or Plan Sheet/Note #)</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A narrative/letter addressed to the Conservation Commission Chair (if recommended to Planning Board then an additional narrative addressed to the Planning Board Chair at that time) describing the project and any proposed wetland and/or wetland buffer impacts. Please visit the <a href="#">WCUP instruction page</a> for further application instructions.	See Cover Letter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	If New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Standard Dredge and Fill Permit is required for this work, please provide this permit application at the same time as your submission for a Wetland Conditional Use Permit.	Attachment 4

Applicant's Signature: Devin Hinckle Date: 12/29/2025

## ATTACHMENT 1

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the City of Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School (LHS) Playground and The Portsmouth Early Education Program (PEEP) Playground to be universally accessible (UA) and nature base playgrounds. The term "universally accessible (UA) playground" is often used to describe a playground that offers children full use of all areas, regardless of ability. A UA playground will represent and support the diversity of our community, providing a platform for people to engage socially, physically, creatively and playfully without the need for adaptation or specialized design (based on the seven principles of universal design established by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State). A nature-based playground is a play area designed to mimic natural environments, incorporating elements like trees, rocks, logs, and sand features allowing children to engage in imaginative play through exploration and interaction with the natural landscape, promoting physical activity, creativity, and environmental awareness while minimizing the use of manufactured play equipment.

The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

The playground pathways will feature accessible routes made from resilient solid surface material, not loose fill or aggregate. Playground design aligns with NH House Bill 467-FN Public Playground Accessibility, which aims to ensure that public playgrounds are accessible to all children, including those with disabilities. The bill requires that at least one public playground in each municipality be made accessible, promoting inclusivity and equal play opportunities for all children.

### 1.1 Existing Conditions

The Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School is located at 50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801, Tax Map 206 Lot 20. The school is located along the tidal Piscataqua River.

The existing play facilities on the property are broken down into two playgrounds, the first is located on the east side of the school known as the "PEEP Playground" and the second is located on the west side of the school known as the "Little Harbor School Playground". Both playgrounds will be renovated as part of this proposed project.

#### 1.1.1 PEEP Playground

The existing PEEP Playground includes a play structure with additional loose play equipment, a wood chip base, lawn space and the entire playground is surrounded by a chain link fence. There is also an existing stone retaining wall which separates play area from parking lot which will be retained by the project.

Image 1.1: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing PEEP Playground.



### 1.1.2 Little Harbor School Playground

The existing Little Harbor School Playground includes a large play structure, monkey bars/climbing structure, a gaga pit, swing sets, a basketball court and associated asphalt play area. There is also a small ephemeral stream which originates from stormwater sheet flow off the existing basketball court. The ephemeral stream dissipates into the grassy play area before reaching the salt marsh.

Image 1.2: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing Little Harbor School Playground.



## 1.2 Wetland Resource Areas Delineated on Site

On September 12th, 2025 and November 21st, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. This investigation area is located on a developed parcel which has an existing school. Please see Figure 1 (Wetlands Field Map) and Figure 2 (USGS Topographic Map) in Appendix C of this report for the investigation area.

Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field using pink flagging by a Weston & Sampson employee who is a NH Certified Wetland Scientist trained in the wetland delineation process using the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method) utilizing the “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012. Further descriptions of these wetland resource areas are presented in the Wetland Delineation Report in Appendix H and below in Figure 1.

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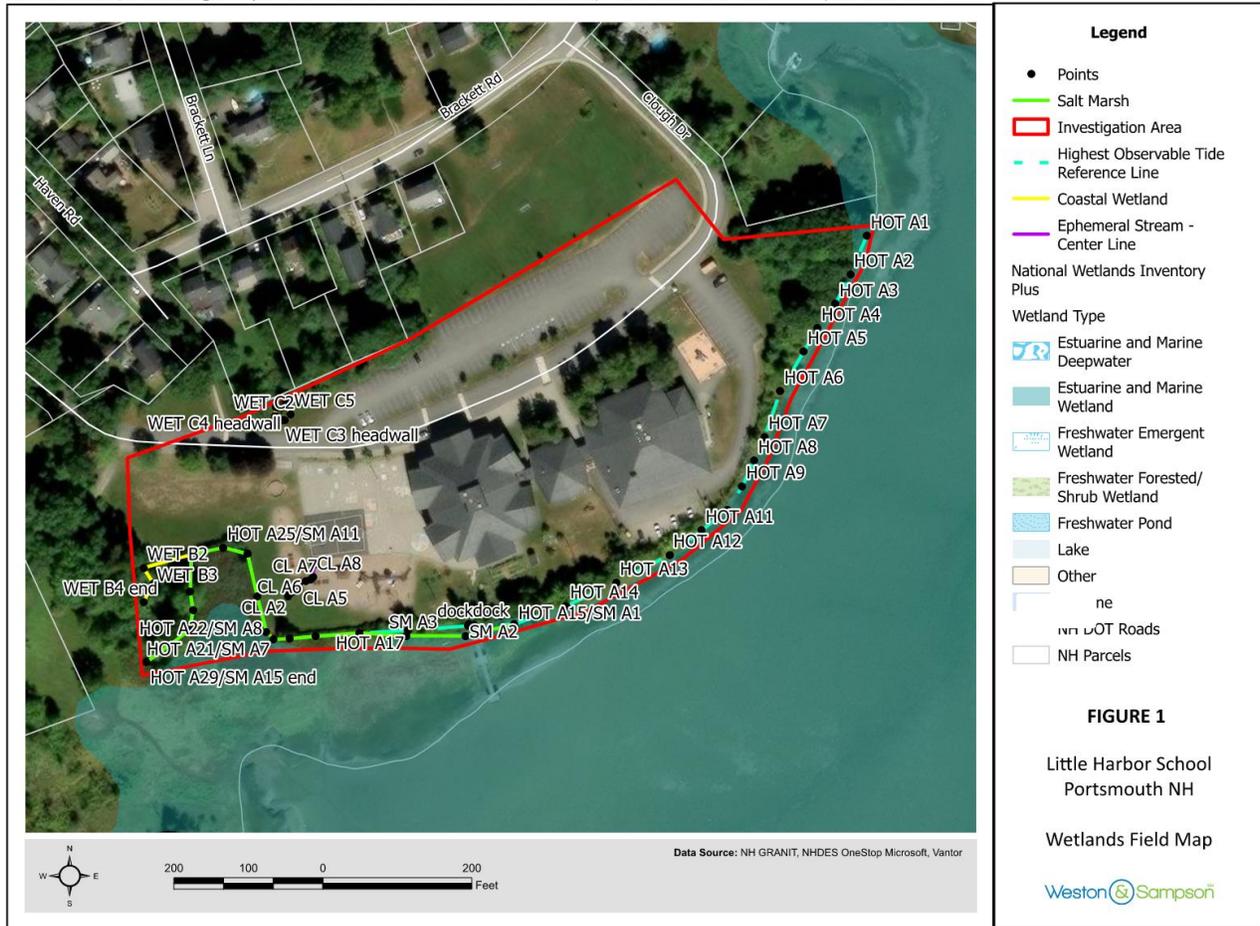


Figure 1: Wetlands Field Map

### 1.3 Applicability of Local Buffer Zones

Article 10 in the Portsmouth Zoning Ordinance has added additional protections in the form of buffer zones off of certain wetland resources. The City of Portsmouth has a 100-foot buffer adjacent to all of its wetlands (including most tidal areas) greater than 10,000 square feet or about a quarter of an acre. Per 10.1014.20 Wetland Buffers “the required wetland buffer for a jurisdictional wetland or water body shall be defined as all land within 100 feet of the jurisdictional area.” “Tidal wetland buffers shall be measured from the edges of tidal wetlands and highest observable tide lines.”. As such an applicable buffer zone has been added to the tidal salt marsh and associated non-tidal wetland (SM A and WET B lines from the delineation report and Figure 1 above), as well as along the Highest Observable Tide line associated with the Piscataqua River (HOT A line from the delineation report and Figure 1 above).

A smaller non-tidal wetland was identified near the parking lot of the school (WET C line from the delineation report and Figure 1 above). As this wetland is less than 10,000 SF in size the local buffer zone is not applicable. Similarly, in discussion with the local Environmental Planner, the local buffer zone was not applied to the ephemeral stream (CL A line from the delineation report and Figure 1 above). A single ephemeral stream was observed within the investigation area. Water originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the

vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

## 2.0 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed scope will include the removal of existing playground equipment and installation of new play structures with associated landscape features in each of the two playgrounds on site.

### 2.1 PEEP Playground

The proposed PEEP playground improvements will include a variety of play elements designed for young children and group interaction. Planned equipment includes a play structure for 2-5 aged children, a group seesaw, acorn-shaped seating, and a wooden play bridge that will be level with the bonded rubber surfacing to ensure accessibility. A large sand play area is also proposed to encourage sensory and creative play.

In addition to the play equipment, several landscape and site enhancements are proposed in the PEEP playground to support both functionality and aesthetics. These include new plantings with boulder accents, picnic tables, and new fencing surrounding the play area. Concrete paving within the limits of the play area will serve multiple purposes, including a bag drop, walking paths, and an accessible area for replenishing sand; this space will also accommodate loose play items such as a play kitchen. New asphalt walking paths are proposed in generally the same configuration as existing conditions, with selective reductions in paved area to minimize impervious surfaces within the project limits. The landscape plan also includes the installation of seven new trees and approximately twenty new shrubs and herbaceous native species.

### 2.2 Little Harbor Playground

The proposed playground equipment improvements include the installation of two new swing sets and a large play structure with a climbing element. The equipment is currently planned to be installed over an engineered wood fiber base; however, the City is exploring the availability of funding to instead utilize a permeable poured-in-place or bonded rubber safety surfacing. This alternative would not alter the proposed limits of work. In addition, the existing gaga pit will be relocated to a new location, removing the majority of the structure from the 100-foot wetland buffer where it is currently situated. The relocated gaga pit will be constructed on a concrete foundation and filled with engineered wood fiber.

Proposed landscape and site improvements focus on environmental stewardship, safety, and improved site functionality. Stormwater collection will be formalized through the creation of a rain garden designed to allow student interaction with overland flow while maintaining sheet flow into the adjacent grassy area. The existing asphalt play area, including the basketball court, will be relocated farther from the wetland, resulting in a significant overall reduction in asphalt play surface. A concrete curb/mow strip will be installed around areas of engineered wood fiber to help contain the material. All existing trees on site will be retained, and additional site amenities will include a new timber guard rail and a bike rack.

New plantings will further enhance the landscape and ecological function of the site. The project includes the installation of eleven new trees, with species selected in accordance with the City of Portsmouth Street Tree Manual. A total of 46 new shrubs and herbaceous native plant species will be added throughout the site. The small mounds created for playground privacy and protection will receive Northeast Annual & Perennial Wildflower Mix. The rain garden located within the existing ephemeral stream will also receive additional plantings, including 34 herbaceous species, to support stormwater management and native habitat enhancement.

### 2.3 Construction Sequence

The following is the intended construction sequence of the project, subject to change based on contractor means and methods.

The proposed playground improvements are anticipated to be constructed over a 16-week period starting in the Spring of 2026, subject to permitting, weather, and material availability. Construction will begin with pre-construction activities, including final permit approvals, contractor mobilization, utility locating, and installation of erosion control measures, temporary fencing and signage to secure the work area. Surveying and layout will be completed to establish the locations of new play equipment, pathways, and landscape improvements.

Following mobilization, selective demolition and site clearing will occur. Existing playground equipment and portions of concrete and asphalt paving within the project limits will be removed as necessary. This work will be performed using a mini excavator, skid steer loader, concrete saws, and dump trucks to haul debris off-site or to designated recycling areas.

Once demolition is complete, earthwork and grading activities will commence. The site will be rough and fine graded to accommodate the new play areas, accessible routes, and revised path alignments. Excavation will be completed for poured-in-place surfacing, wood chip/sand containment, and equipment footings, followed by placement and compaction of aggregate base materials using compactors and small rollers to ensure stable subgrades.

Concrete footings and underground preparations will then be installed for the playground structures. Ready-mix concrete will be placed using concrete trucks and hand-finishing tools, with careful attention to accessibility requirements and level transitions between play elements and surfacing.

Concrete forms will be set, poured, finished, and cured to meet accessibility and durability standards. After concrete work is complete, new asphalt walking paths will be installed in generally the same configuration as existing conditions, with selective reductions in paved areas to minimize impervious surfaces. Asphalt placement will be performed using a small paver and roller.

Installation of playground equipment and surfacing will follow. The play structures will be installed, with equipment placed using small lifting equipment as needed. Play areas will be constructed, and poured-in-place surfacing will be installed throughout the play areas as described above, including flush transitions to ensure accessibility.

Following equipment installation, site furnishings and enclosures will be added. New perimeter fencing will be installed around the PEEP playground, other site accents will be placed, using small loaders and hand tools. Landscaping will then be completed, including the installation new trees, shrubs and native herbaceous species, along with soil preparation, mulching, and initial watering.

The project will conclude with final grading, site cleanup, and inspections. Once the site is stabilized, temporary erosion and sedimentation controls will be removed.

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### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS – STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL WETLANDS PERMIT

As part of the proposed project there will be unavoidable impacts areas which fall under the jurisdiction of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau.

#### 3.1 Ephemeral Stream

As described in the wetland delineation report (Appendix H), there is an ephemeral stream on site which originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Proposed impacts to the ephemeral stream will be for the installation of a rain garden with native plantings to allow for student interaction and improved stormwater handling. This will result in 216 square feet (SF) and 44 linear feet (LF) of permanent impacts along the centerline of the ephemeral stream.

#### 3.2 Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer

Under RSA 482-A, prime wetlands are wetlands of substantial significance because of their size, unspoiled character, fragile condition or other relevant factors. Per RSA 482-A:15.1(a) Any municipality, by its conservation commission, or, in the absence of a conservation commission, the planning board, or, in the absence of a planning board, the local governing body, may undertake to designate, map, and document prime wetlands lying within its boundaries, or if such areas lie only partly within its boundaries, then that portion lying within its boundaries. A prime wetland designated by the City of Portsmouth as wetland number 061B is located concurrently with the salt marsh delineated on site (see Image 1 below). The Prime Wetlands Designation Document for the City of Portsmouth was authored on January 25, 2011 and the Prime Wetland Map (see Image 1 below) was adopted by NHDES on December 20, 2011.

The proposed impacts to the Little Harbor School Playground will overlap with the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer associated with Prime Wetland Number 061B. Existing conditions in this area include portions of the playground and developed play yard. The proposed projects seeks to move the playground further away from the salt marsh than existing conditions. Permanent impacts will include any changes to topography or cover type within the Buffer while temporary impacts are those areas within the limit of work which will return to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) of permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer. These impact areas are located within the same footprint as the Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone (TBZ).

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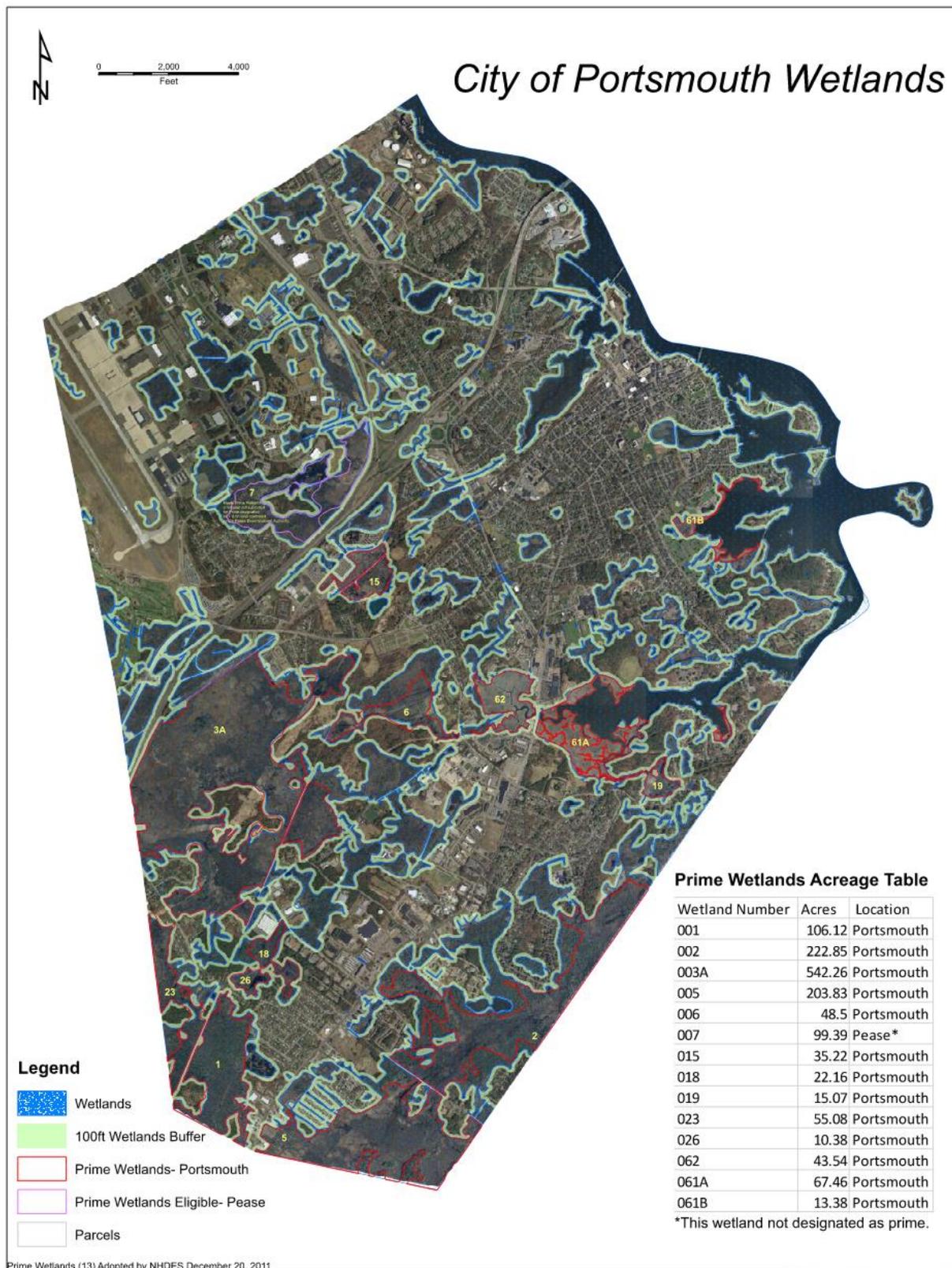


Image 1: Portsmouth Prime Wetlands Map

### 3.3 Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone (TBZ)

Per Env-Wt 602.52 the tidal buffer zone means “the area identified in RSA 482-A:4, I as bordering on tidal waters within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line, which can contain banks, upland areas, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other lowlands subject to tidal action.” This investigation area does include land within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line of the Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River. The entire investigation area is located within the developed Little Harbor School Property. This investigation area is considered developed based on Env-Wt 602.12.

Existing conditions in this Previously Developed TBZ area include portions of the playground and developed play yard. The proposed projects seeks to move the playground further away from the salt marsh/highest observable tide line than existing conditions. Permanent impacts will include any changes to topography or cover type within the Buffer while temporary impacts are those areas within the limit of work which will return to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Previously Developed TBZ. These impact areas are located within the same footprint as the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer.

### 3.4 Total Impacts

The total amount of proposed impacts to jurisdictional area is 27,032 SF and 44 LF. Impacts are summarized in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: NHDES Jurisdictional Impact Summary**

Jurisdictional Area	Purpose	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact
Ephemeral Stream	Rain garden	0 SF/0 LF	216 SF/44 LF
Duly-established 100-foot prime wetland buffer	Playground renovation	16,927 SF	9,889 SF
Previously-developed TBZ	Playground renovation	16,927 SF	9,889 SF
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,927 SF</b>	<b>10,105 SF/44 LF</b>

### 3.5 Project Classification

The proposed project is being submitted as a Major Impact Project based on the following criteria:

#### 3.5.1 Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone

This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Previously Developed TBZ.

Per Env-Wt 610.17 (b) Project Classifications since the amount of impact area exceeds 10,000 SF the proposed project requires the submission as a Major Impact project.

#### 3.5.2 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer Waiver

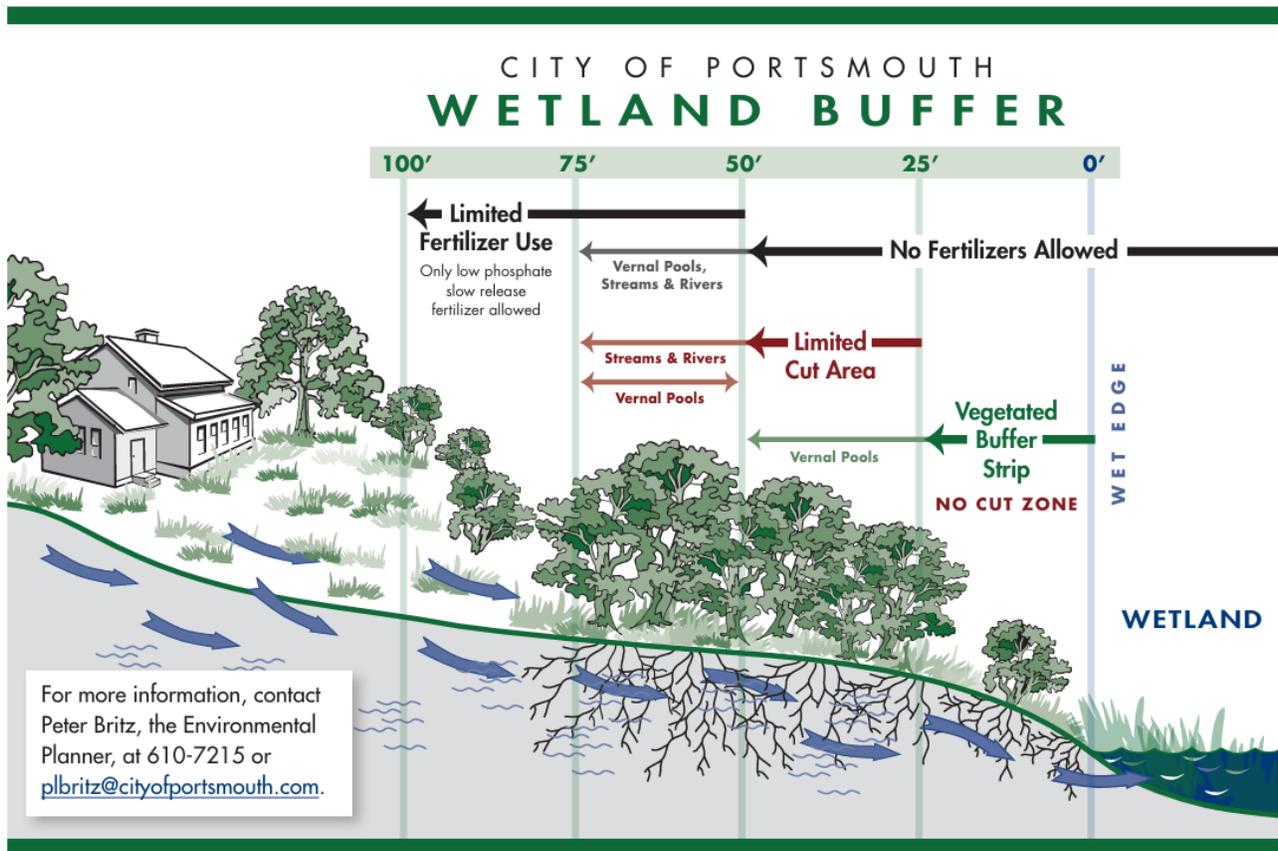
This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer.

Per Env-Wt 407.02 (a) “a project that impacts a PRA and that does not qualify for a project-type exception (PTE) under Env-Wt 407.04 shall be classified as a major project regardless of the size of the impact.”

#### 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS - ZONING ARTICLE 10

The City of Portsmouth has a 100-foot buffer adjacent to all of its wetlands (including most tidal areas) greater than 10,000 square feet or about a quarter of an acre. New construction, ground disturbance and fill or removal of soil are not allowed in the Wetland buffer without a City Conditional Use Permit. The complete Wetlands Protection Ordinance can be found in Article 10 of the City's Zoning Ordinance Section 10.1010.

In Portsmouth, the first 25 feet from the edge of a wetland area is known as the Vegetated Buffer Strip. Within this area, cutting and clearing of vegetation is not permitted unless it is to remove invasive species by hand. Between 25 and 50 feet, the City has a Limited Cut Area. In this area, property owners may cut up to 50% of the trees that are greater than six inches in diameter dbh (the diameter of the tree at 4.5 feet up from the ground). The use of fertilizer is prohibited in both the vegetated buffer strip and limited cut area. Beyond the limited cut area, only low phosphate and slow release fertilizers are allowed in the wetland buffer.



*Image 2: City of Portsmouth Wetland Buffer*

In the case of the Little Harbor School property, the local 100-foot wetland buffer is concurrent with the state's Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone and 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer Waiver.

Existing conditions in the 100-foot wetland buffer zone area include portions of the playground and developed play yard. The proposed projects seeks to move the playground further away from the salt marsh/highest observable tide line than existing conditions. Permanent impacts will include any changes to topography or cover type within the Buffer while temporary impacts are those areas within the limit of work which will return to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) of permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Previously Developed TBZ. These impact areas are located within the same footprint as the Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone and 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer Waiver.

#### 4.1 Total Impacts

The total amount of proposed impacts to jurisdictional area is 26,816 SF. Impacts are summarized in Table 2 below.

**Table 2: Local Jurisdictional Impact Summary**

Jurisdictional Area	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact
0-25 feet – 25 foot Buffer Vegetated Buffer Strip	228 SF	1,193 SF
25-50 feet – 50 foot Buffer Limited Cut Area	2,983 SF	2,624 SF
50-100 feet – 100 foot Buffer	13,716 SF	6,071 SF
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,927 SF</b>	<b>9,889 SF</b>

#### 4.2 Additional Information Zoning 10.1017.22

Per the City’s Zoning 10.1017.22 (3) the following additional information is required:

*More than 250 sq. ft. of alteration to the wetland buffer (regardless of the amount of alteration to the wetland): a description of the 100-foot buffer including vegetation type, the percent of the buffer with invasive species, and the percent of the buffer that is paved or developed.*

The proposed project does include more than 250 feet of alteration to the wetland buffer zone. Within the buffer zone vegetation consists of landscaped lawn used as part of the school’s play area. Vegetation consists of standard lawn species such as:

- Perennial ryegrass – *Lolium perenne*
- Fine fescue – *Festuca rubra*
- Red clover – *Trifolium pratense*
- White clover – *Trifolium repens*
- Common plantain – *Plantago major*

While there is a large amount of phragmites present within the salt marsh itself, the invasives are mostly confined to within the wetland. As a result, less than 1% of the wetland buffer is composed of invasives.

A breakdown of impervious area can be found in Section 4.3 below.

#### 4.3 Impervious Surfaces

The proposed project seeks to move the existing impervious play surface further back from the wetlands as existing conditions. There is 150,595 SF of 100-foot wetland buffer zone present on the subject parcel.

.....

Under existing conditions there are 22,252 SF (14.8%) of impervious area present within the 100-foot wetland buffer zone. Under proposed conditions there are 20,918 SF (13.9%) of impervious area present within the 100-foot wetland buffer zone. This represents a 1,334 SF decrease in impervious area.

#### 4.4 Erosion Controls

Prior to the commencement of any work on site, erosion control measures will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended specifications to prevent any migration of sediment into the reservoirs. Proposed erosion control measures include straw wattles. These erosion control measures shall be maintained so as to ensure continued effectiveness in minimizing erosion and retaining sediment on-site during construction.

#### 4.5 Maintenance Plans

Pervious technology will be utilized on the playground surfaces to allow for increased infiltration. See attached maintenance plan for impervious areas, Attachment 5. Additionally, the proposed project includes the installation of a rain garden. The rain garden located within the existing ephemeral stream will also receive additional plantings, including 34 herbaceous species, to support stormwater management and native habitat enhancement. A maintenance plan for the proposed plantings has been included in Attachment 5.

#### 4.6 Permanent Wetland Boundary Markers

The Zoning Ordinance requires the placement of permanent wetland boundary markers along the buffer zone. Given that the buffer zone runs through an active play area associated with a school, placing permanent markers at this line would be impractical. The applicant is open to installing any required permanent wetland boundary markers and requests the Conservation Commission's assistance with understanding what may be appropriate given the use of this property.

#### 4.7 Avoidance and Minimization Zoning 10.1017.23

Per the City's Zoning 10.1017.23 the following additional information is required:

*The application shall describe the impact of the proposed project with specific reference to the criteria for approval set forth in Section 10.1017.50 (or Section 10.1017.60 in the case of utility installation in a right-of-way), and shall demonstrate that the proposed site alteration is the alternative with the least adverse impact to areas and environments under the jurisdiction of this Ordinance.*

The proposed project will not have any direct wetland impacts, only impacts to the 100-foot wetland buffer zone. The project has specifically avoided direct impacts to wetlands by keeping the limit of work contained to within the existing playground footprints. Due to the close proximity of the wetland resources, there is no way to avoid impacts to the buffer zone for playground renovations. The proposed project seeks to reduce impacts to the buffer zone by pulling the impervious area further away from the wetlands than existing conditions.

