April 25, 2024

Haverhill Conservation Commission
Haverhill City Hall
4 Summer Street, Room 300
Haverhill, MA 01830

Re: Wildlife Habitat Report
Rosemont Street Bridge over Little River
Haverhill, Massachusetts

Dear Commissioners:

BETA Group, Inc. is submitting this Wildlife Habitat Report in response to Comment 3 of the March 7, 2024 Staff Meeting Notes provided in response to the Notice of Intent for the Rosemont Street Bridge Replacement Project submitted to the Haverhill Conservation Commission.

NHESP Compliance

An NHESP determination that the Project will not adversely affect habitat of state-protected rare wildlife species was received on March 22, 2024. This determination was conditioned on the submission of a Wood Turtle Protection Plan to NHESP for review and approval prior to the start of work to avoid a Take of state-listed species.

A Wood Turtle Protection Plan will be submitted to NHESP for review and approval prior to the start of work. This plan will likely include the installation of turtle exclusion fencing along the limit of work, as well as regular turtle sweeps conducted by a state-approved wildlife biologist. No other rare or endangered species habitat were noted by NHESP as being within the Project limits. This can be provided to the Conservation Commission for review, which could be required through a Special Condition.

Haverhill Rare Species Habitat Review

The following list of Rare and Endangered Species are known to occur within Haverhill:

Table 1: Rare Species known to be present in Haverhill

Common Name	Scientific Name	Taxonomic Group	MESA Status[1]	Most Recently Observed
American Bittersweet	*Celastrus scandens*	Vascular Plant	T	1932
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Bird	T	2020
Blanding's Turtle	*Emydoidea blandingii*	Reptile	T	2021
Blue-spotted Salamander (complex)	*Ambystoma laterale pop. 1*	Amphibian	SC	2021
Brook Floater	*Alasmidonta varicosa*	Mussel	E	Historic
Common Loon	*Gavia immer*	Bird	SC	2018

Eastern Pondmussel	*Ligumia nasuta*	Mussel	SC	2016
Eaton's Beggar-ticks	*Bidens eatonii*	Vascular Plant	E	2004
Least Bittern	*Ixobrychus exilis*	Bird	E	1992
Narrow False Oats	*Trisetum spicatum*	Vascular Plant	E	1914
New England Blazing Star	*Liatris novae-angliae*	Vascular Plant	SC	1932
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Bird	T	2018
Shortnose Sturgeon	*Acipenser brevirostrum*	Fish	E	2011
Tidewater Mucket	*Leptodea ochracea*	Mussel	SC	1992
Vasey's Pondweed	*Potamogeton vaseyi*	Vascular Plant	E	1973
Wood Turtle	*Glyptemys insculpta*	Reptile	SC	2019
Yellow Lampmussel	*Lampsilis cariosa*	Mussel	E	1866
[1]E: Endangered; T:Threatened; SC: Special Concern				

Information taken from https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rare-species-viewer

The only species noted above identified within the Project Area is the Wood Turtle.

Review of the BioMap interactive mapping tool maps shows mapped Aquatic Core, Wetland Core, and Rare Species Core Habitat north of Rosemont Street (Figure 1). Of the inputs driving different Core designations, rare species were the only criteria used to identify Aquatic Core and Wetland Core Habitat. Specific inputs used to determine core habitat components present in the Project area are as follows:

Table 2: Core Habitat Components

Aquatic Core		**Wetland Core**	
Input	**Y/N**	**Input**	**Y/N**
Native Fish Biodiversity	N	Integrity	N
Natural Richness	N	Resilience	N
Rare Species	Y	Rare Species	Y
Anadromous	N	Priority Natural Communities	N
Freshwater Mussels	N	Oxbows	N
Wild Trout	N		
Eastern Brook Trout / Slimy Sculpin	N		
Banded Sunfish / Creek Chubsucker	N		
Two Story Ponds	N		

Supports Fish Growing Conditions	N		

Information taken from BioMap Interactive Mapper

Habitat Enhancements

The Project will improve wildlife migration and provide additional wildlife habitat along the Little River corridor. The proposed bridge widening will provide a natural stream width at the crossing and allow for the inclusion of wildlife passage corridors along the abutments to facilitate movement of both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife under Rosemont Street. This will also facilitate the movement of wildlife between the mapped NHESP and BioMap rare species habitat to the north and Little River Conservation Area to the south. Additionally, a simulated streambed material consistent with the existing streambed will be placed within the proposed River channel to increase aquatic habitat at the crossing. Trees and shrubs will be installed upgradient of the proposed scour protection to provide shading, escape cover and shelter habitat and slopes will be stabilized with a native seed mix to provide pollinator habitat.

