

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is pending before this Honorable Board an amended bond act which incorporates, *inter alia*, Capital Project RWPR4 – Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Dam Project (the “Bond Act”), and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has determined that the proposed Bond Act would constitute an action under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQR”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQR and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617), the Bond Act, as it relates to the aforementioned capital project, is classified as an “Unlisted” action, which requires this Honorable Board to make a determination as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester is the only involved agency with discretionary authority and, therefore, must serve as Lead Agency; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with SEQR and its implementing regulations, a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared to assist this Honorable Board in its environmental assessment of this proposed action; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has carefully considered the proposed action and has reviewed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form and the criteria set forth in Section 617.7 of the implementing regulations and has identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, as described in the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form, to determine if this proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, State of New York, as follows:


RESOLVED, that based upon the Honorable Board’s review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and for the reasons set forth therein, this Board finds that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from the Bond Act and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is authorized and directed to sign the “Determination of Significance” in the Short Environmental Assessment Form, which is attached

hereto and made a part hereof, as the “Responsible Officer in Lead Agency”; to issue this “Negative Declaration” on behalf of this Board in satisfaction of SEQR and its implementing regulations; and to immediately transmit same to the Commissioner of Planning to be filed, published and made available pursuant to the requirements of Part 617 of 6 NYCRR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

TO: Michelle Greenbaum, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Jeffrey Goldman, Senior Assistant County Attorney

FROM: David S. Kvinge, AICP, RLA, CFM 
Assistant Commissioner

DATE: August 31, 2022

SUBJECT: **STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR CAPITAL PROJECT
RWPR4 WARD POUND RIDGE RESERVATION DAM PROJECT**

The Planning Department has reviewed the above referenced capital project (Fact Sheet ID: 1964) in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (SEQR).

Pursuant to SEQR, this project has been classified as an Unlisted action. Uncoordinated review is being conducted as permitted for Unlisted actions pursuant to Section 617.6(b)(4) of the implementing regulations. A Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared for the project for consideration by the Board of Legislators.

Please contact me if you require any additional information regarding this document.

DSK/cnm
Att.

cc: Andrew Ferris, Chief of Staff
Paula Friedman, Assistant to the County Executive
Lawrence Soule, Budget Director
Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Tami Altschiller, Assistant Chief Deputy County Attorney
Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
Lorraine Marzola, Associate Budget Director
Kelly Sheehan, Assistant Commissioner
William Brady, Chief Planner
Michael Lipkin, Associate Planner
Claudia Maxwell, Associate Environmental Planner

Short Environmental Assessment Form

Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 – Project and Sponsor Information			
Name of Action or Project: Ward Pound Ridge Reservation Dam Project (RWPR4)			
Project Location (describe, and attach a location map): Reservation Road and Michigan Road, Town of Pound Ridge, Westchester County, New York			
Brief Description of Proposed Action: This project focuses on the reconstruction/replacement of two small dams, a culvert and several wooden bridges, along with associated site work, in three separate locations within the County park. Related work in connection with the dam near the main office will include dredging of approximately 4,000 square-feet of sediment that has filled in behind the dam and removal of invasive species for approximately 9,000 square-feet of adjoining wetland. Related work in the vicinity of the bridge and dam at Michigan Road will include clearing and grubbing of vegetation immediately adjacent to the bridge and dam in accordance with dam safety regulations and to protect the infrastructure, as well as clearing the understorey from approximately 3,500 square-feet of land along Michigan Road just south of the dam/bridge to create a pedestrian viewshed of the water. Cleared areas will be replaced with a native meadow seed mix. Related work in the vicinity of Kimberly Bridge will include raising a section of existing pathway and removal of a parallel footbridge, removal of several old stone grills and a number of dead or dying trees, and regrading and topsoiling of approximately 5,000 square-feet, which will include the addition of fill to eliminate a slight depression within the picnic area. Disturbed areas within the picnic site will be restored with a lawn seed mix.			
Name of Applicant or Sponsor: County of Westchester		Telephone: 914-995-4400 E-Mail: dsk2@westchestergov.com	
Address: 148 Martine Avenue			
City/PO: White Plains		State: NY	Zip Code: 10601
1. Does the proposed action only involve the legislative adoption of a plan, local law, ordinance, administrative rule, or regulation? If Yes, attach a narrative description of the intent of the proposed action and the environmental resources that may be affected in the municipality and proceed to Part 2. If no, continue to question 2.		NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YES <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the proposed action require a permit, approval or funding from any other government Agency? If Yes, list agency(s) name and permit or approval: US Army Corps of Engineers, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection		NO <input type="checkbox"/>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. a. Total acreage of the site of the proposed action?		4.0 acres	
b. Total acreage to be physically disturbed?		2.3 acres	
c. Total acreage (project site and any contiguous properties) owned or controlled by the applicant or project sponsor?		4,315 acres	
4. Check all land uses that occur on, are adjoining or near the proposed action:			
5. <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural (non-agriculture) <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Residential (suburban)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aquatic <input type="checkbox"/> Other(Specify):			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parkland			

5. Is the proposed action,	NO	YES	N/A
a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area?	NO	YES	
Name:County & State Park Lands, Reason:Exceptional or unique character, Agency:Westchester County, Date:1- If Yes, identify: 31-90	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action?			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action?			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements?	NO	YES	
If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies:			
N/A - The state energy code is not applicable to the scope of this project.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing potable water:			
N/A - This project does not require potable water.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities?	NO	YES	
If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment:			
N/A - This project does not require wastewater treatment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the State Register of Historic Places?	NO	YES	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory?			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency?	NO	YES	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody?			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres:			
This project will affect tributaries of the Corss River along with its adjoining wetlands, which includes NYSDEC Freshwater Wetlands L-29 and L-20, and the adjacent area of D-1. Impacts will largely be temporary or will improve the existing wetlands. Permanent impacts involve dredging approximately 4,000 square feet of L-29, near the Main Office dam, which will be converted back to open water and a small portion of L-20 may be impacted by regrading to raise the existing pathway over the culvert near the Kimberly Road picnic area.			