## ATTACHMENT 2



### Legend

- Points
- Salt Marsh
- ▭ Investigation Area
- - - Highest Observable Tide Reference Line
- Coastal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream - Center Line

National Wetlands Inventory Plus

Wetland Type

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels

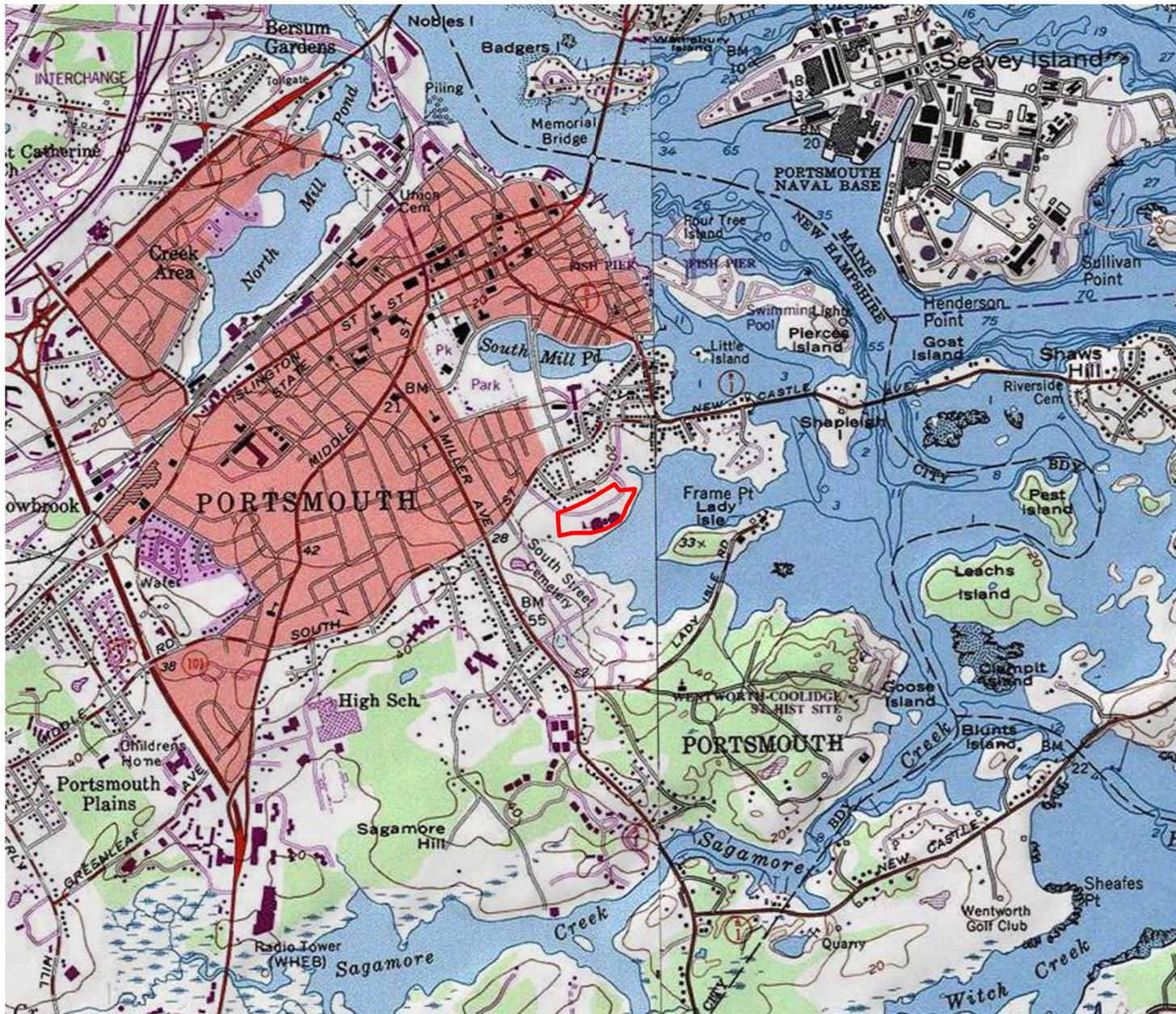
**FIGURE 1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wetlands Field Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

 Investigation Area

**FIGURE 2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

USGS Locus Map

Weston & Sampson



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- National Flood Hazard Zones
  -  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Regulatory Floodway
  -  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
  -  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
  -  Area with Risk Due to Levee
- NH DOT Roads

**FIGURE 3**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

FEMA Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
-  Designated Rivers 24K
-  Designated River Corridor
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Designated River Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat
  -  1 Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
  -  2 Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
  -  3 Supporting Landscapes
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Highest Rank Habitat Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor



**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Habitat Land Cover
  - Alpine
  - Appalachian oak-pine
  - Cliff and Talus
  - Coastal island
  - Developed Impervious
  - Developed or Barren land
  - Dune
  - Floodplain forest
  - Grassland
  - Hemlock-hardwood-pine
  - High-elevation spruce-fir
  - Lowland spruce-fir
  - Northern hardwood-conifer
  - Northern swamp
  - Open water
  - Peatland
  - Pine barren
  - Rocky ridge
  - Salt marsh
  - Sand/Gravel
  - Temperate swamp
  - Wet meadow/shrub wetland
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels
- New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.3**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Habitat Land Cover Map



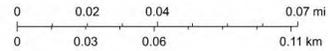
Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor

Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_PRA



11/19/2025, 12:50:13 PM

- ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
- City/Town
- Parcels
- Flood Plain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
- Tidal Wetlands
- Brackish Marsh
- High Marsh, *J. gerardii*
- High Marsh, *S. patens / D. spicata*
- Low Marsh
- Mudflat
- Phragmites australis
- Recently Flooded Forest
- Short form *S. alterniflora*
- Terrestrial border
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
- Red: Band\_1
- Green: Band\_2
- Blue: Band\_3



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axiomatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

Legend

- Investigation Area

FIGURE 4.4

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map

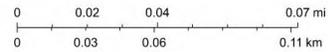


Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_Prime Wetlands



11/19/2025, 12:53:14 PM

- ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
  - City/Town
  - Parcels
  - Prime Wetlands
  - Prime Wetlands with 100ft Buffer
  - Red: Band\_1
  - Green: Band\_2
  - Blue: Band\_3
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

**Legend**

- Investigation Area

**FIGURE 4.5**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map  
Prime Wetlands



Soil Map—Rockingham County, New Hampshire



Map Scale: 1:6,360 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 19N WGS84



## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

### Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

### Water Features



Streams and Canals

### Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

### Background



Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

**Warning:** Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL:  
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Rockingham County, New Hampshire  
Survey Area Data: Version 28, Sep 9, 2025

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 19, 2020—Sep 20, 2020

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
33A	Scitico silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5.2	3.0%
140B	Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	5.9	3.4%
299	Udorthents, smoothed	22.4	13.0%
597	Westbrook mucky peat, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	1.3	0.7%
799	Urban land-Canton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	89.2	51.9%
W	Water	47.9	27.9%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>171.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## ATTACHMENT 3



westonandsampson.com

55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100  
Reading, MA 01867  
tel: 978.532.1900

# Wetland Delineation Report



September & November 2025

Little Harbor School  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH

Wetland Delineation Conducted By:  
Devin Herrick, CWS



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## APPENDICES

Appendix A .....	ACOE Wetland Determination Data Forms
Appendix B .....	Site Photographs
Appendix C.....	NHB Datacheck Forms

## 1.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. This investigation area is located on a developed parcel which has an existing school. Please see Figure 1 (Wetlands Field Map) and Figure 2 (USGS Topographic Map) of this report for the investigation area.

Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field using pink flagging by a Weston & Sampson employee who is a NH Certified Wetland Scientist trained in the wetland delineation process using the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method) utilizing the “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012. Further descriptions of these wetland resource areas are presented in the following sections.

.....

## 2.0 DELINEATION OF WETLAND RESOURCES

### 2.1 Site Observations

A Weston & Sampson NH Certified Wetland Scientist (CWS), trained in the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method), observed the following jurisdictional wetland resources at the site subject to (or potentially subject to) regulation under RSA 482-A Fill and Dredge in Wetlands:

- Tidal Surface Water
- Tidal Buffer Zone
- Tidal Wetland – Salt Marsh
- Non-Tidal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream

Field data were recorded on US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Wetland Determination Data Forms. See Appendix A for completed data forms and Appendix B for site photographs.

### 2.2 Wetland Delineation Methodology

A wetland delineation was conducted in accordance with New Hampshire Administrative Code Env-Wt 406 Delineation and Classification of Jurisdictional Areas utilizing the Federal Delineation Method. Per Env-Wt 103.02 “Federal Delineation Method” is defined as “the method in “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012”.

The Federal Delineation Method identifies wetlands based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetlands hydrology. Pink flags with distinct flag numbers are left in the field to show wetland limits. Vegetation, hydrology and soils are assessed in both wetland and upland areas to accurately place the wetland limits at each site. The percentage of vegetative species was estimated by creating sample plots. Sample plot radius for trees, saplings, shrubs, groundcover and woody vine strata was 30’, 15’, 15’, 5’ and 30’, respectively. After creating the sample plot areas, the percent basal area coverage of each species within the monitoring plot was recorded. Using these field observations,

the percent dominance of each species within its stratum was calculated. The 50/20 Rule was then used to determine dominance. Dominant species were considered the most abundant plant species (when ranked in descending order of abundance and cumulatively totaled) that immediately exceeds 50% of the total dominance measure (basal area) for the stratum, plus any additional species comprising 20% or more of the total dominance measure for the stratum. Once the dominant species were determined, they were treated equally to determine the presence of hydrophytic vegetation. If the number of dominant species with a Wetland Indicator Status of FAC (excluding FAC-), FACW or OBL is greater than, or equal to, the number of remaining dominant species, the area was considered a jurisdictional wetland resource area based on vegetation.

A soil sample from each wetland sample plot is also taken. Each soil sample goes to a depth of at least 12-24 inches. The soil is characterized to determine if the soil sample is considered a hydric (wetland) soil. Soil samples, including mottles, are characterized based on color using Munsell Soil-Color charts as a color reference and Env-Wt 301(c) as described above.

The general area is then assessed for hydrologic conditions, including, but not limited to, site inundation, depth to free water, depth of soil saturation, water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits, and water stained leaves.

### 2.3 Tidal Surface Water

Per Env-Wt 602.58 Tidal surface water means “any surface water that is subject to the ebb and flow of the tide”. The Reference Line for coastal waters per RSA 483-B:4, XVII. Is “the highest observable tide line, which means a line defining the furthest landward limit of tidal flow, not including storm events, which can be recognized by indicators such as the presence of a strand line of flotsam and debris, the landward margin of salt tolerant vegetation, or a physical barrier that blocks further flow of the tide.” Per Env-Wt 602.23 “Highest observable tide line (HOTL)” means “a line defining the farthest landward limit of tidal flow, not including storm events, that can be recognized by indicators such as the presence of a strand line of flotsam and debris, the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation, or a physical barrier that blocks inland flow of the tide”

Based on the current mapping available from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) the tidal surface water identified within the investigation area is a part of Portsmouth Harbor/the Piscataqua River.

Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Highest Observable Tide (HOT)-A1 through HOT-A29 (HOT "A" Series)

These flags were placed based on a strand line of flotsam and debris, and/or the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation.

Tidal waters are considered to be "Surface Waters of the State" (RSA 485-A:2, XIV) and as such at the state level they are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A). Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

Utilizing the New Hampshire hydrography dataset archived by the Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (GRANIT) the Piscataqua River identified within the investigation area is a seventh order stream. Since the Piscataqua River is a fourth order stream or higher is considered a "public water" per RSA 483-B:4, XVI and is subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B).

## 2.4 Developed Tidal Buffer Zone

Per Env-Wt 602.52 the tidal buffer zone means "the area identified in RSA 482-A:4, I as bordering on tidal waters within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line, which can contain banks, upland areas, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other lowlands subject to tidal action." This investigation area does include land within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line of the Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River. The entire investigation area is located within the developed Little Harbor School Property. This investigation area is considered developed based on Env-Wt 602.12 which indicates that developed upland "means an upland area on a lot within the tidal buffer zone or sand dune where:

- (a) The natural soil and vegetation characteristics on more than 50% of the lot have been legally altered and have not returned to a natural state;*
- (b) If the lot is in a tidal buffer zone, developed lots abut at least 2 sides of the lot;*
- (c) If the lot is in a dune slack area, the lot is surrounded on 4 sides by developed lots or roadways;*
- (d) If the lot is in a dune, the back side of a fore dune is within the line of encroachment and the lot is*

*surrounded on 3 sides by developed lots or roadways; and*

*(e) At least one of the following is true:*

- (1) The lot has legally been filled or excavated in whole or in part, whether prior to jurisdiction or pursuant to a permit or other authorization;*
- (2) The lot contains at least one paved or graded area that is, has been, or will be used for vehicular parking or traffic; or*
- (3) One or more residential or commercial buildings has been built on the lot.*

The Little Harbor School property contains natural soil and vegetation characteristics on more than 50% of the lot that have been legally altered and have not returned to a natural state. Additionally, the lot is in a tidal buffer zone and developed lots abut at least 2 sides of the lot. As such, the investigation area is considered previously developed tidal buffer zone.

At the state level in NH, the tidal buffer zone is regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## **2.5 Tidal Wetland – Salt Marsh**

According to the “Life In New Hampshire Salt Marshes A Quick-Reference Field Guide” prepared by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Coastal Program:

*Salt marshes are important transitional habitat between the ocean and the land; they are estuaries where fresh and salt water mix. Salt marsh plants (halophytes) are salt tolerant and adapted to water levels that fluctuate with the tide. Tides carry in nutrients that stimulate plant growth in the marsh and carry out organic material that feeds fish and other coastal organisms. Over time, salt marshes accumulate organic material, forming into a dense layer called peat.*

*Low Marsh: The low marsh is located along the seaward edge of the salt marsh. It is usually flooded at every tide and exposed during low tide. It tends to occur as a narrow band along creeks and ditches, whereas the high marsh is more expansive and is flooded less frequently. The predominant plant species*

found in the low marsh is the tall form of *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass). This species can reach a height of six feet and is very tolerant of daily flooding and exposure.

*High Marsh:* The high marsh lies between the low marsh and the marsh's upland border. It can be very expansive in some areas, sometimes extending hundreds of yards inland from the low marsh area. Soils in the high marsh are mostly saturated, and the high marsh is generally flooded only during higher than average high tides. Plant diversity is low (usually less than 25 species), with the dominant species being the grasses and rushes such as *Spartina patens* (salt hay grass), *Distichlis spicata* (spike grass), *Juncus gerardii* (black grass), and the short form of *Spartina alterniflora*. Other plant species commonly found in the high marsh are *Aster tenuifolius* (perennial salt marsh aster), and *Limonium nashii* (sea lavender).

Env-Wt 602.22 High salt marsh means "a tidal marsh zone located above mean high water and inundated during periods of extreme high tide and storm surge associated with coastal storms".

Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Salt Marsh (SM)-A1 through SM-A15 (SM "A" Series)

These flags were placed based on the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation.

These wetlands are classified using the Cowardin "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" as E2EM1P, E – Estuarine, 2 – Intertidal, EM – Emergent, 1 – Persistent, P – Irregularly Flooded.

At the state level in NH, tidal wetlands are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.6 Non-Tidal Wetland

Per Env-Wt 103.47 "Non-tidal wetland" means a wetland that is not subject to periodic inundation by tidal waters. The limit of the nontidal wetlands were determined utilizing the Federal Delineation Method

by locating the transitional area between wetland and upland vegetation, soils and hydrologic conditions. Wetland flags left in the field included:

- WET-B1 through WET-B4 (WET "B" Series)
- WET-C1 through WET-C5 (WET "C" Series)

Dominant vegetation within the non-tidal wetlands included *Acer rubrum*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Frangula alnus*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Celastrus orbiculatus* species that generally thrive in wet conditions. Soils within the non-tidal wetland were composed of a silty loam with redoximorphic features. Other indicators of wetland hydrology included saturation, water stained leaves and oxidized rhizospheres.

Dominant vegetation in the adjacent upland areas included *Acer rubrum*, *Acer platanoides*, *Frangula alnus*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Celastrus orbiculatus*. Soils within the upland were composed of sandy loam with no evidence of mottling or hydrology within the top 12 inches.

These wetlands are classified using the Cowardin "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" as PFO1E, P – Palustrine, FO – Forested, 1 – Broad-Leaved Deciduous, E – Seasonally Flooded/Saturated.

At the state level in NH, nontidal wetlands are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.7 Ephemeral Stream

Env-Wt 102.64 "Ephemeral stream" means a watercourse that is located above the water table year-round and is not fed by groundwater, such that runoff from rainfall and snowmelt is the primary source of stream flow and so the stream has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation or spring thaw events, but which has less flow than an intermittent stream and no evidence of riffles, meander bends, point bars, or braiding.

A single ephemeral stream was observed within the investigation area. Water originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Center Line CL-A1 through CL-A9 (CL "A" Series)

At the state level in NH, ephemeral streams are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.8 Other Protected Areas

Weston & Sampson created Environmental Resources Maps (see Figures 3-5) of the site to determine the presence of other protected areas. These areas included:

- Priority Resource Area (PRA)
- Designated River Segment/Corridor
- Prime Wetlands
- FEMA 100 Year Floodplain
- Wildlife Action Plan

### Priority Resource Area (PRA)

Per Env-Wt 103.66 "Priority resource area (PRA) means "a jurisdictional area that:

- (a) Has documented occurrences of protected species or habitat;*
- (b) Is a bog;*
- (c) Is a floodplain wetland contiguous to a tier 3 or higher watercourse;*
- (d) Is a designated prime wetlands;*
- (e) Is a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetlands;*
- (f) Is a sand dune, tidal wetland, tidal water, or undeveloped tidal buffer zone; or*
- (g) Is any combination of (a) through (f), above.*

The Portsmouth Harbor/the Piscataqua River is a tidal water and would be considered a PRA. The investigation area includes a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetland which is also considered a PRA.

### **Designated River Segment/Corridor**

The New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called Designated Rivers, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services RMPP maintains a NH Designated River Corridor Web Map viewer showing all of the jurisdictional designated river segments. The Designated River corridor is defined as the river and the land area located within a distance of 1,320 feet (1/4 mile) of the normal high water mark or to the landward extent of the 100 year floodplain of a designated river as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, whichever distance is larger.

A map of the investigation area utilizing the NH Designated River Corridor Web Map viewer is shown in Figure 4. There are no designated river segments or corridors located within the investigation area.

### **Prime Wetlands**

Per RSA 482-A:15.1(a) Any municipality, by its conservation commission, or, in the absence of a conservation commission, the planning board, or, in the absence of a planning board, the local governing body, may undertake to designate, map, and document prime wetlands lying within its boundaries, or if such areas lie only partly within its boundaries, then that portion lying within its boundaries. The conservation commission, planning board, or governing body shall give written notice to the owner of the affected land and all abutters 30 days prior to the public hearing, before designating any property as prime wetlands.

The investigation area included a prime wetland designated by the City of Portsmouth as wetland number 061B.

### FEMA 100 Year Floodplain

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated a series of zones which are defined according to varying levels of flood risk. Per FEMA a flood is any relatively high streamflow overtopping the natural or artificial banks in any reach of a stream. The 100-year floodplain is the zone with a 1% annual chance of flooding. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were created online from the FEMA website to determine if there is a 100-year flood zone at the site.

See Figure 3 for FIRM map. Based on FEMA flood maps the investigation area is partially located within the 100-year floodplain.

### Wildlife Action Plan

In 2020 an update was completed of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan. According to the NH Fish and Game the aim of the Wildlife Action Plan seeks to “identify species in greatest need of conservation, habitats that are at the greatest risk, as well as land uses and activities that present the greatest threats to wildlife and habitat.” The NH Wildlife Action Plan includes three sets of mapping data available for use by stakeholders:

1. Habitat Land Cover Map: which shows where the different types of wildlife habitat are located throughout the state.
2. Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition Map: which shows where habitats in the best ecological condition in the state are located, based on biodiversity, arrangement of habitat types on the landscape, and lack of human impacts.
3. Aquatic Habitats Map: which provides an assessment of surface water habitats.

After learning what habitat may be present within a proposed project area the Wildlife Action Plan informs stakeholders about strategies for managing and protecting wildlife. The data from these maps is available on the Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (GRANIT) viewer.

The investigation area was investigated on the GRANIT viewer and two maps were produced (Figures 5.1 and 5.2). According to the Habitat Land Cover data the investigation area is composed of Developed Impervious, Developed or Barren land, Grassland, Hemlock-hardwood-pine, and Salt marsh cover types. The Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition data indicates that portions of investigation area are located with highest ranking habitat.

## Endangered and Rare Species/Habitat

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) keeps records of known locations of rare species and natural communities. The NHB Datacheck Tool allows the user to outline the limits of the proposed project area in order to determine if there are any records of rare species and natural communities within the proposed project limits.

The approximate proposed project limits were mapped using the NHB Datacheck Tool. Initial NHB Data Check results indicate that there are Ecological Review records in the vicinity of the approximate proposed project limits (see Appendix C). Further consultation with NHDES will be needed to determine what rare species and/or natural communities were identified. This mapping is regularly updated and subject to change.

If any portion of the project involves a federal nexus (i.e. federal permitting, federal funding ect.) than additional information may be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

.....

## 3.0 SUMMARY

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field.

Additional environmental mapping was conducted using NH Granit data layers and FEMA FIRM mapping. This additional mapping indicates that a prime wetland and a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetland are present on the site. Additionally portions of the site are located within the 100-year flood zone and Highest Ranked Habitat.

.....

## 4.0 REFERENCES

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2018. *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2*. L. M. Vasilas, G. W. Hurt, and J.F. Berkowitz (eds.). USDA, NRCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils.

USACOE, January 1987, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1.

FEMA Flood Map Service Center, online at [msc.fema.gov/portal](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) Assessed on 11/19/2025.  
Tiner, Jr., Ralph W., 2005, Field Guide to Nontidal Wetland Identification

New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee, 2019, Version 4, *Field Indicator of Identifying Hydric Soils in New England*. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Lowell, MA.



### Legend

- Points
- Salt Marsh
- ▭ Investigation Area
- - - Highest Observable Tide Reference Line
- Coastal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream - Center Line

National Wetlands Inventory Plus

Wetland Type

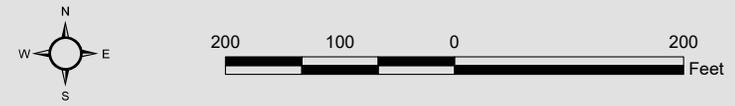
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels

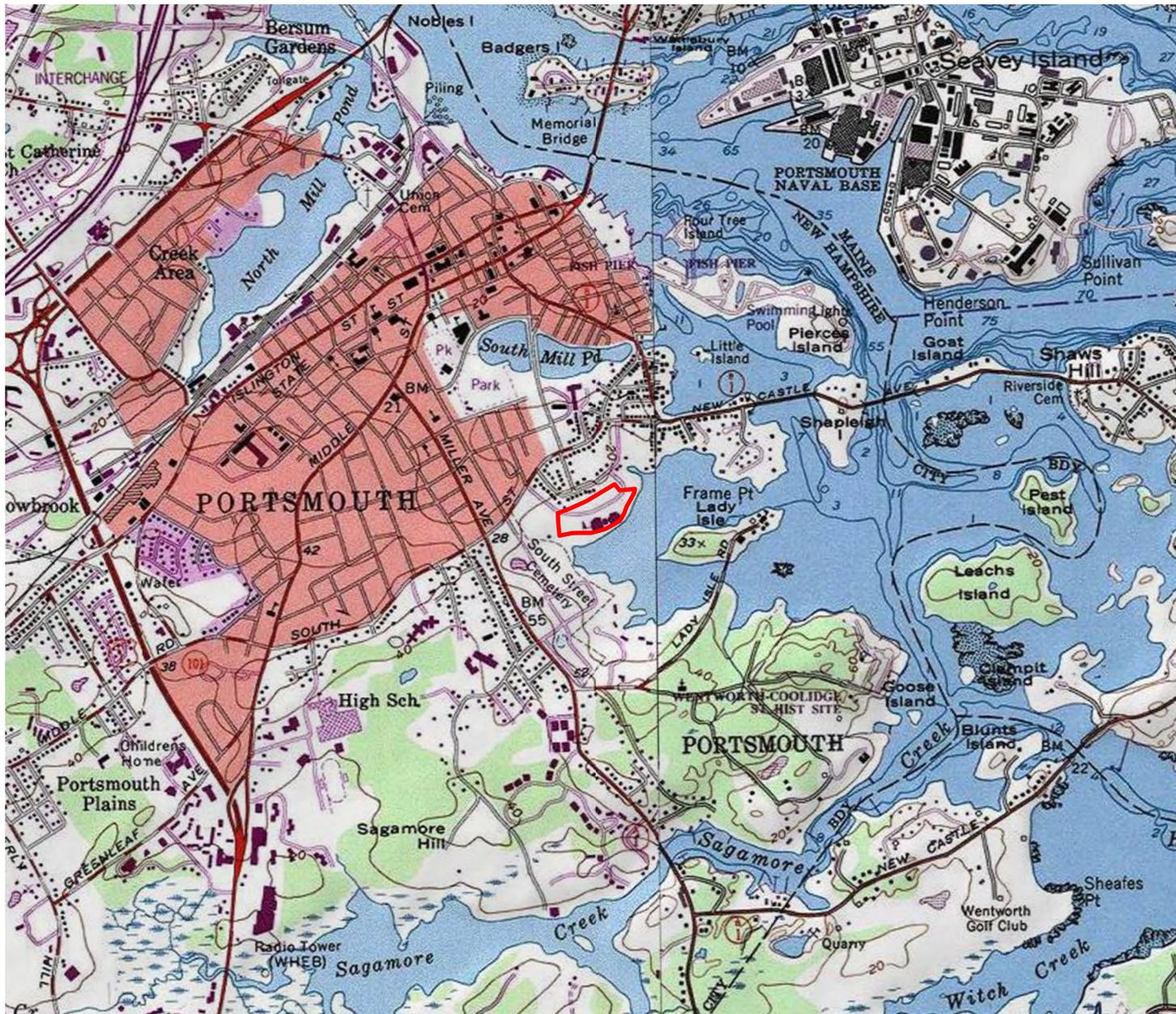
**FIGURE 1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wetlands Field Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

 Investigation Area

**FIGURE 2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

USGS Locus Map

Weston & Sampson™



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



- Legend**
-  Investigation Area
  - National Flood Hazard Zones
    -  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
    -  Regulatory Floodway
    -  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
    -  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
    -  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
    -  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
    -  Area with Risk Due to Levee
  - NH DOT Roads

**FIGURE 3**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

FEMA Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA Microsoft, Vantor





### Legend

-  Investigation Area
-  Designated Rivers 24K
-  Designated River Corridor
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

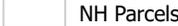
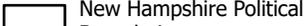
Designated River Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat
  -  1 Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
  -  2 Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
  -  3 Supporting Landscapes
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.2**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH  
Wildlife Action Plan  
Highest Rank Habitat Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor



**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Habitat Land Cover
- Alpine
- Appalachian oak-pine
- Cliff and Talus
- Coastal island
- Developed Impervious
- Developed or Barren land
- Dune
- Floodplain forest
- Grassland
- Hemlock-hardwood-pine
- High-elevation spruce-fir
- Lowland spruce-fir
- Northern hardwood-conifer
- Northern swamp
- Open water
- Peatland
- Pine barren
- Rocky ridge
- Salt marsh
- Sand/Gravel
- Temperate swamp
- Wet meadow/shrub wetland
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels
- New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.3**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Habitat Land Cover Map



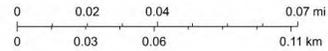
Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor

Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_PRA



11/19/2025, 12:50:13 PM

- ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
- City/Town
- Parcels
- Flood Plain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
- Tidal Wetlands
- Brackish Marsh
- High Marsh, *J. gerardii*
- High Marsh, *S. patens / D. spicata*
- Low Marsh
- Mudflat
- Phragmites australis
- Recently Flooded Forest
- Short form *S. alterniflora*
- Terrestrial border
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
- Red: Band\_1
- Green: Band\_2
- Blue: Band\_3



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

Legend

- Investigation Area

FIGURE 4.4

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map

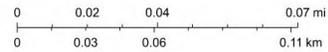


Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_Prime Wetlands



11/19/2025, 12:53:14 PM

- Investigation Area
- Prime Wetlands
- Prime Wetlands with 100ft Buffer
- Green: Band\_2
- Blue: Band\_3
- City/Town
- Parcels
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
- Red: Band\_1



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

Legend

- Investigation Area

FIGURE 4.5

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map  
Prime Wetlands



## APPENDIX A

### ACOE Data Forms

Project/Site: Little Harbor School City/County: Portsmouth Sampling Date: 9/12/2025

Applicant/Owner: City of Portsmouth State: NH Sampling Point: WET B Wetland

Investigator(s): Devin herrick, CWS Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_

Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Marine terraces Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope %: 0-5

Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR R Lat: 43.066306° Long: -70.754230° Datum: WGS 84

Soil Map Unit Name: Scitico silt loam NWI classification: PFO1E

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No _____ If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: _____
---	---

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

**HYDROLOGY**

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <u>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)</u> _____ Surface Water (A1) <u>X</u> Water-Stained Leaves (B9) _____ High Water Table (A2) _____ Aquatic Fauna (B13) <u>X</u> Saturation (A3) _____ Marl Deposits (B15) _____ Water Marks (B1) _____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1) _____ Sediment Deposits (B2) <u>X</u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3) _____ Drift Deposits (B3) _____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4) _____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4) _____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6) _____ Iron Deposits (B5) _____ Thin Muck Surface (C7) _____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7) _____ Other (Explain in Remarks) _____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	<u>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</u> _____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6) _____ Drainage Patterns (B10) _____ Moss Trim Lines (B16) _____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2) _____ Crayfish Burrows (C8) _____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9) _____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) _____ Geomorphic Position (D2) _____ Shallow Aquitard (D3) _____ Microtopographic Relief (D4) <u>X</u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
--	--

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Depth (inches): <u>10</u> (includes capillary fringe)	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No _____
--	---

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Sampling Point: WET B Wetland

	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status																																									
<b>Tree Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )				<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>6</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>7</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>85.7%</u> (A/B)																																								
1. <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>																																									
2. <u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>																																									
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
6. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
	<u>35</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>15</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>	<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:40%;">Total % Cover of:</th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> <th style="width:10%;">Multiply by:</th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> <th style="width:10%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species</td> <td><u>0</u></td> <td>x 1 =</td> <td><u>0</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species</td> <td><u>75</u></td> <td>x 2 =</td> <td><u>150</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species</td> <td><u>40</u></td> <td>x 3 =</td> <td><u>120</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species</td> <td><u>5</u></td> <td>x 4 =</td> <td><u>20</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species</td> <td><u>0</u></td> <td>x 5 =</td> <td><u>0</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals:</td> <td><u>120</u></td> <td>(A)</td> <td><u>290</u></td> <td>(B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Prevalence Index = B/A =</td> <td></td> <td><u>2.42</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:			OBL species	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>		FACW species	<u>75</u>	x 2 =	<u>150</u>		FAC species	<u>40</u>	x 3 =	<u>120</u>		FACU species	<u>5</u>	x 4 =	<u>20</u>		UPL species	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>		Column Totals:	<u>120</u>	(A)	<u>290</u>	(B)	Prevalence Index = B/A =			<u>2.42</u>	
Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:																																										
OBL species	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>																																									
FACW species	<u>75</u>	x 2 =	<u>150</u>																																									
FAC species	<u>40</u>	x 3 =	<u>120</u>																																									
FACU species	<u>5</u>	x 4 =	<u>20</u>																																									
UPL species	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>																																									
Column Totals:	<u>120</u>	(A)	<u>290</u>		(B)																																							
Prevalence Index = B/A =			<u>2.42</u>																																									
2. <u><i>Frangula alnus</i></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>																																									
3. <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FAC</u>																																									
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
6. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
	<u>40</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>5</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <u>1</u> - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>2</u> - Dominance Test is >50% <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>3</u> - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <u>4</u> - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)  <u>        </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																																								
2. <u><i>Onoclea sensibilis</i></u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>																																									
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
6. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
8. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
9. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
10. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
11. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
12. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
	<u>40</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>	<b>Definitions of Vegetation Strata:</b>  <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.  <b>Sapling/shrub</b> – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.  <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.  <b>Woody vines</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.																																								
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																																									
	<u>5</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No _____																																												

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: WET B Wetland

**Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)**

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-8	10YR 2/2	100					Loamy/Clayey	
8-16	2.5YR 4/2	95	10YR 4/6	5	C	M	Loamy/Clayey	Prominent redox concentrations
16-20	2.5YR 5/2	95	10YR 4/6	5	C	M	Loamy/Clayey	Prominent redox concentrations

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

<sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators:**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Stratified Layers (A5)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Mesic Spodic (A17)  
**(MLRA 144A, 145, 149B)**
- Iron Monosulfide (A18)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)

- Dark Surface (S7)
- Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- High Chroma Sands (S11) **(LRR K, L)**
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(LRR K, L)**
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)
- Marl (F10) **(LRR K, L)**
- Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 145)**

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR K, L, MLRA 149B)**
- 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR K, L)**
- Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR K, L)**
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 149B)**
- Red Parent Material (F21) **(outside MLRA 145)**
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

Hydric Soil Present?      Yes X      No \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

## AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTIFICATION

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0024, is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR REQUEST TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.**

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: <http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx>

Project/Site: Little Harbor School City/County: Portsmouth Sampling Date: 9/12/2025  
 Applicant/Owner: City of Portsmouth State: NH Sampling Point: WET B Upland  
 Investigator(s): Devin herrick, CWS Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Marine terraces Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope %: 0-5  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR R Lat: 43.066548° Long: -70.754442° Datum: WGS 84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Scitico silt loam NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes _____ No <u>X</u> If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: _____
---	---

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

**HYDROLOGY**

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <u>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)</u> _____ Surface Water (A1) _____ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) _____ High Water Table (A2) _____ Aquatic Fauna (B13) _____ Saturation (A3) _____ Marl Deposits (B15) _____ Water Marks (B1) _____ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1) _____ Sediment Deposits (B2) _____ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3) _____ Drift Deposits (B3) _____ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4) _____ Algal Mat or Crust (B4) _____ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6) _____ Iron Deposits (B5) _____ Thin Muck Surface (C7) _____ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7) _____ Other (Explain in Remarks) _____ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	<u>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</u> _____ Surface Soil Cracks (B6) _____ Drainage Patterns (B10) _____ Moss Trim Lines (B16) _____ Dry-Season Water Table (C2) _____ Crayfish Burrows (C8) _____ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9) _____ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) _____ Geomorphic Position (D2) _____ Shallow Aquitard (D3) _____ Microtopographic Relief (D4) _____ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
---	---

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
--	---

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Sampling Point: WET B Upland

	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status																	
<b>Tree Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )				<p><b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b></p> <p>Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>3</u> (A)</p> <p>Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B)</p> <p>Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>50.0%</u> (A/B)</p> <p><b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b></p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">Total % Cover of:</th> <th style="width:50%;">Multiply by:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 1 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species <u>10</u></td> <td>x 2 = <u>20</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species <u>35</u></td> <td>x 3 = <u>105</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species <u>15</u></td> <td>x 4 = <u>60</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species <u>20</u></td> <td>x 5 = <u>100</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)</td> <td><u>285</u> (B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b></p> <p><u>    </u> 1 - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation</p> <p><u>    </u> 2 - Dominance Test is &gt;50%</p> <p><u>    </u> 3 - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0<sup>1</sup></p> <p><u>    </u> 4 - Morphological Adaptations<sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)</p> <p><u>    </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation<sup>1</sup> (Explain)</p> <p><sup>1</sup>Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.</p> <p><b>Definitions of Vegetation Strata:</b></p> <p><b>Tree</b> – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.</p> <p><b>Sapling/shrub</b> – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.</p> <p><b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.</p> <p><b>Woody vines</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.</p> <p><b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b>      Yes <u>    </u>      No <u>  X  </u></p>	Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>	FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>	FAC species <u>35</u>	x 3 = <u>105</u>	FACU species <u>15</u>	x 4 = <u>60</u>	UPL species <u>20</u>	x 5 = <u>100</u>	Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)	<u>285</u> (B)	Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u>	
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																			
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>																			
FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>																			
FAC species <u>35</u>	x 3 = <u>105</u>																			
FACU species <u>15</u>	x 4 = <u>60</u>																			
UPL species <u>20</u>	x 5 = <u>100</u>																			
Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)	<u>285</u> (B)																			
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u>																				
1. <u>Acer rubrum</u>	10	Yes	FAC																	
2. <u>Acer platanoides</u>	15	Yes	UPL																	
3. <u>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</u>	5	No	FACW																	
4. <u>Malus prunifolia</u>	5	No	UPL																	
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
	<u>35</u>	=Total Cover																		
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>15</u> )																				
1. <u>Frangula alnus</u>	25	Yes	FAC																	
2. _____																				
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
	<u>25</u>	=Total Cover																		
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>5</u> )																				
1. <u>Potentilla simplex</u>	10	Yes	FACU																	
2. <u>Onoclea sensibilis</u>	5	Yes	FACW																	
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
8. _____																				
9. _____																				
10. _____																				
11. _____																				
12. _____																				
	<u>15</u>	=Total Cover																		
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )																				
1. <u>Celastrus orbiculatus</u>	5	Yes	FACU																	
2. _____																				
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
	<u>5</u>	=Total Cover																		

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)



## AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTIFICATION

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0024, is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR REQUEST TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.**

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: <http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx>

## APPENDIX B

### Site Photographs



Photo 1: Little Harbor School Playground



Photo 2: PEEP Playground



Photo 3: Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River



Photo 4: Highest Observable Tide Line



Photo 5: Salt Marsh



Photo 6: Non-Tidal Wetland



Photo 7: Ephemeral Stream

## APPENDIX C

### NHB Datacheck Forms



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

To: Devin Herrick, Weston & Sampson Engineering  
55 Walkers Brook Drive  
Reading, MA 01857  
herrick.devin@wseinc.com

From: Ecological Review Section  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

cc: NHFG Review, David Simmons

Date: 12/04/2025 (valid until 12/04/2026)

Re: DataCheck Review by NHDES Ecological Review Section and NH Fish & Game

Permits: NHDES - Shoreland Standard Permit, NHDES - Wetlands Standard Dredge & Fill

**DCT ID: DCT25-3222**

Town: Portsmouth  
Location: 50 CLOUGH DR

**Project Description:** The propose project includes the replacement of two playgrounds on the property of the Little Harbor School. All work will occur in uplands. To be completed by the end of 2026.

