

March 25th, 2026

Samantha Collins, Chair, Conservation Commission
Rick Chellman, Chair, Planning Board
City of Portsmouth
1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH, 03801



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Concord, NH 03301
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Project Narrative Update
Wetland Conditional Use Permit
Creek Farm – Little Harbor Loop Trail Turnpike
400 Little Harbor Rd, Portsmouth, NH
Tax Map 203, Lot 8

Chair Collins and Chair Chellman,

On behalf of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society), I would like to take this opportunity to provide some additional information and details regarding the wetlands conditional use permit application we have submitted for our trail improvement project at Creek Farm (400 Little Harbor Road). We appreciate the Conservation Commission taking time to review our application and provide feedback during the meeting on March 11th, 2026. The primary questions that were asked by the commission members included why we're seeking to construct a turnpike in this situation, additional design and maintenance details, accessibility considerations, and how this project fits within our larger trail and recreational plans for the property. The following narrative elaborates on the answers I gave to those questions during the March 11th meeting.

Additionally, Commission members requested additional information added to the site plan, that the delineation be reviewed and stamped by the wetland scientist who did the original delineation, copies of our filed State wetland permit, and photo examples of what a turnpike looks like. Please find those items attached, and more information in the following narrative.

Our decision to build a turnpike reflects the most appropriate and cost-effective solution to the primary maintenance problem at this site. Given that the periodically wet trail surface conditions arise from the long-term impacts of significant visitor use over time (compaction), and not due to this site having saturated wetland soils, a turnpike is the most suitable best management practice for this site. A puncheon design or boardwalk

3/25/2026 Project Narrative – Wetland Conditional Use Permit – Creek Farm Turnpike

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would provide no substantial benefits over turnpike construction, and given that pressure treated wood would be needed for long-term structural integrity, would introduce chemicals leached from pressure treated wood into the surrounding soil within the wetland buffer.

A turnpike will also improve drainage at the site in multiple ways that a puncheon would not. Installing the turnpike will break up existing soils that have been compacted by high foot traffic and restore more natural water infiltration. The turnpike itself is designed to facilitate effective drainage by incorporating a base layer of coarse drainage stone with geofabric for long term separation of layers, making the turnpike a functionally permeable surface – more so than existing compacted soils within the trail corridor. Finally, strategically incorporating ditches along portions of the turnpike with ancillary lead-off ditches will help relieve drainage issues in areas where compaction and erosion of the trail surface currently trap water within below-grade depressions. A puncheon, which would be built on top of the existing trail surface, would do little to restore more natural drainage to the site.

Furthermore, building puncheon style bridging would cost as much or more than a turnpike with a much shorter lifespan. A turnpike built with rock retainers is expected to have an indefinite lifespan, requiring simple yearly maintenance of drainage ditches (performed by trained volunteers), and periodic repairs to the turnpike. A puncheon built of pressure treated wood would likely need significant repairs at around 10-15 years (repair/replace decking) and need the entire structure replaced after about 25 years. Built with non pressure-treated wood, the replacement interval is even shorter, at around 10 years. As a conservation organization, we will continue to steward this trail in perpetuity, well beyond the lifespan of several puncheon bridges. We need to invest intentionally in our infrastructure improvements, and prefer not to implement a design that will cost us 4 times as much or more in the long term.

I have attached photos of a professionally built trail turnpike completed in 2020 at our Mt. Major property in Alton, NH by Town 4 Trail Services. This trail was initially very wide and severely eroded, several feet below grade, requiring a far wider and deeper turnpike than we would build at Creek Farm. While the example in the photos is much larger, it should give context to the function and style of what we are building.

Our planned turnpike would be 4-5 feet wide with a 36" finished walking surface and sit only ~8-10" above the existing ground. The revised site plan shows the rough location for the downhill ditches and lead-off ditches, but final locations are based on micro terrain factors and will be field fit during construction. When installed properly, gravel surfaced

turnpikes are intended to become a permanent feature of a trail and blend naturally with the surroundings.

For state permitting of this project, we have reviewed the NH DES permit requirements and have determined that we only need a Trails Notification Statutory-Permit-by-Notification (SPN), rather than a Minimum Impact Expedited Permit (EXP) or Standard Dredge and Fill permit. Please see the attached permit application form and NHDES Ecological Review DataCheck results that we submitted on 3/25/2026.

Joseph Noel, who delineated wetlands on the property in 2020 for the waterline replacement project, returned to the site on 3/20/2026 to confirm that the boundaries of the delineated wetlands have not changed, as well as flag the highest observable tide line of the tidal wetland next to the project site. Please see the attached signed and stamped letter describing his findings, as well as the revised site plan showing the location of the flagged tidal wetland boundary.

In terms of visitor accessibility, our project will substantially increase the year-round accessibility of the trail. While not designed to the specifications of an all-person accessible trail following U.S. Forest Service standards, the existing trail from the Forest Society Education Center out past the work area to the edge of Sagamore Creek is relatively accessible, with gentle grades and few obstacles along its length. Our project addresses the intermittently wet tread surface, which is the most significant obstacle to access along this section of the trail, along with several areas with roots exposed by trail erosion. Trail accessibility advocates, like Enock Glidden of Outdoor Access Solutions, emphasize that modest changes and conscious decisions in trail design, construction or maintenance can considerably improve the accessibility of a trail for many users even where other factors (terrain, cost, etc.) prohibit building a fully accessible all persons trail. Different people living with a range of mobility disabilities are able to navigate different types of obstacles or may have access to different sorts of technological aids. Those factors mean that even incremental improvements to accessibility can still be beneficial to many people with mobility disabilities and, given that this section of trail has fewer barriers to access than many other trails, improvements to accessibility in this location go a long way.

