

ECR

Environmental Consulting & Restoration, LLC



PROPOSED RIVERFRONT RESTORATION MEMO

TO: GAF Engineering

FROM: Brad Holmes

DATE: January 20, 2022

RE: 36, 44 & 48 North Carver Road, Wareham – DEP File #SE76-2710

Environmental Consulting & Restoration, LLC (ECR) is submitting this Proposed Riverfront Area Restoration Memo to accompany the Notice of Intent application under way for the proposed solar development project located at 36, 44 & 48 North Carver Road, Wareham (the Site). Please note the following proposed Restoration Activities:

Southeastern Portion of the site (outside or east of proposed solar field project area) – Restoration alternatives in this portion of the site would be as follows:

1. Clean up and removal of brush within the restoration area. This brush could be chipped and used on site as mulch for plantings.
2. Stump sprout maintenance of the stump sprouts that are regenerating on site. Stump sprouts of Black Oak, White Oak, Red Maple, etc. are regenerating and can be managed into healthy trees by selecting one or two of the terminal buds of the new sprouts and pruning out the remaining sprouts. Over the following growing seasons, the saved/selected sprouts could be maintained to include pruning the new shoots as they emerge from the stump. Over time this will produce a new healthy tree.
3. Interplanting of native saplings and shrubs to supplement the existing vegetation. Since the area was not excavated or grubbed, the area is naturally revegetating. Supplemental interplanting using a mix of native wetland and upland saplings and shrubs could be performed. Prior to supplemental planting, the proposed number of plants, plant spacing, plant species, and plant sizes would be submitted to the Conservation Agent for review and approval.
4. Control of non-native invasive plants. Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*) is a non-native invasive shrub that is growing in this area and should be managed to reduce the threat of encroachment into other areas of the site. Control of this invasive plant would consist of herbicide applications by a licensed herbicide applicator. Upon treatment and removal of this invasive plant, the interplanting of native saplings and shrubs would be performed to revegetate the area.

Northeastern Portion of the site (outside or east of proposed solar field project area) – Restoration alternatives in this portion of the site would be as follows:

1. Clean up and removal of brush within the restoration area. This brush could be chipped and used on site as mulch for plantings.
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4. Removal of dilapidated farm equipment.
5. Restoration of degraded Riverfront Areas. Degraded areas such as access roads and bare surfaces exist within this area and qualify as degraded Riverfront Area. A degraded Riverfront Area is an area such as impervious surfaces from existing structures or pavement, absence of topsoil, junkyards, or abandoned dumping grounds. Restoration would consist of placing loam over the degraded area and then planting and seeding with native plant stock.

Restoration Areas within Solar Field Layout – Restoration alternatives in this portion of the site would be as follows:

1. After installation of the solar panels with appurtenances, the area would be prepared for restoration activities to include removal of any debris, grubbing out existing grass/vegetative root mass, and top dressing the area with clean loam.
2. Seeding the area with a native wildflower seed mix is proposed to promote meadow pollinator habitat. This restoration area would be maintained as meadow/grassland management area. Grassland habitats are ecologically important for many species of birds and pollinators. Grassland habitats are declining as remaining grasslands are developed.

Maintenance of the grassland should consist of annual mowing of the area. Annual mowing would occur at the end of each October to maintain the meadow and grassland habitat and prevent the encroachment of woody vegetation. All cut vegetation would be collected and removed from the area to prevent composting over the grassland meadow area. Periodic mowing around the southern facing solar panels may be needed if herbaceous growth reaches heights of more than 3 feet.

Seed mix proposed for this area would be obtained from Ernst Conservation Seeds, Inc. using a mix of the following seed mixes:

- Low-Growing Wildflower & Grass Mix, ERNMX-156
- Northeast Annual & Perennial Wildflower Mix, ERNMX-168
- Showy Northeast Native Wildflower Mix, ERNMX-153-1

In addition to seeding, interplanting of the area using plugs of native herbaceous plants is proposed. Plug planting to supplement the seed mix in order to provide immediate cover would consist of plug plants planted 3 feet on center throughout the restoration area. This would require approximately 5,760 plugs or 115 trays (50 plugs per tray). Trays of herbaceous plants would consist of a variety of native herbaceous plant species.

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Please contact me at (617) 529 – 3792 or brad@ecrwetlands.com with any questions or requests for additional information.