

DRAFT

FEMA Environmental Assessment

NEW SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Blunt Park Road, Springfield, MA
DR 1994 MA, Public Assistance Grant Program
December 31, 2015

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
NEW SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CENTER
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACM | Asbestos Containing Material |
| ADA | Americans with Disabilities Act |
| BMP | Best Management Practice |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CAA | Clean Air Act |
| CERCLA | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act |
| C.F.R. | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CMS | Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement |
| CWA | Clean Water Act |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EO | Executive Order |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| FEMA | Federal Emergency Management Agency |
| FIRM | Flood Insurance Rate Map |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| GIS | Geographic Information System |
| JCAHO | Joint Committee on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations |
| LEED | Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design |
| MEMA | Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency |
| MHC | Massachusetts Historic Commission |
| MSA | Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NESHAPS | National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollution |
| NFIP | National Flood Insurance Program |
| NHPA | National Historic Preservation Act |
| NPDES | National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System |
| NPL | National Priority List |
| NRCS | Natural Resources Conservation Service |
| PA | Public Assistance |
| PAL | Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. |
| RCRA | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act |
| SECC | South End Community Center |
| SHPO | State Historic Preservation Officer |
| USACE | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| USEPA | U. S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| USGBC | U.S. Green Building Council |
| USDA | U.S. Department of Agriculture |
| USFWS | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |

1 INTRODUCTION

As a result of damages sustained on June 1, 2011, the President declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This major disaster declaration, referenced as FEMA-1994-DR-MA, authorized the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Public Assistance (PA) grant funding to local governments, state agencies and eligible private non-profit organizations in Massachusetts. The City of Springfield, Massachusetts has applied through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to the FEMA for funding assistance to establish a new Springfield Senior Center (SSC). This Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, and pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. The purpose of an EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of proposed alternatives to a project and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

1.1 DISASTER BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

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

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

The proposed facility would be used for recreation activities, health clinics, community meetings, special events, and other services for the elderly community of Springfield, MA. The new proposed facility would also centralize branches of the current Springfield Senior Center network into a single location. To support this outcome the SSC will require significant space and accessibility for elderly citizens to include parking, recreational areas, program offices, storage, and assembly/meeting space.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the project is to provide improved welfare and community services offered to the senior citizen population of Springfield by centralizing senior centers in the city to a single, unified, and accessible facility. The new facility proposed and subject of this EA will replace numerous existing branches located across the city that have varied accessibility and services due to space and location issues. The need stems from a loss of the location and function at the Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch after the Howard Street Armory suffered severe damages as a result of the June 2011 tornado.

2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1 - THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative the function of the SSC would remain, but the Howard Street Armory location would not be repaired and services would be delivered by separate facilities in their various current branch locations across the City. If this alternative is selected, there would be no change in Blunt Park.

2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2 – BUILD A NEW FACILITY AT BLUNT PARK (PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE)

The ***Proposed Alternative*** is construction of a new two-story 25,000 square foot building to include space for a banquet room, kitchen, library, special events and activities such as dance, billiards, sewing, ceramics, carpentry, music and computer access. The focal point inside the building is a 3,000 sq. ft. banquet room which will host luncheons, special events and a teaching kitchen. The plan also include an outdoor exercise area, formal gardens, and approximately 284 parking spaces. Once this facility is constructed, several branches of the SSC network will be consolidated into this single location. The City would like to begin construction in the spring of 2016 and anticipates that the project will take 18 months to complete.

The project encompasses 8.6 acres of Blunt Park which is in the eastern portion of Springfield between Bay Street and Roosevelt Avenue (Latitude: N42.12417, Longitude: W-72.55147 or UTM Zone 18: 0702393 E, 4666464 N). See topographic map and area of potential effect map at Appendix A; Figures A-1 and A-2. The location is bounded on the south and west by sections of Blunt Park Road and on the southeast by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management facility and parking lot. On the north and east, the project area is bordered by undeveloped woodland and wetlands. A small section of the eastern boundary of the project area crosses a sanitary sewer easement. Only minor cutting and filling or grading is expected at the since the building will be constructed on a location that has a relatively flat surface with little slope. See design plans and photographs at Appendix A; Figure 3a & 3b and Appendix B.

2.3 OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND ELIMINATED

Repair the Howard Street Armory and restore the SSC branch at that location. This Alternative was considered and eliminated since the City determined that the public welfare would not be best served by restoring the damaged facility at it original location. The City also elected to sell the Howard Street Armory to the Blue Tarp reDevelopment LLC, c/o MGM Resorts International so it is no longer feasible to restore the loss of function at the Howard Street Armory.

3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS CONSIDERED

In the following section:

Alternative 1 - The No Action Alternative is not evaluated further since there would be no added adverse effect to the environment if this alternative were chosen.

Alternative 2 – Build a New Facility at Blunt Park (Proposed Alternative) is analyzed for the direct effect the proposed facility will have on the surrounding resources.

Alternative 3 - Repair the Howard Street Armory will not be analyzed in any further sections of this document since the city has determined that the public welfare would not be best served by either restoring the damaged facility or by restoring the function of a damaged facility and the City no longer owns the property.

Table 3-1 summarizes the effects described and analyzed in this chapter. Levels of potential effect are defined as follows:

- * 1 - Negligible: The resource area would not be affected, or changes would be non-detectable or if detected, effects would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory limits.
- * 2 - Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory limits. Mitigation measures may be necessary to reduce potential effects.
- * 3 - Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have localized and potentially regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory limits, but historical conditions would be altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures may be necessary to reduce potential effects.
- * 4 - Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and potentially regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory limits. Mitigation measures to offset the effects would be required to reduce impacts, although long-term changes to the resource would be possible.

**Table 3-1. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES: SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECT,
COORDINATION AND MITIGATION APPLIED**

Geology & Soils

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1 - Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: Local

Mitigation/BMPs: Management & dispose of excavated soils and waste materials in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Comments: Minor grading and soil removal for construction of Multi-Use Facility in previously disturbed soils; minimal impact.

Air Quality

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 2- Minor

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: Temporary, due to increased output of exhaust from construction activity.

Climate Change

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: No Impacts Identified.

Water Quality

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1 - Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: During project construction, sediment & erosion control best management practices shall be used.

Comments: No Impacts Identified.

Floodplains

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: Site is not located within a floodplain.

Wetlands

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 2- Minor

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: No officially mapped wetlands, but wetlands identified during site assessment will be avoided.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: USFWS consulted; Concurrence with Conditions obtained.

Mitigation/BMPs: Tree removal shall be conducted when bats are not expected to be present, such as during the winter months of December and January.

Comments: No adverse impact with adherence to Time of Year tree clearance restriction

Historic Properties and Cultural Resources

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: SHPO Consulted, Concurrence Obtained

Mitigation/BMPs: Unanticipated Discoveries condition added to project grant.

Comments: No Adverse Effect.

Environmental Justice

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: Beneficial Impacts.

Traffic, Safety, and Noise

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: Local construction and road work permitting

Mitigation/BMPs: Conditions include: 1) implementation of proposed traffic safety improvements, 2) work in accordance with OSHA regulations, and 3) limiting constructions hours to limit noise impacts.

Comments: Temporary increase in noise during construction, otherwise noise levels will remain as under current uses.

Cumulative Impacts

Proposed Alternative

IMPACT: 1- Negligible

Agency Coordination/ Permits: N/A

Mitigation/BMPs: N/A

Comments: Negligible impact.

SUMMARY

The **Proposed Alternative** will have No to Minor Changes to resources that could be measurable, but the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory limits. Mitigation measures may be necessary to reduce potential effects.

IN THE FOLLOWING SECTION:

The **No Action Alternative** is not evaluated further since there would be no added adverse effect to the environment if this alternative were chosen.

The **Proposed Alternative** will have direct effect on the project location and is discussed further.

