

DRAFT Supplemental Environmental Assessment

# **Pope Francis High School**

260 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA

DR 1994 MA

September 2, 2016



**FEMA**

Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region 1  
99 High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Prepared by:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region I  
99 High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02110

Contact:

David E Robbins, Regional Environmental Officer  
(617) 832-4791; david.robbsins@fema.dhs.gov

Lydia Kachadoorian, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer  
(857) 205-2860; lydia.kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov

Anita Uhlan, CFM, Environmental Historic Preservation Advisor  
(617) 832-4788; anita.uhlan@fema.dhs.gov

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.0	PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION.....	1
1.1	INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2	PROJECT AUTHORITY.....	2
1.3	PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....	2
1.4	PROJECT LOCATION.....	3
1.5	PURPOSE AND NEED.....	3
2.0	AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS CONSIDERED .....	4
2.1	AIR QUALITY .....	4
2.2	WATER QUALITY.....	4
2.3	WETLANDS.....	5
2.4	HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES.....	5
2.5	CUMLATIVE EFFECTS.....	6
3.0	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT .....	7
3.1	PUBLIC MEETINGS .....	7
3.2	FEMA PUBLICATION OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT .....	7
4.0	LIST OF PREPARERS.....	8
5.0	REFERENCES .....	9

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

Appendix A Maps and Figures

Figure A-1 Site Location Map

Appendix B Sketch depicting Tree Removal Assessment and Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service for the Threatened Species the Northern Long Eared Bat

Appendix C Agency Consultation Documentation

Appendix D Public Involvement Documentation

Appendix E Draft Public Notice

Appendix F Draft FONSI

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
APCD	Air Pollution Control Division
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	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)
DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
DMH	Massachusetts Department of Mental Health
DPS	Massachusetts Department of Public Safety
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
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
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
NHESP	Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPL	National Priority List
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PA	Public Assistance
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SCC	Springfield Conservation Commission
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

## **1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to support the Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a Corporation Sole (the Diocese) by providing partial funding to demolish and reconstruct the High School located at 260 Surrey Road in Springfield, Massachusetts. The school was operated by the Diocese (as Cathedral High School) when it sustained a direct hit by one of several tornadoes which struck portions of Western Massachusetts on June 1, 2011. The building was declared a total loss and was subsequently demolished in 2015.

FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA evaluated the expected environmental impacts of the proposed project. FEMA issued and posted a Final EA for the project on September October 17, 2014.

The EA resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action, which was issued by FEMA on October 20, 2014. Following the issuance of the FONSI and consequent project approval by FEMA, the demolition of the existing structure commenced in 2015. Preliminary design plans for the new school (which will reopen as “Pope Francis High School”) were finalized in February 2016.

This document presents the results of the re-evaluation of the Cathedral High School/Pope Francis High School project considering the proposed final footprint of the new school. This document supplements the original EA prepared for the Cathedral High School project. This document is a tiered review from the original EA. This supplemental document describes the expected effects the project would have on the environment that differ from those previously described in the Final EA and FONSI. Environmental factors for which the effects are considered to be the same as described in the Final EA include the following:

- Geology
- Soils
- Climate Change
- Floodplains
- Hazardous and Solid Waste
- Environmental Justice
- Traffic Impacts
- Cumulative Effects

As there are no changes to the analysis or anticipated effects on these resources, they are not described further in this Supplemental EA. In addition, a description of the No Action Alternative and its expected environmental effects is not included in this supplemental document because it has not changed from what was included in the original EA (FEMA DR-1994-MA).

## 1.2 PROJECT AUTHORITY

FEMA has prepared this Supplemental EA to consider and describe the environmental consequences of providing the Diocese with partial funding to assist in the former Cathedral/future Pope Francis High School project as required by NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500 through 1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1).

## 1.3 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The original Environmental Assessment was completed for the removal of the damaged school with the footprint not yet developed. The Environmental Assessment was based on the new footprint for the new school being within the original schools footprint plus a buffer of fifty feet (50') around the perimeter of the school. Since design plans are now finalized, this supplemental Environmental Assessment evaluates the footprint, including construction, of the new school's impact to environmental and historic preservation acts, laws and Executive Orders on the community.

The Proposed Pope Francis High School in Springfield, MA is being planned and designed as a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning community for a 400 student population with the core areas (dining, gym and auditorium) capable of handling classroom expansion to 600 students. Program components on the first floor include a 480 seat auditorium, band room, cafeteria, administrative offices and a 48 seat chapel. The lower level houses an event lobby, gym and locker areas. The two upper academic floors are comprised of flexible classrooms that includes science, technology, engineering/ maker space lab, and math classrooms (STEM). Centralized on the two academic floors are two shared teacher workrooms which act as collaborative areas and "home base" for the faculty. Also centralized is the learning commons which will be the collaborative research hub of the school. The site for the new Pope Francis High School is at the intersection of Surrey and Wendover Roads in Springfield and will accommodate athletic fields and parking to support the school.

The site is located north of Surrey Road, east of Wendover Road, and west of Island Pond Road. Residential neighborhoods are located to the north, northwest, south and east of the site. The former school building has since been demolished leaving the 29.4 acre site mostly cleared with four stockpiles of gravel/crushed concrete located on site, and a section of existing pavement and granite curbing located in the southeastern corner of the site. Currently the site contains stubbed utilities from the former school building including, sanitary sewer, gas, electric, water, and storm sewer.

