UCONN

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Record Of Decision

Mirror Lake Improvements

University of Connecticut | Storrs, Connecticut

JUNE 2022

FUSS & O'NEILL

This page intentionally left blank

Record of Decision
Environmental Impact Evaluation

University of Connecticut
Mirror Lake Improvements

Contents

Attachments

1 Decision

The University of Connecticut intends to continue with the implementation of the Mirror Lake Improvements project, which consist of the following elements:

- **Dam Safety Improvements –** To address dam safety concerns, and control and reduce stormwater flows out of the lake, the Proposed Action will replace the existing spillway, raise the dam's earthen embankment, add upstream erosion protection, and re-grade the upstream and downstream slopes. The dam/berm will be raised approximately 2 feet to allow for the required 1-foot of freeboard, and to accommodate a 500-year spillway design flood.
- **Dredging and Improvements to Aquatic Health –** As part of the Proposed Action, hydraulic and mechanical dredging will be used to remove sediment that has accumulated in the lake from stormwater runoff. This includes hydraulically dredging the lake up to a depth of approximately 6 feet to remove an estimated 19,600 cubic yards of dredged soft sediments To achieve further improvements to aquatic health, and better manage stormwater and associated sediments entering the lake, it is proposed that up to approximately 26,800 cubic yards of additional native till soil material be mechanically dredged from the lake by means of conventional excavation to deepen the bottom of the lake up to 9 +/- feet below the current spillway elevation.
- **Stormwater Management Improvements –** The Proposed Action will reroute 4 of the 7 existing stormwater discharge points to allow for the creation of a total of 3 sediment forebays – 2 on the west side of Mirror Lake and 1 on the south side of Mirror Lake. The forebays and installation of hydrodynamic separators will capture sediment and nutrients, preventing them from entering Mirror Lake.
- **Landscape Improvements –** The proposed landscape improvements around Mirror Lake will allow the University to expand access to the water's edge and further amplify the lake's role as an important recreational, educational, and historical asset on campus – two key, near-term goals of the Campus Master Plan. The Proposed Action will implement shoreline and littoral zone plantings in curvilinear beds that improve the visual aesthetic of the lake and lead the eye around the lake, granting it a distinct sense of place. Potential alternate landscape features include incorporating a promenade around one end of the lake, which leads to an overlook and shelter that will extend over the water to the in-lake island as well as a pedestrian bridge that allows access for visitors.
- **Stream Restoration and Riparian Enhancement –** Stream restoration of Roberts Brook and riparian enhancement activities are proposed to improve water quality and stormwater management and enhance habitat. Roberts Brook will generally remain within the brook's existing footprint, with alterations to the streambed width and meanders expected from: widening of Roberts Brook at three locations, placing boulders within widened areas, replacing the streambed material with channel bed stone, and minor reshaping.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to undertake these much-needed improvements to Mirror Lake by addressing dam and spillway safety deficiencies, better managing stormwater runoff, and improving the aquatic ecology, water quality, and function of the lake as an iconic landmark on campus.

This decision is based upon a careful consideration of alternatives and potential environmental impacts as documented in the Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) Mirror Lake Improvements (Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., March 2022) that was prepared for the Proposed Action, as well as comments received during the public review period for the EIE (April 5, 2022 – May 20, 2022). A copy of the Executive Summary that was included in the EIE is attached (see Attachment A).

2 Statement of Environmental Impact

Approximately 5 acres of inland watercourse (i.e., Mirror Lake) will be directly altered by dredging and deepening of Mirror Lake. The surface area of Mirror Lake will be reduced by 10% (or less) compared to existing conditions. Approximately 1,750 SF to 2,150 SF of inland watercourse and inland wetlands bordering Roberts Brook will be impacted by the Roberts Brook restoration depending on final design. Mitigation measures to reduce or mitigated impacts to wetlands resources will be identified through the permitting process.

The Proposed Action will result in direct and indirect beneficial impacts, including improving aquatic health and water quality of Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook within the project site. Dredging of Mirror Lake will remove the nutrient-rich sediments that have accumulated in the lake bottom. When resuspended into the water column, these sediments contribute to poor water quality. Treatment of stormwater and the quality of flow leaving the site will create an improvement over existing conditions by implementing vegetated forebays, hydrodynamic separators, and landscaping improvements. The separators and vegetated forebays will capture sediment and treat some of the nutrients and other pollutants prior to discharging into the lake. Landscape improvements will increase the vegetation within the littoral zone and riparian zone to filter stormwater runoff.

The Proposed Action will also result in improvements to public safety, aesthetics, access, and climate resilience. The spillway replacement and dam embankment improvements will address safety deficiencies, while also increasing the stormwater management capacity of Mirror Lake. Shoreline and littoral zone plantings will improve aesthetics at the Lake and also improve water quality in the lake by filtering stormwater runoff. Potential landscape features, including a promenade, overlooks, and pedestrian bridge, will increase access to the water's edge. In addition, the Proposed Action will support the goals identified in the Drainage Master Plan to improve the stormwater management system and increase the resilience of the Roberts Brook system to stormwater runoff generated by future development and climate conditions.

Limited unavoidable temporary impacts are anticipated during the construction phase, including construction-related impacts to traffic, air quality, noise, hazardous materials, solid waste, aesthetics, turbidity, and stormwater. These impacts will be mitigated through the use of best management practices during construction and are not anticipated to result in permanent adverse effects.

3 Summary of Consultation with Agencies and Other Persons

A Notice of Scoping for the Proposed Action was published in the Connecticut Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Environmental Monitor* on November 16, 2021, beginning the 30-day scoping period. The scoping period ended on December 16, 2021 (Attachment B). During the scoping period, a public scoping meeting was held virtually on December 8, 2021. A copy of the slide presentation can be found in Attachment B. The meeting was livestreamed, and the recording of the meeting can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/336ak3d7. Public comments were received during the public scoping meeting, in addition to written comments received during the public scoping period. Copies of public comments received during the scoping period are provided in Attachment B. Responses to the public comments are provided in

Attachment C. Comments were received from Preservation Connecticut, the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), and Joseph Casserone and Eric Thomas from CT DEEP. Note: During the public scoping period required by CEPA, SHPO requested that three design alternatives as shown in conceptual renderings – a concrete promenade, a pedestrian bridge, and a pavilion – not be included in the Mirror Lake Improvements Project. Upon further consideration and design development, the University has decided to exclude those three elements, as well as a rain garden that was referenced as a fourth alternative, from the final design. See Attachment G for the revised renderings. Updated renderings can also be found at the Mirror Lake Improvements project page at https://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake/.

In addition to project scoping, additional agency coordination occurred between the University of Connecticut (UConn) and CT DEEP, as a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review for the Mirror Lake Improvements project was submitted on January 4, 2022. See Attachment D for a copy of the response to the request from CT DEEP on January 7, 2022.

A Post-Scoping Notice for the Proposed Action was published in the CEQ *Environmental Monitor* on February 22, 2022 (see Attachment B).

Formal notice of the availability of this EIE was published in the Environmental Monitor on April 5, 2022. An electronic copy of this document is also available on the UConn University Planning, Design and Construction (UPDC) website (https://updc.uconn.edu). A hard copy may be made available to the public upon request by contacting Ian Dann (ian.dann@uconn.edu). The public review and comment period began on April 5, 2022 and ended on May 20, 2022. Copies of the EIE public review period notices and advertisements are provided in Attachment E.

4 Summary of the Public Hearing Record

A public hearing on the EIE was held virtually on April 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The public hearing was livestreamed and can be viewed at the following link: http://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake. A copy of the presentation provided at the hearing is included in Attachment E.

5 Response to Comments on the EIE

This Record of Decision contains all comments submitted on the EIE, including oral testimony provided during the public hearing. Copies of comments received on the EIE and their responses are provided in Attachment F. Comments were received from the Town of Mansfield and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment A

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE),
Executive Summary (Fuss & O'Neill, Inc., March 2022)

Executive Summary

The University of Connecticut (University or UConn) proposes to make improvements to Mirror Lake – an approximately 5-acre stormwater basin on the University's Storrs Campus. Mirror Lake serves a critical role in the management of stormwater runoff on campus and within the Roberts Brook subwatershed. However, over time Mirror Lake has slowly degraded and is now suffering from issues related to excessive plant growth, spillway damage, and diminished stormwater management capacity (BVH, 2021, p. 9; UConn & SOM, 2015a, p. 44). This project will be an opportunity for the University to address pressing needs by improving the Lake's hydrological performance and natural aesthetic, while also expanding access to the water's edge and celebrating the Lake as an important cultural landmark and entry point to the campus (UConn & SOM, 2015b, p. 9). The proposed project consists of the following elements (see **Figure ES 1**):

Project Need
Recently-completed feasibility study for Mirror Lake identified needed modifications to the stormwater basin, spillway, and dam to improve storage, quality, and safety

Project Purpose
Address dam/spillway safety deficiencies, manage stormwater and slow sediment accumulation, improve aquatic health/water quality and function of Mirror Lake as a landscape element on campus

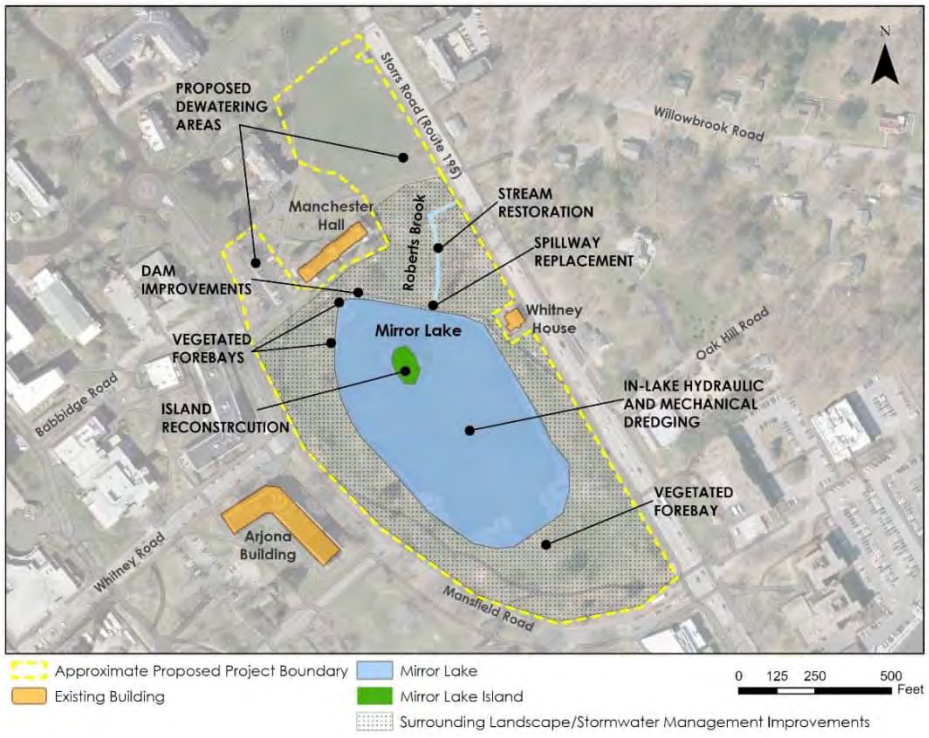


Figure ES 1. Proposed Action – Mirror Lake Improvements

- **Dam Safety Improvements –** To address dam safety concerns, and control and reduce stormwater flows out of the lake, the Proposed Action will replace the existing spillway, raise the dam's earthen embankment, add upstream erosion protection, and re-grade the upstream and downstream slopes. The existing concrete ogee spillway will be removed and replaced with a new notched, stepped, broad crested weir, concrete spillway. The dam/berm will be raised approximately 2 feet to allow for

the required 1-foot of freeboard, and to accommodate a 500-year spillway design flood in keeping with CT DEEP Dam Safety Regulations and the 2020 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between UConn and CT DEEP (DEEP & UConn, 2020). Riprap will be added from the upstream toe of the embankment to provide erosion protection and improve stability, and a conventional toe drain will be constructed at the downstream embankment toe to help lower the shallow groundwater at the toe of the dam, lower the groundwater table through the dam, and improve stability. The toe drain will discharge to the downstream channel and will consist of a concrete apron that transitions to the Roberts Brook side channels, which will also be lined with riprap for additional erosion/scour protection.

- **Dredging and Improvements to Aquatic Health –** As part of the Proposed Action, hydraulic dredging will be used to remove the soft sediments that have accumulated in the lake from stormwater runoff. This can be achieved without having to drain the lake by hydraulically dredging the lake up to a depth of approximately 6 feet and storing an estimated 19,600 cubic yards of dredged soft sediments in large geotextile dewatering tubes to dry before transporting them to their final disposal location. As stated in the 2021 Mirror Lake Improvements Feasibility Study (BVH, 2021), to achieve further improvements to aquatic health, and better manage stormwater and associated sediments entering the lake, it is proposed that approximately 26,800 cubic yards of additional native till soil material be mechanically dredged from the lake by means of conventional excavation to deepen the bottom of the lake up to 9 +/- feet below the current spillway elevation (GZA, 2021c).

- **Stormwater Management Improvements –** The Proposed Action will reroute 4 of the 7 existing stormwater discharge points to allow for the creation of a total of 3 sediment forebays – 2 on the west side of Mirror Lake and 1 on the south side of Mirror Lake. The sediment forebays will capture and treat additional sediment and nutrients not collected and treated by the existing hydrodynamic separators within the storm drainage system. On the south side of Mirror Lake where there is a 42-inch storm pipe that transitions to two 24-inch pipes prior to discharging to the lake, hydrodynamic separators will be installed on each of the 24-inch pipes to allow for additional sediment removal within the drainage system prior to reaching the pond and to facilitate maintenance.

- **Landscape Improvements –** The proposed landscape improvements around Mirror Lake will allow the University to expand access to the water's edge and further amplify the lake's role as an important recreational, educational, and historical asset on campus – two key, near-term goals of the Campus Master Plan. The Proposed Action will implement shoreline and littoral zone plantings in curvilinear beds that improve the visual aesthetic of the lake and lead the eye around the lake, granting it a distinct sense of place. These plantings will also function as an additional filter for stormwater runoff, contributing to the overall improvements to aquatic health described in the section above. Potential alternate landscape features include incorporating a promenade around one end of the lake, which leads to an overlook and shelter that will extend over the water to the in-lake island as well as a pedestrian bridge that allows access for visitors.

- **Stream Restoration and Riparian Enhancement –** Stream restoration of Roberts Brook and riparian enhancement activities are proposed to improve water quality and stormwater management and enhance habitat. Roberts Brook will generally remain within the brook's existing footprint, with alterations to the streambed width and meanders expected from: widening of Roberts Brook at three locations, placing boulders within widened areas, replacing the streambed material with channel bed

stone, and minor reshaping. In addition, an approximately 16-foot-long culverted section of Roberts Brook will be daylighted. Rain gardens may be incorporated as an additional alternate feature to further improve stormwater management.

The University, as the sponsoring agency for this project, has prepared this Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) to further evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Mirror Lake Improvements project. In developing the EIE, UConn considered reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action, including the No Action (i.e., "do nothing") alternative. The alternatives considered are summarized below:

- **No Action Alternative –** Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed stormwater management, dam safety, dredging, aquatic health, and landscape improvements to Mirror Lake would not be made. The Campus Master Plan (UConn & SOM, 2015a) and recent Mirror Lake Improvements Feasibility Study (BVH, 2021) highlight the need for these improvements to: (1) address dam and spillway safety deficiencies, (2) better manage current and future stormwater runoff, (3) improve aquatic health and water quality, and (4) enhance the function of the lake as an iconic landmark on campus. The No Action Alternative would therefore fail to address the need for these improvements and the purpose of the project. Consequently, the No Action Alternative was rejected by the University.

- **Enlarge the Footprint of Mirror Lake and Raise the Berm –** In a previous study, BVH presented an option to enlarge the footprint of the lake and raise the berm without deepening the lake or altering the spillway. Forebays and removal of soft sediment were recommended with this option, and this alternative was strictly focused on improving stormwater management and runoff quality. Although this alternative was not favored due to the changes it would create to the visual and aesthetic character of this area of the Storrs Campus south entrance and Great Lawn, this alternative was not selected for further consideration because it failed to address the current deficiencies associated with the Mirror Lake Dam. This alternative would not address safety concerns associated with inadequate factors of safety against slope stability and sliding for the spillway and inability to pass flows associated with the current 100-year flood event with 1-foot of freeboard. In addition, aquatic health considerations were not addressed under this alternative.

- **Dam and Spillway Alternatives –** To address the current deficiencies associated with the dam, all the alternative actions considered include improvements to the dam and spillway. The selection of a preferred design for the dam and spillway was based on an Incremental Damage Analysis (IDA) of the proposed dam configuration to recommend an appropriate Spillway Design Flood (SDF). This approach is consistent with methods recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for dam safety analysis, and the dam failure analyses were performed in accordance with guidance provided by CT DEEP. The IDA results showed that Route 195, located downstream of the dam, was subject to damage and/or destruction during the current natural 500-year flood with or without dam failure. As a result, the incremental consequence of dam failure during the current 500-year design flood was insignificant relative to flooding damage that would exist without a dam failure. As a result, the current 500-year flood was selected as the SDF.

- **In-Lake Sediment Alternatives –**

- Hydraulic Dredging of Soft Sediment Only and No Sedimentation Forebays – Hydraulic dredging of just the soft sediment in the lake (i.e., avoiding the additional mechanical dredging of hard bottom soils) would address the clear need to remove nutrient-rich sediments from Mirror Lake documented in several prior studies (Lenard Engineering, 2003; Milone & MacBroom, 2009; Northeast Aquatic Research, 2015). However, this would only increase the depth of Mirror Lake by up to 6 feet. While this would provide some improvement, as outlined in the recent feasibility analysis (GZA, 2021a), additional hard bottom soils would need to be excavated to further improve water quality, the health of the lake, and stormwater management controls needed to meet the 2020 MOU with CT DEEP (DEEP & UConn, 2020) and CT DEEP Dam Safety Regulations.

- Mechanically Dredge Soft Sediment and Hard Bottom – Mechanically dredging both the soft sediment and hard bottom may be less costly than hydraulically dredging the soft sediment and mechanically dredging the hard bottom, as it is likely that costs associated with dewatering of hydraulically dredged sediment could be eliminated. However, despite a significant cost savings, this approach may result in greater water quality and habitat impacts. Although this alternative dredging approach could address freeboard requirements, compared to conventional, mechanical dredging, hydraulic dredging has the benefits of causing less suspension of sediment and less mortality to certain aquatic wildlife. For this reason, hydraulic dredging of soft sediment was recommended in the 2009 Mirror Lake dredging plans prepared by Baystate Environmental Consultants[1] (BEC) due to the environmental sensitivity of Roberts Brook and the Fenton River downstream of Mirror Lake (BVH, 2021, p. 5).

- Mechanically Dredge Less Material – The proposed 9 +/- feet maximum dredging depth of Mirror Lake was based on limnologist recommendations (GZA, 2021a). While one of the previous studies of Mirror Lake has argued that dredging need only target the upper organic (or soft) sediment layer (Northeast Aquatic Research, 2015), the most recent assessment by GZA – and one prior study by Milone and MacBroom – have both noted the importance of removing significant amounts of deep till layers (GZA, 2021a; Milone & MacBroom, 2009) to address the purpose and need for the project. These assessments note that if Mirror Lake were only dredged to a depth of 5 to 6 feet, the entire bottom of the lake would remain within the photic zone (zone of light penetration), which would support the growth of aquatic plants and filamentous algae – further deteriorating the health of the lake. If dredged deeper with a gradual slope from shore to deep center (GZA, 2021a, p. 5), the lake would support a variety of emergent and submerged vegetation, which would enhance the overall landscape aesthetics while also allowing for more open water in the center of the lake.

- **Preferred Alternative –** The Preferred Alternative to emerge from the planning process allows for the necessary improvements to Mirror Lake that address the purpose and need for the Proposed Action. The Preferred Alternative includes the following "Base" and "Alternate" elements: (1) dam safety improvements, including replacing the existing spillway with a stepped spillway and raising the dam's earthen embankment (Base); (2) stormwater management improvements, including the rerouting of several stormwater discharge points into sedimentation forebays and regrading of

[1] BEC is now part of GZA.

upstream and downstream slopes (Base); (3) dredging and improvements to aquatic health, including the use of hydraulic and mechanical dredging to remove accumulated sediments and deepen the lake (Base); and (4) landscape improvements, including littoral zone plantings (Base) and site-specific amenities (e.g., pedestrian bridge, promenade, shelter, stream garden) that enhance cultural benefits and improve access to the water's edge (Alternates).

Unavoidable impacts anticipated with the Proposed Action include those associated with impacts to approximately 1,750 SF to 2,150 SF of inland watercourse and inland wetlands bordering Roberts Brook. While the proposed dredging and stormwater outfall improvements are also included in the Proposed Action, these activities – along with restoration improvements to Roberts Brook – will result in benefits to water quality, aquatic habitat, and stormwater management. Construction-related impacts to traffic/parking, air quality, noise, solid waste, and stormwater are unavoidable but are temporary in nature and will be mitigated using best management practices during construction.

Alterations to resource areas associated with Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook will be permitted under the CT DEEP Dam Safety and Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Permits, and Section 401 Water Quality and Flood Management Certification, and alterations to these resource areas will be subject to the conditions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Connecticut General Permit. Appropriate mitigation will be identified through the permitting process.

Additionally, since the project is largely repair and restoration of the existing dam, lake, and stormwater outfalls, there is little potential for impact from encroachment-alteration. Although the Proposed Action is within the Roberts Brook watershed, the improvements to Mirror Lake – in particular, the improvements to stormwater management – are expected to have a net beneficial impact to water quality. Therefore, no adverse indirect effects associated with encroachment-alteration are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. Similarly, there are no foreseeable indirect impacts associated with induced growth.

Though the Proposed Action will result in changes to landscape features surrounding Mirror Lake, the impact analysis does not indicate any significant cumulative adverse effects to visual or aesthetic resources. Sharing and discussion of final landscaping plans with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will continue to support the initial SHPO finding of no adverse effect to historic resources. Additional cumulative impacts on wetlands and watercourses within the Roberts Brook watershed are not anticipated because the proposed improvements to Mirror Lake are consistent with larger stormwater management objectives identified by UConn in consultation with CT DEEP. Maintaining the discharges from Mirror Lake to be consistent with pre-1993 conditions represents a significant effort on the part of UConn to mitigate cumulative impacts to stormwater and water quality from development on campus over the past several decades, as well as reasonably foreseeable development in the South Campus area.

Anticipated impacts and proposed mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or offset potential adverse impacts are summarized in **Table ES 1**.

Table ES 1 – Summary of Impacts and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Consistency with Planning	• Will be consistent with Connecticut's State Conservation and Development Policies Plan • Will be consistent with Local Zoning and Planning • Will be consistent with Campus Master Planning	• None
Geology, Topography, and Soils	• No Prime Farmland Soils or Soils of Statewide Importance • Grading is anticipated throughout the project site. The site is already developed, and topography and soils have been previously modified.	• None
Water Resources	• Will improve aquatic health and water quality of Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook within the project site • Capacity of stormwater basin is anticipated to increase due to replacement of the spillway and increasing the dam embankment height. • Treatment of stormwater and the quality of flow leaving the site is anticipated to improve over existing conditions due to the proposed vegetated forebays, hydrodynamic separators, and landscaping improvements. • No floodplain-related impacts are expected.	• The design of stormwater features (i.e., vegetated forebays, hydrodynamic separators, and Mirror Lake, a stormwater pond) will be consistent with the guidelines of the CTDEEP *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual* (as amended). • Measures for additional water quality improvements (e.g., artificial circulation, etc.) may be considered in the future. • O&M Plan will ensure ongoing operation of stormwater features.
Wetlands	• Anticipate approximately 5 acres of inland watercourse (i.e., Mirror Lake) to be directly altered by dredging. • Surface area of Mirror Lake will be reduced by 10% (or less) compared to existing conditions. • Approximately 1,750 SF to 2,150 SF of inland watercourse and inland wetlands bordering Roberts Brook will be impacted	• Mitigation measures will be identified through the permitting process. • Dredging of Mirror Lake is designed to result in improvement in water quality.

