

Project Name: Town of Bristol, Silver Creek (Golf Course) Water
Quality Improvements

Contract Number: SNEPWG18-1-Bristol

Grant Period: September 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021

Report Type: Final

January 31, 2022

Grantee Organization:

Town of Bristol

Edward M. Tanner, Principal Planner

(401) 253-7000 x128

etanner@bristolri.gov

Executive Summary:

With funding assistance from a 2018 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant, the Town of Bristol has completed design, permitting and construction of the Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements project. This multi-faceted project provides environmental and recreational benefits that will resonate beyond Bristol into the greater Narragansett Bay watershed. Bristol's municipally-owned nine-hole golf course consists of 26+ acres of land that was historically part of a larger private 18-hole course. The surrounding East Bay Industrial Park comprises remaining land from the original private golf course.



The goals of this project are to restore freshwater wetlands at the golf course and to improve the water quality of two tributaries that flow into Narragansett Bay, increasing flood storage capacity, and enhancing functions of freshwater wetland habitat. The redesigned golf course has a smaller active recreation footprint than the previously existing course; and has a redesigned layout using

less land area while still providing public access and desirable public outdoor recreational opportunities. The project included the restoration of several impoundments within the golf course, installation of stormwater management best management practices (BMP), realignment of several golf holes, removal of historic fill adjacent to streams and wetland areas, daylighting of piped streams, and the planting of over 2,400 native plants as buffer areas between wetlands and playable portions of the golf course. The Town of Bristol intends to maintain the golf course property as open space for public recreation and enjoyment, but with improved environmental conditions.

The Town selected an engineering and landscape architectural consultant team to design and permit property improvements, while also incorporating input from community stakeholders. The Town coordinated and led stakeholder meetings with representatives of local environmental and recreation groups to guide the consulting team in their early design activities. The consulting team gathered necessary topographic survey, wetlands delineation, soils, and other site-specific existing conditions data and refined design plans with input from the Town and stakeholder group. After evaluating numerous design options, the Town selected a consensus “master plan” that identified the overall modified layout of the golf course and general locations of proposed wetland and habitat restoration activities.



Prior to construction of any site improvements, the Town submitted design plans to the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) for wetlands permitting. A wetland permit was issued by RIDEM and includes conditions and requirements for work within and adjacent to wetland resource areas. The Town also prepared and submitted the required quality assurance program plan (QAPP) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The QAPP was approved by EPA and includes methods and procedures for data collection including water quality monitoring as well as procedures for modeling and monitoring of construction and restoration activities.

The Town put construction plans and specifications out to bid to retain the services of a qualified contractor to conduct construction and restoration work at the golf course. Throughout the autumn of 2020 and spring of 2021 the Town and its consultant team oversaw construction of “Phase I” site improvements. “Phase I” construction included all wetland and water quality activities proposed south of Broadcommon Road within the Silver Creek watershed. These plans also included portions of the planned wetland restoration and water quality improvements north of Broadcommon Road within the Jacobs Marsh watershed. Construction activities were substantially completed in mid-April 2021.



Construction November 2020.



Construction November 2020.



Construction March 2021.



Construction March 2021.



Construction March 2021.



Construction April 2021.

Restoration plantings and public outreach activities commence in spring 2021. These activities included guided tours of the property to showcase and explain improvements to Town officials and the general public. In May 2021 volunteers and project partners coordinated the delivery and planting of over 1,600 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants throughout the property. After an initial hot and dry period where individual plants were watered by hand by volunteers several days per week, regular precipitation over the summer months has helped to ensure a high rate of plant survivability.



Restoration Plants May 2021.



Restoration Plantings May 2021.



Restoration Plantings May 2021.



Restoration Plantings May 2021.

All “Phase I” construction and wetland restoration seeding and planting activities were substantially completed in spring 2021. However, some work, including additional wetland plantings to fill voids observed after the growing season remained and additional plantings were completed in the fall. Approximately 822 plants were installed in September 2021 by community volunteers with oversight by Save the Bay staff. In addition, public engagement and outreach activities continued into September, including preparation of an educational brochure, informational signage for the course, and an enhanced project page on the Town’s website. Also, in September, our consultant team completed an Ecological Management Plan to guide future management and maintenance activities at the golf course property



Post-construction June 2021.



Post-construction June 2021.



Post-construction July 2021.



Post-construction October 2021.



Post-construction October 2021.

Overall project costs for design, permitting and construction of “Phase I” improvements totaled \$527,837.84. The Town of Bristol expended a total of \$201,155.49 in direct expenses related to project design, construction and outreach. The Town also logged in-kind match hours for Town personnel / equipment and volunteer personnel to manage this project and assist our consultants with construction oversight, monitoring, and restoration planting activities. The total indirect in-kind match value expended is \$26,682.35. A total of \$300,000 in SNEP grant funds were expended for direct expenses related to project design, permitting, construction, and public outreach.

Additional construction work on “Phase II” of the Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements began in spring 2021 with funding assistance from other grant sources. This work is ongoing and will be completed in spring 2022. The Town is currently working to identify an operator who will manage the course with the intent of opening to the public in summer of 2022.

The Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements Project is supported by the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants. SNEP Watershed Grants are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a collaboration with Restore America’s Estuaries (RAE). For more on SNEP Watershed Grants, see www.snepgrants.org The Town of Bristol acknowledges and thanks EPA and RAE for their guidance and funding assistance with this exciting and successful project.

January 31, 2022

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Report Type: Final

Project Report Narrative:

The Town of Bristol has completed design, permitting and construction of all proposed site improvements at the Bristol Golf Course. The project included restoration of freshwater wetlands at the course property to improve the water quality of two tributaries that flow into Narragansett Bay, increasing flood storage capacity, and enhancing functions of freshwater wetland habitat. To accomplish this, the Town redesigned the 26+ acre nine-hole public golf course with a smaller active recreation footprint than the previously existing course; and with a redesigned layout using less land area while still providing public access and desirable public outdoor recreational opportunities. Working with our selected consultants — the engineering firm Wright-Pierce and the landscape architect firm Gardner & Gerrish, LLC — the Town managed and provided oversight for all project construction activities. The Town's selected contractor — US Pitchcare, LLC — completed construction of all site improvements.

Public education and involvement is an important component of this project. Working with project partners including Save the Bay and Save Bristol Harbor, the Town coordinated the planting of over 2,400 native plants on the property by community volunteers to enhance restoration. We have also prepared public educational materials, including project information on the Town's website as well as an educational brochure and educational signage that will be installed at the course prior to its opening in 2022.

Project Results:

The goals of this project were to restore freshwater wetlands at the 26+ acre Bristol Golf Course and to improve the water quality of two tributaries that flow into Narragansett Bay, increasing

flood storage capacity, and enhancing functions of freshwater wetland habitat. The project included the restoration of several impoundments within the golf course, installation of stormwater management best management practices (BMP), removal of historic fill adjacent to streams and wetland areas, daylighting of piped streams, and the planting of native shrubs, trees, and herbaceous plants as buffer areas between wetlands and playable portions of the golf course. The intent of the Town of Bristol is to maintain this golf course property as open space for public recreation and enjoyment, but with improved environmental conditions.

Upon receipt of a 2018 Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant, the Town of Bristol began preparations for the design of the Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements project. In December 2018, a representative of the Town of Bristol attended the 9th Annual National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and Management where this project was presented to a national audience along with other SNEP grant recipients.

In early 2019, after advertising a qualifications-based Invitation to Bid for engineering and landscape design services, the Town selected a consultant team consisting of the engineering firm Wright-Pierce and the landscape architect firm Gardner & Gerrish, LLC to design and permit all property improvements. In the spring and summer of 2019 the Town coordinated and led “stakeholder” meetings with representatives of local environmental and recreation minded groups to guide the consulting team in their early design activities. Throughout 2019 the consulting team gathered necessary topographic survey, wetlands delineation, soils, and other site-specific existing conditions data and refined design plans with input from the stakeholder group. After evaluating numerous design options, the Town selected a consensus “master plan” (copy attached) that identified the overall modified layout of the golf course and general locations of proposed wetland and habitat restoration activities. The Town also met with wetland regulators at the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) to review existing conditions and preliminary improvement plans.

Throughout the first half of 2020, the Town and its consultant team submitted design plans to RIDEM for wetlands permitting and also prepared and submitted the required quality assurance program plan (QAPP) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The QAPP included methods and procedures for data collection including water quality monitoring by our community partner Save Bristol Harbor as well as procedures for modeling and monitoring of construction and restoration activities. The QAPP was approved by EPA in late May 2020, and the wetland permit was issued by RIDEM in late August 2020. Approved permit design plans are attached.

In May 2020, our consultant team completed “Phase I” construction plans and bid specifications, which included all wetland and water quality activities proposed south of Broadcommon Road within the Silver Creek watershed. These plans also include portions of the planned wetland restoration and water quality improvements north of Broadcommon Road within the Jacobs Marsh

watershed. The Town put construction plans out to bid, and in early June we received bids from five contractors. After reviewing bids and qualifications and evaluating budget considerations, the Town awarded construction to US Pitchcare, LLC. After review of bids and costs associated with base plans and alternatives, the Town sought additional funding for water quality improvements from RIDEM through its Office of Water Resources / Nonpoint Source Program, Clean Water Act Section 319 grant program. In June 2020 we were informed that the Town had been selected for funding from the 319 grant program to assist with construction. Throughout the autumn of 2020 and spring of 2021 the Town oversaw construction of “Phase I” site improvements by US Pitchcare. Construction activities were substantially completed in mid-April 2021.

Restoration plantings and public outreach activities also commence in spring 2021. These activities included guided tours of the property to showcase and explain improvements to Town officials and the general public. In addition, as part of the Town’s Earth Day cleanup activities, volunteers organized by the Bristol Conservation Commission and Save Bristol Harbor spent several hours cleaning the golf course and surrounding properties of refuse while learning about the project and its environmental benefits. In May, Save the Bay coordinated and oversaw the delivery and planting of over 1,600 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous wetland plants throughout the property. A total of 25 community volunteers assisted with the planting. After an initial hot and dry period where individual plants were watered by hand by volunteers several days per week, regular precipitation over the summer months helped to ensure a high rate of plant survivability.

Although the golf course was closed to play in 2021, the Town continued to maintain the property throughout the growing season with a minimal level of mowing so as to provide access to the property and to preserve existing greens and tee box areas while restoration project activities were underway. In addition, in order to improve course conditions and to make way for restoration activities and changes to the golf course layout, the Town worked with our local electricity provider, National Grid, to remove numerous service poles, wires and equipment which had been installed in the 1960’s to service irrigation pumps. The removal of this equipment, along with the related removal of large wooden poles and netting along the easterly property line by a private contractor eliminate man-made objects within restored natural areas and improve the overall course design. The Town has since worked with NGRID and a neighboring property owner to install a new electric service to power future course irrigation.

In February 2021, the Town of Bristol was informed that we had been awarded a grant from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank’s “Resilient Rhody” Municipal Resilience Program (MRP) to assist with funding “Phase II” of golf course improvements including completion of all restoration activities north of Broadcommon Road to Tupelo Street. Work on this portion of the overall project commenced in May 2021 and was substantially completed by our contractor in late June.

All “Phase I” construction and wetland restoration seeding and planting activities were substantially completed in spring 2021. However, some work, including additional wetland plantings to fill voids observed after the growing season remained and additional plantings were completed in the fall. Approximately 822 plants were installed in September 2021 by community volunteers with oversight by Save the Bay staff. In addition, public engagement and outreach activities continued into September, including preparation of an educational brochure, informational signage for the course, and an enhanced project page on the Town’s website. Also, in September, our consultant team completed an Ecological Management Plan to guide future management and maintenance activities at the golf course property (copy attached).

Compliance

The Town coordinated project design and received a wetland permit from RIDEM. The Town also received approval of our QAPP from EPA. All project activities, including construction, restoration, and monitoring have been conducted in compliance with specifications and conditions of the RIDEM wetland permit and the approved QAPP.

Project Partners

The project team included representatives of the Town of Bristol’s Department of Community Development and the Department of Parks and Recreation; the Bristol Conservation Commission; Save Bristol Harbor; and Save The Bay. These organizations have worked together in various capacities on numerous water quality, flood control, open space, and habitat improvements related projects. Save Bristol Harbor has compiled over a decade’s worth of baseline water quality data within Silver Creek and Bristol Harbor through the use of trained volunteers in partnership with the URI Watershed Watch program. Save Bristol Harbor volunteers continued monitoring and documenting water quality throughout this project and will continue with these efforts with assistance from the Town in accordance with the approved QAPP. Two additional sampling locations were added to the monitoring program downstream of the Bristol Golf Course within both Silver Creek to the south and within an unnamed coastal stream to the north. These two locations were included in water quality sampling and monitoring activities during the 2019, 2020 and 2021 sampling seasons; and these activities will continue post-construction. Save the Bay is a project partner that provided staff time to conduct site visits, recommend habitat restoration actions, and assist with design plans. Save the Bay staff and volunteers also provided assistance by photo-documenting construction activities and overseeing all restoration planting and public education activities.

Volunteer and Community Involvement

The project team included members of the community, specifically representatives of Save Bristol Harbor, local recreation enthusiasts, and Bristol's Conservation Commission. During the project design phase, the Town held several stakeholder meetings. These meetings were attended by members of the community who provided input on the project plans. In addition, volunteers from Save Bristol Harbor continue to collect and analyze water samples downstream from the project to assess long term changes in water quality within both Silver Creek flowing south from the golf course property and the unnamed stream flowing north from the property to Jacob's Marsh. As noted above, representatives of Save the Bay also worked with our landscape architect consultant to develop an appropriate restoration planting plan and they recruited and supervised community volunteers to plant and care for over 2,400 trees, shrubs, and herbaceous wetland plants on the golf course property. Volunteers who assisted with plantings included local residents, as well as members of the Bristol Conservation Commission, Save Bristol Harbor, and Mount Hope High School.

Outreach & Communications

The project team has provided regular updates to Bristol residents through the Town Council and Town Administrator's office and through the use of the Town's website and social media outlets. In addition, Bristol's local weekly newspaper the *Bristol Phoenix* has published several articles describing the project in both print and electronic formats (copies attached). Two of these articles were published in spring 2021 and highlighted construction activities and volunteer restoration planting activities. The Town has also printed and displayed a large banner at the golf course property informing the public of the project and its watershed restoration goals (photo attached). As noted previously, the Town has also prepared an educational brochure (copy attached) and has designed and fabricated two educational signs (images attached) that will be permanently installed on the golf course prior to opening in 2022 to provide information on the project to future course users.

Project Budget Report

Overall expenditures for this project totaled \$527,837.84. The Town of Bristol expended a total of \$201,155.49 in direct expenses related to project design, construction and outreach. The Town also logged in-kind match hours for Town personnel / equipment and volunteer personnel to manage this project and assist our consultants with construction oversight, monitoring, and restoration planting activities. The total indirect in-kind match value expended is \$26,682.35. A total of \$300,000 in SNEP grant funds were expended for direct expenses related to project design, permitting, construction, and public outreach.