3.1 GEOLOGY & SOILS

As noted in the *Technical Report: Intensive (Locational) Archaeological Survey, Springfield Senior Center, Springfield, MA* (The Public Archaeological Laboratory, PAL Report No. 2907; May 2014), a majority of the site contains unmodified, natural land surfaces including a terrace that varies only a few feet in elevation within the project site. Bedrock beneath the project site, known as the “Portland formation” or “Longmeadow sandstone”, originated as sedimentary material that filled the Connecticut River valley floor. Surficial deposits overlying the bedrock range from a few feet to more than 250 feet thick in the vicinity of the project area. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), soils within the project area have been classified as “Windsor loamy sand on 0 to 3 percent slopes”; a deep and well-drained soil type. See the soils map at Appendix A; Figure A-6.

3.1.1 *Potential Impacts*

None; the **Proposed Alternative** will have no impact to geology or soils. The project will involve only minor grading of previously disturbed soils.

3.1.2 *Need for Mitigation*

The City shall manage and dispose of excavated soils and waste materials in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If hazardous/contaminated materials are discovered during construction, the work shall cease until the City can implement appropriate procedures and secure additional permits if needed.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

The Clean Air Act establishes National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principle air pollutants. These pollutants include: Carbon Monoxide, Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter (PM) with a diameter less than or equal to ten micrometers, PM with a diameter less than 2.5 micrometers, Ozone, and Sulfur Dioxide. Emissions from the Senior Center project could include some, or all, of these pollutants.

3.2.1 *Potential Impacts*

Based on the conclusions of an air quality report for a project of similar size in Springfield, we conclude that the **Proposed Alternative** will have “below de-minimis level” effects on air quality. In that report, KB Environmental Sciences, Inc. concluded that vehicular emissions from a projected increase in traffic

associated with the proposed South End Community Center facility would be below “de-minimis” levels specified in the Clean Air Act and would not likely cause or contribute to a potential Carbon Monoxide exceedance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards; “South End Community Center Project Air Quality Report” (May 22, 2015). There will only be short-term, temporary impacts to air quality during the construction process due to increased output of equipment exhaust.

3.2.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

3.3 CLIMATE CHANGE

CEQ draft NEPA guidance encourages federal agencies to include consideration of effects on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in their evaluation of proposals subject to NEPA documentation (CEQ 2010).

The ***Proposed Alternative*** is designed to comply with Appendix 115.AA of the Massachusetts Building Code which is based on “LEED” (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design); a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices. The City has also consulted with the utility companies to lower the energy demand of the facility and qualify for rebates.

In addition, given the similarity in size and purpose of the ***Proposed Alternative*** to the City’s proposed South End Community Center, the conclusions of the Air Quality Report for that project are relatable to this project. Conclusions in the report documented by KB Environmental Services, Inc. (May 22, 2015) include “below de-minimis level” contribution from vehicular emissions associated with a projected increase in traffic. While there may be a temporary rise in the volume of greenhouse gas due to the running of construction equipment, the volume will be temporary and low.

3.3.1 *Potential Impacts*

The Proposed Alternative will produce a negligible contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change given the size and duration of construction, and a building design that will comply with the Massachusetts Building Energy Code.

3.3.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

3.4 WATER QUALITY

The Clean Water Act provides standards and regulatory authority to control a wide variety of activities that can affect water quality, e.g. discharge of dredged or fill material, point source discharges and non-point source discharges. Regulatory authority is held by a variety of different agencies, e.g. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as determined by the type and location of an activity that may affect water quality.

3.3.3 *Potential Impacts*

The ***Proposed Alternative*** should have virtually no impact on water quality, e.g. from surface water runoff, as long as all applicable state and local permit conditions are followed.

3.3.4 *Need for Mitigation*

During project construction, sediment & erosion control best management practices shall be used.

3.5 FLOODPLAINS

A floodplain is an area of land adjacent to a stream or river that stretches from the banks of its channel to the base of the enclosing valley walls and experiences flooding during periods of high discharge. Executive Order 11988 directs federal agencies to assume leadership in avoiding direct or indirect support of development in the 100 year floodplain.

3.5.1 *Potential Impacts*

None; the **Proposed Alternative** is not in a Special Flood Hazard Area (i.e. 100-year event area). See the floodplain map in Appendix A; Figure A-4.

3.5.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

3.6 WETLANDS

A wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, such that it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem. Executive Order 11990 requires federal agencies to avoid adverse impacts to wetlands to the extent possible. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes a wetland permit program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the state Department of Environmental Protection, and the local Conservation Commission.

There are no wetlands included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory for this location; see the wetlands map in Appendix A; Figure A-5. However, engineering and archaeological survey results have revealed that there are small pockets of wetlands north and east of the project site. The construction of this facility will avoid encroachment into wetland areas identified during initial site assessment, therefore there will be no impacts to wetlands due to the strategy of avoidance.

3.6.1 *Potential Impacts*

The **Proposed Alternative** will have no impact to wetlands within Blunt Park.

3.6.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

3.7 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act serves as the primary federal protection for species and habitat by providing a formal designation and implementing programs through which the conservation of both populations and habitats may be achieved.

Massachusetts is critical habitat for a proposed endangered species, the northern long-eared bat. Habitat for the bat includes mines and caves in the winter and forests in the summer. Tree clearing proposed for 3.9 acres of forested project area required consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

prior to initiation. On September 22, 2015, GZA Environmental, Inc., on behalf of the City of Springfield, initiated the required consultation.

On November 16, 2015, the USFWS provided a response which included a statement that “*There are no known northern long-eared bat occurrences ...in the vicinity of the proposed project.*” Further, “*...the project will not result in direct adverse effects to the northern long-eared bat, because tree clearing is proposed to occur in December and January when bats are not expected to be present.*” A copy of the USFWS correspondence is included in Appendix C; Figure C-2.

3.7.1 *Potential Impacts*

The ***Proposed Alternative*** will have no impact to threatened or endangered species. See the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) Trust Resource Report Appendix C; Figure C-1.

3.7.2 *Need for Mitigation*

Per the USFWS, tree removal shall be conducted when bats are not expected to be present, such as during the winter months of December and January, to ensure no “direct adverse effects” on the northern long-eared bat.

3.8 HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 defines a historic property as “any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register”. Criteria for listing a property on the National Register of Historic Places can be found in 36 C.F.R. Part 60. Cultural properties include a broader category of physical assets, such as archaeological, architectural, and historical properties, that do not meet National Register criteria, but which may have cultural value.

As defined in the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s (ACHP) regulations, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for a project is defined as, the “geographic area or area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character of or use of historical properties, if any such properties exist” (36 CFR 800.16[d]). The APE is based upon the “potential” for effect, which may differ for aboveground resources (historic structures and landscapes) and subsurface resources (archaeological sites). Factors with potential to cause effects include but are not limited to; noise, vibration, visual (setting), traffic, atmosphere, construction, indirect and cumulative.

For the ***Proposed Alternative*** undertaking, the area of potential effect (APE) is the area where construction will take place for the building and parking areas (8.6 acres). This area roughly extends 200 ft. north of the existing parking area for the Environmental Management building along Blunt Park Rd and extends approximately 100 ft. perpendicular to Blunt Park Rd at the easternmost extent (north side parking area). Equipment and material staging can be located on existing paved driveways, roads, and parking lots with minimal environmental and cultural impacts.

There are no above ground historic buildings or structures within or near the project APE. However, Blunt Park is considered archaeologically sensitivity due to the multiple factors: 1) the presence of wetlands immediately adjacent to the project area to the north, 2) access to the Chicopee River within two (2) miles to the north and the Connecticut River within two (2) miles to the southwest, and 3) presence of two (2)

recorded archaeological sites within one (1) mile of the project location (19-HD-51 northeast; 19-HD-81 to the west).