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
	by the Roberts Brook restoration depending on final design.	
Natural Communities, Flora, and Fauna	• Two federally threatened/endangered, or candidate species (northern long-eared bat, threatened; monarch butterfly, candidate) are potentially in the region. • NDDB Review indicated no negative impacts to state-listed species. • Select vegetation clearing, including trees. • No known northern long-eared bat hibernacula are mapped within the Town of Mansfield, therefore no impacts to are anticipated. • Aquatic habitat improvements from improved water quality and increased landscape diversity are anticipated.	• Proposed landscaping may provide additional host plants and food sources for the monarch butterfly.
Noise	• Consistent with existing institutional and commercial setting.	• None
Air Quality	• No anticipated direct effects to mobile sources of air pollution at the project site.	• None
Solid Waste	• Typical institutional waste stream.	• None
Toxic and Hazardous Materials	• No generation of toxic and/or hazardous materials is anticipated.	• None
Public Health and Safety	• Improvements to public safety by addressing dam/spillway deficiencies • Long-term public health benefits from water quality improvements reducing likelihood of harmful cyanobacteria blooms	• None
Cultural Resources	• Site is located within a National Register Historic District • Pending further review of landscape elements with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), SHPO has indicated no	• UConn will host a follow-up meeting with SHPO and Preservation Connecticut to further discuss the project and provide additional comments on the design. • The final design team for the project will include a landscape architecture

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
	anticipated adverse impact to historic resources • Nearby contributing structures to the Historic District will not be impacted.	firm with experience in cultural landscapes and contributing resources to historic districts.
Visual and Aesthetic Character	• Integration of the site with surrounding landscapes and built environment • Improvements of visual and aesthetic character from the proposed shoreline and littoral zone plantings in curvilinear beds and increased access to the water's edge	• Implementation of visual/aesthetic elements of the Campus Master Plan and District guidelines, incorporation of stormwater infrastructure into the visual landscape, and use of natural materials.
Socioeconomics	• No impacts to Environmental Justice Communities • Generates new construction jobs • Advances the environmental sustainability mission in the Campus Master Plan	• None
Traffic, Parking, and Circulation	• No expected increase in site-generated traffic volumes • No disruption of existing intersections • Supports pedestrian and bicycle access to Mirror Lake • No anticipated impacts to parking	• None
Utilities	• Will support the goals identified in the Drainage Master Plan to improve the stormwater management system and increase the resilience of the Roberts Brook system to stormwater runoff under future development and climate conditions • No anticipated impacts to electrical service, water, gas, and sewer utilities	• Stormwater systems will be designed in accordance with the *Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual* and any memoranda of agreement between UConn and CT DEEP related to stormwater in effect at the time of construction
Energy Use and Conservation	• Consistent with the sustainability goals outlined in the Campus Master Plan and not anticipated to increase energy demands over existing conditions	• Added site lighting will be LED and will meet the University's standards and guidelines regarding high-efficiency lighting.

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Climate and Resilience	• Amplifies the University's commitment to sustainable, resilient landscapes • Proposed dam embankment height will better allow for future increases in precipitation intensity and runoff. • Increased stormwater storage capacity of Mirror Lake due to proposed dredging and increased embankment height	• None
Construction Period		
Public Drinking Water Supply Area / Water Resources	• Exposure of soil increases potential for erosion and sedimentation. • In-water work in Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook increases potential for turbidity.	• Require contractors to adhere to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for work in Drinking Water Supplies. • Use of appropriate erosion and sediment controls during construction, consistent with the *2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control* (as amended) and the *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities* • Monthly turbidity monitoring and inspections • Installation of a turbidity curtain during Mirror Lake dredging and a coffer dam during the spillway replacement
Noise	• Heavy construction equipment associated with site development may result in temporary increases in noise levels in the immediate area of construction.	• Contractors will be required to comply with noise control requirements in UConn's *Contractor EHS Manual: Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Requirements for Construction, Service, and Maintenance Contractors,* including reference to such requirements in contract documents. • Ensure proper operation and maintenance of construction equipment. • Construction contractors should make every reasonable effort to limit construction noise impacts.

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Traffic, Parking, and Circulation	• Minor, temporary disruptions to traffic in the immediate area of construction • Potential for construction staging in S Lot.	• Use of construction-phase traffic management measures to maintain efficient traffic operations during the construction period including construction phasing to minimize disruptions to traffic, signage, and detours • May temporarily reallocate employee parking permits to other on-campus parking locations during the construction period if S Lot is used for construction staging
Air Quality	• Construction activities may result in short-term impacts to ambient air quality due to direct emissions from construction equipment and fugitive dust emissions.	• Contractors will be required to comply with air pollution control requirements in UConn's *Contractor EHS Manual: Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Requirements for Construction, Service, and Maintenance Contractors,* including reference to such requirements in contract documents. • Ensure proper operation and maintenance of construction equipment. • Limit idling of construction vehicles and equipment to three minutes. • Implement traffic management measures during construction. • Implement appropriate controls to prevent the generation and mobilization of dust.
Solid Waste	• Generation of solid waste including construction and demolition debris	• Contractors will be required to comply with requirements for construction-related hazardous materials and solid waste in UConn's *Contractor EHS Manual: Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Requirements for Construction, Service, and Maintenance Contractors,* including reference to such requirements in contract documents. • Construction-related solid waste will be handled and disposed of in a manner that meets current regulations and University standards. Construction and demolition debris will be managed in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations and the University's contractor policies.

Resource Category	Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Toxic and Hazardous Materials	• Temporary on-site storage and use of fuels and other materials associated with construction vehicles and equipment	• Contractors will be required to comply with requirements for construction-related hazardous materials and solid waste in UConn's *Contractor EHS Manual: Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Requirements for Construction, Service, and Maintenance Contractors,* including reference to such requirements in contract documents. • Hazardous or regulated materials or subsurface contamination encountered during construction will be characterized and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.
Utilities	• Proposed work at Mirror Lake and dewatering at the Great Lawn/Manchester Hall parking lot is within the vicinity of sanitary sewer, electric, potable water, and stormwater utilities.	• Care will be taken to protect existing utilities to avoid damage and/or interruption of service during the construction process.
Visual and Aesthetic	• Impairments to visual and aesthetics of Mirror Lake and the Great Lawn/Manchester Hall lot during construction due to site work, staging, and dewatering.	• Mirror Lake and surrounding area, and the Great Lawn/Manchester Hall parking lot will be restored following the conclusion of construction.

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment B

Scoping and Post-Scoping Notices

Connecticut State
Council on Environmental Quality

(/CEQ)

Search Council on Environmental Quality

November 16, 2021

Scoping Notice

1. Notice of Scoping for Southbury Training School Farm Building Demolition, Southbury.
2. Notice of Scoping for Wellington at Madison, Multifamily Housing, Madison.
3. Notice of Scoping for Enfield Manor – Elderly/Disabled Housing Development, Enfield.
4. **NEW!** Notice of Scoping for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut, Mansfield.
5. **NEW!** Notice of Scoping for South Campus Residence Hall at the University of Connecticut, Mansfield

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

No Post-Scoping Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)

1. Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Naugatuck Valley Regional Wastewater Study, Ansonia, Derby, and Seymour.

Agency Record of Decision

No Record of Decision Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM Determination of Adequacy

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer

1. **NEW!** Notice of Proposed Land Transfer in Trumbull.

The next edition of the Environmental Monitor will be published on **December 7, 2021**.

Subscribe (https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/ED852A9EE7823EDF) **to e-alerts** to receive an e-

mail when the Environmental Monitor is published.

Notices in the Environmental Monitor are written and formatted by the sponsoring agencies and are published unedited. Questions about the content of any notice should be directed to the sponsoring agency. Inquiries and requests to view or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency.

Scoping Notice

"Scoping" is for projects in the earliest stages of planning. At the scoping stage, detailed information on a project's design, alternatives, and environmental impacts does not yet exist. Sponsoring agencies are asking for comments from other agencies and from the public as to the scope of alternatives and environmental impacts that should be considered for further study. Send your comments to the contact person listed for the project by the date indicated. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-6)**

The following Scoping Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

---

1. Notice of Scoping for Southbury Training School Farm Building Demolition

Project Title: Department of Agriculture – Southbury Training School Farm Building Demolition

Location: Corner of Spruce Brook Rd., Purchase Brook Rd. and Cassidy Rd. in Southbury

Municipality where proposed action might be located: Southbury

Project Description: This project would involve demolition of certain buildings within property under the custody and control of the Department of Agriculture, in the town of Southbury. While the Department has undertaken an **Adaptive Re-Use Study** in hopes of restoring some or all of the buildings, demolition has become necessary due to safety and vandalism concerns, prohibitive restoration costs, and the fact that none of the farmers leasing land from the Department of Agriculture at the property have an agricultural use for the subject buildings and structures. The buildings identified for demolition are as follows:

1. Farm Cottage #1 and #2 (building #'s 4 and 1 on the attached diagram);
2. Foreman's house and the associated garage (building #'s 2 and 3 on the attached diagram);
3. Triplex farmhouse (building #18);

4. Transformer house (building #6);
5. Milk house and smokestack (building #7);
6. Bunker silo (building #11); and
7. Abattoir (identified by name, located along Cassidy Road).

Project Map and Photos: **Click here** to view a map of the project area. **Click here** to view photos of the buildings targeted for demolition.

Other Materials: **Click here** for a letter from State Historic Preservation Office, relevant to this project. **Click here** to see the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, which includes these buildings.

Written comments: Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the **close of business on December 3, 2021.**

Public Scoping Meeting: Any person may ask to hold a Public Scoping Meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the Department of Agriculture, as the sponsoring agency, must schedule a Public Scoping Meeting. **Such requests must be made by November 12, 2021.**

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent by fax or e-mail to:

Name: Stephen Anderson
Agency: Department of Agriculture
Address: 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 703, Hartford, CT 06103
Fax: (860) 920-3134
E-Mail: stephen.anderson@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents: Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, requests can be submitted to the Department of Agriculture, using the process outlined on the Department of Agriculture website. **Click here (https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/Commissioner/Commissioner/FOIA#:~:text=Freedom%20of%20Informat** go to the website.

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the

preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the Environmental Monitor.

---

2. Notice of Scoping for Wellington at Madison, Multifamily Housing

Address: 131 Cottage Road

Municipality: Madison, CT

Project Description:
The proposed project is multifamily residential for 31 housing units in six structures on a 2.86 acre site at 131 Cottage Road in Madison. Providing high quality rental housing to families with a range of incomes (80% affordable, 20% market rate) is the goal of the non-profit developer. The site design aims to create a neighborhood feel by incorporating the renovation of a historic home and barn and newly constructed condominium-style buildings centered around a village green area.

The property is in a transitional zoned district and a high opportunity area within walking distance to neighborhood amenities including retail and commercial facilities and public transportation. The site plan includes a community center, parking, landscaping, and stone walkways and sidewalks. The project includes the renovation of the historic Henry Josiah Meigs House c1808-1810 which is listed on the State Registry of historic places. The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the work and has determined that there will be no adverse effects to historic resources. A property easement has been entered at the north edge of the site. The project will include on-site septic systems engineered to meet all local and state public health requirements. All other services will be provided by public utilities. The development has received local planning and zoning approvals from the town of Madison.

Although a portion of the site is currently in the 500 year flood plain, the actual ground elevations are above the 500 year flood elevation of 11.5 feet. Because of this discrepancy, an application has been filed for a FEMA Letter of Map Amendment. Obtaining a flood management certification from CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection will be a secondary measure of flood safety if required. The ground floor finished floor elevations will be more than two feet above the 500 year flood plain and all new housing units will have dry and safe egress from the flood plain limits.

Project Maps:

Click here to view a **Vicinity Map** for the project area.
Click here to view a **Site Plan** of the project.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **Thursday, December 2, 2021.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a Public Scoping Meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a Public Scoping Meeting. Such requests must be made by **Friday, November 12, 2021.**

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to:

Name: JaCinta Frazier
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:DOH.CEPA@ct.gov)

If you have questions about the public meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: JaCinta Frazier
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:DOH.CEPA@ct.gov)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Randi Pincus, Staff Attorney
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: Randi.Pincus@ct.gov (mailto:Randi.Pincus@ct.gov)

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the Environmental Monitor.

---

3. Notice of Scoping for Enfield Manor – Elderly/Disabled Housing Development

Address: Enfield Terrace

Municipality: Enfield, CT

Project Description:

The proposed project is a redevelopment of a facility for elderly and disabled individuals for the Enfield Housing Authority as a State Sponsored Housing Portfolio property. The affordability mix will include 56 units for households less than 50% Area Median Income (AMI) and 43 units less than 60% AMI. The plans include demolition of the existing buildings and new construction of 2 three-story buildings containing 99 rental units totaling 109,000 gross square feet on an 11.82 acre site. The relocation plan includes a phased approach as new units are constructed. The new construction will meet all state and federal guidelines for accessibility and energy efficiency. The site is in a Priority Funding area and is serviced by local bus service to shopping, medical offices, and commuter bus lines. The new site plan will include a community center, laundry, parking, greenspace, emergency access roads, and a walking path.
Environmental site assessments do not identify any recognized environmental concerns or areas of concern. The existing buildings will be fully abated of all hazardous materials prior to demolition. The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed project and has determined that no historic properties will be affected. The Enfield local Historic Commission has also approved the project.

The proposed site plan includes the preservation and protection of the existing state wetlands on the eastern portion of the site. The plans have been reviewed and approved by the Town of Enfield Inland Wetlands Commission and the project will meet all required measures and conditions of approval. The location does not include critical habitat or listed species according to state and federal maps and it is not inside of any mapped aquifer protection, watershed, or flood zone areas. There are no farmland activities at this site and the state's farmland soils map indicates that the site does not contain over 5 acres of farmland soils. The proposed project has received the review and approval of the Enfield Planning and Zoning Commission on February 28, 2019.

Project Maps:

Click here to view a **Vicinity Map** for the project area.

Click here to view a **Demolition Plan** of the project.

Click here to view the **Proposed Site Plan** for the project.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on **Thursday, December 2, 2021.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a Public Scoping Meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a Public Scoping Meeting. Such requests must be made by **Friday, November 12, 2021.**

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to:

Name: JaCinta Frazier
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:DOH.CEPA@ct.gov)

If you have questions about the public meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: JaCinta Frazier
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:DOH.CEPA@ct.gov)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Randi Pincus, Staff Attorney
Agency: Department of Housing
Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106
E-Mail: Randi.Pincus@ct.gov (mailto:Randi.Pincus@ct.gov)

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the Environmental Monitor.

---

4. Notice of Scoping for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut

Project Title: Mirror Lake Improvements

Addresses of Possible Locations: Mansfield Road at the University of Connecticut, Storrs

Municipality Where Proposed Action Might be Located: Mansfield

Project Description:

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is planning to design and reconstruct Mirror Lake – a large stormwater basin on the Storrs Campus, in the area of the South Campus roughly bounded by Storrs Road to the east, Mansfield Road to the south and west, and Harry Grant Manchester Hall to the north. Known as the “Mirror Lake Improvements Project,” the Proposed Action to be assessed under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) process consists of the following elements:

- Utility and infrastructure improvements, including tie-in to existing utilities available in the project area
- Mirror Lake restoration, dam and spillway modifications, and green infrastructure improvements for stormwater management

The Proposed Action is located within the Roberts Brook subwatershed, within the Fenton River watershed, and within the University of Connecticut Historic District. Elements of the Proposed Action were identified in the University's Campus Master Plan, including improvements to Mirror Lake and its immediate surroundings. An updated campus drainage master plan and a recently-completed feasibility study for Mirror Lake identified needed modifications to the stormwater basin, spillway and dam to improve storage, quality, and safety. UConn will incorporate comments from a public scoping meeting and evaluate the Proposed Action with taking no action or other feasible alternatives. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action will also be assessed.

Project Maps and Photos:

Click the following link for a general location of the project area:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/UConn/Mirror-Lake-Improvements/Site_Map_Mirror_Lake.pdf

Written Comments:

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the **close of business on December 16, 2021**.

Public Scoping Meeting:

There will be a Public Scoping Meeting for this proposed action.

Date: Wednesday, December 8th

Time: 6:30 PM (EST)

Place: Virtual

Notes: Participants MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE through the following link:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6080155684541563918 (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6080155684541563918)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (including an option to join by phone).

Additional information regarding the meeting, as well as a link to a recording of the meeting, will be posted at: (https://updc.uconn.edu/)https://updc.uconn.edu/ (https://updc.uconn.edu/).

Written Comments and/or Requests for Public Scoping Meeting Materials Should Be Sent by Fax or E-mail to:

Name: James Libby, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB

Agency: University of Connecticut, University Planning, Design and Construction

Address: 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038

Fax: (860) 486-3117

E-mail: james.libby@uconn.edu (mailto:james.libby@uconn.edu)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Public Records Administration

Agency: c/o University Communications

Address: 34 North Eagleville Road, U-3144

E-Mail: https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/ (https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/)

Phone: (860) 486-5337

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

5. Notice of Scoping for South Campus Residence Hall at the University of Connecticut

Project Title: South Campus Residence Hall

Address of Possible Location: Gilbert Road at the University of Connecticut, Storrs

Municipality Where Proposed Action Might be Located: Mansfield

Project Description:

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is planning a design-build project on the Storrs Campus in the area of the South Campus roughly bounded by Mansfield Road to the east, Maple Lane to the south, the Anna M. Snow Residence Hall to the west, and Gilbert Road to the north. Known as the "South Campus Residence Hall Project," the Proposed Action to be assessed under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) process consists of the following elements:

- Residence hall and dining facility comprised of approximately 200,000 gross square feet with 600-650 beds and 600-700 dining seats
- Utility and infrastructure improvements, and tie-ins to existing utilities

The Proposed Action is located within the Roberts Brook subwatershed, within the Fenton River watershed, and within the University of Connecticut National Register Historic District. Elements of the Proposed Action were identified in the University's Campus Master Plan, including a residence hall in the proposed location. While projected enrollment at UConn is expected to remain generally flat for the foreseeable future, much of the existing on-campus housing stock is in need of renewal. The Proposed Action will create capacity to take other housing facilities offline for renovation and modernization. UConn will incorporate comments from a public scoping meeting, and evaluate the Proposed Action with taking no action or other feasible alternatives. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action – including those related to historic resources and other impacts identified in the 2016 CEPA process for the South Campus Development – will also be assessed.

Project Maps and Photos:

Click the following link for a general location of the project area:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/UConn/South-Campus-Residence-Hall/Site_Map_Res_Hall.pdf

Written Comments:

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the **close of business on December 16, 2021**.

Public Scoping Meeting:

There will be a Public Scoping Meeting for this proposed action.

Date: Wednesday, December 8th

Time: 6:30 PM (EST)

Place: Virtual

Notes: Participants MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE through the following link:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6080155684541563918 (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6080155684541563918)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (including an option to join by phone).

Additional information regarding the meeting, as well as a link to a recording of the meeting, will be posted at: https://updc.uconn.edu/ (https://updc.uconn.edu/).

Written Comments and/or Requests for Public Scoping Meeting Materials Should Be Sent by Fax or E-mail to:

Name: James Libby, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB

Agency: University of Connecticut, University Planning, Design and Construction

Address: 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038

Fax: (860) 486-3117

E-mail: james.libby@uconn.edu (mailto:james.libby@uconn.edu)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Public Records Administration

Agency: c/o University Communications

Address: 34 North Eagleville Road, U-3144

E-Mail: https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/ (https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/)

Phone: (860) 486-5337

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

FUSS & O'NEILL

Public Scoping Meeting

University of Connecticut
South Campus Residence Hall
and
Mirror Lake Improvements

Presented by:

UConn University Planning, Design and Construction
Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

December 8, 2021

UCONN
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Presentation/CEPA Team

- **Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.**

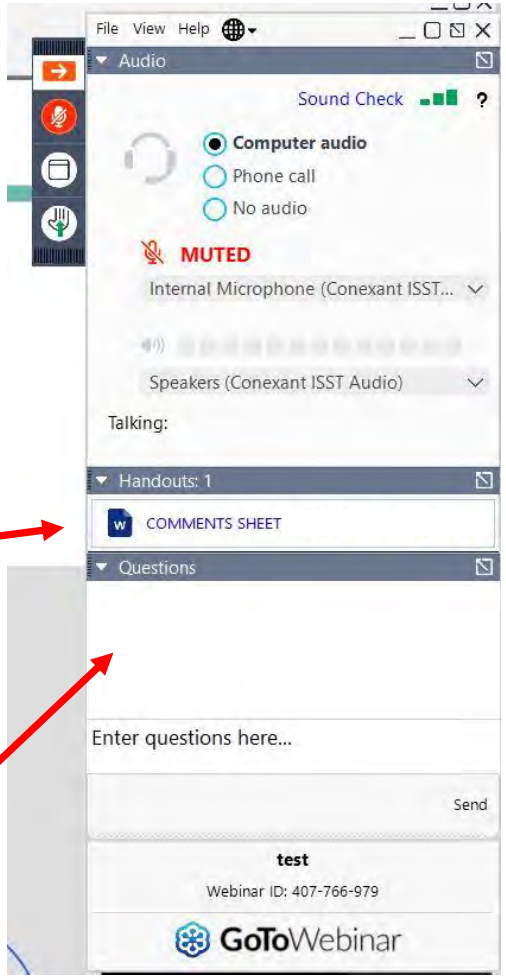
Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS – CEPA Specialist

Alex Maxwell, PhD, Resilience Planner

FUSS & O'NEILL

Webinar "Tech Check"

Dashboard



Handouts

Comments

Presentation Agenda

- Public Scoping Process
- Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)
- Project Overview & Schedule
  - South Campus Residence Hall
  - Mirror Lake Improvements
- Public Comments

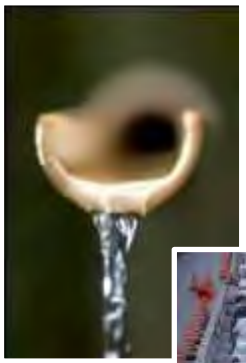
Public Scoping Process

- Provide basic information on the projects (Proposed Actions)
- Occurs at the early stage of project
- Provide a forum for agency and public input
  - Range of alternatives
  - Environmental impacts that should be considered for study
- Solicit verbal and written comments to be addressed in the CEPA process

What is CEPA?

- Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)
- Identify and evaluate the impacts of proposed state actions that may significantly affect the environment
- Allow for public input

Proposed Action



FUSS & O'NEILL

CEPA Resource Considerations

Direct, indirect, & cumulative effects:

Natural

- Water quality (incl. surface water and groundwater)
- Flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation
- Natural communities, critical plant and animal species
- Resident or migratory fish or wildlife species
- Air quality
- Ambient noise levels
- Existing land resources and landscapes (incl. coastal and inland wetlands)
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Changing climate (incl. resilience)

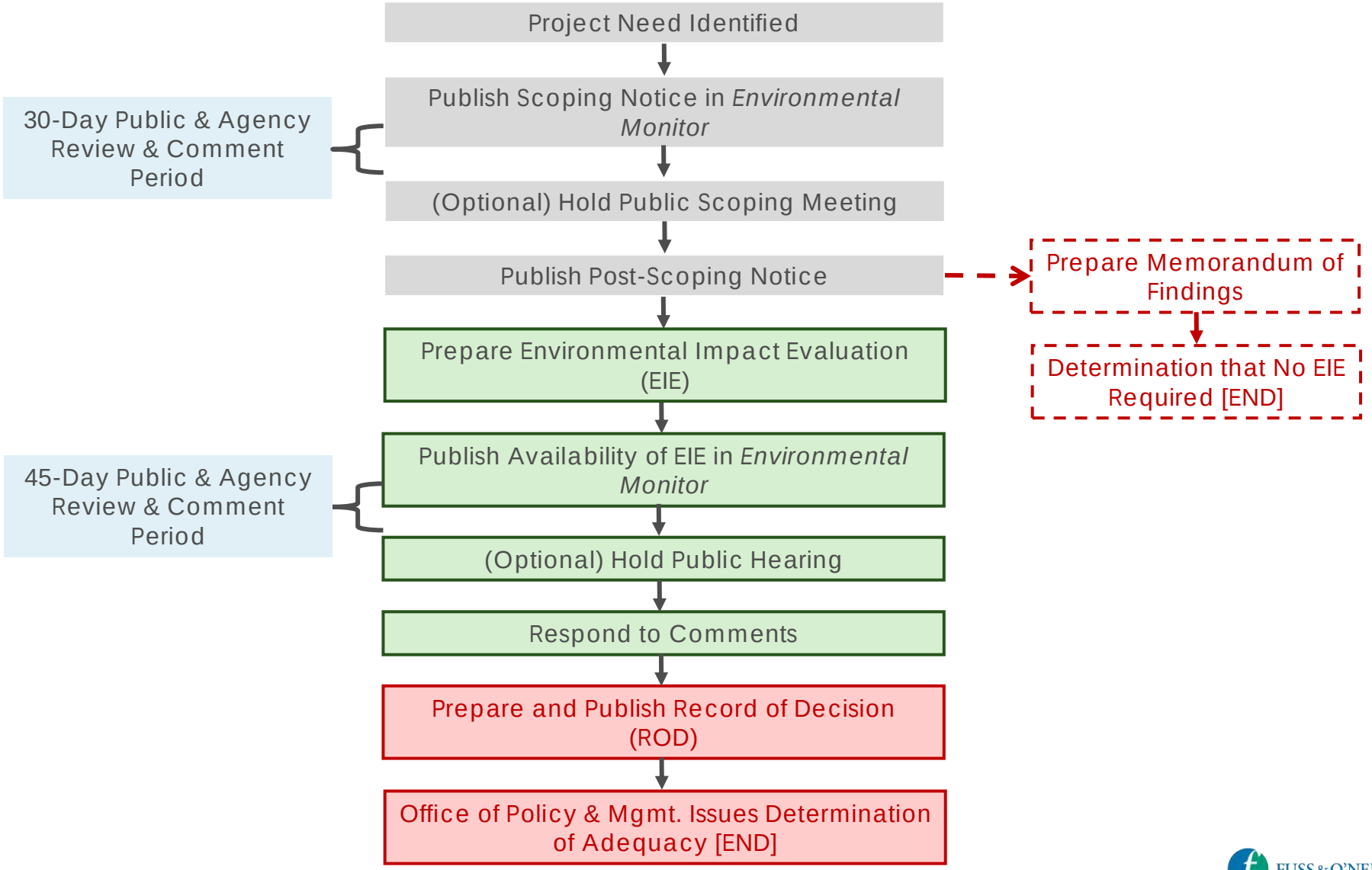
Socioeconomic

- Historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building or site
- Aesthetic or visual effects
- State, regional, and municipal plans
- Existing housing, communities
- Population
- Human health and safety
- Other natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources

Physical

- Public water supply system
- Pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials
- Congestion (traffic, recreational, other)
- Energy use
- Agricultural resources
- Existing/proposed utilities/infrastructure

CEPA Process Map & Proposed Timeline



FUSS & O'NEILL

South Campus Residence Hall

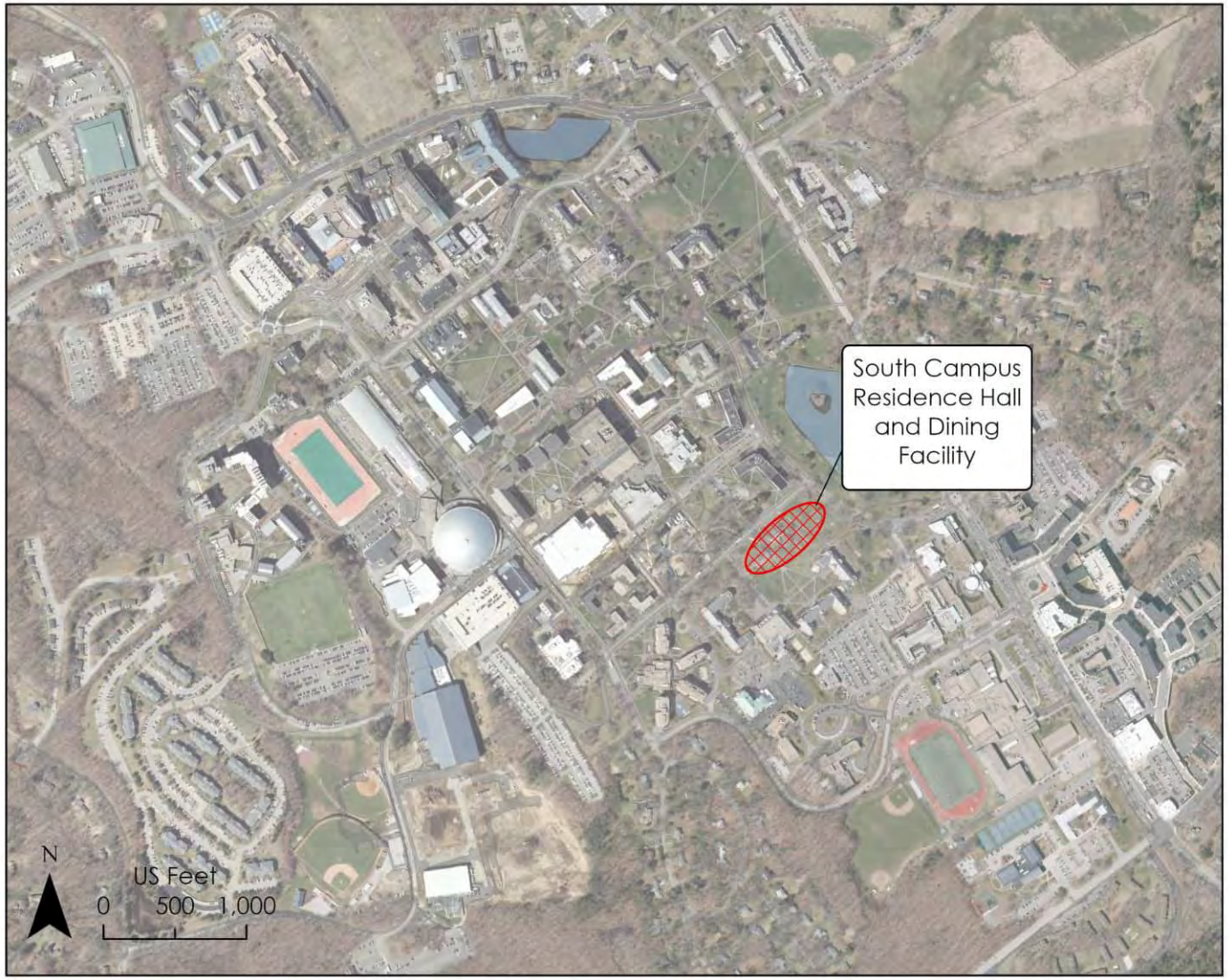
Purpose and Need

- Purpose: Create capacity to take other housing facilities offline for renovation and modernization (over the next decade or longer).

- Need: While projected enrollment at UConn is expected to remain generally flat for the foreseeable future, much of the existing on-campus housing stock is in need of renewal.

FUSS & O'NEILL

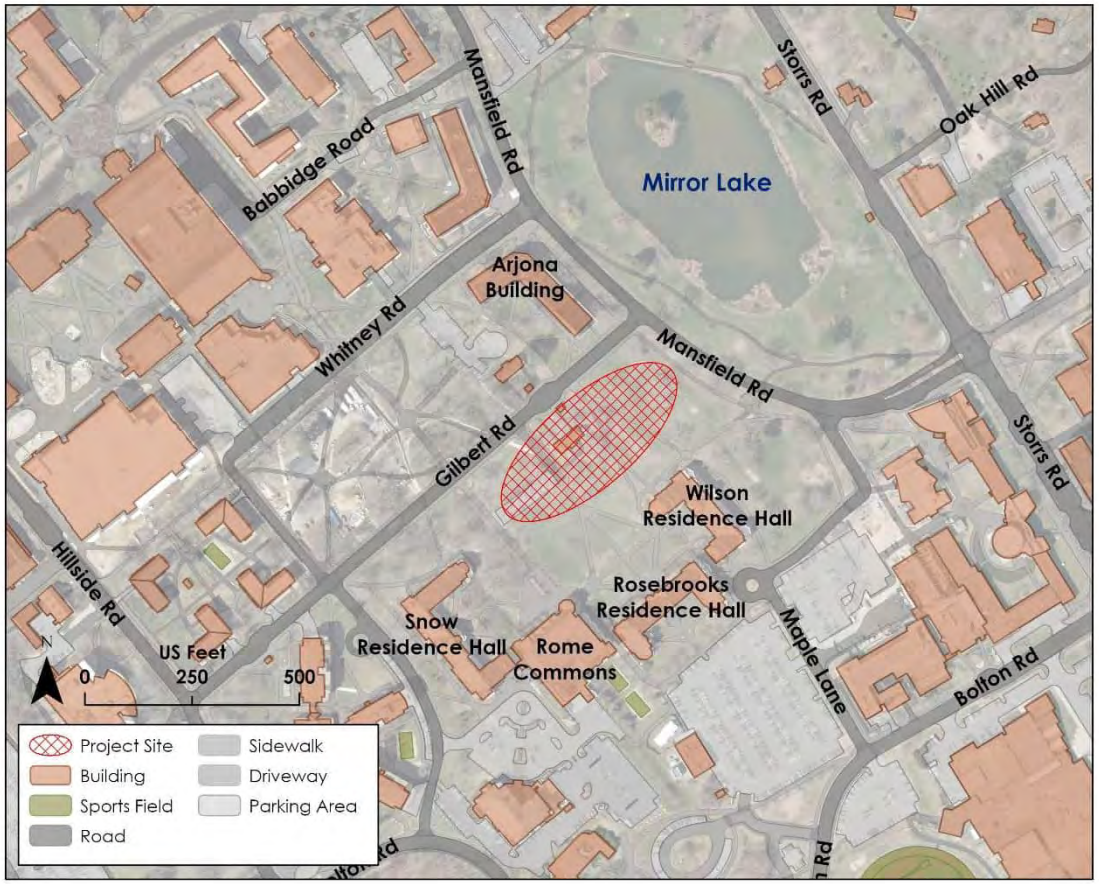
Project Location on Campus



FUSS & O'NEILL

Project Overview

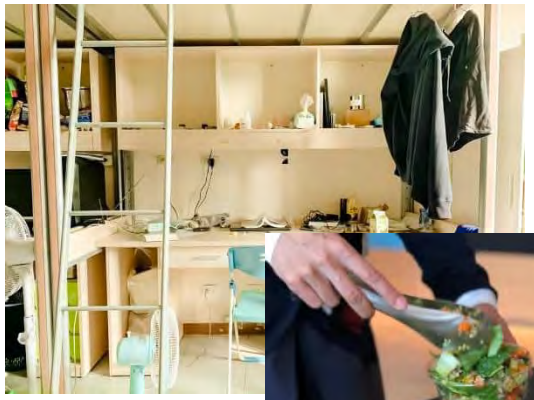
- Design-build project
- On the Storrs Campus in the area of the South Campus roughly bounded by:
  - Mansfield Road to the east
  - Maple Lane to the south
  - Anna M. Snow Residence Hall to the west
  - Gilbert Road to the north

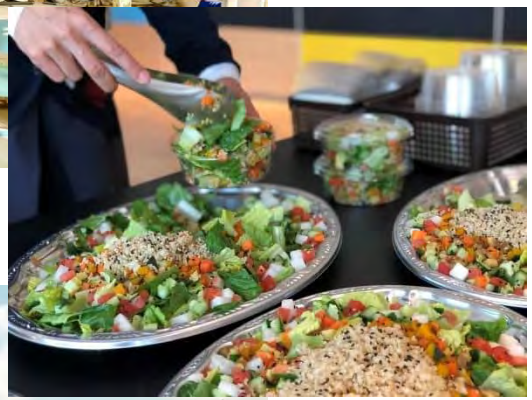


FUSS & O'NEILL

Proposed Project Elements

- Proposed project to be assessed under the CEPA process consists of the following elements:
  - Residence hall and dining facility comprised of approximately 200,000 gross square feet with 600-650 beds and 600-700 dining seats
  - Utility and infrastructure improvements, and tie-ins to existing utilities





FUSS & O'NEILL

Alternatives

- No Action
- South of McMahon Hall
- S Lot
- South Campus Residence Hall Complex (Gilbert Road)

FUSS & O'NEILL

Alternatives Overview

- South of McMahon Hall
  - Sloping site
  - Need for removal of roadway connecting Hillside Road to Y-Lot, (Commuter Student Lot)
  - Shallow depth to ledge
- S Lot
  - Loss of 300 parking spaces
  - Potentially in conflict with long-term development of woodland corridor
- South Campus Residence Hall Complex (Gilbert Road)
  - Preferred alternative

Preferred Alternative – Gilbert Road Site

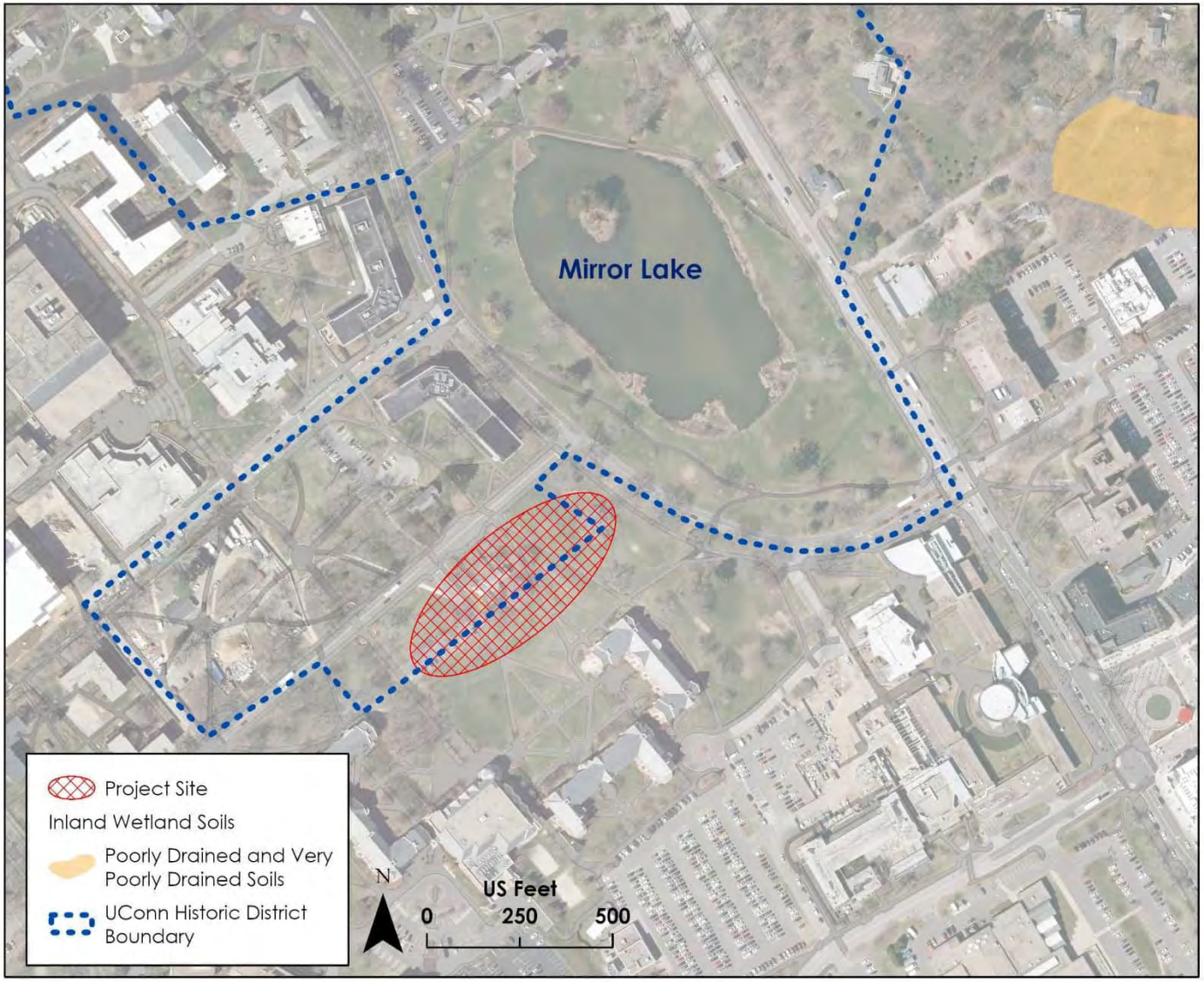
- Residential area, compatible land use, historically used for student housing
- Allows for integration with larger campus community
- Space to accommodate dining
- Allows for outdoor spaces to support the building
- Limited impact on parking
- Available utilities
- Site previously evaluated for environmental impacts
- Consistent with Campus Master Plan

FUSS & O'NEILL

Resources Not Present at the Project Area

- No FEMA flood zones
- No farmland soils
- No aquifer protection areas
- No tidal wetlands/coastal areas

Existing Environment



FUSS & O'NEILL

Mirror Lake Improvements

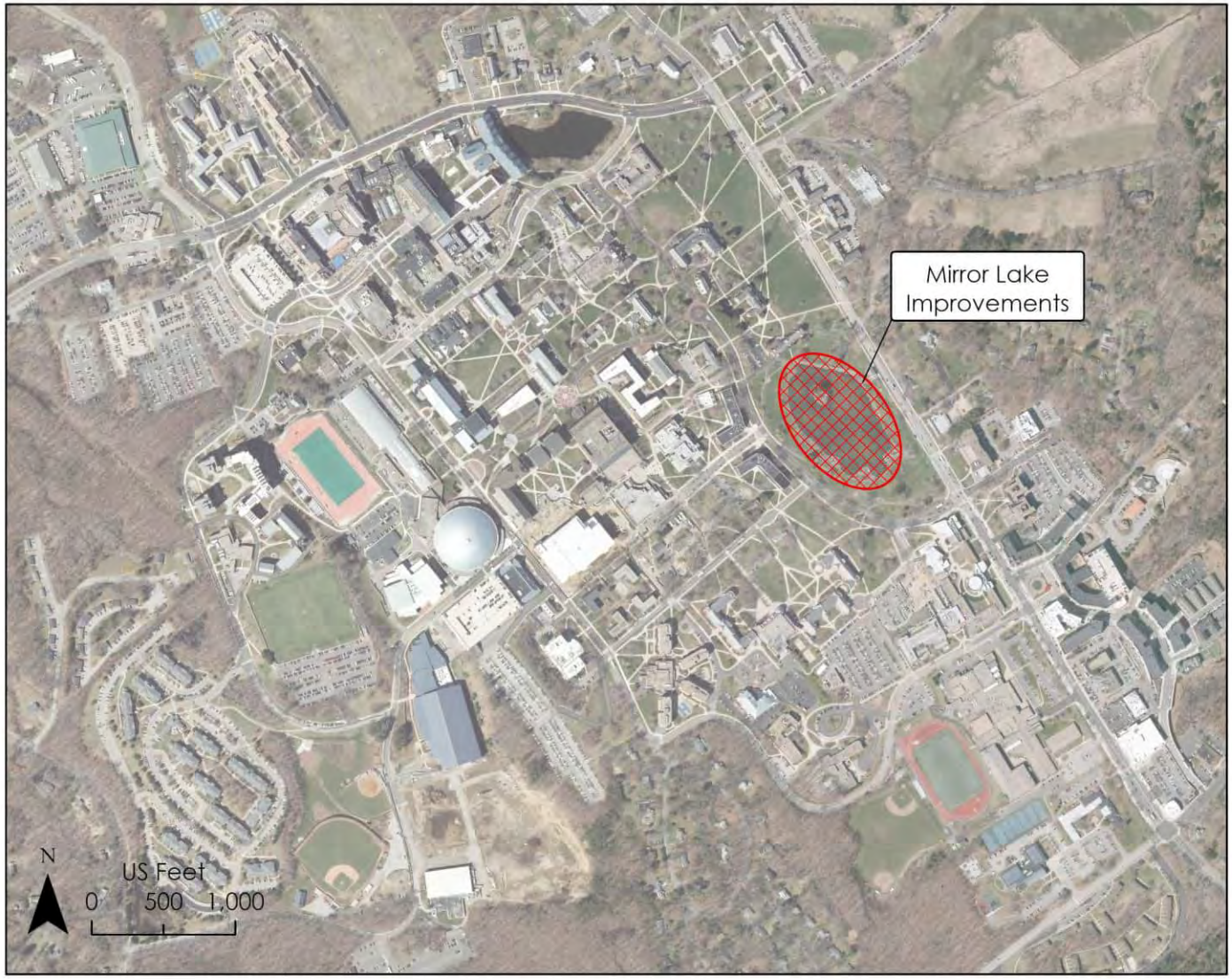
Purpose and Need

- Purpose: Address dam/spillway safety deficiencies, mange stormwater and slow sediment accumulation, improve aquatic health/water quality & function of the lake as a landscape element on campus

- Need: Recently-completed feasibility study for Mirror Lake identified needed modifications to the stormwater basin, spillway and dam to improve storage, quality, and safety

FUSS & O'NEILL

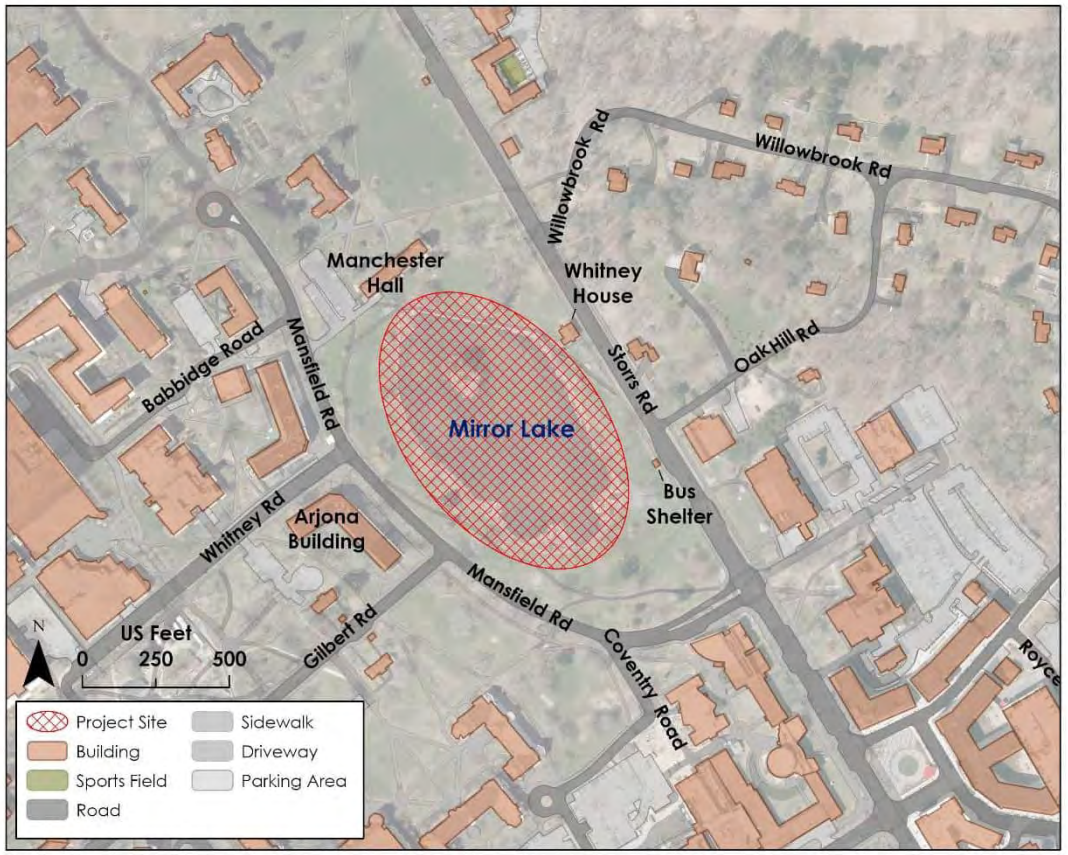
Project Location on Campus



FUSS & O'NEILL

Project Overview

- Design and reconstruct Mirror Lake – a large stormwater management basin
- On the Storrs Campus in the area of the South Campus roughly bounded by:
  - Storrs Road to the east
  - Mansfield Road to the south and west
  - Harry Grant Manchester Hall to the north
  - *Note: Dredged material may be placed in Lot S or other location for dewatering



FUSS & O'NEILL

Proposed Project Elements

- Proposed project to be assessed under the CEPA process consists of the following elements:
  - Utility and infrastructure improvements
  - Mirror Lake restoration, dam and spillway modifications, and green infrastructure improvements for stormwater management

FUSS & O'NEILL

Proposed Improvements

- Hydraulic dredging (soft sediment) and mechanical dredging (hard bottom) – remove sediment and deepen lake
- Construction of forebays – sediment trapping/stormwater management
- Dam & spillway reconstruction/redesign – address safety by allowing for increased freeboard (i.e., the distance between the waterline and the top of the dam/spillway) and better stormwater flow control with the construction of a new dam and spillway
- Landscape walls/elements – stormwater management (buffers), aesthetic elements

Alternatives

- No Action
- Enlarge footprint and raise berm
- Dredge only (no forebays)
- Landscape design