Summary Budget Table

Budget Category	Total Budgeted Grant Funds	Total Budgeted Match	Total Budgeted Grant + Match	Actual Grant Funds Expended	Actual Match Funds Expended	Actual Expended Grant + Match	Match Source
Personnel w/ Fringe	0	\$18,771	\$18,771	0	\$26,682.35	\$26,682.35	Town of Bristol
Travel	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$4,000	0	\$2,093.28	\$2,093.28	Town of Bristol
Equipment	0	0	0	0	\$783.96	\$783.96	Town of Bristol
Contractual	\$297,000	\$113,578	\$410,578	\$300,000.00	\$162,259.16	\$462,259.16	Town of Bristol
Other	0	0	0	0	\$36,019.09	\$36,019.09	Town of Bristol
TOTAL	\$300,000	\$133,349	\$433,349	\$300,000.00	\$227,837.84	\$527,837.84	Town of Bristol

Detailed Project Budget Table

A detailed project budget table is attached.

Budget Narrative

The Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements Project is supported by a SNEP Watershed Grant. SNEP Watershed Grants are funded by the EPA through a collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE). For more on SNEP Watershed Grants, see www.snepgrants.org. The Town of Bristol acknowledges and thanks EPA and RAE for their guidance and funding assistance with this exciting and successful project.

The Town of Bristol has successfully completed all work associated with this SNEP grant funded project. Contractual expenses included the services of engineering and landscape architect consultants to develop the project design, prepare permit applications, develop the QAPP, and coordinate bidding and construction oversight. Additional contractual expenses included earthwork and construction activities associated with improvements and wetland restoration, including landscape enhancements and plantings at the golf course property.

The Town of Bristol has provided grant match in the form of staff time to facilitate overall project implementation including project management, and oversight of the selected consultants and

contractor. Our project partners from Save the Bay have assisted with landscape and wetland restoration planting design and oversight of volunteers and planting activities.

The above activities were all budgeted with our original SNEP grant project proposal. However, our contractual expenses for engineering design work and construction have exceeded original budget estimates. The Town has secured additional project funding to assist with construction activities through the RIDEM 319 grant program; and a portion of the Town's match expenses for construction will be reimbursed through that grant.

Supporting Materials

The following supporting materials are attached to this report:

- Detailed Project Budget Table;
- Master Plan Image;
- Approved Permit Set Design Plans;
- Ecological Management Plan;
- Project Brochure;
- Images of Signs to be Installed at Golf Course; and
- Scanned Copies of Newspaper Articles Describing Project Activities.

Certification

The undersigned verifies that the descriptions of activities and expenditures in this final report are accurate to the best of my knowledge; and that the activities were conducted in agreement with the grant contract. I also understand that matching funds levels established in the grant contract must be met.



Edward M. Tanner
Principal Planner

DATE: January 31, 2022
Town of Bristol, Department of Community Development

Detailed Project Budget Table: FINAL REPORT

Town of Bristol Silver Creek Water Quality - Golf Course (September 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021)

Budget Category	Hours Worked This Period	Cost Per Hour	Total Budgeted Funds	Budgeted Grant Funds	Budgeted Non-Fed Match	Grant Funds Expended Cumulative	Match Funds Expended Cumulative	Match Source
Personnel/Fringe								
Diane Williamson	10	61.44	2,880.00	0	2,880.00	0	5,253.12	Town of Bristol
Ed Tanner	92	51.97	4,848.00	0	4,848.00	0	15,149.26	Town of Bristol
Tim Shaw	0	43.48	2,155.00	0	2,155.00	0	608.72	Town of Bristol
Jimmy Sylvester (DPW)	18	48.58	-	0	-	0	1,141.63	Town of Bristol
Save Bristol Harbor Volunteers	16	24.69	2,469.00	0	2,469.00	0	851.81	volunteer hours
Save the Bay Volunteers	128	24.69	6,419.00	0	6,419.00	0	3,677.81	volunteer hours
Travel								
2018 Watershed conference			3,500.00	3,000.00	500.00	0	2,093.28	Town of Bristol
Grantee Meetings			500.00	0	500.00	0	0	Town of Bristol
Equipment								
Backhoe-Wheeled Excavator (DPW)	18	33.36	0	0	0	0	783.96	Town of Bristol
Contractual								
Ecological Mgmt Plan			2,500.00	0	2,500.00	0	0	Town of Bristol
QAPP Development			5,000.00	5,000.00	0	5,000.00	0	Town of Bristol
Survey			11,000.00	0	11,000.00	0	11,000.00	Town of Bristol
Engineering			30,000.00	30,000.00	0	56,491.61	0	Town of Bristol
Permitting			5,000.00	5,000.00	0	5,000.00	300.00	Town of Bristol
Bid Plans and Specs			10,000.00	10,000.00	0	10,000.00	0	Town of Bristol
Construction Admin.			20,000.00	20,000.00	0	21,749.35	0	Town of Bristol
Community Outreach			13,980.00	13,980.00	0	0	0	Town of Bristol
Signage and Outreach Brochures			6,000.00	0	6,000.00	0	120	Town of Bristol
Contractor - US Pitchcare, LLC			307,098.00	213,020.00	94,078.00	201,759.04	150,839.16	Town of Bristol
Supplies / Other								
Property Maintenance			0	0	0	0	12,000.00	Town of Bristol
Electrical Service and Pole Removal			0	0	0	0	20,401.09	Town of Bristol
Poles and Netting Removal							3,120.00	Town of Bristol
Tree Disposal							400.00	Town of Bristol
Portable Toilet							98.00	Town of Bristol
Total Direct			433,349.00	300,000.00	133,349.00	300,000.00	227,837.84	
Total Indirect			-	-	-	-	-	
Total	282		433,349.00	300,000.00	133,349.00	300,000.00	227,837.84	

Plan is based on 2015 aerial imagery. All dimensions are approximate. All dimensions are approximate. All dimensions are approximate.

Bristol GOLF Course

Bristol, Rhode Island



Master Plan

- Surface Water/Pond
- Existing Tees
- Proposed Tees
- ▬ Bridge
- Wetland/Storm Storage
- Existing Green
- New Green
- Planting

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Yards	160	135	125	165	105	135	115	155	185	1270
Par	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	27

★ Alewife Shelter Shed



BID SET No. _____

TOWN OF BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

CONTRACT DRAWINGS FOR

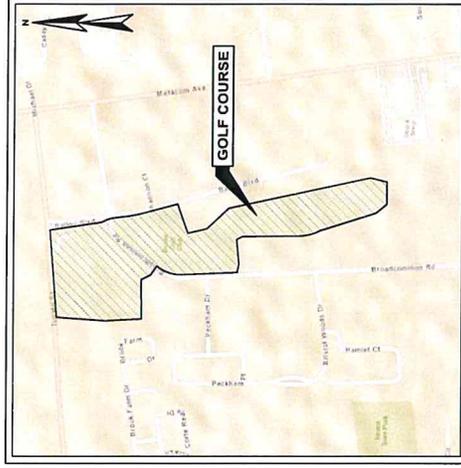
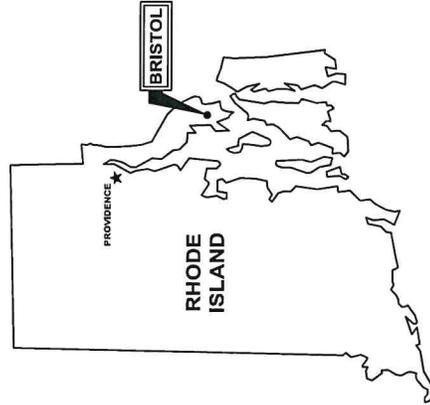
GOLF COURSE WATER

QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

JANUARY 2020
REGULATORY REVIEW
REVISED AUGUST 2020

DRAWING INDEX

GENERAL	COVER SHEET
CIVIL	GENERAL NOTES, LEGEND AND ABBREVIATIONS
C-1	EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN
C-2	PROPOSED GRADING PLAN I
C-3	PROPOSED GRADING PLAN II
C-4	PROPOSED GRADING PLAN III
C-5	PROPOSED GRADING ENLARGEMENT PLAN I
C-6	PROPOSED GRADING ENLARGEMENT PLAN II
C-7	PROPOSED GRADING ENLARGEMENT PLAN III
C-8	PROPOSED PLANTING PLAN I
C-9	PROPOSED PLANTING PLAN II
C-10	PROPOSED PLANTING PLAN III
C-11	PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN I
C-12	PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN II
C-13	PROPOSED RESTORATION PLAN III
C-14	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN I
C-15	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN II
C-16	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN III
C-17	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN IV
C-18	PROPOSED DETAIL PLAN V



LOCATION PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 100'



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FOR REVIEW _____
FOR BIDDING _____
WP PROJECT No. 20198

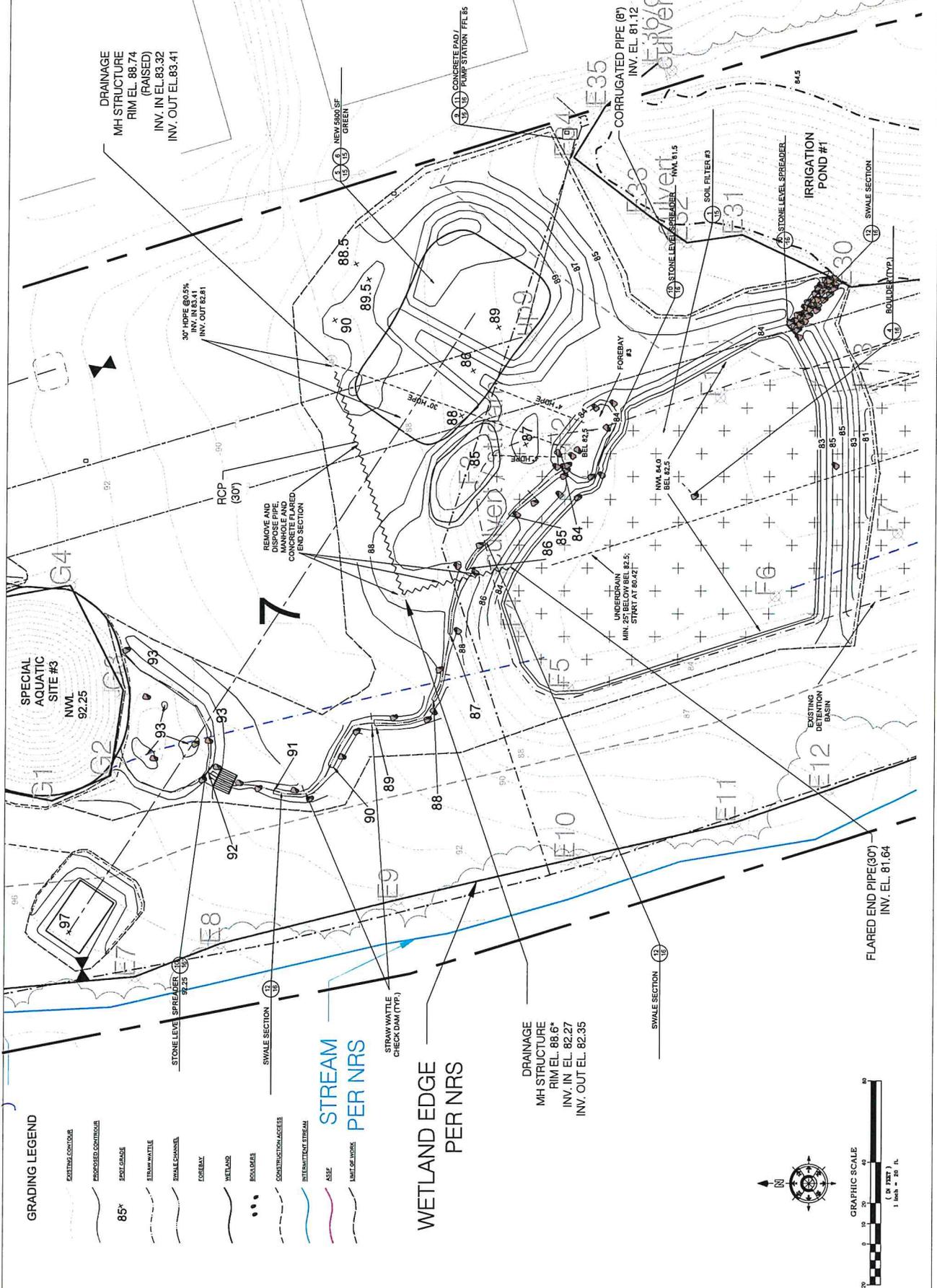
APP'D DATE	
DATE	
REVISIONS	
NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	ISSUE FOR PERMITS
2	PERMITS

PROJECT NO. 20195
 DATE 21 MAY 2020
 DRAWN BY JSM/TGR
 CHECKED BY LMS/SLM
 CAD - C/HM/TGR
 C/NM
 TGR



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PROPOSED GRADING ENHANCEMENT PLAN II
TOWN OF BRISTOL
GOLF COURSE WATER
QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS
 BRISTOL, RI
DRAWING
C-7



GRADING LEGEND

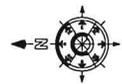
- EXISTING CONTOUR
- PROPOSED CONTOUR
- 85°
- FOOT GRADE
- STREAM WATTLE
- SWALE CHANNEL
- FOREBAY
- WETLAND
- BOULDER
- CONCRETE/STONE SPREADER
- INTERMITTENT STREAM
- SEEP
- LIMIT OF WORK

STREAM PER NRS

- STRAW WATTLE CHECK DAM (TYP)

WETLAND EDGE PER NRS

DRAINAGE MH STRUCTURE
 RIM EL. 88.6'
 INV. IN EL. 82.27
 INV. OUT EL. 82.35



NO.	REVISIONS/REVISIONS	DATE
1	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
2	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
3	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
4	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
5	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
6	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
7	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
8	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
9	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019
10	ISSUED FOR PERMITS	11/11/2019

PROJECT NO. 20198
 DATE: 11 MAY 2019
 APPROVED BY: JIMMY GER
 DATE: 21 MAY 2019
 DRAWN BY: JIMMY GER
 CHECKED BY: JIMMY GER
 CLIENT: TOWN OF BRISTOL
 CADD: CADD
 CADD NO.: CADD
 CADD DATE: CADD

REVISIONS:
 1. GERN
 2. GERN
 3. GERN
 4. GERN
 5. GERN
 6. GERN
 7. GERN
 8. GERN
 9. GERN
 10. GERN



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TOWN OF BRISTOL
 QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS
 BRISTOL, RI
 PROJECT PLANTING PLAN III
 DRAWING
 C-11

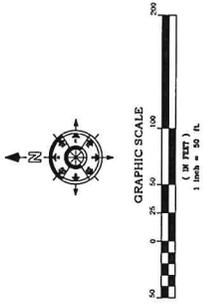


PLANTING LEGEND

	BENCHES/LOW MOW BLUEGRASS SEED-500 APPROXIMATELY 75,000 SQ. FT.
	PRIMARY ROUGH/LOW MOW BLUEGRASS SEED-500 APPROXIMATELY 46,700 SQ. FT.
	WET MEADOW SEED APPROXIMATELY 11,400 SQ. FT.
	UPLAND SEED APPROXIMATELY 7,100 SQ. FT.
	LIMIT OF WORK