Overall, this project substantially supports our goals of increasing public engagement on the property and providing a high-quality recreational experience for visitors. Maintaining and improving the existing Little Harbor Loop Trail is our primary trail management objective and, at this time, we do not have plans to create additional trails or relocate existing ones. Opportunities may exist in the future to further enhance accessibility along

this trail system, though we currently do not have any immediate plans beyond ongoing maintenance and installing the new trail turnpike. The Forest Society has been actively working to increase public engagement at Creek Farm, including better utilizing our existing trails and increasing programming based at our onsite Education Center. In 2023, we built a new public restroom facility for visitors outside of our Education Center. Last year we also added staff to support our engagement goals, hiring a new Southeast Region Program Manager to help expand educational programming and public engagement at Creek Farm, which this year will include a series of public and private guided walks (including partnering with the Portsmouth Senior Activity Center) among other new programming. We are also continuing existing programming such as our partnerships with the Gundalow Company River Rats summer camp and the Piscataqua Youth Sailing Association. With an ever-increasing program presence at Creek Farm, upgrading this section of the trail significantly supports our programs and is necessary to protect the long-term integrity of the trail.

As the Conservation Commission continues to review our application, I welcome you contact me via email (dsummers@forestsociety.org) with any additional questions you may have. I look forward to meeting with commission members for the site walk we have scheduled for 4/1/2026 and hope it will be a good opportunity to further explain the design details, add context, and discuss other considerations we're incorporating into our project.

Sincerely,
Dylan Summers



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: Dylan Summers Date Submitted: 2/20/2026


Application # (in City's online permitting): _____

Site Address: 400 Little Harbor Rd, Portsmouth, NH Map: 203 Lot: 08

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

<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. (10.1017.21)	ect Narrative page 1 and
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Additional information required for projects proposing greater than 250 square feet of permanent or temporary impacts. (10.1017.22)	Project Narrative page 2 paragraph 2, and 2020 wetland
<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). (10.1017.23)	Project Narrative page 2 - 4.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Balance impervious surface impacts with removal and/or wetland buffer enhancement plan. (10.1017.24)	Project Narrative page 4.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Required Items for Submittal	Item Location (e.g. Page/line or Plan Sheet/Note #)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wetland buffer enhancement plan. (10.1017.25)	Project Narrative page 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Living shoreline strategy provided for tidal wetland and/or tidal buffer impacts. (10.1017.26)	Project Narrative page 4.
<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> (10.1018.10)	Project Narrative page 2, paragraph 1.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vegetated Buffer Strip slope of greater than or equal to 10%. (10.1018.22)	Yes, see site plan.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removal or cutting of vegetation, use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. (10.1018.23/10.1018.24/10.1018.25)	Project Narrative, page 3, criteria 4.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All new pavement within a wetland buffer shall be porous pavement. (10.1018.31)	Not Applicable to Project
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	An application that proposes porous pavement in a wetland buffer shall include a pavement maintenance plan. (10.1018.32)	Not Applicable to Project
<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. (10.1018.40)	See 2020 wetland delineation & functional values assessment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Requested Items for Submittal	Item Location (e.g. Page or Plan Sheet/Note #)
<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 WCUP instruction page for further application instructions.	
<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.	We expect to only need a Expedited Minimum Impact wetland permit.

Applicant's Signature:  Date: 2/22/2026

A photograph showing a dirt trail in a wooded area. A white survey line is stretched across the trail, running from the foreground towards the background. The trail is heavily eroded, with deep ruts and exposed roots. The surrounding area is filled with trees and dense brush, some with bare branches and some with small green leaves. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs. The overall scene depicts a natural area that has been impacted by human activity, likely a proposed turnpike.

Project Area Photo Exhibit 1

Taken from eastern end
of west section of
proposed turnpike,
looking west.
Visible impact on the
right side of the photo
from hikers
circumventing wet trail

Project Area Photo Exhibit 2

Taken from the middle of the eastern section of proposed turnpike, looking west
Visible impact on right side of photo of hikers avoiding wet trail







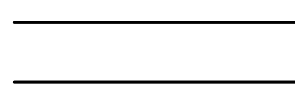

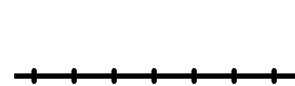








Proposed Trail Turnpike Little Harbor Loop Trail Creek Farm

City of Portsmouth
Wetlands Conditional Use Permit Site Plan
400 Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth, NH
Tax Map 203, Lot 08

Date Submitted: 2/20/2026
Revision: 3/25/2026

Legend

-  Flagged Tidal Wetland Boundary
-  Wetlands
-  25 ft Tidal Wetland Buffer
-  40 ft Vegetated Buffer Strip (No Cut)
-  100 ft Tidal Wetland Buffer
-  100 ft Freshwater Wetland Buffer
-  Little Harbor Loop Trail
-  Turnpike to be constructed
-  Erosion Control (Silt Socks)
-  Downhill side ditch and lead-off ditches (uphill side ditch not shown)
-  Access Road
-  Shrub to be trimmed back
-  Tree near project area
-  2 foot Contour Interval
-  10 foot Index Contour Interval

Scale:
(22"x34") 1 inch = 15 feet (1:180)

Wetland Delineation Note:

The wetland boundary depicted on this plan was delineated/flagged by Joseph W. Noel, NH Certified Wetland Scientist #086 in 2019 and again on March 19, 2026 (only the portion where the trail improvements are planned was reflagged/reviewed). Some of the flags were survey located by Knight Hill Land Surveying Services, Inc. in 2019. The eastern end of the flagging does not appear to have been survey-located in 2019 but follows the same contour line as the survey-located portion. The delineation was conducted in accordance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers document Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, (1987) along with the required Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, (Version 2, January 2012) at the federal level and per NH Code of Administrative Rules Env-Wt 602.23 at the state level. See signed and stamped report dated 3/21/2026 for more information

Prepared By:

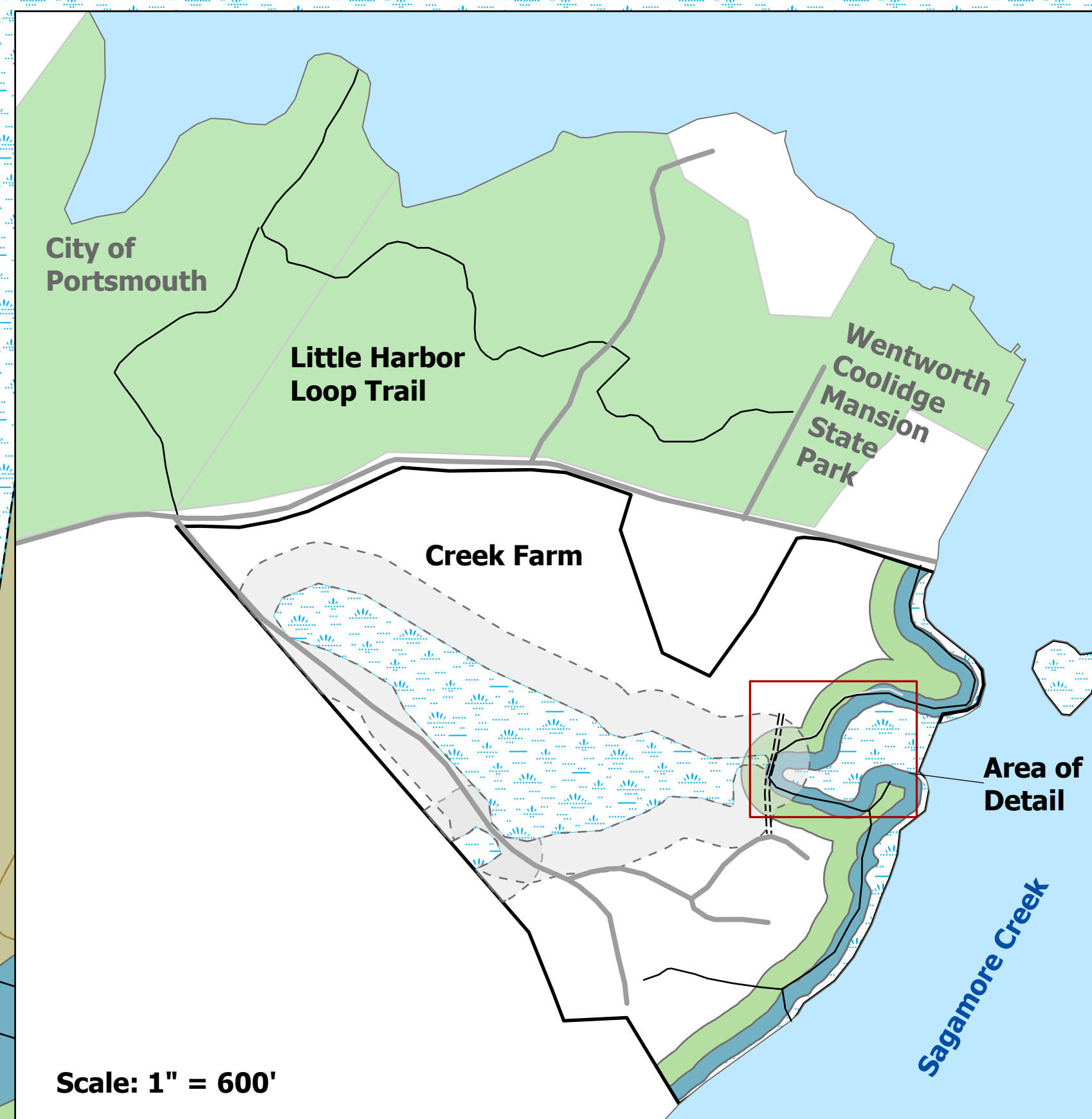
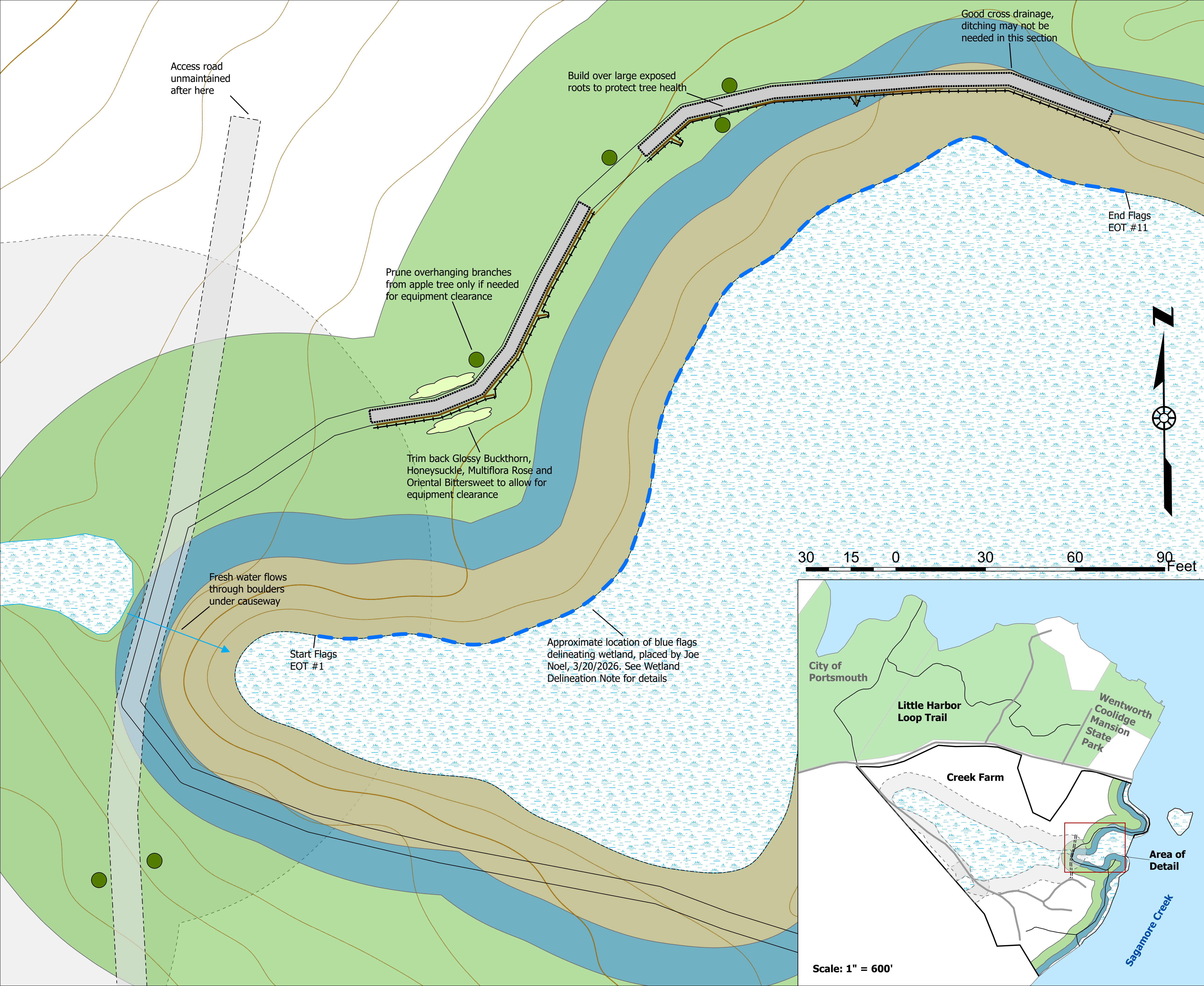
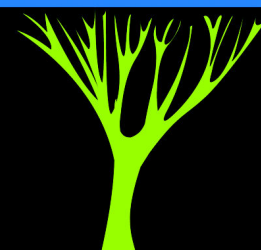
Dylan Summers
Stewardship Project Manager
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
dsommers@forestsociety.org
(603) 224-9945