According to the archaeological site form, 19-HD-51 is described as a 6 acre village site historically known as Flagg's Field. Little information was given, but this section of Springfield has been heavily developed within the last half century, one such development with a cul-de-sac is visible directly in the center of the site boundaries. Artifacts found at the site include; clay pipe fragments and soapstone flakes. The archaeological site form for 19-HD-81 indicated that the site was recorded as a village site with accessibility now "probably impossible". This area is heavily developed, located off St. James Ave opposite Oak Grove Cemetery between the road and the railroad tracks.

Based on these reasons, FEMA recommended further archaeological investigation to verify the project location's actual archaeological sensitivity. The City of Springfield hired Public Archaeological Laboratory, Inc. (PAL) to conduct an intensive (Locational) archaeological survey. PAL obtained a permit from Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) on December 31, 2013. In January 2014, PAL sent notifications of the intent for survey to Massachusetts Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah, and the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, no responses were received by PAL. The archaeological site work was performed from April 8-11, 2014; no cultural material or archaeological sites discovered. PAL concluded, and FEMA agreed, that further archaeological investigation of the Senior Center project area was not warranted based on the findings.

On June 17, 2014, FEMA sent the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) a request for concurrence on a determination of "No Adverse Effect". See MHC's June 19, 2014 concurrence in Appendix C, Figure C-3.

3.8.1 Potential Impacts

This project as described will have no effect on historic properties or cultural resources per field investigations and consultation with MHC.

3.8.2 Need for Mitigation

To address the potential for subsurface discoveries of archaeological materials and/or human remains, FEMA will place the following condition on the grant:

In the event of the discovery of archaeological materials and/or human remains, the City and their contractor shall immediately stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The City and their contractor shall secure all human remains discoveries and restrict access to discovery sites. The City and their contractor shall follow the provisions of applicable state laws, including Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 38, section 6 (Discovery of skeletal remains likely to be Native American); Chapter 9, sections 26A (State archaeologist; duties; reservation of lands from sale; cooperation of governmental agencies) & 27C (Projects; notice; adverse effect; review); and Chapter 7, section 38A (Skeletal remains; preservation; excavation; analysis), or any amendments or supplanting laws and regulations. Violation of state law will jeopardize FEMA funding for this project. The City will inform the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (617 - 267-6767), the State Archaeologist (Brona Simon, 617-727-8470), the MEMA Public Assistance Supervisor (Scott Macleod, 508-820-1400) and the FEMA Deputy Regional Environmental Officer (Lydia

Kachadoorian, 857-205-2860). FEMA will consult with the SHPO and Tribes, if remains are of tribal origin. Work in sensitive areas may not resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

3.9 EXECUTIVE ORDER (EO) 12898 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

EO 12898 requires that federal agencies identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations posed by their activities, policies, or programs.

3.9.1 *Potential Impacts*

The **Proposed Alternative** will have a beneficial impact through restoration of the function of the demolished former Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch while also centralizing the other functioning branches in a single, accessible location. The proposed facility will provide programs for the elderly population of the City of Springfield.

3.9.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

3.10 TRAFFIC, SAFETY, AND NOISE

A “traffic operations review” was conducted fall 2015 by Alfred Benesch & Company for the intersection of the Blunt Park Access Road and Roosevelt Avenue; see Appendix C, Figure C-4. The intersection will serve as the primary ingress and egress point for new Senior Center vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Proposed improvements to safely accommodate additional traffic include additional signage, relocation of the traffic signal “stop bar” [painted on the pavement], and adjustment of an existing microwave detector under the Blunt Park Access Road.

3.10.1 *Potential Impacts*

The **Proposed Alternative** will have a negligible impact on traffic density and pattern, but will result in a temporary increase in noise during construction. Otherwise, noise levels will remain as under current uses.

3.10.2 *Need for Mitigation*

During project construction, proposed safety improvement best management practices shall be implemented at the intersection of Blunt Park Access Road and Roosevelt Avenue per design plans.

Construction vehicles and equipment will be stored on site during the project. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Appropriate signage will be posted onsite and in the vicinity.

Construction will take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, state, and federal noise regulations. Idling time shall be limited onsite.

3.11 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are those that result from the incremental effect of the *Proposed Alternative* when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other action (40 C.F.R. 1508.7).

3.11.1 *Potential Impacts*

None identified; the *Proposed Alternative* will have negligible cumulative impacts.

3.11.2 *Need for Mitigation*

None identified.

4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City of Springfield has engaged the public meeting and press conference presentation of the proposed Senior Center at Blunt Park. Appendix C, Figure C-5 contains example documentation of public involvement.

4.1 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PRESS RELEASES

A City Council meeting held on Monday, May 4, 2009 included discussion about centralizing senior center branches to a single location. This City Council Special Committee on Elderly reported that the city did not own a facility that could accommodate the seniors and their needs. A decision was made to publish request for proposals (RFP) for a centralized senior center. This meeting was held prior to the disaster event.

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

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

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

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

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

4.2 PUBLIC ACCESS TO DRAFT DOCUMENTS AND COMMENTS PROVIDED

On [INSERT DATE], electronic copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were made available for viewing online on FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>.

On [INSERT DATE], these draft documents were made available for viewing online on the City's website: <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/cos/>.

On [INSERT DATE], hard/paper copies of these draft documents were made available for viewing in-person at the City of Springfield Office of Procurement located at Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street Room 307, Springfield, MA 01103, Monday through Friday 8:15AM-4:30 PM.

On [INSERT DATE] the City of Springfield provided initial written notice to the public of draft document availability through announcement in [INSERT NAME OF LOCAL NEWSPAPER]. The notice of availability was also published on two subsequent days after the initial written notice in an effort to reach a wider audience.

The public comment period for the draft documents lasted for a period of 15 days from [INSERT INITIAL NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE] until [INSERT DATE 15 DAYS FROM NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION DATE].

FEMA received [the following/no] comments from the public on the content of these documents. [IF COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, FEMA WILL ACCOUNT FOR THE COMMENTS AND PROVIDE RESPONSES].

5 CONCLUSIONS

No significant impacts were identified during FEMA's analysis or during the public comment period. FEMA has updated the EA per comments received by FEMA Regional Counsel on [INSERT DATE]. The Agency has determined that it is reasonable to issue a FONSI with specific conditions for the Proposed Alternative. See Appendix D for a copy of the FONSI signed by Lydia Kachadoorian, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer on [INSERT DATE]. The conditions included in the FONSI will be added to FEMA's Record of Environmental Consideration (REC), which shall be provided to the City of Springfield as part of the grant award package. All of the conditions in the REC and FONSI will become conditions of this FEMA Public Assistance grant; the City of Springfield will be required to comply with these conditions in order to secure and maintain funding eligibility. Compliance with this conditions will be verified during grant close-out in conjunction with MEMA and the City.

FEMA has posted a copy of the final EA on its website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>.

6 LIST OF PREPARERS

This document was prepared & edited by the following FEMA Region 1 staff:

David Robbins, Regional Environmental Officer
Lydia Kachadoorian, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer
Ryan Potosnak, Environmental Protection Specialist
Mary Shanks, Environmental Protection Specialist

7 REFERENCES

- Alfred Benesch & Company, September 3, 2015. Letter to Tom Jenkins, PE of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Regarding Traffic Operations Review for Intersection of Blunt Park Access Road at Roosevelt Avenue
- CEQ, 2010. Memorandum for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies. Subject: Draft NEPA guidance on consideration of the effects of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. Authored by: Nancy H. Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality, February 18, 2010.
- FEMA, 2010. Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Maps, available online at: https://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/info?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1&content=firnetteHelp_A&title=FIRMettes
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- EO 11988. Executive Order No. 11988. Floodplain Management, May 24, 1977. 42 C.F.R. 26951.
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- EO 12898. Executive Order No. 12898. Environmental Justice for Low Income and Minority Populations. 1994. 59 C.F.R. 7629.
- South End Community Center Project Air Quality Report, KB Environmental Services, Inc. (for Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc., May 22, 2015
- The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (Duncan Ritchie), May 2014. Technical Report: Intensive (Locational) Archaeological Survey, Springfield Senior Center, Springfield, MA. Submitted to: Resilire Engineering and Consultants and City of Springfield Parks and Recreation Department.
- 7 U.S.C. 4201 et seq. Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981.