### **Next Steps for Applicants:**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Ecological Review Section has reviewed the provided mapped project area against available records of protected species, Exemplary Natural Communities (ENCs), and critical habitat. Based on the project mapping and submitted information it was determined that there are potential impacts. Please carefully read the comments below and consultation instructions on the following pages.

#### **Plant and Exemplary Natural**

**Community Comments:** If all work is within existing disturbed areas of the playground footprints, then no ecological review for plants is needed. If work is proposed outside of the existing playground footprints, then please provide proposed plans and representative photos during the growing season of the proposed impact areas (or at the very least without snow cover).

#### **Wildlife and Critical Habitat**

**Comments:** An ecological review is needed to further assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat. Please refer to the Wildlife Ecological Review Instructions below for guidance on how to submit an ecological review request and information about when an ecological review is required vs recommended.

## **Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Ecological Review Instructions**

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review is required if plant and/or ENC records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules of a state agency

If a project is not legally required to obtain an ecological review but this letter contains plant and/or ENC records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 217-A.

To request an ecological review for plants and/or ENCs:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver any materials requested in the “Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Comments” section above to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include “Ecological Review Request” in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the plant/ENC ecological review process call 603-271-6261.*

## Wildlife and Critical Habitat Ecological Review Instructions

### *Requesting an Ecological Review by NHDES*

An ecological review for wildlife will be completed by the NHDES Ecological Review Section if a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is needed. *If you do not need any NHDES permits, authorizations, or approvals then please see the section regarding NHFG reviews conducted by the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) below.*

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review by NHDES is required if wildlife/critical habitat records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules regarding the permit, approval, or written authorization pursuant to RSA 482-A, RSA 485-A, and RSA 236.

If a project requiring a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is not legally required to obtain an ecological review, but this letter contains wildlife or critical habitat records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 212-A.

To request an ecological review for wildlife with DES:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver project information following the guidance of [Fis1004.03\(c\)](#) to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include "Ecological Review Request" in the subject line of the request.

*For help with wildlife ecological review process call 603-271-0467 or visit the [wildlife environmental review page](#) for guideline materials including a suggested checklist of materials to provide for ecological review.*

## **Wildlife and Critical Habitat Review Instructions (continued)**

### *Requesting a Wildlife Review by NHFG*

Wildlife reviews to assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat for any need outside of NHDES permits, authorizations, and approvals are completed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program.

To request a wildlife review with NHFG:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver available project information to:  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
Attn. Wildlife Division, Nongame Program  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
[nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov)
2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include "Wildlife Review" in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the NHFG wildlife review process call 603-271-2461.*

## **Federal Compliance**

This letter does not constitute compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). There may be occurrences of federally listed species in New Hampshire that are not included in this letter. For ESA compliance, please visit the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) [Information for Planning and Consultation \(iPaC\) website](#) for an official list of federally listed species that may be present in your project area. If a federal agency is involved in your project through funding, permit or other authorization, coordinate your iPaC results with your point of contact at the agency for further ESA review. If there is no federal agency nexus to your project, and you determine through iPaC, habitat evaluations etc. that a project may cause take of a federally listed species, we recommend coordinating with the USFWS' New England Field Office ([newengland@fws.gov](mailto:newengland@fws.gov) or [603-223-2541](tel:603-223-2541)).

**Ecological Review Database records:**

The following record(s) may be impacted by the proposed project. Please refer to this list when coordinating.

<b>Plant species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
marsh elder ( <i>Iva frutescens</i> )	T	--	Threats are primarily alterations to the hydrology of the wetland, such as ditching or tidal restrictions that might affect the sheet flow of tidal waters across the intertidal flat, activities that eliminate plants, and increased input of nutrients and pollutants in storm runoff.
northern blazing star ( <i>Liatris novae-angliae</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i> )*	E	--	Threats to this highly imperilled species are development activities that eliminate its habitat and invasion of its open, grassy habitat by trees and shrubs.
<b>Vertebrate species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Atlantic Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i> )	T	T	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	T	--	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see above).
Shortnose Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> )	E	E	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).

<sup>1</sup>Codes: "E" = Endangered, "T" = Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "--" = an exemplary natural community, or a rare species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet been added to the official state list.

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the most recent report for that occurrence was 25 or more years ago.

**Disclaimer:**

DataCheck Tool screening only includes documented and verified occurrences of protected species and exemplary natural communities. The list of protected species and habitat on this letter does not guarantee these are the only protected species and habitat present at this location, only that their presence has not been documented and verified by state biologists and ecologists. As many areas have never been surveyed, or have only been surveyed for certain species, surveys are the best way to determine what resources are present on site.

DCT25-3222



Legend

- City/Town
- Site bounds

[www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)  
29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: (603) 271-2867 • TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

## ATTACHMENT 4

# DRAFT

\*Intention is to submit NHDES Wetlands Permit concurrently with Conservation Commission Review. Has not been submitted at time of submission of Conditional Use Permit.



westonandsampson.com

55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100  
Reading, MA 01867  
tel: 978.532.1900

## Wetlands Major Impact Application



December 2025

Little Harbor School  
Playground Renovations  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH



December 29, 2025

55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100, Reading, MA 01867  
Tel: 978.532.1900

NHDES Wetlands Bureau  
29 Hazen Drive  
PO Box 95  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

**Re: Wetlands Major Impact Application Submission  
Little Harbor School - Playground Renovations  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH**

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the City of Portsmouth, Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. is hereby enclosing one (1) copy of the Wetlands Major Impact application for your review with regards to the proposed renovations to the playgrounds at the Little Harbor School.

Along with the required NHDES forms and project narrative, additional information for this application is included in the following appendices:

Appendix A Avoidance and Minimization  
Appendix B ACOE Secondary Impacts Checklist  
Appendix C Maps  
Appendix D NHB  
Appendix E Section 106 DHR  
Appendix F Abutters List and Notice  
Appendix G Photos  
Appendix H Wetland Delineation Report  
Appendix I Functional Assessment  
Appendix J Maintenance Plans  
Appendix K Request for Concurrent Processing  
Appendix L Plans

A check in the amount of \$16,219.20 made payable to Treasurer – State of NH has also been included to cover the application fee.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact me at 978-573-5802.

Very truly yours,

WESTON & SAMPSON



Devin Herrick, CWS  
Project Environmental Scientist

# DRAFT



## STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION

Water Division / Land Resources Management /  
Wetlands Bureau



[Check the status of your application](#)

**RSA/Rule:** RSA 482-A/Env-Wt 100-900

Applicant name: City of Portsmouth - Ken Linchey		Town name: Portsmouth	
Administrative Use Only	Administrative Use Only	Administrative Use Only	File No.:
			Check No.:
			Amount:
			Initials:

A person may request a waiver of the requirements in administrative rules Env-Wt 100-900 to accommodate situations where strict adherence to the requirements would not be in the best interest of the public or the environment but is still in compliance with RSA 482-A. A person may also request a waiver of the standards for existing dwellings over water pursuant to RSA 482-A:26, III(b). For more information, please consult the [Waiver Request Form](#).

SECTION 1 - REQUIRED PLANNING FOR ALL PROJECTS (Env-Wt 306.05; RSA 482-A:3, I(d)(2))	
Please use the <a href="#">Land Resources Management Permit Planning Tool (LRMPPT)</a> , the <a href="#">DataCheck Tool</a> , the <a href="#">Stream Crossing Initiative Data Viewer</a> or other sources to assist in identifying key features such as <a href="#">Priority Resource Areas (PRAs)</a> , <a href="#">protected species or habitats</a> , coastal areas, designated rivers or designated prime wetlands.	
Has the required planning been completed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the property contain a PRA? If yes, provide the following information:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the project qualify for an Impact Classification Adjustment (such as a New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG) agreement for a classification downgrade) or a Project-Type Exception (such as a Maintenance or Statutory Permit-by-Notification (SPN) project)? See Env-Wt 407.02 and Env-Wt 407.04.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected species or habitat?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If yes, species or habitat name(s): Atlantic Sturgeon, Peregrine Falcon, Shortnose Sturgeon</li> <li>DataCheck project ID number: DCT25-3222</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bog?</li> <li>Floodplain wetland contiguous to a tier 3 or higher watercourse?</li> <li>Designated prime wetland or duly-established 100-foot buffer?</li> <li>Sand dune, tidal wetland, tidal water or undeveloped tidal buffer zone?</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the property within a designated river corridor? If yes, provide the following information:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name of Local River Management Advisory Committee (LAC):</li> <li>A copy of the application was sent to the LAC on (mm/dd/yyyy):</li> </ul>	
For dredging projects, is the subject property contaminated?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, list contaminant: Not Applicable	
Is there potential to impact impaired waters, Class A waters or Outstanding Resource Waters?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
For stream crossing projects, provide watershed size (see <a href="#">LRMPPT</a> or Stream Stats):	

[irm@des.nh.gov](mailto:irm@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2147

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

[des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov)

# DRAFT

**SECTION 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Env-Wt 311.04(i))**

*Provide a description of the project and the purpose of the project, the need for the proposed impacts to jurisdictional areas, an outline of the scope of work to be performed, and whether impacts are temporary or permanent.*

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School playgrounds to be universally accessible (UA) and nature base playgrounds. As part of the proposed project there will be unavoidable impacts areas which fall under the jurisdiction of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau including an ephemeral stream, 100-foot prime wetland buffer, and previously developed tidal buffer zone. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) of permanent impact and 10,105 SF of temporary impact.

**SECTION 3 - PROJECT LOCATION**

*Separate wetland permit applications must be submitted for each municipality within which wetland impacts occur.*

Address: 50 Clough Drive

Town or city: Portsmouth

Tax map/block/lot/unit: 206/20

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topo map waterbody name:

n/a

(Optional) Latitude / longitude in decimal degrees (to five decimal places): 43.06640°/-70.75320°

**SECTION 4 - APPLICANT (DESIRED PERMIT HOLDER) INFORMATION (Env-Wt 311.04(a))**

*If the applicant is a trust or a company, then complete with the trust or company information.*

Name: City of Portsmouth - Ken Linchey, Portsmouth School Department

Mailing address: 1 Junkins Avenue

Town or city: Portsmouth

State: NH

ZIP: 03801

Email address: klinchey@sau52.org

Phone: 603-610-4168

Electronic communication: By initialing here, I hereby authorize NHDES to communicate all matters relative to this application electronically:

**SECTION 5 - AUTHORIZED AGENT INFORMATION (Env-Wt 311.04(c))  N/A**

Last name, first name, middle initial: Herrick, Devin

Company name: Weston & Sampson Engineers

Mailing address: 55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100

Town or city: Reading

State: MA

ZIP: 01867

Email address: herrick.devin@wseinc.com

Phone: 978-573-5802

Electronic communication: By initialing here, I hereby authorize NHDES to communicate all matters relative to this application electronically: DKH

DRAFT

**SECTION 6 - PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT) (Env-Wt 311.04(b))**  
*If the owner is a trust or a company, then complete with the trust or company information.  Same as applicant*

Name: City of Portsmouth		
Mailing address: PO BOX 628		
Town or city: PORTSMOUTH	State: NH	ZIP: 03802
Email address: klinchey@sau52.org	Phone: 603-610-4168	

Electronic communication: By initialing here, I hereby authorize NHDES to communicate all matters relative to this application electronically:

**SECTION 7 - RESOURCE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA ESTABLISHED IN Env-Wt 400, Env-Wt 500, Env-Wt 600, Env-Wt 700, OR Env-Wt 900 HAVE BEEN MET (Env-Wt 313.01(a)(3))**

Describe how the resource-specific criteria have been met for each chapter listed above (please attach information about stream crossings, coastal resources, prime wetlands, or non-tidal wetlands and surface waters):  
 See attached project description for resource specific information Env-Wt 600.

**SECTION 8 - AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION**

Impacts within wetland jurisdiction must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable (Env-Wt 313.03(a)).\* Any project with unavoidable jurisdictional impacts must then be minimized as described in the [Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques For Avoidance and Minimization](#) and the [Wetlands Permitting: Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation fact sheet](#). For minor or major projects, a functional assessment of all wetlands on the project site is required (Env-Wt 311.03(b)(10)). \*

Please refer to the application checklist to ensure you have attached all documents related to avoidance and minimization, as well as functional assessment (where applicable). Use the [Avoidance and Minimization Checklist](#), the [Avoidance and Minimization Narrative](#), or your own avoidance and minimization narrative.

*\*See Env-Wt 311.03(b)(6) and Env-Wt 311.03(b)(10) for shoreline structure exemptions.*

**SECTION 9 - MITIGATION REQUIREMENT (Env-Wt 311.02)**  
*If unavoidable jurisdictional impacts require mitigation, a mitigation [pre-application meeting](#) must occur at least 30 days but not more than 90 days prior to submitting this Standard Dredge and Fill Permit Application.*

Mitigation pre-application meeting date (mm-dd-yyyy):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A - Mitigation is not required.
---	---

**SECTION 10 - THE PROJECT MEETS COMPENSATORY MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS (ENV-WT 313.01(A)(1C))**  
*Confirm that you have submitted a compensatory mitigation proposal that meets the requirements of Env-Wt 800 for all permanent unavoidable impacts that will remain after avoidance and minimization techniques have been exercised to the maximum extent practicable*

<input type="checkbox"/> I confirm submittal.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A – Compensatory mitigation is not required)
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**SECTION 11 - IMPACT AREA (Env-Wt 311.04(g))**

For each jurisdictional area that will be or has been impacted, provide square feet (SF) and, if applicable, linear feet (LF) of impact, and note whether the impact is After-The-Fact (ATF; meaning work was started or completed without a permit).

For intermittent and ephemeral streams, LF of impact are measured along the thread of the channel. Please note, installation of a stream crossing in an ephemeral stream may be undertaken without a permit per rule Env-Wt 309.02(d); however, other dredge or fill impacts should be included below.

For perennial streams/ivers, LF of impact are calculated by summing the lengths of disturbances to the channel and banks.

Permanent (PERM) impacts are impacts that will remain after the project is complete (e.g., changes in grade or surface materials). Temporary (TEMP) impacts are impacts not intended to remain (and will be restored to pre-construction conditions) after the project is completed.

JURISDICTIONAL AREA		PERM. SF	PERM. LF	PERM. ATF	TEMP. SF	TEMP. LF	TEMP. ATF
Wetlands	Forested wetland			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Scrub-shrub wetland			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Emergent wetland			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wet meadow			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vernal pool			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Designated prime wetland			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Duly-established 100-foot prime wetland buffer	16,927 SF	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	9,889 SF	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface Water	Intermittent / ephemeral stream	0	0	<input type="checkbox"/>	216 SF	44 LF	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Perennial stream or river			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Lake / pond			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Docking - lake / pond			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Docking - river			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Banks	Bank - intermittent stream			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bank - perennial stream / river			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Bank / shoreline - lake / pond			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
Tidal	Tidal waters			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Tidal marsh			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sand dune			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Undeveloped tidal buffer zone (TBZ)			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
	Previously-developed TBZ	16,927 SF	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	9,889 SF	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Docking - tidal water			<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>		16,927 SF	N/A		10,105 SF	44 LF	

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**SECTION 12 - APPLICATION FEE (RSA 482-A:3, I)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum impact: Flat fee of \$600.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-enforcement related, publicly funded and supervised restoration projects, regardless of impact classification: flat fee of \$600 (refer to RSA 482-A:3, 1(c) for restrictions).			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor or major impact fee: Calculate using the table below:			
Permanent and temporary (non-docking):	27,032	SF	× \$0.60 = \$ 16,219.20
Seasonal docking structure:		SF	× \$3.00 = \$
Permanent docking structure:		SF	× \$6.00 = \$
Projects proposing shoreline structures (including docks): add \$600.			\$
Total			\$ 16,219.20
The application fee for minor or major impact is the above calculated total or \$600, whichever is greater.			\$ 16,219.20

**SECTION 13 - PROJECT CLASSIFICATION (Env-Wt 306.05) Indicate the project classification.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum impact project	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major project
---	--	---

**SECTION 14 - REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS (Env-Wt 311.11) Initial each box below to certify.**

Initials:	To the best of the signer’s knowledge and belief, all required notifications have been provided.
Initials:	The information submitted on or with the application is true, complete and not misleading to the best of the signer’s knowledge and belief.
Initials:	<p>The signer understands that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The submission of false, incomplete, or misleading information constitutes grounds for NHDES to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Deny the application.</li> <li>2. Revoke any approval that is granted based on the information.</li> <li>3. If the signer is a certified wetland scientist, licensed surveyor, or professional engineer licensed to practice in New Hampshire, refer the matter to the office of professional licensure and certification established by RSA 310.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
Initials:	If the applicant is not the owner of the property, each property owner’s signature shall constitute certification by the signer that he or she is aware of the application being filed and does not object to the filing.

**SECTION 15 - REQUIRED SIGNATURES (Env-Wt 311.04(d); Env-Wt 311.11)**

Signature (owner):	Print name legibly:	Date:
Signature (applicant, if different from owner):	Print name legibly:	Date:
Signature (agent, if applicable):	Print name legibly:	Date:

**SECTION 16 - TOWN / CITY CLERK SIGNATURE (Env-Wt 311.04(f))**

As required by RSA 482-A:3, I(a)(1), I hereby certify that the applicant has filed four application forms, four detailed plans, and four USGS location maps with the town or city indicated below.

Town or city clerk signature:	Print name legibly:
Town or city:	Date:

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DIRECTIONS FOR TOWN/CITY CLERK:

Per RSA 482-A:3, I(a)(1)

1. IMMEDIATELY sign the original application form and four copies in the signature space provided above.
2. Return the signed original application form and attachments to the applicant so that the applicant may submit the application form and attachments to NHDES by mail or hand delivery.
3. IMMEDIATELY distribute a copy of the application with one complete set of attachments to each of the following bodies: the municipal conservation commission, the local governing body (board of selectmen or town/city council), and the planning board.
4. Retain one copy of the application form and one complete set of attachments and make them reasonably accessible for public review.

DIRECTIONS FOR APPLICANT:

Submit the original permit application form bearing the signature of the town/city clerk, additional materials, and the application fee to NHDES by mail or hand delivery at the address at the bottom of this page. If not filing electronically, make check or money order payable to "Treasurer – State of NH."

[irm@des.nh.gov](mailto:irm@des.nh.gov) or (603) 271-2147

29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095

[des.nh.gov](http://des.nh.gov)

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the City of Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School (LHS) Playground and The Portsmouth Early Education Program (PEEP) Playground to be universally accessible (UA) and nature base playgrounds. The term "universally accessible (UA) playground" is often used to describe a playground that offers children full use of all areas, regardless of ability. A UA playground will represent and support the diversity of our community, providing a platform for people to engage socially, physically, creatively and playfully without the need for adaptation or specialized design (based on the seven principles of universal design established by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State). A nature-based playground is a play area designed to mimic natural environments, incorporating elements like trees, rocks, logs, and sand features allowing children to engage in imaginative play through exploration and interaction with the natural landscape, promoting physical activity, creativity, and environmental awareness while minimizing the use of manufactured play equipment.

The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

The playground pathways will feature accessible routes made from resilient solid surface material, not loose fill or aggregate. Playground design aligns with NH House Bill 467-FN Public Playground Accessibility, which aims to ensure that public playgrounds are accessible to all children, including those with disabilities. The bill requires that at least one public playground in each municipality be made accessible, promoting inclusivity and equal play opportunities for all children.

### 1.1 Existing Conditions

The Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School is located at 50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801, Tax Map 206 Lot 20. The school is located along the tidal Piscataqua River.

The existing play facilities on the property are broken down into two playgrounds, the first is located on the east side of the school known as the "PEEP Playground" and the second is located on the west side of the school known as the "Little Harbor School Playground". Both playgrounds will be renovated as part of this proposed project.

#### 1.1.1 PEEP Playground

The existing PEEP Playground includes a play structure with additional loose play equipment, a wood chip base, lawn space and the entire playground is surrounded by a chain link fence. There is also an existing stone retaining wall which separates play area from parking lot which will be retained by the project.

Image 1.1: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing PEEP Playground.



### 1.1.2 Little Harbor School Playground

The existing Little Harbor School Playground includes a large play structure, monkey bars/climbing structure, a gaga pit, swing sets, a basketball court and associated asphalt play area. There is also a small ephemeral stream which originates from stormwater sheet flow off the existing basketball court. The ephemeral stream dissipates into the grassy play area before reaching the salt marsh.

Image 1.2: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing Little Harbor School Playground.



## 1.2 Wetland Resource Areas Delineated on Site

On September 12th, 2025 and November 21st, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. This investigation area is located on a developed parcel which has an existing school. Please see Figure 1 (Wetlands Field Map) and Figure 2 (USGS Topographic Map) in Appendix C of this report for the investigation area.

Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field using pink flagging by a Weston & Sampson employee who is a NH Certified Wetland Scientist trained in the wetland delineation process using the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method) utilizing the “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012. Further descriptions of these wetland resource areas are presented in the Wetland Delineation Report in Appendix H and below in Figure 1.

Path: \\nas03\local\WSE\Depts\Water\Staff\DKB1\_Current Projects\Portsmouth NH Little Harbor\GIS\ArcPro\Little Harbor School\Little Harbor School.aprx User: Herick.Devin Saved: 11/19/2025 1:04 PM Opened: 12/22/2025 5:35 AM



Figure 1: Wetlands Field Map

## 2.0 PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

The proposed scope will include the removal of existing playground equipment and installation of new play structures with associated landscape features in each of the two playgrounds on site.

### 2.1 PEEP Playground

The proposed PEEP playground improvements will include a variety of play elements designed for young children and group interaction. Planned equipment includes a play structure for 2-5 aged children, a group seesaw, acorn-shaped seating, and a wooden play bridge that will be level with the bonded rubber surfacing to ensure accessibility. A large sand play area is also proposed to encourage sensory and creative play.

In addition to the play equipment, several landscape and site enhancements are proposed in the PEEP playground to support both functionality and aesthetics. These include new plantings with boulder accents, picnic tables, and new fencing surrounding the play area. Concrete paving within the limits of the play area will serve multiple purposes, including a bag drop, walking paths, and an accessible area for replenishing sand; this space will also accommodate loose play items such as a play kitchen. New asphalt walking paths are proposed in generally the same configuration as existing conditions, with selective reductions in paved area to minimize impervious surfaces within the project limits. The landscape plan also includes the installation of seven new trees and approximately twenty new shrubs and herbaceous native species.

### 2.2 Little Harbor Playground

The proposed playground equipment improvements include the installation of two new swing sets and a large play structure with a climbing element. The equipment is currently planned to be installed over an engineered wood fiber base; however, the City is exploring the availability of funding to instead utilize a permeable poured-in-place or bonded rubber safety surfacing. This alternative would not alter the proposed limits of work. In addition, the existing gaga pit will be relocated to a new location, removing the majority of the structure from the 100-foot wetland buffer where it is currently situated. The relocated gaga pit will be constructed on a concrete foundation and filled with engineered wood fiber.

Proposed landscape and site improvements focus on environmental stewardship, safety, and improved site functionality. Stormwater collection will be formalized through the creation of a rain garden designed to allow student interaction with overland flow while maintaining sheet flow into the adjacent grassy area. The existing asphalt play area, including the basketball court, will be relocated farther from the wetland, resulting in a significant overall reduction in asphalt play surface. A concrete curb/mow strip will be installed around areas of engineered wood fiber to help contain the material. All existing trees on site will be retained, and additional site amenities will include a new timber guard rail and a bike rack.

New plantings will further enhance the landscape and ecological function of the site. The project includes the installation of eleven new trees, with species selected in accordance with the City of Portsmouth Street Tree Manual. A total of 46 new shrubs and herbaceous native plant species will be added throughout the site. The small mounds created for playground privacy and protection will receive Northeast Annual & Perennial Wildflower Mix. The rain garden located within the existing ephemeral stream will also receive additional plantings, including 34 herbaceous species, to support stormwater management and native habitat enhancement.

### 2.3 Construction Sequence

The following is the intended construction sequence of the project, subject to change based on contractor means and methods.

The proposed playground improvements are anticipated to be constructed over a 16-week period starting in the Spring of 2026, subject to permitting, weather, and material availability. Construction will begin with pre-construction activities, including final permit approvals, contractor mobilization, utility locating, and installation of erosion control measures, temporary fencing and signage to secure the work area. Surveying and layout will be completed to establish the locations of new play equipment, pathways, and landscape improvements.

Following mobilization, selective demolition and site clearing will occur. Existing playground equipment and portions of concrete and asphalt paving within the project limits will be removed as necessary. This work will be performed using a mini excavator, skid steer loader, concrete saws, and dump trucks to haul debris off-site or to designated recycling areas.

Once demolition is complete, earthwork and grading activities will commence. The site will be rough and fine graded to accommodate the new play areas, accessible routes, and revised path alignments. Excavation will be completed for poured-in-place surfacing, wood chip/sand containment, and equipment footings, followed by placement and compaction of aggregate base materials using compactors and small rollers to ensure stable subgrades.

Concrete footings and underground preparations will then be installed for the playground structures. Ready-mix concrete will be placed using concrete trucks and hand-finishing tools, with careful attention to accessibility requirements and level transitions between play elements and surfacing.

Concrete forms will be set, poured, finished, and cured to meet accessibility and durability standards. After concrete work is complete, new asphalt walking paths will be installed in generally the same configuration as existing conditions, with selective reductions in paved areas to minimize impervious surfaces. Asphalt placement will be performed using a small paver and roller.

Installation of playground equipment and surfacing will follow. The play structures will be installed, with equipment placed using small lifting equipment as needed. Play areas will be constructed, and poured-in-place surfacing will be installed throughout the play areas as described above, including flush transitions to ensure accessibility.

Following equipment installation, site furnishings and enclosures will be added. New perimeter fencing will be installed around the PEEP playground, other site accents will be placed, using small loaders and hand tools. Landscaping will then be completed, including the installation new trees, shrubs and native herbaceous species, along with soil preparation, mulching, and initial watering.

The project will conclude with final grading, site cleanup, and inspections. Once the site is stabilized, temporary erosion and sedimentation controls will be removed.

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS – STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL WETLANDS PERMIT

As part of the proposed project there will be unavoidable impacts areas which fall under the jurisdiction of the NHDES Wetlands Bureau.

#### 3.1 Ephemeral Stream

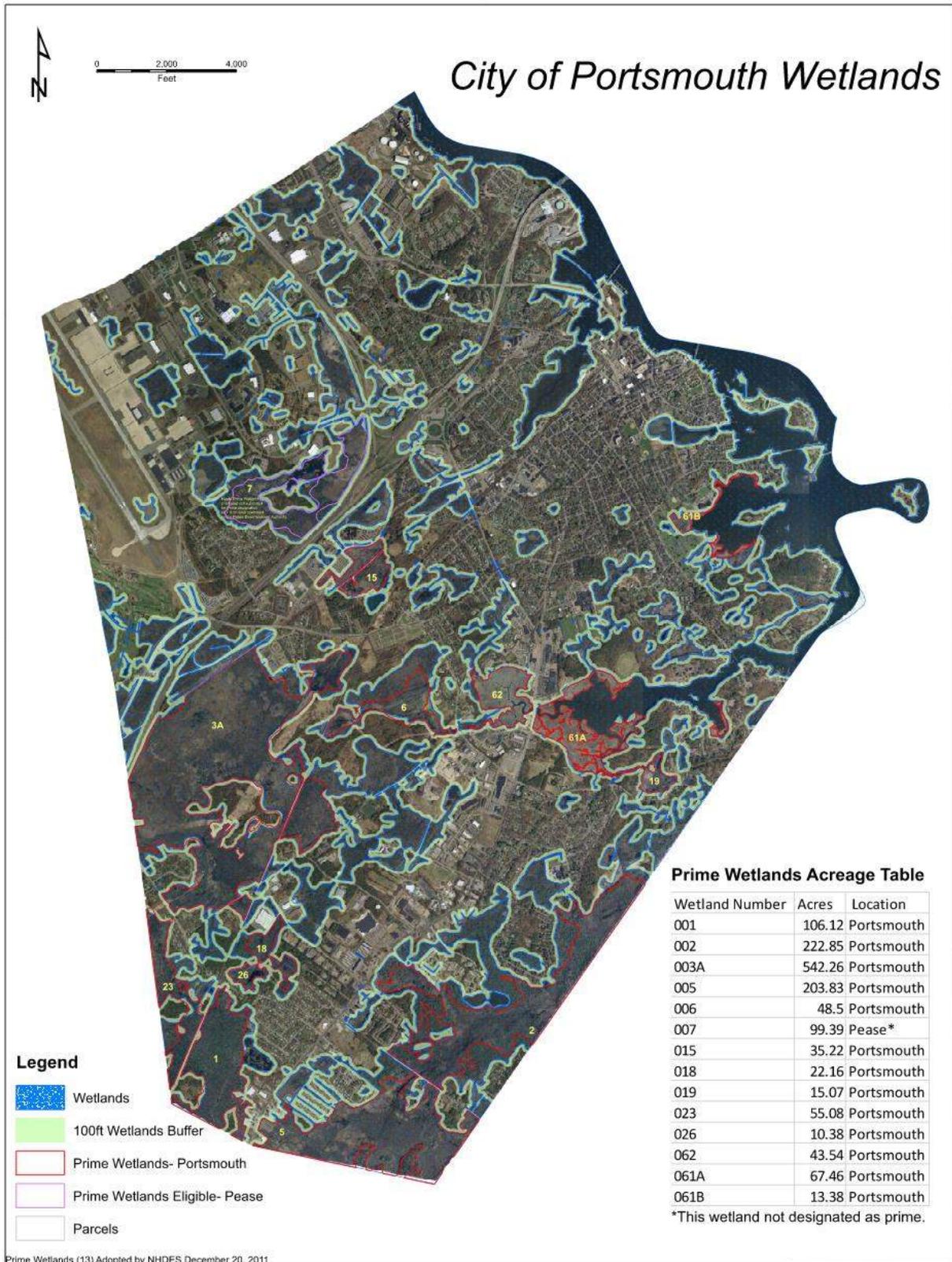
As described in the wetland delineation report (Appendix H), there is an ephemeral stream on site which originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Proposed impacts to the ephemeral stream will be for the installation of a rain garden with native plantings to allow for student interaction and improved stormwater handling. This will result in 216 square feet (SF) and 44 linear feet (LF) of permanent impacts along the centerline of the ephemeral stream.