FUSS & O'NEILL

Alternatives Overview

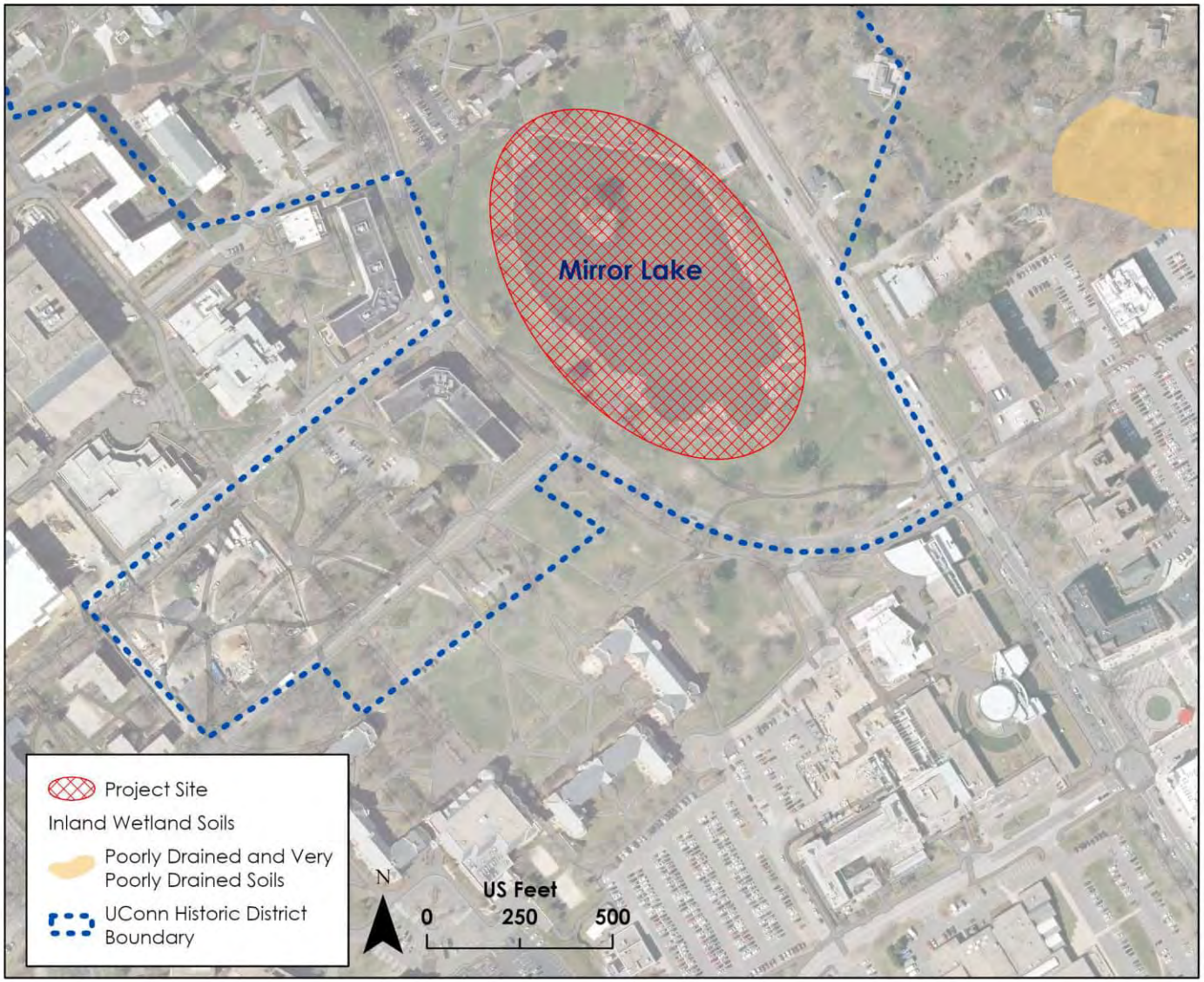
- No Action
  - Existing dam safety, water quality, stormwater concerns
- Enlarge footprint and raise berm
  - Only addresses stormwater, not aquatic health/water quality or dam safety
  - Spillway not altered
- Dredge only (no forebays)
  - Addresses accumulated sediment but not stormwater control
  - Depth and type of dredging: hydraulic/mechanical, 6-12'
- Landscape design elements
  - Includes forebays and feature amenities (e.g., boat launch, pedestrian bridge, pavilion, etc.)

Resources Not Present at the Project Area

- No FEMA flood zones
- No aquifer protection areas
- No tidal wetlands/coastal areas

FUSS & O'NEILL

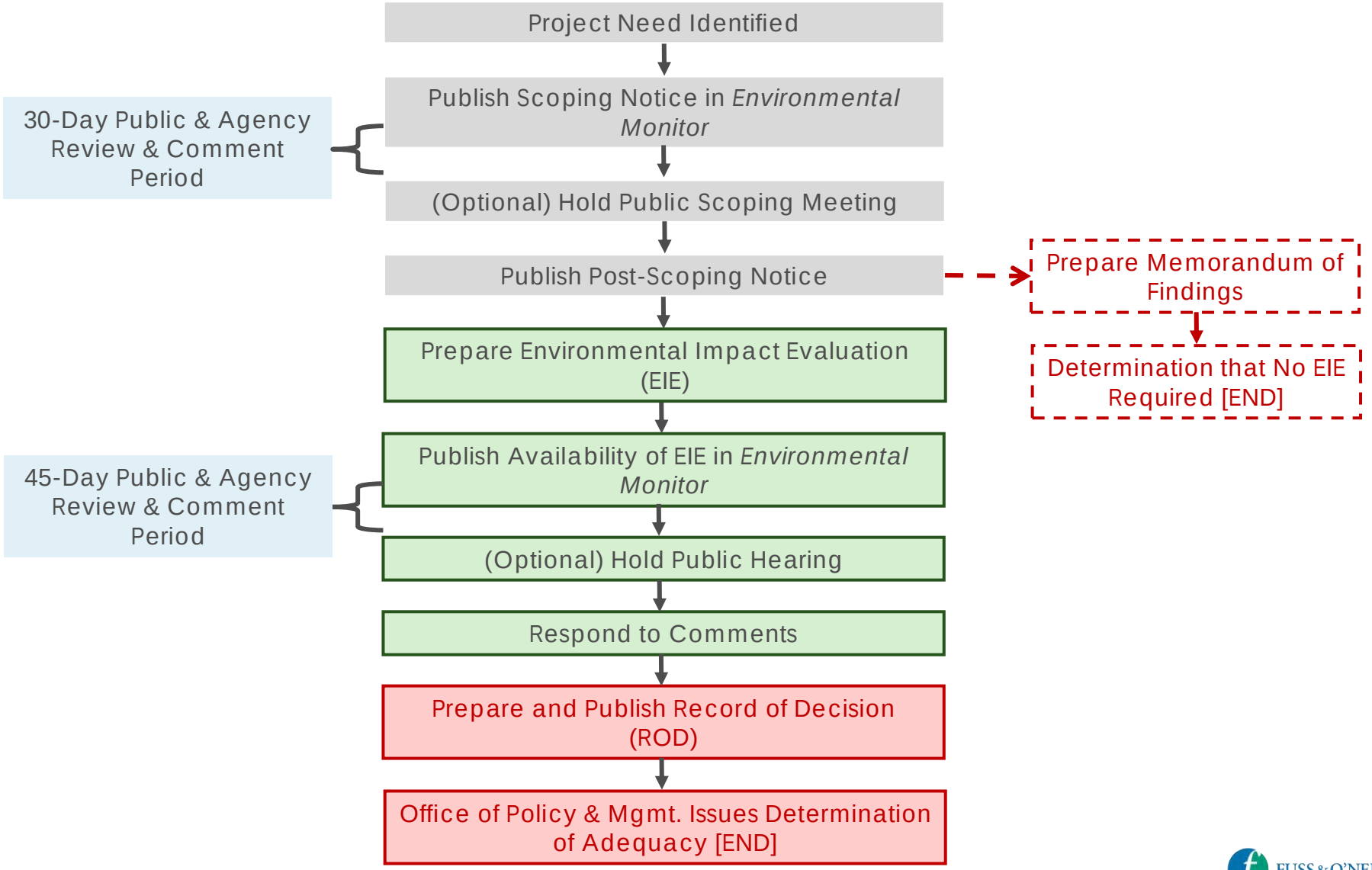
Existing Environment



FUSS & O'NEILL

Next Steps

CEPA Process Map & Proposed Timeline



FUSS & O'NEILL

Schedule Milestones

Milestone	Tentative Date
Public Scoping Period	Ends December 16, 2021
Assessment of Existing Conditions & Analysis of Environmental Impacts/EIE Determination	Winter 2021
Post Scoping Notice OR EIE Document Public Review & Comment	Late Winter to Early Spring 2022
Public Hearing	Spring 2022
CEPA Record of Decision (ROD)	Late Spring/Early Summer 2022
Planned Start of Construction	Fall 2022 (South Campus Residence Hall) Winter 2022 to Spring 2023 (Mirror Lake Improvements – *depending on permitting*)

Comments

- Comments accepted tonight (via comment sheet or by raising hand)
  - State name, address, project(s) on which you would like to comment, and your comment(s)
- Submit comments (email preferred) to:
  - Name: James Libby, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB
  - Address: 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038
  - Fax: (860) 486-3117
  - E-mail: james.libby@uconn.edu
- End of Comment Period: December 16, 2021
- Additional information regarding the meeting, as well as a link to a recording of the meeting, will be posted at: https://updc.uconn.edu/.
- Recording will be posted after December 9, 2021

Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127 www.ct.gov/deep Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

To: James Libby, University Planning, Design, and Construction
University of Connecticut, 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, CT 06269-3038

From: Linda Brunza- Environmental Analyst **Telephone:** 860-424-3739

Email: Linda.Brunza@ct.gov

Date: 12/16/2021

Subject: Mirror Lake Improvement Project

Staff at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) have reviewed the scoping notice for the proposed improvements to Mirror Lake, a large drainage basin on the Storrs Campus. Improvements include modifications to the existing dam and spillway structure, green infrastructure improvements, and utility tie-in. A virtual public meeting was held on December 8 which discussed some of the project details.

Mirror Lake is a man-made stormwater basin on what was formally a wet meadow. The existing dam was replaced in 1946 and the basin was last dredged in the 1970s. Since then, sediments from stormwater runoff have settled at the lake bottom, which is shallow in some areas and approximately 3.5 feet at the deepest point. The dam fails to hold water back during heavy rain events. The lake is also a focal point for the campus and enjoyed by students and visitors.

The following comments are submitted for your consideration.

Water Quality and Flood Management

The University of Connecticut has been in contact with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Land and Water Resources Division (LWRD) regarding the project. The comments provided are based on the information in the scoping notice and discussions with the University.

- Planned activities would require a new Flood Management Certification since the current Flood Management Memorandum of Understanding (FM MOU) does not cover the Roberts Brook watershed. Alternatively, a new masterplan FM MOU for the Roberts Brook watershed could be established.
- The project as proposed may require an Individual 401 Water Quality Certification, Water Diversion, and Inland Wetlands permits from the Land and Water Resources Division. Other permit requirements have been identified in section 1.10 of the Mirror Lake Improvements Feasibility Study June 2021 report. The project team should confirm that the activities are eligible for a USACE GP (PCN) as stated in the report.

- The Mirror Lake improvement design shall be incorporated into the UConn Drainage Master Plan and should have capacity to treat and attenuate current and any future/expected increases in stormwater draining to it as a result of future UConn development.
- Overall, it is important that the improvements can adequately treat existing and any expected / future stormwater runoff in accordance with the CT Stormwater Quality Manual. It is noted that hydrodynamic separators (HDS) are proposed upstream of all inlets to the lake and that three (3) forebays will be incorporated to supplement sediment / pollutant capture.
- The type of HDS specified must be one that is included on the Department of Transportation's list of approved separators and must be sized to treat the Water Quality Flow draining to each unit. It will be critical to keep these units well maintained and in good operating condition. LWRD would be interested in having UConn conducting performance monitoring of these units as part of the overall treatment performance of the lake.
- The Lake itself should be designed as a Primary Stormwater Treatment Practice, specifically a *Stormwater Pond* as defined by the Stormwater Quality Manual and should incorporate all the design features / criteria specified in the manual, including appropriate sizing of forebays. Again, long term maintenance of these forebays will important and details as to how these will be maintained and provision for adequate access shall be assessed as part of any permit review.
- A Performance Monitoring Plan for all plantings proposed as part of the lake (specifically those plantings that are expected to provide some Water Quality benefit), should be provided as part of any permit application to LWRD.
- A full operations and maintenance plan for the lake and all stormwater features shall be included as part of any permit review, and UConn must include budget provisions for this long-term maintenance.
- Alternatives for the dewatering area required during the hydraulic dredging should be provided for review. Ideally this area should be adjacent to the lake side on the opposite side of the lake from the outlet and permit gravity feed of dewatering waters back to the lake. Alternatives that require laying these areas adjacent to wetlands are less appealing and will require other protective measures. Other alternatives that require additional pumping of return waters will also present additional risk.
- A thorough water handling plan to be implemented during the mechanical dredge phase will be required as part of any permit application submitted to LWRD.

Information on the certification process can be found on DEEP's website at Flood Management Certification, An Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet. Information on 401 Water Quality Certification can be found online at Water Quality Certification, An Environmental Fact Sheet. Please contact Colin Clark at Colin.Clark@ct.gov, or Danielle Missel at Danielle.Missell@ct.gov with any questions.

Dam Safety

- The project manager is strongly encouraged to contact the Department's Dam Safety Program to arrange for a pre-application meeting to discuss regulatory requirements. Please contact Ivonne Hall at Ivonne.Hall@ct.gov.

Watershed Management

- The Mirror Lake rehabilitation project design and associated engineering planning should address documented surface water quality impairments in downstream Roberts Brook, the 1.7-mile-long tributary to the Fenton River. This should be detailed for both the construction and the post-construction periods. Roberts Brook (CT3207-12_01) has been assessed by this Department as Not Supporting for the designated use of Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use support. The assessment does not have a listed cause for this use impairment.

- There is no watershed-based plan developed for the Roberts Brook watershed, or for the University's urban core campus contributing watershed to Mirror Lake. The University had developed a watershed response plan to the 2007 Eagleville Brook Impervious Cover Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Analysis, followed by numerous structural and non-structural best management practices, along with green stormwater infrastructure and landscape design elements across the core campus watershed for the westerly flowing Eagleville Brook. The University has learned a great amount of practical and effective measures to address increased flooding and stormwater quality management impacts to Eagleville Brook over the last decade. The current and forecasted University core campus development patterns indicate greater urbanizing pressures on the Roberts Brook sub-watershed area. The University should fully utilize the lessons learned from the Eagleville Brook management plan, University sustainable design policies and implementation actions, and apply relevant elements to this Mirror Lake rehabilitation project. A project objective should provide for supportive actions towards restoring water quality standards to Roberts Brook.

- The University should identify the percentage of the contributing watershed to Mirror Lake not under University ownership, and further address whether these other properties and potential increases in their impervious surface areas could be accommodated with the proposed stormwater retrofit practices and storage capacity of the rehabilitated Mirror Lake impoundment area.

- The preliminary project plans provide for greater community access to, and experiences with a rehabilitated Mirror Lake. The University should consider leveraging the highly visible aspects of this project with interpretive signage indicating the lake's location and linkages to the regional watershed.

  Please contact Eric Thomas in the Water Planning and Management Division with any questions at Eric.Thomas@ct.gov.

Wildlife Division

- Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps represent the approximate locations of species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as endangered, threatened or of special concern. The maps are a pre-screening tool to identify potential impacts to state listed species. The database shows that the project falls within one of the NDDB areas. The applicant is required to submit a *Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review Form* (DEEP-APP-007) and all

required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review. Additional information concerning NDDB reviews, and the request form, may be found on-line at: NDDB Requests.

Fisheries Division

- The Fisheries Division is supportive of the Mirror Lake Project and views it as an opportunity to enhance recreational fishing opportunities for students and members of the public. The deepening of the lake would provide additional habitat diversity and offer overwintering habitat for fish residing in the lake. The improvements to water quality and sediment management would also enhance the angling experience. It is recommended that CT DEEP fisheries and the UCONN fisheries program be contacted about recreational fishing opportunities in the lake, and the establishment of a fish community post construction.
- Project designs should include access areas for recreational angling that would be ADA compliant and allow all members of the angling community to enjoy the lake.
- The feasibility study references the need for CT DEEP Determination of Need for Fishway; a fishway would not be required at this location based on the species present and its location.
- The pedestrian promenade feature depicted in the feasibility study, entails vertical concrete embankments along a long section of the shoreline. This type of vertical hard structure is of limited habitat value to fish and aquatic life. It is suggested that structured habitat features be included in the lake design to provide additional habitat for fish and angling opportunities. Examples of these types of structures can be found at this link https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/Habitat/Documents/lake_fish_hab.pdf, or provided by Fisheries staff.
- The feasibility study also depicts the expansion of the central island using dredged materials; this study also details the exceedance of Remediation Standard Regulations (RSRs) in sediments within the pond. The expansion of the island should be performed with materials and processes that comply with relevant regulations. The expansion of the island also provides the opportunity to include additional habitat features such as Coarse Woody Debris, that would provide habitat to fish and basking turtles.
- Additionally, there is mention of placement of rip rap in Roberts Brook as scour protection, if placed beyond the period that the temporary construction spillway is utilized, the use of natural streambed materials in lieu of rip rap would be recommended.

Please contact Joe.Cassone@ct.gov with any questions regarding these comments.

Stormwater General Permit

The General Permit for Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities may be applicable depending on the size of the disturbance regardless of phasing. This general permit applies to discharges of stormwater and dewatering wastewater from construction activities where the activity disturbs more than an acre. The requirements of the current general permit include registration to obtain permit coverage and development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP). The SWPCP contains requirements for the permittee to describe and manage their construction activity, including implementing erosion and

sediment control measures as well as other control measures to reduce or eliminate the potential for the discharge of stormwater runoff pollutants (suspended solids and floatables such as oil and grease, trash, etc.) both during and after construction. A goal of 80 percent removal of the annual sediment load from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing post-construction stormwater management measures. Stormwater treatment systems must be designed to comply with the post-construction stormwater management performance requirements of the permit. These include post-construction performance standards requiring retention and/or infiltration of the runoff from the first inch of rain (the water quality volume or WQV) and incorporating control measures for runoff reduction and low impact development practices.

The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Exempt projects (projects primarily conducted by government authorities) and Locally Approvable projects (projects primarily by private developers).

Projects that are exempt from local permitting that disturb over one acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to the Department at least 60 or 90 days, as identified in the permit, prior to the initiation of construction. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with the Department provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form and SWPCP to the Department at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction. Registrations shall include a certification by the Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. In addition to measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post-construction stormwater management, the SWPCP must include a schedule for plan implementation and routine inspections. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov. The construction stormwater general permit registrations must be filed electronically through DEEP's e-Filing system known as ezFile. Additional information can be found on-line at: Construction Stormwater GP.

Air Management

DEEP Bureau of Air Management typically recommends the use of newer off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. If newer equipment cannot be used, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions including retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts or particulate filters in addition to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel would be the second choice that can be effective in reducing exhaust emissions. The use of newer equipment that meets EPA standards would obviate the need for retrofits.

DEEP also recommends the use of newer on-road vehicles that meet either the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards for construction projects. These on-road vehicles include dump trucks, fuel delivery trucks and other vehicles typically found at construction sites. On-road vehicles older than the 2007-model year typically should be retrofitted with diesel oxidation catalysts or diesel particulate filters for projects. Again, the use of newer vehicles that meet EPA standards would eliminate the need for retrofits.

Additionally, Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) limits the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes. This regulation applies to most vehicles such as trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles commonly used on construction sites. Adhering to the regulation will reduce unnecessary idling at truck staging zones, delivery or truck dumping areas and further reduce on-road and construction equipment emissions. Use of posted signs indicating the three-minute idling limit is recommended. It should be noted that only DEEP can enforce Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA. Therefore, it is recommended that the project sponsor include language similar to the anti-idling regulations in the contract specifications for construction in order to allow them to enforce idling restrictions at the project site without the involvement of DEEP.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. These comments are based on the reviews provided by relevant staff and offices within DEEP during the designated comment period and may not represent all applicable programs within DEEP. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions concerning these comments.

cc: Nicole Lugli/ DEEP
Natalie Braswell/ DEEP

December 15, 2021

Mr. James Libby
University of Connecticut
Planning, Architectural & Engineering Services
31 LeDoyt Road, Unit 3038
Storrs, CT 06269-3038
(sent only via email to james.libby@uconn.edu)

Subject: Mirror Lake Improvements Project
Mansfield Road and State Highway 195
Mansfield (Storrs), CT

Dear Mr. Libby:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the referenced project in response to a Scoping Notice posted on the Environmental Monitor. SHPO understands that the University of Connecticut (UCONN) plans to design and reconstruct Mirror Lake to reduce flooding hazards and meet current standards, as described during a meeting on December 8, 2021 between representatives of our respective officers. The project area is roughly bounded by Storrs Road to the east, Mansfield Road to the south and west, and Harry Grant Manchester Hall to the north. The proposed improvements were selected as the result of a feasibility study and will include dam and spillway modifications, as well as green infrastructure improvements for storm water management. Specifically, several feet of sedimentation will be removed from the lake, the dam height will be increased, and the spillway widened. In addition to these quantitative improvements, UCONN is proposing four additional qualitative projects: a concrete promenade with railing, a footbridge to an island in Mirror Lake, a rain garden with sitting area downstream of the spillway, and a pavilion that could be used for educational purposes.

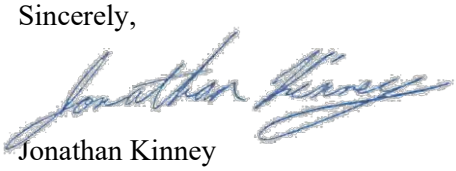
The central part of the UCONN Storrs Campus is included in the University of Connecticut Historic District - Connecticut Agricultural School, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Charles Lowrie, a prominent New York City Landscape Architect, designed the first master plan for UCONN. The effectiveness of that plan is evident in its endurance with very few intrusions on the Lowrie designed core. This core consists of several prominent buildings, mostly in the Colonial Revival and Collegiate Gothic styles, extending from Swan Lake in the north to Mirror Lake in the south. Despite Lowrie's reputation as a landscape architect, the only major landscape feature of his UCONN plan was Mirror Lake. As stated in earlier correspondence with UCONN, the humble faculty row and Mirror Lake are unusual in Lowrie's plan and are a direct influence of Frederick Law Olmsted's aesthetic. As stated in the NRHP nomination form, "It is realized in the Lowrie plan by the incorporation of such features as the man-made lake, which contributes to the park-like setting, and by the surrounding of his formal quadrangle with an informal pattern of roads and paths with broad sweeping lawns, both ideas espoused by Olmsted." The design of Mirror Lake represents the work of nationally honored Landscape Architects.

SHPO understands the need for improvements to Mirror Lake and has no objections to the proposed quantitative projects. It is the opinion of our office that the dam and spillway modifications, as well as green infrastructure improvements for storm water management, will not impact the character defining features of this historic property. Based on prepared renderings presented at our referenced meeting, the proposed qualitative improvements will detract from the intended naturalistic design and rolling

landscape. SHPO understands that these are project alternatives and strongly urges that, with the exception of the rain garden, they are not included as construction add-ons or alternatives. While the concrete promenade, pedestrian bridge, and pavilion all would detract from the deliberate design of Mirror Lake, it is possible that the proposed rain garden could be sympathetic to the historic intent. If the rain garden is pursued, our office requests the opportunity to comment on its design. With these recommendations taken into consideration, it is SHPO's opinion that there will be no adverse effect by the proposed Mirror Lake Improvement Project.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this and the many other important development projects being undertaken by UCONN. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For further information please contact Catherine Labadia, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2329 or catherine.labadia@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer

PRESERVATION CONNECTICUT

14 December 2021

James Libby
University of Connecticut
University Planning, Design and Construction
31 LeDoyt Road, Unit 3038
Storrs, Connecticut 06269
via email: james.libby@uconn.edu

Subject: Scoping comments, improvements to Mirror Lake, University of Connecticut

Dear Mr Libby:

I present the following comments on behalf of the Trustees, staff, and members of Preservation Connecticut (originally called the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation), a nonprofit organization chartered by Special Act of the Connecticut General Assembly as a statutory partner for the State Historic Preservation Office.

Mirror Lake lies within the boundaries of the University of Connecticut historic district of the National Register of Historic Places, listed in 1989 for its significance in the areas of education, architecture, and landscape architecture. Under landscape architecture, the designation recognizes campus planning for the university, beginning with a conceptual plan created by Charles N. Lowrie in 1910, and the construction of the campus over the ensuing decades, which adhered to the spirit and general outlines of Lowrie's plan if not every detail.