16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Public Law 102 575, as amended.

16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. Endangered Species Act of 1973.

16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006. Public Law 94-265.

33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq. Clean Water Act of 1972.

36 CFR Part 800, Protection of Historic Properties, (incorporating amendments effective August 5, 2004).

40 CFR 50. National Primary & Secondary Ambient Air Quality Standards. 1971 as amended 1998

42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq. Clean Air Act of 1970.

42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Public Law 91-190, as amended.

50 CFR 10.13. Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, as amended.

8 APPENDICES

Appendix A Maps and Figures

- Figure A-1 Topographic Maps
- Figure A-2 Area of Potential Effect Map
- Figure A-3a Project Site Sedimentation & Erosion Control Plan
- Figure A-3b Project Site Grading & Drainage Plan
- Figure A-4 Floodplain Insurance Rate Map
- Figure A-5 Wetlands Map
- Figure A-6 NRCS Soils Map

Appendix B Site Photographs

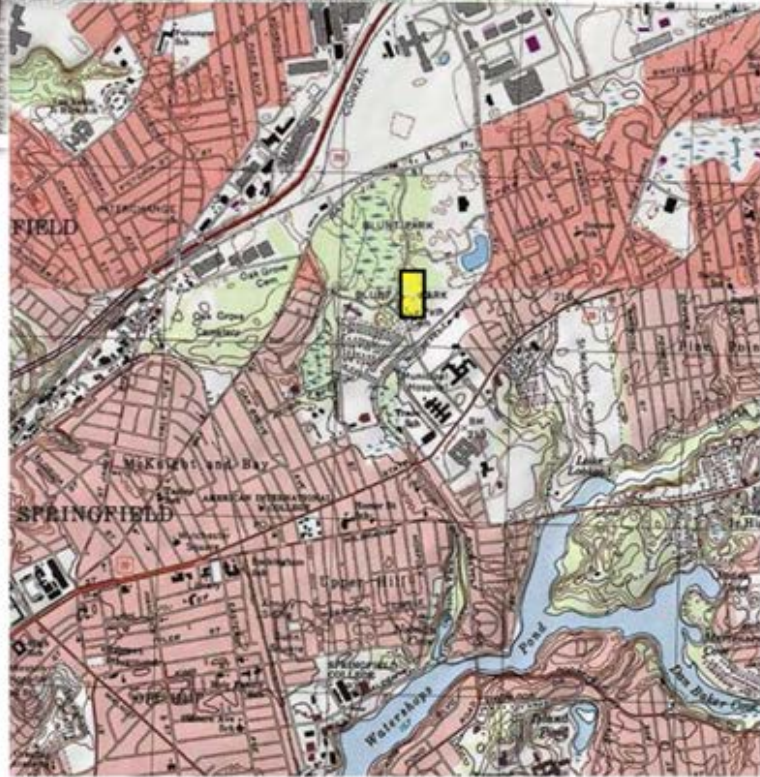
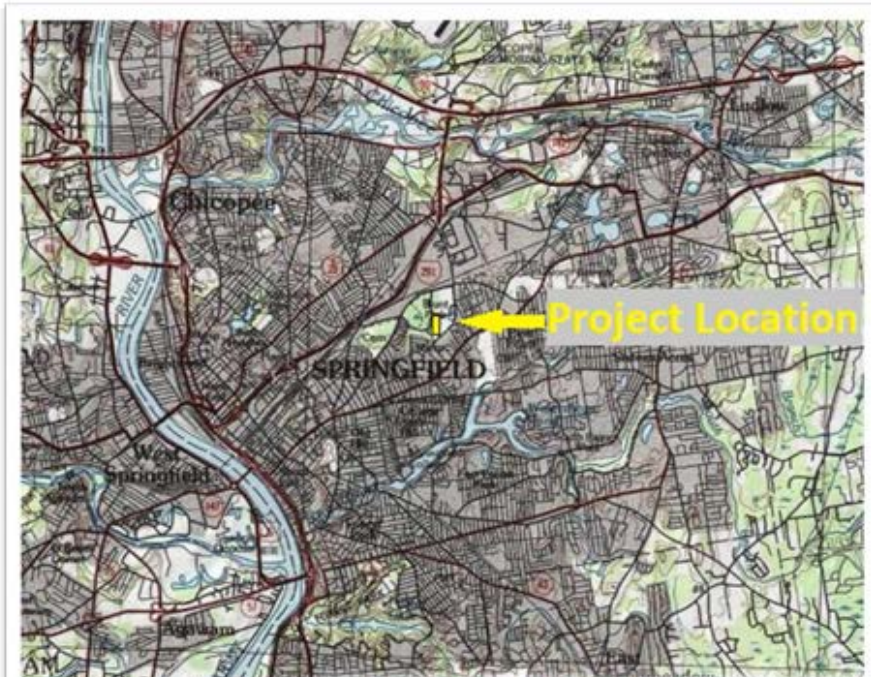
Appendix C Supporting Documentation

- Figure C-1 USFWS Resource Report
- Figure C-2 USFWS Threatened Species Consultation
- Figure C-3 SHPO Consultation & Concurrence
- Figure C-4 Traffic Operations Review
- Figure C-5 Public Involvement

Appendix D Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

APPENDIX A: Maps and Figures

**Appendix A: Figure A-1 Topographic Maps
Springfield, MA Senior Center Project Site Location – Blunt Park**



**Springfield Senior Center
Project Location
Blunt Park, Springfield, MA
Latitude: N 42.12417
Longitude: W -72.55147**

**Appendix A: Figure A-2
Area of Potential Effect Map**

Project Area of Potential Effect; Senior Center, Blunt Park, Springfield, MA



**Project APE including construction site and areas for staging equipment and materials.
New Senior Center proposed at N42.12417 W-72.55147**

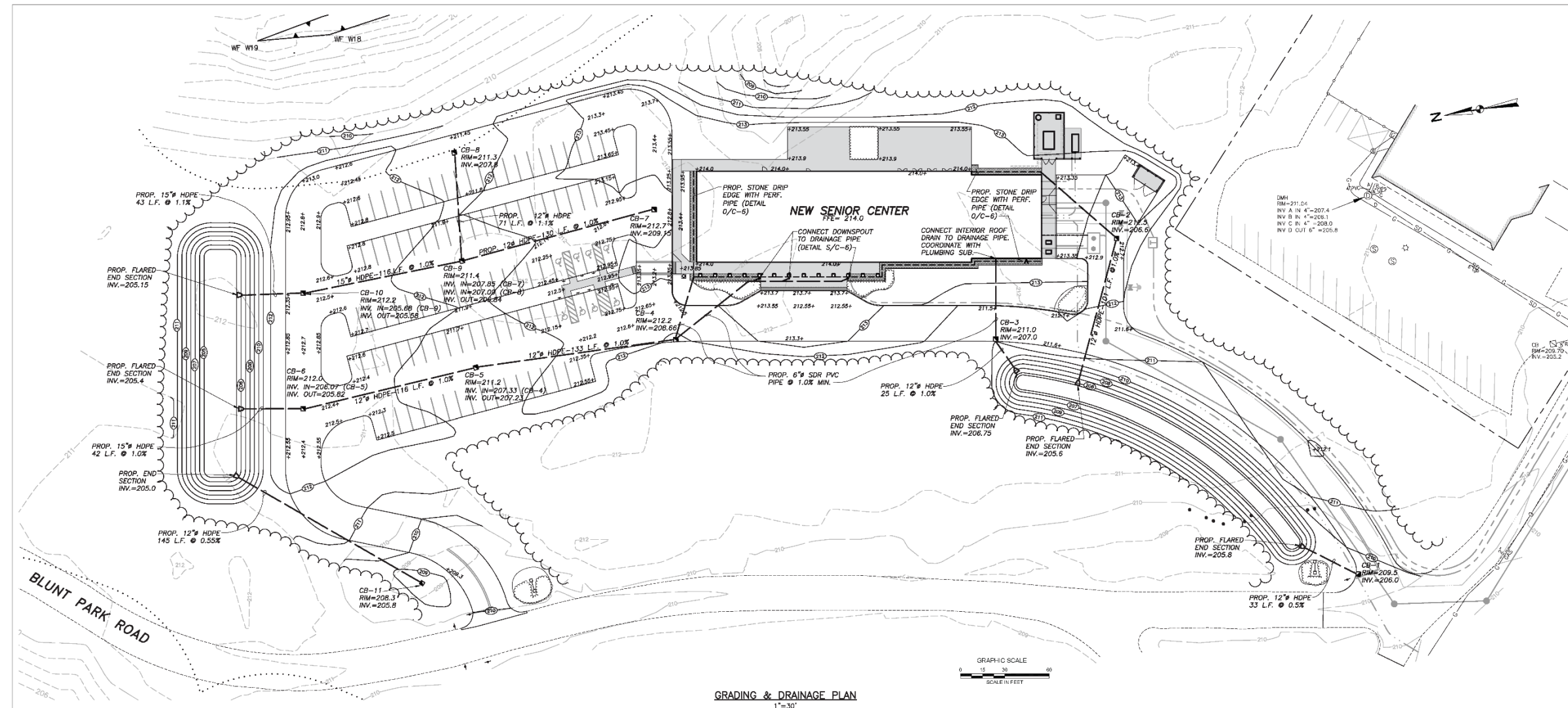
TIMOTHY MURPHY ARCHITECTS
380 HIGH STREET
HOLYOKE, MA 01040