#### 3.2 Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer

Under RSA 482-A, prime wetlands are wetlands of substantial significance because of their size, unspoiled character, fragile condition or other relevant factors. Per RSA 482-A:15.1(a) Any municipality, by its conservation commission, or, in the absence of a conservation commission, the planning board, or, in the absence of a planning board, the local governing body, may undertake to designate, map, and document prime wetlands lying within its boundaries, or if such areas lie only partly within its boundaries, then that portion lying within its boundaries. A prime wetland designated by the City of Portsmouth as wetland number 061B is located concurrently with the salt marsh delineated on site (see Image 1 below). The Prime Wetlands Designation Document for the City of Portsmouth was authored on January 25, 2011 and the Prime Wetland Map (see Image 1 below) was adopted by NHDES on December 20, 2011.

The proposed impacts to the Little Harbor School Playground will overlap with the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer associated with Prime Wetland Number 061B. Existing conditions in this area include portions of the playground and developed play yard. The proposed projects seeks to move the playground further away from the salt marsh than existing conditions. Permanent impacts will include any changes to topography or cover type within the Buffer while temporary impacts are those areas within the limit of work which will return to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) of permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer. These impact areas are located within the same footprint as the Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone (TBZ).



*Image 1: Portsmouth Prime Wetlands Map*

### 3.3 Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone (TBZ)

Per Env-Wt 602.52 the tidal buffer zone means “the area identified in RSA 482-A:4, I as bordering on tidal waters within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line, which can contain banks, upland areas, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other lowlands subject to tidal action.” This investigation area does include land within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line of the Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River. The entire investigation area is located within the developed Little Harbor School Property. This investigation area is considered developed based on Env-Wt 602.12.

Existing conditions in this Previously Developed TBZ area include portions of the playground and developed play yard. The proposed projects seeks to move the playground further away from the salt marsh/highest observable tide line than existing conditions. Permanent impacts will include any changes to topography or cover type within the Buffer while temporary impacts are those areas within the limit of work which will return to pre-existing conditions upon completion of the project. This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Previously Developed TBZ. These impact areas are located within the same footprint as the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer.

### 3.4 Total Impacts

The total amount of proposed impacts to jurisdictional area is 27,032 SF and 44 LF. Impacts are summarized in Table 1 below.

*Table 1: Jurisdictional Impact Summary*

Jurisdictional Area	Purpose	Permanent Impact	Temporary Impact
Ephemeral Stream	Rain garden	0 SF/0 LF	216 SF/44 LF
Duly-established 100-foot prime wetland buffer	Playground renovation	16,927 SF	9,889 SF
Previously-developed TBZ	Playground renovation	16,927 SF	9,889 SF
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,927 SF</b>	<b>10,105 SF/44 LF</b>

### 3.5 Project Classification

The proposed project is being submitted as a Major Impact Project based on the following criteria:

#### 3.5.1 Previously Developed Tidal Buffer Zone

This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Previously Developed TBZ.

Per Env-Wt 610.17 (b) Project Classifications since the amount of impact area exceeds 10,000 SF the proposed project requires the submission as a Major Impact project.

#### 3.5.2 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer Waiver

This proposed project proposes 16,927 square feet (SF) or permanent impact and 9,889 SF of temporary impact to the Duly Established 100-Foot Prime Wetland Buffer.

Per Env-Wt 407.02 (a) “a project that impacts a PRA and that does not qualify for a project-type exception (PTE) under Env-Wt 407.04 shall be classified as a major project regardless of the size of the impact.”

### 3.6 Methods, Timing, and Manner

An explanation as to methods, timing, and manner as to how the project will meet standard permit conditions specified in Env-Wt 307 is provided below.

*Env-Wt 307.02 Requirements for Coverage Under State General Permits.*

The proposed project does not include work that is in areas under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (US ACE).

*Env-Wt 307.03 Protection of Water Quality Required.*

Prior to the commencement of any work on site, erosion control measures will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended specifications to prevent any migration of sediment into the reservoirs. Proposed erosion control measures include straw wattles. These erosion control measures shall be maintained so as to ensure continued effectiveness in minimizing erosion and retaining sediment on-site during construction.

*Env-Wt 307.04 Protection of Fisheries and Breeding Areas Required.*

No work shall produce suspended sediment in jurisdictional areas that provide value as bird migratory areas or fish and shellfish spawning or nursery areas.

*Env-Wt 307.05 Protection Against Invasive Species Required.*

Any heavy machinery on site shall be inspected for and cleaned of all vegetative matter by a method and in a location that prevents the spread of the vegetative matter to jurisdictional areas. To prevent the use of soil or seed stock containing nuisance or invasive species, the contractor responsible for work shall follow the Invasive Plant BMPs.

*Env-Wt 307.06 Protection of Rare, Threatened or Endangered Species and Critical Habitat.*

Consultation is occurring to ensure no impacts to the species identified as part of the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) Data Check.

*Env-Wt 307.07 Consistency Required with Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act.*

This project is subject to the *Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act* and the proposed project will be submitted concurrently.

*Env-Wt 307.08 Protection of Designated Prime Wetlands and Duly-Established 100-Foot Buffers.*

*(a) Water quality and environmental minimization measures shall be in place to ensure that functions and values of prime wetlands and duly-established 100-foot buffers are protected.*

Prior to the commencement of any work on site, erosion control measures will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended specifications to prevent any migration of sediment into the reservoirs. Proposed erosion control measures include straw wattles. These erosion control measures shall be maintained so as to ensure continued effectiveness in minimizing erosion and retaining sediment on-site during construction.

*(b) Duly-established 100-foot buffers shall not be disturbed unless specifically authorized under RSA 482-A.*

The proposed project is seeking authorization for the proposed alteration.

*Env-Wt 307.10 Dredging Activity Conditions.*

The proposed project does not include any dredging.

*Env-Wt 307.11 Filling Activity Conditions.*

Any fill used on site shall be clean sand, gravel, rock, or other material that meets the project's specifications for its use; and does not contain any material that could contaminate surface or groundwater or otherwise adversely affect the ecosystem in which it is used.

*Env-Wt 307.12 Restoring Temporary Impacts; Site Stabilization.*

Within 3 days of final grading or temporary suspension of work in an area that is in or adjacent to surface waters, all exposed soil areas shall be stabilized by seeding and mulching, if during the growing season; or mulching with tackifiers on slopes less than 3:1 or netting and pinning on slopes steeper than 3:1 if not within the growing season. If any temporary impact area that is stabilized with seeding or plantings does not have at least 75% successful establishment of wetlands vegetation after 2 growing seasons, the area shall be replanted or reseeded, as applicable.

*Env-Wt 307.13 Property Line Setbacks.*

Dredging, filling, or construction activity within a jurisdictional area, that is covered by an LSA or for which a standard permit is required shall occur at least 10 feet from an abutting property line.

*Env-Wt 307.14 Rock Removal.*

No rock removal is proposed.

*Env-Wt 307.15 Use of Heavy Equipment in Wetlands.*

Heavy equipment shall not be operated in any jurisdictional area unless specifically authorized in the permit for the project.

*Env-Wt 307.16 Adherence to Approved Plans Required.*

For any project for which plans were submitted and an SPN, PBN, LSA, EXP, or standard permit was issued, all work on the project shall be done in accordance with the approved plans.

*Env-Wt 307.17 Unpermitted Activities.*

No work will be done without a permit in violation of RSA 482-A:3:

*Env-Wt 307.18 Reports.*

Monitoring will occur at the end of each growing season for two years following completion of the proposed project.

### **3.7 Mitigation**

Per discussion with NHDES, mitigation is not required for impacts to the previously developed TBZ. The existing conditions include the presence of two playgrounds and proposed conditions will remain part of the play area for the Little Harbor School. The proposed project will seek to improve conditions by pulling impervious area further away from the wetlands than existing conditions and installing a rain garden to provide some stormwater treatment.

**3.8 Project Specific Criteria**

*Env-Wt 610.04 Plans and Other Information Required.*

*The following plans and other information shall be submitted with applications for work within the protected tidal zone:*

*(a) Existing and proposed contours at 2-foot intervals measured from the HOTL;*  
See project plans in Appendix L.

*(b) If any portion of the subject parcel is located in a regulatory floodplain, the location of the 100-year flood boundary the zone, and water elevation as shown on the applicable FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map;*  
See project plans in Appendix L

*(c) All other applicable local and state setbacks;*  
See project plans in Appendix L

*(d) The dimensions and locations of all:*  
*(1) Existing and proposed structures;*  
*(2) Existing and proposed impervious areas;*  
*(3) Existing and proposed disturbed areas;*  
*(4) Areas to remain in an unaltered state;*  
*(5) Existing cleared areas, such as gardens, lawns, and paths; and*  
*(6) Proposed temporary impacts associated with completion of the project;*  
See project plans in Appendix L

*(e) Proposed methods of erosion and siltation controls, identified graphically and labeled on a plan, or otherwise annotated as needed for clarity;*  
See project plans in Appendix L

*(f) A plan of any planting(s) proposed in the waterfront buffer, showing the proposed location(s) and Latin names and common names of proposed species;*  
See project plans in Appendix L

*(g) If applicable, the location of an existing or proposed 6-foot-wide foot path to the waterbody or a temporary access path;*  
Not applicable.

*(h) For any project proposing that the impervious area be at least 15% but not more than 20% within the protected tidal zone, a statement signed by the applicant certifying that the impervious area is not more than 20%;*  
Impervious area within the protected tidal zone is less than 15% of the lot. There is 150,595 SF of TBZ present on the subject parcel. Under existing conditions there are 22,252 SF (14.8%) of impervious area present within the TBZ. Under proposed conditions there are 20,918 SF (13.9%) of impervious area present within the TBZ. This represents a 1,334 SF decrease in impervious area.

*(i) For any project proposing that the impervious area be greater than 20% within the protected tidal*

zone, plans for a stormwater management system that will infiltrate increased stormwater from development, provided that if impervious area is or is proposed to be greater than 30% the stormwater management systems shall be designed by a professional engineer;  
Impervious area within the protected tidal zone is less than 20% on the lot.

(j) For any project involving pervious surfaces, a plan with specifications of how those surfaces will be maintained; and  
See attached maintenance plan for impervious areas, Appendix J.

(k) All other relevant features necessary to clearly define both existing conditions and the proposed project.  
See project plans in Appendix L.

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## APPENDIX A

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STANDARD DREDGE AND FILL  
WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION  
ATTACHMENT A: MINOR AND MAJOR PROJECTS



Water Division/Land Resources Management  
Wetlands Bureau

[Check the Status of your Application](#)

**RSA/ Rule:** RSA 482-A/ Env-Wt 311.10; Env-Wt 313.01(a)(1); Env-Wt 313.03

**APPLICANT'S NAME:** City of Portsmouth

**TOWN NAME:** Portsmouth

Attachment A is required for *all minor and major projects*, and must be completed *in addition* to the [Avoidance and Minimization Narrative](#) or [Checklist](#) that is required by Env-Wt 307.11.

For projects involving construction or modification of non-tidal shoreline structures over areas of surface waters having an absence of wetland vegetation, only Sections I.X through I.XV are required to be completed.

**PART I: AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION**

In accordance with Env-Wt 313.03(a), the Department shall not approve any alteration of any jurisdictional area unless the applicant demonstrates that the potential impacts to jurisdictional areas have been avoided to the maximum extent practicable and that any unavoidable impacts have been minimized, as described in the [Wetlands Best Management Practice Techniques For Avoidance and Minimization](#).

**SECTION I.I - ALTERNATIVES (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(1))**

Describe how there is no practicable alternative that would have a less adverse impact on the area and environments under the Department's jurisdiction.

The proposed project will not have any direct wetland impacts, only impacts to the previously developed tidal buffer zone. The project has specifically avoided direct impacts to wetlands by keeping the limit of work contained to within the existing playground footprints. Due to the close proximity of the wetland resources, there is no way to avoid impacts to the TBZ for playground renovations. The proposed project seeks to reduce impacts to the TBZ by pulling the impervious area further away from the wetlands than existing conditions.

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**SECTION I.II - MARSHES (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(2))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts to tidal marshes and non-tidal marshes where documented to provide sources of nutrients for finfish, crustacean, shellfish, and wildlife of significant value.

This proposed project will not have any impact to tidal or non-tidal marshes. Due to the close proximity of the wetland resources, there is no way to avoid impacts to the TBZ for playground renovations. The proposed project seeks to reduce impacts to the TBZ by pulling the impervious area further away from the wetlands than existing conditions.

**SECTION I.III - HYDROLOGIC CONNECTION (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(3))**

Describe how the project maintains hydrologic connections between adjacent wetland or stream systems.

There is an ephemeral stream on site which originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Proposed impacts to the ephemeral stream will be for the installation of a rain garden with native plantings to allow for student interaction and improved stormwater handling.

# DRAFT

**SECTION I.IV - JURISDICTIONAL IMPACTS (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(4))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts to wetlands and other areas of jurisdiction under RSA 482-A, especially those in which there are exemplary natural communities, vernal pools, protected species and habitat, documented fisheries, and habitat and reproduction areas for species of concern, or any combination thereof.

This proposed project will not have any impact to tidal or non-tidal marshes. Due to the close proximity of the wetland resources, there is no way to avoid impacts to the TBZ for playground renovations. The proposed project seeks to reduce impacts to the TBZ by pulling the impervious area further away from the wetlands than existing conditions.

Consultation is occurring to ensure no impacts to the species identified as part of the Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) Data Check.

Prior to the commencement of any work on site, erosion control measures will be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended specifications to prevent any migration of sediment into the reservoirs. Proposed erosion control measures include straw wattles. These erosion control measures shall be maintained so as to ensure continued effectiveness in minimizing erosion and retaining sediment on-site during construction.

**SECTION I.V - PUBLIC COMMERCE, NAVIGATION, OR RECREATION (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(5))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts that eliminate, depreciate or obstruct public commerce, navigation, or recreation.

The proposed project will improve recreational opportunities at the school. The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

The school property does include a dock with water access however it is behind a locked gate and not publicly accessible. The proposed project will not have any impact on public commerce or navigation.

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**SECTION I.VI - FLOODPLAIN WETLANDS (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(6))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts to floodplain wetlands that provide flood storage.

The proposed project does not include any impacts to floodplain wetlands, the limit of work is located outside of the floodplain and will not cause any increase in water directed towards the floodplain. ■

**SECTION I.VII - RIVERINE FORESTED WETLAND SYSTEMS AND SCRUB-SHRUB – MARSH COMPLEXES (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(7))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts to natural riverine forested wetland systems and scrub-shrub – marsh complexes of high ecological integrity.

There will be no proposed impact to natural riverine forested wetland systems and scrub-shrub marsh complexes of high ecological integrity as part of this project.

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**SECTION I.VIII - DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND GROUNDWATER AQUIFER LEVELS (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(8))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes impacts to wetlands that would be detrimental to adjacent drinking water supply and groundwater aquifer levels.

The proposed project does not include any impacts to wetlands which impact drinking water supply or groundwater aquifer levels.

**SECTION I.IX - STREAM CHANNELS (Env-Wt 313.03(b)(9))**

Describe how the project avoids and minimizes adverse impacts to stream channels and the ability of such channels to handle runoff of waters.

There is an ephemeral stream on site which originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Proposed impacts to the ephemeral stream will be for the installation of a rain garden with native plantings to allow for student interaction and improved stormwater handling.

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**SECTION I.X - SHORELINE STRUCTURES - CONSTRUCTION SURFACE AREA (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(1))**

Describe how the project has been designed to use the minimum construction surface area over surface waters necessary to meet the stated purpose of the structures.

The only surface water present within the limit of work is an ephemeral stream which originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Proposed impacts to the ephemeral stream will be for the installation of a rain garden with native plantings to allow for student interaction and improved stormwater handling.

**SECTION I.XI - SHORELINE STRUCTURES - LEAST INTRUSIVE UPON PUBLIC TRUST (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(2))**

Describe how the type of construction proposed is the least intrusive upon the public trust that will ensure safe docking on the frontage.

The proposed project does not include any docking structures.

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**SECTION I.XII - SHORELINE STRUCTURES – ABUTTING PROPERTIES (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(3))**

Describe how the structures have been designed to avoid and minimize impacts on ability of abutting owners to use and enjoy their properties.

The proposed project will have no impact on any abutters or the use of their property.

**SECTION I.XIII - SHORELINE STRUCTURES – COMMERCE AND RECREATION (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(4))**

Describe how the structures have been designed to avoid and minimize impacts to the public's right to navigation, passage, and use of the resource for commerce and recreation.

The proposed project will improve recreational opportunities at the school. The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

The school property does include a dock with water access however it is behind a locked gate and not publicly accessible. The proposed project will not have any impact on public commerce or navigation.

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**SECTION I.XIV - SHORELINE STRUCTURES – WATER QUALITY, AQUATIC VEGETATION, WILDLIFE AND FINFISH HABITAT (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(5))**

Describe how the structures have been designed, located, and configured to avoid impacts to water quality, aquatic vegetation, and wildlife and finfish habitat.

No new shoreline structures are proposed as part of this project.

**SECTION I.XV - SHORELINE STRUCTURES – VEGETATION REMOVAL, ACCESS POINTS, AND SHORELINE STABILITY (Env-Wt 313.03(c)(6))**

Describe how the structures have been designed to avoid and minimize the removal of vegetation, the number of access points through wetlands or over the bank, and activities that may have an adverse effect on shoreline stability.

No new shoreline structures are proposed as part of this project.

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## PART II: FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT

**REQUIREMENTS**

Ensure that project meets the requirements of Env-Wt 311.10 regarding functional assessment (Env-Wt 311.04(j); Env-Wt 311.10).

## FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT METHOD USED:

US ACE Highway Methodology

NAME OF CERTIFIED WETLAND SCIENTIST (FOR NON-TIDAL PROJECTS) OR QUALIFIED COASTAL PROFESSIONAL (FOR TIDAL PROJECTS) WHO COMPLETED THE ASSESSMENT: DEVIN HERRICK

DATE OF ASSESSMENT: 12/28/2025

Check this box to confirm that the application includes a NARRATIVE ON FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT:



For minor or major projects requiring a standard permit without mitigation, the applicant shall submit a wetland evaluation report that includes completed checklists and information demonstrating the RELATIVE FUNCTIONS AND VALUES OF EACH WETLAND EVALUATED. Check this box to confirm that the application includes this information, if applicable:



Note: The Wetlands Functional Assessment worksheet can be used to compile the information needed to meet functional assessment requirements.

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## APPENDIX B



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
New England District

**New Hampshire General Permits (GPs)  
Appendix B - Corps Secondary Impacts Checklist  
(for inland wetland/waterway fill projects in New Hampshire)**

1. Attach any explanations to this checklist. Lack of information could delay a Corps permit determination.
2. All references to “work” include all work associated with the project construction and operation. Work includes filling, clearing, flooding, draining, excavation, dozing, stumping, etc.
3. See GC 5, regarding single and complete projects.
4. Contact the Corps at (978) 318-8832 with any questions.

1. Impaired Waters	Yes	No
1.1 Will any work occur within 1 mile upstream in the watershed of an impaired water? See <a href="http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/section401/impaired_waters.htm">http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/section401/impaired_waters.htm</a> to determine if there is an impaired water in the vicinity of your work area.*	X	
2. Wetlands	Yes	No
2.1 Are there are streams, brooks, rivers, ponds, or lakes within 200 feet of any proposed work?	X	
2.2 Are there proposed impacts to SAS, special wetlands. Applicants may obtain information from the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) DataCheck Tool for information about resources located on the property at <a href="https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/">https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/</a> . The book <a href="#">Natural Community Systems of New Hampshire</a> also contains specific information about the natural communities found in NH.		X
2.3 If wetland crossings are proposed, are they adequately designed to maintain hydrology, sediment transport & wildlife passage?	N/A	
2.4 Would the project remove part or all of a riparian buffer? (Riparian buffers are lands adjacent to streams where vegetation is strongly influenced by the presence of water. They are often thin lines of vegetation containing native grasses, flowers, shrubs and/or trees that line the stream banks. They are also called vegetated buffer zones.)		X
2.5 The overall project site is more than 40 acres?		X
2.6 What is the area of the previously filled wetlands?	Unknown	
2.7 What is the area of the proposed fill in wetlands?	0 SF	
2.8 What is the % of previously and proposed fill in wetlands to the overall project site?	Unknown	
3. Wildlife	Yes	No
3.1 Has the NHB & USFWS determined that there are known occurrences of rare species, exemplary natural communities, Federal and State threatened and endangered species and habitat, in the vicinity of the proposed project? (All projects require an NHB ID number & a USFWS IPAC determination.) NHB DataCheck Tool: <a href="https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/">https://www2.des.state.nh.us/nhb_datacheck/</a> USFWS IPAC website: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index">https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/location/index</a>	X	

3.2 Would work occur in any area identified as either “Highest Ranked Habitat in N.H.” or “Highest Ranked Habitat in Ecological Region”? (These areas are colored magenta and green, respectively, on NH Fish and Game’s map, “2010 Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition.”) Map information can be found at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PDF: <a href="http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Wildlife_Plan/highest_ranking_habitat.htm">www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Wildlife_Plan/highest_ranking_habitat.htm</a>.</li> <li>• Data Mapper: <a href="http://www.granit.unh.edu">www.granit.unh.edu</a>.</li> <li>• GIS: <a href="http://www.granit.unh.edu/data/downloadfreedata/category/databycategory.html">www.granit.unh.edu/data/downloadfreedata/category/databycategory.html</a>.</li> </ul>		X
3.3 Would the project impact more than 20 acres of an undeveloped land block (upland, wetland/waterway) on the entire project site and/or on an adjoining property(s)?		X
3.4 Does the project propose more than a 10-lot residential subdivision, or a commercial or industrial development?		X
3.5 Are stream crossings designed in accordance with the GC 21?	N/A	
<b>4. Flooding/Floodplain Values</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
4.1 Is the proposed project within the 100-year floodplain of an adjacent river or stream?		X
4.2 If 4.1 is yes, will compensatory flood storage be provided if the project results in a loss of flood storage?	N/A	
<b>5. Historic/Archaeological Resources</b>		
For a minimum, minor or major impact project - a copy of the Request for Project Review (RPR) Form ( <a href="http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/review">www.nh.gov/nhdhr/review</a> ) with your DES file number shall be sent to the NH Division of Historical Resources as required on Page 11 GC 8(d) of the GP document**	X	

\*Although this checklist utilizes state information, its submittal to the Corps is a Federal requirement.

\*\* If your project is not within Federal jurisdiction, coordination with NH DHR is not required under Federal law.

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX C



### Legend

- Points
- Salt Marsh
- ▭ Investigation Area
- - - Highest Observable Tide Reference Line
- Coastal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream - Center Line

National Wetlands Inventory Plus

Wetland Type

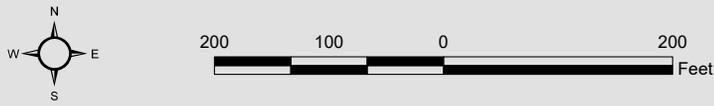
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels

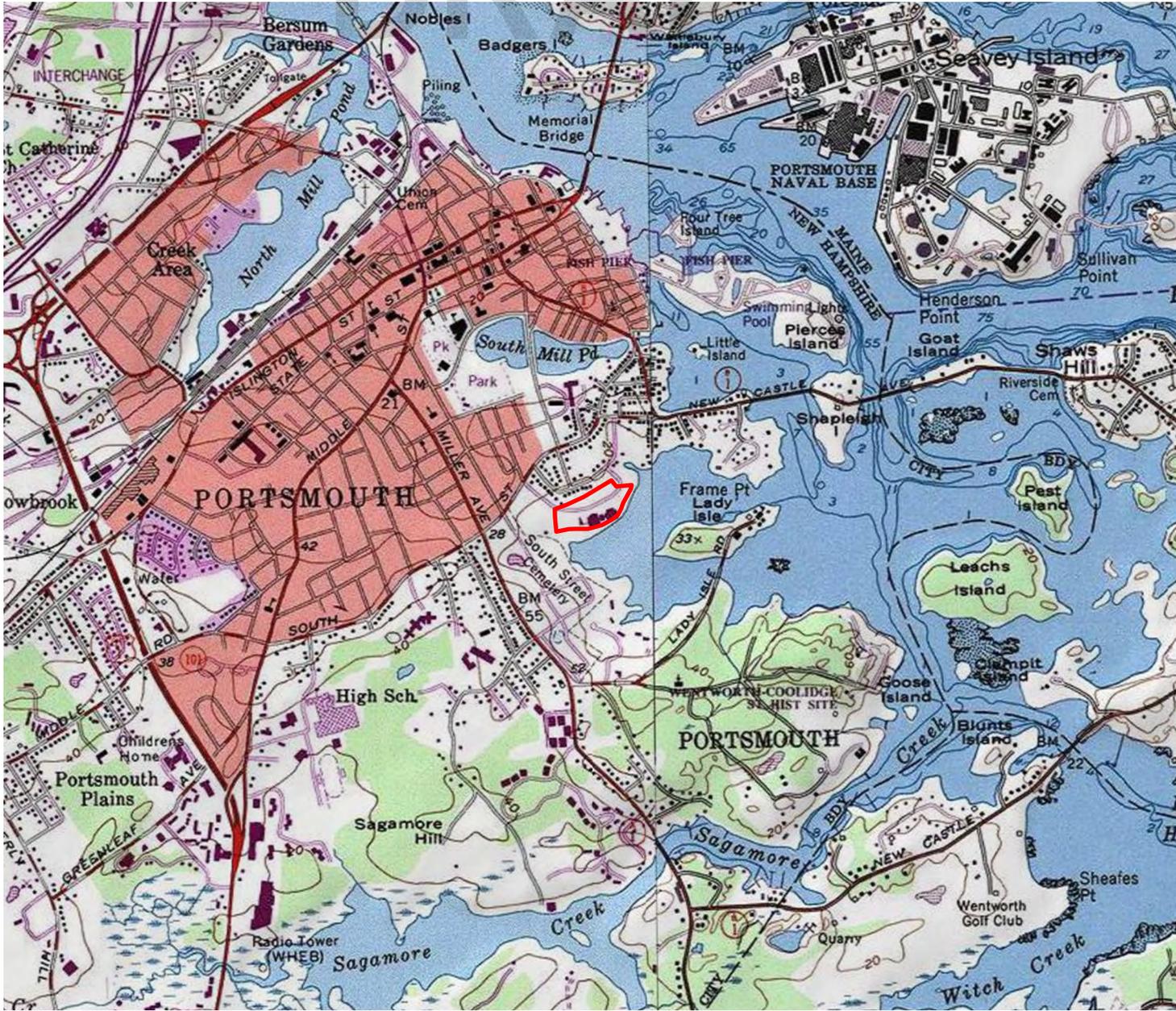
**FIGURE 1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wetlands Field Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

 Investigation Area

**FIGURE 2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

USGS Locus Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- National Flood Hazard Zones
  - 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  - Regulatory Floodway
  - Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
  - 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  - Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  - Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
  - Area with Risk Due to Levee
- NH DOT Roads

**FIGURE 3**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

FEMA Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
-  Designated Rivers 24K
-  Designated River Corridor
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.1**

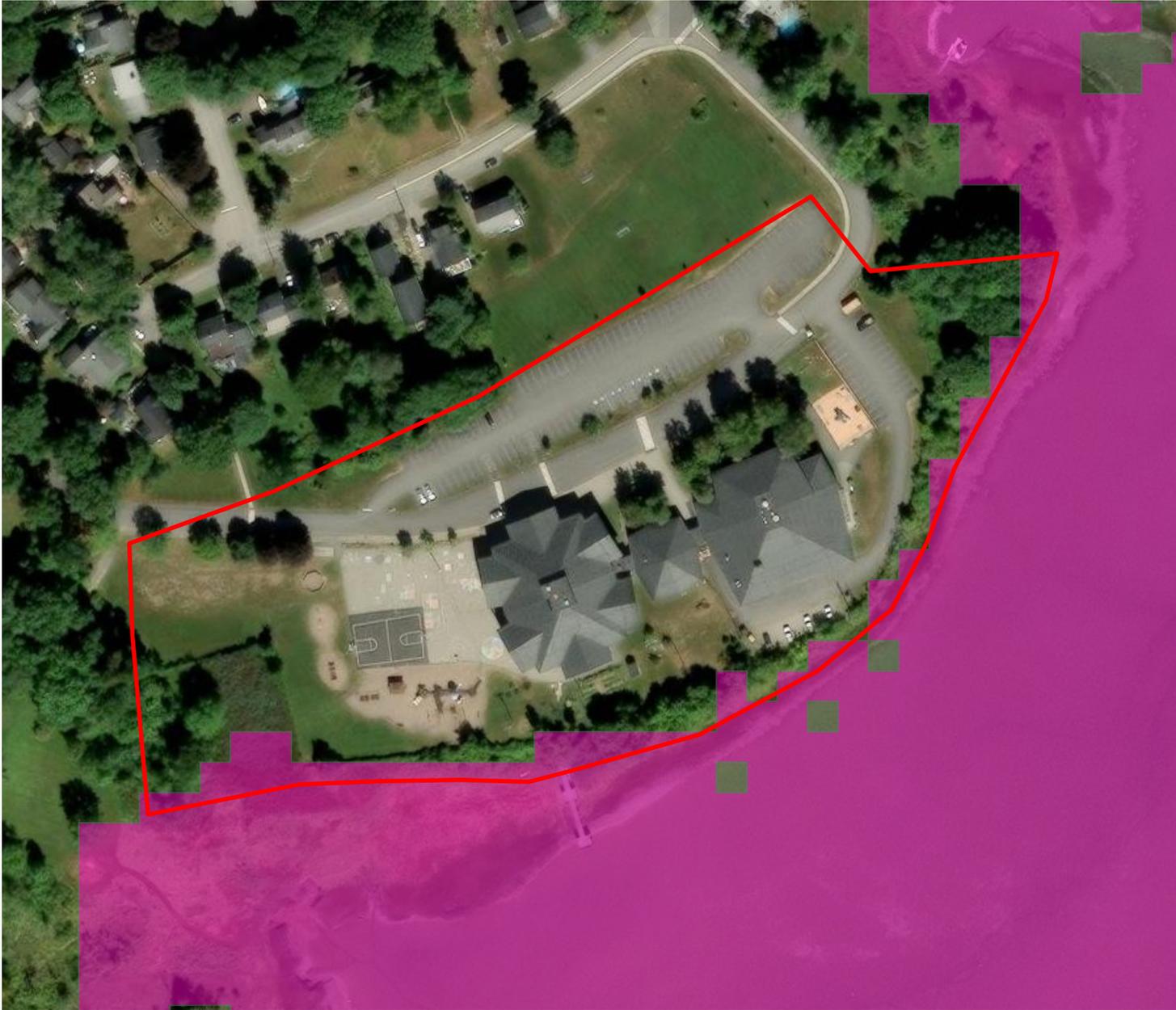
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Designated River Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat
  -  1 Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
  -  2 Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
  -  3 Supporting Landscapes
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.2**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH  
Wildlife Action Plan  
Highest Rank Habitat Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor



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**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Habitat Land Cover
  - Alpine
  - Appalachian oak-pine
  - Cliff and Talus
  - Coastal island
  - Developed Impervious
  - Developed or Barren land
  - Dune
  - Floodplain forest
  - Grassland
  - Hemlock-hardwood-pine
  - High-elevation spruce-fir
  - Lowland spruce-fir
  - Northern hardwood-conifer
  - Northern swamp
  - Open water
  - Peatland
  - Pine barren
  - Rocky ridge
  - Salt marsh
  - Sand/Gravel
  - Temperate swamp
  - Wet meadow/shrub wetland
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels
- New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.3**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Habitat Land Cover Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor

# DRAFT

### Legend

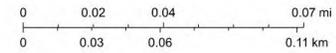
 Investigation Area

Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_PRA



11/19/2025, 12:50:13 PM

-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
-  City/Town
-  Parcels
-  Flood Plain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
-  Tidal Wetlands
-  Brackish Marsh
-  High Marsh, *J. gerardii*
-  High Marsh, *S. patens* / *D. spicata*
-  Low Marsh
-  Mudflat
-  *Phragmites australis*
-  Recently Flooded Forest
-  Short form *S. alterniflora*
-  Terrestrial border
-  NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
-  Red: Band\_1
-  Green: Band\_2
-  Blue: Band\_3



 Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

**FIGURE 4.4**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map



# DRAFT

### Legend

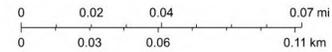
 Investigation Area

### Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_Prime Wetlands



11/19/2025, 12:53:14 PM

-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
  -  City/Town
  -  Parcels
  -  Prime Wetlands
  -  Prime Wetlands with 100ft Buffer
  -  Red: Band\_1
  -  Green: Band\_2
  -  Blue: Band\_3
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axiomatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

### FIGURE 4.5

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map  
Prime Wetlands



# DRAFT

## Soil Map—Rockingham County, New Hampshire



Map Scale: 1:6,360 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 19N WGS84



## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

### Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

### Water Features



Streams and Canals

### Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

### Background



Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

**Warning:** Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web Soil Survey URL:

Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Rockingham County, New Hampshire

Survey Area Data: Version 28, Sep 9, 2025

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 19, 2020—Sep 20, 2020

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

# DRAFT

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
33A	Scitico silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5.2	3.0%
140B	Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	5.9	3.4%
299	Udorthents, smoothed	22.4	13.0%
597	Westbrook mucky peat, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	1.3	0.7%
799	Urban land-Canton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	89.2	51.9%
W	Water	47.9	27.9%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>171.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX D



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

To: Devin Herrick, Weston & Sampson Engineering  
55 Walkers Brook Drive  
Reading, MA 01857  
herrick.devin@wseinc.com

From: Ecological Review Section  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

cc: NHFG Review, David Simmons

Date: 12/04/2025 (valid until 12/04/2026)

Re: DataCheck Review by NHDES Ecological Review Section and NH Fish & Game

Permits: NHDES - Shoreland Standard Permit, NHDES - Wetlands Standard Dredge & Fill

**DCT ID: DCT25-3222**

Town: Portsmouth  
Location: 50 CLOUGH DR

**Project Description:** The propose project includes the replacement of two playgrounds on the property of the Little Harbor School. All work will occur in uplands. To be completed by the end of 2026.