Attachments: Figure 1 – Habitat Map
Figure 2 – BioMap

Figure 1
Habitat Map
Rosemont Street Bridge Replacement
Haverhill, MA

Mapped Habitat Legend

- NHESP Certified Vernal Pool
- NHESP Potential Vernal Pool
- NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife
- NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species
- Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- MA DFW Coldwater Fisheries Resources

N
W E
S

0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 150 feet

Data Source: MassGIS USGS Color Ortho Imagery (2014), MassDEP Wetlands (1:12000) (2009), NHESP Potential Vernal Pools (2000), NHESP Certified Vernal Pools, NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (2008), NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Species (2008), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (2009), FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (2014),

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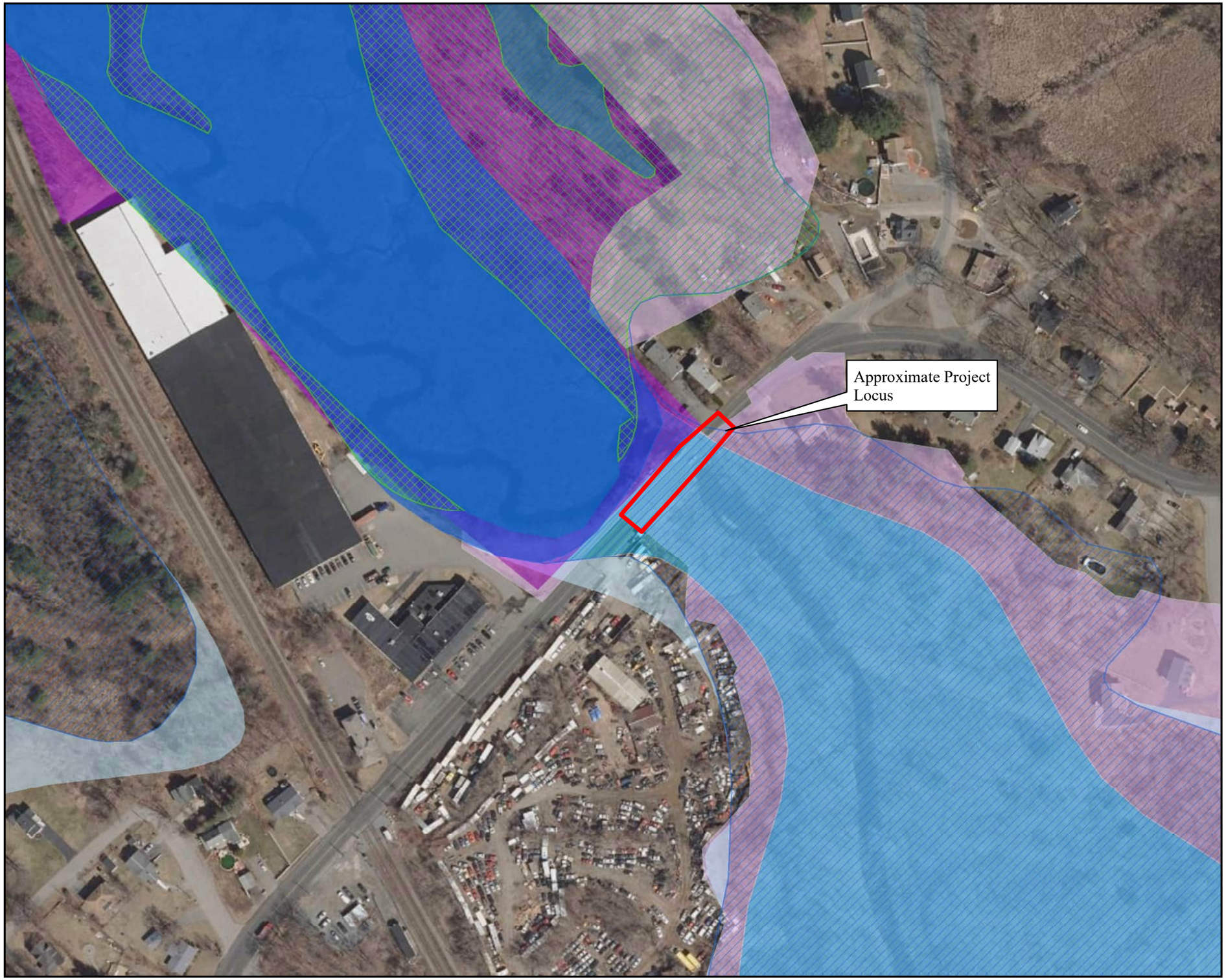
Figure 2
BioMap
Rosemont Street Bridge Replacement
Haverhill, MA



BioMap Core Habitat Legend
- Aquatic Core
- Wetland Core
- Rare Species Core

BioMap Local Components Legend
- Local Aquatic Habitats
- Local Aquatic Habitat Buffers
- Local Rare Species

BioMap Critical Natural Landscape Legend
- Aquatic Core Buffer
- Wetland Core Buffers

N
W E
S

0 150 300 Feet

1 inch = 150 feet

Data Source: MassGIS USGS Color Ortho Imagery (2014), MassDEP Wetlands (1:12000) (2009), NHESP Potential Vernal Pools (2000), NHESP Certified Vernal Pools, NHESP Priority Habitats of Rare Species (2008), NHESP Estimated Habitats of Rare Species (2008), Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (2009), FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (2014),

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