PLANT SCHEDULE

NO.	SYMBOL	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
01	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
02	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
03	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
04	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
05	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
06	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
07	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
08	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
09	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
10	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
11	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
12	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
13	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
14	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
15	(Symbol)	PLANT SPECIES	SIZE	QUANTITY	DATE
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BRISTOL, RI

SEPTEMBER 2021

Ecological Management Plan

20198

Golf Course Water Quality Improvement

Table of Contents

Section 1	Introduction	1-1
Section 2	Stormwater Treatment Operation and Maintenance	2-1
2.1	General	2-1
2.1.1	Stormwater Treatment BMPs	2-1
2.1.2	Impact Inspections	2-1
2.1.3	Maintenance Scheduling and Performance	2-1
2.2	Storm Drain Maintenance and Inspection Activities	2-2
2.2.1	General	2-2
2.2.2	Grassed Underdrained Soil Filter	2-2
2.2.3	Forebays	2-3
2.2.4	Level Lip Spreaders	2-3
2.2.5	Vegetated Swales	2-3
2.2.6	Catch Basins and Culverts	2-3
2.3	Best Management Practices Maintenance Agreement	2-3
2.3.1	General	2-3
2.3.2	Source of Funding for BMP O&M Activities	2-4
2.4	Care of Trees and Shrubs	2-4
2.4.1	Trees and Shrubs	2-4
2.4.2	Watering	2-4
Section 3	Turf Management	3-1
3.1	General	3-1
3.2	Fertility Program	3-1
3.3	Turf Grass Post-Establishment Period	3-2
3.4	Cultural Management Program	3-2
3.4.1	Irrigation	3-2
3.4.2	Topdressing	3-3
3.4.3	Other Amendments	3-3
3.5	Mechanical Management Practices	3-3
3.5.1	Mowing	3-3
3.5.2	Aerification	3-4
3.5.3	Spiking	3-4
3.5.4	Rolling	3-4
3.6	Integrated Pest Management	3-4
3.6.1	Delineation of the Management Area	3-5
3.6.2	Initial Information Gathering	3-5
3.6.3	Monitoring of Pets and Non-Target Organisms	3-5
3.6.4	Establishing Damage Thresholds and Action Levels	3-6
3.6.5	Define Effective Treatments	3-7
3.6.6	Making the Treatment Decision	3-8
3.6.7	Evaluation of Treatment and Record Keeping	3-8

List of Appendices

- Appendix A BMP Map
- Appendix B Underdrained Soil Filter Inspection Checklist
- Appendix C Mowing Map

List of Tables

Table 3-1	Nutrient Application Rates	3-2
Table 3-2	Mowing Practices	3-4
Table 3-3	Disease Temperature Range	3-6

Section 1 Introduction

The Bristol Golf Course Water Quality Improvements project was designed and constructed to achieve the water quality enhancement goals of the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grant. In collaboration with Gardner and Gerrish Landscape Architects, LLC improvements were designed to enhance water quality, improve flood management, increase course aesthetics and playability, and reduce maintenance demands. The course layout was modified to increase playability, improve abutter safety, renew course interest with more dynamic shot values, maintaining turf area and increasing wildlife habitat.

In compliance with the SNEP Grant, the purpose of this document is to provide details on how to manage the Bristol Golf Course in regard to the recent water treatment, wetland, landscape, and turf improvements considering the ecological aspect of the project.

Section 2 Stormwater Treatment Operation and Maintenance

2.1 General

2.1.1 Stormwater Treatment BMPs

Runoff produced by the Bristol Golf Course and the surrounding watershed are treated by the following stormwater best management practices (BMPs):

- vegetated swales,
- level lip spreaders,
- forebays and
- underdrained soil filters.

Additional storm drain features include catch basins and culverts. A display showing the location of these BMPs on a map of the golf course is available in Appendix A.

2.1.2 Inspections

It is clear that an inspection program is necessary to ensure that a stormwater facility remains operational. Inspections should be performed on a regular basis and scheduled based on the stormwater control type and characteristics. In addition, inspections should occur after major rainfall events for those components deemed to be critically affected by the resulting runoff. Not all inspections can be conducted by direct human observation. For subsurface systems, such as soil filter underdrains, video equipment may be required. There may be cases where other specialized equipment is necessary. The inspection program should be tailored to address the operational characteristics of the system. It is not mandatory that all inspectors be trained engineers, but they should have some knowledge or experience with stormwater systems. In general, trained stormwater engineers should, however, direct them. Inspections by registered engineers should be performed where routine inspection has revealed a question of structural or hydraulic integrity affecting public safety.

The inspection process should document observations made in the field and should cover structural conditions, hydraulic operational conditions, evidence of vandalism, condition of vegetation, occurrence of obstructions, unsafe conditions, and build-up of trash, sediments, and pollutants. This is also an efficient way to take water quality measurements required for monitoring programs and to incorporate them into the inspection history.

2.1.3 Maintenance Scheduling and Performance

Maintenance activities can be divided into two types: scheduled and corrective. Scheduled maintenance tasks are those that are typically accomplished on a regular basis and can generally be scheduled without referencing inspection reports. These items consist of such things as vegetation maintenance (such as mowing or trimming perennials) and trash and debris removal. These tasks are required at well-defined time intervals and should be considered a requirement for most, if not all, stormwater structural facilities. A maintenance crew is typically given a fixed scope of responsibility to address these items.

Corrective tasks consist of items such as sediment removal, bank stabilization, and outlet structure repairs that are done on an as-needed basis. These tasks are typically scheduled based on inspection results or in response to complaints. Corrective maintenance sometimes calls for more specialized expertise and equipment than scheduled

tasks. For example, a task such as sediment removal from a stormwater basin requires specialized equipment for which not every jurisdiction is willing to invest. Therefore, some maintenance tasks might be effectively handled on a contract basis with an outside entity specializing in that field. In addition, some corrective maintenance may also require a formal design and bid process to accomplish the work. The following sections describe appropriate maintenance and inspection activities for the best management practices used at the Bristol Golf Course.

2.2 Storm Drain Maintenance and Inspection Activities

2.2.1 General

The water quality improvement BMPs chosen for the site were based on systems that would fit with the nature of the project site, provide water quality benefits to the maximum extent feasible, and reduce the amount of goose habitat. The design of this system was focused on treating the stormwater that flows from the adjacent industrial area to the grassed soil filter basin as well as overland flows that are often contaminated with avian droppings.

The grassed underdrained soil filter basin was incorporated into the Bristol Golf Club Water Quality project. This system was designed to treat the storm water collected in the adjacent industrial park and the runoff from the golf course. The restored wetlands are designed to improve native habitat, reduce the open space available for geese congregation, and to provide storage and treatment for storm water runoff.

Maintenance, inspection, and repairs will be generally carried out by the Town of Bristol and its course lessee / operator who will oversee course operations and perform regular maintenance with assistance from private contractor as needed.

2.2.2 Grassed Underdrained Soil Filter

Inspections are an integral part of system maintenance. During the six months immediately after construction grassed soil filter facilities should be inspected at least twice or more following precipitation events of at least 1.0 inch to ensure that the system is functioning properly. Thereafter, inspections should be conducted on an annual basis and after storm events of greater than or equal the 1-year, 24-hour Type III precipitation event.

Materials deposited on the surface of the grassed soil filter facilities (e.g., trash and debris) should be removed manually, and properly disposed of. Sediment should be removed from the bottom of the grassed soil filter. Clean-out of any catch basins or inlet structures should be accomplished annually via catch vac or vactor truck. All structural components, which include inlet and outlet structures, pipes, frame and grate, cover, and underdrain system, should be inspected annually and any deficiencies should be reported.

The grassed soil filter should be mowed as required to maintain heights in the 4–6-inch range, with mandatory mowing once heights exceed 10 inches. Fertilization should be avoided when establishing vegetation within the grassed soil filter. Snow should not be stored in the soil filter. Soil filters should be checked for accumulated sediments and removed when they occupy 10% of the filter or sediment forebay bottom. If trenches fail to drain after surface sediment accumulations are removed, the filter medium must be replaced using the same design and installation methods. The soil filter should be checked for dissipation of water after large storm events. The soil filter should be completely drained after filling from the storm event.

An underdrained soil filter inspection checklist is available in Appendix B.

2.2.3 Forebays

Forebays should be inspected annually and following major storms. Sediment and plant debris should be removed from the forebays at least annually.

2.2.4 Level Lip Spreaders

Level spreaders should be inspected annually and following major storms. The level spreader pool should be inspected for sand accumulation and debris that may reduce its capacity. Sediment buildup should be removed when it has accumulated to approximately 25% of design volume or capacity. Sediments should be disposed of appropriately. Debris such as leaf litter, branches, and tree growth should be removed from the spreader. Reconstruct the level spreader if flow from the spreader channelizes.

2.2.5 Vegetated Swales

Inspect swales and ditches once each spring and fall, and after major storm events. Remove any obstructions and accumulated sediment or debris once each spring and fall. Repair slumping side slopes and repair any erosion of the ditch channel once each fall.

2.2.6 Catch Basins and Culverts

Catch basin grates should be cleared of debris and litter once each spring and fall. Accumulated sediment and debris should be removed from the bottom of the basins, inflow channels to the basins, and pipes between basins, and legally disposed of.

Remove accumulated sediment and debris from culvert outlets, once each spring and fall, and after major storm events. Accumulated sediment and debris should be removed from the culvert inlet, outlet, and the inside of the culvert. Repair any erosion damage at the culvert's inlet and outlet once each spring and fall, and after major storm events.

2.3 Best Management Practices Maintenance Agreement

2.3.1 General

A major contributor to unmaintained stormwater facilities is a lack of clear ownership and responsibility definition. In order for an inspection and maintenance program to be effective, the roles for each responsibility must be clearly defined prior to construction of a system. This can be accomplished with a maintenance agreement between the site owners and the responsible party.

Some key aspects of these maintenance agreements are the clear delineation of responsibilities, such as:

- Identification of who will perform inspection duties and how often.
- Listed duties that are to be performed by the owner, such as mowing, debris removal, and replanting of vegetation.
- Defined roles for the responsible authority, such as inspection, and/or modifications to the system such as resizing an orifice.
- Determination of a course of action to be taken if the owner does not fulfill their obligations (i.e., repayment to the responsible authority for activities that the owner did not perform).
- Development of a pollution prevention plan by the owner.
- Requirement of a report, possibly annually, that would serve to keep the owner involved and aware of their responsibilities.

The Town of Bristol will inspect and maintain the stormwater BMPs present on site and will hire an Operator to be responsible for regular mowing in accordance with the mowing map (included in Appendix C), vegetation clearing, removal of trash, general upkeep of property, and reporting any obvious problems to the town. The Town of Bristol has not yet selected an operator for the golf course property. Coordination between the Town and the Operator will be required to work out the details of the lease.

2.3.2 Source of Funding for BMP O&M Activities

The Town of Bristol will pay for long-term operation and maintenance of the stormwater BMPs implemented as part of this project. Although the course will be leased to an operator, the Town will retain responsibility for ensuring that proper maintenance is conducted.

2.4 Care of Trees and Shrubs

2.4.1 Trees and Shrubs

The plants should be inspected periodically and pruned to remove only injured, dying, or dead branches from trees and shrubs, according to standard professional horticultural and arboricultural practices and in accordance with ANSI A300 (Part 3) Pruning Standards. Any pruning that is done should retain natural character. Plants should not be sheared or shaped into unnatural forms.

Planting beds should be weeded approximately once per month during the growing season.

Pest and disease control, if necessary, should be achieved without the use of pesticides and herbicides, following the Northeast Organic Farming Association's Standards for Organic Land Care, which can be purchased here: <http://www.organiclandcare.net/node/1790>.

Landscape mulch should be refreshed annually with a natural-colored brown mulch of 100% fine-shredded pine bark or other softwood bark, of uniform size and free from rot, leaves, twigs, debris, stones, or any material harmful to plant growth.

2.4.2 Watering

All plantings should be thoroughly watered at least twice a week for the growing seasons of 2021 and 2022. After that initial establishment period, watering can be performed as needed during unusually hot or dry weather.

Section 3 Turf Management

3.1 General

The maintenance of healthy and dense turf on a golf course is critical to both enhancing course quality and allowing the implementation of environmentally sound management practices. Healthy turf is best able to withstand the stresses of golfer traffic, combat pest and disease infestation, and respond favorably to efforts aimed at reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the management of golf courses.

The natural characteristics of turf grass limit movement of pesticides and fertilizers into underlying soils and ground water. Thatch produced by the turf acts as an organic filter to chemically bind pesticides that otherwise might enter surface and ground waters. Turf grass root systems are both extensive and fibrous, resulting in maximum absorption of pesticide residues which may penetrate the turf canopy and thatch layers. Also, the naturally acidic soils of the northeast maximize the adsorption of fertilizer elements, especially phosphorus.

The purpose of this turf management program is to identify the fertility program, cultural practices, and pest management procedures to be implemented during both the construction and long-term maintenance of the golf course. This plan has been drawn from the collective experiences of the golf course architect, regional golf course superintendents, University agronomists and extension personnel and water quality scientists, and a review of applied research.

3.2 Fertility Program

The availability of basic growth nutrients of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium is essential to the growth of any vegetation species and turf grasses are no exception. Adequate quantities must be available to the turf in specific periods in its life cycle to stimulate and maintain growth. These nutrients are naturally available in the existing soils but must be supplemented to support the proper growth of turf. Supplemental inputs of nutrients are achieved through the implementation of a fertility program. The focus of such a program is to deliver only such nutrients as are necessary to support suitable turf growth in a manner which both maximizes their availability to the turf and eliminates waste and the release of excess nutrients to surface and ground waters.

A number of research studies on the leaching and surface runoff potential of nitrogen and phosphorus applied to turf grasses have concluded with the finding that appropriate applications do not pose a risk to surface and ground water quality. Petrovic (1990), reporting on the results of research on nitrogen concentrations in ground water beneath turf grass plots exceeded the drinking water standard of 10 ppm only in sandy soils and only if either high levels (i.e., greater than 3.0 lbs./1000 sq.ft.) of soluble nitrogen are used in a single application or daily irrigation is practiced coupled with the application of similarly high rates of water-soluble nitrogen sources. Another recent research by Linde et. al. (1994) has concluded with results of no findings above the 10-ppm standard. Phosphorus release following turf grass fertilizer applications has been found to be insignificant by a number of researchers. Young et. al. (1985) reported that phosphorus rapidly becomes fixed in the soil profile and vertical movement in most soils ranges between 0.3 and 1.2 inches/year. Watachke and Mumma (1989) found that under the extreme rainfall conditions that were actually required to produce runoff from a healthy turf plot (i.e., 6.0 inches/hour) only 0.5 lbs./acre of phosphorus loss occurred.

The results of virtually all research studies completed on the fate of nutrients applied to turf have supported adherence to the following general guidelines in order to minimize and/or eliminate the potential for any release of nutrients due to fertilizer applications on golf turf.

