



Vegetative Management Plan, Hanscom Field

Bedford, Concord, Lexington and Lincoln, Massachusetts

Every five years, Massachusetts airport operators must implement a vegetative management plan in order to maintain navigable “protected” airspace in compliance with FAA regulations. Often this involves extensive removal of vegetation within uplands and wetland resource areas. The Generic Environmental Impact Report issued by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) addresses the complexities of vegetation removal in wetlands at airports and allows a vegetative management plan to be permitted as a Limited Project, under the applicable performance standards under 310 CMR 10.53(3)(n) of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131 § 40) Regulations. These Regulations emphasize protection of wetlands, wildlife habitat, rare species habitat, water quality, and flood control, and require mitigation of adverse impacts.

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc. (HW) was contracted by the Conservation Commissions in the Towns of Bedford, Concord, Lexington and Lincoln to assist in their review and permitting of the collective Notice of Intent applications filed by MassPort for the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for Hanscom Field. Given the vast extent of proposed alterations within wetland resource areas and their associated buffer zones, including alteration of habitat for state-listed rare wildlife and vernal pools and the potential for adverse impacts, HW provided comprehensive reviews of the proposed project impacts within each municipality. HW also coordinated with the Conservation Commissions and the project proponents in making project modifications to bring the project into compliance, and assisted the Towns in drafting Orders of Conditions permitting the proposed project.

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