



## Department of Public Infrastructure

Jamie Ponte  
Commissioner

Water  
Wastewater  
Highways  
Engineering  
Cemeteries  
Park Maintenance  
Forestry  
Energy

### CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

To: Dennis Audette Commission Chairman

From: Justin Ohlson Superintendent of Park Maintenance and Forestry

Date: 3/3/2022

Subject: Brooklawn Park wet meadow/Culvert maintenance

Dear Mr. Audette,

My name is Justin Ohlson and I work for the Department of Public Infrastructure (DPI) as the Park Maintenance and Forestry Superintendent. I write this memo to you to file a *Request for Determination of Applicability* to carry out maintenance to a specific area located at 1997 Acushnet Avenue (Brooklawn Park) known as the "wet meadow" and adjacent culverts that aid in the interception of stormwater. It is DPI's intent to perform mowing operations of the vegetation within the boundaries of the meadow (see map of proposed work area) as well as to cut down any woody vegetation growing on the slopes and low point of the culverts. Upon the Commission's approval, maintenance would be carried out early to mid-March. The reason for this is to avoid disruption of active vegetative growth and wildlife activity.

The machinery to be used is known as a "skid steer" with an attachment called a "brush hog." This attachment consists of a large cutting blade that would make maintenance quick and efficient with minimal to no clean up required. Other tools to be used onsite would be weed whackers, hedge trimmers and litter pickers. Referencing the work area map, staff with litter pickers will enter the meadow first from the Southside access and egress point on foot to remove any trash, bulky items, and other debris. This is to avoid further dispersing said items and preventing damage to the machine. Once the area is free of garbage and obstructions the skid steer will begin mowing the vegetation along the borders and work inward. The purpose of this tactic is to prevent and unnecessary damage to the groundcover. After the mowing is complete, staff will then re-enter the work area with weed whackers and hedge trimmers to finalize the maintenance by means of touching up areas the skid steer could not access.

The desired outcome is to reduce the height of the present vegetation to around one and a half feet and the removal of any invasive species and any manmade objects most especially garbage of any sort. Doing this would increase the visual aesthetics for the public while maintaining the natural look and feel of the park's wildlife habitat.

Should there be any questions or concerns, I can be reached via email at [Justin.Ohlson@NewBedford-MA.gov](mailto:Justin.Ohlson@NewBedford-MA.gov) or my direct cellphone number that is 508-951-0078,

Sincerely,