

March 13, 2015

Shukria Wiar, Planner  
Planning Division  
Portland City Hall, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine 04101



Re: Deering Oaks Pond Bottom Replacement – Ravine Improvements  
Request for Plan Revision for Project 2014-096 Level 1 Site Alteration Approval

Dear Shukria:

On behalf of the City of Portland, Woodard & Curran is submitting a request to the Planning Division for approval of a revision to the Deering Oaks Pond Bottom Replacement project. A Level I Site Alteration site plan was approved for the project by the Planning Authority, ID 2014-096, on July 3, 2014. Since that time, landscaping improvement work has been designed in the ravine area located on the western edge of Deering Oaks Pond. The extent of this work is shown on the enclosed plan, and is described in the following letter.

As a result of public comments on the Deering Oaks Pond Bottom Replacement project, the City of Portland's Transportation, Sustainability, & Energy (TSE) Committee requested that the design team pursue improvements to the ravine area of Deering Oaks Pond. The goal was to increase buffer vegetation along the ravine and help stabilize the inslopes of the ravine. In response to the TSE concerns, work proposed in this area will include new plantings, invasive species control and naturalization as shown in detail on the enclosed Schematic Planting Plan.

The work is considered landscape maintenance and has been designed to be consistent with the historical context of the area. The project landscape architect has worked closely with City staff, specifically Jeff Tarling, City Arborist, to ensure that the proposed plantings are appropriate for Deering Oaks Park. A memo from Regina Leonard, the project's landscape architect, describing the proposed work and the historical precedent that has been followed is also enclosed. Both of these documents have been submitted to Deb Andrews in the Historic Preservation Office on March 2, 2015.

The proposed improvements are primarily maintenance work for the ravine area, and there will be no changes to the conditions and standards as addressed in the previous Level I Site Alteration Application:

- Right, Title, & Interest: All work remains within the City of Portland-owned Deering Oaks Pond property.
- Additional Project Approvals: The Pond Bottom Replacement project received approval from the Historic Preservation Board on May 23, 2014. The proposed revisions have been reviewed by Historic Preservation staff, with no concerns identified, and no additional action is required with regards to the Historic Preservation Board Approval. As noted in the original project submission, permits are not required by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the proposed work. No other permit modifications are required for the proposed work.
- Financial & Technical Capacity: *Financial*: The new landscaping work will be completed as part of the Deering Oaks Pond Bottom Improvement Project, funded through an EPA State and Tribal Affairs grant and matching City of Portland funds. *Technical*: The landscaping work has been specified by Regina Leonard, a landscape architect with experience in the City of Portland, along with input and review from City of Portland Arborist, Jeff Tarling.



- Zoning: As with the previously submitted pond bottom improvements, the new landscaping work will be in compliance with the standards of the Recreation and Open Space Zone (Land Use Code Division 8.5).
- Site Plan Standards: The new landscaping improvements will be in compliance with all City of Portland Site Plan Standards. The proposed landscaping work will have no impact on transportation systems, public infrastructure, or public safety; the work will not have a detrimental impact on environmental quality; and the work will be consistent with the City's Deering Oaks Master Plan and the historic resources within Deering Oaks Park.
- Stormwater: The proposed new work will not result in any increase to impervious surface, and thus does not require compliance with the General or Flooding Standards for stormwater. The landscaping work will comply with the Basic Standards. The work will be completed as part of the overall Pond Bottom Improvement project, and erosion and sedimentation control systems will be utilized in compliance with the MaineDEP Erosion Control Best Management Practices, as noted in the original permit application submission.
- Solid Waste: The proposed new work will not result in any increased solid waste production.
- Utilities: The proposed new work will not impact existing utilities or require any new utilities.
- Construction Management Plan: The proposed new work will be completed as part of the Pond Bottom Improvement Project and will follow the construction management plan as outlined in the original permit application.
- Fire Department Review: The proposed new work will not require fire department review.

The work is anticipated to be started in 2015 as part of the previously approved Deering Oaks Pond Bottom Replacement project, with plantings installed in the spring of 2016. We anticipate that as part of this work, the project's landscape architect and City staff may provide field directive for additional plantings on the slopes west of the bridge, using similar plantings to those proposed. In this case, we will contact your office to keep you aware of the additions.

Thank you for your consideration of this modification to our plan. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require further information about the proposed work.

Sincerely,

WOODARD & CURRAN

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lauren Swett".

Lauren Swett, P.E.  
Project Engineer

Enclosures: Level I Site Plan Application  
Schematic Planting Plan, dated February 26, 2015  
Deering Oaks Ravine Plantings Memo, dated February 25, 2015

cc: Michael Farmer, Portland Department of Public Services

PN: 222804.46