

MEMORANDUM

Subject: Response to Reading Conservation Commission Comments

Project: **The Town of Reading
Birch Meadow Park | Phase I Renovations**

Project No. 22014.00

Date: 4 January 2023

To: Chuck Tirone
Conservation Administrator
Town of Reading

By: Stephen Crisafulli, RLA
Project Manager

Delivery: via email (ctirone@ci.reading.ma.us)

Mr. Tirone,

As requested, please find enclosed updated drawings which address comments from both the Community Planning & Development Committee as well as the Conservation Commission. We have also included the following response to the comments received from the Reading Conservation dated 04 January 2023. The original comments are listed in *italics* and the answer has been provided in **bold**.

- 1. Identify the stormwater detention pond as a rain garden on the plan and add native shrubs to the planting list;*

The plans and details have been adjusted with the revised labels. Additional native shrubs have been added at both rain gardens in the parking lot area and by the river near the central walkway. Refer to sheets L3.1, L3.2, L3.3 and L5.3 attached.

- 2. Add two benches to the previous walking path near the parking lot;*

Due to budgetary constraints, it is uncertain if some site furnishings (including benches) will be bid as an alternate or purchased later. We have included two areas to designate where these additional benches should go once the furnishings are sorted out. Refer to sheet L1.1 attached.

- 3. Elevate the drainage area in the center rain garden to retain some of the stormwater so smaller storms will infiltrate into the ground;*

The drainage area and catch basin rim elevation have been raised to provide a softer slope and allow greater infiltration during smaller storms. Refer to sheet L2.1 attached.

- 4. Increase the pervious walking path to compensate for the "green area" removed from the parking lot;*

We have increased the pervious stone dust path towards Birch Meadow drive. The opposite end terminates right on the 35' buffer line before transitioning to bituminous concrete pavement at the accessible parking entrance. We are overcompensating for the "green area" being removed with the vegetated islands, newly planted/seeded areas around the parking lot, and selective invasive removals mitigation. Refer to sheets SP1.1, L3.1, L3.2, and L3.3 attached.

5. *General Photometric plan the resource area should be at 0;*

The revised photometric plan shows a reduction in both parking lot and pathway light fixtures with a 0.0 foot candle cutoff at the resource areas. Refer to revised photometric plans attached.

6. *Move the light next to the Aberjona River to reduce the artificial light in that area;*

The revised photometric plan shows a reduction in both parking lot and pathway light fixtures which has shifted this light pole farther away from the Aberjona River and maintains a 0.0 foot candle cutoff at the resource area. Refer to revised photometric plans attached.

7. *Add a guardrail around the rain garden;*

Additional guardrail has been provided along the entrance side of the northeast rain garden to protect against potential snow dumping. Guardrail is provided around all other sides of both proposed rain gardens except for a portion along the stone dust path which we believe would be unnecessary. Refer to sheet L1.1 attached.

8. *Show where the snow storage is located;*

This is a Town DPW item which will be addressed prior to construction completion. We have added notes relating to snow storage and prohibiting snow storage in all rain gardens. Refer to sheet L3.1 attached.

9. *Move the pathway at the light pole in the center spine;*

As previously noted, the walkway is constrained in this area by both the 35' wetland buffer and the existing utility poles. The utility poles support the overhead electric feeding the existing field lighting. The cost to relocate these poles and associated electrical components is substantial. These poles are poised to be removed and power relocated underground as part of the next phase of renovations. At that time, adjustments to the walkway will be reviewed and considered.

We trust these responses adequately address the comments, questions and recommendations made by the Reading Conservation Commission. Should you have any questions about this memo or any of its attachments please do not hesitate to contact me at (401) 450-1587 or src@activitas.com.

Thank you,

ACTIVITAS



Stephen Crisafulli, RLA
Project Manager
src@activitas.com

Distribution:
(via email)

Ryan Percival, PE, Town of Reading
Joseph Huggins, Town of Reading
Megan Buczynski, PE, Activitas
Meghan Donahoe, Activitas

Genevieve Fiorente, Town of Reading
Andrew MacNichol, Town of Reading
Mark Novak, RLA, Activitas

Attachments:

22014-BirchMeadow_Park_Revised_Sheets_2023_01_04

Revised sheets included:

- Cover Sheet
- SP1.1 Site Preparation Plan – Sheet I
- L1.1 Layout and Materials Plan – Sheet I
- L2.1 Grading and Utility Plan – Sheet I
- L3.1 Planting Plan – Sheet I
- L3.2 Planting Plan – Sheet II
- L3.3 Planting Details and Schedules
- L5.3 Site Details – Sheet III

22014-Revised_Photometric_Layout