While Mirror Lake is not identified as a contributing resource in the National Register nomination, the nomination does recognize its significance to the campus plan. The document outlines the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted on Lowrie and notes that Olmsted's naturalistic and democratic concept of campus plans "...is realized in the Lowrie plan by the incorporation of such features as the man-make lake, which contributes to the park-like setting..."

It is the opinion of Preservation Connecticut that Mirror Lake could qualify as a contributing resource in the University of Connecticut historic district. Based on that, evaluation of this project should thoroughly consider the lake's historical development and features and carefully review the proposed actions for their potential effects on its historic character.

Preservation Connecticut commends the University for the steps it has taken to preserve and enhance its historic heritage. We look forward to continuing to participate in the planning

process for this project, to ensure the best possible result for the university community and the people of Connecticut, who support the University.

Very truly yours,

Jane Montanaro
Executive Director
jmontanaro@preservationct.org

cc: Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, Jonathan.Kinney@ct.gov

(/-/media/CEQ/images/env_monitor_banner.jpg?sc_lang=en&hash=378658988248C8C4AC579D61886C2EBD)

February 22, 2022

Scoping Notice

1. **NEW!** Notice of Scoping for Mansfield Apartments Redevelopment at the University of Connecticut, Mansfield.
2. **NEW!** Notice of Scoping for Route 85 Improvements - South of Route 82, Montville and Salem.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

1. **NEW!** Post-Scoping Notice for Suffield Wildlife Management Area Prescribed Burn, Suffield.
2. **NEW!** Post-Scoping Notice for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut, Mansfield.

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)

1. **NEW!** Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan, Bridgeport.

Agency Record of Decision

No Record of Decision Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM Determination of Adequacy

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer

No State Land Transfer Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

The next edition of the Environmental Monitor will be published on **March 8, 2022**.

Subscribe (https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/ED852A9EE7823EDF) to e-alerts to receive an e-mail when the Environmental Monitor is published.

Notices in the Environmental Monitor are written and formatted by the sponsoring agencies and are published unedited. Questions about the content of any notice should be directed to the sponsoring agency. Inquiries and requests to view or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency.

Scoping Notice

"Scoping" is for projects in the earliest stages of planning. At the scoping stage, detailed information on a project's design, alternatives, and environmental impacts does not yet exist. Sponsoring agencies are asking for comments from other agencies and from the public as to the scope of alternatives and environmental impacts that should be considered for further study. Send your comments to the contact person listed for the project by the date indicated. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-6)**

The following Scoping Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

---

1. Notice of Scoping for Mansfield Apartments Redevelopment at the University of Connecticut

Project Title: Mansfield Apartments Redevelopment

Address of Possible Location: 1 South Eagleville Road

Municipality Where Proposed Action Might be Located: Mansfield

Project Description:

The University of Connecticut (UConn) is planning a design-build project to redevelop the Mansfield Apartments complex at 1 South Eagleville Road. The property is roughly bounded by South Eagleville Road (SR-275) to the north, Storrs Road (SR-195) to the east, and Town open space known as the Albert E. Moss Sanctuary to the south and west. The existing 240-bed apartment complex includes

townhouse style apartments originally constructed during the 1940's and 1950's. The facilities have reached the end of their useful life and the 16-acre property is proposed for redevelopment with two to four apartment buildings, site improvements and parking.

Known as the "Mansfield Apartments Redevelopment Project," the Proposed Action to be assessed under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA) process consists of the following elements:

- Redevelopment of existing apartment-style student housing comprised of approximately 300,000 gross square feet with up to 900 beds
- Site improvements and surface parking of up to 450 spaces
- Potential utility and infrastructure improvements

The Proposed Action is located in the Bundy Brook local watershed within the Fenton River sub-regional watershed. The Proposed Action was identified in the University's **Campus Master Plan 2015-2035 (https://masterplan.uconn.edu/)**. UConn will incorporate comments from a public scoping meeting and evaluate the Proposed Action with taking no action or other feasible alternatives. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Action will also be assessed.

Project Maps and Photos:

Click the following link for a general location of the project area: **https://updc.uconn.edu/?p=2674 (https://updc.uconn.edu/?p=2674)**

Written Comments:

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the **close of business on March 24, 2022**.

Public Scoping Meeting:

There will be a Public Scoping Meeting for this proposed action.

Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM (EST)

Place: Virtual

Notes: Participants MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE through the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hK5sGUXKRhCdJvzQ8No9uQ (https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hK5sGUXKRhCdJvzQ8No9uQ)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (including an option to join by phone).

Additional information regarding the meeting, as well as a link to a recording of the meeting, will be posted at: https://updc.uconn.edu/mansfield-apts (https://updc.uconn.edu/mansfield-apts)

Written Comments and/or Requests for Public Scoping Meeting Materials Should Be Sent by Fax or E-mail to:

Name: John Robitaille, AIA, CSI

Agency: University of Connecticut, University Planning, Design and Construction

Address: 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038

Fax: (860) 486-3117

E-mail: john.robitaille@uconn.edu (mailto:john.robitaille@uconn.edu)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Public Records Administration

Agency: c/o University Communications

Address: 34 North Eagleville Road, U-3144

E-Mail: https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/ (https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/)

Phone: (860) 486-5337

What Happens Next: UConn will determine whether or not to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

2. Notice of Scoping for Route 85 Improvements - South of Route 82

Addresses of possible locations: The project includes four separate segments along Route 85 south of Route 82. The limits begin just south of the intersection of Route 85 and Route 82 (Salem Four Corners Roundabout) and extends southerly to a point 800 feet south of the intersection with Lakewood Drive. This 5+ mile section of

Route 85 is classified as a Principal Arterial and National Highway System Route, and functions as a major north-south route linking the New London and Hartford areas.

Municipalities where proposed action might be located: Towns of Montville and Salem

Project Description: The proposed improvements include widening shoulders, upgrading guiderail, addressing vertical geometry deficiencies, addressing isolated drainage, accommodating bypass and bicycles, and constructing new climbing lanes where appropriate. The proposed work also includes the relocation of approximately 2000 feet of Route 161 from its present location to be realigned opposite with a local road named Deer Run. The new intersection of Route 85, Route 161, and Deer Run is proposed to be a single lane roundabout. The existing intersection of Route 85 at Grassy Hill Road and Chesterfield Road will be expanded to incorporate improved turning radii, auxiliary turning lanes, and a new traffic signal. Two bridges are proposed to be replaced, Route 85 over Fraser Brook (Bridge No. 02538) and Route 85 over Latimer Brook (Bridge No. 01248), to meet the latest design standards and upgraded Route 85 geometry. The project is anticipated to be undertaken with 80 percent Federal funds and 20 percent State funds.

Project Map: Click here to view a map of the project area.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **Wednesday March 30, 2022.**

There will be a virtual public scoping meeting for this proposed action:

DATE: **Tuesday March 15, 2022**

TIME: **7:00 p.m.**

PLACE: **Virtual Meeting**

NOTES: The meeting will be live streamed via Microsoft Teams Live Event and YouTube Live. A Question and Answer session will immediately follow the presentation. Instructions on how to access the meeting and how to provide comments/ ask questions during the Q&A portion of the meeting will be available prior to the meeting on the project webpage: **https://portal.ct.gov/DOTSalemMontville85-146 (https://portal.ct.gov/DOTSalemMontville85-146)**.

Individuals with limited internet access may request that project information be mailed to them by contacting Mr. Jason A. Vincent by email at Jason.Vincent@ct.gov or by phone at (860) 594-2752. Allow one week for processing and delivery.

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling (888) 566-5916 and entering the Participant Code when prompted: 9977843. Persons with hearing and/or speech disabilities may dial 711 for Telecommunications Relay Services (TRS). Language assistance may be requested by contacting the CTDOT's Language Assistance Call Line (860) 594-2109. Requests should be made at least 5 business days prior to the meeting. Language assistance is provided at no cost to the public and efforts will be made to respond to timely requests for assistance.

The MS Teams Live Event offers closed-captioning for the hearing impaired and non-English translation options. A recording of the formal presentation will be posted to YouTube following the event and closed-captioning (including non-English translation options) will be available at that time. The recording will

also be available in the list of CTDOT virtual public meetings here: **https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library (https://portal.ct.gov/dot/general/CTDOT-VPIM-Library)**

Written comments, questions about the public meeting, or questions about the project should be sent to (email preferred):

Name: Mr. Jason Vincent, Project Engineer

Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Engineering and Construction

Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

E-Mail: DOTProject85-146@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Ms. Alice M. Sexton

Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Office of Legal Services

Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

E-Mail: Alice.Sexton@ct.gov

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

If an agency is unable to publish a Post-Scoping Notice within six months after the comment period for scoping, the agency will publish an update with an action status and an estimate as to when a Post-Scoping Notice will be published. Such an update will be published by the agency at six-month intervals until the Post-Scoping Notice is published. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-7) (http:)**

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

A Post-Scoping Notice is the determination by a sponsoring agency, after publication of a Scoping Notice and consideration of comments received, whether an **Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_439.htm#sec_22a-1b)** needs to be prepared for a

proposed State action. (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations)Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-7)

The following Post-Scoping Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

---

1. Post-Scoping Notice for Suffield Wildlife Management Area Prescribed Burn

Address of Possible Project Location: 510 Babbs Road, West Suffield

Municipality where it would be located: Suffield

CEPA Determination: On December 21, 2022, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) published a **Notice of Scoping (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/December-21-2021)** to solicit public comments for this proposed action in the *Environmental Monitor*.

A public scoping meeting was held on January 24, 2022.

One written comment was received during the public comment period. The comment and response are **here** . One verbal comment to support the project was received during the Public Scoping Meeting.

After consideration of the comments received, DEEP has determined that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The agency's conclusion is documented in a **Memo of Findings and Determination** and an **Environmental Review Checklist** .

Agency contact:

Name: Tanner Steeves

Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Wildlife Division

Address: 209 Hebron Road, Marlborough CT 06447

Phone: 860-424-4164

E-Mail: tanner.steeves@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency.

What Happens Next:
The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection expects the proposed action to go forward. No future notices will be posted in the Environmental Monitor.

---

2. Post-Scoping Notice for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut

Project Title: Mirror Lake Improvements

Address of Possible Project Location: Mansfield Road at the University of Connecticut, Storrs

Municipality where it would be located: Mansfield

CEPA Determination: The Mirror Lake Improvements project recently completed a preliminary design phase. Beginning on November 16, 2021, the University of Connecticut published the first of three **Notices of Scoping (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/November-16-2021)** to solicit public comments for this proposed action in the *Environmental Monitor*.A **public scoping meeting (https://tinyurl.com/336ak3d7)** was held virtually on December 8, 2021 and the 30-day comment period closed on December 16, 2021.

Comments were received from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the State Historic Preservation Office, and Preservation Connecticut during the public comment period. A summary of comments and responses may be found at **updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake (https://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake)**.

Upon consideration of the comments received, the University of Connecticut has determined **to proceed with the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE).**

Agency contact:

Name: James Libby, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB

Agency: University of Connecticut, University Planning, Design and Construction

Address:31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038

Phone:(860) 486-3117

E-Mail:james.libby@uconn.edu

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted at **publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request (https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/)**.

What Happens Next: The Mirror Lake Improvements project has just completed Schematic Design and is scheduled to conclude two subsequent design phases by Fall 2022. The University anticipates construction to begin in Spring 2023 and complete in Fall 2024.

The University of Connecticut is preparing an EIE and is continuing engineering design of the proposed Mirror Lake Improvements project. When the EIE is completed, it will be published in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor* and presented for public comment.

EIE Notice

Summary of Scoping Comments & Responses

Preservation Connecticut provided written scoping comments from Jane Montanaro, Executive Director, dated December 14, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
PCT ML #1	While Mirror Lake is not identified as a contributing resource in the National Register nomination, the nomination does recognize its significance to the campus plan. The document outlines the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted on Lowrie and notes that Olmsted's naturalistic and democratic concept of campus plans "...is realized in the Lowrie plan by the incorporation of such features as the man-make lake, which contributes to the park-like setting..." It is the opinion of Preservation Connecticut that Mirror Lake could qualify as a contributing resource in the University of Connecticut historic district. Based on that, evaluation of this project should thoroughly consider the lake's historical development and features and carefully review the proposed actions for their potential effects on its historic character.	The University fully appreciates the history of Mirror Lake and its significance as an important campus landmark and man-made stormwater detention facility. A landscape architectural firm with experience in cultural landscapes and contributing resources to historic districts has been retained to assist the engineer-led design team to balance program, aesthetics and function with qualitative and quantitative requirements for stormwater management. See Response to SHPO ML #1.

The State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office provided written scoping comments from Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, dated December 15, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
SHPO ML #1	SHPO understands the need for improvements to Mirror Lake and has no objections to the proposed quantitative projects. It is the opinion of our office that the dam and spillway modifications, as well as green infrastructure improvements for storm water management, will not impact the character defining features of this historic property. Based on prepared renderings presented at our referenced meeting, the proposed qualitative improvements will detract from the intended naturalistic design and rolling landscape. SHPO understands that these are project alternatives and strongly urges that, with the exception of the rain garden, they are not included as construction add-ons or alternatives. While the concrete promenade, pedestrian bridge, and pavilion all would detract from the deliberate design of Mirror Lake, it is possible that the proposed rain garden could be sympathetic to the historic intent. If the rain garden is pursued, our office requests the opportunity to comment on its design. With these recommendations taken into consideration, it is SHPO's opinion that there will be no adverse effect by the proposed Mirror Lake Improvement Project.	See Response to PCT ML #1. Conceptual design material from the referenced meeting is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake. As planned, the University will host a follow-up meeting with SHPO (and Preservation Connecticut) to further discuss the project and provide an opportunity to comment on design.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
CT DEEP ML #1	Planned activities would require a new Flood Management Certification since the current Flood Management Memorandum of Understanding (FM MOU) does not cover the Roberts Brook watershed. Alternatively, a new masterplan FM MOU for the Roberts Brook watershed could be established.	Noted for EIE and design development.
CT DEEP ML #2	The project as proposed may require an Individual 401 Water Quality Certification, Water Diversion, and Inland Wetlands permits from the Land and Water Resources Division. Other permit requirements have been identified in section 1.10 of the Mirror Lake Improvements Feasibility Study June 2021 report. The project team should confirm that the activities are eligible for a USACE GP (PCN) as stated in the report.	Noted for EIE and design development.
CT DEEP ML #3	The Mirror Lake improvement design shall be incorporated into the UConn Drainage Master Plan and should have capacity to treat and attenuate current and any future/expected increases in stormwater draining to it as a result of future UConn development. Overall, it is important that the improvements can adequately treat existing and any expected / future stormwater runoff in accordance with the CT Stormwater Quality Manual. It is noted that hydrodynamic separators (HDS) are proposed upstream of all inlets to the lake and that three (3) forebays will be incorporated to supplement sediment / pollutant capture. The type of HDS specified must be one that is included on the Department of Transportation's list of approved separators and must be sized to treat the Water Quality Flow draining to each unit. It will be critical to keep these units well maintained and in good operating condition. LWRD would be interested in having UConn conducting performance monitoring of these units as part of the overall treatment performance of the lake. The Lake itself should be designed as a Primary Stormwater Treatment Practice, specifically a Stormwater Pond as defined by the Stormwater Quality Manual and should incorporate all the design features / criteria specified in the manual, including appropriate sizing of forebays. Again, long term maintenance of these forebays will important and details as to how these will be maintained and provision for adequate access shall be assessed as part of any permit review.	Noted for additional review with DEEP during design development.
CT DEEP ML #4	A Performance Monitoring Plan for all plantings proposed as part of the lake (specifically those plantings that are expected to provide some Water Quality benefit), should be provided as part of any permit application to LWRD.	Noted for EIE and design development.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
	A full operations and maintenance plan for the lake and all stormwater features shall be included as part of any permit review, and UConn must include budget provisions for this long-term maintenance.	
CT DEEP ML #5	Alternatives for the dewatering area required during the hydraulic dredging should be provided for review. Ideally this area should be adjacent to the lake side on the opposite side of the lake from the outlet and permit gravity feed of dewatering waters back to the lake. Alternatives that require laying these areas adjacent to wetlands are less appealing and will require other protective measures. Other alternatives that require additional pumping of return waters will also present additional risk. A thorough water handling plan to be implemented during the mechanical dredge phase will be required as part of any permit application submitted to LWRD.	Multiple potential dewatering sites will be evaluated for overall feasibility including impacts to campus operations. A site visit will be scheduled with DEEP to review a preferred location.
CT DEEP ML #6	The project manager is strongly encouraged to contact the Department's Dam Safety Program to arrange for a pre-application meeting to discuss regulatory requirements. Please contact Ivonne Hall at Ivonne.Hall@ct.gov.	Noted as an action item for the Project Manager as well as the University's office of Environmental Health & Safety.
CT DEEP ML #7	The Mirror Lake rehabilitation project design and associated engineering planning should address documented surface water quality impairments in downstream Roberts Brook, the 1.7-mile-long tributary to the Fenton River. This should be detailed for both the construction and the post-construction periods. Roberts Brook (CT3207-12_01) has been assessed by this Department as Not Supporting for the designated use of Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use support. The assessment does not have a listed cause for this use impairment.	Noted for EIE and design development.
CT DEEP ML #8	There is no watershed-based plan developed for the Roberts Brook watershed, or for the University's urban core campus contributing watershed to Mirror Lake. The University had developed a watershed response plan to the 2007 Eagleville Brook Impervious Cover Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Analysis, followed by numerous structural and nonstructural best management practices, along with green stormwater infrastructure and landscape design elements across the core campus watershed for the westerly flowing Eagleville Brook. The University has learned a great amount of practical and effective measures to address increased flooding and stormwater quality management impacts to Eagleville Brook over the last decade. The current and forecasted University core campus development patterns indicate greater urbanizing pressures on the Roberts Brook subwatershed area. The University should fully utilize the lessons learned from the Eagleville Brook management plan, University sustainable design policies and implementation actions, and apply relevant elements to this	The University completed a Campus Drainage Master Plan in 2018 for the Roberts Brook and Eagleville Brook watersheds. A technical review was completed by DEEP in 2019.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
	Mirror Lake rehabilitation project. A project objective should provide for supportive actions towards restoring water quality standards to Roberts Brook.	
CT DEEP ML #9	The University should identify the percentage of the contributing watershed to Mirror Lake not under University ownership, and further address whether these other properties and potential increases in their impervious surface areas could be accommodated with the proposed stormwater retrofit practices and storage capacity of the rehabilitated Mirror Lake impoundment area. (Note this is also the same comment given by Eric Thomas at the public scoping meeting on December 8, 2021)	Noted for EIE and design development. An exhibit is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake.
CT DEEP ML #10	The preliminary project plans provide for greater community access to, and experiences with a rehabilitated Mirror Lake. The University should consider leveraging the highly visible aspects of this project with interpretive signage indicating the lake's location and linkages to the regional watershed.	Noted for EIE and design development.
CT DEEP ML #11	Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps represent the approximate locations of species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as endangered, threatened or of special concern. The maps are a pre-screening tool to identify potential impacts to state listed species. The database shows that the project falls within one of the NDDB areas. The applicant is required to submit a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review Form (DEEP-APP-007) and all required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review. Additional information concerning NDDB reviews, and the request form, may be found on-line at: NDDB Requests.	The NDDB review process has been completed. Correspondence from CT DEEP NDDB (01/07/2022) indicates that no negative impacts to State-listed species are anticipated.
CT DEEP ML #12	The Fisheries Division is supportive of the Mirror Lake Project and views it as an opportunity to enhance recreational fishing opportunities for students and members of the public. The deepening of the lake would provide additional habitat diversity and offer overwintering habitat for fish residing in the lake. The improvements to water quality and sediment management would also enhance the angling experience. It is recommended that CT DEEP fisheries and the UCONN fisheries program be contacted about recreational fishing opportunities in the lake, and the establishment of a fish community post construction. Project designs should include access areas for recreational angling that would be ADA compliant and allow all members of the angling community to enjoy the lake. The feasibility study references the need for CT DEEP Determination of Need for Fishway; a fishway would not be required at this location based on the species present and its location. The pedestrian promenade feature depicted in the feasibility study, entails vertical concrete embankments along a long section of the shoreline. This type of vertical hard structure is of limited habitat value to	While Mirror Lake is not designated for recreational fishing, quantitative and qualitative improvements will be incorporated to support potential habitat.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
	fish and aquatic life. It is suggested that structured habitat features be included in the lake design to provide additional habitat for fish and angling opportunities. Examples of these types of structures can be found at this link https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/Habitat/Documents/lake_fish_hab.pdf, or provided by Fisheries staff.	
CT DEEP ML #13	The feasibility study also depicts the expansion of the central island using dredged materials; this study also details the exceedance of Remediation Standard Regulations (RSRs) in sediments within the pond. The expansion of the island should be performed with materials and processes that comply with relevant regulations. The expansion of the island also provides the opportunity to include additional habitat features such as Coarse Woody Debris, that would provide habitat to fish and basking turtles.	Noted for EIE and design development.
CT DEEP ML #14	Additionally, there is mention of placement of rip rap in Roberts Brook as scour protection, if placed beyond the period that the temporary construction spillway is utilized, the use of natural streambed materials in lieu of rip rap would be recommended.	Noted for EIE and design development. Rip rap is currently in place as a temporary spillway and apron repair measure.
CT DEEP ML #15	The General Permit for Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities may be applicable depending on the size of the disturbance regardless of phasing. This general permit applies to discharges of stormwater and dewatering wastewater from construction activities where the activity disturbs more than an acre. The requirements of the current general permit include registration to obtain permit coverage and development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP). The SWPCP contains requirements for the permittee to describe and manage their construction activity, including implementing erosion and sediment control measures as well as other control measures to reduce or eliminate the potential for the discharge of stormwater runoff pollutants (suspended solids and floatables such as oil and grease, trash, etc.) both during and after construction. A goal of 80 percent removal of the annual sediment load from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing postconstruction stormwater management measures. Stormwater treatment systems must be designed to comply with the post-construction stormwater management performance requirements of the permit. These include post-construction performance standards requiring retention and/or infiltration of the runoff from the first inch of rain (the water quality volume or WQV) and incorporating control measures for runoff reduction and low impact development practices. The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally	Noted for EIE and design development.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
	Exempt projects (projects primarily conducted by government authorities) and Locally Approvable projects (projects primarily by private developers). Projects that are exempt from local permitting that disturb over one acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to the Department at least 60 or 90 days, as identified in the permit, prior to the initiation of construction. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with the Department provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form and SWPCP to the Department at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction. Registrations shall include a certification by the Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. In addition to measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post-construction stormwater management, the SWPCP must include a schedule for plan implementation and routine inspections. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov. The construction stormwater general permit registrations must be filed electronically through DEEP's e-Filing system known as ezFile. Additional information can be found on-line at: Construction Stormwater GP.	
CT DEEP ML #16	DEEP Bureau of Air Management typically recommends the use of newer off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. If newer equipment cannot be used, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions including retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts or particulate filters in addition to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel would be the second choice that can be effective in reducing exhaust emissions. The use of newer equipment that meets EPA standards would obviate the need for retrofits. Additionally, Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) limits the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes. This regulation applies to most vehicles such as trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles commonly used on construction sites. Adhering to the regulation will reduce unnecessary idling at truck staging zones, delivery or truck dumping areas and further reduce on-road and construction equipment emissions. Use of posted	Noted for EIE and design development.

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.		
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
	signs indicating the three-minute idling limit is recommended. It should be noted that only DEEP can enforce Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA. Therefore, it is recommended that the project sponsor include language similar to the anti-idling regulations in the contract specifications for construction in order to allow them to enforce idling restrictions at the project site without the involvement of DEEP.	

Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**
PCM #1	Comment from Joseph Cassone, CT DEEP - Is there a copy of the feasibility study for Mirror Lake that can be made available or provided?	The feasibility study was reviewed with DEEP in Fall 2020. A copy is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake.
PCM #2	Comment from Eric Thomas, CT DEEP - Can you provide an image or map of the contributing watershed to Mirror Lake? Alternatively, can you approximate what percentage of the lake watershed is outside of the UConn campus/property?	See Response to CT DEEP ML #9.