1. Irrigation should be limited to the replacement of lost soil moisture and the evapotranspiration losses of the turf.
2. When appropriate, nitrogen applications should be made using slow-release sources such as natural organic sources, IBDU, methylene ureas, and coated ureas. For this golf course, a heavy reliance on natural organic fertilizers will be utilized.
3. All fertilizer applications should be timed to occur at the time of active plant uptake.
4. Applications should not be made immediately preceding a significant storm event.
5. Application rates should be limited to the documented needs of the turf given an understanding of site-specific soil deficiencies.

3.3 Turf Grass Post-Establishment Period

The post-establishment period consists of the life of the course subsequent to the first two years following germination of the turf. Fertilizer applications should be based on the results of analytical soil tests and examination turf conditions. Estimates of anticipated application rates for this period are as follows:

Table 3-1 Nutrient Application Rates

Golf Surface	Nitrogen	Phosphorus	Potassium
Greens (2.75 A)	2.5 lbs./1000sf/year	Based on soil test	51 lbs./1000sf/year
Tees (2.50 A)	3.0 lbs./1000sf/year	Based on soil test	51 lbs./1000sf/year
Fairways (28 A)	2.0 lbs./1000sf/year	Based on soil test	Based on soil test
Roughs (35 A)	1.5 lbs./1000sf/year	Based on soil test	160 lbs./acre/year

3.4 Cultural Management Program

Cultural practices refer to those activities involving the addition of materials to the turf grass system for the purpose of stimulating, maintaining and/or improving growth. These practices include irrigation, topdressing, fertilizer applications, and the application of amendments such as lime for pH adjustment and iron and other appropriate micro-nutrients to prevent foliar chlorosis. As fertility requirements are addressed herein as a separate section, this section on cultural management will focus on non-fertility practices.

3.4.1 Irrigation

The most significant controllable source of environmental stress to turf is moisture: too much water is as stressful to the turf as is too little water. If turf moisture is not adequately controlled, the resulting stress to the turf will make it more vulnerable to disease and pest infestation. The basic tools available to control moisture include the design and construction of golf surfaces and the implementation of a proper irrigation program.

Design and construction practices such as elevating tees and providing suitable cross surface air flow/drainage and providing/installing proper surface and sub-surface drainage systems are intended primarily to prevent the accumulation and retention of too much moisture. An irrigation system is intended to ensure the provision of an adequate supply of moisture to offset evapotranspiration losses.

The irrigation system will be simple but state of the art, incorporating computerized and manual controls. The computer controls will include over-ride capabilities that allow the golf course superintendent to adjust delivery to each area of the course to respond to needs which may vary from day to day. Irrigation will be limited to intensive

play areas (tees, greens, and fairways). Minimal water will be used as the desire for the layout is a dry, test course where the bump and run shot can be utilized. In order to assist in determining the appropriate application, the superintendent will periodically inspect soil core samples from various turf areas. If water has not penetrated to a desired depth within six to eight hours following an irrigation, then the irrigation time should be increased. If the water has moved well beyond the desired depth within six to eight hours, then the irrigation time should be decreased.

3.4.2 Topdressing

Topdressing aids in thatch decomposition, lessens grain development, stimulates new shoot growth, encourages stolon rooting, and improves playing conditions on putting surfaces by allowing truer and faster ball roll. Although some thatch is desirable to provide a degree of resiliency and to better retain fertilizer and pesticide elements, excess thatch accumulation is the one of the most significant limiting factors in the development of healthy, disease free turf. By mixing suitable topdressing materials into the organic thatch layer, the decomposition of the thatch is enhanced, and the formation of individual layers prevented. Also, topdressing with compost or a compost/mineral mix (such as Sand-Aid, an organic material derived from seaweed) and porous ceramics such as Axis, may aid in reducing the incidence of certain diseases and watering requirements. Studies conducted at Cornell University have demonstrated that monthly applications of topdressings composed of as little as 10.0 pounds of suppressive compost per 1000 square feet are effective in suppressing diseases such as dollar spot, brown patch, Pythium root rot, Typhula blight, and red thread.

The recommended topdressing program is as follows:

- Greens 0.20 cubic yards/1000 SF up to eight times per season
- Tees 0.25 cubic yards/1000 SF up to four times per season

3.4.3 Other Amendments

Iron applications may be necessary to correct iron chlorosis. Applications at up to 2.0 ounces/1000 SF should be made as necessary. Soil pH should be modified as necessary through the application of lime to achieve a reading between 5.5 and 6.5. Other nutrients and mineral amendments should be applied as necessary to respond to deficiencies detected through periodic soil and tissue sampling.

3.5 Mechanical Management Practices

Mechanical management practices include mowing, thatch removal, aerification, spiking and rolling. These practices establish and maintain appropriate turf height, prevent the excessive accumulation of thatch, enhance oxygen/root exchange, prevent excessive compaction, and improve green roll and putting speeds.

3.5.1 Mowing

Regular mowing practices enhance turf density, color, texture, root development, wear tolerance, and other key aspects of turf quality. As taller grass has a higher evapotranspiration rate, proper mowing can reduce the irrigation demand of turf. On the other hand, if grasses are mown too short it may produce undue stress which will make the turf more susceptible to pest and disease infestations. The recommended mowing practices are as follows:

Table 3-2 Mowing Practices

	GREENS	TEES	FAIRWAYS	ROUGHES	FAR ROUGH
Height (inches)	0.19	0.5	0.75	2.0-3.0	6.0+
Frequency	6-7 times/wk.	3 times/wk.	3 times/wk.	once per wk.	3 times / yr.
Clippings	remove	remove	return	return	return

A map depicting areas to be mowed and the frequency of mowing is available in Appendix C.

Vertical mowing can be used to reduce mower induced grain on greens and thatch accumulation. Such mowing practices also can be used to break up the cores produced by aerification equipment (see aerification).

Excessive thatch accumulation increases disease susceptibility of the turf and reduces tolerance to drought, cold and heat. It also restricts the movement of air, water, and fertilizer into soil. Some thatch is necessary as a cushion and for retaining fertilizer and pesticide elements, but excessive thatch should be removed using a variety of mechanical equipment. As a general guideline, thatch removal should take place when the thatch accumulation exceeds 1/2 inch on fairway and tee areas and 1/4 inch on greens.

Clippings are to be removed from tees and greens to improve turf quality and playing conditions. Once removed, clippings will be taken to a central location and composted with sand to produce topsoil for future use such as divot repair on the course.

3.5.2 Aerification

Aerification practices reduce soil compaction, improve surface water infiltration, enhance root penetration, and air exchange, and facilitate nutrient uptake by the turf. Aerification is accomplished by coring of the turf/soil matrix. A variety of machines are available for this activity. Cores can be deposited on the turf surface and broken up to act as a topdressing to enhance thatch decomposition and smooth the playing surface. Aerification of greens typically is followed by topdressing to smooth the playing surface and further mix the topdressing into the accumulated thatch layer.

3.5.3 Spiking

Spiking is useful in reducing soil compaction at the thatch/soil surface interface and in improving moisture infiltration and root/air exchange. This practice also can help reduce thatch accumulation and grain development by lifting the blades of grass prior to mowing.

3.5.4 Rolling

Light weight rolling equipment may be used to smooth turf surfaces and increase ball roll. When used during the summer growth months, rolling can allow the use of higher cutting heights, thereby increasing stress tolerance. In order to prevent excessive soil compaction, rolling should not be conducted more frequently than twice per week.

3.6 Integrated Pest Management

All pest control activities will adhere to integrated pest management (IPM) practices. IPM is an approach to pest control which seeks to anticipate and address the full range of physical, cultural, and biological factors affecting the development of pest populations at a given site. This approach does not seek, as a goal, the eradication of pest populations; rather, it seeks to prevent the growth of pest populations and/or disease infestations above

acceptable threshold levels. To achieve these goals an IPM program is one that must be flexible and reduce reliance on any single mechanism such as chemical pesticide applications. Given that this is a holistic approach to pest control, the implementation of an IPM program has the direct benefit of reducing the use of chemical pesticides in the maintenance program for the golf course.

The implementation of an IPM program requires the disciplined completion of a specific protocol of tasks. The results of each task are synthesized to ensure an integrated approach to decision making. The results of some tasks serve as base data on the characteristics of the site and local pest population while the results of others serve as feedback relative to the effectiveness of the control program. Regardless of the ultimate application of the information generated, each task is critical to the successful implementation of IPM. Description of the specific tasks, in sequential order, follows below:

3.6.1 Delineation of the Management Area

Turf management areas on a golf course for which an area-specific program must be implemented include greens, tees, fairways, roughs, and turf buffers. Each area is exposed to different types and levels of use activity, different cultural practices, and different pest susceptibilities. Turf species selection and the appropriate choice and use of cultural and mechanical maintenance practices are critical first steps to ensure effective and efficient pest control. Turf selection for each area and area-specific cultural and mechanical maintenance practices are discussed herein under the headings of TURFGRASS SELECTION, CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, and MECHANICAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, respectively.

3.6.2 Initial Information Gathering

The gathering of information on potential pest populations ensures that as the turf becomes established the superintendent has the knowledge and tools necessary to anticipate and address likely pest problems. The background information to be gathered during this task should include:

1. Identification of likely pest species and information on their specific life cycles and their physical, cultural, and biological requirements.
2. Identification of all applicable controls available for each identified pest species. These controls would include cultural, biological, and chemical options.
3. Information on pest infestations and successful control strategies experienced in the area of the site.

There are many potential pests of turf grasses including the fungal species *Pythium* and *Rhizoctonia*, the bacteria *Xanthomonas*, various insects and nematodes, weeds such as nutsedge, and mammals such as shrews, moles, and ground hogs.

3.6.3 Monitoring of Pests and Non-Target Organisms

Monitoring consists of the frequent examination of each course management area to determine the status of pest and non-pest organisms. Information to be gathered includes the identification of species present, their level of activity, and the extent of impact. Monitoring is essential to the superintendent's ability to make early and accurate diagnoses of pest presence and threat prior to the pest reaching unacceptable levels.

Monitoring for weed, insect, and small animal pests can be done through visual inspection of the turf surface, thatch, and root zones. The intensity of monitoring activities for weed and insect pests should be adjusted to reflect the life cycles of the potential pests. For example, monitoring for specific weed pests should be intensified when

the species are most likely to germinate given the time of the growing season and specific environmental conditions conducive to such germination. While turf will not display symptomatic signs before weed germination, symptoms of moderate insect infestations may be detectable. Accordingly, monitoring for insect pests should include sample counts to both establish an action threshold and determine when the threshold is exceeded.

Monitoring for early disease and fungal detection is more difficult. Early detection often is impossible, and the rapidity and severity of damage caused by such diseases as Pythium blight dictate the need for preventative applications of fungicides when and if environmental conditions are favorable for the development of the disease. The incidence of disease has been found to be closely linked to measurable environmental conditions, primarily high temperatures and humidity, degree of sun exposure, and leaf wetness. Optimum temperatures for the development of a number of diseases likely to affect the course are as follows:

Table 3-3 Disease Temperature Range

DISEASE	OPTIMUM TEMPERATURE RANGE(F)
Dollar Spot	60 to 85
Snow Mold	68 to 77
Pythium Root Rot	52 to 70
Pythium blight	74 to 93
Summer patch	83 to 87
Brown patch	70 to 90
Yellow tuft	48 to 75
Necrotic ring spot	59 to 82

A number of diagnostic tools have become available in recent years to aid in the early detection of diseases, but their effectiveness remains spotty. These tools range from simple predictor models using readily collected environmental data to diagnostic kits utilizing biochemical information. Examples of the predictor models include those developed for the Pythium blight by Nutter et al. (1983). An example of the biochemical diagnostic kits is that developed by the Agri-Diagnostic Associates. The Agri-Diagnostics detection kit includes immunoassays for four diseases: Pythium blight, Brown patch, Yellow patch, and Dollar spot.

3.6.4 Establishing Damage Thresholds and Action Levels

As the objective of the IPM is the control of pest populations at acceptable levels, it is crucial that sound efforts be made to establish acceptability thresholds for each pest. The threshold of acceptability will vary for each pest and for each management area of a golf course. For example, greens are expected to support a higher quality turf than rough areas; accordingly, the acceptability threshold for a given pest on a green will be much lower than the threshold for a rough area. The setting of thresholds involves consideration of economics and the tolerance of patrons. The superintendent will establish appropriate thresholds based on these considerations.

Action levels are levels of synthesized information which indicate that damage thresholds are or are about to be exceeded. Such synthesized information will include weather and cultural data, the specific period of the pest life cycle, and the accumulated knowledge of previous experiences controlling the pest on the site. Although some guidance on the initial setting of action levels can be obtained, the levels thus established should be set very

conservatively and adjusted upward only as site-specific history information has been developed. Initially, the superintendent should consult with other golf course superintendents in the area to establish action thresholds.

3.6.5 Define Effective Treatments

The full range of potentially effective treatments for each pest should be identified and assessed as to its applicability to given situations. This range would include biological, cultural, and chemical treatments. Appropriate cultural practices which have the effect of reducing pest infestations to levels below the action level are discussed herein under the heading of CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. The following discussion focuses on biological and chemical control treatments.

Biological control is defined as the regulation of pest populations by their natural enemies, including antagonists, parasites, and predators. Biological controls, if target specific, can be effective. However, frequently this effectiveness is unpredictable. This unpredictability means that the superintendent will be taking a risk in selecting such treatment that may place the turf in jeopardy. For this reason, a decision to select a biological control must be made early in order to provide an opportunity to implement other strategies.

In general, biological control efforts have been targeted to insect pests. Research on biological control of disease and weed problems has only recently begun. One effectively proven biological control is the use of bacteria *Bacillus popilliae* to produce milky spore disease which, in turn, controls the growth of White grub populations. It has been suggested that predatory nematodes be considered for the control of Japanese beetle grubs and black cutworms. Other biological controllers of insect populations include such small mammals as moles and shrews. These small mammals, however, often cause more damage to the turf than the insects.

Chemical pesticide applications are essential elements of any effective IPM program. As with cultural and biological controls, chemical applications should be made only as necessary to prevent the pest infestations from surpassing acceptable thresholds and only if the application constitutes the best available control. Best available control refers to the control effort which will achieve the desired result at an acceptable cost and minimum environmental impact relative to other available options. Environmental impact in this context includes damage to non-target species, water quality and air quality.

It is anticipated that a number of currently available pesticides will be used in maintenance and that yet to be developed pesticides eventually will be used when appropriate. Given the constantly evolving nature of the chemical industry, it is impossible to identify all the chemical pesticides to be employed over the life of the course.