TELEPHONE - 413-532-7464

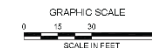
GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
Engineers and Scientists
www.gza.com

ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA
1350 Main Street
Suite 1400
Springfield, MA 01103
413-736-2100

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

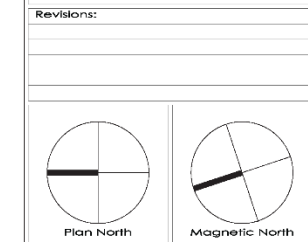


GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN
1"=30'



LEGEND:

- WF W19 WETLAND
- WF W19 WETLAND FLAG
- 100 FT. WETLAND BUFFER
- PROPERTY LINE
- EXISTING 2 FT. CONTOUR
- EXISTING 10 FT. CONTOUR
- EXISTING EDGE OF PAVEMENT
- EXISTING TREE LINE
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING FENCE POSTS
- EXISTING CATCH BASIN
- EXISTING DRAIN MANHOLE
- EXISTING SANITARY MANHOLE
- EXISTING GAS GATE
- EXISTING UTILITY POLE
- EXISTING UTILITY POLE WITH LIGHT
- EXISTING LIGHT POLE
- EXISTING STORM DRAIN
- EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- EXISTING WATER LINE
- EXISTING UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
- EXISTING OVERHEAD WIRES
- PROPOSED LIMIT OF CLEARING
- PROPOSED ORNAMENTAL PRIVACY FENCE
- PROPOSED CONTOUR
- PROPOSED SPOT GRADE
- PROPOSED CATCH BASIN (DETAIL H/C-8)
- PROPOSED DRAIN MANHOLE (DETAIL L/C-8)
- PROPOSED FLARED END SECTION
- PROPOSED HYDRANT
- PROPOSED WATER GATE
- PROPOSED SANITARY MANHOLE
- PROPOSED SITE LIGHTING
- PROPOSED STORMDRAIN
- PROPOSED SANITARY SEWER
- PROPOSED WATER LINE
- PROPOSED GAS LINE
- PROPOSED ELECTRIC LINE
- PROPOSED SEDIMENTATION BARRIER



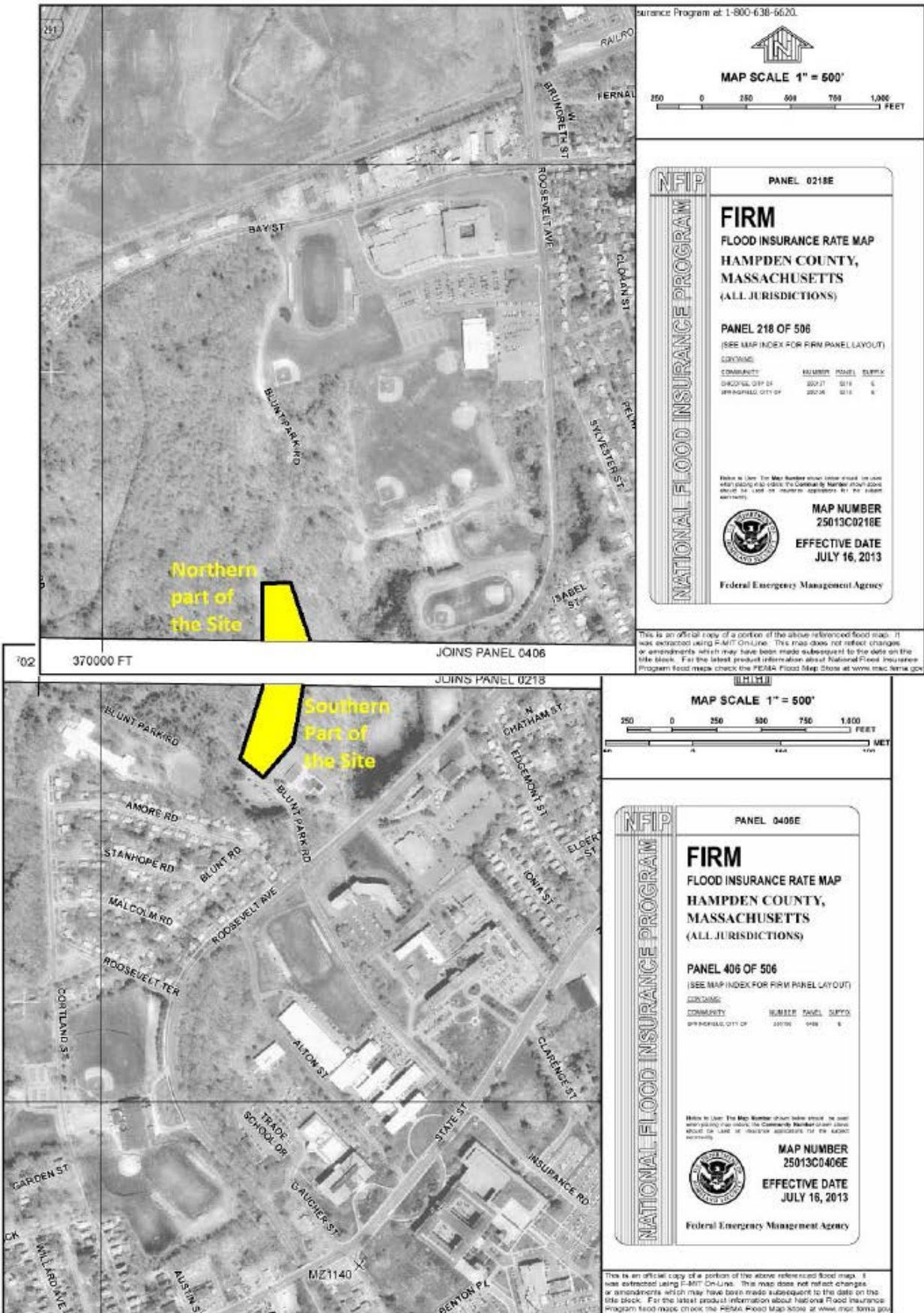
Project: BID NO. 16-060
CITY OF SPRINGFIELD
NEW SENIOR CENTER
AT BLUNT PARK
BLUNT PARK ROAD
SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Sheet Title: GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN

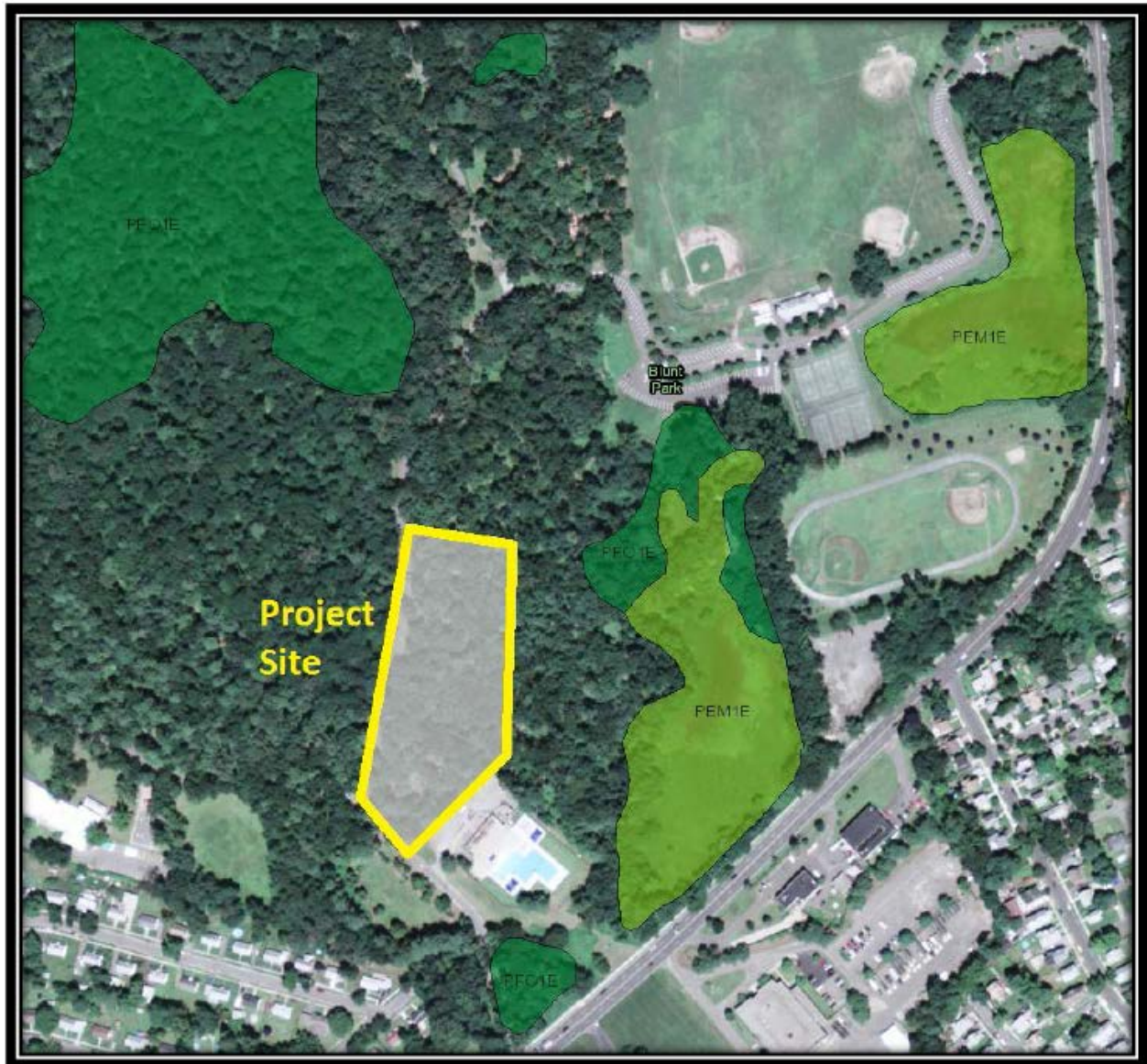
Date: 9/23/2015
Project No.: 2014250
Scale: AS NOTED
Drawn By: ARD

Sheet No.: C-4

**Appendix A: Figure A-4 Floodplain Insurance Rate Maps
Springfield, MASenior Center Project Site – Blunt Park**



**Appendix A: Figure A-5 Wetlands Map
Springfield, MA Senior Center Project Site Location – Blunt Park**



Project Location: N42.12417 W-72.55147

Map Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory
<http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>

**Appendix A: Figure A-6 NRCS Soils Map
Springfield, MA Senior Center Project Site – Blunt Park**



Project Location: N42.12417 W-72.55147

Map Source: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

APPENDIX B:
Site Photographs

Appendix B: Photos – Proposed Springfield Senior Center Site Location
Blunt Park, Springfield, MA; Hampden County;
UTM Zone 18: 0702393 E, 4666464 N FEMA DR 1994 PW 289



Figure 1 Parking Area; western boundary of project site, April 2014



Figure 2: Wetlands in the eastern portion of the site; April 2014



Figure 3: Typical Site Conditions; April 2014



Figure 4: Unpaved Foot Path; April 2014

APPENDIX C:
Supporting Documents

Springfield Senior Center at Blunt Park

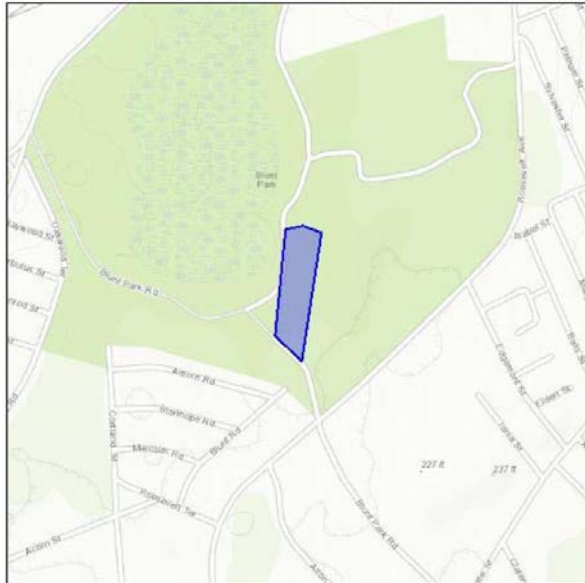
IPaC Trust Resource Report

Generated December 31, 2016 11:09 AM MST, IPaC v2.3.2

This report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts. For project reviews that require U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service review or concurrence, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents page.



US Fish & Wildlife Service
IPaC Trust Resource Report



NAME

Springfield Senior Center at Blunt Park

LOCATION

Hampden County, Massachusetts

DESCRIPTION

1492 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA; 25,000 sqft two-story building to house a new Senior Center; construction begins Spring 2016

IPAC LINK

<http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/project/K4X6N-K66MJ-B4XOH-HGCB3-BVMSA4>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Contact Information

Trust resources in this location are managed by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
(603) 223-2541

Endangered Species

Proposed, candidate, threatened, and endangered species are managed by the [Endangered Species Program](#) of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

This USFWS trust resource report is for informational purposes only and should not be used for planning or analyzing project level impacts.

For project evaluations that require FWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list from the Regulatory Documents section.

[Section 7](#) of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency.

A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list from the Regulatory Documents section in IPaC.

There are no endangered species in this location

Critical Habitats

There are no critical habitats in this location

Migratory Birds

Birds are protected by the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#) and the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#).