### **Next Steps for Applicants:**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Ecological Review Section has reviewed the provided mapped project area against available records of protected species, Exemplary Natural Communities (ENCs), and critical habitat. Based on the project mapping and submitted information it was determined that there are potential impacts. Please carefully read the comments below and consultation instructions on the following pages.

#### **Plant and Exemplary Natural**

**Community Comments:** If all work is within existing disturbed areas of the playground footprints, then no ecological review for plants is needed. If work is proposed outside of the existing playground footprints, then please provide proposed plans and representative photos during the growing season of the proposed impact areas (or at the very least without snow cover).

#### **Wildlife and Critical Habitat**

**Comments:** An ecological review is needed to further assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat. Please refer to the Wildlife Ecological Review Instructions below for guidance on how to submit an ecological review request and information about when an ecological review is required vs recommended.

# DRAFT

## Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Ecological Review Instructions

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review is required if plant and/or ENC records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules of a state agency

If a project is not legally required to obtain an ecological review but this letter contains plant and/or ENC records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 217-A.

To request an ecological review for plants and/or ENCs:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver any materials requested in the “Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Comments” section above to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include “Ecological Review Request” in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the plant/ENC ecological review process call 603-271-6261.*

# DRAFT

## Wildlife and Critical Habitat Ecological Review Instructions

### *Requesting an Ecological Review by NHDES*

An ecological review for wildlife will be completed by the NHDES Ecological Review Section if a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is needed. *If you do not need any NHDES permits, authorizations, or approvals then please see the section regarding NHFG reviews conducted by the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) below.*

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review by NHDES is required if wildlife/critical habitat records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules regarding the permit, approval, or written authorization pursuant to RSA 482-A, RSA 485-A, and RSA 236.

If a project requiring a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is not legally required to obtain an ecological review, but this letter contains wildlife or critical habitat records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 212-A.

To request an ecological review for wildlife with DES:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver project information following the guidance of [Fis1004.03\(c\)](#) to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include "Ecological Review Request" in the subject line of the request.

*For help with wildlife ecological review process call 603-271-0467 or visit the [wildlife environmental review page](#) for guideline materials including a suggested checklist of materials to provide for ecological review.*

# DRAFT

## Wildlife and Critical Habitat Review Instructions (continued)

### *Requesting a Wildlife Review by NHFG*

Wildlife reviews to assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat for any need outside of NHDES permits, authorizations, and approvals are completed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program.

To request a wildlife review with NHFG:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver available project information to:  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
Attn. Wildlife Division, Nongame Program  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
[nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov)
2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include “Wildlife Review” in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the NHFG wildlife review process call 603-271-2461.*

## Federal Compliance

This letter does not constitute compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). There may be occurrences of federally listed species in New Hampshire that are not included in this letter. For ESA compliance, please visit the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) [Information for Planning and Consultation \(iPaC\) website](#) for an official list of federally listed species that may be present in your project area. If a federal agency is involved in your project through funding, permit or other authorization, coordinate your iPaC results with your point of contact at the agency for further ESA review. If there is no federal agency nexus to your project, and you determine through iPaC, habitat evaluations etc. that a project may cause take of a federally listed species, we recommend coordinating with the USFWS’ New England Field Office ([newengland@fws.gov](mailto:newengland@fws.gov) or [603-223-2541](tel:603-223-2541)).

# DRAFT

## Ecological Review Database records:

The following record(s) may be impacted by the proposed project. Please refer to this list when coordinating.

<b>Plant species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
marsh elder ( <i>Iva frutescens</i> )	T	--	Threats are primarily alterations to the hydrology of the wetland, such as ditching or tidal restrictions that might affect the sheet flow of tidal waters across the intertidal flat, activities that eliminate plants, and increased input of nutrients and pollutants in storm runoff.
northern blazing star ( <i>Liatris novae-angliae</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i> )*	E	--	Threats to this highly imperilled species are development activities that eliminate its habitat and invasion of its open, grassy habitat by trees and shrubs.
<b>Vertebrate species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Atlantic Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i> )	T	T	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	T	--	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see above).
Shortnose Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> )	E	E	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).

<sup>1</sup>Codes: "E" = Endangered, "T" = Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "--" = an exemplary natural community, or a rare species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet been added to the official state list.

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the most recent report for that occurrence was 25 or more years ago.

## Disclaimer:

DataCheck Tool screening only includes documented and verified occurrences of protected species and exemplary natural communities. The list of protected species and habitat on this letter does not guarantee these are the only protected species and habitat present at this location, only that their presence has not been documented and verified by state biologists and ecologists. As many areas have never been surveyed, or have only been surveyed for certain species, surveys are the best way to determine what resources are present on site.

# DRAFT

DCT25-3222



Legend

- City/Town
- Site bounds

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX E



The purpose of this project is to upgrade the Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School playgrounds to be universally accessible (UA) and nature base playgrounds. The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

### Submission Information

#### Date Created

12/29/2025 11:03:11 AM

#### Date Submitted

12/29/2025 11:32:42 AM

#### Date Processed

Not Yet Processed

### Project Information

#### Project Type

Review & Compliance

#### Project Name

Little Harbor School Playground Renovation

#### Project Description

The purpose of this project is to upgrade the Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School playgrounds to be universally accessible (UA) and nature base playgrounds. The existing playground equipment is outdated and does not fully support the required uses by the community. The proposed playgrounds will be designed to be accessible and focus on being 'barrier free' for children in grades K-5. This inclusive design will feature classic play structures, nature-based elements, garden/landscape experiences, and ensuring accessibility and enjoyment for all children regardless of their abilities.

### Review and Compliance

#### Type

Federal Section 106 Review

#### Present Land Use

School

#### Past Land Use and Disturbances

Existing conditions include a school property with associated buildings, playgrounds, and



parking. According to tax card the school building was constructed in 1969. Playgrounds were constructed in 1990 and 2003 (less than 45 years old).

### Project Includes Construction

Yes

### Project Includes Demolition

Yes

### Project Includes Disposition

No

### Project Includes Refinancing

No

### Project Includes Rehabilitation

Yes

### Ground Disturbance

Yes

### One or More Above Ground Resources 45 Years or Older

No

### Project Address

50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth NH

### Location Description

Little Harbor School

### APE Description

Proposed site changes will be to the two playgrounds located on the school property, the PEEP playground northeast of the school and the Little Harbor Playground west of the school. The proposed limit of work will occur within the bounds of the existing playgrounds.

### APE Justification

Neither playground is historic and is less than 45 years old.

### APE Acreage

1.81

### Agencies

Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) - Primary: Yes, Program-Permit: None/None

### Project Contacts

Devin Herrick - herrick.devin@wseinc.com

### Towns

Portsmouth (Rockingham County)

### Existing Resources within APE

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EMMIT+

Submission Record

Submission ID: 2463

Type: Initial



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None Available

**Documents**

- 1) NHDES Wetlands Plan Set - NHDES Wetlands Plan Set
- 2) Site Photos - Site Photos

**Photos (0)**

No Photos Available

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX F

# DRAFT

Parcel 0206-0020  
Abutters List – Wetlands

## Abutters List

*Env-Wt 102.03 “Abutter” means any person who holds title to abutting property or who owns flowage rights on abutting property.*

*Env-Wt 102.04 “Abutting property” means any property immediately contiguous to the property on which a project has occurred or is proposed, provided that:*

*(a) The term does not include any property that is separated by a public road from the property on which a project has occurred or is proposed, or that is more than 1/4-mile from the limits of the work or proposed work;*

*(b) For any project located on the shoreline of a surface water body, the term includes any property within 100 feet of the shoreline impact in any direction;*

*(c) For any project that will impact a watercourse, the term includes any property within 100 feet upstream or downstream of the impact area; and*

*(d) If an abutting property is owned in whole or in part by the person who undertook the work or is proposing to undertake the work, or is necessary to meet a frontage requirement, the term includes the next contiguous property, subject to the 1/4-mile limitation.*

### Subject Property:

Map-Lot           0206-0020  
Location           50 Clough Dr  
Owner             City of Portsmouth  
Owner Address    PO Box 628, Portsmouth, NH 03802

### Abutters:

Property ID	Site Address	Owner Name	Owner Name 2	Owner Address	City	State	Zip
0206-0021-0000	68 BRACKETT RD	LACROCE EUGENE JR	LACROCE KIMBERLY	68 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0022-0000	64 BRACKETT RD	EDWARDS MICHAEL J & LEANNE A		64 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0023-0000	56 BRACKETT RD	SAYERS PATRICK J		56 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0024-0000	40 BRACKETT RD	MONTVILLE LAURA F LIVING TRUST	MONTVILLE LAURA F TRUSTEE	40 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801

# DRAFT

0206-0025-0000	26 BRACKETT RD	BACON FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST	BACON ROBERT A & CAROLEE M TRUSTEES	26 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0026-0000	16 BRACKETT RD	ANDERSON NANCY B	ANDERSON JOHN W	16 BRACKETT RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0027-0000	86 HAVEN RD	PARKER KERRIN J REVO TRUST OF 2012	PARKER KERRIN J TRUSTEE	86 HAVEN RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0028-0000	84 HAVEN RD	LAMOND FAMILY REV TRUST	LAMOND JAMES & CATHERINE TT	84 HAVEN RD	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0034-0000	100 CLOUGH DR	BANJO FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST	RITZO CAROL B TRUSTEE	100 CLOUGH DR	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03801
0206-0033-0000	CLOUGH DR	CITY OF PORTSMOUTH	REC	PO BOX 628	PORTSMOUTH	NH	03802
0206-0018-0000		SUPRESSED PARCEL Per Assessor					
0206-0019-0000		SUPRESSED PARCEL Per Assessor					



# DRAFT

ABUTTER NOTIFICATION  
OF  
NHDES WETLANDS PERMIT APPLICATION

*Via Certified Mail*

**DATE**

**RE: NHDES Wetlands Permit Application  
Little Harbor School Playground Renovation  
50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth NH  
Tax Map: 206 Lot 020**

Dear Abutter:

This letter is to inform you that a Wetlands Permit Application will be filed with the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Wetland Bureau for a Wetlands Permit associated with the above referenced project for the renovation of two playgrounds at the Little Harbor School. Under state law RSA 482-A:3 I (d)(1), I am required to notify you via certified mail about the application, which proposes work abutting your property at the following address:

50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth NH 03801 (Lot 206-020)

Once it is filed, the permit application, including plans that show the proposed project will be available for viewing at the Town Clerk's Office in Newport or at the NHDES offices by scheduling a file review by calling (603) 271-2919.

If you have questions, you may contact Devin Herrick with Weston & Sampson Engineers at the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,



Devin Herrick, CWS  
Technical Specialist  
Weston & Sampson  
55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100  
Reading, MA 01867 (HQ)  
tel: 978-532-1900 ext. 2117

cc: NHDES Wetlands Bureau

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX G



Photo 1: Little Harbor School Playground



Photo 2: PEEP Playground



Photo 3: Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River



Photo 4: Highest Observable Tide Line



Photo 5: Salt Marsh



Photo 6: Non-Tidal Wetland



Photo 7: Ephemeral Stream



Photo Key

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX H

# DRAFT



westonandsampson.com

55 Walkers Brook Drive, Suite 100  
Reading, MA 01867  
tel: 978.532.1900

## Wetland Delineation Report



September & November 2025

Little Harbor School  
50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH

Wetland Delineation Conducted By:  
Devin Herrick, CWS



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### APPENDICES

Appendix A .....	ACOE Wetland Determination Data Forms
Appendix B .....	Site Photographs
Appendix C .....	NHB Datacheck Forms

.....

## 1.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. This investigation area is located on a developed parcel which has an existing school. Please see Figure 1 (Wetlands Field Map) and Figure 2 (USGS Topographic Map) of this report for the investigation area.

Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field using pink flagging by a Weston & Sampson employee who is a NH Certified Wetland Scientist trained in the wetland delineation process using the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method) utilizing the “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012. Further descriptions of these wetland resource areas are presented in the following sections.

.....

## 2.0 DELINEATION OF WETLAND RESOURCES

### 2.1 Site Observations

A Weston & Sampson NH Certified Wetland Scientist (CWS), trained in the US Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation methodology (Federal Delineation Method), observed the following jurisdictional wetland resources at the site subject to (or potentially subject to) regulation under RSA 482-A Fill and Dredge in Wetlands:

- Tidal Surface Water
- Tidal Buffer Zone
- Tidal Wetland – Salt Marsh
- Non-Tidal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream

Field data were recorded on US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Wetland Determination Data Forms. See Appendix A for completed data forms and Appendix B for site photographs.

### 2.2 Wetland Delineation Methodology

A wetland delineation was conducted in accordance with New Hampshire Administrative Code Env-Wt 406 Delineation and Classification of Jurisdictional Areas utilizing the Federal Delineation Method. Per Env-Wt 103.02 “Federal Delineation Method” is defined as “the method in “Wetlands Delineation Manual”, Technical Report Y-87-1, US ACE, January 1987, and the “Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region”, Version 2.0, US ACE, January 2012”.

The Federal Delineation Method identifies wetlands based on the presence of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetlands hydrology. Pink flags with distinct flag numbers are left in the field to show wetland limits. Vegetation, hydrology and soils are assessed in both wetland and upland areas to accurately place the wetland limits at each site. The percentage of vegetative species was estimated by creating sample plots. Sample plot radius for trees, saplings, shrubs, groundcover and woody vine strata was 30’, 15’, 15’, 5’ and 30’, respectively. After creating the sample plot areas, the percent basal area coverage of each species within the monitoring plot was recorded. Using these field observations,

the percent dominance of each species within its stratum was calculated. The 50/20 Rule was then used to determine dominance. Dominant species were considered the most abundant plant species (when ranked in descending order of abundance and cumulatively totaled) that immediately exceeds 50% of the total dominance measure (basal area) for the stratum, plus any additional species comprising 20% or more of the total dominance measure for the stratum. Once the dominant species were determined, they were treated equally to determine the presence of hydrophytic vegetation. If the number of dominant species with a Wetland Indicator Status of FAC (excluding FAC-), FACW or OBL is greater than, or equal to, the number of remaining dominant species, the area was considered a jurisdictional wetland resource area based on vegetation.

A soil sample from each wetland sample plot is also taken. Each soil sample goes to a depth of at least 12-24 inches. The soil is characterized to determine if the soil sample is considered a hydric (wetland) soil. Soil samples, including mottles, are characterized based on color using Munsell Soil-Color charts as a color reference and Env-Wt 301(c) as described above.

The general area is then assessed for hydrologic conditions, including, but not limited to, site inundation, depth to free water, depth of soil saturation, water marks, drift lines, sediment deposits, and water stained leaves.

### 2.3 Tidal Surface Water

Per Env-Wt 602.58 Tidal surface water means “any surface water that is subject to the ebb and flow of the tide”. The Reference Line for coastal waters per RSA 483-B:4, XVII. Is “the highest observable tide line, which means a line defining the furthest landward limit of tidal flow, not including storm events, which can be recognized by indicators such as the presence of a strand line of flotsam and debris, the landward margin of salt tolerant vegetation, or a physical barrier that blocks further flow of the tide.” Per Env-Wt 602.23 “Highest observable tide line (HOTL)” means “a line defining the farthest landward limit of tidal flow, not including storm events, that can be recognized by indicators such as the presence of a strand line of flotsam and debris, the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation, or a physical barrier that blocks inland flow of the tide”

Based on the current mapping available from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) the tidal surface water identified within the investigation area is a part of Portsmouth Harbor/the Piscataqua River.

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Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Highest Observable Tide (HOT)-A1 through HOT-A29 (HOT "A" Series)

These flags were placed based on a strand line of flotsam and debris, and/or the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation.

Tidal waters are considered to be "Surface Waters of the State" (RSA 485-A:2, XIV) and as such at the state level they are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A). Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

Utilizing the New Hampshire hydrography dataset archived by the Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (GRANIT) the Piscataqua River identified within the investigation area is a seventh order stream. Since the Piscataqua River is a fourth order stream or higher is considered a "public water" per RSA 483-B:4, XVI and is subject to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B).

## 2.4 Developed Tidal Buffer Zone

Per Env-Wt 602.52 the tidal buffer zone means "the area identified in RSA 482-A:4, I as bordering on tidal waters within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line, which can contain banks, upland areas, bogs, salt marsh, swamps, meadows, flats, or other lowlands subject to tidal action." This investigation area does include land within 100 feet of the highest observable tide line of the Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River. The entire investigation area is located within the developed Little Harbor School Property. This investigation area is considered developed based on Env-Wt 602.12 which indicates that developed upland "means an upland area on a lot within the tidal buffer zone or sand dune where:

- (a) The natural soil and vegetation characteristics on more than 50% of the lot have been legally altered and have not returned to a natural state;*
- (b) If the lot is in a tidal buffer zone, developed lots abut at least 2 sides of the lot;*
- (c) If the lot is in a dune slack area, the lot is surrounded on 4 sides by developed lots or roadways;*
- (d) If the lot is in a dune, the back side of a fore dune is within the line of encroachment and the lot is*

*surrounded on 3 sides by developed lots or roadways; and*

*(e) At least one of the following is true:*

- (1) The lot has legally been filled or excavated in whole or in part, whether prior to jurisdiction or pursuant to a permit or other authorization;*
- (2) The lot contains at least one paved or graded area that is, has been, or will be used for vehicular parking or traffic; or*
- (3) One or more residential or commercial buildings has been built on the lot.*

The Little Harbor School property contains natural soil and vegetation characteristics on more than 50% of the lot that have been legally altered and have not returned to a natural state. Additionally, the lot is in a tidal buffer zone and developed lots abut at least 2 sides of the lot. As such, the investigation area is considered previously developed tidal buffer zone.

At the state level in NH, the tidal buffer zone is regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## **2.5 Tidal Wetland – Salt Marsh**

According to the “Life In New Hampshire Salt Marshes A Quick-Reference Field Guide” prepared by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Coastal Program:

*Salt marshes are important transitional habitat between the ocean and the land; they are estuaries where fresh and salt water mix. Salt marsh plants (halophytes) are salt tolerant and adapted to water levels that fluctuate with the tide. Tides carry in nutrients that stimulate plant growth in the marsh and carry out organic material that feeds fish and other coastal organisms. Over time, salt marshes accumulate organic material, forming into a dense layer called peat.*

*Low Marsh: The low marsh is located along the seaward edge of the salt marsh. It is usually flooded at every tide and exposed during low tide. It tends to occur as a narrow band along creeks and ditches, whereas the high marsh is more expansive and is flooded less frequently. The predominant plant species*

.....

found in the low marsh is the tall form of *Spartina alterniflora* (smooth cordgrass). This species can reach a height of six feet and is very tolerant of daily flooding and exposure.

*High Marsh:* The high marsh lies between the low marsh and the marsh's upland border. It can be very expansive in some areas, sometimes extending hundreds of yards inland from the low marsh area. Soils in the high marsh are mostly saturated, and the high marsh is generally flooded only during higher than average high tides. Plant diversity is low (usually less than 25 species), with the dominant species being the grasses and rushes such as *Spartina patens* (salt hay grass), *Distichlis spicata* (spike grass), *Juncus gerardii* (black grass), and the short form of *Spartina alterniflora*. Other plant species commonly found in the high marsh are *Aster tenuifolius* (perennial salt marsh aster), and *Limonium nashii* (sea lavender).

Env-Wt 602.22 High salt marsh means "a tidal marsh zone located above mean high water and inundated during periods of extreme high tide and storm surge associated with coastal storms".

Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Salt Marsh (SM)-A1 through SM-A15 (SM "A" Series)

These flags were placed based on the landward margin of salt-tolerant vegetation.

These wetlands are classified using the Cowardin "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" as E2EM1P, E – Estuarine, 2 – Intertidal, EM – Emergent, 1 – Persistent, P – Irregularly Flooded.

At the state level in NH, tidal wetlands are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.6 Non-Tidal Wetland

Per Env-Wt 103.47 "Non-tidal wetland" means a wetland that is not subject to periodic inundation by tidal waters. The limit of the nontidal wetlands were determined utilizing the Federal Delineation Method

by locating the transitional area between wetland and upland vegetation, soils and hydrologic conditions. Wetland flags left in the field included:

- WET-B1 through WET-B4 (WET "B" Series)
- WET-C1 through WET-C5 (WET "C" Series)

Dominant vegetation within the non-tidal wetlands included *Acer rubrum*, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, *Frangula alnus*, *Equisetum sylvaticum*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Celastrus orbiculatus* species that generally thrive in wet conditions. Soils within the non-tidal wetland were composed of a silty loam with redoximorphic features. Other indicators of wetland hydrology included saturation, water stained leaves and oxidized rhizospheres.

Dominant vegetation in the adjacent upland areas included *Acer rubrum*, *Acer platanoides*, *Frangula alnus*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Celastrus orbiculatus*. Soils within the upland were composed of sandy loam with no evidence of mottling or hydrology within the top 12 inches.

These wetlands are classified using the Cowardin "Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States" as PFO1E, P – Palustrine, FO – Forested, 1 – Broad-Leaved Deciduous, E – Seasonally Flooded/Saturated.

At the state level in NH, nontidal wetlands are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.7 Ephemeral Stream

Env-Wt 102.64 "Ephemeral stream" means a watercourse that is located above the water table year-round and is not fed by groundwater, such that runoff from rainfall and snowmelt is the primary source of stream flow and so the stream has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation or spring thaw events, but which has less flow than an intermittent stream and no evidence of riffles, meander bends, point bars, or braiding.

A single ephemeral stream was observed within the investigation area. Water originates from the asphalt playground surface (basketball court). The channelized stream terminates and becomes diffuse in the vegetated playground lawn before reaching the nearby salt marsh. No connection to the water table was observed and water only flows within the channel during storm events.

Wetland flags left in the field included:

- Center Line CL-A1 through CL-A9 (CL "A" Series)

At the state level in NH, ephemeral streams are regulated by the Fill and Dredge in Wetlands Act (RSA 482-A), unless otherwise specified by rule or law. Other local, state or federal regulations may apply to these areas.

## 2.8 Other Protected Areas

Weston & Sampson created Environmental Resources Maps (see Figures 3-5) of the site to determine the presence of other protected areas. These areas included:

- Priority Resource Area (PRA)
- Designated River Segment/Corridor
- Prime Wetlands
- FEMA 100 Year Floodplain
- Wildlife Action Plan

### Priority Resource Area (PRA)

Per Env-Wt 103.66 "Priority resource area (PRA) means "a jurisdictional area that:

- (a) Has documented occurrences of protected species or habitat;*
- (b) Is a bog;*
- (c) Is a floodplain wetland contiguous to a tier 3 or higher watercourse;*
- (d) Is a designated prime wetlands;*
- (e) Is a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetlands;*
- (f) Is a sand dune, tidal wetland, tidal water, or undeveloped tidal buffer zone; or*
- (g) Is any combination of (a) through (f), above.*

The Portsmouth Harbor/the Piscataqua River is a tidal water and would be considered a PRA. The investigation area includes a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetland which is also considered a PRA.

### **Designated River Segment/Corridor**

The New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP) was established in 1988 with the passage of RSA 483 to protect certain rivers, called Designated Rivers, for their outstanding natural and cultural resources. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services RMPP maintains a NH Designated River Corridor Web Map viewer showing all of the jurisdictional designated river segments. The Designated River corridor is defined as the river and the land area located within a distance of 1,320 feet (1/4 mile) of the normal high water mark or to the landward extent of the 100 year floodplain of a designated river as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, whichever distance is larger.

A map of the investigation area utilizing the NH Designated River Corridor Web Map viewer is shown in Figure 4. There are no designated river segments or corridors located within the investigation area.

### **Prime Wetlands**

Per RSA 482-A:15.1(a) Any municipality, by its conservation commission, or, in the absence of a conservation commission, the planning board, or, in the absence of a planning board, the local governing body, may undertake to designate, map, and document prime wetlands lying within its boundaries, or if such areas lie only partly within its boundaries, then that portion lying within its boundaries. The conservation commission, planning board, or governing body shall give written notice to the owner of the affected land and all abutters 30 days prior to the public hearing, before designating any property as prime wetlands.

The investigation area included a prime wetland designated by the City of Portsmouth as wetland number 061B.

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### FEMA 100 Year Floodplain

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has designated a series of zones which are defined according to varying levels of flood risk. Per FEMA a flood is any relatively high streamflow overtopping the natural or artificial banks in any reach of a stream. The 100-year floodplain is the zone with a 1% annual chance of flooding. FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were created online from the FEMA website to determine if there is a 100-year flood zone at the site.

See Figure 3 for FIRM map. Based on FEMA flood maps the investigation area is partially located within the 100-year floodplain.

### Wildlife Action Plan

In 2020 an update was completed of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan. According to the NH Fish and Game the aim of the Wildlife Action Plan seeks to “identify species in greatest need of conservation, habitats that are at the greatest risk, as well as land uses and activities that present the greatest threats to wildlife and habitat.” The NH Wildlife Action Plan includes three sets of mapping data available for use by stakeholders:

1. Habitat Land Cover Map: which shows where the different types of wildlife habitat are located throughout the state.
2. Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition Map: which shows where habitats in the best ecological condition in the state are located, based on biodiversity, arrangement of habitat types on the landscape, and lack of human impacts.
3. Aquatic Habitats Map: which provides an assessment of surface water habitats.

After learning what habitat may be present within a proposed project area the Wildlife Action Plan informs stakeholders about strategies for managing and protecting wildlife. The data from these maps is available on the Geographically Referenced Analysis and Information Transfer System (GRANIT) viewer.

The investigation area was investigated on the GRANIT viewer and two maps were produced (Figures 5.1 and 5.2). According to the Habitat Land Cover data the investigation area is composed of Developed Impervious, Developed or Barren land, Grassland, Hemlock-hardwood-pine, and Salt marsh cover types. The Highest Ranked Habitat by Ecological Condition data indicates that portions of investigation area are located with highest ranking habitat.

### Endangered and Rare Species/Habitat

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) keeps records of known locations of rare species and natural communities. The NHB Datacheck Tool allows the user to outline the limits of the proposed project area in order to determine if there are any records of rare species and natural communities within the proposed project limits.

The approximate proposed project limits were mapped using the NHB Datacheck Tool. Initial NHB Data Check results indicate that there are Ecological Review records in the vicinity of the approximate proposed project limits (see Appendix C). Further consultation with NHDES will be needed to determine what rare species and/or natural communities were identified. This mapping is regularly updated and subject to change.

If any portion of the project involves a federal nexus (i.e. federal permitting, federal funding ect.) than additional information may be required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### 3.0 SUMMARY

On September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025, a wetland delineation was conducted at the Little Harbor School in Portsmouth, NH. Wetland areas including, a tidal perennial stream bank, a tidal wetland – salt marsh, a non-tidal wetland, and an ephemeral stream were identified and flagged in the field.

Additional environmental mapping was conducted using NH Granit data layers and FEMA FIRM mapping. This additional mapping indicates that a prime wetland and a duly-established 100-foot buffer of a designated prime wetland are present on the site. Additionally portions of the site are located within the 100-year flood zone and Highest Ranked Habitat.

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#### 4.0 REFERENCES

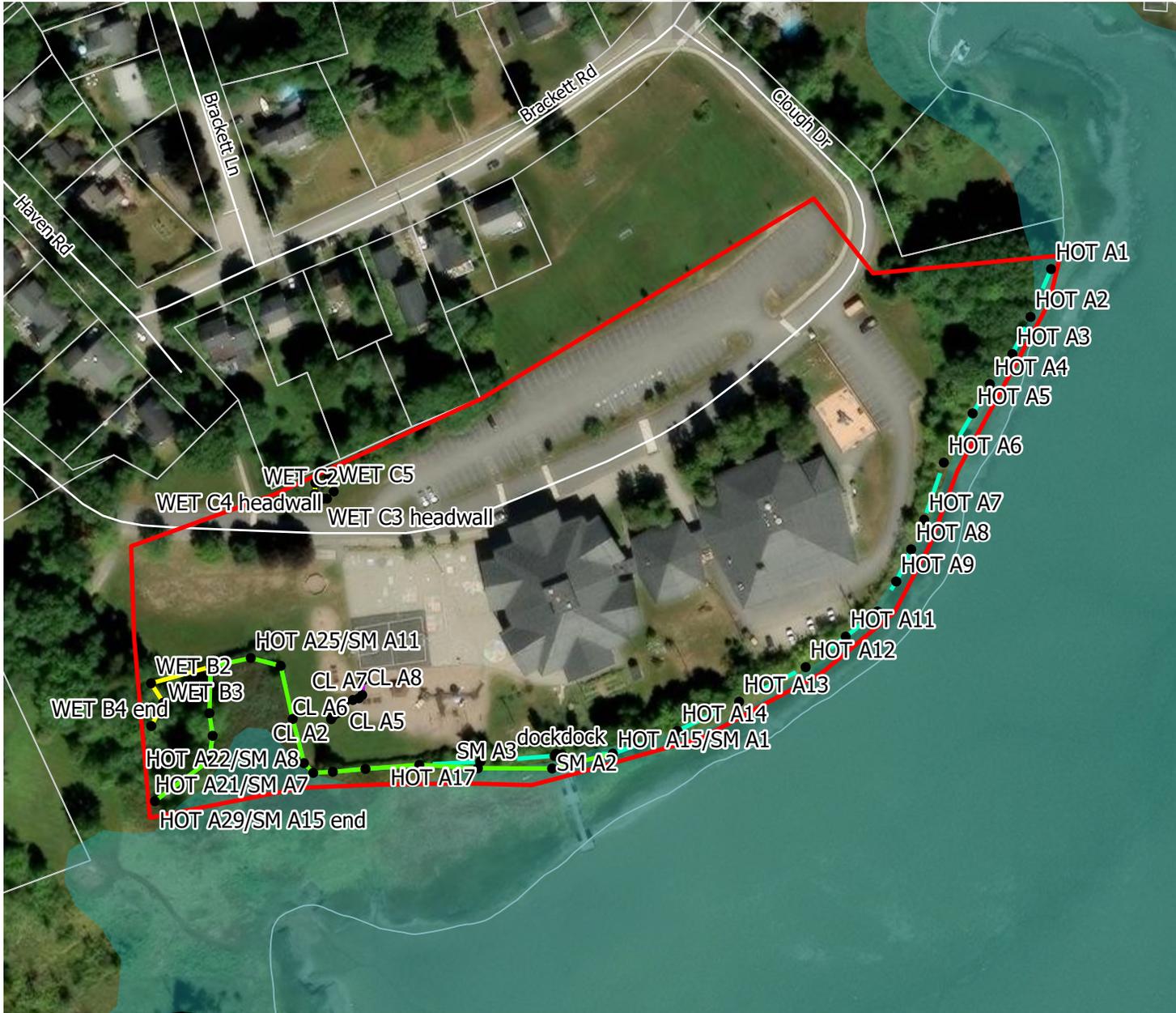
United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. 2018. *Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States, Version 8.2*. L. M. Vasilas, G. W. Hurt, and J.F. Berkowitz (eds.). USDA, NRCS, in cooperation with the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils.