The proposed redevelopment will encompass 24.5 acres of the campus and includes construction of a 116,010 gross square foot building spanning 3 stories high with an additional lower level, parking areas with a capacity of 212 vehicles, access roads, sidewalks, utilities, landscaping, 250 seat grandstand with press box, maintenance/concessions building with bathroom facilities, turf field for use by multiple sports, a grass practice field, softball field, baseball field, and tennis courts."

#### 1.4 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Surrey and Wendover Roads in the East Forest Park neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts, as described in the original EA and illustrated in Appendix A Figure A-1.

#### 1.5 PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose and need for this project remain as described in the original EA (FEMA DR-1994-MA). In general, the purpose of the project is to assist the Diocese in the reconstruction of the High School formerly located at the property.



## **2.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENTS AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS CONSIDERED**

The following information is intended to supplement the information contained in the original EA (FEMA DR-1994-MA).

### **2.1 AIR QUALITY**

Prior to the 2011 tornado, the combined student enrollment of Cathedral High School and St. Michael's Academy was 688 students. Current plans for the project include the merging of Cathedral High School (currently located at a temporary location in Wilbraham, MA) and Holyoke Catholic High School (currently located in Chicopee, MA) into the newly formed Pope Francis High School. The projected population of the combined student body at the future Pope Francis High School building is 400 students, a difference of 288 fewer students.

Based on projected student enrollment, one can conclude that air emissions following building construction from buses and student transportation would either: a) return to pre-tornado (pre June 1, 2011) levels, or b) stabilize at a level below pre-tornado levels.

### **2.2 WATER QUALITY**

Island Pond is a surface water body located on the northeastern portion of the Site. The pond is a retention basin that receives stormwater from precipitation events, after which water evaporates or infiltrates into the groundwater table. The Diocese retention basin currently collects stormwater runoff from onsite parking lot catchbasins, along with stormwater runoff from the surrounding neighborhood streets. No sanitary wastes or process waters are discharged to the basin. The basin does not discharge to surface water bodies. During emergency flood events, water is pumped from the basin into the Springfield sanitary sewer system. This pumping is controlled and maintained by the City of Springfield.

With regard to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), there are no animal feed operations, aquaculture, biosolids, forest roads, industrial wastewater, municipal wastewater, national pretreatment programs, pesticide applications, vessel incidental discharge permitting, or whole effluent toxicity that effect the retention basin. There will be requirements during construction that involve stormwater discharge from construction activities. A Notice of Intent & Stormwater Management Report was prepared by Fuss & O'Neill (dated April 28, 2016). *Note: The Fuss and O'Neill report (the Notice of Intent/Stormwater Management Plan, plus drawings) posted on the Springfield Diocese website: <http://diospringfield.org/pope-francis-high-school-construction-update/>. This report is also available from: the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Western Region, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103 Main telephone: 413-784-1100 Service Center/Permit Assistance: 413-755-2214; for additional information please contact FEMA Region 1, 99 High St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor Boston, MA 02110.*

The Diocese completed permitting with the Springfield Conservation Commission and MassDEP which included approval of the Stormwater Plan and Erosion and Sediment Controls. An Order of Conditions DEP File Number WE 294-0586 was issued on June 8, 2016.

Consultants for the Diocese discussed the NPDES permit requirements with Mr. David Howland, Regional Engineer with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and confirmed the Stormwater Discharge Plan from Construction Activities is all that is required for this project. The Stormwater Discharge Plan prepared by Fuss & O’Neill has been presented to and accepted by the Springfield Conservation Commission and the Springfield Planning Board.

### 2.3 WETLANDS

The proposed redevelopment of the Pope Francis High School will include approximately 24.5 acres of the property. Along with the construction of the three story school, the campus will include parking to accommodate 212 vehicles, driveways/access roads, sidewalks/walkways, a grandstand, a maintenance/concessions building and various athletic/practice fields. No work is proposed within the 25 foot Buffer Zone of the mapped wetland (Island Pond). However, there is proposed grading, natural grass athletic fields, and the construction of stormwater infiltration basins within the 100 foot Buffer Zone.

As required by 310 CMR 10.02 (2), if work conducted within 100 feet of a wetland, the filing of a Notice of Intent is required. A Notice of Intent & Stormwater Management Report was prepared by Fuss & O’Neill (dated April 28, 2016) and is described in the Fuss and O’Neill Report, soil erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed prior to the start of construction. *A copy of the detailed plans are available in the Fuss and O’Neill report (the Notice of Intent/Stormwater Management Plan, plus drawings) posted on the Springfield Diocese website: <http://diospringfield.org/pope-francis-high-school-construction-update/>. This report is also available from: the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Western Region, 436 Dwight Street, Springfield, MA 01103 Main telephone: 413-784-1100 Service Center/Permit Assistance: 413-755-2214; for additional information please contact FEMA Region 1, 99 High St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor Boston, MA 02110.*