Owner/Applicant:

Society for the Protection of
New Hampshire Forests

54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH, 03301
(603) 224-9945
www.forestsociety.org

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



Scale: 1" = 600'

Turnpike Example photo 1 - Mount Major, Alton, NH



Turnpike example photo 2 - Mount Major, Alton, NH



JOSEPH W. NOEL
P.O. BOX 174
SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE 03908
(207) 384-5587

CERTIFIED SOIL SCIENTIST * WETLAND SCIENTIST * LICENSED SITE EVALUATOR

March 21, 2026

Mr. Dylan Summers
Stewardship Projects Manager
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

RE: 400 Little Harbor Road, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, JWN #95-445

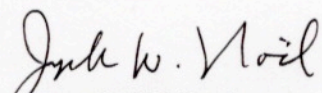
Dear Dylan:

It was a pleasure meeting you on March 19, 2026 at the above-referenced site (known as Creek Farm). You showed me the approximate limits of where the planned Little Harbour Loop trail improvements will occur. These improvements are near the adjacent coastal wetland system (i.e., tidal area). The scope of work only included this limited area where the trail system is being upgraded.

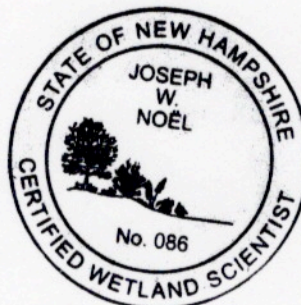
A second visit was made on March 20, 2026 and blue flagging (EOT1 – EOT11) was placed along the highest observable tide line (HOTL). The delineation was done in accordance with NH Code of Administrative Rules Env-Wt 602.23. This boundary was previously flagged by the undersigned on December 13, 2019 using blue flagging and at least a portion of this boundary was located by Knight Hill Land Surveying Services, Inc. The eastern end of the 2026 flagging (i.e., last few flags) may not have been survey-located in 2019 but do follow the same contour line). The approximate location of the EOT1 – EOT11 have been added to the sketch map that you provided for planning purposes. Four of the original 2019 flags (i.e. remaining knots) were observed during the 2026 fieldwork. It appears from the on-site that there are no detectable changes to the wetland boundary. Refer to that attached photo that shows one of the remaining blue flags on a honeysuckle shrub (*Lonicera sp.*). Also noted nearby is a patch of marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*). This shrub is also known as Jesuit's-Bark or High-Tide Bush (refer to attached photo) and its state status is Threatened. No direct impacts will occur where this patch of shrubs is located.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,