USACOE, January 1987, Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1.

FEMA Flood Map Service Center, online at [msc.fema.gov/portal](https://msc.fema.gov/portal) Assessed on 11/19/2025.  
Tiner, Jr., Ralph W., 2005, Field Guide to Nontidal Wetland Identification

New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee, 2019, Version 4, *Field Indicator of Identifying Hydric Soils in New England*. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, Lowell, MA.

.....



### Legend

- Points
- Salt Marsh
- ▭ Investigation Area
- - - Highest Observable Tide Reference Line
- Coastal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream - Center Line

National Wetlands Inventory Plus

Wetland Type

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels

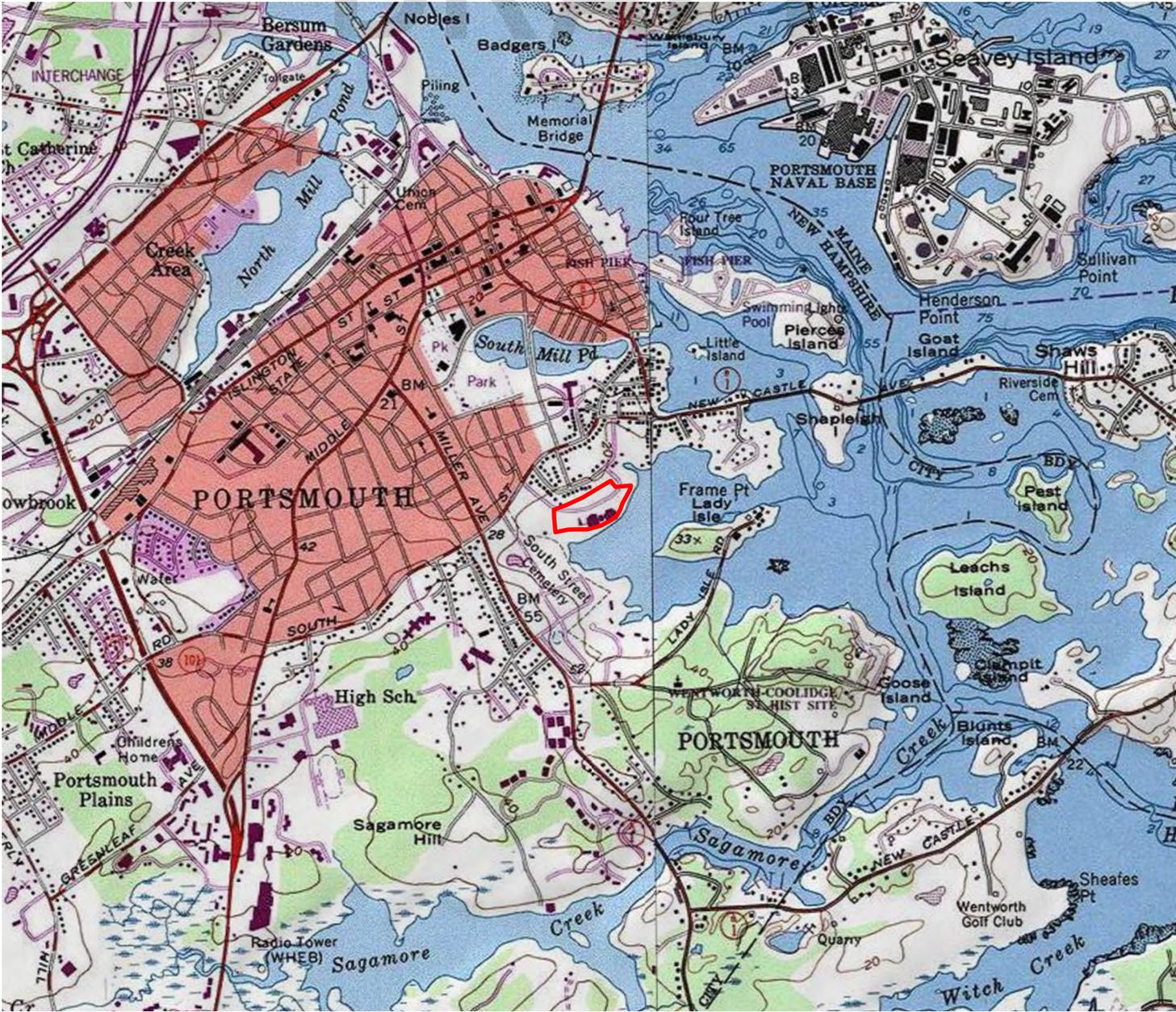
**FIGURE 1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wetlands Field Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

 Investigation Area

**FIGURE 2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

USGS Locus Map





Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- National Flood Hazard Zones
  -  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Regulatory Floodway
  -  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
  -  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
  -  Area with Risk Due to Levee
- NH DOT Roads

**FIGURE 3**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

FEMA Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
-  Designated Rivers 24K
-  Designated River Corridor
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.1**

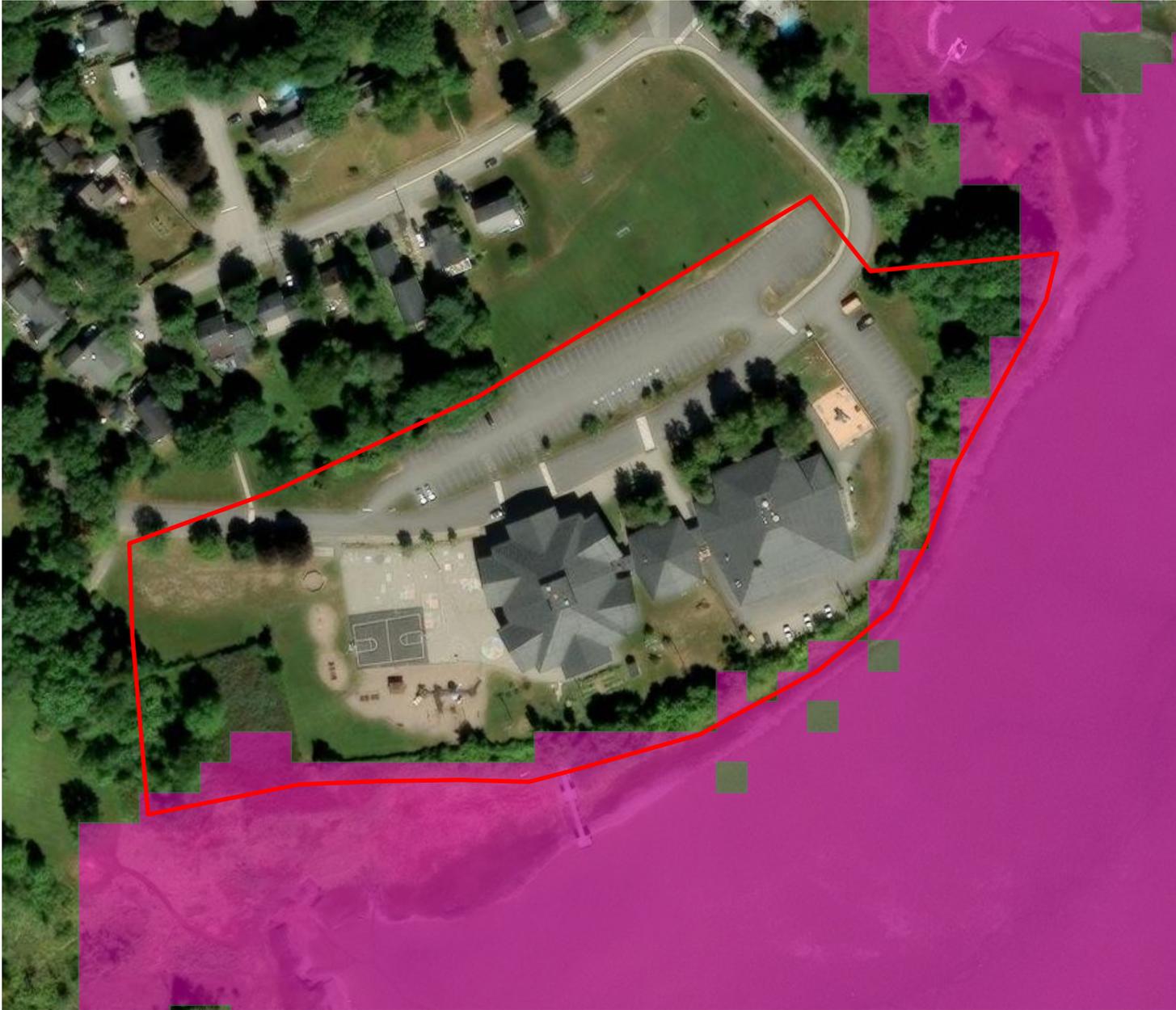
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Designated River Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat
  -  1 Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
  -  2 Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
  -  3 Supporting Landscapes
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.2**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH  
Wildlife Action Plan  
Highest Rank Habitat Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor



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**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Habitat Land Cover
  - Alpine
  - Appalachian oak-pine
  - Cliff and Talus
  - Coastal island
  - Developed Impervious
  - Developed or Barren land
  - Dune
  - Floodplain forest
  - Grassland
  - Hemlock-hardwood-pine
  - High-elevation spruce-fir
  - Lowland spruce-fir
  - Northern hardwood-conifer
  - Northern swamp
  - Open water
  - Peatland
  - Pine barren
  - Rocky ridge
  - Salt marsh
  - Sand/Gravel
  - Temperate swamp
  - Wet meadow/shrub wetland
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels
- New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.3**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Habitat Land Cover Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor

# DRAFT

### Legend

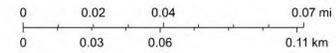
 Investigation Area

Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_PRA



11/19/2025, 12:50:13 PM

-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
-  City/Town
-  Parcels
-  Flood Plain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
-  Tidal Wetlands
-  Brackish Marsh
-  High Marsh, *J. gerardii*
-  High Marsh, *S. patens* / *D. spicata*
-  Low Marsh
-  Mudflat
-  *Phragmites australis*
-  Recently Flooded Forest
-  Short form *S. alterniflora*
-  Terrestrial border
-  NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
-  Red: Band\_1
-  Green: Band\_2
-  Blue: Band\_3



 Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

**FIGURE 4.4**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map



# DRAFT

### Legend

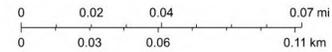
 Investigation Area

### Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_Prime Wetlands



11/19/2025, 12:53:14 PM

-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
  -  City/Town
  -  Parcels
  -  Prime Wetlands
  -  Prime Wetlands with 100ft Buffer
  -  Red: Band\_1
  -  Green: Band\_2
  -  Blue: Band\_3
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axiomatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

### FIGURE 4.5

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map  
Prime Wetlands



# DRAFT

## Soil Map—Rockingham County, New Hampshire



Map Scale: 1:6,360 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.



Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 19N WGS84



## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

### Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

### Water Features



Streams and Canals

### Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

### Background



Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL:  
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Rockingham County, New Hampshire  
Survey Area Data: Version 28, Sep 9, 2025

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 19, 2020—Sep 20, 2020

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

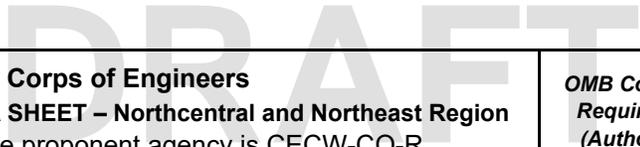
# DRAFT

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
33A	Scitico silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5.2	3.0%
140B	Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	5.9	3.4%
299	Udorthents, smoothed	22.4	13.0%
597	Westbrook mucky peat, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	1.3	0.7%
799	Urban land-Canton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	89.2	51.9%
W	Water	47.9	27.9%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>171.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

APPENDIX A

ACOE Data Forms



<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b> <b>WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Northcentral and Northeast Region</b> See ERDC/EL TR-12-1; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R	<b>OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 9/30/2027</b> <b>Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:</b> <b>(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)</b>
--	---

Project/Site: Little Harbor School City/County: Portsmouth Sampling Date: 9/12/2025  
 Applicant/Owner: City of Portsmouth State: NH Sampling Point: WET B Wetland  
 Investigator(s): Devin herrick, CWS Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Marine terraces Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope %: 0-5  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR R Lat: 43.066306° Long: -70.754230° Datum: WGS 84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Scitico silt loam NWI classification: PFO1E

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No _____ If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: _____
---	---

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

**HYDROLOGY**

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <u>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)</u> ___ Surface Water (A1) <u>X</u> Water-Stained Leaves (B9) ___ High Water Table (A2)      ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13) <u>X</u> Saturation (A3)      ___ Marl Deposits (B15) ___ Water Marks (B1)      ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1) ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) <u>X</u> Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3) ___ Drift Deposits (B3)      ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4) ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)      ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6) ___ Iron Deposits (B5)      ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7) ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)      ___ Other (Explain in Remarks) ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	<u>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</u> ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6) ___ Drainage Patterns (B10) ___ Moss Trim Lines (B16) ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2) ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8) ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9) ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) ___ Geomorphic Position (D2) ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3) ___ Microtopographic Relief (D4) <u>X</u> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
---	--

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present? Yes <u>X</u> No _____ Depth (inches): <u>10</u> (includes capillary fringe)	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <u>X</u> No _____
--	---

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Sampling Point: WET B Wetland

	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status																																									
<b>Tree Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>6</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>7</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>85.7%</u> (A/B)																																								
2. <u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>																																									
3. _____																																												
4. _____																																												
5. _____																																												
6. _____																																												
7. _____																																												
	<u>35</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>15</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>	<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 40%;">Total % Cover of:</th> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%;">Multiply by:</th> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%;"></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td>x 1 =</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>75</u></td> <td>x 2 =</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>150</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>40</u></td> <td>x 3 =</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>120</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>5</u></td> <td>x 4 =</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>20</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td>x 5 =</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals:</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>120</u></td> <td>(A)</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>290</u></td> <td>(B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Prevalence Index = B/A =</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>2.42</u></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:			OBL species	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>		FACW species	<u>75</u>	x 2 =	<u>150</u>		FAC species	<u>40</u>	x 3 =	<u>120</u>		FACU species	<u>5</u>	x 4 =	<u>20</u>		UPL species	<u>0</u>	x 5 =	<u>0</u>		Column Totals:	<u>120</u>	(A)	<u>290</u>	(B)	Prevalence Index = B/A =			<u>2.42</u>	
Total % Cover of:		Multiply by:																																										
OBL species	<u>0</u>	x 1 =	<u>0</u>																																									
FACW species	<u>75</u>	x 2 =	<u>150</u>																																									
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Column Totals:	<u>120</u>	(A)	<u>290</u>	(B)																																								
Prevalence Index = B/A =			<u>2.42</u>																																									
2. <u><i>Frangula alnus</i></u>	<u>10</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FAC</u>																																									
3. <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>FAC</u>																																									
4. _____																																												
5. _____																																												
6. _____																																												
7. _____																																												
	<u>40</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Herb Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>5</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i></u>	<u>25</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <u>1</u> - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <u>X</u> <u>2</u> - Dominance Test is >50% <u>X</u> <u>3</u> - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <u>4</u> - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)  <u>        </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																																								
2. <u><i>Onoclea sensibilis</i></u>	<u>15</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACW</u>																																									
3. _____																																												
4. _____																																												
5. _____																																												
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10. _____																																												
11. _____																																												
12. _____																																												
	<u>40</u>	=Total Cover																																										
<b>Woody Vine Stratum</b> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )																																												
1. <u><i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i></u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>FACU</u>	<b>Definitions of Vegetation Strata:</b>  <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.  <b>Sapling/shrub</b> – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.  <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.  <b>Woody vines</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.																																								
2. _____																																												
3. _____																																												
4. _____																																												
	<u>5</u>	=Total Cover																																										

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

<b>Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)</b>								
Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-8	10YR 2/2	100					Loamy/Clayey	
8-16	2.5YR 4/2	95	10YR 4/6	5	C	M	Loamy/Clayey	Prominent redox concentrations
16-20	2.5YR 5/2	95	10YR 4/6	5	C	M	Loamy/Clayey	Prominent redox concentrations

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.

<sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

**Hydric Soil Indicators:**

- Histosol (A1)
- Histic Epipedon (A2)
- Black Histic (A3)
- Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- Stratified Layers (A5)
- Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- Mesic Spodic (A17)  
**(MLRA 144A, 145, 149B)**
- Iron Monosulfide (A18)
- Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- Sandy Redox (S5)
- Stripped Matrix (S6)

- Dark Surface (S7)
- Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR R, MLRA 149B)**
- High Chroma Sands (S11) **(LRR K, L)**
- Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) **(LRR K, L)**
- Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- Depleted Matrix (F3)
- Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- Redox Depressions (F8)
- Marl (F10) **(LRR K, L)**
- Red Parent Material (F21) **(MLRA 145)**

**Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:**

- 2 cm Muck (A10) **(LRR K, L, MLRA 149B)**
- 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) **(LRR K, L)**
- Thin Dark Surface (S9) **(LRR K, L)**
- Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) **(LRR K, L, R)**
- Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) **(MLRA 149B)**
- Red Parent Material (F21) **(outside MLRA 145)**
- Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

**Restrictive Layer (if observed):**

Type: \_\_\_\_\_  
Depth (inches): \_\_\_\_\_

**Hydric Soil Present?**      Yes       No \_\_\_\_\_

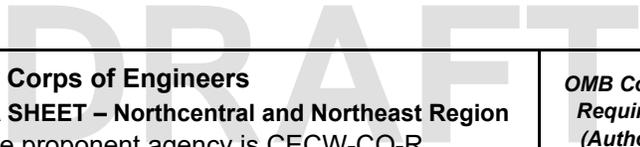
Remarks:

## AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTIFICATION

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0024, is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR REQUEST TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.**

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: <http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx>



<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</b> <b>WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA SHEET – Northcentral and Northeast Region</b> See ERDC/EL TR-12-1; the proponent agency is CECW-CO-R	<b>OMB Control #: 0710-0024, Exp: 9/30/2027</b> <b>Requirement Control Symbol EXEMPT:</b> <b>(Authority: AR 335-15, paragraph 5-2a)</b>
--	---

Project/Site: Little Harbor School City/County: Portsmouth Sampling Date: 9/12/2025  
 Applicant/Owner: City of Portsmouth State: NH Sampling Point: WET B Upland  
 Investigator(s): Devin herrick, CWS Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillside, terrace, etc.): Marine terraces Local relief (concave, convex, none): None Slope %: 0-5  
 Subregion (LRR or MLRA): LRR R Lat: 43.066548° Long: -70.754442° Datum: WGS 84  
 Soil Map Unit Name: Scitico silt loam NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u>	<b>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?</b> Yes _____ No <u>X</u> If yes, optional Wetland Site ID: _____
Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)	

**HYDROLOGY**

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <u>Primary Indicators (minimum of one is required; check all that apply)</u> ___ Surface Water (A1)      ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9) ___ High Water Table (A2)      ___ Aquatic Fauna (B13) ___ Saturation (A3)      ___ Marl Deposits (B15) ___ Water Marks (B1)      ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1) ___ Sediment Deposits (B2)      ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres on Living Roots (C3) ___ Drift Deposits (B3)      ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4) ___ Algal Mat or Crust (B4)      ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6) ___ Iron Deposits (B5)      ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7) ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)      ___ Other (Explain in Remarks) ___ Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)	<u>Secondary Indicators (minimum of two required)</u> ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6) ___ Drainage Patterns (B10) ___ Moss Trim Lines (B16) ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2) ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8) ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9) ___ Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) ___ Geomorphic Position (D2) ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3) ___ Microtopographic Relief (D4) ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
--	---

<b>Field Observations:</b> Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Water Table Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ Saturation Present? Yes _____ No <u>X</u> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes _____ No <u>X</u>
--	---

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

**VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.**

Sampling Point: WET B Upland

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status																	
1. <u><i>Acer rubrum</i></u>	10	Yes	FAC	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>3</u> (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: <u>6</u> (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: <u>50.0%</u> (A/B)																
2. <u><i>Acer platanoides</i></u>	15	Yes	UPL																	
3. <u><i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i></u>	5	No	FACW																	
4. <u><i>Malus prunifolia</i></u>	5	No	UPL																	
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
	<u>35</u>	=Total Cover																		
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>15</u> )				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Total % Cover of:</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Multiply by:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>OBL species <u>0</u></td> <td>x 1 = <u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species <u>10</u></td> <td>x 2 = <u>20</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species <u>35</u></td> <td>x 3 = <u>105</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species <u>15</u></td> <td>x 4 = <u>60</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species <u>20</u></td> <td>x 5 = <u>100</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)</td> <td><u>285</u> (B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>	FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>	FAC species <u>35</u>	x 3 = <u>105</u>	FACU species <u>15</u>	x 4 = <u>60</u>	UPL species <u>20</u>	x 5 = <u>100</u>	Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)	<u>285</u> (B)	Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u>	
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																			
OBL species <u>0</u>	x 1 = <u>0</u>																			
FACW species <u>10</u>	x 2 = <u>20</u>																			
FAC species <u>35</u>	x 3 = <u>105</u>																			
FACU species <u>15</u>	x 4 = <u>60</u>																			
UPL species <u>20</u>	x 5 = <u>100</u>																			
Column Totals: <u>80</u> (A)	<u>285</u> (B)																			
Prevalence Index = B/A = <u>3.56</u>																				
1. <u><i>Frangula alnus</i></u>	25	Yes	FAC																	
2. _____																				
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
	<u>25</u>	=Total Cover																		
<u>Herb Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>5</u> )				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <u>1</u> - Rapid Test for Hydrophytic Vegetation <u>2</u> - Dominance Test is >50% <u>3</u> - Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <u>4</u> - Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)  <u>  </u> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)  <sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.																
1. <u><i>Potentilla simplex</i></u>	10	Yes	FACU																	
2. <u><i>Onoclea sensibilis</i></u>	5	Yes	FACW																	
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
5. _____																				
6. _____																				
7. _____																				
8. _____																				
9. _____																				
10. _____																				
11. _____																				
12. _____																				
	<u>15</u>	=Total Cover																		
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u> (Plot size: <u>30</u> )				<b>Definitions of Vegetation Strata:</b>  <b>Tree</b> – Woody plants 3 in. (7.6 cm) or more in diameter at breast height (DBH), regardless of height.  <b>Sapling/shrub</b> – Woody plants less than 3 in. DBH and greater than or equal to 3.28 ft (1 m) tall.  <b>Herb</b> – All herbaceous (non-woody) plants, regardless of size, and woody plants less than 3.28 ft tall.  <b>Woody vines</b> – All woody vines greater than 3.28 ft in height.																
1. <u><i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i></u>	5	Yes	FACU																	
2. _____																				
3. _____																				
4. _____																				
	<u>5</u>	=Total Cover																		

Remarks: (Include photo numbers here or on a separate sheet.)

**SOIL**

Sampling Point: WET B Upland

<b>Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)</b>								
Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type <sup>1</sup>	Loc <sup>2</sup>		
0-10	10YR 3/2	100					Sandy	
10-16	10YR 4/3	100					Sandy	
16-20	10YR 4/4	100					Sandy	

<sup>1</sup>Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, MS=Masked Sand Grains.      <sup>2</sup>Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

<p><b>Hydric Soil Indicators:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stratified Layers (A5)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mesic Spodic (A17) <b>(MLRA 144A, 145, 149B)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Iron Monosulfide (A18)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Dark Surface (S7)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) <b>(LRR R, MLRA 149B)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thin Dark Surface (S9) <b>(LRR R, MLRA 149B)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> High Chroma Sands (S11) <b>(LRR K, L)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) <b>(LRR K, L)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marl (F10) <b>(LRR K, L)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (F21) <b>(MLRA 145)</b></p>	<p><b>Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils<sup>3</sup>:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10) <b>(LRR K, L, MLRA 149B)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 5 cm Mucky Peat or Peat (S3) <b>(LRR K, L, R)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Polyvalue Below Surface (S8) <b>(LRR K, L)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Thin Dark Surface (S9) <b>(LRR K, L)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Iron-Manganese Masses (F12) <b>(LRR K, L, R)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Piedmont Floodplain Soils (F19) <b>(MLRA 149B)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (F21) <b>(outside MLRA 145)</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Very Shallow Dark Surface (F22)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)</p>
--	---	--

<sup>3</sup>Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.

<p><b>Restrictive Layer (if observed):</b></p> <p>Type: _____</p> <p>Depth (inches): _____</p>	<p><b>Hydric Soil Present?</b>      Yes _____ No <u>X</u></p>
--	---

Remarks:

## AGENCY DISCLOSURE NOTIFICATION

The public reporting burden for this collection of information, OMB Control Number 0710-0024, is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at [whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil](mailto:whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. **PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR REQUEST TO THE ABOVE EMAIL.**

## PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 103, 33 USC 1413; Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers; Final Rule 33 CFR 320-332. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies, and the public and may be made available as part of a public notice as required by Federal law. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued. One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and/or instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned. System of Record Notice (SORN). The information received is entered into our permit tracking database and a SORN has been completed (SORN #A1145b) and may be accessed at the following website: <http://dpcl.d.defense.gov/Privacy/SORNsIndex/DOD-wide-SORN-Article-View/Article/570115/a1145b-ce.aspx>

APPENDIX B

Site Photographs



Photo 1: Little Harbor School Playground



Photo 2: PEEP Playground



Photo 3: Portsmouth Harbor/Piscataqua River



Photo 4: Highest Observable Tide Line



Photo 5: Salt Marsh



Photo 6: Non-Tidal Wetland



Photo 7: Ephemeral Stream

APPENDIX C

NHB Datacheck Forms



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Robert R. Scott, Commissioner**

To: Devin Herrick, Weston & Sampson Engineering  
55 Walkers Brook Drive  
Reading, MA 01857  
herrick.devin@wseinc.com

From: Ecological Review Section  
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

cc: NHFG Review, David Simmons

Date: 12/04/2025 (valid until 12/04/2026)

Re: DataCheck Review by NHDES Ecological Review Section and NH Fish & Game

Permits: NHDES - Shoreland Standard Permit, NHDES - Wetlands Standard Dredge & Fill

**DCT ID: DCT25-3222**

Town: Portsmouth  
Location: 50 CLOUGH DR

**Project Description:** The propose project includes the replacement of two playgrounds on the property of the Little Harbor School. All work will occur in uplands. To be completed by the end of 2026.

### **Next Steps for Applicants:**

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Ecological Review Section has reviewed the provided mapped project area against available records of protected species, Exemplary Natural Communities (ENCs), and critical habitat. Based on the project mapping and submitted information it was determined that there are potential impacts. Please carefully read the comments below and consultation instructions on the following pages.

#### **Plant and Exemplary Natural**

**Community Comments:** If all work is within existing disturbed areas of the playground footprints, then no ecological review for plants is needed. If work is proposed outside of the existing playground footprints, then please provide proposed plans and representative photos during the growing season of the proposed impact areas (or at the very least without snow cover).

#### **Wildlife and Critical Habitat**

**Comments:** An ecological review is needed to further assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat. Please refer to the Wildlife Ecological Review Instructions below for guidance on how to submit an ecological review request and information about when an ecological review is required vs recommended.

# DRAFT

## Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Ecological Review Instructions

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review is required if plant and/or ENC records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules of a state agency

If a project is not legally required to obtain an ecological review but this letter contains plant and/or ENC records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 217-A.

To request an ecological review for plants and/or ENCs:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver any materials requested in the “Plant and Exemplary Natural Community Comments” section above to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include “Ecological Review Request” in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the plant/ENC ecological review process call 603-271-6261.*

# DRAFT

## Wildlife and Critical Habitat Ecological Review Instructions

### *Requesting an Ecological Review by NHDES*

An ecological review for wildlife will be completed by the NHDES Ecological Review Section if a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is needed. *If you do not need any NHDES permits, authorizations, or approvals then please see the section regarding NHFG reviews conducted by the NH Fish and Game Department (NHFG) below.*

Unless otherwise noted, an ecological review by NHDES is required if wildlife/critical habitat records are included on this letter and:

- a. The project is funded or carried out by a state agency; or
- b. Such a review is required pursuant to the administrative rules regarding the permit, approval, or written authorization pursuant to RSA 482-A, RSA 485-A, and RSA 236.

If a project requiring a NHDES permit, authorization, or approval is not legally required to obtain an ecological review, but this letter contains wildlife or critical habitat records, it is recommended to voluntarily proceed with an ecological review in order to ensure that project impacts do not result in a violation of RSA 212-A.

To request an ecological review for wildlife with DES:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver project information following the guidance of [Fis1004.03\(c\)](#) to:

Department of Environmental Services  
Ecological Review Section  
P.O. Box 95  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095  
[ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov](mailto:ecologicalreviews@des.nh.gov)

2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include "Ecological Review Request" in the subject line of the request.

*For help with wildlife ecological review process call 603-271-0467 or visit the [wildlife environmental review page](#) for guideline materials including a suggested checklist of materials to provide for ecological review.*

# DRAFT

## Wildlife and Critical Habitat Review Instructions (continued)

### *Requesting a Wildlife Review by NHFG*

Wildlife reviews to assess potential impacts to protected wildlife and critical habitat for any need outside of NHDES permits, authorizations, and approvals are completed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program.

To request a wildlife review with NHFG:

1. Email (preferred), mail, or hand-deliver available project information to:  
New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
Attn. Wildlife Division, Nongame Program  
11 Hazen Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
[nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:nhfgreview@wildlife.nh.gov)
2. Reference the DataCheck Tool identification number (DCT ID) included on the first page of this letter and include “Wildlife Review” in the subject line of the request.

*For help with the NHFG wildlife review process call 603-271-2461.*

## Federal Compliance

This letter does not constitute compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). There may be occurrences of federally listed species in New Hampshire that are not included in this letter. For ESA compliance, please visit the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) [Information for Planning and Consultation \(iPaC\) website](#) for an official list of federally listed species that may be present in your project area. If a federal agency is involved in your project through funding, permit or other authorization, coordinate your iPaC results with your point of contact at the agency for further ESA review. If there is no federal agency nexus to your project, and you determine through iPaC, habitat evaluations etc. that a project may cause take of a federally listed species, we recommend coordinating with the USFWS’ New England Field Office ([newengland@fws.gov](mailto:newengland@fws.gov) or [603-223-2541](tel:603-223-2541)).

# DRAFT

## Ecological Review Database records:

The following record(s) may be impacted by the proposed project. Please refer to this list when coordinating.

<b>Plant species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
marsh elder ( <i>Iva frutescens</i> )	T	--	Threats are primarily alterations to the hydrology of the wetland, such as ditching or tidal restrictions that might affect the sheet flow of tidal waters across the intertidal flat, activities that eliminate plants, and increased input of nutrients and pollutants in storm runoff.
northern blazing star ( <i>Liatris novae-angliae</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i> )*	E	--	Threats to this highly imperilled species are development activities that eliminate its habitat and invasion of its open, grassy habitat by trees and shrubs.
<b>Vertebrate species</b>	<b>State<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Atlantic Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i> )	T	T	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).
Peregrine Falcon ( <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i> )	T	--	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept (see above).
Shortnose Sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> )	E	E	Contact the NH Fish & Game Dept and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (see above).