### 2.4 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Since the 2014 Environmental Assessment was prepared, the Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB) has been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as a Threatened Species in New England. The applicant’s consultant identified seven isolated trees within the project area that will require removal. Attached in Appendix B is a sketch identifying locations of trees to be removed with brief descriptions. There is one memorial tree that is scheduled to be relocated during the project. Proposed redevelopment plans include the planting of numerous trees throughout the campus. Within e-mail correspondence between Anita Uhlan, FEMA Region I and Susi VonOettingen of the USFWS along with a draft of a consultation letter began on July 21, 2016. Susi VonOettingen stated in a return email on July 25, 2016 that there was “No effect” to the NLEB and she would stamp and file the document. *Both the email correspondence and letter can be found in Appendix B.*

### 2.4 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROPERTIES

A previous consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (“SHPO”) was conducted by FEMA on October 28, 2013. This consultation only addressed demolition of the Cathedral High School/St. Michael’s Academy Middle School and St. Michael’s Academy Pre-Kindergarten

buildings. The SHPO consultation did not consider construction of buildings, parking lots, roads, or sports fields.

A Project Notification Form (PNF) was submitted to the Massachusetts Historic Commission (MHC) on April 15, 2016, which included plans for construction of the new school. The PNF was reviewed by Mr. Jonathan K. Patton, Archaeologist/Preservation Planner at the MHC. Following a review of the plans and materials submitted, it was determined that the redevelopment of the Site is unlikely to affect significant historic or archeological resources. FEMA's original finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" is still applicable to this Proposed Action. *A copy of the completed PNF is included as Appendix C.*

## 2.5 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).

Construction of a new Cathedral High School building would return property use back to that of a school. As such, there would be no cumulative effects. Also, there are no known construction projects occurring near the Site of the Proposed Alternative that would contribute in a cumulative effect.

### **3.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

#### **3.1 PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Project update public meetings have been held with local City Officials, Boards, and Commissions, and the East Forest Park Civic Association. See attached documentation in Appendix D. The Diocese has posted project updates on its website, including video archives available on the Catholic Communications Real to Reel page.

#### **3.2 FEMA PUBLICATION OF DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

The Diocese will notify the public of the availability of the Draft Supplemental EA and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) through publication of a notice in the local newspaper, as required. *A copy of the DRAFT FONSI can be found in Appendix F*

## **4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS**

This document was prepared by:

Robert F. Kirchherr  
Andrew P. Rolinger  
O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun Associates, Inc.  
293 Bridge Street  
Suite 500  
Springfield MA, 01103

This document was edited by:

David E. Robbins, REHS, MRP  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Environmental – Historic Preservation  
FEMA Region I  
99 High Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor  
Boston, MA 02110

Lydia Kachadoorian, RPA  
Deputy Regional Environmental Officer  
Environmental – Historic Preservation  
FEMA Region I

Anita Uhlan, CFM  
Environmental Historic Preservation Advisor  
Environmental – Historic Preservation  
FEMA Region I

Mary Shanks, MA  
Historic Preservation Specialist  
Environmental – Historic Preservation  
FEMA Region I

## 5.0 REFERENCES

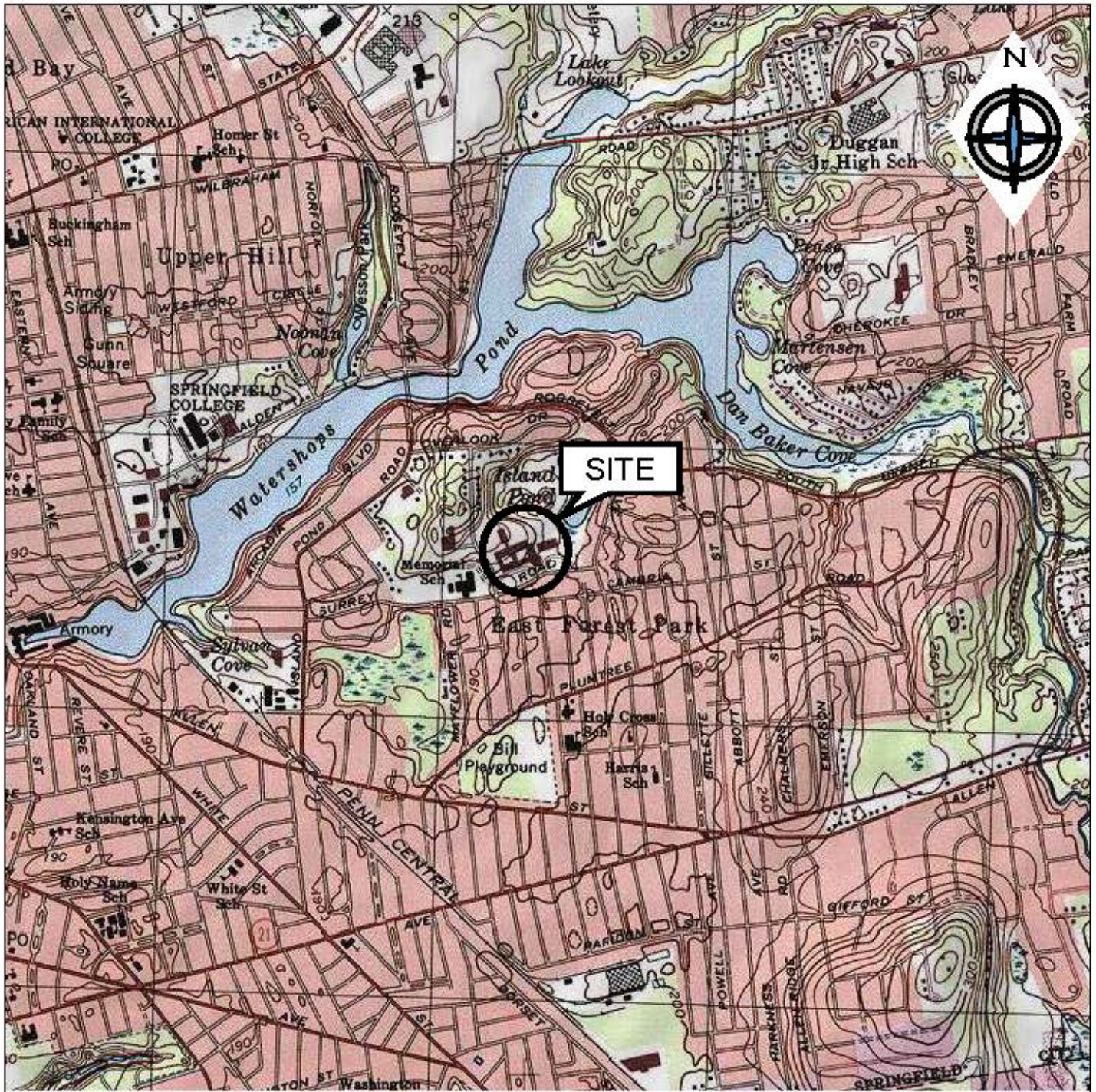
Notice of Intent & Stormwater Management Report, Pope Francis High School, Springfield, Massachusetts, dated April 28, 2016. Prepared by Fuss & O'Neill, 78 Interstate Drive, West Springfield, MA *The Fuss and O'Neill report (the Notice of Intent/Stormwater Management Plan, plus drawings) are available on the Springfield Diocese website:*  
<http://diospringfield.org/pope-francis-high-school-construction-update/>