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment C

Summary of Scoping Comments and Responses

Summary of Scoping Comments and Responses (with EIE Section References)

Preservation Connecticut provided written scoping comments from Jane Montanaro, Executive Director, dated December 14, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
PCT ML #1	While Mirror Lake is not identified as a contributing resource in the National Register nomination, the nomination does recognize its significance to the campus plan. The document outlines the influence of Frederick Law Olmsted on Lowrie and notes that Olmsted's naturalistic and democratic concept of campus plans "...is realized in the Lowrie plan by the incorporation of such features as the man-make lake, which contributes to the park-like setting..." It is the opinion of Preservation Connecticut that Mirror Lake could qualify as a contributing resource in the University of Connecticut historic district. Based on that, evaluation of this project should thoroughly consider the lake's historical development and features and carefully review the proposed actions for their potential effects on its historic character.	The University fully appreciates the history of Mirror Lake and its significance as an important campus landmark and man-made stormwater detention facility. A landscape architectural firm with experience in cultural landscapes and contributing resources to historic districts has been retained to assist the engineer-led design team to balance program, aesthetics and function with qualitative and quantitative requirements for stormwater management. See Response to SHPO ML #1.	3.12

The State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office provided written scoping comments from Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, dated December 15, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
SHPO ML #1	SHPO understands the need for improvements to Mirror Lake and has no objections to the proposed quantitative projects. It is the opinion of our office that the dam and spillway modifications, as well as green infrastructure improvements for storm water management, will not impact the character defining features of this historic property. Based on prepared renderings presented at our referenced meeting, the proposed qualitative improvements will detract from the intended naturalistic design and rolling landscape. SHPO understands that these are project alternatives and strongly urges that, with the exception of the rain garden, they are not included as construction add-ons or alternatives. While the concrete promenade, pedestrian bridge, and pavilion all would detract from the deliberate design of Mirror Lake, it is possible that the proposed rain garden could be sympathetic to the historic intent. If the rain garden is pursued, our office requests the opportunity to	See Response to PCT ML #1. Conceptual design material from the referenced meeting is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake. As planned, the University will host a follow-up meeting with SHPO (and Preservation Connecticut) to further discuss the project and provide an opportunity to comment on design.	3.12

The State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, State Historic Preservation Office provided written scoping comments from Jonathan Kinney, State Historic Preservation Officer, dated December 15, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
	comment on its design. With these recommendations taken into consideration, it is SHPO's opinion that there will be no adverse effect by the proposed Mirror Lake Improvement Project.		

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
CT DEEP ML #1	Planned activities would require a new Flood Management Certification since the current Flood Management Memorandum of Understanding (FM MOU) does not cover the Roberts Brook watershed. Alternatively, a new masterplan FM MOU for the Roberts Brook watershed could be established.	Noted for EIE and design development.	6
CT DEEP ML #2	The project as proposed may require an Individual 401 Water Quality Certification, Water Diversion, and Inland Wetlands permits from the Land and Water Resources Division. Other permit requirements have been identified in section 1.10 of the Mirror Lake Improvements Feasibility Study June 2021 report. The project team should confirm that the activities are eligible for a USACE GP (PCN) as stated in the report.	Noted for EIE and design development.	6
CT DEEP ML #3	The Mirror Lake improvement design shall be incorporated into the UConn Drainage Master Plan and should have capacity to treat and attenuate current and any future/expected increases in stormwater draining to it as a result of future UConn development. Overall, it is important that the improvements can adequately treat existing and any expected / future stormwater runoff in accordance with the CT Stormwater Quality Manual. It is noted that hydrodynamic separators (HDS) are proposed upstream of all inlets to the lake and that three (3) forebays will be incorporated to supplement sediment / pollutant capture. The type of HDS specified must be one that is included on the Department of Transportation's list of approved separators and must be sized to treat the Water Quality Flow draining to each unit. It will be critical to keep these units well maintained and in good operating condition. LWRD would be interested in having UConn conducting performance monitoring of these units as part of the overall treatment performance of the lake. The Lake itself should be designed as a Primary Stormwater Treatment Practice, specifically a Stormwater Pond as defined by the Stormwater Quality Manual and should incorporate all the design features / criteria specified in the manual, including appropriate sizing of forebays. Again, long term maintenance of these forebays will important and details as to how these will be maintained and provision for adequate access shall be assessed as part of any permit review.	Noted for additional review with DEEP during design development.	3.4 & 3.16

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
CT DEEP ML #4	A Performance Monitoring Plan for all plantings proposed as part of the lake (specifically those plantings that are expected to provide some Water Quality benefit), should be provided as part of any permit application to LWRD. A full operations and maintenance plan for the lake and all stormwater features shall be included as part of any permit review, and UConn must include budget provisions for this long-term maintenance.	Noted for EIE and design development.	3.16 & 6
CT DEEP ML #5	Alternatives for the dewatering area required during the hydraulic dredging should be provided for review. Ideally this area should be adjacent to the lake side on the opposite side of the lake from the outlet and permit gravity feed of dewatering waters back to the lake. Alternatives that require laying these areas adjacent to wetlands are less appealing and will require other protective measures. Other alternatives that require additional pumping of return waters will also present additional risk. A thorough water handling plan to be implemented during the mechanical dredge phase will be required as part of any permit application submitted to LWRD.	Multiple potential dewatering sites will be evaluated for overall feasibility including impacts to campus operations. A site visit will be scheduled with DEEP to review a preferred location.	3.5 & 3.9
CT DEEP ML #6	The project manager is strongly encouraged to contact the Department's Dam Safety Program to arrange for a pre-application meeting to discuss regulatory requirements. Please contact Ivonne Hall at Ivonne.Hall@ct.gov.	Noted as an action item for the Project Manager as well as the University's office of Environmental Health & Safety.	6
CT DEEP ML #7	The Mirror Lake rehabilitation project design and associated engineering planning should address documented surface water quality impairments in downstream Roberts Brook, the 1.7-mile-long tributary to the Fenton River. This should be detailed for both the construction and the post-construction periods. Roberts Brook (CT3207-12_01) has been assessed by this Department as Not Supporting for the designated use of Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Life and Wildlife Use support. The assessment does not have a listed cause for this use impairment.	Noted for EIE and design development.	3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.16, & 3.19
CT DEEP ML #8	There is no watershed-based plan developed for the Roberts Brook watershed, or for the University's urban core campus contributing watershed to Mirror Lake. The University had developed a watershed response plan to the 2007 Eagleville Brook Impervious Cover Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Analysis, followed by numerous structural and nonstructural best management practices, along with green stormwater infrastructure and landscape design elements across the core campus watershed for the westerly flowing Eagleville Brook. The University has learned a great amount of practical and effective measures to address increased flooding and stormwater quality management impacts to Eagleville Brook over the last decade. The current and forecasted University core campus development patterns indicate greater urbanizing pressures on the Roberts Brook subwatershed area. The University should fully utilize the lessons learned from the Eagleville Brook management plan, University sustainable design policies and implementation actions, and apply relevant elements to this Mirror Lake rehabilitation project. A project objective should provide for supportive actions towards restoring water quality standards to Roberts Brook.	The University completed a Campus Drainage Master Plan in 2018 for the Roberts Brook and Eagleville Brook watersheds. A technical review was completed by DEEP in 2019.	3.4 & 3.16

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
CT DEEP ML #9	The University should identify the percentage of the contributing watershed to Mirror Lake not under University ownership, and further address whether these other properties and potential increases in their impervious surface areas could be accommodated with the proposed stormwater retrofit practices and storage capacity of the rehabilitated Mirror Lake impoundment area. (Note this is also the same comment given by Eric Thomas at the public scoping meeting on December 8, 2021)	Noted for EIE and design development. An exhibit is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake.	3.16
CT DEEP ML #10	The preliminary project plans provide for greater community access to, and experiences with a rehabilitated Mirror Lake. The University should consider leveraging the highly visible aspects of this project with interpretive signage indicating the lake's location and linkages to the regional watershed.	Noted for EIE and design development.	3.13
CT DEEP ML #11	Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps represent the approximate locations of species listed by the State, pursuant to section 26-306 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as endangered, threatened or of special concern. The maps are a pre-screening tool to identify potential impacts to state listed species. The database shows that the project falls within one of the NDDB areas. The applicant is required to submit a Request for Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB) State Listed Species Review Form (DEEP-APP-007) and all required attachments, including maps, to the NDDB for further review. Additional information concerning NDDB reviews, and the request form, may be found on-line at: NDDB Requests.	The NDDB review process has been completed. Correspondence from CT DEEP NDDB (01/07/2022) indicates that no negative impacts to State-listed species are anticipated.	3.6
CT DEEP ML #12	The Fisheries Division is supportive of the Mirror Lake Project and views it as an opportunity to enhance recreational fishing opportunities for students and members of the public. The deepening of the lake would provide additional habitat diversity and offer overwintering habitat for fish residing in the lake. The improvements to water quality and sediment management would also enhance the angling experience. It is recommended that CT DEEP fisheries and the UCONN fisheries program be contacted about recreational fishing opportunities in the lake, and the establishment of a fish community post construction. Project designs should include access areas for recreational angling that would be ADA compliant and allow all members of the angling community to enjoy the lake. The feasibility study references the need for CT DEEP Determination of Need for Fishway; a fishway would not be required at this location based on the species present and its location. The pedestrian promenade feature depicted in the feasibility study, entails vertical concrete embankments along a long section of the shoreline. This type of vertical hard structure is of limited habitat value to fish and aquatic life. It is suggested that structured habitat features be included in the lake design to provide additional habitat for fish and angling opportunities. Examples of these types of structures can be found at this link https://www.fishandboat.com/Resource/Habitat/Documents/lake_fish_hab.pdf, or provided by Fisheries staff.	While Mirror Lake is not designated for recreational fishing, quantitative and qualitative improvements will be incorporated to support potential habitat.	3.4 & 3.6
CT DEEP ML #13	The feasibility study also depicts the expansion of the central island using dredged materials; this study also details the exceedance of Remediation Standard Regulations (RSRs) in sediments within the pond. The expansion of the island should be performed with materials and processes that comply with relevant regulations. The expansion of the island also provides the opportunity to include additional habitat features such as Coarse Woody Debris, that would provide habitat to fish and basking turtles.	Noted for EIE and design development.	3.3, 3.5, & 3.19

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
CT DEEP ML #14	Additionally, there is mention of placement of rip rap in Roberts Brook as scour protection, if placed beyond the period that the temporary construction spillway is utilized, the use of natural streambed materials in lieu of rip rap would be recommended.	Noted for EIE and design development. Rip rap is currently in place as a temporary spillway and apron repair measure.	1.3 & 3.5
CT DEEP ML #15	The General Permit for Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities may be applicable depending on the size of the disturbance regardless of phasing. This general permit applies to discharges of stormwater and dewatering wastewater from construction activities where the activity disturbs more than an acre. The requirements of the current general permit include registration to obtain permit coverage and development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP). The SWPCP contains requirements for the permittee to describe and manage their construction activity, including implementing erosion and sediment control measures as well as other control measures to reduce or eliminate the potential for the discharge of stormwater runoff pollutants (suspended solids and floatables such as oil and grease, trash, etc.) both during and after construction. A goal of 80 percent removal of the annual sediment load from the stormwater discharge shall be used in designing and installing postconstruction stormwater management measures. Stormwater treatment systems must be designed to comply with the post-construction stormwater management performance requirements of the permit. These include post-construction performance standards requiring retention and/or infiltration of the runoff from the first inch of rain (the water quality volume or WQV) and incorporating control measures for runoff reduction and low impact development practices. The construction stormwater general permit dictates separate compliance procedures for Locally Exempt projects (projects primarily conducted by government authorities) and Locally Approvable projects (projects primarily by private developers). Projects that are exempt from local permitting that disturb over one acre must submit a registration form and Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) to the Department at least 60 or 90 days, as identified in the permit, prior to the initiation of construction. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of one to five acres are not required to register with the Department provided the development plan has been approved by a municipal land use agency and adheres to local erosion and sediment control land use regulations and the CT Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. Locally Approvable construction projects with a total disturbed area of five or more acres must submit a registration form and SWPCP to the Department at least 60 days prior to the initiation of construction. Registrations shall include a certification by the Qualified Professional who designed the project and a certification by a Qualified Professional or regional Conservation District who reviewed the SWPCP and deemed it consistent with the requirements of the general permit. In addition to measures such as erosion and sediment controls and post-construction stormwater management, the SWPCP must include a schedule for plan implementation and routine inspections. For further information, contact the division at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov. The construction stormwater general permit	Noted for EIE and design development.	6

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection provided written scoping comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated December 16, 2021.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
	registrations must be filed electronically through DEEP's e-Filing system known as ezFile. Additional information can be found on-line at: Construction Stormwater GP.		
CT DEEP ML #16	DEEP Bureau of Air Management typically recommends the use of newer off-road construction equipment that meets the latest EPA or California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. If newer equipment cannot be used, equipment with the best available controls on diesel emissions including retrofitting with diesel oxidation catalysts or particulate filters in addition to the use of ultra-low sulfur fuel would be the second choice that can be effective in reducing exhaust emissions. The use of newer equipment that meets EPA standards would obviate the need for retrofits. Additionally, Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) limits the idling of mobile sources to 3 minutes. This regulation applies to most vehicles such as trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles commonly used on construction sites. Adhering to the regulation will reduce unnecessary idling at truck staging zones, delivery or truck dumping areas and further reduce on-road and construction equipment emissions. Use of posted signs indicating the three-minute idling limit is recommended. It should be noted that only DEEP can enforce Section 22a-174-18(b)(3)(C) of the RCSA. Therefore, it is recommended that the project sponsor include language similar to the anti-idling regulations in the contract specifications for construction in order to allow them to enforce idling restrictions at the project site without the involvement of DEEP.	Noted for EIE and design development.	3.8 & 3.19

Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**Related EIE Section Reference**
PCM #1	Comment from Joseph Cassone, CT DEEP - Is there a copy of the feasibility study for Mirror Lake that can be made available or provided?	The feasibility study was reviewed with DEEP in Fall 2020. A copy is available at updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake.	7
PCM #2	Comment from Eric Thomas, CT DEEP - Can you provide an image or map of the contributing watershed to Mirror Lake? Alternatively, can you approximate what percentage of the lake watershed is outside of the UConn campus/property?	See Response to CT DEEP ML #9.	3.16

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment D

CT DEEP NDDP Determination

Connecticut Department of
ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

79 Elm Street • Hartford, CT 06106-5127 www.ct.gov/deep Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

January 7, 2022

April Doroski
Fuss & O'Neill
1550 Main St, Suite 400
Springfield MA 01103
adoroski@fando.com

Project: Mirror Lake Improvements, Mansfield Rd, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
NDDB Determination No.: 202200194

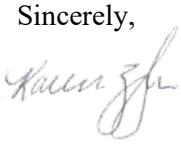
Dear April Doroski,

I have reviewed Natural Diversity Database (NDDB) maps and files regarding the area of work provided for the proposed Mirror Lake improvements including hydraulic and mechanical sediment dredging, construction of forebays for sediment trapping and stormwater management, dam and spillway reconstruction, with potential dewatering on the Great Lawn and parking Lot S at University of Connecticut, Mansfield Road, Storrs, Connecticut. I do not anticipate negative impacts to State-listed species (RCSA Sec. 26-306) resulting from your proposed activity at the site based upon the information contained within the NDDB. The result of this review does not preclude the possibility that listed species may be encountered on site and that additional action may be necessary to remain in compliance with certain state permits. Contact NDDB to report the presence of any listed species and for more detailed guidance. This determination is good for two years. Please re-submit a new NDDB Request for Review if the scope of work changes or if work has not begun on this project by January 7, 2024.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Natural History Survey, cooperating units of DEEP, landowners, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the NDDB should not be substitutes for on-site surveys necessary for a thorough environmental impact assessment. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the database as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at (860) 424-3378, or karen.zyko@ct.gov . Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Database.

Sincerely,



Karen Zyko
Environmental Analyst

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104
http://www.fws.gov/newengland

In Reply Refer To: March 09, 2022
Project Code: 2022-0017676
Project Name: Mirror Lake Improvements

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.

About Official Species Lists

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

Endangered Species Act Project Review

Please visit the "**New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation**" website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

https://www.fws.gov/newengland/endangeredspecies/project-review/index.html

NOTE Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act
Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

Candidate species that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

Migratory Birds

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

New England Ecological Services Field Office
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5094
(603) 223-2541

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0017676
Event Code: None
Project Name: Mirror Lake Improvements
Project Type: Dam - Maintenance/Modification
Project Description: UConn Storrs Campus
Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@41.807784049999995,-72.24763738841034,14z

Counties: Tolland County, Connecticut

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 2 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Fuss & O'Neill
Name: April Doroski
Address: 1550 Main Street
City: Springfield
State: MA
Zip: 01103
Email adoroski@fando.com
Phone: 4134520445

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment E

EIE Public Presentation Materials

(/CEQ)

Connecticut State
Council on Environmental Quality

April 5, 2022

Scoping Notice

1. Notice of Scoping for Cromwell Emergency Interconnections, Cromwell, Middletown, Berlin and Rocky Hill.
2. Notice of Scoping for Bergstrom Wellfield and Treatment Plant, Bethel.
3. Notice of Scoping for Wallens Hill Storage Tank, Winchester.
4. Notice of Scoping for Crystal Lake Storage Tank, Winchester.
5. Notice of Scoping for Haystack Woods, Norfolk.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

1. **NEW!** Post-Scoping Notice for Hop River State Park Trail, Coventry and Columbia.
2. **NEW!** Post-Scoping Notice for Removal of Traffic Signals on Route 9 and Associated Improvements, Middletown.

Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE)

1. Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan, Bridgeport.
2. **NEW!** Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut, Mansfield.

Agency Record of Decision

No Record of Decision Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM Determination of Adequacy

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer

No State Land Transfer Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

The next edition of the Environmental Monitor will be published on **April 19, 2022**.

Subscribe (https://confirmsubscription.com/h/j/ED852A9EE7823EDF) to e-alerts to receive an e-mail when the Environmental Monitor is published.

Notices in the Environmental Monitor are written and formatted by the sponsoring agencies and are published unedited. Questions about the content of any notice should be directed to the sponsoring agency.

Inquiries and requests to view or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency.

Scoping Notice

"Scoping" is for projects in the earliest stages of planning. At the scoping stage, detailed information on a project's design, alternatives, and environmental impacts does not yet exist. Sponsoring agencies are asking for comments from other agencies and from the public as to the scope of alternatives and environmental impacts that should be considered for further study. Send your comments to the contact person listed for the project by the date indicated. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-6)**

The following Scoping Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

---

1. Notice of Scoping for Cromwell Emergency Interconnections

Project Title: Cromwell Fire District, Water Division - Emergency Interconnections Project

Addresses of possible locations: Approximate potential interconnection addresses:

(1) 1360 Newfield Street, Middletown, CT (includes water main bridge crossing over Mattabesset River)
(2) 1250 CT-217, Middletown, CT (includes water main bridge crossing over Mattabesset River)
(3) 1198 Middle Street, Middletown, CT (Includes directional drilling of water main under Mattabesset River)
(4) 1398 Shunpike Road, Rocky Hill, CT

Municipalities where proposed action might be located: Cromwell, CT
Possible interconnection sites: Berlin, CT, Rocky Hill, CT, Middletown, CT

Project Description: The Cromwell Fire District is seeking to establish additional emergency interconnections to its public water system to develop necessary redundancies to ensure system resiliency. The District operates one wellfield with a chemical feed and control building for water treatment. The chemical feed and control building has standby power which could be used to maintain short-term system operation during power outages and equipment failures. However, in the event of a long term supply disruption, such as

groundwater contamination or total wellfield failure, the District would need to utilize an alternative source of supply to serve its customers. To improve system resiliency and continue to provide critical services to its customers, an alternative source of supply is necessary.

The District is analyzing the feasibility of establishing interconnections with neighboring water systems as shown in the linked map.

Project Map: Click here to view a map of the project area.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **April 22, 2022.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public scoping meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a public scoping meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public scoping meeting. Such requests must be made by: **April 1, 2022.**

Written comments and/or requests for a Public Scoping Meeting should be sent to:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Fax: 860-509-7359

E-Mail: dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov (mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov)

If you have questions about a public meeting or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: eric.mcphee@ct.gov (mailto:eric.mcphee@ct.gov)

Phone: 860-509-7333

Fax: 860-509-7359

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Mr. John Tyler Castellanete

Agency: Department of Public Health, Hearing Office

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13PHO**,** Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: DPH.foi@ct.gov (mailto:dph.foi.ct.gov)

Phone: 860-566-5682

What Happens Next: The Department of Public Health will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

2. Notice of Scoping for Bergstrom Wellfield and Treatment Plant

Project Title: Bergstrom Wellfield and Treatment Plant

Address of possible location: 49 Plumtrees Road, Bethel, CT 06801

Municipality where proposed action might be located: Bethel

Project Description: The proposed Bethel Water Department project includes installation of a well pump and associated raw water piping and electrical equipment for the Bergstrom Well and construction of a new water treatment plant building and treatment process (to remove iron and manganese from this well using GreensandPlus™ filter media, sodium hypochlorite for oxidation and disinfection, sodium hydroxide for pH adjustment (if needed) and 50/50 poly/ortho blend for corrosion control), civil site work, piping, electrical, mechanical and instrumentation and control equipment and components, alarms and SCADA connection. The proposed project also includes construction of a finished water transmission main to connect to the existing distribution system on Plumtrees Road, backwash water supply tank, backwash water storage and recycle tank, sanitary pump station and force main and residuals pump station.

Project Map: Click here to view a map of the project area.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **April 22, 2022.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public scoping meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a public scoping meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public scoping meeting. Such requests must be made by: **April 1, 2022.**

Written comments and/or requests for a Public Scoping Meeting should be sent to:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Fax: 860-509-7359

E-Mail: dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov (mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov)

If you have questions about a public meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: eric.mcphee@ct.gov (mailto:eric.mcphee@ct.gov?subject=eric.mcphee%40ct.gov)

Phone: 860-509-7333

Fax: 860-509-7359

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Mr. John Tyler Castellanete

Agency: Department of Public Health, Hearing Office

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13PHO, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: DPH.foi@ct.gov (mailto:DPH.foi@ct.gov)

Phone: 860-566-5682

What Happens Next: The Department of Public Health will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

3. Notice of Scoping for Wallens Hill Storage Tank

Project Title: Wallens Hill Storage Tank

Address of possible location: 206 Wallens Street and 3 Stowe Road

Municipality where proposed action might be located: Winchester

Project Description: The Winsted Water Department project proposes to install a new 0.53 MG water storage tank that is 72 ft in diameter with a 14.7 ft high side wall. The tank will replace an existing storage tank that has reached the end of its useful service life. The proposed tank will be located approximately 600 feet south of the existing one. In addition to construction of the new storage tank, a new access drive is proposed, and a new 16" water line is to be installed to connect the tank to the existing water distribution system. Electrical service and cable communications will also be provided for the tank installation.

Project Map: Click here to view a map of the project area.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **April 22, 2022.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public scoping meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a public scoping meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public scoping meeting. Such requests must be made by: **April 1, 2022.**

Written comments and/or requests for a Public Scoping Meeting should be sent to:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Fax: 860-509-7359

E-Mail: d (mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov?subject=dph.sourceprotection%40ct.gov)ph.sourceprotection@ct.gov (mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov?subject=dph.sourceprotection%40ct.gov)

If you have questions about a public meeting or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: eric.mcphee@ct.gov (mailto:eric.mcphee@ct.gov?subject=eric.mcphee%40ct.gov)

Phone: 860-509-7333

Fax: 860-509-7359

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Mr. John Tyler Castellanete

Agency: Department of Public Health, Hearing Office

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13PHO**,** Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: DPH.foi@ct.gov (mailto:DPH.foi@ct.gov)

Phone: 860-566-5682

What Happens Next: The Department of Public Health will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

4. Notice of Scoping for Crystal Lake Storage Tank

Project Title: Crystal Lake Storage Tank

Address of possible location: 338 Winchester Road, Winchester

Municipality where proposed action might be located: Winchester

Project Description: The Winsted Water Department project proposes to install a new 0.69 MG water storage tank 89.5 ft in diameter with a 14.7 ft high sidewall. The tank would serve to provide a redundant finished water tank at the Water Treatment Facility. In addition to construction of the new storage tank, a new access drive is proposed as well and a new 12" water supply and discharge lines will be installed to connect the tank to the existing water treatment facility. Electrical service and cable communications will also be provided for the tank installation.

The redundant tank is needed to allow the existing tank to be taken offline for repairs to the internal surface. The tank will also improve the operation of the water treatment plant by providing additional working storage and increases the emergency storage to be within accepted standards.