Joseph W. Noel

NH Certified Wetland Scientist #086



PHOTOS

400 Little Harbor Road – Portsmouth, New Hampshire

(Photos taken by Joseph W. Noel on March 20, 2026)



Remnant of blue flagging from the 2019 delineation



Photo of a patch of marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*)

Proposed Trail Turnpike Little Harbor Loop Trail Creek Farm

400 Little Harbor Road
Portsmouth, NH
Tax Map 203, Lot 08

City of Portsmouth Wetlands Conditional Use Permit Site Plan

Date Submitted: 2/20/2026

Legend

- - - Highest Observable Tide
- Wetlands
- 100 ft Tidal Wetland Buffer
- 40 ft Vegetated Buffer Strip
- 100 ft Freshwater Wetland Buffer
- Little Harbor Loop Trail
- Turnpike to be constructed
- Erosion Control
- Access Road
- 2 foot Contour Interval
- 10 foot Index Contour Interval

Scale:
(22" x 34") - 1" = 15'
(11" x 17") - 1" = 30'

Prepared By:
Dylan Summers
Stewardship Project Manager
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire
Forests
ds Summers@forestsociety.org
(603) 224-9945

Owner/Applicant:
Society for the
Protection of New
Hampshire Forests

54 Portsmouth St.
Concord, NH, 03301

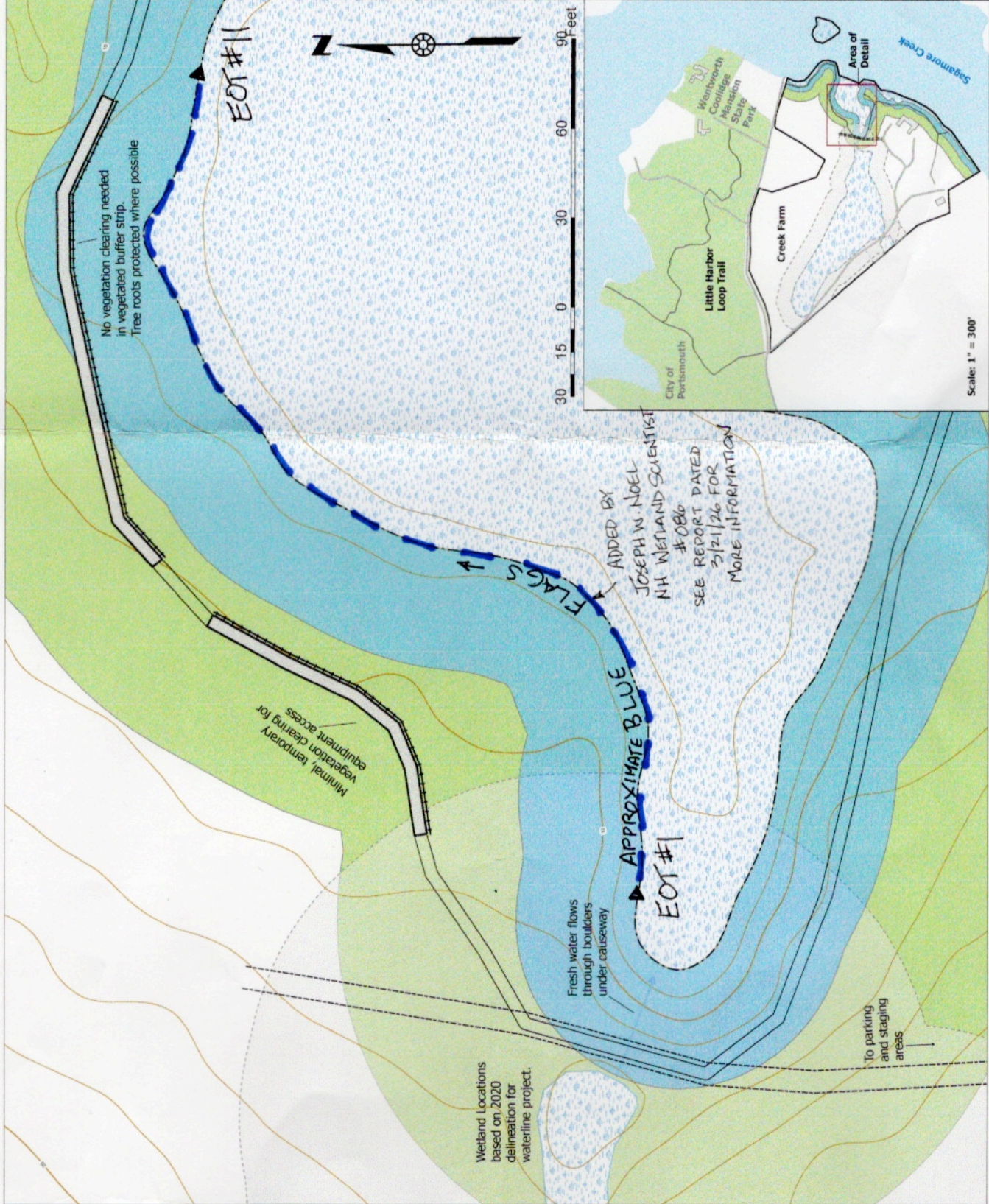
(603) 224-9945

www.forestsociety.org

SOCIETY FOR THE
PROTECTION OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE
FORESTS



SINCE
1901





TRAILS NOTIFICATION STATUTORY PERMIT-BY-NOTIFICATION (SPN)

Water Division / Land Resources Management Program /
Wetlands Bureau
[Check notification status](#)



RSA/Rule: RSA 482-A:3, XII / Env-Wt 308.04(c); Env-Wt 517

Name of organization undertaking activities: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Phone: 603--224-9945
Email: dsummers@forestsociety.org

<i>Administrative use only</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> SPN complete and project as described conforms with all applicable requirements.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SPN incomplete and/or project as described does not conform with all applicable requirements.	
	File number:	Initials:
	Check number:	Amount:

Terms in **bold** are defined in the final pages of this document.