Mr. David Howland, Regional Engineer with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

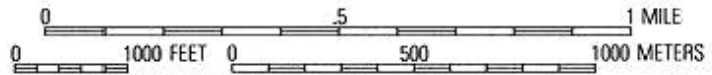
**APPENDIX A**  
**Figure A-1 Site Location Map**



Figure A-1 Project Location Map



Topographic Map Quadrant: Springfield South, MA  
 Map Version: 1979  
 Current as of: 1997



Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

**O'Reilly, Talbot & Okun**  
 [ ASSOCIATES ]



293 Bridge Street, Suite 500  
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01103

Phone: 413-788-6222  
 www.oto-env.com

Cathedral High School  
 290 Surrey Road  
 Springfield, Massachusetts

**SITE LOCUS**

July 2016

Figure A-1



## **APPENDIX B**

### **Sketch Depicting Tree Removal Assessment**

## Uhlan, Anita

---

**Subject:** FW: NLEB Informal Consultation  
**Attachments:** StreamlinedConsultationForm29Feb2016.docx

**From:** vonOettingen, Susi [mailto:susi\_vonoettingen@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 25, 2016 9:45 AM  
**To:** Uhlan, Anita <Anita.Uhlan@fema.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NLEB Informal Consultation

Hi Anita,

Thanks for the draft letter. According to our protocols, if suitable roost trees may be removed it should be a not likely to adversely affect, irrespective of time of year. I appreciate all of the effort you put into your letter, it's great!

In this case, there are no known suitable occupied roost trees and no known hibernacula, so you are good to go. For you, I'll take your email, print it, ok it and file it.

Susi

\*\*\*\*\*

Susi von Oettingen  
Endangered Species Biologist  
New England Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301  
(W) 603-223-2541 ext. 6418  
*Please note my new extension.*  
[www.fws.gov/newengland](http://www.fws.gov/newengland)

---

On Thu, Jul 21, 2016 at 11:36 AM, Uhlan, Anita <[Anita.Uhlan@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Anita.Uhlan@fema.dhs.gov)> wrote:

Good Morning Susi,

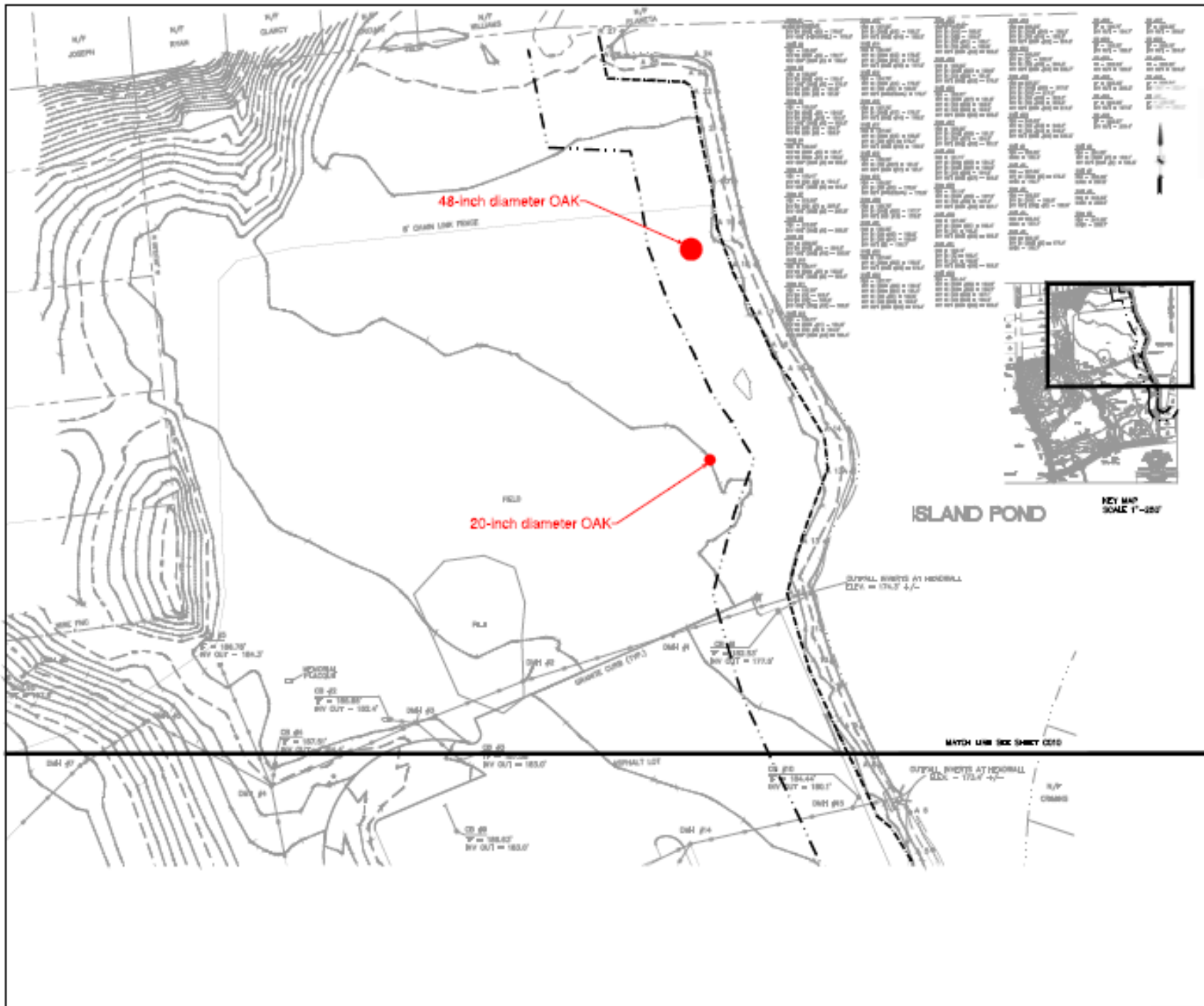
I hope you are having a great summer and are taking some time off!

I have attached an Informal consultation for the NLEB. The site is in south Springfield and is mostly clear. It is surrounded on all sites by residential dwellings and was the location of the old Cathedral High School that was severely damaged by the tornado. The Diocese has demolished the old building and is planning on building the new Pope Francis High School on the Site. We have done a supplemental EA on this and received these plans that include removal of 8 trees after the ground is broken, anticipated to start in October of this year. I wasn't sure if this was "no effect" since it is under 10 trees and after the TOY restriction, plus there aren't any known hibernacula near the site. I haven't mailed it yet so please let me know if I need to send it as MNAA or change it to No Effect.

Thanks!

( ) Anita Uhlan, CFM  
) Environmental Historic Preservation  
) 617-470-3909

*WARNING: This document is FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with DHS policy relating to Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information and is not to be released to the public, or other personnel, who do not have a valid "need-to-know", without prior approval of an authorized DHS official.*