The following basic guidelines will govern the use of chemical pesticides:

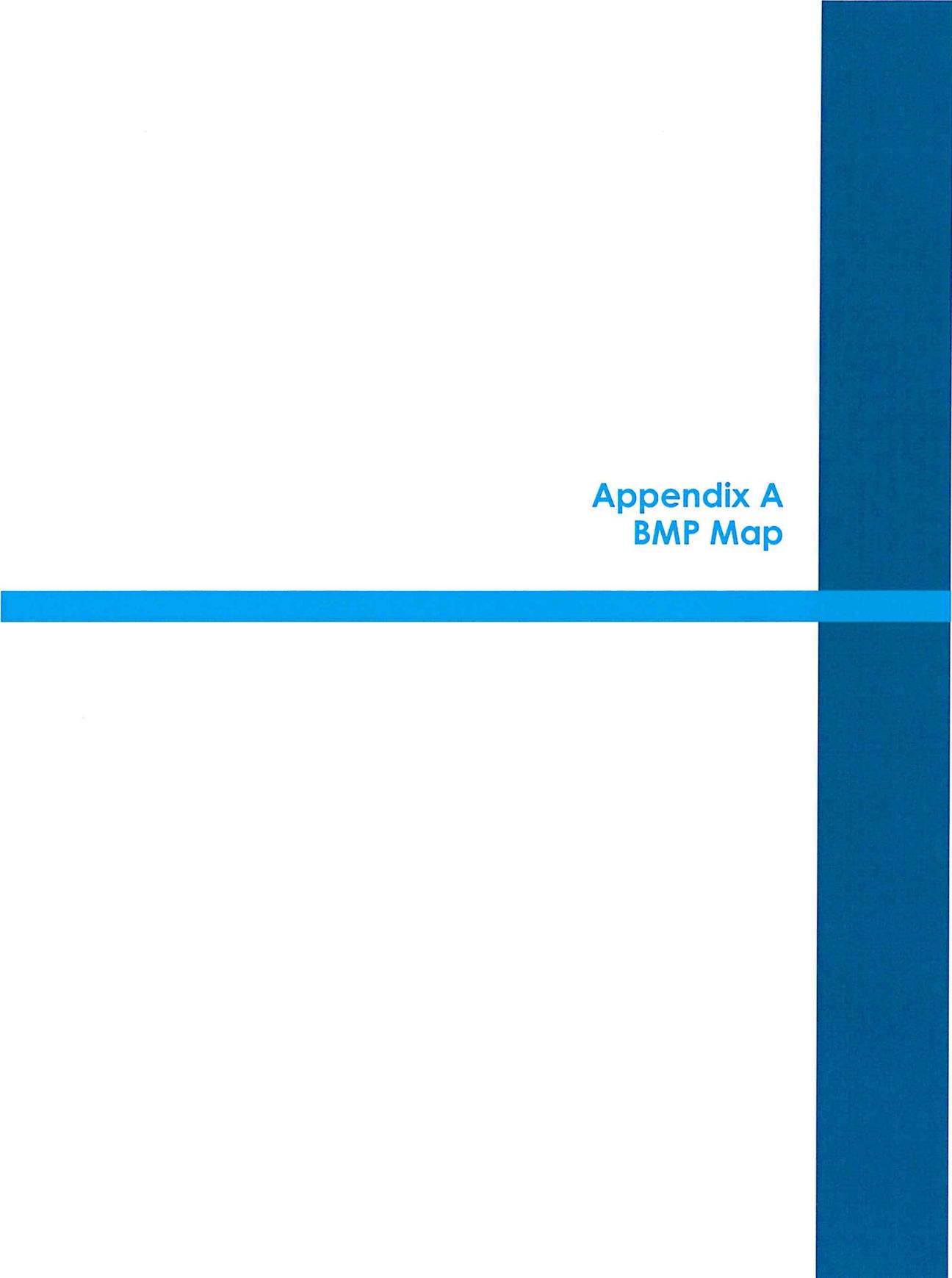
1. Use pesticides only as a component of IPM and only to the extent that they represent best available control either singly or in combination with other non-chemical control mechanisms.
2. Use only those pesticides which have been registered for use in the State of Rhode Island.
3. Store and apply pesticides in strict conformance with label directions.
4. Use new products as they become available only to the extent that they represent best available control relative to existing products.

3.6.6 Making the Treatment Decision

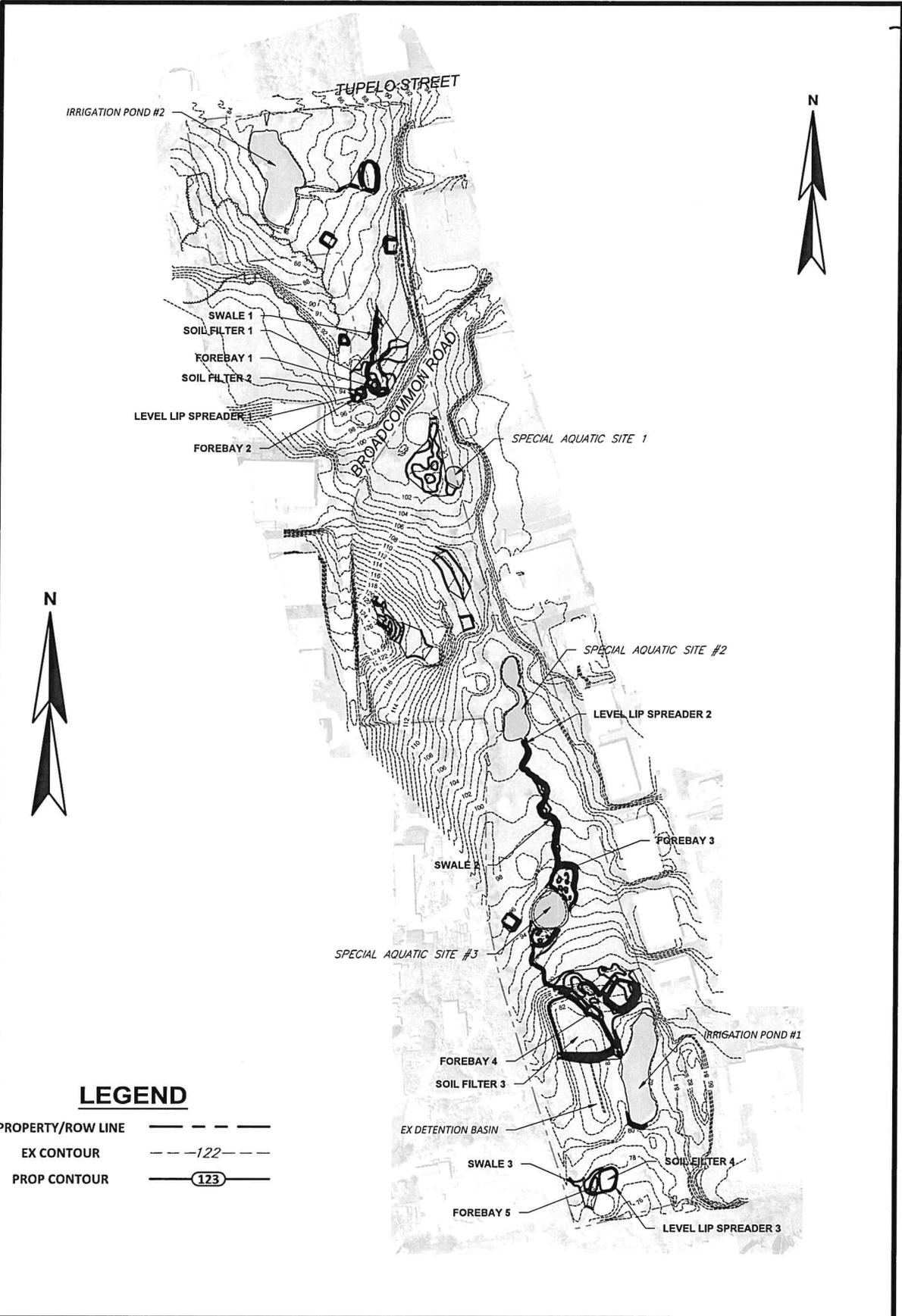
The decision-making process is the essence of IPM. Decisions must be made by the superintendent based on the best available data and knowledge of the site gained by site specific experiences. The goal of all decisions is to utilize the best available control so that acceptability thresholds for each turf pest are not exceeded.

3.6.7 Evaluation of Treatment and Record-Keeping

These tasks provide the feedback information necessary to ensure the selection of best available control over time. The data base established through the completion of these tasks represents the site-specific experience garnered through the implementation of IPM. Each control effort should be followed by a review of the treatment's effectiveness and detailed records should be kept in a computerized data base for enhanced retrieval and correlative analysis. Records should specify the location of treatments, the severity of the infestation, the type and level of treatment applied, the date of treatment, and the specific environmental conditions encountered at the management area immediately prior to, during, and immediately following treatment.



Appendix A
BMP Map

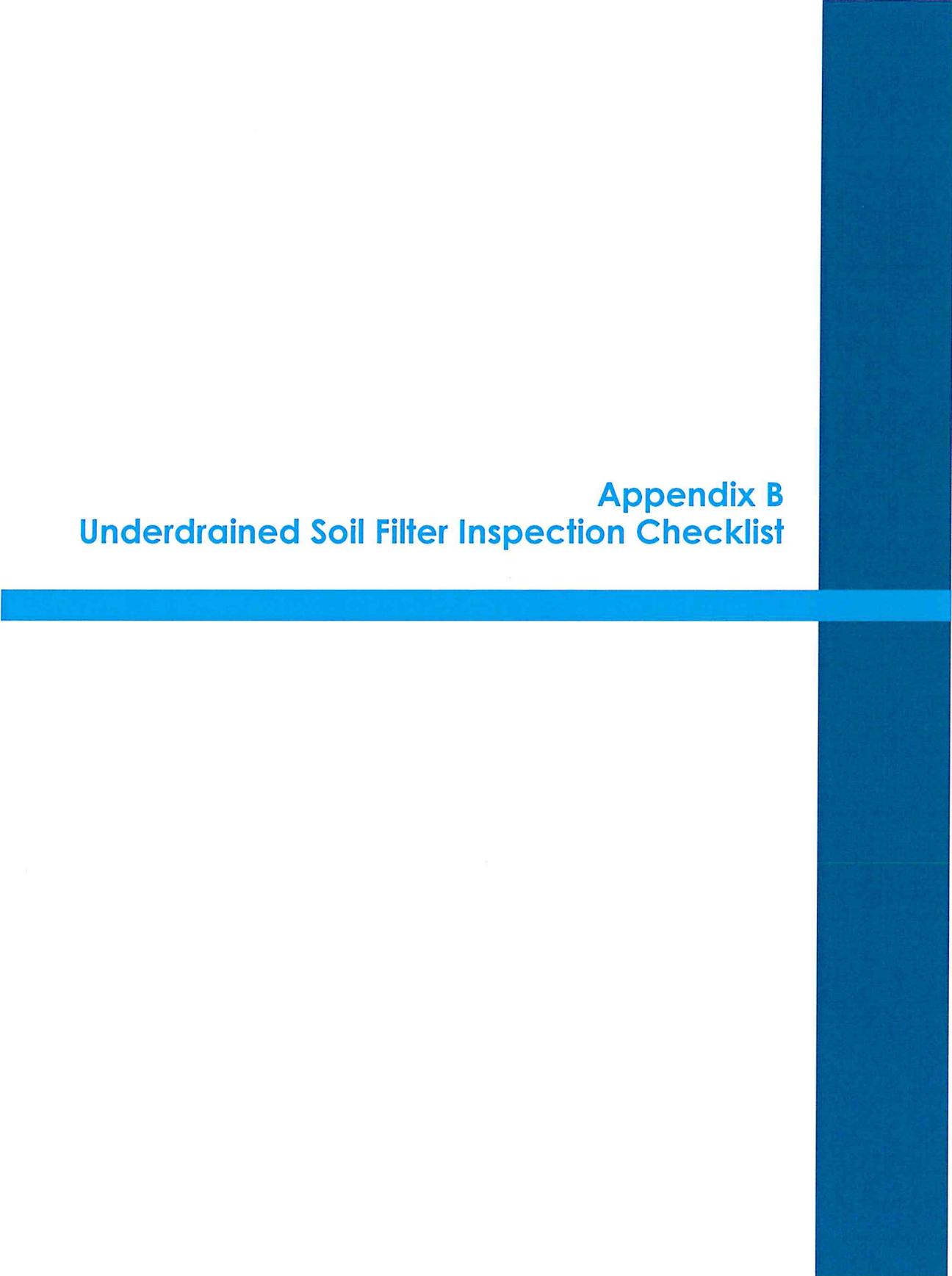


LEGEND

- PROPERTY/ROW LINE - - - - -
- EX CONTOUR - - - -122- - - -
- PROP CONTOUR - (123) -

TOWN OF BRISTOL GOLF COURSE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS BRISTOL, RI		NO.	REVISIONS	DRAWN BY	APP'D
PROJ NO: 20198 DATE: JUNE 2020		1			
WRIGHT-PIERCE Engineering a Better Environment		2			
		3			
BMPs REFERENCE: DWG E-1				FIGURE: 1	

Appendix B
Underdrained Soil Filter Inspection Checklist



Grassed Underdrained Soil Filter Operation, Maintenance and Management Inspection Checklist

Project: Bristol Golf Club Stormwater Improvements

Location: Ballou Blvd, Bristol, RI

Site Status:

Date:

Time:

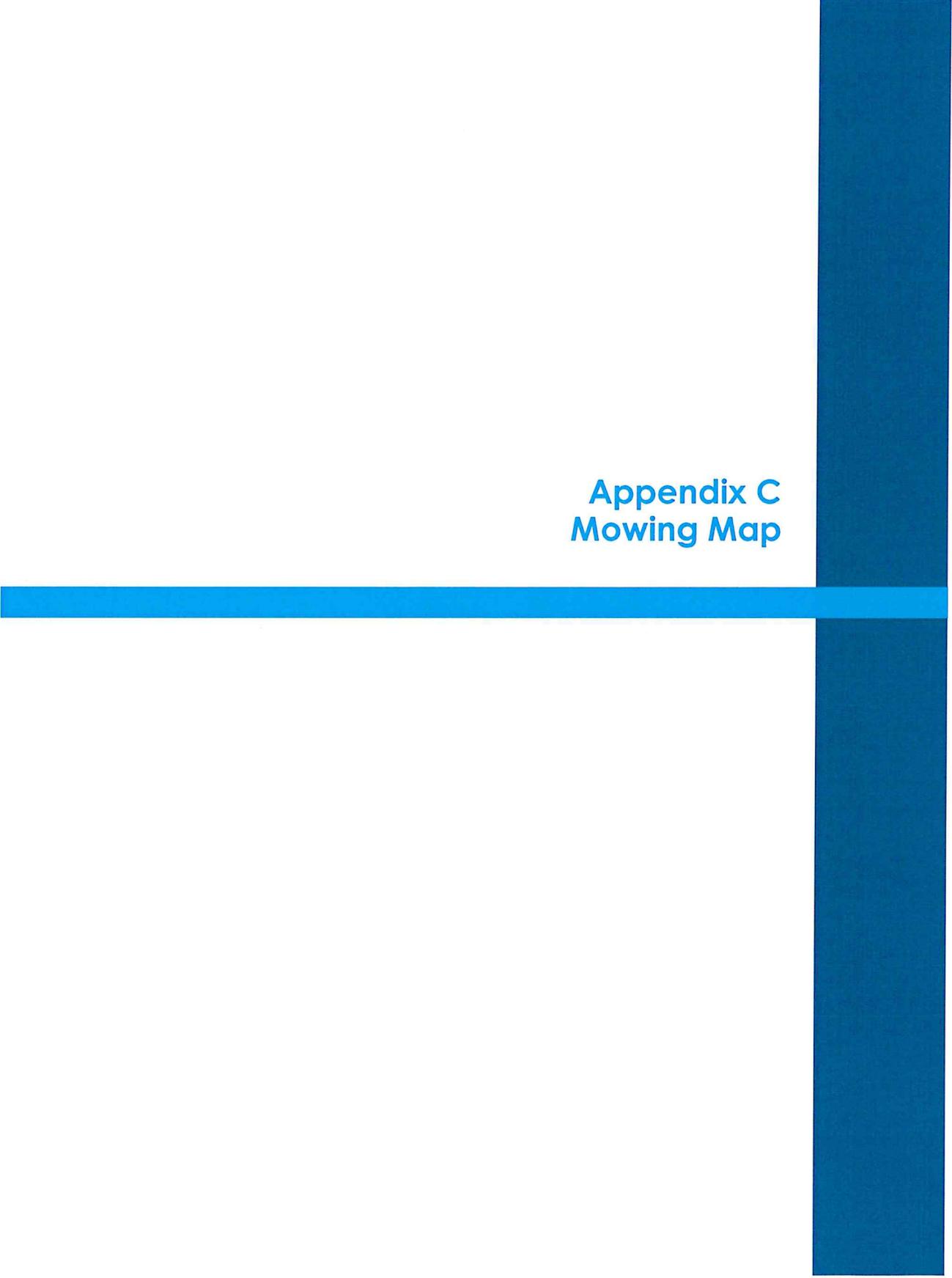
Inspector:

MAINTENANCE ITEM	SATISFACTORY / UNSATISFACTORY	COMMENTS
1. Debris Cleanout (Annual, After Major Storms)		
Filter and contributing areas clean of debris		
No dumping of yard wastes into practice		
Litter (branches, etc.) has been removed		
2. Vegetation (Annual, After Major Storms)		
Fertilized per specifications		
Plant composition according to approved plans		
No placement of inappropriate plants		
Grass height not greater than 10 inches in grassed soil filter		

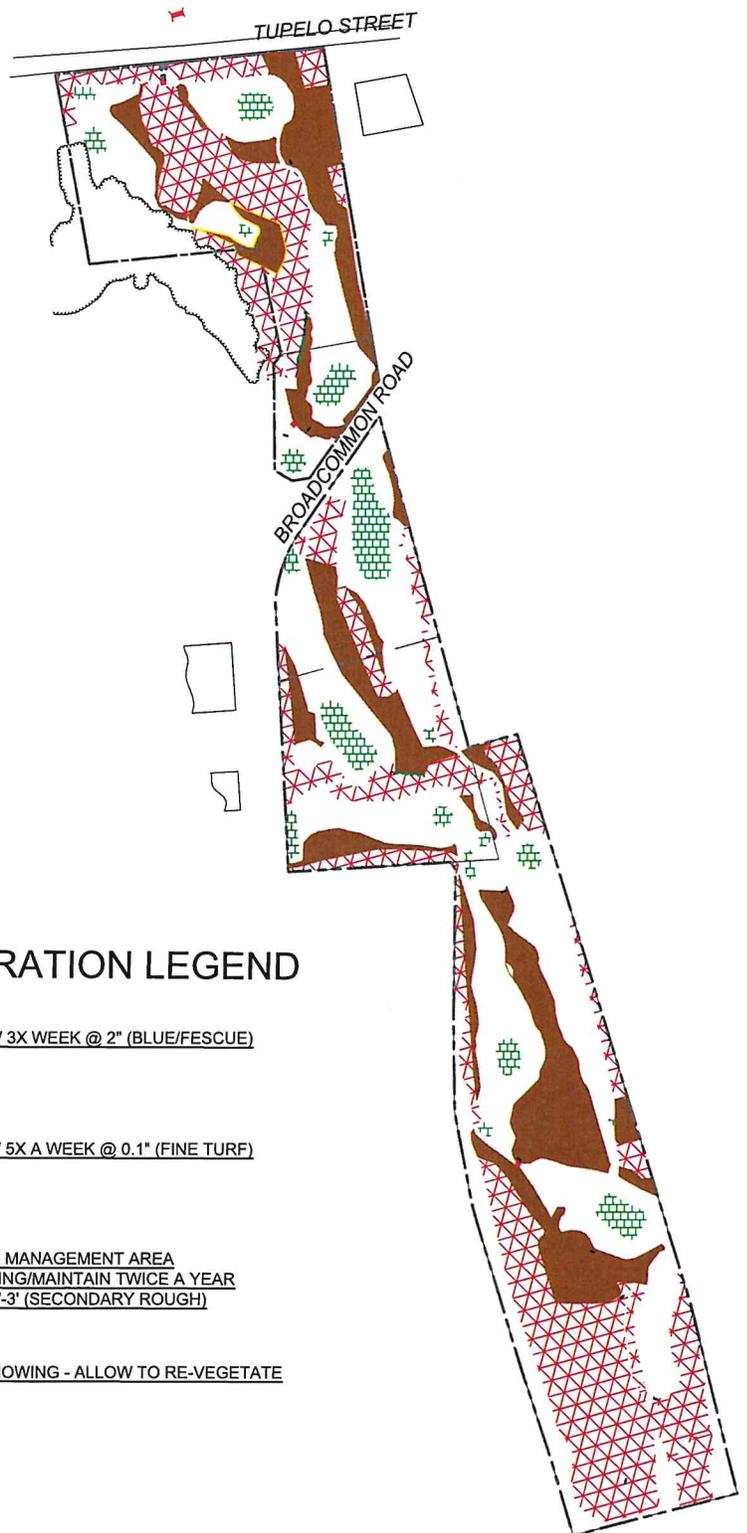
MAINTENANCE ITEM	SATISFACTORY/ UNSATISFACTORY	COMMENTS
No evidence of erosion		
3. Check Dams/Energy Dissipaters/Sumps (Annual, After Major Storms)		
No evidence of sediment buildup		
Sumps should not be more than 50% full of sediment		
No evidence of erosion at downstream toe of drop structure		
4. Dewatering (Semi-annually)		
Dewaters between storms		
No evidence of standing water		
5. Sediment Deposition (Annual, after Major Storms)		
Swale clean of sediments		
Sediments should not be > 20% of swale design depth		
6. Outlet/Overflow Spillway (Annual, After Major Storms)		
Good condition, no need for repair		
No evidence of erosion		
No evidence of any blockages		
7. Integrity of Filter Bed (Annual, After Major Storms)		
Filter bed has not been blocked or filled inappropriately		

Comments:

Actions to be Taken:



Appendix C
Mowing Map

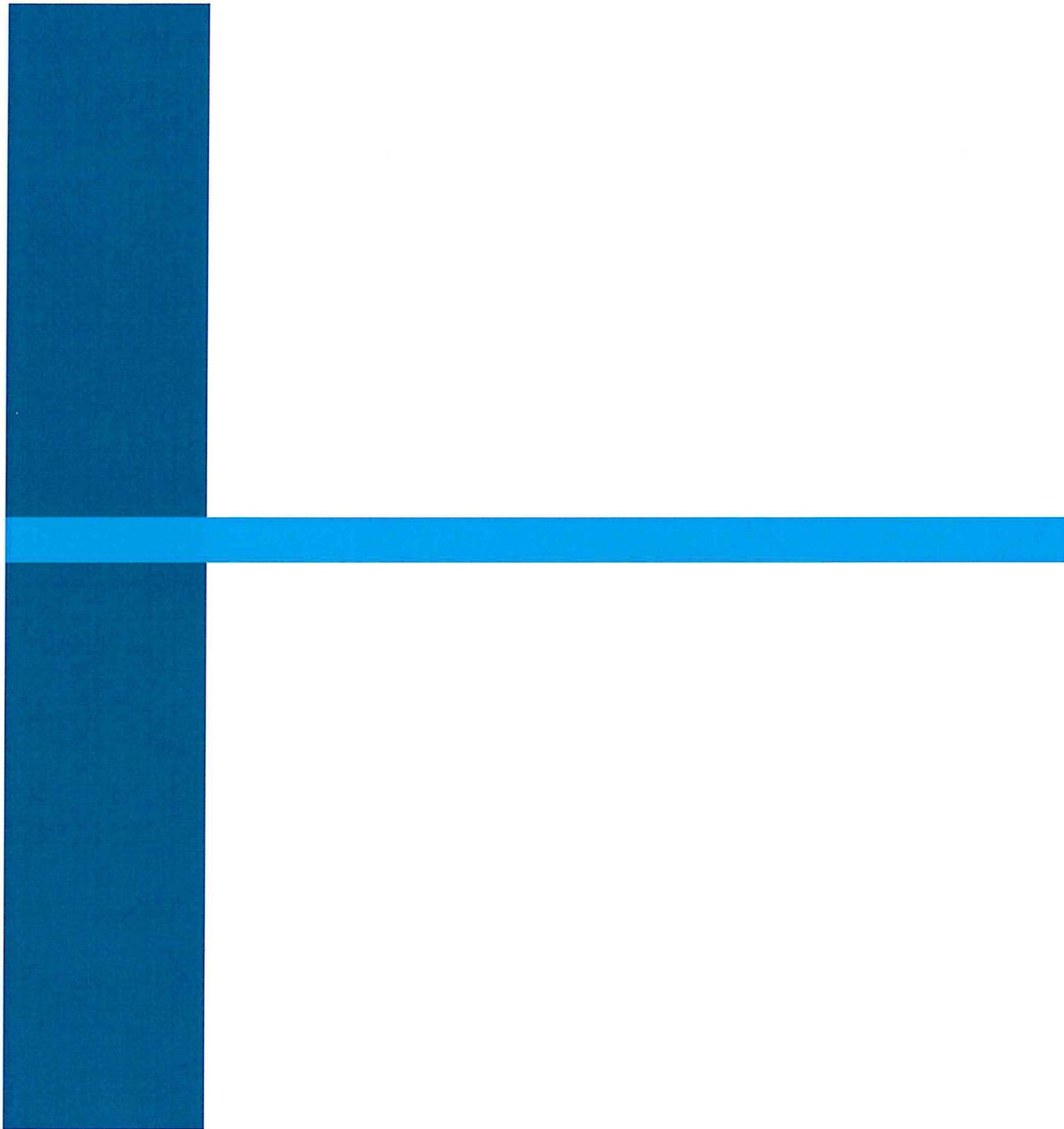


RESTORATION LEGEND

-  MOW 3X WEEK @ 2" (BLUE/FESCUE)
-  MOW 5X A WEEK @ 0.1" (FINE TURF)
-  TREE MANAGEMENT AREA
MOWING/MAINTAIN TWICE A YEAR
@ 18"-3' (SECONDARY ROUGH)
-  NO MOWING - ALLOW TO RE-VEGETATE



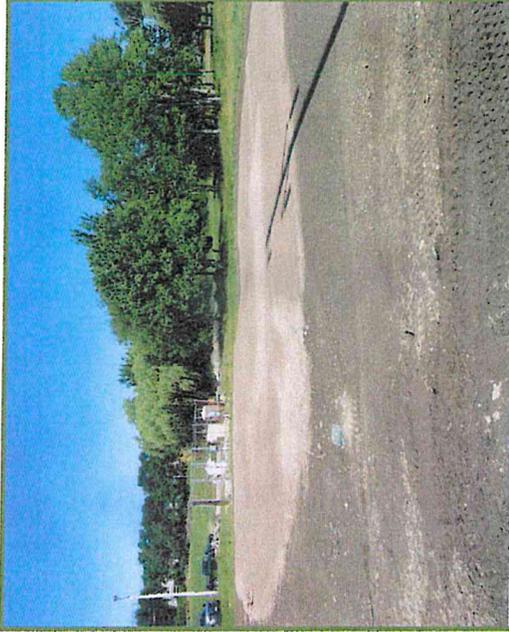
TOWN OF BRISTOL GOLF COURSE WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS BRISTOL, RI		NO.	REVISIONS	DRAWN BY	APP'D
PROJ NO: 20198 DATE: AUGUST 2021		▲			
		▲			
		▲			
WRIGHT-PIERCE  Engineering a Better Environment				MOWING MAP REFERENCE: DWG E-1	
				FIGURE: 1	



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New green under construction June 2021

ABOUT THE COURSE

Bristol's municipally-owned nine-hole golf course consists of 26+ acres of open space that was historically part of a larger private 18-hole course. Since the 1980's the course has been owned by the Town of Bristol and leased to a private operator.

The Town of Bristol is working to restore the freshwater wetlands at the Bristol Golf Course with the goals of improving the water quality of two tributaries that flow into Narragansett Bay – Silver Creek which flows south to Bristol Harbor, and an unnamed coastal stream which flows north to the Warren River.

RESTORATION

In 2021, the Town completed a restoration project at the Bristol Golf Course which includes connecting small impoundments within the course, removing fill adjacent to streams, daylighting piped streams and restoring a buffer of native shrubs, trees and grasses between the playable course and the wetlands

Restoration efforts have also increased flood storage capacity within the watersheds and enhance functions of freshwater wetland habitat. Restoration activities have also substantially improved the playability of the golf course and enhance public access and enjoyment of the property.

Wetland restoration June 2021



NATIVE ECOSYSTEM

Previously, the golf course provided an ideal habitat for geese that fed in large numbers, leading to waste being washed directly into ponds and streams.

By converting areas surrounding streams and ponds from managed turf to native wetland vegetation, runoff from the managed turf is reduced, and the vegetation creates a natural filter between the streams and surrounding developments.

This project has not only improves the water quality and stormwater drainage of the streams and ponds throughout the course, but it is also improving the natural ecosystem and allowing native wildlife to live comfortably without negatively impacting water quality or pedestrian access.

Restoring the Wetlands of Silver Creek

In 2021, the Town of Bristol restored wetlands on the course by redesigning the course to move low lying greens, fairways and tees out of wetland areas.

The restoration project included connecting the small ponds through stream-like swales and removing fill from the wetlands. These ponds and streams on the south side of the course flow into Silver Creek toward Bristol Harbor. Prior to the restoration project, the worst water quality in the creek was found downstream of the golf course.

Restoring the Silver Creek wetlands increases the flood storage capacity within the watershed and improves the water quality of the streams that flow to Narragansett Bay, while providing enhanced wildlife habitat for frogs and toads, pollinators, wading birds and hawks.

This project was made possible with support from:

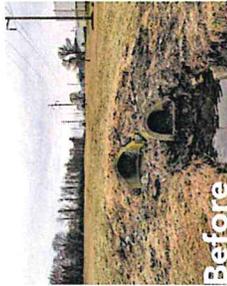


Prior to restoration, managed turf extended directly to the edge of the ponds, creating an ideal feeding area for Canada geese. Goose droppings and fertilizer runoff flowed into the ponds. The edge of the ponds now features native wetland plants. This vegetation creates a natural filter and deterrent for geese.