Project Map: Click here to view a map of the project area.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **April 22, 2022.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public scoping meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a public scoping meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public scoping meeting. Such requests must be made by: **April 1, 2022.**

Written comments and/or requests for a Public Scoping Meeting should be sent to:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

Fax: 860-509-7359

E-Mail: dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov (mailto:dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov?subject=dph.sourceprotection%40ct.gov)

If you have questions about a public meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: Mr. Eric McPhee

Agency: Department of Public Health – Drinking Water Section

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #12DWS, PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: eric.mcphee@ct.gov (mailto:eric.mcphee@ct.gov?subject=eric.mcphee%40ct.gov)

Phone: 860-509-7333

Fax: 860-509-7359

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency:

Name: Mr. John Tyler Castellanete

Agency: Department of Public Health, Hearing Office

Address: 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13PHO, Hartford, CT 06134-0308

E-Mail: DPH.foi@ct.gov (mailto:DPH.foi@ct.gov?subject=DPH.foi%40ct.gov)

Phone: 860-566-5682

What Happens Next: The Department of Public Health will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

5. Notice of Scoping for Haystack Woods - Norfolk

Project Title: Haystack Woods

Address: 40 Old Colony Road

Municipality: Norfolk, CT

Project Description:

The proposed project is the new construction of 10 single family affordable homes on a 39-acre parcel in the town of Norfolk. Site work includes the construction of a public road and associated extension of utilities. The proposed new construction will be limited to areas previously disturbed by gravel mining operations and will preserve existing forested land. The proposed work preserves the existing wetlands and watercourse at the eastern edge of the site and has received required local inland wetlands approvals and will meet all conditions of approval. The work has also been reviewed by the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and will meet US Army Corp of Engineer environmental and wildlife protection requirements for wetlands crossings. The Department of Housing intends to fund the roadwork with a grant from the Community Development Block Grant federal program and the housing development with state funding. The project has satisfied the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act with public hearing, environmental review, and notices of release of funds.

Project Maps:

Click here to view a **Vicinity Map** for the project area.

Click here to view a **Site Plan** of the project.

Written comments from the public are welcomed and will be accepted until the close of business on: **Thursday, April 21, 2022.**

Any person may ask the sponsoring agency to hold a public scoping meeting by sending such a request to the address below. If a public scoping meeting is requested by 25 or more individuals, or by an association that represents 25 or more members, the sponsoring agency shall schedule a public scoping meeting. Such requests must be made by: **Friday, April 1, 2022.**

Written comments and/or requests for a public scoping meeting should be sent to

Name: JaCinta Frazier

Agency: Department of Housing

Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:)

If you have questions about the public scoping meeting, or other questions about the scoping for this project, contact:

Name: JaCinta Frazier

Agency: Department of Housing

Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

E-Mail: DOH.CEPA@ct.gov (mailto:)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring state agency:

Name: Randi Pincus, Staff Attorney

Agency: Department of Housing

Address: 505 Hudson Street, Hartford, CT 06106

E-Mail: Randi.Pincus@ct.gov (mailto:)

What Happens Next: The sponsoring agency will make a determination whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) or that the project does not require the preparation of an EIE under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). A Post-Scoping Notice of its decision will appear in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor*.

Scoping Notice - Post-Scoping Notice (Need More Time)

If an agency is unable to publish a Post-Scoping Notice within six months after the comment period for scoping, the agency will publish an update with an action status and an estimate as to when a Post-Scoping Notice will be published. Such an update will be published by the agency at six-month intervals until the Post-Scoping Notice is published. Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-7) (http:)

No notice for additional time has been submitted for publication in this edition.

Post-Scoping Notice

A Post-Scoping Notice is the determination by a sponsoring agency, after publication of a Scoping Notice and consideration of comments received, whether an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_439.htm#sec_22a-1b) needs to be prepared for a proposed State action. (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations)Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-7)

The following Post-Scoping Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

---

1. Post-Scoping Notice for Hop River State Park Trail

Address of Possible Project Location: The project is located on the existing Hop River State Park Trail, beginning at its current terminus on Kings Road in Coventry and extending easterly to the trail bridge over the Willimantic River in Columbia.

Municipalities where it would be located: Columbia and Coventry

CEPA Determination: On June 8, 2021, the Connecticut Department of Transportation published a **Notice of Scoping (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/June-8-2021)** to solicit public comments for this proposed project in the *Environmental Monitor.* Comments were received during the public comment period from the **Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection** , however no comments were received from the general public. A synopsis of the comments received and CTDOT's responses are included in the **Environmental Review Checklist** .

After consideration of the comments received, CTDOT has determined that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) under the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). This determination is documented in a **Memo of Findings and Determination** and an **Environmental Review Checklist** .

Agency contact (E-Mail Preferred):

Name: Kevin Fleming, Transportation Planner

Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Bureau of Policy and Planning

Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

Phone: 860-594-2924

E-Mail: Kevin.Fleming@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency.

Name: Ms. Alice M. Sexton
Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Office of Legal Services
Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131
Phone: 860-594-3045
E-Mail: Alice.Sexton@ct.gov

What Happens Next: The CTDOT expects the proposed project to go forward. This will be the final notice for this project in the *Environmental Monitor*.

---

2. Post-Scoping Notice for Removal of Traffic Signals on Route 9 and Associated Improvements

Address of Possible Project Location: Route 9 to include Washington Street (Exit 15) and Hartford Avenue (Exit 16). Route 17 overlaps a small section of Route 9 in this area.

Municipality where it would be located: Middletown

CEPA Determination: On March 6, 2018, the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) published a **Notice of Scoping (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2018/March-6-2018)** to solicit public comments for this proposed project in the *Environmental Monitor*.

A public scoping meeting was held on Thursday March 22, 2018. Several public comments were received during the public comment period and at the public scoping meeting. Additionally, comments were received from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and the Office of Policy and Management.

The comments received and CTDOT's responses are **here.** After consideration of the comments received, CTDOT has determined not to proceed with the project as described in the Scoping Notice, at this time. Subsequent to the public scoping meeting, CTDOT began evaluating additional alternatives to satisfy the public's comments and meetings have been held with the City of Middletown to discuss the alternatives and recently completed traffic analyses for the alternatives. A formal CEPA public scoping process will take place to present the updated proposed alternative, and CTDOT also plans on holding multiple small scale charrette style meetings to garner feedback from the public, specifically in the area where the proposed project may be constructed.

Agency contact:

Name: Salvatore Aresco, P.E., Project Manager

Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Office of Engineering and Construction

Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

Phone: 860-594-3239

E-Mail: Salvatore.Aresco@ct.gov

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted to the sponsoring State Agency.

Name: Ms. Alice M. Sexton

Agency: Connecticut Department of Transportation, Office of Legal Services

Address: 2800 Berlin Turnpike, Newington, CT 06131

Phone: 860-594-3045

E-Mail: Alice.Sexton@ct.gov

What Happens Next: CTDOT will not proceed with the project, as described in the Scoping Notice, at this time. A new Scoping Notice will be published in a future edition of the *Environmental Monitor* for any updated proposed alternatives.

EIE Notice

After Scoping, an agency that wishes to undertake an action that could significantly affect the environment must produce, for public review and comment, a detailed written evaluation of the expected environmental impacts. This is called an **Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_439.htm#sec_22a-1b)**. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-8)**

The following EIE Notices have been submitted for publication in this edition.

1. Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan

Addresses of Possible Project Locations: Various locations along Ox Brook in the City of Bridgeport, extending from Elton Rogers Park at the north end to Lincoln Boulevard at the south end of the Project (see the attached figures).

Municipality where proposed action is to be located: Bridgeport

Project Description: The Ox Brook corridor in the City of Bridgeport has been subject to repeated flooding over a period of decades and the area has been studied since the 1970s. Flooding along Ox Brook has resulted in repeated damages to residential properties and commercial and industrial businesses, infrastructure damages, roadway and sidewalk closures and detours, emergency response needs, health hazards for residents, among other impacts.

The Proposed Action is the implementation of the Ox Brook Flood Control Master Plan, a six-phase project, to alleviate chronic flooding along the Ox Brook corridor. Phase 1 of the project is currently funded by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), which is the Sponsoring Agency for the Project. There is no Participating Agency.

The project is located generally along Ox Brook in the City of Bridgeport, CT, roughly extending from Elton Rogers Park at the north (upstream) end (off Kaechele Place) to Lincoln Boulevard at the south (downstream) end (between Lincoln Ave. and Garfield Ave.). Phase 1 of the Project has progressed through permitting level design with permit applications submitted, while the remaining Phases (Phases 2-6) are at the preliminary design phase. The overall Project is anticipated to take decades to complete and funding has only been identified for Phase 1 at this time. The six phases are as follows:

- Phase 1: Dam rehabilitation and detention area construction at Elton Rogers Park;
- Phase 2: Construction of a diversion to the Svihra Park area and detention area construction;
- Phase 3: Channel and crossing improvements from Lincoln Boulevard to Quince Street;
- Phase 4: Channel and crossing improvements from Rocton Avenue to Burnsford Avenue;
- Phase 5: Channel and crossing improvements from Burnsford Avenue to Lourmel Street; and
- Phase 6: Construction of the Island Brook diversion to the Elton Rogers detention area, additional excavation within the Elton Rogers Park impoundment area to increase stormwater detention storage, and connection of a new discharge from the dam to Lourmel Street.

Project Maps: Click here to view a Locus Map . **Click here to view a Project Phasing Plan** , showing the general location of the Project Area and Project Phases.

Scoping Notice and Post Scoping Notice: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection published a Scoping Notice on **October 5, 2021 (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/October-5-2021)** and a Post-Scoping Notice on **December 7, 2021 (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/December-7-2021)**, for the proposed project in the Environmental Monitor.

Comments on this EIE will be accepted until the close of business on: **April 11, 2022.**

The public can view a copy of this EIE at this link or at the following webpage for DEEP's Public Notices (https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Public-Notices/Public-Notices-Proposed-Actions---Opportunity-for-Comment/Miscellaneous-Proposed-Actions/), or hard copy at the following locations:

• Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection office (see DEEP contact information below to request an appointment),
• Bridgeport City Hall Town Clerk's Office, Bridgeport City Hall Room 122, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT 06604 (call 203-576-7208 to make an appointment), and
• Bridgeport Public Library - North Branch, 3455 Madison Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606

Other information:

There is a public hearing scheduled for this EIE on:

DATE: Tuesday, March 29, 2022

TIME: 7:00 pm EST

PLACE: Virtual

NOTES: The meeting will be held virtually on Zoom and can be accessed by the following link and passcode:

https://gza.zoom.us/j/95677983752 (https://gza.zoom.us/j/95677983752)

Meeting ID: 956 7798 3752

Passcode: 873651

Individuals with limited internet access can listen to the meeting by calling 1-646-876-9923 and entering the Meeting ID/Participant Code when prompted: 956 7798 3752

Written comments and/or questions about the meeting, project, or the EIE for this project should be sent to the following (email preferred) (Please use "OX BROOK" in the subject line):

Name: Fred Riese

Agency: Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Address: 79 Elm Street, Hartford CT 06106

E-Mail: Frederick.Riese@ct.gov

Phone: 860-424-4110

What happens next: The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will review the comments received and may conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the evaluation. DEEP will prepare responses to the substantive issues raised in review of and comment on the EIE and any supplemental materials or amendments. Those responses and all supplemental materials and comments shall be made available in a "Record of Decision" which will appear in the Environmental Monitor for public inspection.

2. Notice of an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) for Mirror Lake Improvements at the University of Connecticut

Project Title: Mirror Lake Improvements

Address of Possible Project Location: Mansfield Road at the University of Connecticut, Storrs

Municipality where it would be located: Mansfield

Project Description: The University of Connecticut proposes to make improvements to Mirror Lake – an approximately 5-acre stormwater basin on the University's Storrs Campus. The proposed project consists of the following elements:

- Dam safety improvements, including replacing the existing spillway with a stepped spillway and raising the dam's earthen embankment
- Stormwater management improvements, including the rerouting of several discharge points into sedimentation forebays and regrading of upstream and downstream slopes
- Dredging and improvements to aquatic ecosystems, including the use of hydraulic and mechanical dredging to remove accumulated sediments and restore the lake depth
- Landscape improvements, including littoral zone plantings and site-specific amenities that enhance cultural benefits and improve access to the water's edge

The Mirror Lake Improvements project was identified in UConn's Campus Master Plan as a key near-term landscape project aimed at amplifying the University's commitment to sustainable, resilient landscapes and enhancing Mirror Lake's function as a ceremonial entry to the South Campus. This project will be an opportunity for the University to improve the Lake's hydrological performance and natural aesthetic, while also expanding access to the water's edge and celebrating the Lake as an important cultural asset and entry point to the campus.

Map of Proposed Action: Mirror Lake EIE Figure ES1 Proposed Action (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor//-/media/UConn/Mirror-Lake-Improvements/Mirror-Lake-EIE-Figure-ES1-Proposed-Action.jpg?sc_lang=en&hash=A83B382EFA1E7A843818CF29106C13C4)

Scoping Notice and Post-Scoping Notice: Beginning on November 16, 2021, the University of Connecticut published the first of three **Notices of Scoping** (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2021/November-16-2021) in the *Environmental Monitor*. A **public scoping meeting** (https://tinyurl.com/336ak3d7) was held virtually on December 8, 2021, and the 30-day comment period closed on December 16, 2021. The University of Connecticut published a **post-scoping notice** (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/Environmental-Monitor-Archives/2022/February-22-2022) on February 22, 2022 in the Environmental Monitor.

The University has prepared an Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE). The public may view a copy of this EIE at **Mirror Lake Improvements EIE _web** or the University Planning, Design and Construction's project webpage at **www.updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake (http://www.updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake)**. A hard copy may be made available for viewing upon request.

Comments on this EIE will be accepted until 5 pm on: Friday, May 20, 2022

There is a public hearing scheduled for this EIE on:

DATE: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

TIME: 6:30 pm EDT

PLACE: Virtual

NOTES: The meeting will be held virtually on GoToWebinar. You may register to attend using the following link: **https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/992478990610264335 (https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/992478990610264335)**. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting (including an option to join by phone). A link to the recording will be available shortly after the hearing at **http://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake (http://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake)**.

Written comments and/or questions about the meeting, project, or the EIE for this project should be sent to the following agency contact (email preferred) (Please use "Mirror Lake EIE" in the subject line):

Name: Ian Dann, Project Manager

Agency: University of Connecticut, University Planning, Design and Construction

Address:31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038

Phone:(860) 486-6503

E-Mail:ian.dann@uconn.edu (mailto:ian.dann@uconn.edu)

Inquiries and requests to view and or copy documents, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, must be submitted at **https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/ (https://publicrecords.uconn.edu/make-a-request/)**.

What Happens Next: The University of Connecticut will review the comments received and may conduct further environmental study and analysis or amend the EIE. The University will also prepare responses to substantive issues raised in review of the comments received. Those responses, and all supplemental materials and comments, will be made available in a Record of Decision that will appear in a future issue of the *Environmental Monitor*.

Agency Record of Decision

After an ;**Environmental Impact Evaluation (EIE) (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_439.htm#sec_22a-1b)** is developed, an agency will prepare a concise public record of decision, which takes into consideration the agency's findings in the EIE, and any comments received on that evaluation. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-10)**

No Record of Decision Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

OPM's Determination of Adequacy

After an **Environmental Impact Evaluation (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_439.htm#sec_22a-1b)** (EIE) is developed. the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) will determine if the EIE is adequate. If not, OPM will specify the areas of inadequacy with reference to CEPA or the CEPA regulations and specify the corrective action required. **Read More (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/CEPA-Regulations#22a-1a-10)**

No Determination of Adequacy Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

State Land Transfer Notice

Connecticut General Statutes **Section 4b-47 (https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_059.htm#sec_4b-47)** requires public notice of most proposed sales and transfers of state-owned lands. The public has an opportunity to comment on any such proposed transfer. Each notice includes an address where comments should be sent. **Read more about the process (https://portal.ct.gov/CEQ/Environmental-Monitor/State-Lands-Transfer-Process)**.

No State Land Transfer Notice has been submitted for publication in this edition.

CEPA Project Inventory

The Office of Policy and Management (OPM) maintains a list of projects they have entered the CEPA process. It shows each project's status. The inventory can be found **here** .

CEQ Contact Information

All inquiries and requests of the Council should be sent electronically to: **peter.hearn@ct.gov (mailto:peter.hearn@ct.gov)**.

The Adobe Reader is necessary to view and print Adobe Acrobat documents, including some of the maps and illustrations that are linked to this publication. If you have an outdated version of Adobe Reader, it might cause pictures to display incompletely. To download up-to-date versions of the free, click on the Get Acrobat button, below. This link will also provide information and instructions for downloading and installing the reader. **(http://get.adobe.com/reader/)**

Download the free Acrobat Reader! (https://acrobat.adobe.com/us/en/acrobat/pdf-reader.html). Adobe is a tool that allows blind and visually impaired users to read any documents in Adobe PDF format. For more information, read the product overview at **Adobe.com (https://www.adobe.com/)**.

FUSS & O'NEILL

Connecticut Environmental Policy Act Public Hearing

University of Connecticut Mirror Lake Improvements

Presented by:

Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.

April 13, 2022

UCONN
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Presentation/CEPA Team

- **Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.**

Diane Mas, PhD, REHS/RS – CEPA Specialist

Alex Maxwell, PhD, Resilience Planner

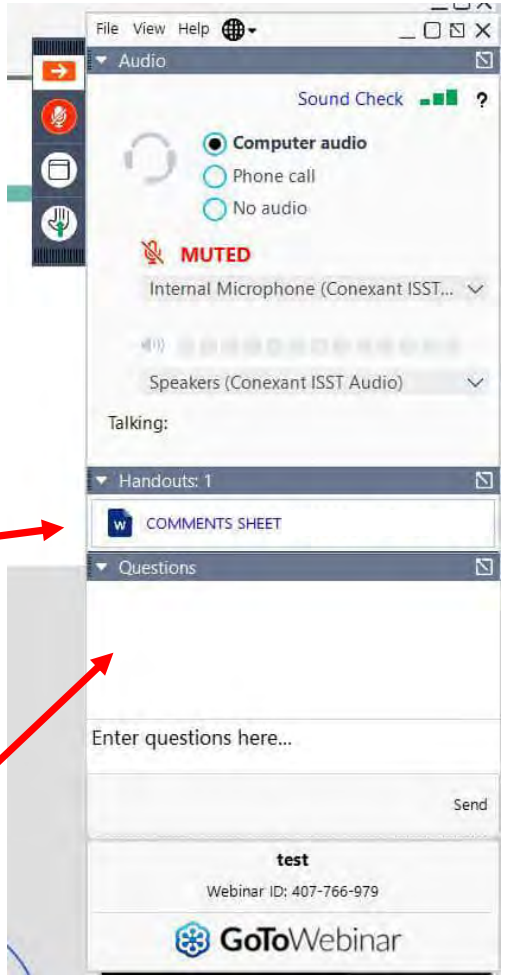
FUSS & O'NEILL

Additional Panelists

- Sean Vasington, PLA, ASLA – UConn
- Ian Dann, PLA, SITES AP, ASLA – UConn
- Dan Cefaratti, PE – BVH Integrated Services
- Scott Waitkus, PE – BVH Integrated Services
- Dave Barstow, PE – GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
- Nat Arai, PE – GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.

Webinar "Tech Check"

Dashboard



Handouts

Comments

Presentation Agenda

- **Purpose of Tonight's** Meeting
- Project Overview
  - Purpose and Need
  - Alternatives
- Assessment of Impact
- Public Comments

FUSS & O'NEILL

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Provide information on Mirror Lake Improvements
- Describe potential impacts and mitigation
- Outline final phases of evaluation under CEPA
  - Note: final designs are still in progress
- Solicit verbal and written comments

FUSS & O'NEILL

What is CEPA?

- Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA)
- Identify and evaluate the impacts of proposed state actions that may significantly affect the environment
- Allow for public input

Proposed Action

FUSS & O'NEILL

CEPA Resource Considerations

Direct, indirect, & cumulative effects:

Natural

- Water quality (incl. surface water and groundwater)
- Flooding, in-stream flows, erosion or sedimentation
- Natural communities, critical plant and animal species
- Resident or migratory fish or wildlife species
- Air quality
- Ambient noise levels
- Existing land resources and landscapes (incl. coastal and inland wetlands)
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Changing climate (incl. resilience)

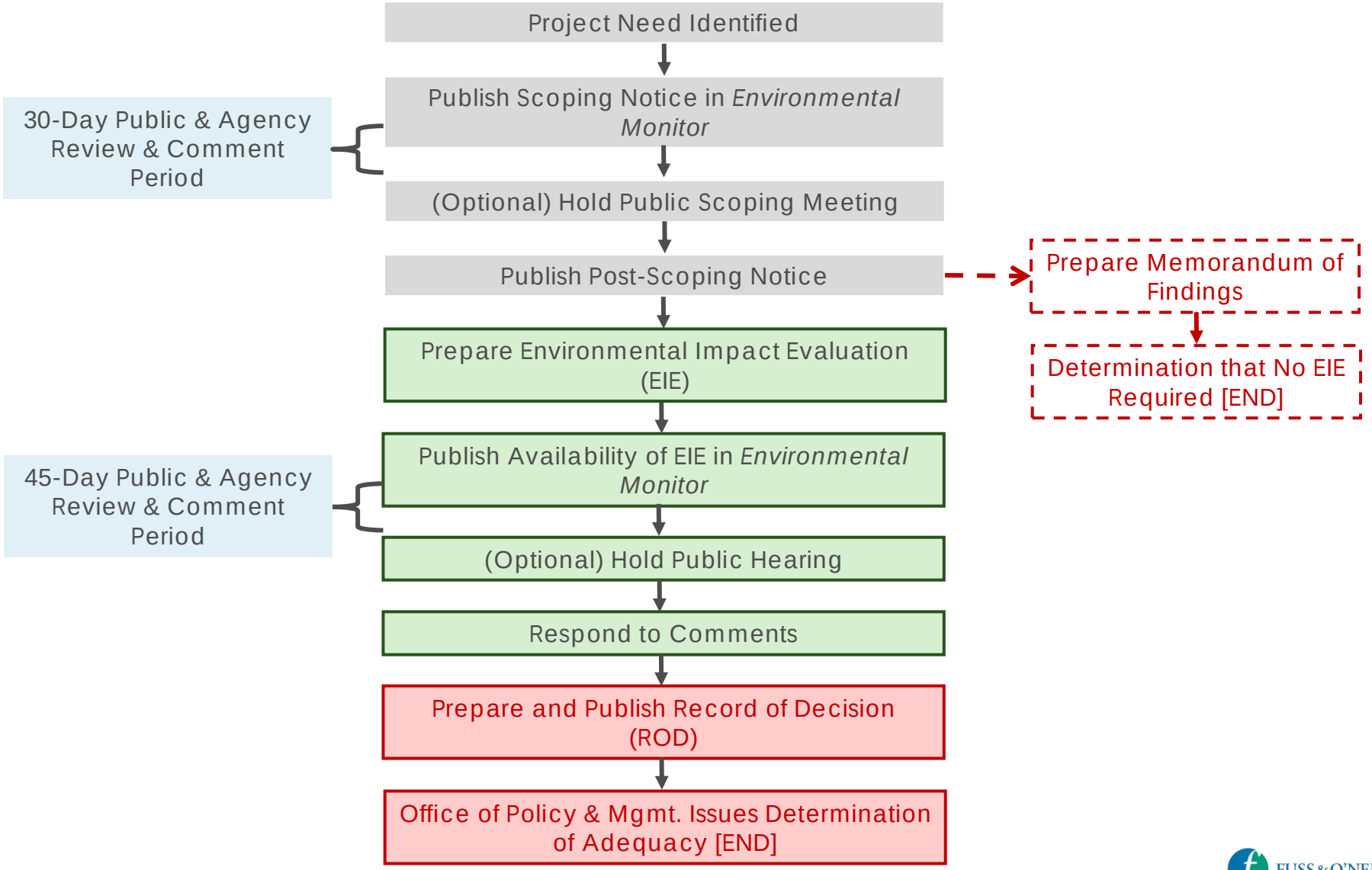
Socioeconomic

- Historic, archeological, cultural, or recreational building or site
- Aesthetic or visual effects
- State, regional, and municipal plans
- Existing housing, communities
- Population
- Human health and safety
- Other natural, cultural, recreational, or scenic resources

Physical

- Public water supply system
- Pesticides, toxic or hazardous materials
- Congestion (traffic, recreational, other)
- Energy use
- Agricultural resources
- Existing/proposed utilities/infrastructure