**O'REILLY, TALBOT & OKUN**  
[ ASSOCIATES ]

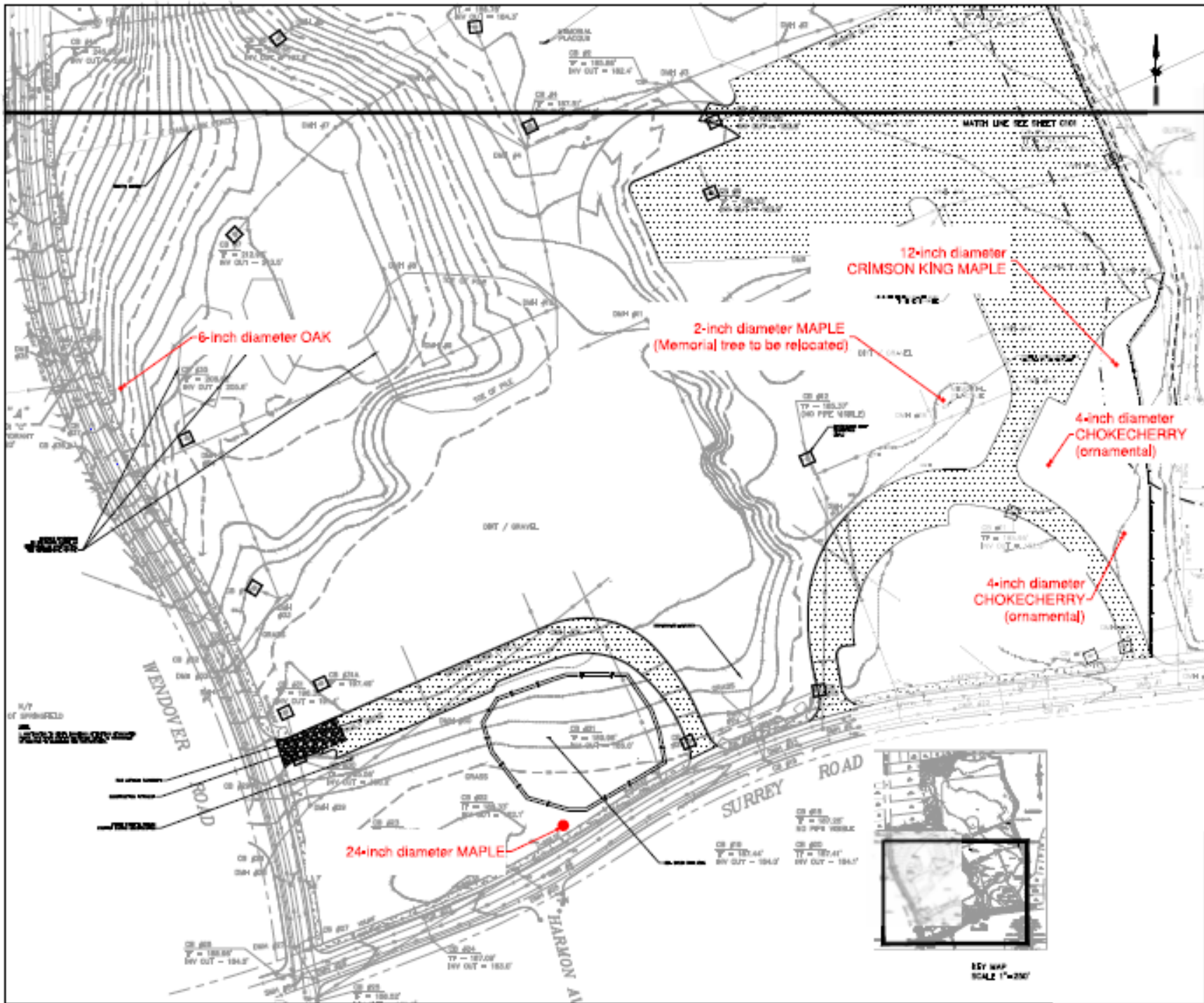
1075  
L. OAKS, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78203

PROJECT #14  
**FORMER CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL**  
30001 ROAD, SPRING BLDG. WA

DATE: 11/11/14  
DRAWN BY: [REDACTED]  
CHECKED BY: [REDACTED]  
APPROVED BY: [REDACTED]

PROJECT #14  
**TREE REMOVAL ASSESSMENT**

DATE: 11/11/14  
**Page 1**



PROJECT #111  
FORMER  
CATHEDRAL  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
SURREY ROAD,  
SPRINGFIELD, MA

DATE: 01/11  
TREE  
REMOVAL  
ASSESSMENT

**APPENDIX C**  
**Agency Consultation Documentation**

RECEIVED

APR 19 2016

MASS. HIST. COMM

\* 55009

APPENDIX A  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASS. 02125  
617-727-8470, FAX: 617-727-5128

PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM

Project Name: Construction of new Pope Francis High School After review of MHC files and the materials you submitted, it has been determined that this project is unlikely to affect significant historic or archaeological resources.  
Location / Address: Wendover Road  
City / Town: Springfield, MA  
Project Proponent  
Name: Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a corporation Jonathan K. Patton Date 4/25/16  
Address: 65 Elliot Street Archaeologist / Preservation Planner  
City/Town/Zip/Telephone: Springfield, MA 01102-1730 Massachusetts Historical Commission  
\*C: Lydia Katchadourian, FEMA

Agency license or funding for the project (list all licenses, permits, approvals, grants or other entitlements being sought from state and federal agencies).

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_ Type of License or funding (specify)  
FEMA FEMA Funding

Project Description (narrative):

See Exhibit A.

Does the project include demolition? If so, specify nature of demolition and describe the building(s) which are proposed for demolition.

No. (All demolition has been completed.)

Does the project include rehabilitation of any existing buildings? If so, specify nature of rehabilitation and describe the building(s) which are proposed for rehabilitation.

No. (All buildings have been demolished.)

Does the project include new construction? If so, describe (attach plans and elevations if necessary).

Yes.

950 CMR: OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH

APPENDIX A (continued)

To the best of your knowledge, are any historic or archaeological properties known to exist within the project's area of potential impact? If so, specify.

What is the total acreage of the project area?

Woodland	<u>2.0</u>	acres	Productive Resources:	
Wetland	<u>0.1</u>	acres	Agriculture	_____ acres
Floodplain	_____	acres	Forestry	_____ acres
Open space	<u>27.3</u>	acres	Mining/Extraction	_____ acres
Developed	_____	acres	Total Project Acreage	<u>29.4</u> acres

What is the acreage of the proposed new construction? 24.5 acres


What is the present land use of the project area?

Vacant.