SECTION 1 - PROJECT CRITERIA (Env-Wt 517.08(a))

Is the proposed activity limited to repair and/or replacement of out-of-water components of an existing legal **boardwalk**? Yes No
If you answered "Yes" you do not need a wetlands approval or permit.

Does the project consist only of maintenance, repair or replacement of an existing legal **trail** or pathway where there will be no change in location, configuration, dimensions or construction type and no work will be done in standing or flowing water? Yes No
If you answered "Yes" continue to Section 2. If you answered "No" continue to Section 1A.

SECTION 1A - CRITERIA FOR TRAIL, PATHWAY AND TRAIL BRIDGE PROJECTS (Env-Wt 517.04, Env-Wt 517.06(a))

N/A (not applicable) *If the project involves only a **boardwalk**, check N/A and continue to Section 1B.*

a. Does the project include **wetland** crossings that:

- Impact more than 3,000 square feet per crossing?
- Have a trail width exceeding 20 feet?
- Have a **fill** width that has not been minimized and/or, exceeds 50 feet per crossing when measured at the toe of the trail side slope? Or
- Exceed 60 feet in length per crossing, measured along the centerline of the proposed access way?

Yes No N/A
*If the project does not include a **wetland** crossing, check N/A for "not applicable" and continue to question b.*

b. Does the project impact a **bog, marsh, sand dune, tidal wetland, cedar swamp, or undisturbed tidal buffer zone**? Yes No

c. Does the project jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or habitat, and the person responsible for the SPN project has not obtained recommendations from the NHDES Ecological Review Section regarding the threatened or endangered species or habitat (Env-Wt 407.02(d))? Yes No

d. Is the project located within or adjacent to a **prime wetland** or **duly-established 100-foot buffer**, and no waiver was obtained pursuant to Env-Wt 706? Yes No

irm@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-2147
 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095
des.nh.gov

e. If the project proposes culvert installations crossing a **perennial** or intermittent stream in jurisdictional areas, do the streams crossed have a scoured channel over 8 feet wide, or do the installations meet the bridge criteria of Env-Wt 517.06(a)(6)? Yes No N/A *If the project does not propose culvert installations crossing a **perennial** or intermittent stream in jurisdictional areas, check "N/A" and continue to question f.*

f. Does the project include installation of a new bridge or replacement of an existing bridge where (Env-Wt 517.06(a)(6)):

- Work will be performed in the water or in a **wetland** and/or **fill** will be placed in the water or in a **wetland**.
- Impacts to **banks** of the **watercourse**, including bridge structural supports, will exceed 3,000 square feet per crossing.
- The bridge is in a **prime wetland** or **duly-established 100-foot buffer** and no waiver was obtained pursuant to Env-Wt 706.
- The bridge is in a **bog, marsh, sand dune, or floodplain wetland** adjacent to a tier 3 **watercourse**.
- The project site has been identified as having occurrences of threatened or endangered species or habitat, and the person responsible for the SPN has not obtained recommendations from the NHDES Ecological Review Section regarding the threatened or endangered species or habitat (Env-Wt 407.02(d))?

Yes No

If you answered "Yes" to any questions in Section 1A above, you must use a [Standard Permit Application](#). If you answered "No" to all questions in Section 1A, continue to question g.

g. Will the trail or pathway project:

- Use existing structures and pathways wherever practicable?
- For trails, comply with the [Best Management Practices for Trail Construction and Maintenance](#)?

Yes No N/A *If you answered "No" to question g, you must use a Standard Permit Application.*






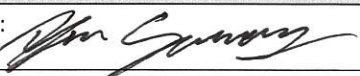
SECTION 1B - CRITERIA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF BOARDWALKS (Env-Wt 517.07(a)) N/A

If the project does not involve a boardwalk, check N/A for "not applicable" and continue to Section 2.

a. Is the proposed **boardwalk** in a non-tidal **wetland** or **surface water** body?
 Yes No *If you answered "No" you must use a Standard Permit Application.*

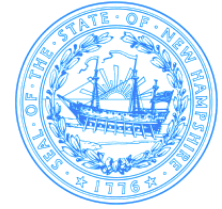
b. Will the **boardwalk** construction have a total area exceeding 3,000 square feet (provided that log foot bridges on trails may have up to 3,000 square feet per crossing), disturb more than 50 linear feet of a **surface water** body, measured along the shoreline of a lake or pond at its bank, and/or have adverse impacts to a marsh, **scrub-shrub wetland** adjacent to a surface waterbody, floodplain **wetland** adjacent to a **watercourse**, cedar **swamps**, or **Priority Resource Areas (PRAs)** except as provided in Env-Wt 407?
 Yes No *If you answered "Yes" to any criteria in question b, you must use a Standard Permit Application.*

c. Will **boardwalk** construction meet design and construction requirements of Env-Wt 517.05 (general conditions)?
 Yes No *If you answered "No" you must use a Standard Permit Application.*