Any activity which results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ([1](#)). There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concer.php>
- Conservation measures for birds
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Year-round bird occurrence data
<http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/akn-histogram-tools.php>

The following species of migratory birds could potentially be affected by activities in this location:

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0F3 | |
| Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Year-round https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B008 | |
| Black-billed Cuckoo <i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HI | |
| Blue-winged Warbler <i>Vermivora pinus</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Season: Breeding | |
| Canada Warbler <i>Wilsonia Canadensis</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Season: Breeding | |
| Fox Sparrow <i>Passerella iliaca</i> | Bird of conservation concern |
| Season: Wintering | |
| Least Bittern <i>Ixobrychus exilis</i> | Bird of conservation concern |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i> Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0AN | Bird of conservation concern |
| Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i> Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0FU | Bird of conservation concern |
| Pied-billed Grebe <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> Year-round | Bird of conservation concern |
| Prairie Warbler <i>Dendroica discolor</i> Season: Breeding | Bird of conservation concern |
| Purple Sandpiper <i>Calidris maritima</i> Season: Wintering | Bird of conservation concern |
| Short-eared Owl <i>Asio flammeus</i> Season: Wintering https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HD | Bird of conservation concern |
| Upland Sandpiper <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0HC | Bird of conservation concern |
| Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i> Season: Breeding https://ecos.fws.gov/tess_public/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B0F6 | Bird of conservation concern |
| Wood Thrush <i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> Season: Breeding | Bird of conservation concern |
| Worm Eating Warbler <i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i> Season: Breeding | Bird of conservation concern |

Refuges

Any activity proposed on [National Wildlife Refuge](#) lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuges in this location

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

DATA LIMITATIONS

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

DATA EXCLUSIONS

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

DATA PRECAUTIONS

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

There are no wetlands in this location



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

November 16, 2015

Reference: Project Senior Center Project Location Springfield, MA

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

Dear Ms. Duffy and Messrs. Roy and Jenkins:

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

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

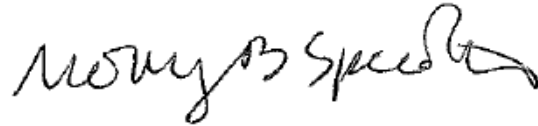
Based on your proposed schedule for tree clearing activities, we anticipate that the project will not result in direct adverse effects to the northern long-eared bat, because tree clearing is proposed to occur in December and January when bats are not expected to be present.

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,



Acting
for

Thomas R. Chapman
Supervisor
New England Field Office

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

RECEIVED



FEMA JUN 18 2014
MASS. HIST. COMM

Ⓟ 54748

June 17, 2014

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

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

Dear Ms. Simon:

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

Survey Results (Attached)

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

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

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

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

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

Finding of Effect and Request for Concurrence

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

FEMA recommends the following project conditions:

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


Ms. Simon
June 17, 2014

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1: PAL Report



Alfred Benesch & Company
90 National Drive
Glastonbury, CT 06033
www.benesch.com
P 860-633-8341
F 860-633-1068

September 3, 2015

Tom Jenkins, P.E.
Associate Principal / Senior Engineer

GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
1350 Main Street, Suite 1400
Springfield, MA 01103

Re: Senior Center at Blunt Park
Springfield, MA

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

At your request we have performed a traffic operations review at the intersection of Blunt Park Access Road at Roosevelt Avenue in conjunction with the new Senior Center to be constructed within Blunt Park. Specifically we have reviewed the Blunt Park Access Roadway as it approaches Roosevelt Avenue.

The intersection of Blunt Park Road at Roosevelt Avenue has four legs with Roosevelt Avenue traveling in the east-west direction and Blunt Park Road traveling in the north-south direction. The intersection is signalized with detection provided for the Blunt Road approaches. (See Exhibit 1) The Blunt Park Access road is approximately 24' wide with one lane of travel in each direction. There is only a stop bar and crosswalk painted along the roadway at Roosevelt Avenue with no center line provided. Approximately 60' north of Roosevelt Avenue there is a two piece swing gate across the access drive to permit closure of the park. The eastern post of the gate encroaches several feet into the roadway, significantly narrowing it. There is a driveway to a private residence along the west side of the access road immediately north of the sidewalk along the north side of Roosevelt Avenue. Presently the stop bar is placed between the private driveway and the crosswalk allowing motorists leaving the park to stop at the stop bar and block access to the drive, possibly creating a gridlock situation within the intersection. It is our belief that improvements need to be made to the Blunt Park Access Road approach to the intersection in order to safely accommodate the additional traffic that will be on the road when the Senior Center opens.

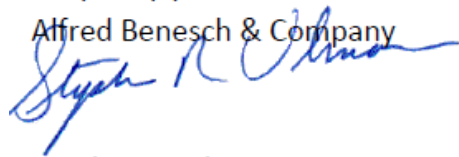
The proposed improvements are shown on Exhibit 1 and detailed below:

- Remove the gate across the drive and remove both support posts.
- Relocate the stop Bar to a point immediately north of the private driveway.
- Install a 50' long double yellow center line.
- Install a "STOP HERE ON RED" sign adjacent to the STOP bar.
- Install a "DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAY" sign prior to the private driveway.
- Adjust the microwave vehicle detector currently in place to provide a detection zone as shown on the plan.

With the implementation of the improvements listed above, we believe that motorists wishing to enter or exit Blunt Park the site will be able to do so safely.

Very truly yours,

Alfred Benesch & Company

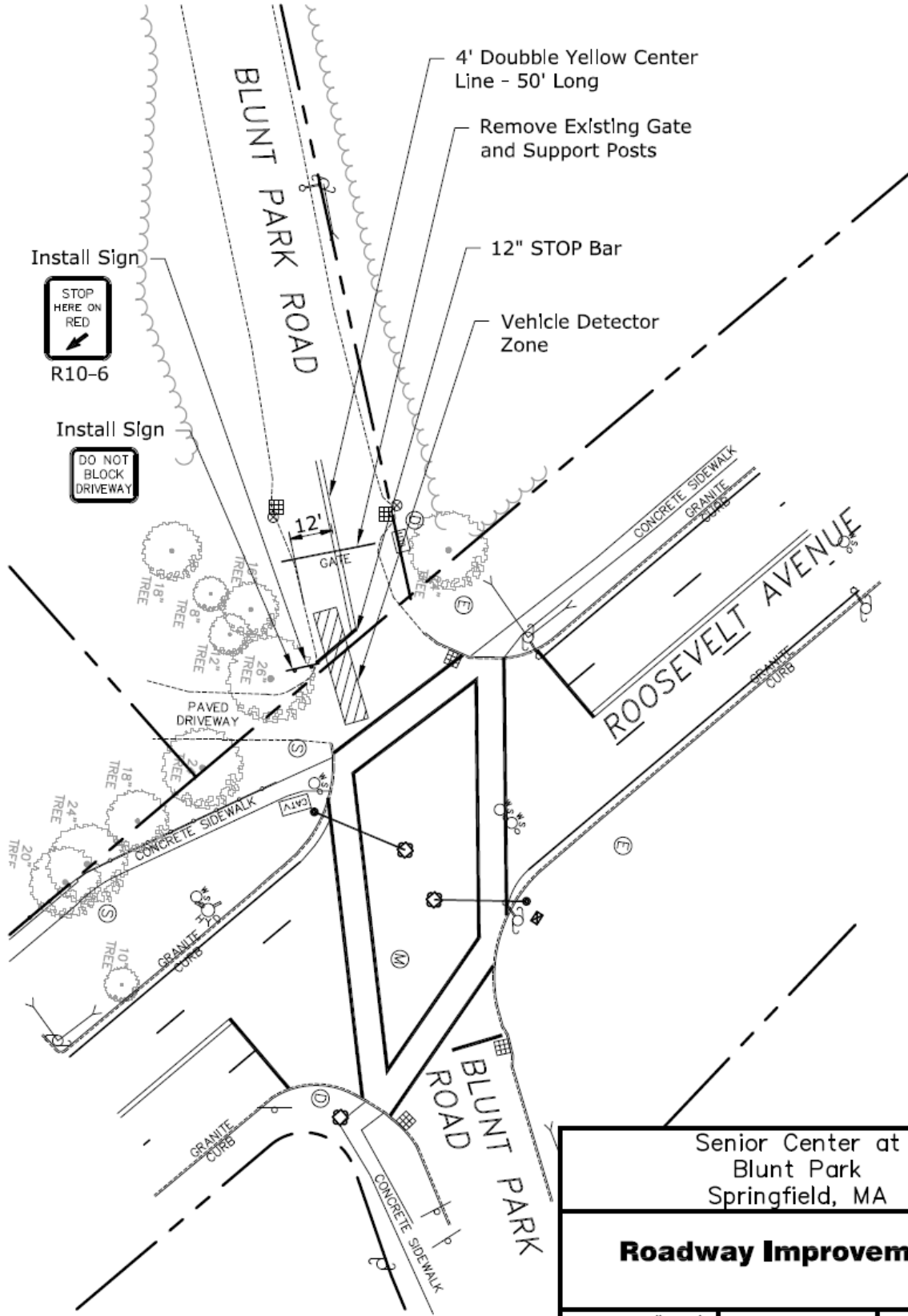


Stephen R. Ulman, P.E.