Please attach a copy of the section of the USGS quadrangle map which clearly marks the project location.

This Project Notification Form has been submitted to the MHC in compliance with 950 CMR 71.00.

---

Signature of Person submitting this form:  Date: 4/15/15  
Name: Robert L. Quinn, Esquire  
Address: 67 Market Street - P.O. Box 9035  
City/Town/Zip: Springfield, MA 01102-9035  
Telephone: (413) 737-0260

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

950 CMR 71.00: M.G.L. c. 9, §§ 26-27C as amended by St. 1988, c. 254.



**APPENDIX D**  
**Public Involvement Documentation**

# Newly merged Pope Francis High School gains New England association accreditation

1 / 20

SPRINGFIELD – The newly formed Pope Francis High School has announced its accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The school is a faith-based college preparatory school serving grades 9-12, and was formed by the recent merger of Cathedral High School and Holyoke Catholic High School.

"This accreditation provides assurance to our prospective families that Pope Francis High School meets and upholds the standards that are outlined by the NEASC and we will continue to work to meet those standards in the future," said Interim Head of School, Dr. Thomas Y. McDowell, in a prepared release. "Accreditation by the NEASC is voluntary; it shows our willingness to abide by their standards and open ourselves regularly to examination by outside evaluators familiar with higher education."

Pope Francis is located at the former site of Holyoke Catholic High School in Chicopee Center, and will remain there pending a new school being built on Wendover Road in East Forest Park in Springfield, formerly Cathedral High School. The new school is slated to open by the fall of 2018.

According to a letter dated July 19 from NEASC Interim Director of the Commission Jay S. Stroud, Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic have been members of the Association since 1993 and were last evaluated in 2013. By commission policy, their accreditation is extended to cover Pope Francis High School, which will be reevaluated for continued accreditation in 2023.

"The effective date of accreditation for Pope Francis High School is Nov. 5, 2013 and the expiration date is Dec. 31, 2023," Stroud wrote, adding, "Pope Francis High School is in good standing with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges."

NEASC was founded in 1885 and works to establish and maintain high standards for all levels of education – from pre-kindergarten to the doctoral level.

# Pope Francis High School officials provide timeline for construction of Springfield building

1 / 3

SPRINGFIELD — A new chapter in Catholic education in Western Massachusetts will be set in concrete beginning next month as construction of the new Pope Francis High School gets underway in East Forest Park.

Nearly 40 neighbors of the tornado-ravaged neighborhood broke into applause Tuesday night following a meeting at St. Michael's Academy where officials shared the details about the timeline for construction of the school that will rise on the site of the former Cathedral High School.

The long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony has been set for Sunday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m., and the whole neighborhood is invited, said Paul Gagliarducci, project manager for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield.

"Many thought this day might never happen, but it's happening," Gagliarducci said.

Five years after a tornado tore a 39-mile path of destruction through the region that severely damaged Cathedral, officials from Fontaine Brothers said construction trailers are headed to the site at Surrey and Wendover roads.

The new school is a result of a merger of Cathedral with Holyoke Catholic High School, which moved from downtown Holyoke to Granby and then Chicopee, where it operated until June. Until the new building opens in the fall of 2018, Pope Francis students will be located at the former Holyoke Catholic location in Chicopee.

Neighbors expressed concerns about the dust from a mound of silicon dust on the site, the environmental health of an adjacent pond, construction traffic and noise.

They were told that all issues would be addressed.

"If you see a problem, contact us," Fontaine's Richard Raimondi said. "We don't want to read about it on Facebook."

Raimondi said an onsite team will work to forge a good relationship with the neighborhood, "but there's an old saying that you have to break a few eggs to build an omelet."

The final creation, Gagliarducci said, will be a school like no other in Western Massachusetts, featuring a cluster design that eschews the long hallways typical in most high schools.

The two floors of the building will have a "community feel," he said. "Rather than students exiting classrooms into a long hallway, they will walk into a big open common," he said.

## **The timeline:**

- September 2016: Construction trailers and porta-potties arrive followed by the installation of a concrete foundation.

- December 2016 to March 2017: Structural steel will be in place along with concrete decks.
- March 2017 to April 2017: Enclosure of the school building prior to interior work.
- Fall 2017: Ball fields will be put in place.
- Fall 2018: School opens.

**Other details:**

- Transportation: About 10 buses will be required to transport students. Some will be owned by the diocese and some by the City of Springfield.
- Lighting will be soft and subtle.
- Solar panels will cover 80 percent of the roof.
- A new 500-seat auditorium will be state-of-the art, featuring murals depicting the rich history of both Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic high schools.

# Pope Francis High School schedules groundbreaking, neighborhood meeting as new construction looms

1 / 27

SPRINGFIELD – Pope Francis High School on Monday announced two upcoming events including a long-awaited groundbreaking in September for its new building slated for construction at the former Cathedral High School property.

The groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled Sunday, Sept. 18, at 2 p.m., at 99 Wendover Road in East Forest Park, once home to Cathedral High School. The event will serve to kick off construction of the new Pope Francis High School facility, according to a news release from Pope Francis spokeswoman Jennifer Lopez.

Prior to the groundbreaking, representatives of Pope Francis will participate in a neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 23, to discuss the upcoming school construction project with area residents, Lopez said.