SECTION 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Env-Wt 308.05(a)(2))		
Briefly describe each activity and the location at which it will occur: This project will build 270ft of turnpike along a 300ft section of trail that is frequently wet and muddy, and in the tidal wetland buffer. The project will be completed entirely in the existing trail corridor and will follow best management practices for turnpike construction.		
SECTION 3 - LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY (RSA 482-A:3, XII(b)(3))		
Town: Portsmouth	Tax map / lot number: 203/08	
SECTION 4 - ORGANIZATION UNDERTAKING ACTIVITIES (RSA 482-A:3, XII(b)(1))		
Organization name: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests	Mailing address: 54 Portsmouth St.	
Town or city: Concord	State: NH	ZIP: 03301
SECTION 5 - PROPERTY OWNER(S) (RSA 482-A:3, XII(b)(2))		
Last name, first name, middle initial:	Mailing address: 54 Portsmouth St.	
Town or city: Concord	State: NH	ZIP: 03301
SECTION 6 - ATTACHMENTS <i>Verify that the following attachments are submitted with this form by checking each box.</i>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DataCheck Identification Number: DCT26-0644		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> USGS Topographic Map at original scale with proposed work area locations identified (RSA 482-A:3, XII(b)(4)).		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$25 filing fee. <i>If paying by paper check or money order, payable to "Treasurer - State of NH" (RSA 482-A:3, XII (c)).</i>		
SECTION 7 - REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS FROM AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE		
<i>By initialing each item and signing this application, the authorized representative affirms that (Env-Wt 308.05(b)(2)):</i>		
Initials: 	The project is not located in a Priority Resource Area , except as provided in Env-Wt 407.	
Initials: 	All recommendations of the ecological review section of NHDES have been received.	
Initials: 	The person responsible for the activity is aware of the limits of the SPN and applicable BMPs for the project and will adhere to both.	
<i>By initialing each item and signing this application, the authorized representative certifies that (Env-Wt 311.11(e)):</i>		
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: 	The signer understands that submission of false, incomplete, or misleading information constitutes grounds for NHDES to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deny the application. 2. Revoke any approval that is granted based on the information. 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. 	
SECTION 8 - REQUIRED SIGNATURE (Env-Wt 308.05(b)(2); Env-Wt 311.11)		
Owner signature: 	Print name legibly: Dylan Summers	Date: 3/25/26
Applicant signature, if different from owner:	Print name legibly:	Date:
Agent signature, if applicable:	Print name legibly:	Date:



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

To: Dylan Summers, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301
dsummers@forestsociety.org

From: Ecological Review Section
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

cc:

Date: 03/20/2026 (valid until 03/20/2027)

Re: DataCheck Review by NHDES Ecological Review Section

Permits: MUNICIPAL POR - Portsmouth, NH, NHDES - Wetlands Statutory Permit-by-Notification (PBN)

DCT ID: DCT26-0644

Town: Portsmouth
Location: 400 Little Harbor Road

Project Description: Over the coming Summer or Fall we will be doing maintenance on a 300 foot stretch of the Little Harbor Loop Trail that is muddy and wet for parts of the year. We will be building 270 feet of trail turnpike in this section to address the areas of the trail that are muddy and wet.

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, protected species may be impacted by the proposed work activities. Please carefully read the comments and instructions below for next steps to avoid and minimize impacts.

Plant and Exemplary Natural

Community Comments: If impacts are proposed to occur at or below the highest observable tide line, then an ecological review with NHDES is required, and a \$500 ecological review fee is NOT required. This is because marsh elder (*Iva frutescens*), protected pursuant to RSA 217-A, occurs adjacent to the proposed project area. To request an ecological review and receive conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts, follow the instructions provided below. If no impacts are proposed to occur at or below the highest observable tide line, then there is no need for an ecological review for plants.

Wildlife and Critical Habitat

Comments: No ecological review needed based on provided information.

Ecological Review Instructions

Pursuant to Env-C 804.01, ecological reviews are either required by rule or recommended to comply with RSA 212-A and 217-A. Pursuant to Env-C 804.02, required ecological reviews that meet certain criteria must pay a \$500 fee to request an ecological review.

Instructions regarding how to request an ecological review for plants and/or wildlife are provided below:

When is an Ecological Review for Plants and Exemplary Natural Communities Needed

If this letter includes records of protected plants and/or exemplary natural communities, you may request an Ecological Review from NHDES (see further instructions below).

If no plant or exemplary natural communities are included on this letter, no further plant review is needed.

When is an Ecological Review for Wildlife and Critical Habitat Needed

If this letter includes records of protected wildlife and/or critical habitat, please refer to one of the following next steps:

- a. If your project requires an NHDES permit, authorization, or approval you may request an Ecological Review from NHDES (see further instructions below).
- b. If your project **does not** need an NHDES permit, authorization, or approval, then no ecological review with NHDES is needed. Instead, you can request a review from the New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG) Nongame and Endangered species program. Contact NHFGreview@wildlife.nh.gov or 603-271-2461 to request a review with NHFG.

If no wildlife species or critical habitat are included on this letter, then no further wildlife review is needed.

How to Request an Ecological Review from NHDES

To request an ecological review, access and complete the [Ecological Review Request form](#) found at onlineforms.nh.gov.

Submit the completed form and all required attachments by email, mail, or hand delivery to:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
Attn: Ecological Review Section
P.O. Box 95
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03302-0095
EcologicalReviews@des.nh.gov

For questions about requesting an ecological review, call 603-271-7972.

Federal Compliance

This letter does not constitute compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). There may be federally listed species in New Hampshire that are impacted by your activity 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 or [603-223-2541](tel:603-223-2541)).

Ecological Review Database records:

The following species and habitats may be impacted by the proposed work activities. Please refer to this list when coordinating.

Plant species	State¹	Federal	Notes
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.

¹Codes: "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.