Before

The stream that had been placed into a pipe when the course was first constructed was "daylighted," and a swale was created.



Before

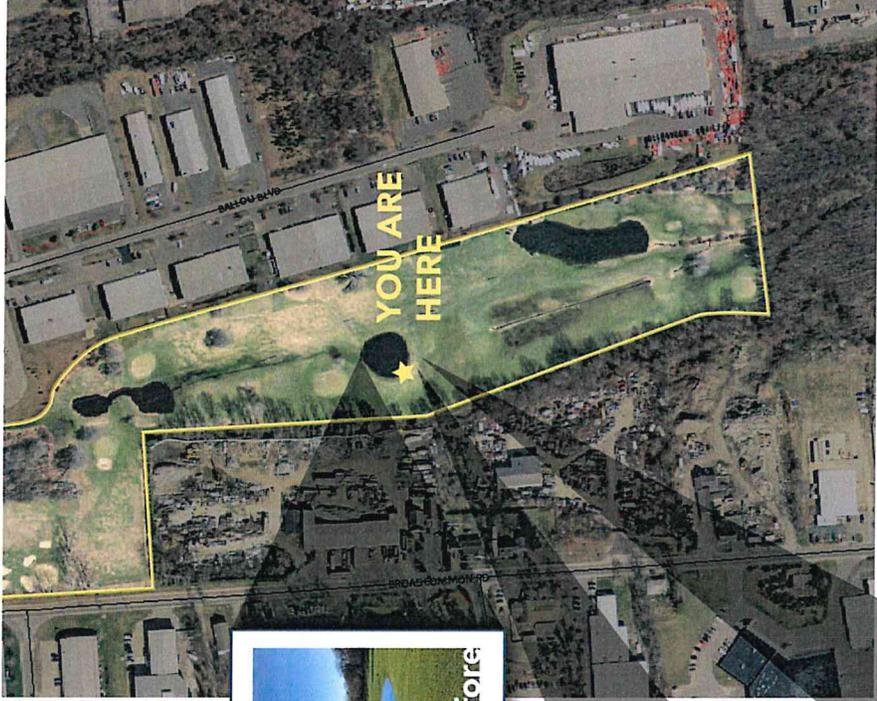


During

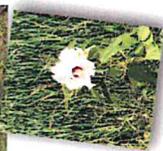


After

Swales and shallow streams were constructed to connect the ponds to one another during rain events and the wet season.



Community volunteers from Save Bristol Harbor, the Bristol Conservation Commission and Save The Bay planted a buffer of native shrubs and trees along the swales, wetlands and ponds.



Their efforts resulted in planting over 2,000 native shrubs and trees in the new wetlands.

The Bristol Golf Course Restoration project is supported by the Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants. SNEP Watershed Grants are funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through a collaboration with Restore America's Estuaries (RAE). For more on the Southeast New England Program, see www.epa.gov/snep.

Restoring the Environment at the Bristol Golf Course

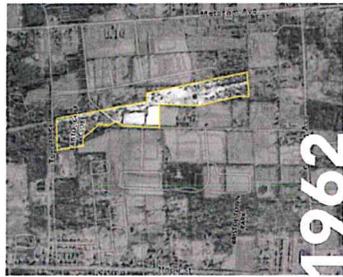
Bristol's municipally-owned nine-hole golf course consists of 26 acres of open space that was historically wetlands and agricultural fields.

In the 1960s, a privately-owned, 18-hole golf course was created. To build it, wetlands were filled in and streams were diverted into underground pipes. The Town of Bristol acquired what is currently the nine-hole course in the 1980s.

In 2021, the Town of Bristol redesigned the course to restore the wetlands. The project will improve the water quality of the two tributaries that flow through the course and into Narragansett Bay.

The project also enhanced public access with the addition of a walking path, and improved course playability, as the course was moved out of wetland areas.

In the 1962 aerial imagery (left, top), fields and wet meadows covered the area that is now the golf course and industrial park. Up until 2019 (left), the course extended into the wetlands before being redesigned to allow for wetland restoration.

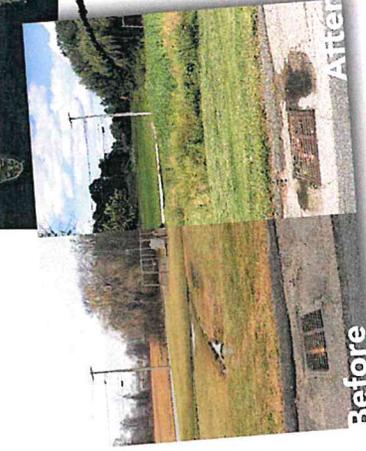


Silver Creek flows south to Bristol Harbor and an unnamed stream flows north under Tupelo Street to Jacob's Point Marsh and the Warren River.



Broadcommon Road storm drains once emptied storm water directly into the the golf course's stream.

Today, newly created wetlands help filter bacteria and other pollutants out of the water, making for healthier habitat throughout the golf course and downstream.



Prior to restoration, the golf course's ponds had no buffers to filter polluted runoff. Water quality was poor and there was little suitable habitat. Today, the wetlands and native plants provide habitat for frogs, toads, pollinators and wading birds like egrets and migratory shore-birds. Plants also help to remove nutrients from fertilizer runoff from the course.



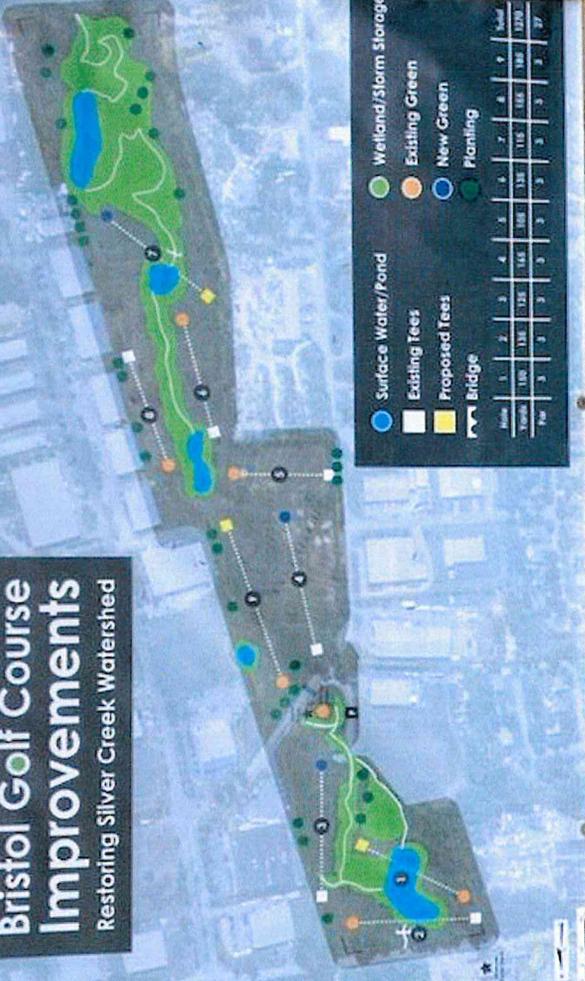
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Bristol Golf Course Improvements

Restoring Silver Creek Watershed



Surface Water/Pond	Wetland/Storm Storage
Existing Tees	Existing Green
Proposed Tees	New Green
Bridge	Planting

Area	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Surface	100	130	125	160	105	135	115	160	180	270
Total	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	37

Town of Bristol
Steven Conte
Town Administrator

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NARRAGANSETT BAY

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THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

VOL. 183, NO. 14 \$1.00



PHOTOS BY RICHARD W. DIONNE JR.

Master horticulturist Cassie Heneault (left) and Lisa Cadan, of Bristol, pose among their Vancouver Island Haze Sativa Dominant Hybrid plants inside their Providence warehouse.

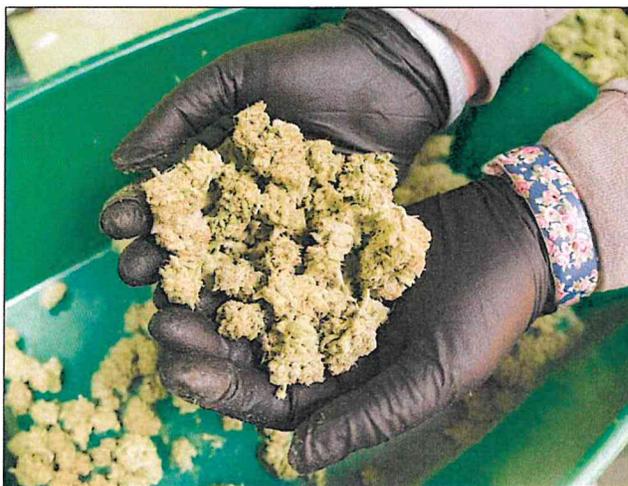
The lady growers

Women forging a path in a medicinal cannabis industry that is dominated by men

BY KRISTEN RAY
kgray@eastbaymediagroup.com

As Lisa Cadan took her seat at a recent Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation meeting for cannabis cultivators, she could not help but take in the room before her: the audience was almost entirely men, a vast majority of them accompanied by their attorneys.

The purpose of the discussion was to review Gov. Gina Raimondo's recent proposed bill regarding recreational marijuana, but for Ms. Cadan, of Bristol, and her business partner, Cassy Heneault, their company, Elle-Cie, had always represented



Master horticulturist Cassie Heneault holds a clump of buds ready for packaging.

See **GROWERS** Page 7

A makeover for the town's best, worst (and only) golf course

With a \$300,000 federal grant and local match, golf course will undergo a watershed-friendly redesign

BY CHRISTY NADALIN
cnadalin@eastbaymediagroup.com

Long before the Bristol Golf Club gained national notoriety for being "of a worseness so extreme that you occasionally wonder if it's not ironic," ("When a Bad Golf Course Edges Into Goodness," New York Times, May 22, 2011), it was the site of an important watershed for both the Warren River and Bristol Harbor. In fact, it still is.

Regardless of the opinion of writer and course aficionado Charles McGrath, who claimed that whoever designed it "deserves credit for stubbornness" for building a golf course "where nobody else would have thought it possible," it is and will remain a recreational resource for its longtime fans and the people of Bristol.

Town Administrator Steven Contente reports that residents like it and want to keep it; the town planning department agrees, and they are working to create a plan that will allow golf and environmental stewardship to work together on the property, into the future.

Topographically, the golf club occupies a high point about where Tupelo Street runs between Hope Street and Metacom Avenue. To the north, water runs downhill to Oyster Point, ending up in the Warren River. To the south, it runs through much of Bristol until it reaches the harbor.

Decades of abuse have left much of the watershed at death's door, and concrete steps must (and are) being

See **REDESIGN** Page 2



Super scientists!
Kickemuit and Mt. Hope students among the state's best scientists

PAGE 13



REDESIGN: Golf course has dramatic impact on Silver Creek watershed

From Page 2

taken to remediate it — something the town has known since the results of a major 2007 study on the health of the water body was completed.

A lot of dirty water

Looking at the report that emerged from that study, the first thing that strikes you is how massive the Silver Creek watershed really is. It covers a good part of the interior of Bristol, encompassing not only the Tupelo Street golf course, but also the Broad Common Road manufacturing corridor, Mt. Hope High School, St. Mary's Cemetery, and hundreds of private homes. It all adds up to a lot of pressure on an ecosystem that performs its important function best when it is simply left alone.

Contaminants enter the watershed from a variety of potential sources, natural and otherwise. Geese are a huge problem. Their droppings contain compounds that upset the nitrogen balance of the ecosystem. Fertilizers and urban and industrial runoff act much the same way, and it only gets worse downstream. An application of fertilizer, or the droppings of a flock of geese, percolate into the watershed up at the golf course. The contaminated water flows downstream to the high school, where Silver Creek picks up the chemicals



RICHARD W. DIONNE JR.

On Wednesday, the fairway on the ninth hole was wet and muddy. This fairway also includes a drainage ditch and large pond that has grown larger over the years.

from any fertilizer used on fields or nearby lawns, increasing the concentration of pollutants.

The water quality continues to decrease as the water branches, flowing through the cemetery, behind Benjamin Church Manor, and past Guiteras School. By the time creek flows into the brackish pond in front of Guiteras, the water is filthy. Here it receives a final splash of goose before flowing into the harbor with the next falling tide.

"The Bristol Golf Course has been on the town's radar screen

for a long time," said Ed Tanner, town planner. "It's the headwaters of Silver Creek. As soon as you get off the golf course, it's a river. On the course, it's fully mowed, piped and channeled. It's become a flooding and water quality issue all the way downstream."

For the past decade or so, volunteers from Save Bristol Harbor have been collecting data through their water sampling activities. They began in the harbor itself, and have gradually worked their way upstream, cre-

ating a comprehensive picture of the health of the watershed from beginning to end.

"Silver Creek is a huge contributor to pollution problems in Bristol Harbor and Narragansett Bay," said Mr. Tanner.

EPA gives town \$300,000

The grant, which was applied for by Director of Community Development Diane Williamson, and received in the fall, consists of \$300,000 from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, specifically earmarked for

southern New England estuary restoration. The match will be made up of some town money, as well as staff and volunteer time.

The plan is to restore some of the course to its natural state, including vegetation that will help filter the water. "The design stage is next," said Mr. Tanner. "We think we know what we want to do out there, we just don't have the exact layout yet. But one of the important goals is to maintain the golf course. The town purchased this land back in the 1980s as open space, and there is the expectation that we will maintain some type of course."

What kind of course that will be remains to be seen. It will be a much different course than what they have today, but the town's goal is to keep nine holes.

"We'll have to see how the design works out," said Mr. Tanner. "The main goal is water quality and eliminating flooding issues, but we want to keep active recreation here."

They have an engineering consultant in place, Wright-Pierce, which has worked with the town on recent projects at Guiteras School, as well as at the Town Beach; the team includes a landscape architect who specializes in golf course restoration.

They are looking at an April kickoff for design and permitting, and construction realistically getting underway in the spring of 2020.