The East Forest Park neighborhood meeting is at 5 p.m., at Holy Cross/St. Michael's School, 221 Plumtree Road.

Pope Francis is being formed through a merger of Cathedral and Holyoke Catholic High School.

Cathedral High School was demolished after being struck by a tornado on June 1, 2011, with severe damage. Cathedral moved to a temporary location in Wilbraham after the tornado.

Neighborhood residents and city officials have long awaited the plans and groundbreaking for the estimated \$55 million school construction project at the Cathedral grounds, which followed a prolonged review by two Bishops, and the consideration of multiple sites.

The new regional Pope Francis High School will be located this fall at the Holyoke Catholic school site in Chicopee Center, remaining there until the new school is built. The new school is slated to open for the 2018-2019 school year.

Officials attending the neighborhood meeting are expected to include Paul C. Gagliarducci, executive director of the Pope Francis school construction project; David Owen, the owner's project manager; and representatives from Fontaine Bros. Those officials and Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski are expected to participate in the groundbreaking in September.

The Cathedral High School Alumni Association is hosting the auction that will see hundreds of items ranging from that letter jacket to trophies, old photos and more.

**APPENDIX E**  
**Draft Public Notice**

## FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a Corporation Sole (the Diocese) eligible for funding, with the construction of the Pope Francis High School located on Surrey Road in Springfield, Massachusetts. The proposed school is a redevelopment of the former Cathedral High School site, which was significantly damaged from the June 1, 2011 tornado that affected the area. The former Cathedral High School building was demolished in 2015. This project includes the construction of a new school building on the same site.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate human, historic, and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed construction of Pope Francis High School. As part of its goal to ensure that good management decisions are made, FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft Supplemental EA and to provide FEMA with information it may not have considered in its review. If FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the Supplemental EA, will have no significant impact on the human environment after the public comment period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA's Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, Lydia Kachadoorian. However, if a change in the scope of work occurs FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Beginning on **September XX, 2016**, the Draft Supplemental EA and the Draft FONSI will be posted on the Diocese's website [www.diospringfield.org](http://www.diospringfield.org) and a paper copy made available for public review at the City of Springfield Central Library located at 220 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103. FEMA will also post the documents to its website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>. The comment period will last for 10 days, ending on **September XX, 2016** at 5:00 pm.

Comments on the Draft EA can be submitted by mailing Lydia Kachadoorian, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer at FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, by emailing [Lydia.Kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:Lydia.Kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov), or by sending her a fax at 617-956-7574.

**APPENDIX F**  
**Draft FONSI**





**FEMA**

**DRAFT**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**POPE FRANCIS HIGH SCHOOL**

**SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

**FEMA-DR-1994-MA**

As a result of damages sustained by a tornado which struck the Cathedral High School 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, 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 Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a Corporation Sole (the Diocese) has applied through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to FEMA Public Assistance (PA) for funding assistance. The Pope Francis High School construction project is proposed by the Diocese, a private non-profit high school serving students from Grade 9 through 12. The damaged building has been demolished for the construction of the new Pope Francis High School.

The Pope Francis High School building will be located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Surrey and Wendover Roads in the East Forest Park neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts. In accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SupEA) was prepared to provide additional information to the Environmental Assessment (EA) titled Cathedral High School dated September 24, 2014. 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 the EA and this SupEA is to determine whether this federally proposed action would have significant impact on the human environment. If the conclusion is that the environmental impacts of the proposal could be significant, then the agency is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). If, however, the agency concludes on the basis of the EA and SupEA that the impacts would not be significant, then the agency may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and proceed with the action. In the EA process, two (2) alternatives were considered: the No Action Alternative, and the Proposed Alternative- demolition of the existing structure and construction of a new school at the Cathedral High School property.

Two (2) additional alternatives were considered but eliminated; repairing the current Cathedral High School building and permanently relocating the school to another area.

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

These documents were made available for viewing online at [www.diospringfield.org](http://www.diospringfield.org) and <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>, and at the City of Springfield Central Library located at 220 State Street, Springfield, MA 01103.

## **CONDITIONS**

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Springfield, a Corporation Sole (the Diocese) 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 Diocese or its designees are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, state, and federal permits and approvals. Including, but not limited to, compliance with the Stormwater Discharge Plan pursuant to the Order of Conditions #WE 294-0586
2. 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 on site and in the vicinity.
3. 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 on site.
4. The Diocese or its designees 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 Diocese can implement appropriate procedures and secure additional permits if needed.
5. Hay bales and silt fencing will be used around demolition and construction areas to mitigate impacts to adjacent wetlands and catchbasins. During demolition and construction, catchbasins will be protected with filters, silt fencing, hay bales, or other methods.
6. If human remains are discovered during the course of project implementation, the Diocese or its designee shall immediately stop construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm until

FEMA concludes consultation with the Diocese, the State Historic Preservation Office, and applicable Tribal Historic Preservation Officer. These parties shall consult to determine the appropriate course of action and disposition of remains in accordance with applicable local, state, federal and tribal regulations.

7. The Diocese 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 from and consultation with agencies, identified sources documented in the EA and SupEA, the Diocese, 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 human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) 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 human 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 Supplemental EA.

### **APPROVED:**

---

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