Senior Project engineer

70288

Attachments



| | | |
|---|------------------|-----------|
| Senior Center at Blunt Park Springfield, MA | | |
| Roadway Improvements | | |
| SCALE: 1"=40' | DATE: Sept. 2015 | EXHIBIT 1 |

City of Springfield, Massachusetts

Springfield City Hall

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

City Council Meeting

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

Meeting Location: City Hall Council Chambers

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

City Clerk's Office April 29, 2009

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

Wayman Lee, Esq.
City Clerk

Roll Call

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

Moment of Silence Pledge of Allegiance

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

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

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

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL

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

NEW BUSINESS BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

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

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

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

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

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

ORDERS

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

ORDINANCES

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

MATTERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Special Permit - 603 Hendee Street - No Action Taken
Special Permit- 29 & 61 Chandler Street - No Action Taken

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

New Senior Center Plans to be Unveiled

Event: Senior Center Plans Unveiling

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

Place: Blunt Park, Springfield, MA

Contact: Patrick Sullivan, Executive Director, 787-6444

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BID# 15-012

Bids Available: 6/25/14

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

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

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

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

Proposal Requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

ttheocles@springfieldcityhall.com

All Proposals becomes the property of the City of Springfield.

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

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

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

ADVERTISEMENT

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT

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

Department of Capital Asset Construction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

City of Springfield, MA, Office of Procurement

Lauren Stabilo, Chief Procurement Officer

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPENDIX D:
Finding of No
Significant Impact
(FONSI)



FEMA

DRAFT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

NEW SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CENTER

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

FEMA-DR-1994-MA

As a result of damages sustained on June 1, 2011, when tornadoes struck portions of Western Massachusetts, including the City of Springfield, the President declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This major disaster declaration, referenced as FEMA-1994-DR-MA, authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Public Assistance to local governments, state agencies and eligible private non-profit organizations in Massachusetts.

The City of Springfield, Massachusetts applied to the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program for aid as a result of damages sustained to the former Howard Street Armory which housed the Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch of the City's senior services network. The City determined that the public welfare would not be best served by restoring the damaged facility at its original location. Instead the City elected to construct a new two-story 25,000 square foot senior center to include space for a banquet room, kitchen, library, special events and activities such as dance, billiards, sewing, ceramics, carpentry, music and computer access in an alternate location. The project includes 284 parking spaces and the 8.6-acre project area is located in Blunt Park in the eastern portion of Springfield between Bay Street and Roosevelt Avenue. Once this facility is constructed, several branches of the Springfield Senior Center system will be consolidated into this single location. This new senior center is the subject of this Environmental Assessment (EA).

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10), FEMA prepared an EA to meet their responsibilities under NEPA to fully understand and consider the environmental consequences of actions proposed for federal funding. The purpose of the EA is to analyze potential environmental impacts from the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In the EA process, three (3) alternatives were considered: 1) the No Action Alternative, no repair to the original facility with the function divided between separate facilities across the City; 2) the Proposed Action Alternative, to build the new facility in order to restore function and consolidate multiple branch locations; and 3) repair and restoration of the Howard Street Armory Senior Center Branch at its original location (determine not feasible due to sale of the Howard Street Armory).

FEMA evaluated the proposed project for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing physical resources (geology & soils, air quality, climate change, and historic properties & cultural resources), natural resources (water resources, floodplains, wetlands, and threatened & endangered species), socioeconomic resources (traffic impacts to human health & safety, and environmental justice), and cumulative impacts.

The draft EA and draft FONSI were made available for viewing online at <http://www3.springfield-ma.gov/cos/> and <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>, and in person at the City of Springfield Office of Procurement located at Springfield City Hall, 36 Court Street Room 307, Springfield, MA 01103, Monday through Friday 8:15AM-4:30 PM. On **Month, Day**, 2016 the City of Springfield notified the public of the availability of the draft documents through publication of a notice in the local paper, **NAME OF PAPER**, as required. The public comment period for these documents lasted for a period of 15 days from **Month, Day**, 2016 until **Month, Day**, 2016. FEMA received no comments from the public on the content of these documents and determined that impacts created by the project could be sufficiently mitigated through compliance with proscribed construction designs, best management practices, reasonable and prudent measures, terms, and specials conditions.

CONDITIONS

The City of Springfield (the City) shall comply with all prescribed conditions set forth in the EA, including, but not limited to the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. The City and/or its designees are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals.
2. The City shall manage and dispose of excavated soils and waste materials in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If hazardous/contaminated materials are discovered during construction, the work shall cease until the City can implement appropriate procedures and secure additional permits if needed.
3. During project construction, sediment & erosion control best management practices shall be used.
4. Per the USFWS, tree removal shall be conducted when bats are not expected to be present, such as during the winter months of December and January, to ensure no “direct adverse effects” on the northern long-eared bat.
5. In the event of the discovery of archaeological materials and/or human remains, the City and their contractor shall immediately stop all work in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The City and their contractor shall secure all human remains discoveries and restrict access to discovery sites. The City and their contractor shall follow the provisions of applicable state laws, including Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 38, section 6 (Discovery of skeletal remains likely to be Native American); Chapter 9, sections 26A (State archaeologist; duties; reservation of lands from sale; cooperation of governmental agencies) & 27C (Projects; notice; adverse effect; review); and Chapter 7, section 38A (Skeletal remains; preservation; excavation; analysis), or any amendments or supplanting laws and regulations. Violation of state law

will jeopardize FEMA funding for this project. The City will inform the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (617 - 267-6767), the State Archaeologist (Brona Simon, 617-727-8470), the MEMA Public Assistance Supervisor (Scott Macleod, 508-820-1400) and the FEMA Deputy Regional Environmental Officer (Lydia Kachadoorian, 857-205-2860). FEMA will consult with the SHPO and Tribes, if remains are of tribal origin. Work in sensitive areas may not resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

6. During project construction, proposed safety improvement best management practices shall be implemented at the intersection of Blunt Park Access Road and Roosevelt Avenue per design plans.
7. Construction vehicles and equipment will be stored on site during the project. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Appropriate signage will be posted onsite and in the vicinity.
8. Construction will take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, state, and federal noise regulations. Idling time shall be limited onsite.
9. The City shall notify FEMA and MEMA should the scope of work change, including substantial design changes, additional ground disturbance, further vegetation removal, or other unanticipated changes to the physical environment.

FINDINGS

Based on input and consultation with agencies, identified sources documented in the EA, City officials, and in accordance with the FEMA regulations for environmental considerations and Executive Orders on Floodplains, Wetlands, and Environmental Justice, FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the EA, will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed project with prescribed conditions may proceed. If a change in the scope of work occurs, MEMA and FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment. Under most situations, however, the modification or addition of one or more elements of the construction plan will not alter the findings of this EA.

APPROVED:

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| Lydia Kachadoorian | Date |
| Deputy Regional Environmental Officer | |
| FEMA Region I, Mitigation Division | |
| Environmental & Historic Preservation Office (EHP) | |
| 99 High St., 6 th Floor, Boston, MA 02110 | |