Disclaimer:

DataCheck Tool screening only includes occurrences of protected species and exemplary natural communities that have been documented and verified by state biologists and ecologists. 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, on site surveys are the best way to determine the resources present on your site.

DCT26-0644



Legend

- City/Town
- Site bounds

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

TYPE 2 - STANDARD TURNPIKE WITH FOUNDATION

TYPICAL ID	GEOTEXTILE		RETAINER*		DITCH			FOUNDATION**	
	TYPE	TOP BTM	TYPE	TYPE	LOCATION	DIMENSIONS (INCHES)		TYPE	COMMENTS
TPF-1	G		R		LT	RT	D E F G	FD	

N/A WHEN NOT APPLICABLE
 **FOR TYPICAL RETAINERS SEE SHEET STD_911-03
 **FOR FOUNDATIONS SEE SECTION STD_918

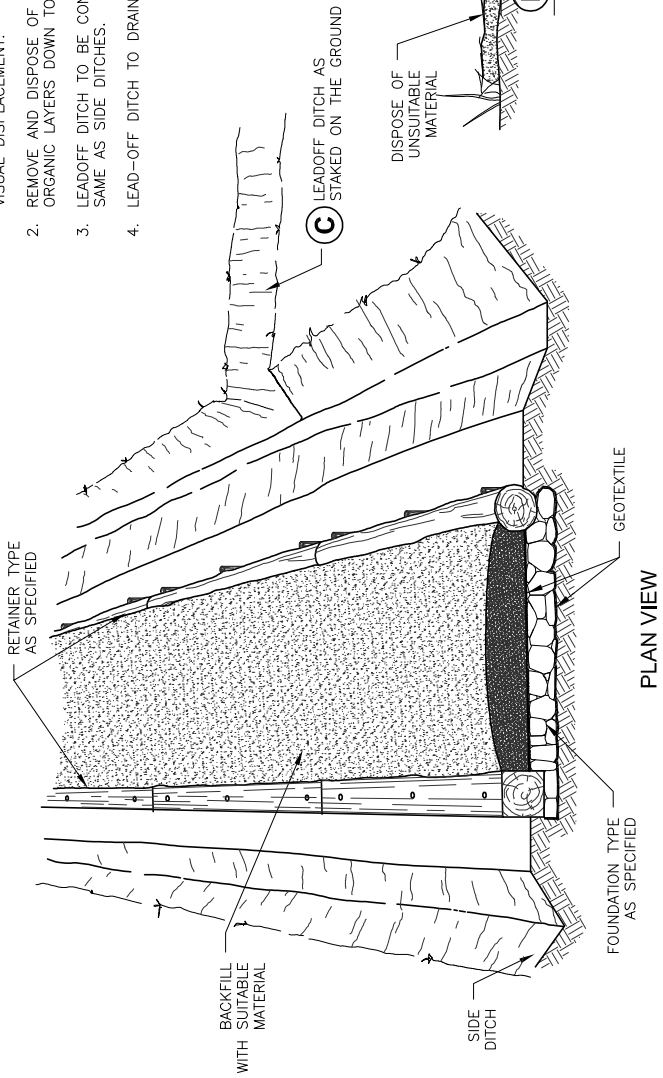
GEOTEXTILE TYPE

TYPE	MATERIAL	COMMENTS
G1	NON-WOVEN	
G2	WOVEN	
G3		

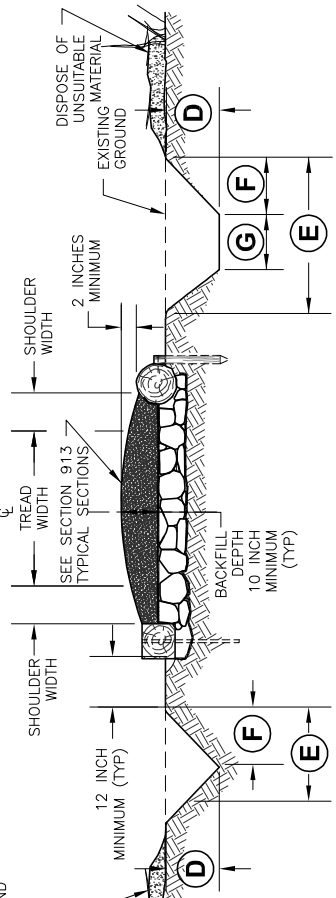
- NOTES:
1. COMPACT BACKFILL IN 6 INCH LIFTS UNTIL NO VISUAL DISPLACEMENT.
 2. REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF DUFF AND TOP ORGANIC LAYERS DOWN TO MINERAL SOIL.
 3. LEADOFF DITCH TO BE CONSTRUCTED THE SAME AS SIDE DITCHES.
 4. LEAD-OFF DITCH TO DRAIN TO DAYLIGHT.

IN-FILL MATERIAL TYPE

TYPE	MATERIAL	ROCK SIZE	GRADATION %	COMMENTS
FD1	AGGREGATE	1 INCH MINUS		
FD2	COARSE ROCK	4 TO 6 INCH		
FD3	HEAVY ROCK	8 INCH +		
FD4				



PLAN VIEW



A "V" DITCH SECTION

B FLAT BOTTOM DITCH SECTION

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 FOREST SERVICE
STANDARD TRAIL PLAN

PROJECT NAME & LOCATION

DRAWING NAME: **TYPE 2 - STANDARD TURNPIKE w/FOUNDATION**
 TYPICAL ID: **TPF**

REVISION DATE: **XX/XX/XX**
 NO SCALE

DRAWING NO. **STD_932-20-01**
 SHEET **1** OF **1**