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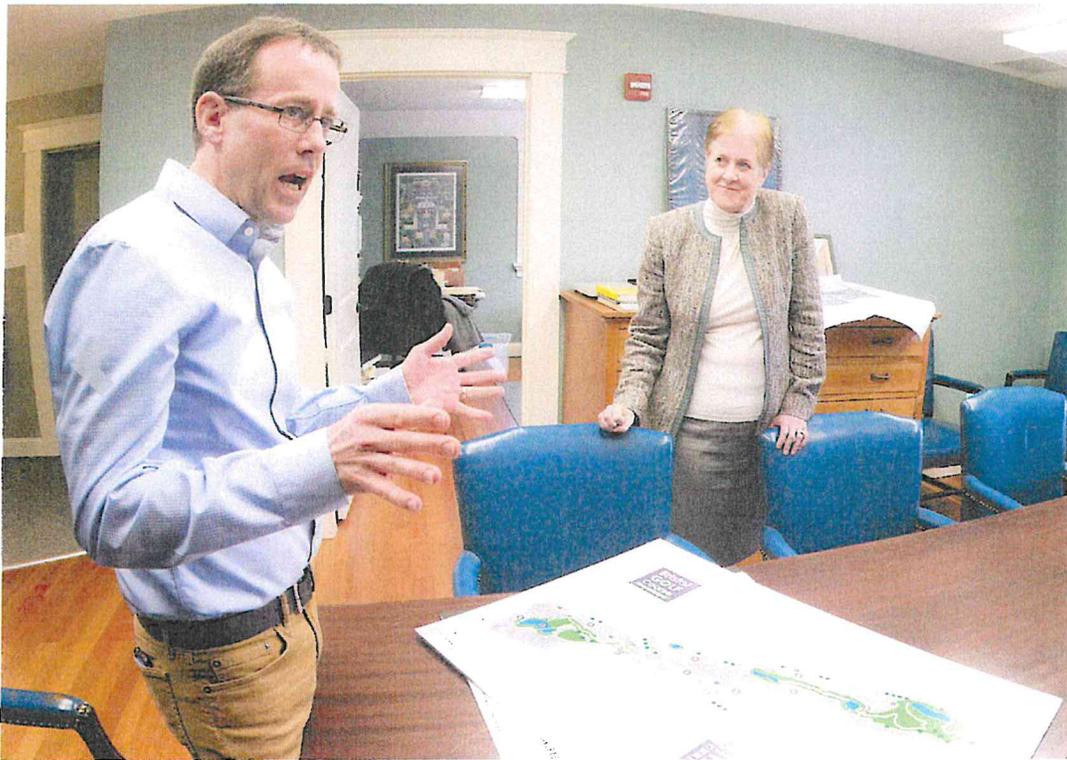
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Bristol tees up plans for a \$1 million golf course makeover

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(/uploads/original/20200130-

100306-bristol golf course-5.jpg)

Town Planner Ed Tanner (left) and Director of Community Development Diane Williamson look at plans for an improved Bristol Golf Club — envisioned as a nine-hole, par-3 course with new design, holes, water management, bridges, walkways and more.



Posted Thursday, January 30, 2020 6:00 pm

By Christy Nadalin

At just over 26 acres, Bristol's golf course, off Tupelo Street, is never going to compete with Pebble Beach. But thoughtful planning by a team including the town, Save the Bay, Save Bristol Harbor, the Recreation Department, engineers, and landscape architecture consultants who specialize in golf courses have come up with a plan for a community resource that looks poised to serve as a lot of things to a lot of people.

"We had two goals," said Ed Tanner, Town Planner. "We needed to do something about the water quality in Silver Creek, and we wanted to maintain a viable and hopefully much better golf course."

Both of those things were in dire need of rescue.

Silver Creek has long been a major contributor to pollution problems in Bristol Harbor and Narragansett Bay. Decades of abuse have left much of the watershed at death's door, and since a major 2007 study on the health of the water body was completed, the town has been taking steps to remediate it.

Topographically, the golf course occupies a high point about where Tupelo Street runs between Hope Street and Metacom Avenue. To the north, water runs downhill to Oyster Point, ending up in the Warren River. To the south, it runs through much of Bristol until it reaches the harbor.

It's a massive watershed, covering a good part of the interior of Bristol, encompassing not only the golf course, but also the Broad Common Road manufacturing corridor, Mt. Hope High School, St. Mary's Cemetery, and hundreds of private homes. It all adds up to a lot of pressure on an ecosystem that performs its important function best when it is simply left alone.

Contaminants enter the watershed from a variety of potential sources, natural and otherwise. Geese, regulars at the course, are a huge problem. Their droppings contain compounds that upset the nitrogen balance of the ecosystem. Fertilizers, urban and industrial runoff, act much the same way, and it only gets worse downstream. An application of fertilizer, or the droppings of a flock of geese, percolate into the watershed up at the golf course. The contaminated water flows downstream to the high school, where Silver Creek picks up the chemicals from any fertilizer used on fields or nearby lawns, increasing the concentration of pollutants. The water quality continues to decrease as the water branches, flowing through the cemetery, behind Benjamin Church Manor, and past the Guiteras School. By the time the creek flows into the brackish pond in front of Guiteras, the water is filthy. Here it receives a final splash of goose before flowing into the harbor with the next falling tide.

The course itself was receiving no love either, earning national notoriety for being "of a worseness so extreme that you occasionally wonder if it's not ironic," ("When a Bad Golf Course Edges Into Goodness" (<https://onpar.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/22/when-a-bad-golf-course-edges-into-goodness/>), New York Times, May 22, 2011).

In the fall of 2018, Director of Community Development Diane Williamson received a \$300,000 grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, specifically earmarked for southern New England estuary restoration. The plan at the time (<https://www.eastbayri.com/stories/a-makeover-for-bridstols-best-worst-and-only-golf-course,63930?>) was to prioritize the watershed, while making improvements to the course in the process, with a combination of town funds and volunteer and in-kind efforts.

Since then, a state DEM grant for recreational facilities, through the Green Economy bond, was announced, and applied for. The town has asked the state for \$400,000 to make it a better course.

"We are hoping that resonates with DEM and they see this as a nice regional amenity," said a cautiously optimistic Mr. Tanner. "We hope to hear in March; we have our fingers crossed."

In the meantime, after many iterations, they have settled on a course master plan. It's somewhat similar in layout to the old one, though it will move in the reverse direction and eliminate the two longer holes at the southernmost end of the course. "We are going to let the areas that want to be wet, stay wet, and golf on the land that's high and dry." Planners hope that realigned holes will also eliminate the history of problems with golf balls encroaching on neighboring properties.

The end result will be a nine-hole, par-3 course.

"The designer hopes to introduce interesting elements and natural features, so even though it will be short, it will be fun and playable," said Mr. Tanner.

Plantings will be designed to let nature take over in some areas, with natural buffers around the wettest parts of the course. Walking paths and bridges will create a parklike atmosphere that will make the course enjoyable for walks and birdwatching as well.

Organizers envision a walking course (though limited carts could be made available for players with mobility issues.) The Town Recreation Department is excited about potential opportunities to add another recreational facility to its list of resources.

The town is unsure if longtime operator ELJ is interested in continuing to manage the course, as they have done so under a lease for many years.

Though they have not determined the details of any future management structure, the town does plan to take a more active management role in the course moving forward. Later this year they will be putting out an RFP looking for interest from management entities.

Engineering consultant Wright-Pierce has worked with the town on recent projects at Guiteras School as well as at the Town Beach, and they are also working with Providence-based landscape architects Garner + Gerrish.

"The budget is just over a million total," said Mr. Tanner. In addition to the existing \$300,000 grant and the hoped-for \$400,000 grant, the town has commitments for in-kind services, plantings, and volunteers. "We're going to structure the bid with alternates so we can back out of things that we can't afford. We did that at the town beach and it worked nicely."

If all goes according to plan, the town is looking at permitting through the spring, going out for bid in May and June, groundbreaking in July, seeding in the fall, and reintroducing Bristol's golfers into their natural habitat in July 2021.

2 Comments

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Lindsay Green

Thank you to the author (Christy Nadalin) for telling it like it is about pollution of Silver Creek: "By the time the creek flows into the brackish pond in front of Guiteras, the water is filthy." Absolutely. After rain, the water is always a dark brown flowing out to the harbor under the bridge by Sip N Dip. Hopefully returning wetlands to what they originally were at the golf course will improve the water quality a bit. The project is exciting.

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James W Farley

Great idea, and long overdue.

Like · Reply · 1 · 27w

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Bristol Phoenix

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THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021

A win-win for golf and water

Coming soon: a water quality project that will also be a recreational and public educational facility

BY CHRISTY NADALIN
cnadalin@eastbaymediagroup.org

Meetings on the golf course are nothing new — though the rumble of earth-moving equipment was a constant at this particular one, last Friday morning on the site of the Bristol Golf Course, just west of Ballou Boulevard. The mood was high as town officials met with Save the Bay and a landscape architect to review the progress of this groundbreaking new project. "There's a lot going on here," said Ed Tanner, town planner.

"It's rare to have a win, win, win," said Council Chairman Nathan Calouro. "But that's what we have here."

Topographically, the golf course occupies a high point about where Tupelo Street runs between Hope Street and Metacom Avenue. To the north, water runs downhill to Oyster Point, ending up in the Warren River. To the south, it runs through much of Bristol until it reaches the harbor.

Decades of abuse once saw this watershed at death's door, though remediation efforts are having an effect. A major 2007 study on the health of the water shows how massive the Silver Creek watershed really is. It covers a good part of the interior of Bristol, encompassing not only the Tupelo Street golf course, but also the Broad Common Road manufacturing corridor, Mt. Hope High School, St. Mary's Cemetery, and hundreds of private homes. It all adds up to a lot of pressure on an ecosystem that performs its important function best when it is simply left alone.

Contaminants enter the watershed from a variety of potential sources, natural and otherwise. Geese are a huge problem. Their droppings contain compounds that upset the nitrogen balance of the ecosystem. Fertilizers and urban and industrial runoff act much the same way, and it only gets worse downstream. An application of fertilizer, or the droppings of a flock of geese, percolate into the watershed up at the golf course. The contaminated water flows downstream to the high school, where Silver Creek picks up the chemicals from any fertilizer used on fields or nearby lawns, increasing the concentration of pollutants.

The water quality continues to decrease as the water branches, flowing through the



PHOTOS BY RICHARD W. DIDONE JR.

Bristol Town Planner Ed Tanner (right) discusses plans for the new, par-three, nine-hole golf course with Treasurer Julie Goucher and Town Council President Nathan Calouro.



Wenley Furgeson (center), director of habitat restoration at Save the Bay, discusses plans for a pond on the new golf course with landscape architect Tim Gerrish (right) and a project manager.

cemetery, behind Benjamin Church Manor, and past Guiteras School. By the time creek flows into the brackish pond in front of Guiteras, the water is filthy. Here it receives a final splash of goose before flowing into the harbor with the next falling tide.

It's environmental stewardship, with a round of golf

The Bristol Golf Course has been on the town's radar screen for a long time. Mr. Tanner and Community Development Director

Diane Williamson have long sought ways to address this issue, while still maintaining that land, purchased by the town in the 1980s as open space, as a recreational facility.

They consulted with Wright-Pierce, an engineering firm which has worked with the town on recent projects at Guiteras School, as well as at the Town Beach. Also on the team: Landscape Architect Tim Ger-

See GOLF Page 7

GOLF: Renovations to course are a win-win for golf and the environment

April 15, 2011
From Page 1

ish, who specializes in golf course restoration, and Wentley Ferguson, director of restoration with Save the Bay.

"We've been discussing this for 10 years," said Ms. Ferguson, who has been consulting with the town for 25 years, since there was still a Cumberland Farms gas station at Silver Creek. She admitted she was "depressed" when she first heard that the town was not going to completely return the property to wetland and was still interested in maintaining a golf course. "I originally thought of this as a restoration project, and the town decided to keep a playable course," said Ms. Ferguson. She soon came around. "This has amazing water quality benefits — I was so excited that the town kept moving forward with this. And Tim is a landscape architect who gets it."

"I understand Wentley's goals and how to incorporate them into a golf course," said Mr. Gerrish.

What's more, because of the project's primary goal as a wetland restoration project, federal and state grant money has flowed in, covering the lion's share of the costs. "We got some good grants," said Mr. Tanner. "It's nice that others see the benefit of this."

Better habitat, better to play

"This never wanted to be a golf course," said Mr. Tanner, of the sodden wetland that was once pockmarked with concrete pillars, nets, and other atypical golf hazards. "The stormwater from Ballou Boulevard, this industrial cul-de-sac, used to go down the drain and dump into the grass. We've intercepted that." A series of ponds, interconnected streams, and natural features will route the water into a sand filter treatment system.

And it's all being incorporated into a new, nine-hole, par-3 course that will be interesting and fun to play. "Jim saw what we had here, and he thought through the whole process," said Mr. Tanner. "He even incorporated a walking path for non-golfers."

"We're enhancing the golf course, but at its heart this is a water quality project," said Mr. Tanner. With a natural stream and water trickling pond to pond, surrounded by natural plantings, the course will be dry, and geese, who like open spaces far from high grasses where predators lurk, should stay away. Much of the southern extension of the course will be allowed to return to its

natural state. Our goal is to connect recreation and the environment," said Town Administrator Steven Contente. "We can bring in youth groups and have educational exhibits on stormwater, nitrogen levels, and how that impacts the harbor and shellfish — and they can play golf."

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Volunteers bring life to the golf course

Planting marathon puts 1,600 plants in the ground in four days

BY CHRISTY NADALIN
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It's not often (if ever) you hear of non-profit volunteers being asked to turn up in numbers to supply free labor to enhance a golf course, but that's exactly what happened last week in Bristol.

This particular course, the new and vastly improved Bristol Golf Course, is still a season away from opening for golfers. But a key element of its not-so-secret secondary purpose — watershed filtration — was put into place last week.

Under the direction of Save the Bay's Wenley Ferguson, 20 volunteers descended on the site beginning last Tuesday. In all, 1,600 shrubs, trees and herbaceous freshwater wetland plants were set in place in predetermined locations on the course.

"Save the Bay turned out their great network of volunteers," said Bristol Town Planner Ed Tanner, who has been guiding this project since its inception several years ago. "We also had a big showing from Save Bristol Harbor, other Bristol residents, and Mt. Hope High School students — and I think every member of the conservation commission showed up, too."

Volunteers served from two hours to two days, in weather that was favorable for working outside (though Mr. Tanner would like to see a little rain in the forecast now that this massive plant purchase is in the ground and looking to establish itself).

Planting locations were very specific, according to the landscape plan, to frame water features — so wherever there's a stream, pond or wetland, there are new, native plants surrounding that feature. They will take some time to thicken and fill



PHOTOS BY RICHARD W. DIONNE JR.

Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay directs volunteers where to plant nearly 1,600 trees and shrubs along the future Bristol Golf Course last week.

in the space they are meant to occupy, and when they do, they won't serve just an aesthetic purpose but a functional one: helping to filter runoff from the industrial neighborhood around the course to keep it from entering the fragile Silver Creek watershed.

The team planted a range of species, including silky dogwoods, pussy willows, tulip trees and sweet gum.

The nuts-and-bolts of finalizing the project continues under Mr. Tanner's leadership — he has just confirmed contractor U.S. Pitchcare as the lowest qualified bid-

der for phase 2 of the the project, which will start next week, visible on the north side of Broadcommon Road. Getting the course up and running, powering the irrigation pumps, and hiring a contractor to operate the course itself, under town authority, are all projects to be tackled in the near future.



Karlo Berger (left) and Kendra Beaver of Save the Bay plant species along the embankment of the catch pond.



Volunteers (from left to right) Wenley Ferguson of Save the Bay (left), Bristol Town Planner Ed Tanner, Abigail Welch and Tony Morettini of the Bristol Conservation Commission plant native plants and trees at the Bristol Golf Course last Thursday.

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Index

Around Town 12
Legals 17
Obituaries 18
Opinion 6
Police Report 4

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