<sup>1</sup>Codes: "E" = Endangered, "T" = Threatened, "SC" = Special Concern, "--" = an exemplary natural community, or a rare species tracked by NH Natural Heritage that has not yet been added to the official state list.

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the most recent report for that occurrence was 25 or more years ago.

## Disclaimer:

DataCheck Tool screening only includes documented and verified occurrences of protected species and exemplary natural communities. The list of protected species and habitat on this letter does not guarantee these are the only protected species and habitat present at this location, only that their presence has not been documented and verified by state biologists and ecologists. As many areas have never been surveyed, or have only been surveyed for certain species, surveys are the best way to determine what resources are present on site.

# DRAFT

DCT25-3222



0 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 Miles

Legend  
City/Town  
Site bounds

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX I

# DRAFT



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## Functional Assessment



November 2025

Little Harbor School

50 Clough Street  
Portsmouth NH



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Env-Wt 603.04 Coastal Functional Assessment “(a) *For minor or major standard permit applications, the applicant shall submit a CFA report that is based on the data screening information and on-site evaluation required by Env-Wt 603.03*”. The proposed upgrade the Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School playgrounds in Portsmouth NH requires the submission of a major impact wetlands permit. As a result, a Certified Wetland Scientist (CWS) from Weston & Sampson completed a functional assessment in order to evaluate how the wetlands on site will be affected by the proposed alteration.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The Portsmouth Little Harbor Elementary School is located at 50 Clough Drive, Portsmouth, NH 03801, Tax Map 206 Lot 20. The school is located along the tidal Piscataqua River. An aerial locus map and USGS locus map are attached.

The existing play facilities on the property are broken down into two playgrounds, the first is located on the east side of the school known as the “PEEP Playground” and the second is located on the west side of the school known as the “Little Harbor School Playground”. Both playgrounds will be renovated as part of this proposed project.

### *PEEP Playground*

The existing PEEP Playground includes a play structure with additional loose play equipment, a wood chip base and the entire playground is surrounded by a chain link fence. There is also an existing stone retaining wall which separates play area from parking lot which will be retained by the project.

*Image 1.1: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing PEEP Playground.*



### *Little Harbor School Playground*

The existing Little Harbor School Playground includes a large play structure, monkey bars/climbing structure, a gaga pit, a swing set, a basketball court and associated asphalt play area. There is also a small ephemeral stream which originates from stormwater sheet flow off the existing basketball court. The ephemeral stream dissipates into the grassy play area before reaching the salt marsh

*Image 1.2: Google Street Earth Image of the Existing Little Harbor School Playground.*



The Piscataqua River and an associated salt marsh are located immediately adjacent to the Little Harbor School. This complex has two wetland classification types based on the Cowardin Classification system:

#### **E2EM1P:**

System **Estuarine (E)** : The Estuarine System consists of deepwater tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semienclosed by land but have open, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the open ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from the land. The salinity may be periodically increased above that of the open ocean by evaporation. Along some low-energy coastlines, there is appreciable dilution of sea water. Offshore areas with typical estuarine plants and animals, such as red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) and eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), are also included in the Estuarine System.

Subsystem **Intertidal (2)** : The substrate in these habitats is flooded and exposed by tides; includes the associated splash zone.

Class **Emergent (EM)** : Characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. This vegetation is present for most of the growing season in most years. These wetlands are usually dominated by perennial plants.

Subclass **Persistent (1)** : Dominated by species that normally remain standing at least until the beginning of the next growing season. This subclass is found only in the Estuarine and Palustrine systems.

Water Regime **Irregularly Flooded (P)** : Tides flood the substrate less often than daily.

### E2US3M:

System **Estuarine (E)** : The Estuarine System consists of deepwater tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semienclosed by land but have open, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the open ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from the land. The salinity may be periodically increased above that of the open ocean by evaporation. Along some low-energy coastlines, there is appreciable dilution of sea water. Offshore areas with typical estuarine plants and animals, such as red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) and eastern oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*), are also included in the Estuarine System.

Subsystem **Intertidal (2)** : The substrate in these habitats is flooded and exposed by tides; includes the associated splash zone.

Class **Unconsolidated Shore (US)** : Includes all wetland habitats having two characteristics: (1) unconsolidated substrates with less than 75 percent areal cover of stones, boulders or bedrock and; (2) less than 30 percent areal cover of vegetation. Landforms such as beaches, bars, and flats are included in the Unconsolidated Shore class.

Subclass **Mud (3)** : The unconsolidated particles smaller than stones are predominantly silt and clay, although coarser sediments or organic material may be intermixed.

Water Regime **Irregularly Exposed (M)** : Tides expose the substrate less often than daily.

### 3.0 PROJECT SCOPE

The proposed scope will include the removal of existing playground equipment and installation of new play structures with associated landscape features in each of the two playgrounds on site.

#### *PEEP Playground*

The proposed PEEP playground improvements will include a variety of play elements designed for young children and group interaction. Planned equipment includes a play structure for small children, a group seesaw, acorn-shaped seating, and a wooden play bridge that will be level with the poured-in-place surfacing to ensure accessibility. A large sand play area is also proposed to encourage sensory and creative play.

In addition to the play equipment, several landscape and site enhancements are proposed in the PEEP playground to support both functionality and aesthetics. These include new plantings with boulder accents, picnic tables, and new fencing surrounding the play area. Concrete paving within the limits of the play area will serve multiple purposes, including a bag drop, walking paths, and an accessible area for replenishing sand; this space will also accommodate loose play items such as a play kitchen. New asphalt walking paths are proposed in generally the same configuration as existing conditions, with selective reductions in paved area to minimize impervious surfaces within the project limits. The landscape plan also includes the installation of seven new trees and approximately twenty new shrubs and herbaceous native species.

#### *Little Harbor School Playground*

The proposed playground equipment improvements include the installation of two new swing sets and a large play structure with a climbing element. The equipment is currently planned to be installed over an engineered wood fiber base; however, the City is exploring the availability of funding to instead utilize a permeable poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing. This alternative would not alter the proposed limits of work. In addition, the existing gaga pit will be relocated to a new location, removing the majority of the structure from the 100-foot wetland buffer where it is currently situated. The relocated gaga pit will be constructed on a concrete foundation and filled with engineered wood fiber.

Proposed landscape and site improvements focus on environmental stewardship, safety, and improved site functionality. Stormwater collection will be formalized through the creation of a rain garden designed to allow student interaction with overland flow while maintaining sheet flow into the adjacent grassy area. The existing asphalt play area, including the basketball court, will be relocated farther from the wetland, resulting in a significant overall reduction in asphalt play surface. A concrete curb will be installed around areas of engineered wood fiber to help contain the material. All existing trees on site will be retained, and additional site amenities will include a new timber guard rail and a bike rack.

New plantings will further enhance the landscape and ecological function of the site. The project includes the installation of nine new trees, with species selected in accordance with the City of Portsmouth Street Tree Manual. A total of 136 new shrubs and herbaceous native plant species will be added throughout the site. The rain garden located within the existing ephemeral stream will also receive additional plantings, including 34 herbaceous species, to support stormwater management and native habitat enhancement.

#### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

Wetlands on site were evaluated using the Army Corps of Engineers Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement, Wetland Functions and Values, A Descriptive Approach (Highway Methodology). The approach outlined in the Highway Methodology includes a qualitative description of the physical characteristics of the wetlands, identifies the functions and values exhibited, and uses "best professional judgement" for the basis of the conclusions.

Within the Highway Methodology "Functions" are defined as:

*Self-sustaining properties of a wetland ecosystem that exist in the absence of society. Functions result from both living and non-living components of a specific wetland. These include all processes necessary for the self-maintenance of the wetland ecosystem such as primary production and nutrient cycling. Therefore, functions relate to the ecological significance of wetland properties without regard to subjective human values.*

"Values" are defined as:

*Benefits that derive from either one or more functions and the physical characteristics associated with a wetland. Most wetlands have corresponding societal value. This is recognized in various federal, state, and local wetland legislation that was enacted to protect these resources. The value of a particular wetland function, or combination thereof, is based on human judgment of the worth, merit, quality, or importance attributed to those functions.*

To utilize the Highway Methodology the workbook indicates that the "evaluator first determines if a wetland is suitable for particular functions and values and why. Then a determination is made if any functions and/or values are principal and why. Functions and values can be principal if they are an important physical component of a wetland ecosystem and/or are considered of special value to society, from a local, regional, and/or national perspective".

Within the Highway Methodology guidance document there are 13 functions and values. According to the workbook these functions and values "are considered by the Regulatory Branch for any Section 404 wetland permit (outlined further below in Section 4.0). These are not necessarily the only wetland functions and values possible, nor are they so precisely defined as to be unalterable. However, they do represent the best working "palette" of descriptors which can be used to paint an objective representation of the wetland resources associated with a proposed project".

A list of considerations/qualifiers for each function/value can be found within the Highway Methodology and is attached. Additional data sources including aerial photos, topographic maps, GIS data, and additional remote sensing data sources were utilized during desktop review to obtain information about the considerations/qualifiers. These considerations/qualifiers were utilized to determine the suitability of each function/value and to determine the principal functions/values of the wetland complex on site.

## 5.0 WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND VALUES ASSESSMENT

In accordance with The Highway Methodology described above, wetland functions and values have been qualitatively evaluated for the wetland complex on site. Notes outlining the aspects of the qualifiers/considerations for each of the 13 functions and values are discussed below (Sections 4.1 through 4.13).

The completed Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form can be found in **Appendix A** and a summary of the suitable and principal functions-values for the wetland complex has been presented in the Wetland Functions and Values Summary Table (Section 4.14).

### 5.1 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge

*This function considers the potential for the wetland to serve as a groundwater recharge and/or discharge area. It refers to the fundamental interaction between wetlands and aquifers, where there is potential for the wetland to contribute water to an aquifer (recharge) or to function as a groundwater discharge area.*

The wetland complex on site is associated with a single perennial, tidal river called the Piscataqua River. The Piscataqua is 12 miles in length beginning at the confluence of the Salmon Falls River and Cocheco River and terminating in the Atlantic Ocean. According to NHDES One Stop wells do exist downstream of the Piscataqua River on New Castle Island. Soil mapping available for the area indicates that the soils in the proposed work area are composed Urban land-Canton complex and Udorthents, smoothed. Depth to restrictive layer in these soils is more than 80 inches. No piezometer data is available for the area. The Piscataqua River is an impaired water body suggesting lower water quality. The area is surrounded by development and industry which likely contributes to the impairment.

Suitability Conclusion: No. Given the tidal nature of this Piscataqua interaction with wetlands is high but interactions with aquifers is low. Low water quality.

### 5.2 Floodflow Alteration

*This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland in reducing flood damage by attenuating floodwaters for prolonged periods following precipitation and snow melt events.*

Area of the Piscataqua and adjacent salt marsh is small relative to its watershed. The Little Harbor School is located in the lower portion of the watershed. Effective flood storage above the proposed limit of work is limited due to extensive residential development and high amount of impervious area. Salt marsh adjacent to the Piscataqua contains hydric soils and is relatively flat. Evidence of variable water levels are present. Flood storage available within salt marsh during storm events. Wetland complex receives overland flow from adjacent uplands, although storage is short term due to tidal cycle.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. The Piscataqua River does not provide long term attenuation, but it does serve to move floodwaters away from valuable properties. Floodflow Alteration is a principal function of the Piscataqua River and adjacent salt marsh on site.

### 5.3 Fish and Shellfish Habitat (Marine)

*This function considers the effectiveness or importance of seasonal or permanent waterbodies associated with the wetlands in question for fish and shellfish habitat.*

Presence of mudflats nearby but not located within proposed work area. Piscataqua river is suitable spawning habitat. Commercially or recreationally important species are present and suitable habitat exists. The Piscataqua supports prey for higher trophic level marine organisms and provides migratory habitat for anadromous fish. The Piscataqua River is Essential Fish Habitat.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Although no direct observation of fish or shellfish were made on site, the Piscataqua is Essential Fish Habitat and suitable for many species. Fish and Shellfish Habitat (Marine) is a principal function of the Piscataqua River on site.

### 5.4 Sediment/Toxicant Retention

*This function reduces or prevents degradation of water quality. It relates to the effectiveness of the wetland as a trap for sediments, toxicants, or pathogens in runoff water from surrounding uplands or upstream eroding wetland areas.*

Limited sources of excess sediment upstream including urban roadways. Toxicants in the watershed are present from urban development. Deepwater habitat is present in the Piscataqua but the water has high velocity. Fine grained organic soils are present. Water retention time is short due to high velocities and constant tidal fluctuations. According to NHDES One Stop wells do exist downstream of the Piscataqua River on New Castle Island. River edge is intermittently aerobic due to tidal fluctuations. Dense vegetation present in adjacent salt marsh.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. The Piscataqua is not heavily vegetated and has high velocity flows. The adjacent salt marsh is vegetated and can provide trapping of sediments but area is small compared to the size of the river.

### 5.5 Nutrient Removal/Retention/Transformation

*This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland as a trap for nutrients in runoff water from surrounding uplands or contiguous wetlands and the ability of the wetland to process these nutrients into other forms or trophic levels. One aspect of this function is to prevent ill effects of nutrients entering aquifers or surface waters such as ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, or estuaries.*

The area of the wetland complex is small relative to the contributing watershed based on information available from USGS Stream Stats. Deep water habitat present but with limited opportunities for sediment trapping. Sources of excess nutrients upstream include urban development. Fine grained soils are present. Emergent vegetation is present in the salt marsh. Water moves quickly through the wetland due to tidal cycle. Presence of dense vegetation and thick organic material means plant uptake and/or attenuation in sediment is present

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Deepwater habitat provides some ability to trap nutrients however this is limited due to high velocity. Presence of dense vegetation and thick organic material means plant uptake and/or attenuation in sediment is present, but area is small compared to the size of the river.

## 5.6 Production Export

*This function evaluates the effectiveness of the wetland to produce food or usable products for humans or other living organisms.*

Salt marsh vegetation present which can accumulate and cause detritus development. Economically/commercially used fish found within the Piscataqua. Higher trophic level consumers are utilizing the river. Aquatic vegetation present but only a few species. High production levels occurring, however, no visible signs of export (assumes export is attenuated).

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. The Piscataqua River is able to produce food or usable products for humans or other living organisms.

## 5.7 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization

*This function considers the effectiveness of a wetland to stabilize stream banks and shorelines against erosion.*

A small salt marsh borders a large, tidally influenced river and provides shoreline stabilization despite periodic erosive pressures. The marsh exhibits a gentle topographic gradient toward the river, with localized erosion and siltation resulting from high flow velocities, open-water fetch, and recreational boating activity. The river's large watershed supplies upstream sediment and generates channelized flows during storm events. A wetland buffer greater than 10 feet wide parallels the shoreline, which is generally diffuse but includes limited areas of more defined, densely rooted banks. Dense emergent vegetation and low shrubs dominate the marsh, forming an energy-absorbing, resilient plant community that stabilizes sediments during minor flood events and reinforces the shoreline during higher-energy conditions.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. In the area immediately adjacent to the limit of work, the salt marsh does provide a vegetative buffer which stabilizes sediments during minor flood events and reinforces the shoreline during higher-energy conditions. Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization is a principal function of the salt marsh bordering the Piscataqua River on site.

## 5.8 Wildlife Habitat

*This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland to provide habitat for various types and populations of animals typically associated with wetlands and the wetland edge. Both resident and/or migrating species are considered.*

Adjacent urban land use has degraded the upland and cut off overland access to other potential wetlands. Wildlife food sources are present within the Piscataqua. Salt marsh with dense vegetation is present. High degree of species diversity is present within the river. This evaluation methodology is not well suited to looking at aquatic wildlife habitat. Although water quality within the river is poor the Piscataqua still provides valuable aquatic habitat.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Despite adjacent development, the Piscataqua River is a crucial aquatic habitat. Wildlife habitat is a principal function of the Piscataqua River on site.

## 5.9 Recreation

*This value considers the suitability of the wetland and associated watercourses to provide recreational opportunities such as hiking, canoeing, boating, fishing, hunting, and other active or passive recreational activities. Consumptive opportunities consume or diminish the plants, animals, or other resources that are intrinsic to the wetland. Non-consumptive opportunities do not consume or diminish these resources of the wetland.*

This portion of the Piscataqua River is associated with the Little Harbor School. Fishing is available from the banks of the river. No hunting is permitting and hiking is not feasible due to urban location, however walking trails are present. The river is a valuable wildlife habitat despite poor water quality. Access to the water is present for boating via school dock however, this dock is closed to the general public. Watercourse is wide enough for powered and non-powered boating. Off road parking is available at the school however access to the school dock is not publicly available.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Publicly accessible park space with plentiful opportunities for recreation.

## 5.10 Educational/Scientific Value

*This function considers the suitability of the wetland as a site for an "outdoor classroom" or as a location for scientific study or research.*

NHB report indicates that rare species/habitats have potential to be present on site or nearby. The adjacent urban development has caused disturbance to the Piscataqua River. The river is valuable wildlife habitat. Off road parking is available however dock access is not publicly available. Direct access to a perennial stream is present. Site is currently used for educational activities associated with the school.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Presence of school in close proximity to the wetland complex provides valuable educational value. Educational/Scientific Value is a principal function of the Piscataqua River on site.

## 5.11 Uniqueness/Heritage

*This value considers the effectiveness of the wetland or its associated waterbodies to provide certain special values. These may include archaeological sites, critical habitat for endangered species, its overall health and appearance, its role in the ecological system of the area, its relative importance as a typical wetland class for this geographic location. These functions are clearly valuable wetland attributes relative to aspects of public health, recreation, and habitat diversity.*

Dominated by deep and shallow marsh communities with areas of scrub-shrub transition, the salt marsh adjacent to the school exhibits a high degree of interspersion between emergent vegetation and open water, creating diverse habitat structure and visual interest. A well-vegetated stream corridor extends along both sides of the tidal channel, providing ecological connectivity and bank stability while supporting wildlife movement. Multiple wetland classes—including salt marsh and open water—are visible from surrounding uplands and primary viewing locations, where more than 200 feet of stream and over half an acre of open water can be observed. The wetland appears unpolluted and largely undisturbed, offering expansive views and frequent opportunities for wildlife observation. Its proximity to the school, with direct and safe access to the river, suitable off-road parking for buses, and absence

of known safety hazards making it a strong potential educational site. NHB report indicates that rare species/habitats have potential to be present on site or nearby.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Educational and recreational opportunities, and an unpolluted, visually accessible landscape. Uniqueness/Heritage is a principal function of the Piscataqua River on site.

### 5.12 Visual Quality/Aesthetics

*This value relates to the visual and aesthetic qualities of the wetland.*

Only perennial stream present on site. Highly developed upland contrast with views of the river

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. Perennial stream provides contrast to development. Adjacent upland development prevents principal function for visual quality/aesthetics.

### 5.13 Endangered Species Habitat

*This function considers the suitability of the wetland or associated watersheds to support rare, threatened, or endangered species.*

NHB report indicates that rare species/habitats have potential to be present on site or nearby.

Suitability Conclusion: Yes. NHB report indicates that rare species/habitats have potential to be present on site or nearby.

**5.14 Conclusion**

The following table provides a summary of the suitable and principal functions of the wetlands delineated on the Site.

Table 1. Wetland Functions and Values Summary	
Functions and Values	Wetland Complex
Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	N
Floodflow Alteration	S, P
Fish and Shellfish Habitat	S, P
Sediment/Toxicant Retention	S
Nutrient Removal	S
Production Export	S
Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	S, P
Wildlife Habitat	S, P
Recreation	S
Education/Scientific Value	S, P
Uniqueness/Heritage	S, P
Visual Quality/Aesthetics	S
Endangered Species Habitat	S

Legend:

S = Suitable Function/Value

P = Principal Function/Value

N = Not Suitable

Based on the functional assessment provided, the suitable functions/values of the Piscataqua River on site include Floodflow Alteration, Fish and Shellfish Habitat, Sediment/Toxicant Retention, Nutrient Removal, Production Export, Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation, Educational/Scientific Value, Uniqueness/Heritage, Visual Quality/Aesthetics, and Endangered Species Habitat. The principal functions/values of the Piscataqua River on site include Floodflow Alteration, Fish and Shellfish Habitat, Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization, Wildlife Habitat, Recreation, Educational/Scientific Value, and Uniqueness/Heritage.

**5.15 Proposed Project Impact on Functions/Values**

The proposed project will not have any impact on the functions/values of the adjacent salt marsh and Piscataqua River. The proposed project is located in the same footprint as the existing playgrounds and will pull impervious area further from the adjacent wetlands.

## 6.0 REFERENCES

Cowardin, 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Publication Number FWS/OBS-79/31; Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., and LaRoe, E.T., 1979.

NEHSTC, 1998. "Field Indicators for Identifying Hydric Soils in New England (2nd version)", New England Hydric Soils Technical Committee; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Wilmington, MA; 1998.

USACE, 1993. The Highway Methodology Workbook; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division. 28pp (NAEEP-360-1-30). 1993.

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APPENDIX A

Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

# DRAFT

## Wetland Function-Value Evaluation Form

Total area of wetland 12 linear miles Human made? No Is wetland part of a wildlife corridor? Yes or a "habitat island"? No

Adjacent land use School and Residential Distance to nearest roadway or other development On Site

Dominant wetland systems present E2EM1P, E2US3M Contiguous undeveloped buffer zone present None

Is the wetland a separate hydraulic system? No If not, where does the wetland lie in the drainage basin? Lower

How many tributaries contribute to the wetland? 1 Wildlife & vegetation diversity/abundance (see attached list)

Wetland I.D. Wetland Complex

Latitude 43.066345° Longitude -70.753125°

Prepared by: DKH Date 11/21/2025

Wetland Impact:  
Type Previously Developed TBZ Area 27,032 SF

Evaluation based on:  
Office  Field

Corps manual wetland delineation completed?

Function/Value	Suitability Y / N	Rationale (Reference #)*	Principal Function(s)/Value(s)	Comments
 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge	N	1,2,7,15		Wetland associated with tidal watercourse. Wells downstream. Water quality low.
 Floodflow Alteration	Y	3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,18	X	Piscataqua River and adjacent salt marsh do provide short term storage for water during storm events.
 Fish and Shellfish Habitat	Y	1,2,3,4,5,6	X	Commercially or recreationally important species are present and suitable habitat exists.
 Sediment/Toxicant Retention	Y	2,3,4,6,7,8,10,15,16		Perennial river with high velocities and tidal fluctuations. Vegetation present in salt marsh.
 Nutrient Removal	Y	2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10		Deepwater habitat with upstream nutrient sources. Plant uptake and/or attenuation in sediment is present
 Production Export	Y	1,3,4,5,6,10,12,14		Economically/commercially used fish found within the Piscataqua. Higher trophic level consumers are utilizing the river.
 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization	Y	1,2,3,4,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,15	X	The salt marsh does provide a vegetative buffer. High velocity flows are present.
 Wildlife Habitat	Y	3,8,9,11,13,19,21	X	Although water quality within the river is poor the Piscataqua still provides valuable aquatic habitat.
 Recreation	Y	2,5,7,8,9,10,12		Good watercourse for boating and fishing however access to the school dock is not publicly available.
 Educational/Scientific Value	Y	1,2,3,5,8,9,10,11,14,16	X	Site is currently used for educational activities associated with the school. Dock not publicly available.
 Uniqueness/Heritage	Y	2,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,16,17,19,22,24,27	X	Unique presence of school with opportunities for interaction with wetland. Highly aesthetic views of the waterfront.
 Visual Quality/Aesthetics	Y	1,2,3,6,7,8,10,11,12		Perennial stream provides contrast to development. Adjacent upland development prevents principal function for visual quality/aesthetics.
<b>ES</b> Endangered Species Habitat	Y	1,2		NHB report indicates that rare species/habitats have potential to be present on site or nearby.
Other				

Notes:

\* Refer to backup list of numbered considerations.

APPENDIX B

Highway Methodology Considerations/Qualifiers

## Appendix A

# Wetland evaluation supporting documentation; Reproducible forms.

Below is an example list of considerations that was used for a New Hampshire highway project. Considerations are flexible, based on best professional judgment and interdisciplinary team consensus. This example provides a comprehensive base, however, and may only need slight modifications for use in other projects.



**GROUNDWATER RECHARGE/DISCHARGE**— This function considers the potential for a wetland to serve as a groundwater recharge and/or discharge area. It refers to the fundamental interaction between wetlands and aquifers, regardless of the size or importance of either.

### CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Public or private wells occur downstream of the wetland.
2. Potential exists for public or private wells downstream of the wetland.
3. Wetland is underlain by stratified drift.
4. Gravel or sandy soils present in or adjacent to the wetland.
5. Fragipan does not occur in the wetland.
6. Fragipan, impervious soils, or bedrock does occur in the wetland.
7. Wetland is associated with a perennial or intermittent watercourse.
8. Signs of groundwater recharge are present or piezometer data demonstrates recharge.
9. Wetland is associated with a watercourse but lacks a defined outlet or contains a constricted outlet.
10. Wetland contains only an outlet, no inlet.
11. Groundwater quality of stratified drift aquifer within or downstream of wetland meets drinking water standards.
12. Quality of water associated with the wetland is high.
13. Signs of groundwater discharge are present (e.g., springs).
14. Water temperature suggests it is a discharge site.
15. Wetland shows signs of variable water levels.
16. Piezometer data demonstrates discharge.
17. Other



**FLOODFLOW ALTERATION (Storage & Desynchronization)** — This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland in reducing flood damage by water retention for prolonged periods following precipitation events and the gradual release of floodwaters. It adds to the stability of the wetland ecological system or its buffering characteristics and provides social or economic value relative to erosion and/or flood prone areas.

## CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Area of this wetland is large relative to its watershed.
2. Wetland occurs in the upper portions of its watershed.
3. Effective flood storage is small or non-existent upslope of or above the wetland.
4. Wetland watershed contains a high percent of impervious surfaces.
5. Wetland contains hydric soils which are able to absorb and detain water.
6. Wetland exists in a relatively flat area that has flood storage potential.
7. Wetland has an intermittent outlet, ponded water, or signs are present of variable water level.
8. During flood events, this wetland can retain higher volumes of water than under normal or average rainfall conditions.
9. Wetland receives and retains overland or sheet flow runoff from surrounding uplands.
10. In the event of a large storm, this wetland may receive and detain excessive flood water from a nearby watercourse.
11. Valuable properties, structures, or resources are located in or near the floodplain downstream from the wetland.
12. The watershed has a history of economic loss due to flooding.
13. This wetland is associated with one or more watercourses.
14. This wetland watercourse is sinuous or diffuse.
15. This wetland outlet is constricted.
16. Channel flow velocity is affected by this wetland.
17. Land uses downstream are protected by this wetland.
18. This wetland contains a high density of vegetation.
19. Other

**FISH AND SHELLFISH HABITAT (FRESHWATER)** — This function considers the effectiveness of seasonal or permanent watercourses associated with the wetland in question for fish and shellfish habitat.



## CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Forest land dominant in the watershed above this wetland.
2. Abundance of cover objects present.

### STOP HERE IF THIS WETLAND IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A WATERCOURSE

3. Size of this wetland is able to support large fish/shellfish populations.
4. Wetland is part of a larger, contiguous watercourse.
5. Wetland has sufficient size and depth in open water areas so as not to freeze solid and retain some open water during winter.
6. Stream width (bank to bank) is more than 50 feet.
7. Quality of the watercourse associated with this wetland is able to support healthy fish/shellfish populations.
8. Streamside vegetation provides shade for the watercourse.
9. Spawning areas are present (submerged vegetation or gravel beds).
10. Food is available to fish/shellfish populations within this wetland.
11. Barrier(s) to anadromous fish (such as dams, including beaver dams, waterfalls, road crossing) are absent from the stream reach associated with this wetland.
12. Evidence of fish is present.
13. Wetland is stocked with fish.
14. The watercourse is persistent.
15. Man-made streams are absent.
16. Water velocities are not too excessive for fish usage.
17. Defined stream channel is present.
18. Other

Although the above example refers to freshwater wetlands, it can also be adapted for marine ecosystems. The following is an example provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of an adaptation for the fish and shellfish function.

**FISH AND SHELLFISH HABITAT (MARINE)** — This function considers the effectiveness of wetlands, embayments, tidal flats, vegetated shallows, and other environments in supporting marine resources such as fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and sea turtles.

**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

- 1. Special aquatic sites (tidal marsh, mud flats, eelgrass beds) are present.
- 2. Suitable spawning habitat is present at the site or in the area.
- 3. Commercially or recreationally important species are present or suitable habitat exists.
- 4. The wetland/waterway supports prey for higher trophic level marine organisms.
- 5. The waterway provides migratory habitat for anadromous fish.
- 6. Essential fish habitat, as defined by the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery & Conservation Act, is present (consultation with NMFS may be necessary).
- 7. Other



**SEDIMENT/TOXICANT/PATHOGEN RETENTION** — This function reduces or prevents degradation of water quality. It relates to the effectiveness of the wetland as a trap for sediments, toxicants, or pathogens in runoff water from surrounding uplands or upstream eroding wetland areas.

**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

- 1. Potential sources of excess sediment are in the watershed above the wetland.
- 2. Potential or known sources of toxicants are in the watershed above the wetland.
- 3. Opportunity for sediment trapping by slow moving water or deepwater habitat are present in this wetland.
- 4. Fine grained mineral or organic soils are present.
- 5. Long duration water retention time is present in this wetland.
- 6. Public or private water sources occur downstream.
- 7. The wetland edge is broad and intermittently aerobic.
- 8. The wetland is known to have existed for more than 50 years.
- 9. Drainage ditches have not been constructed in the wetland.

**STOP HERE IF WETLAND IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A WATERCOURSE.**

- 10. Wetland is associated with an intermittent or perennial stream or a lake.
- 11. Channelized flows have visible velocity decreases in the wetland.
- 12. Effective floodwater storage in wetland is occurring. Areas of impounded open water are present.
- 13. No indicators of erosive forces are present. No high water velocities are present.
- 14. Diffuse water flows are present in the wetland.
- 15. Wetland has a high degree of water and vegetation interspersion.
- 16. Dense vegetation provides opportunity for sediment trapping and/or signs of sediment accumulation by dense vegetation is present.
- 17. Other



**NUTRIENT REMOVAL/RETENTION/TRANSFORMATION** — This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland as a trap for nutrients in runoff water from surrounding uplands or contiguous wetlands and the ability of the wetland to process these nutrients into other forms or trophic levels. One aspect of this function is to prevent ill effects of nutrients entering aquifers or surface waters such as ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, or estuaries.

**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

- 1. Wetland is large relative to the size of its watershed.
- 2. Deep water or open water habitat exists.
- 3. Overall potential for sediment trapping exists in the wetland.

4. Potential sources of excess nutrients are present in the watershed above the wetland.
  5. Wetland saturated for most of the season. Pondered water is present in the wetland.
  6. Deep organic/sediment deposits are present.
  7. Slowly drained fine grained mineral or organic soils are present.
  8. Dense vegetation is present.
  9. Emergent vegetation and/or dense woody stems are dominant.
  10. Opportunity for nutrient attenuation exists.
  11. Vegetation diversity/abundance sufficient to utilize nutrients.
- STOP HERE IF WETLAND IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH A WATERCOURSE.
12. Waterflow through this wetland is diffuse.
  13. Water retention/detention time in this wetland is increased by constricted outlet or thick vegetation.
  14. Water moves slowly through this wetland.
  15. Other

**PRODUCTION EXPORT (Nutrient)** — This function evaluates the effectiveness of the wetland to produce food or usable products for humans or other living organisms.



**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

1. Wildlife food sources grow within this wetland.
2. Detritus development is present within this wetland
3. Economically or commercially used products found in this wetland.
4. Evidence of wildlife use found within this wetland.
5. Higher trophic level consumers are utilizing this wetland.
6. Fish or shellfish develop or occur in this wetland.
7. High vegetation density is present.
8. Wetland exhibits high degree of plant community structure/species diversity.
9. High aquatic vegetative diversity/abundance is present.
10. Nutrients exported in wetland watercourses (permanent outlet present).
11. “Flushing” of relatively large amounts of organic plant material occurs from this wetland.
12. Wetland contains flowering plants that are used by nectar-gathering insects.
13. Indications of export are present.
14. High production levels occurring, however, no visible signs of export (assumes export is attenuated).
15. Other

**SEDIMENT/Shoreline Stabilization** — This function considers the effectiveness of a wetland to stabilize streambanks and shorelines against erosion.