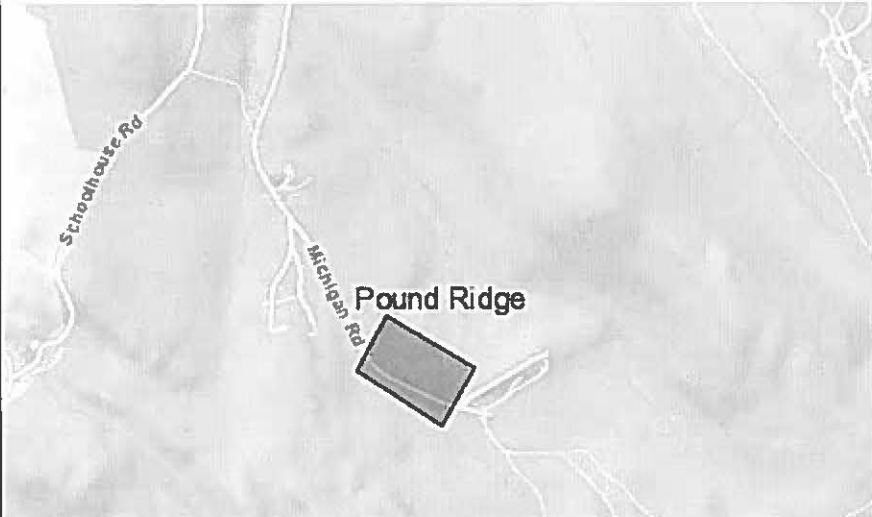
Disclaimer: The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations.

Map labels include: Reservation Rd, Boulogville Rd, Lewisboro, Town of Lewisboro, Town of Pound Ridge, Pound Ridge.

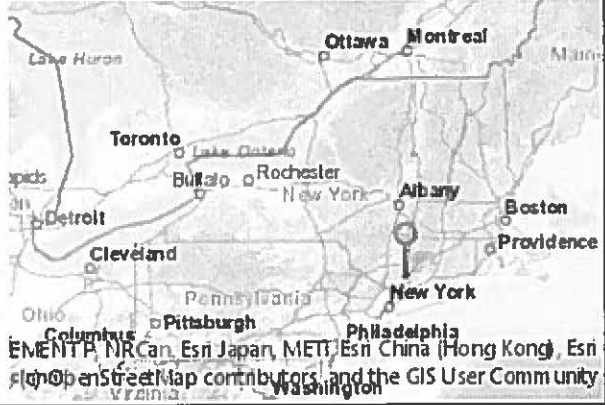
Regional map labels include: Lake Huron, Ottawa, Montreal, Toronto, Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, Boston, Providence, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, Detroit, Columbus, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine.

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Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area - Identify]	Name:County & State Park Lands, Reason:Exceptional or unique character, Agency:Westchester County, Date:1-31-90
Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites]	No
Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies]	Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook.
Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal]	No
Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	No



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Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain]	Yes
Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site]	Yes

Project: RWPR4

Date: August 2022

***Short Environmental Assessment Form
Part 2 - Impact Assessment***

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

	No, or small impact may occur	Moderate to large impact may occur
1. Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Will the proposed action impact existing:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. public / private water supplies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Project: RWPR4

Date: August 2022

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

This project will not have a significant impact on the environment as the overall scope involves replacement of existing structures and minor enhancements that will benefit wildlife and park visitors, which is in keeping with its designation as a Critical Environmental Area.

Although each of the project areas contain wetlands, disturbed areas will be restored following construction with the exception of approximately 4,000 square feet of wetland behind the dam near the main office. It is part of State wetland L-29, which is listed as Class 2 and is approximately 42.6 acres in size. This wetland has been overtaken by Phragmites and will be dredged and the weir will be restored to recreate a shallow open pond that will provide much needed alternative habitat for threatened species like wood turtle and spotted turtle. The selective removal of invasive plants for the remaining wetland area will serve to restore native habitat. Impact to L-20 in the Kimberly Road area will be minor as the pathway being raised already exists through wetlands that have been delineated beyond the NYSDEC mapped boundary. Raising of the path to ensure continual passage during wet conditions will allow for the removal of the boardwalk planks that are also in the wetlands, beside the pathway, as the planks will no longer be necessary.

The additional work at the Kimberly Road site will improve the existing picnic area that had been affected by a beaver dam in the adjoining waterway that caused prolonged flooding, which killed a number of trees. The proposed work will restore the picnic area and make it safe for public use. These improvements will have minimal environmental impact, while supporting the recreational purpose of the park.

The understory along Michigan Road has been overtaken by invasive species, like multiflora rose. It's removal will benefit the environment by restoring native habitat.

A review of the species listed by NYSDEC and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for this project was conducted. The project will not eliminate any habitats supporting any of the species listed by the State or affect any critical habitat under USFWS jurisdiction. According to extensive biodiversity studies conducted at the reservation, there is no indication of the presence of either Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*) or Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*). If required, tree removals can be limited to November 1-March 31 to avoid roosting bats.

- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
- Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.

County of Westchester

Name of Lead Agency

Malika Vanderberg

Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency

Date

Clerk of the Board of Legislators

Title of Responsible Officer

Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer)

PRINT FORM