**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

1. Indications of erosion or siltation are present.
2. Topographical gradient is present in wetland.
3. Potential sediment sources are present up-slope.
4. Potential sediment sources are present upstream.
5. No distinct shoreline or bank is evident between the waterbody and the wetland or upland.
6. A distinct step between the open waterbody or stream and the adjacent land exists (i.e., sharp bank) with dense roots throughout.
7. Wide wetland (>10') borders watercourse, lake, or pond.
8. High flow velocities in the wetland.
9. The watershed is of sufficient size to produce channelized flow.
10. Open water fetch is present.
11. Boating activity is present.
12. Dense vegetation is bordering watercourse, lake, or pond.
13. High percentage of energy-absorbing emergents and/or shrubs border a watercourse, lake, or pond.
14. Vegetation is comprised of large trees and shrubs that withstand major flood events or erosive incidents and stabilize the shoreline on a large scale (feet).
15. Vegetation is comprised of a dense resilient herbaceous layer that stabilizes sediments and the shoreline on a small scale (inches) during minor flood events or potentially erosive events.
16. Other



**WILDLIFE HABITAT**— This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland to provide habitat for various types and populations of animals typically associated with wetlands and the wetland edge. Both resident and/or migrating species must be considered. Species lists of observed and potential animals should be included in the wetland assessment report.<sup>1</sup>

## CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Wetland is not degraded by human activity.
2. Water quality of the watercourse, pond, or lake associated with this wetland meets or exceeds Class A or B standards.
3. Wetland is not fragmented by development.
4. Upland surrounding this wetland is undeveloped.
5. More than 40% of this wetland edge is bordered by upland wildlife habitat (e.g., brushland, woodland, active farmland, or idle land) at least 500 feet in width.
6. Wetland is contiguous with other wetland systems connected by a watercourse or lake.
7. Wildlife overland access to other wetlands is present.
8. Wildlife food sources are within this wetland or are nearby.
9. Wetland exhibits a high degree of interspersed vegetation classes and/or open water.
10. Two or more islands or inclusions of upland within the wetland are present.
11. Dominant wetland class includes deep or shallow marsh or wooded swamp.
12. More than three acres of shallow permanent open water (less than 6.6 feet deep), including streams in or adjacent to wetland, are present.
13. Density of the wetland vegetation is high.
14. Wetland exhibits a high degree of plant species diversity.
15. Wetland exhibits a high degree of diversity in plant community structure (e.g., tree/shrub/vine/grasses/mosses)
16. Plant/animal indicator species are present. (List species for project)
17. Animal signs observed (tracks, scats, nesting areas, etc.)
18. Seasonal uses vary for wildlife and wetland appears to support varied population diversity/abundance during different seasons.
19. Wetland contains or has potential to contain a high population of insects.
20. Wetland contains or has potential to contain large amphibian populations.
21. Wetland has a high avian utilization or its potential.
22. Indications of less disturbance-tolerant species are present.
23. Signs of wildlife habitat enhancement are present (birdhouses, nesting boxes, food sources, etc.).
24. Other

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<sup>1</sup>In March 1995, a rapid wildlife habitat assessment method was completed by a University of Massachusetts research team with funding and oversight provided by the New England Transportation Consortium. The method is called WEThings (wetland habitat indicators for non-game species). It produces a list of potential wetland-dependent mammal, reptile, and amphibian species that may be present in the wetland. The output is based on observable habitat characteristics documented on the field data form. This method may be used to generate the wildlife species list recommended as backup information to the wetland evaluation form and to augment the considerations. Use of this method should first be coordinated with the Corps project manager. A computer program is also available to expedite this process.



**RECREATION (Consumptive and Non-Consumptive)** — This value considers the suitability of the wetland and associated watercourses to provide recreational opportunities such as hiking, canoeing, boating, fishing, hunting, and other active or passive recreational activities. Consumptive opportunities consume or diminish the plants, animals, or other resources that are intrinsic to the wetland. Non-consumptive opportunities do not consume or diminish these resources of the wetland.

### CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Wetland is part of a recreation area, park, forest, or refuge.
2. Fishing is available within or from the wetland.
3. Hunting is permitted in the wetland.
4. Hiking occurs or has potential to occur within the wetland.
5. Wetland is a valuable wildlife habitat.
6. The watercourse, pond, or lake associated with the wetland is unpolluted.
7. High visual/aesthetic quality of this potential recreation site.
8. Access to water is available at this potential recreation site for boating, canoeing, or fishing.
9. The watercourse associated with this wetland is wide and deep enough to accommodate canoeing and/or non-powered boating.
10. Off-road public parking available at the potential recreation site.
11. Accessibility and travel ease is present at this site.
12. The wetland is within a short drive or safe walk from highly populated public and private areas.
13. Other

**EDUCATIONAL/SCIENTIFIC VALUE** — This value considers the suitability of the wetland as a site for an “outdoor classroom” or as a location for scientific study or research.



### CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Wetland contains or is known to contain threatened, rare, or endangered species.
2. Little or no disturbance is occurring in this wetland.
3. Potential educational site contains a diversity of wetland classes which are accessible or potentially accessible.
4. Potential educational site is undisturbed and natural.
5. Wetland is considered to be a valuable wildlife habitat.
6. Wetland is located within a nature preserve or wildlife management area.
7. Signs of wildlife habitat enhancement present (bird houses, nesting boxes, food sources, etc.).
8. Off-road parking at potential educational site suitable for school bus access in or near wetland.
9. Potential educational site is within safe walking distance or a short drive to schools.
10. Potential educational site is within safe walking distance to other plant communities.
11. Direct access to perennial stream at potential educational site is available.
12. Direct access to pond or lake at potential educational site is available.
13. No known safety hazards exist within the potential educational site.
14. Public access to the potential educational site is controlled.
15. Handicap accessibility is available.
16. Site is currently used for educational or scientific purposes.
17. Other

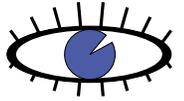


**UNIQUENESS/HERITAGE** — This value considers the effectiveness of the wetland or its associated waterbodies to provide certain special values. These may include archaeological sites, critical habitat for endangered species, its overall health and appearance, its role in the ecological system of the area, its relative importance as a typical wetland class for this geographic location. These functions are clearly valuable wetland attributes relative to aspects of public health, recreation, and habitat diversity.

## CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS

1. Upland surrounding wetland is primarily urban.
2. Upland surrounding wetland is developing rapidly.
3. More than 3 acres of shallow permanent open water (less than 6.6 feet deep), including streams, occur in wetlands.
4. Three or more wetland classes are present.
5. Deep and/or shallow marsh or wooded swamp dominate.
6. High degree of interspersion of vegetation and/or open water occur in this wetland.
7. Well-vegetated stream corridor (15 feet on each side of the stream) occurs in this wetland.
8. Potential educational site is within a short drive or a safe walk from schools.
9. Off-road parking at potential educational site is suitable for school buses.
10. No known safety hazards exist within this potential educational site.
11. Direct access to perennial stream or lake exists at potential educational site.
12. Two or more wetland classes are visible from primary viewing locations.
13. Low-growing wetlands (marshes, scrub-shrub, bogs, open water) are visible from primary viewing locations.
14. Half an acre of open water or 200 feet of stream is visible from the primary viewing locations.
15. Large area of wetland is dominated by flowering plants or plants that turn vibrant colors in different seasons.
16. General appearance of the wetland visible from primary viewing locations is unpolluted and/or undisturbed.
17. Overall view of the wetland is available from the surrounding upland.
18. Quality of the water associated with the wetland is high.
19. Opportunities for wildlife observations are available.
20. Historical buildings are found within the wetland.
21. Presence of pond or pond site and remains of a dam occur within the wetland.
22. Wetland is within 50 yards of the nearest perennial watercourse.
23. Visible stone or earthen foundations, berms, dams, standing structures, or associated features occur within the wetland.
24. Wetland contains critical habitat for a state- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species.
25. Wetland is known to be a study site for scientific research.
26. Wetland is a natural landmark or recognized by the state natural heritage inventory authority as an exemplary natural community.
27. Wetland has local significance because it serves several functional values.
28. Wetland has local significance because it has biological, geological, or other features that are locally rare or unique.
29. Wetland is known to contain an important archaeological site.
30. Wetland is hydrologically connected to a state or federally designated scenic river.
31. Wetland is located in an area experiencing a high wetland loss rate.
32. Other

**VISUAL QUALITY/AESTHETICS** — This value considers the visual and aesthetic quality or usefulness of the wetland.



**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

1. Multiple wetland classes are visible from primary viewing locations.
2. Emergent marsh and/or open water are visible from primary viewing locations.
3. A diversity of vegetative species is visible from primary viewing locations.
4. Wetland is dominated by flowering plants or plants that turn vibrant colors in different seasons.
5. Land use surrounding the wetland is undeveloped as seen from primary viewing locations.
6. Visible surrounding land use form contrasts with wetland.
7. Wetland views absent of trash, debris, and signs of disturbance.
8. Wetland is considered to be a valuable wildlife habitat.
9. Wetland is easily accessed.
10. Low noise level at primary viewing locations.
11. Unpleasant odors absent at primary viewing locations.
12. Relatively unobstructed sight line exists through wetland.
13. Other

**ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT** — This value considers the suitability of the wetland to support threatened or endangered species.

**ES**

**CONSIDERATIONS/QUALIFIERS**

1. Wetland contains or is known to contain threatened or endangered species.
2. Wetland contains critical habitat for a state or federally listed threatened or endangered species.

APPENDIX C

Supporting Maps and Figures



### Legend

- Points
- Salt Marsh
- ▭ Investigation Area
- - - Highest Observable Tide Reference Line
- Coastal Wetland
- Ephemeral Stream - Center Line

National Wetlands Inventory Plus

Wetland Type

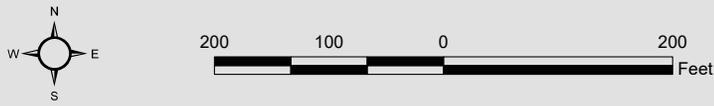
- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels

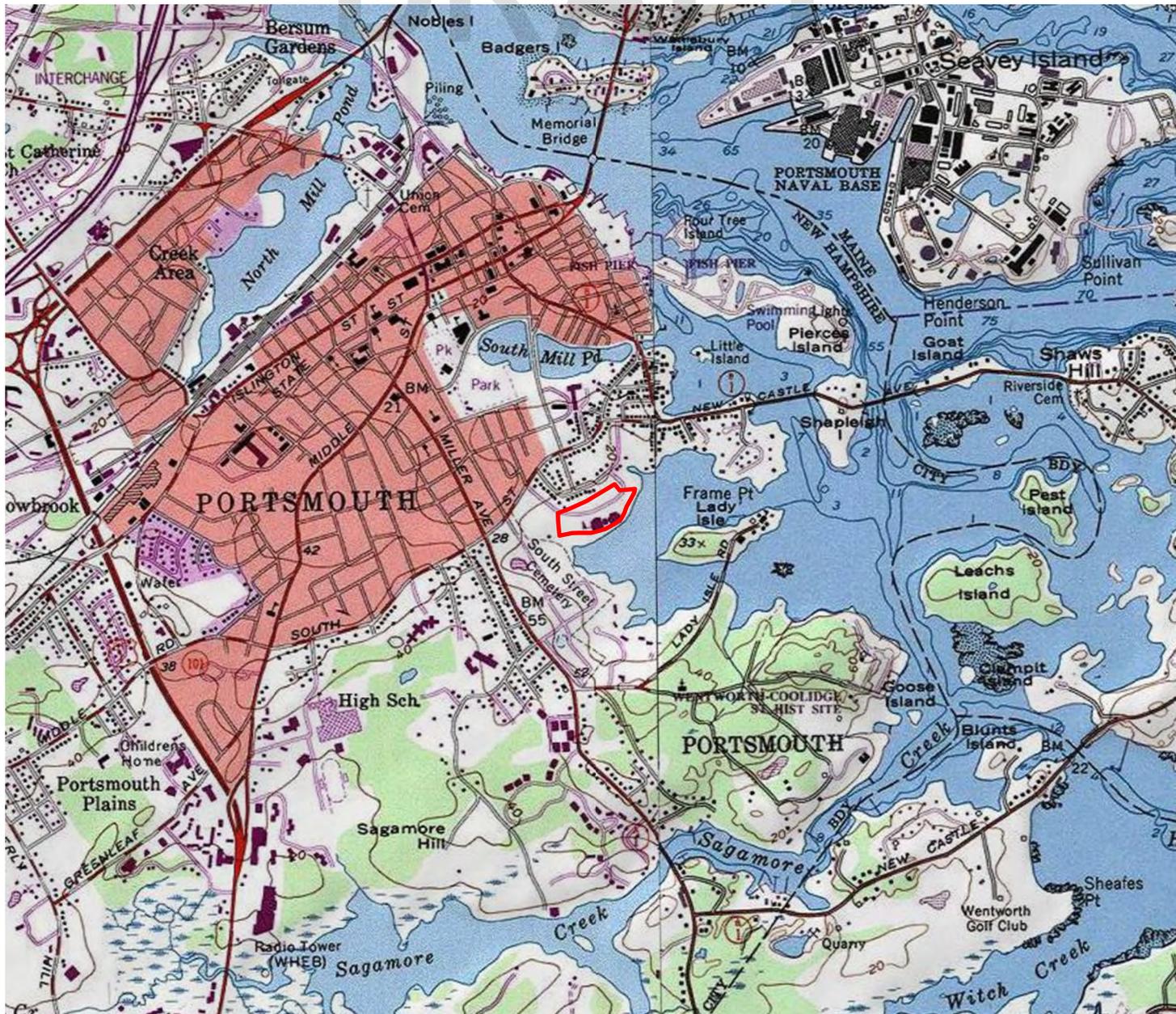
**FIGURE 1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wetlands Field Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

 Investigation Area

**FIGURE 2**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

USGS Locus Map

Weston & Sampson



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- National Flood Hazard Zones
  -  1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Regulatory Floodway
  -  Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
  -  0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
  -  Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee
  -  Area with Risk Due to Levee
- NH DOT Roads

**FIGURE 3**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

FEMA Map

Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA Microsoft, Vantor





**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
-  Designated Rivers 24K
-  Designated River Corridor
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

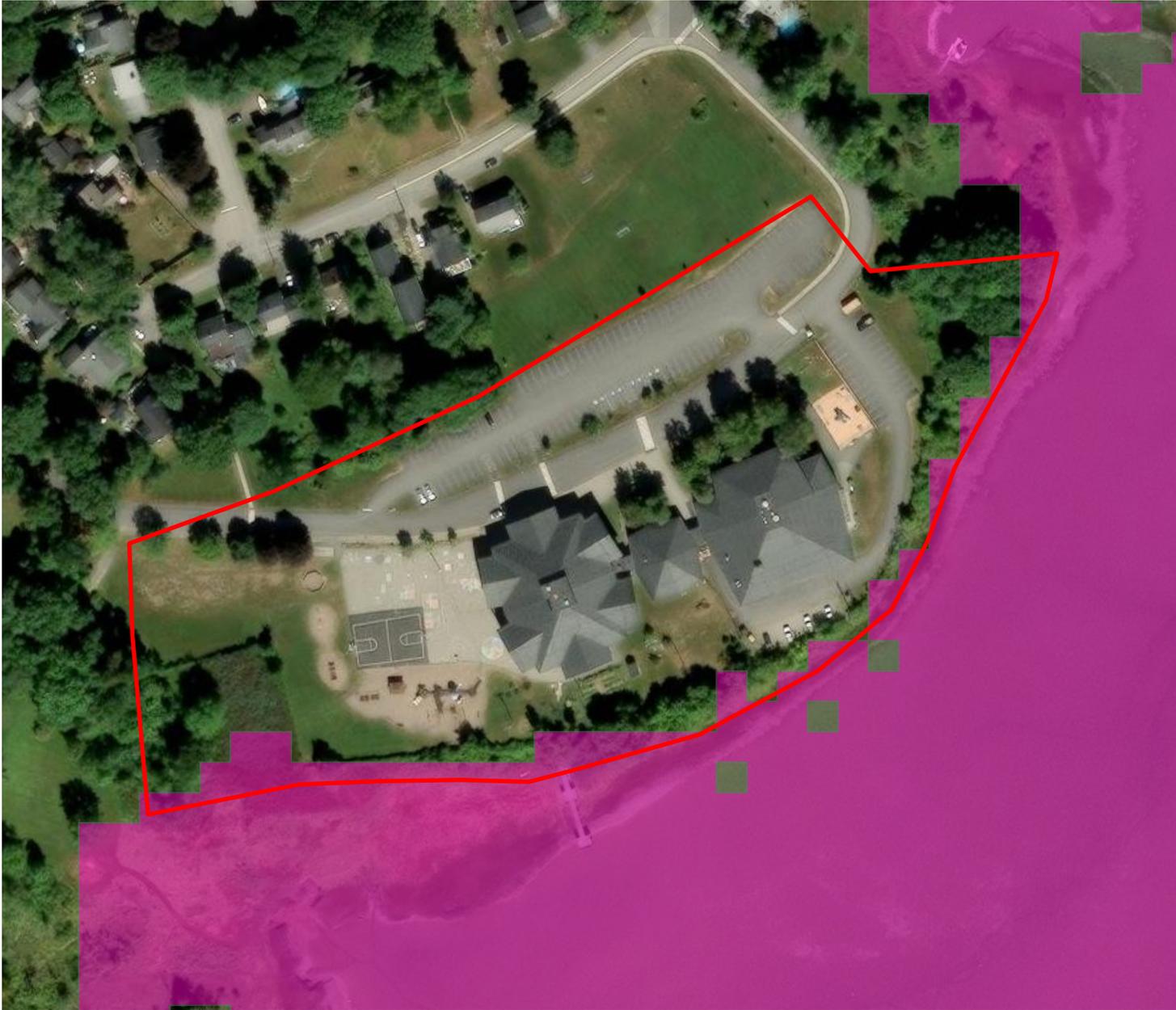
**FIGURE 4.1**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Designated River Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Microsoft, Vantor



**Legend**

-  Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat
  -  1 Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire
  -  2 Highest Ranked Habitat in Biological Region
  -  3 Supporting Landscapes
-  NH DOT Roads
-  NH Parcels
-  New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.2**  
Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH  
Wildlife Action Plan  
Highest Rank Habitat Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor



DRAFT



**Legend**

- Investigation Area
- NH Wildlife Action Plan 2020 - Habitat Land Cover
  - Alpine
  - Appalachian oak-pine
  - Cliff and Talus
  - Coastal island
  - Developed Impervious
  - Developed or Barren land
  - Dune
  - Floodplain forest
  - Grassland
  - Hemlock-hardwood-pine
  - High-elevation spruce-fir
  - Lowland spruce-fir
  - Northern hardwood-conifer
  - Northern swamp
  - Open water
  - Peatland
  - Pine barren
  - Rocky ridge
  - Salt marsh
  - Sand/Gravel
  - Temperate swamp
  - Wet meadow/shrub wetland
- NH DOT Roads
- NH Parcels
- New Hampshire Political Boundaries

**FIGURE 4.3**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Wildlife Action Plan  
Habitat Land Cover Map



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop Vantor

# DRAFT

### Legend

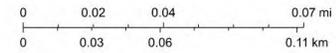
 Investigation Area

Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_PRA



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-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
-  City/Town
-  Parcels
-  Flood Plain Wetlands Adjacent to Tier 3 Streams
-  Tidal Wetlands
-  Brackish Marsh
-  High Marsh, *J. gerardii*
-  High Marsh, *S. patens* / *D. spicata*
-  Low Marsh
-  Mudflat
-  *Phragmites australis*
-  Recently Flooded Forest
-  Short form *S. alterniflora*
-  Terrestrial border
-  NH 2021 2022 6in RGB
-  Red: Band\_1
-  Green: Band\_2
-  Blue: Band\_3



 Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axionatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

**FIGURE 4.4**

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map



# DRAFT

### Legend

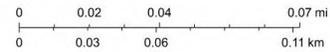
 Investigation Area

### Map by NH DES OneStop Data Mapper\_Prime Wetlands



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-  ArcGIS World Geocoding Service
  -  City/Town
  -  Parcels
  -  Prime Wetlands
  -  Prime Wetlands with 100ft Buffer
  -  Red: Band\_1
  -  Green: Band\_2
  -  Blue: Band\_3
- NH 2021 2022 6in RGB



Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, NHDRA, Axiomatic, Inc.



Data Source: NH GRANIT, NHDES OneStop, FEMA

### FIGURE 4.5

Little Harbor School  
Portsmouth NH

Priority Resource Area Map  
Prime Wetlands

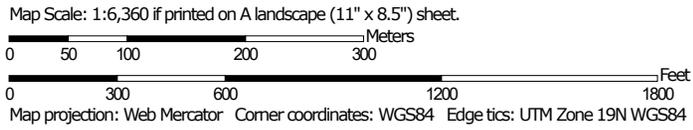


# DRAFT

## Soil Map—Rockingham County, New Hampshire



Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.



## MAP LEGEND

### Area of Interest (AOI)

 Area of Interest (AOI)

### Soils

 Soil Map Unit Polygons

 Soil Map Unit Lines

 Soil Map Unit Points

### Special Point Features



Blowout



Borrow Pit



Clay Spot



Closed Depression



Gravel Pit



Gravelly Spot



Landfill



Lava Flow



Marsh or swamp



Mine or Quarry



Miscellaneous Water



Perennial Water



Rock Outcrop



Saline Spot



Sandy Spot



Severely Eroded Spot



Sinkhole



Slide or Slip



Sodic Spot



Spoil Area



Stony Spot



Very Stony Spot



Wet Spot



Other



Special Line Features

### Water Features



Streams and Canals

### Transportation



Rails



Interstate Highways



US Routes



Major Roads



Local Roads

### Background



Aerial Photography

## MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL:  
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Rockingham County, New Hampshire  
Survey Area Data: Version 28, Sep 9, 2025

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Jun 19, 2020—Sep 20, 2020

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

# DRAFT

## Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
33A	Scitico silt loam, 0 to 5 percent slopes	5.2	3.0%
140B	Chatfield-Hollis-Canton complex, 0 to 8 percent slopes, rocky	5.9	3.4%
299	Udorthents, smoothed	22.4	13.0%
597	Westbrook mucky peat, 0 to 2 percent slopes, very frequently flooded	1.3	0.7%
799	Urban land-Canton complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	89.2	51.9%
W	Water	47.9	27.9%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>		<b>171.9</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX J

## Bonded Rubber Outdoor Surfacing Maintenance Plan

### Little Harbour School & The Portsmouth Early Education Program Playgrounds

#### 1. Routine Monthly Maintenance

Sweep, vacuum, blow, or hose off entire surface to remove any loose debris such as sand, dirt, leaves, tree sap, chewing gum, bird droppings, scuff marks, etc. Repeat as needed.

A pressure washer may be used in accordance with the equipment recommendations and technical guidelines as stated in this document. Please contact No Fault Surfaces for complete technical guidelines and equipment recommendations regarding pressure washers.

#### No Fault Surfaces

6750 Exchequer Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Technical Support at 800-232-7766

#### 2. Isolated Stains

On heavily stained isolated spots, while surface is still damp from hosing, apply a sufficient amount for adequate coverage of full strength all-purpose cleaner; using a hand-held spray bottle, scrub thoroughly with a 10" medium basine bristle scrub brush. Repeat as needed on extremely tough stains.

#### 3. General Area Cleaning

While surface is still damp from hosing, apply a mixture of full strength all purpose cleaner and water using a garden pump sprayer to a small area; be sure to follow directions for use on the cleaner you choose from your local supplier. Scrub using the basine 10" medium bristle scrub brush. Repeat as needed. Once the entire surface area has been cleaned, rinse thoroughly using a garden hose with nozzle attachment.

#### 4. Inspection & Maintenance

1. Perform cleaning during early morning or late afternoon so that your cleaner will have time to react without evaporating.
2. Area to be cleaned must be slightly damp prior to applying cleansing solution.
3. Clean only a small area at a time making sure it is thoroughly scrubbed to eliminate the possibility of dirty spots and/or streaking caused by areas missed while scrubbing.
4. It shall be at the City of Portsmouth's discretion whether to remove stains on a less-than-annual basis. The City acknowledges that a stain may become more difficult or even impossible to remove if not addressed immediately. This procedure provides no guarantee of stain removal.

#### 5. Recommended Equipment

1. Broom, Wet/Dry Shop Vac or Blower

2. Garden hose with spray nozzle
3. One 1/2 gallon garden pump sprayer
4. Pressure washer recommended (1500 PSI maximum)
5. All purpose cleaner in hand-held spray bottle (i.e. Formula 409™)
6. Disposable rags
7. Disposable gloves
8. Cleaning & rinsing buckets
9. 10" medium bristle scrub brush
10. JOMAX® House Cleaner and Mildew Killer (manufactured by Zinsser)

## 6. Equipment to Avoid

1. Chlorine Bleach
2. Disinfectants
3. Gasoline
4. Diesel
5. Hydraulic and Lubricating Oils
6. Thinners
7. Mineral Spirits
8. Solvents (including Organic Solvents)
9. Heavily concentrated degreasers (i.e. Grease Lightning & Simple Green)
10. Steel or Hard Plastic Brush on Manual or Electric Cleaning Units

For any questions about this inspection & maintenance plan, please contact:

### **Weston & Sampson Engineers**

1 Washington Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-412-4480

## Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) Maintenance Plan

### Little Harbour School & The Portsmouth Early Education Program Playgrounds

#### 1. Purpose

This maintenance plan establishes procedures for the inspection, upkeep, and replacement of Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) playground surfacing at school district playgrounds. The goal is to ensure safe play conditions, proper impact attenuation, effective drainage, and long-term performance of the playground surface. All maintenance activities shall be performed in accordance with manufacturer recommendations and applicable safety standards.

#### 2. General Maintenance Requirements

Engineered Wood Fiber is a natural material that will settle and shift over time due to weather conditions and playground use. Regular inspection and maintenance are required to maintain proper surface depth, levelness, and drainage, particularly in high-use areas.

#### 3. Routine Inspections and Maintenance

##### 3.1 Weekly Inspections

- Inspect all playground surfacing weekly, with particular attention to high-traffic areas such as beneath swings, slide exits, and climbing equipment.
- Identify areas where EWF has been displaced, compacted, or worn thin.
- Redistribute material as needed to maintain uniform coverage and prevent exposed subsurface areas.
- Remove foreign objects, including fallen branches, toys, debris, or other materials that may become embedded in the surfacing and create potential hazards.
- Use rakes or shovels to move material from low-traffic areas to worn areas as needed.

##### 3.2 Surface Leveling

- Rake the EWF regularly to maintain a level surface and the manufacturer's recommended depth.
- Level surfacing is essential to ensure consistent impact protection throughout the playground.
- Wear mats installed in high-use areas may reduce the frequency of raking; however, transitions between wear mats and surrounding EWF shall remain flush and even.

#### 4. Entrances and Containment Edges

- At playground entrances and along containment borders, maintain the EWF surface so it remains within ¼ inch of the top of the border or adjacent surface.

- Promptly address material displacement in these areas to prevent material loss and uneven conditions.

## 5. Surface Depth Verification and Restoration

### 5.1 Depth Measurement

- In the highest use areas and around equipment footings, periodically excavate to the subsurface or drainage layer to measure EWF depth.
- Ensure the surfacing depth meets or exceeds the required depth for the fall height of the playground equipment or the manufacturer's original recommended depth, whichever is greater.
- Add EWF as necessary, then level, moisten, and compact the material to restore proper performance.

### 5.2 Depth Monitoring

- Markings on equipment supports or containment borders are recommended to assist maintenance staff in visually confirming that required surface depth is being maintained over time.

## 6. Drainage and Performance Monitoring

- Inspect the playground surface regularly to ensure there is no standing water.
- Verify that the subsurface drainage system is functioning properly, as adequate drainage is critical to the longevity and effectiveness of EWF surfacing.
- Address drainage issues promptly to prevent premature material breakdown.

## 7. Periodic Top-Off and Material Management

- Depending on climate, drainage conditions, and frequency of use, EWF surfacing may require topping off with new material approximately every two (2) to five (5) years.
- To evaluate the need for additional material, rake the surface evenly and measure depth at multiple locations, focusing on high-traffic areas.
- If average depth is less than the recommended requirement, additional EWF shall be added to restore the surface to proper thickness.

## 8. Full Replacement Considerations

- Determine the number of inches the surfacing is below the required depth to calculate the amount of new material needed.
- In conditions where EWF remains consistently saturated or waterlogged, partial or complete removal and replacement of the material may be required.
- As a natural wood fiber product, EWF will gradually decompose over time. Once decomposition reduces impact attenuation performance, the material must be replaced to maintain safe playground conditions.

**9. Questions, please contact:**

**Weston & Sampson Engineers**  
1 Washington Street, 10th Floor  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-412-4480

## Rain Garden Maintenance Plan

### Little Harbour School & The Portsmouth Early Education Program Playgrounds

#### 1. Rain Garden Information

Rain Gardens are designed to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff and reduce runoff volume through infiltration. **Maintenance is required** and is extremely important. Sediment and debris must be removed regularly to maintain correct rain garden function.

This document serves as guidance to developing an inspection and maintenance plan.

#### 2. Rain Garden Inspection & Maintenance

The City of Portsmouth or their designee is responsible for completing inspections and conducting maintenance.

At a minimum, rain gardens must be inspected in the **spring** and **fall** of each year (*one inspection a month recommended*). Personnel should be aware of the maintenance plan. It is recommended to consult with the designer and builder to understand the inspection and maintenance needs.

This Maintenance Plan for the location listed above is submitted by the City of Portsmouth to comply with the City's Stormwater Management Code Requirements. Inspection and maintenance records are required to be kept on file for five (5) years and submitted to the City by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. This plan will be attached to the required recorded maintenance agreement.

#### 3. Inspection & Maintenance Checklist (Must be completed in Spring & Fall)

	Clean Rain Garden. Remove any sediment, trash and debris.
	Remove any dead vegetation, trim live vegetation if needed and remove weeds.
	Repair inlet erosion/damage. Inspect bottom of the garden and remove any sediment.
	Loosen, aerate or replace soils to ensure water infiltrates, must infiltrate within 48 hours.
	Paved surfaces draining to garden swept and kept free of sediment and debris.
	Wood mulch replaced or added to keep 3" depth.
	Replace dead plants/vegetation. Water as needed.
	Erosion will be repaired.
	Photos taken.

DRAFT

For any questions about this inspection & maintenance plan, please contact:

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Boston, MA 02108  
617-412-4480

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX K

# DRAFT

## Env-Wt 313.05 Processing of Related Wetlands and Shoreland Permit Applications.

*(a) For the projects listed in (d), below, that require both an EXP or standard permit under RSA 482-A and a shoreland permit under RSA 483-B, the applicant may file the individual permit applications for the project concurrently, with a written request to process the applications together.*

Per Env-Wt 313.05 Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. on behalf of the City of Portsmouth are requesting concurrent processing for the Wetlands and Shoreland submissions for the proposed Little Harbor School Playground Renovations project.

# DRAFT

## APPENDIX L

# DRAFT

SEE ATTACHED FULL SIZE PLANS

## ATTACHMENT 5

## Bonded Rubber Outdoor Surfacing Maintenance Plan

### Little Harbour School & The Portsmouth Early Education Program Playgrounds

#### 1. Routine Monthly Maintenance

Sweep, vacuum, blow, or hose off entire surface to remove any loose debris such as sand, dirt, leaves, tree sap, chewing gum, bird droppings, scuff marks, etc. Repeat as needed.

A pressure washer may be used in accordance with the equipment recommendations and technical guidelines as stated in this document. Please contact No Fault Surfaces for complete technical guidelines and equipment recommendations regarding pressure washers.

#### No Fault Surfaces

6750 Exchequer Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70809  
Technical Support at 800-232-7766

#### 2. Isolated Stains

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#### 5. Recommended Equipment

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2. Garden hose with spray nozzle
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#### **6. Equipment to Avoid**

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	Replace dead plants/vegetation. Water as needed.
	Erosion will be repaired.
	Photos taken.

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## ATTACHMENT 6











