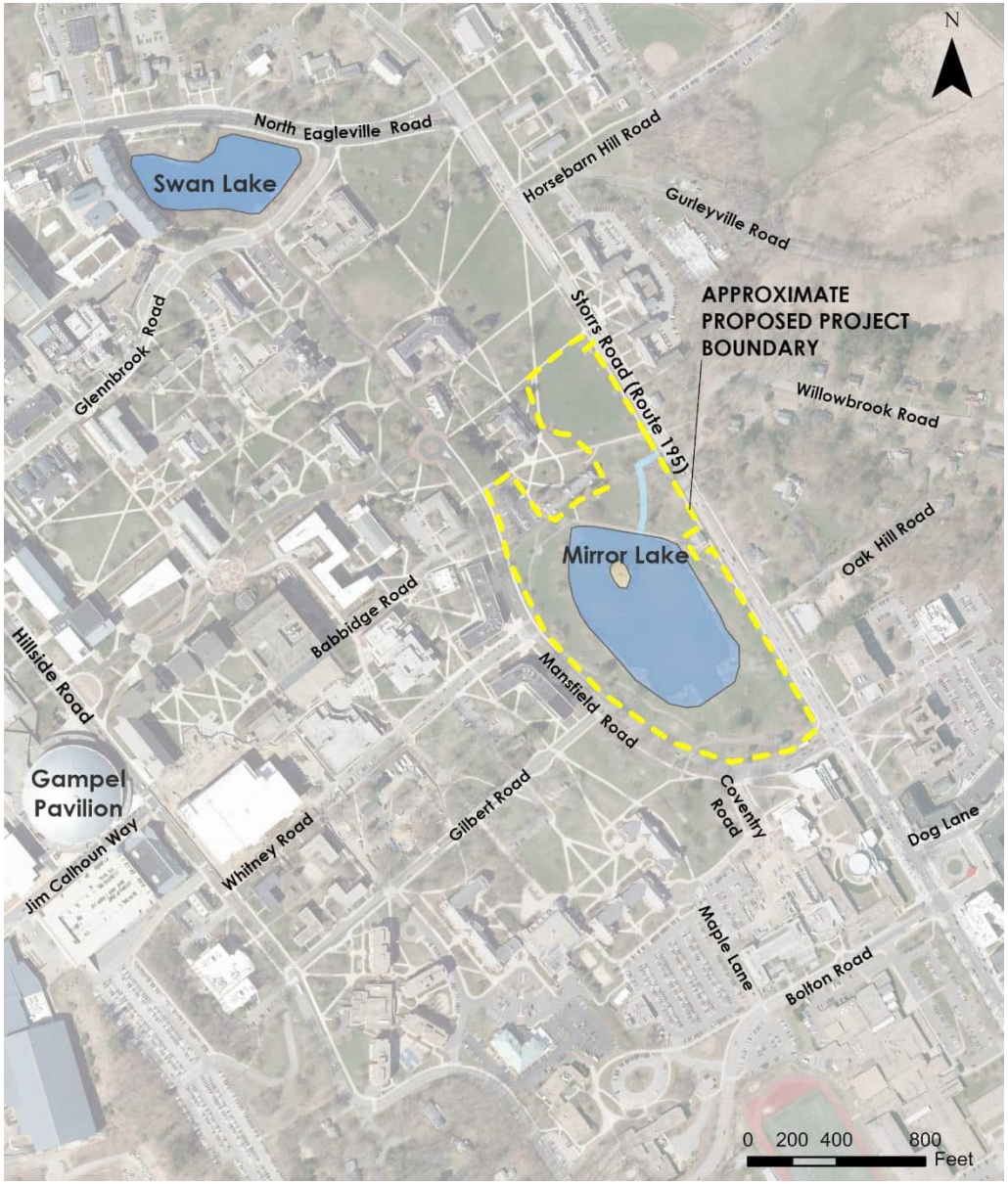
CEPA Process Map & Proposed Timeline



FUSS & O'NEILL

Project Overview

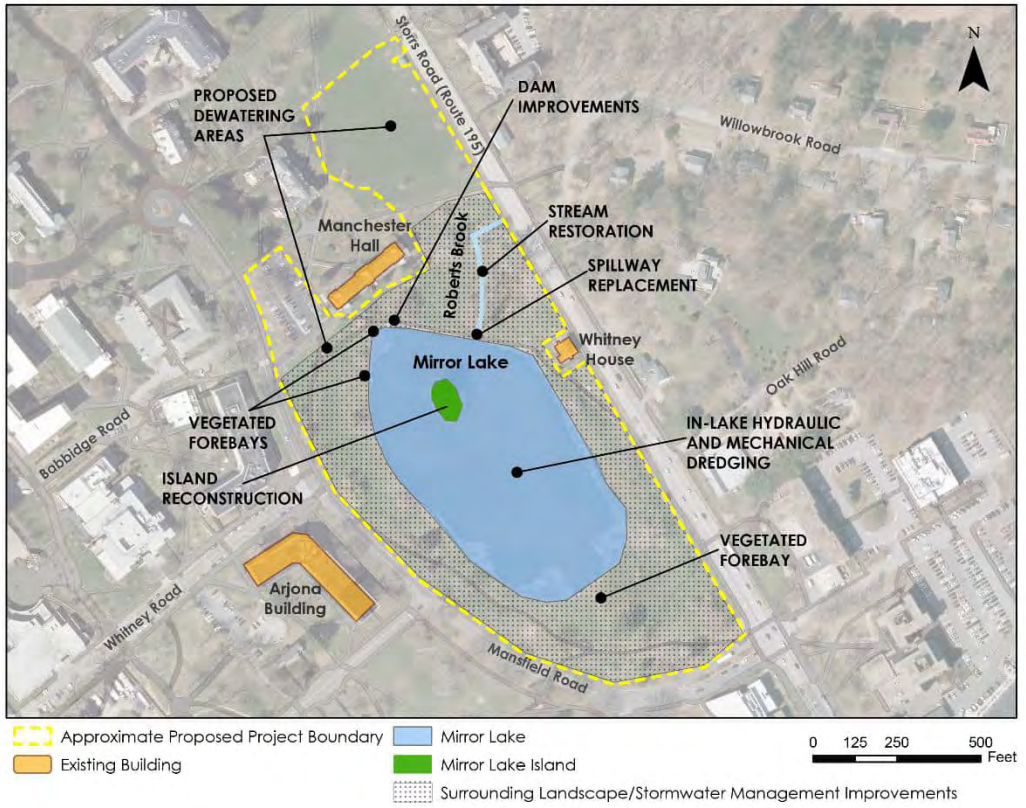
Project Location on Campus



FUSS & O'NEILL

Project Overview

- Improvements to Mirror Lake – a large stormwater management basin
- On the Storrs Campus in the area of the South Campus roughly bounded by:
  - Storrs Road to the east
  - Mansfield Road to the south and west
  - Harry Grant Manchester Hall and Great Lawn to the north



FUSS & O'NEILL

Purpose and Need

- Purpose: Address dam/spillway safety deficiencies, mange stormwater and slow sediment accumulation, improve aquatic health/water quality & function of the lake as a landscape element on campus

- Need: Recently-completed feasibility study for Mirror Lake identified needed modifications to the stormwater basin, spillway and dam to improve storage, quality, and safety

FUSS & O'NEILL

Proposed Action

- Dam Safety Improvements – to address dam and spillway condition, provide at least 1-foot of freeboard during 100-year event
- Stream Restoration (Roberts Brook) – to enhance habitat, improve water quality and stormwater management
- Dredging – to remove accumulated sediment and add depth to improve water quality/aquatic health
- Stormwater Management – to capture sediment/nutrients prior to entering Mirror Lake
- Landscape Elements – to support stormwater management and enhance access to water, amplify Mirror Lake's role as an iconic landmark on campus

Alternative Actions

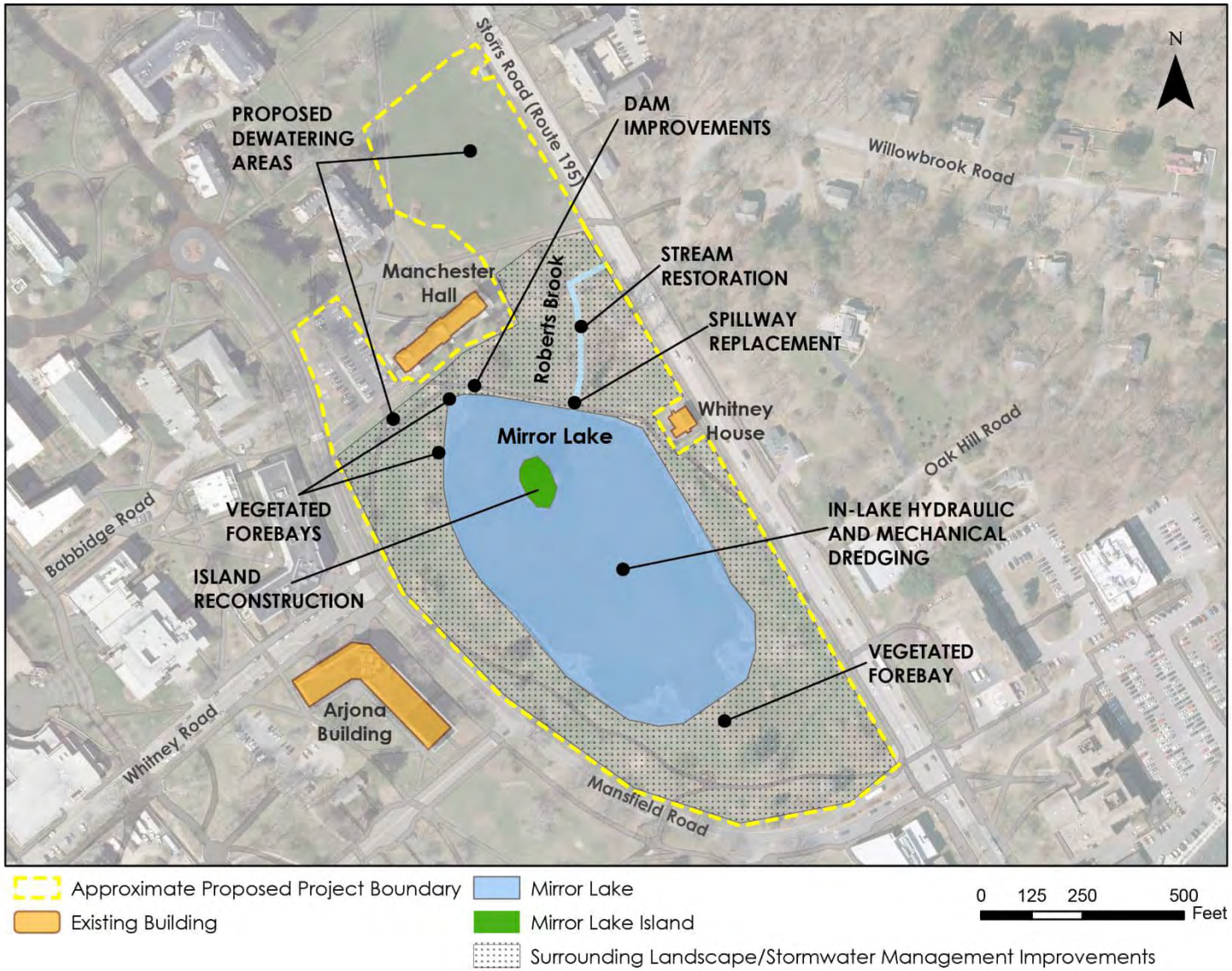
- No Action
- Enlarge Footprint and Raise Berm
- Dam and Spillway Alternatives
- In-Lake Sediment Alternatives

FUSS & O'NEILL

Alternatives Overview

- No Action
  - Existing dam safety, water quality, stormwater concerns
- Enlarge footprint and raise berm
  - Only addresses stormwater, not aquatic health/water quality or dam safety
  - Spillway not altered
- Dam and Spillway Alternatives
  - Used an incremental damage analysis (IDA) to determine the spillway design flood (SDF)
- In-Lake Sediment (Dredging) Alternatives
  - Soft Sediment Only, No Forebays - Addresses accumulated sediment but not stormwater control
  - Depth and type of dredging - hydraulic/mechanical, 6-12'

Preferred Alternative



FUSS & O'NEILL

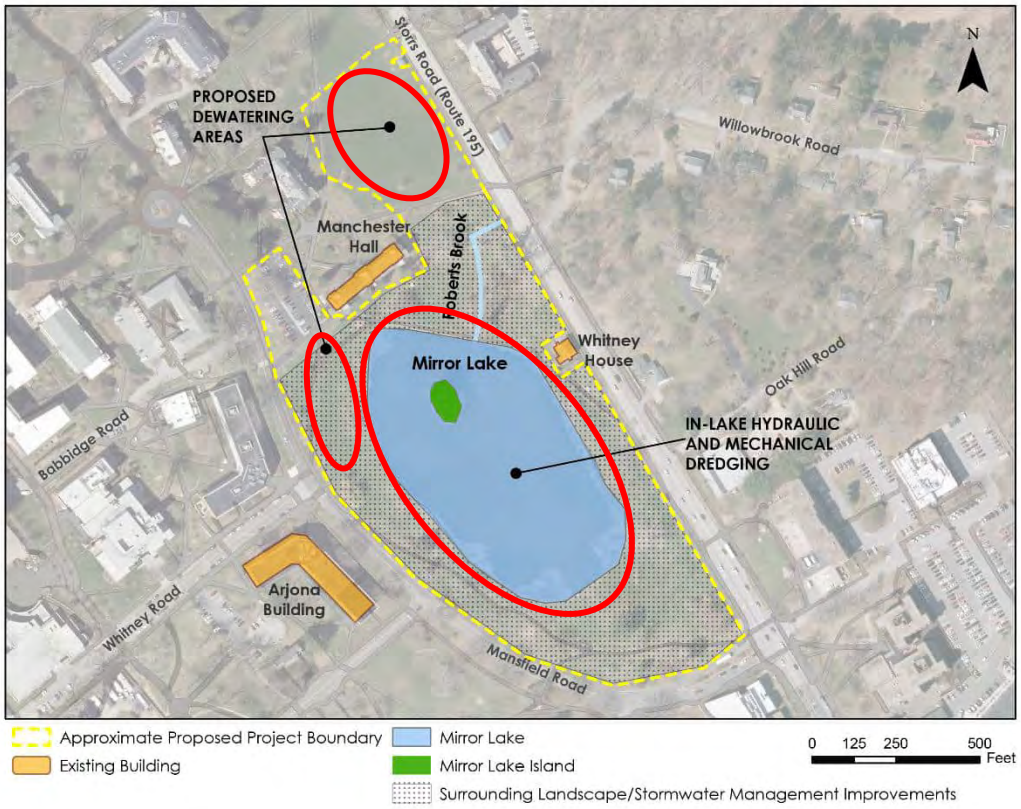
Preferred Alternative

- Dam/Spillway Safety Improvements
  - Replace existing spillway
  - Raise dam's earthen embankment
  - Add upstream erosion protection
  - Regrade upstream and downstream slopes

FUSS & O'NEILL

Preferred Alternative

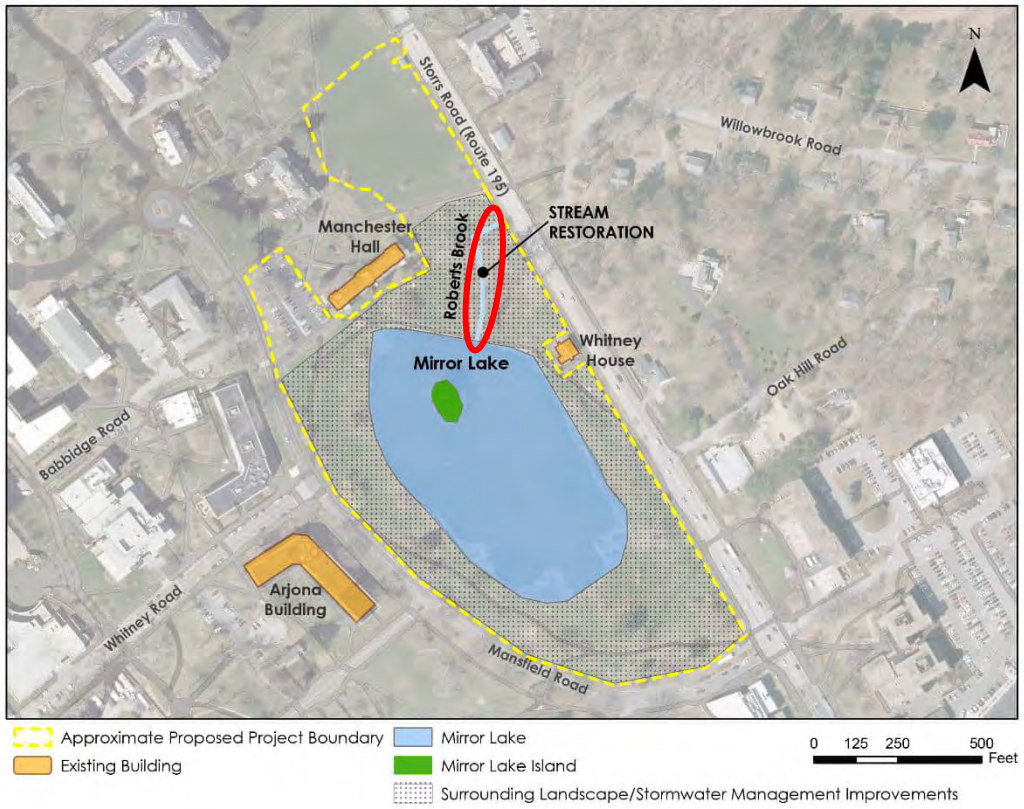
- Dredging
  - Hydraulic dredging (soft sediment) to depth of 6 feet and removal of 19,600 cy
  - Mechanical dredging (hard bottom) to depth of ±9 ft and removal of 26,800 cy
  - Reshaping/expansion of island (3,500 cy)



FUSS & O'NEILL

Preferred Alternative

- Stream Restoration and Riparian Enhancement
  - Restoration of Roberts Brook channel
  - Daylighting of culverted section



FUSS & O'NEILL

Preferred Alternative

- Other Site Elements
  - Vegetated forebays (stormwater management)
  - Littoral zone plantings
  - Shelter*
  - Promenade/ overlook*
  - Pedestrian bridge*
  - Rain/stream gardens*

*Alternate elements

FUSS & O'NEILL

Assessment of Impact

Resources Not Present

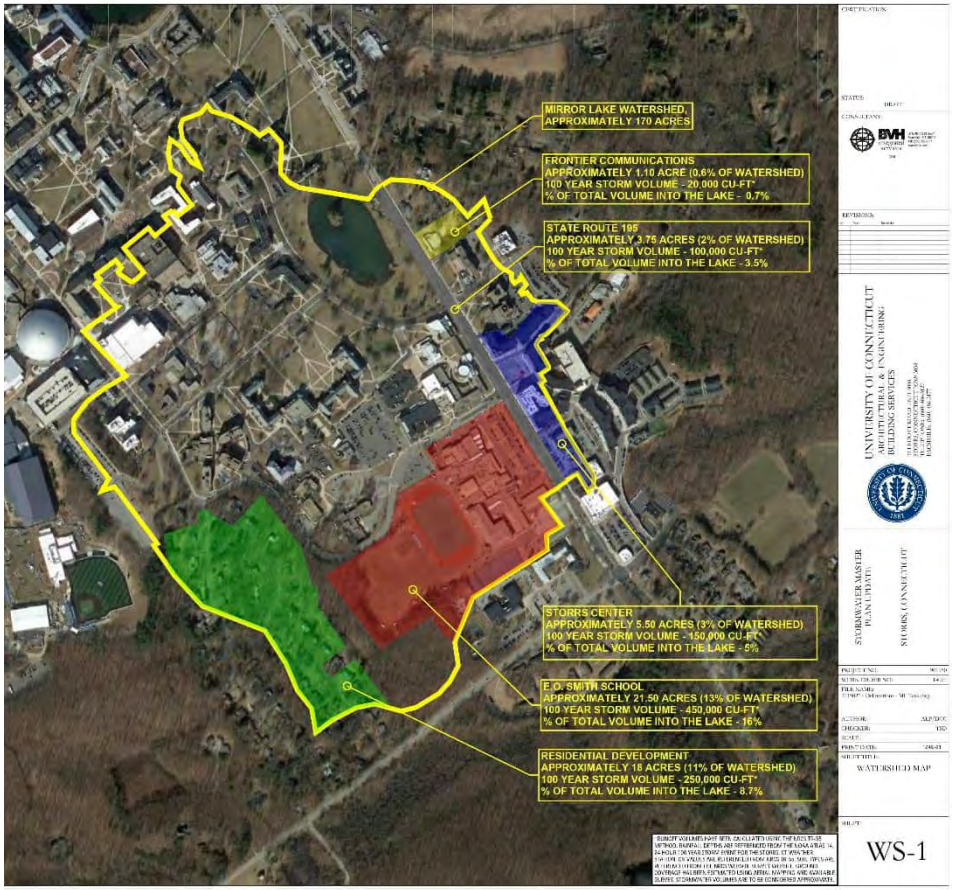
- No Farmland Soils
- No Sole Source Aquifers/Aquifer Protection Areas
- No Coastal Resources
- No State-Listed Species
- No Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplains

No Significant Impact

- Campus and State Planning
- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Solid and Hazardous Waste Generation
- Noise
- Air Quality
- Solid Waste
- Toxic and Hazardous Materials
- Public Health and Safety
- Socioeconomic Factors
- Traffic, Parking, and Circulation
- Energy Use and Conservation
- Climate and Resilience

Natural Resources

- Water Resources
  - Overall beneficial impact to water resources and water quality by addressing dam safety and stormwater management issues for Mirror Lake
  - Design will be consistent with the guidelines of the CTDEEP Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual and Dam Safety Regulations
  - Subject to state and federal permitting
  - Post-construction operations and maintenance for stormwater controls

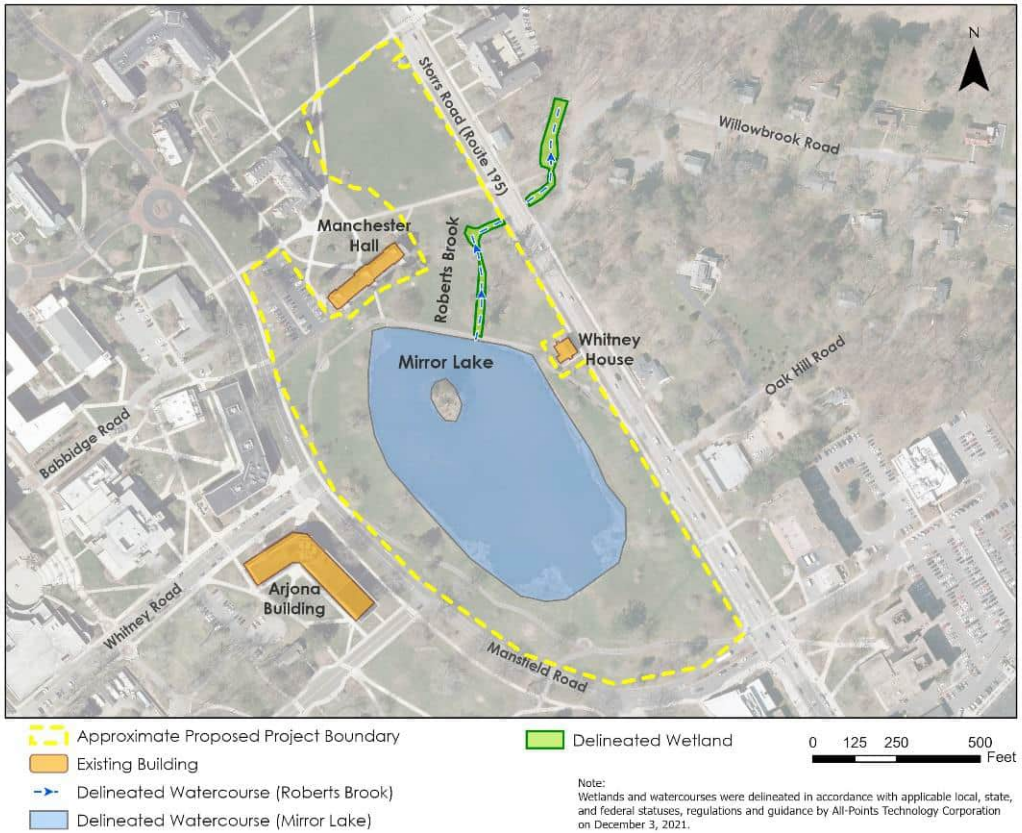


Natural Resources

- Natural Communities, Flora, Fauna
  - Some vegetation and tree clearing
  - Federally-listed northern long-eared bat potentially in the region, but no known hibernacula mapped in Mansfield
  - Benefit to aquatic habitat (water quality improvements)
  - Native species plantings potentially support pollinator and other wildlife habitat

Natural Resources

- Wetlands
  - Mirror Lake (~5 acres of inland watercourse) altered by dredging
  - Depending on final design ~1,750 to 2,150 SF of inland wetlands and watercourse (Roberts Brook) impacted by restoration
  - Mitigation will be identified through state and federal permitting



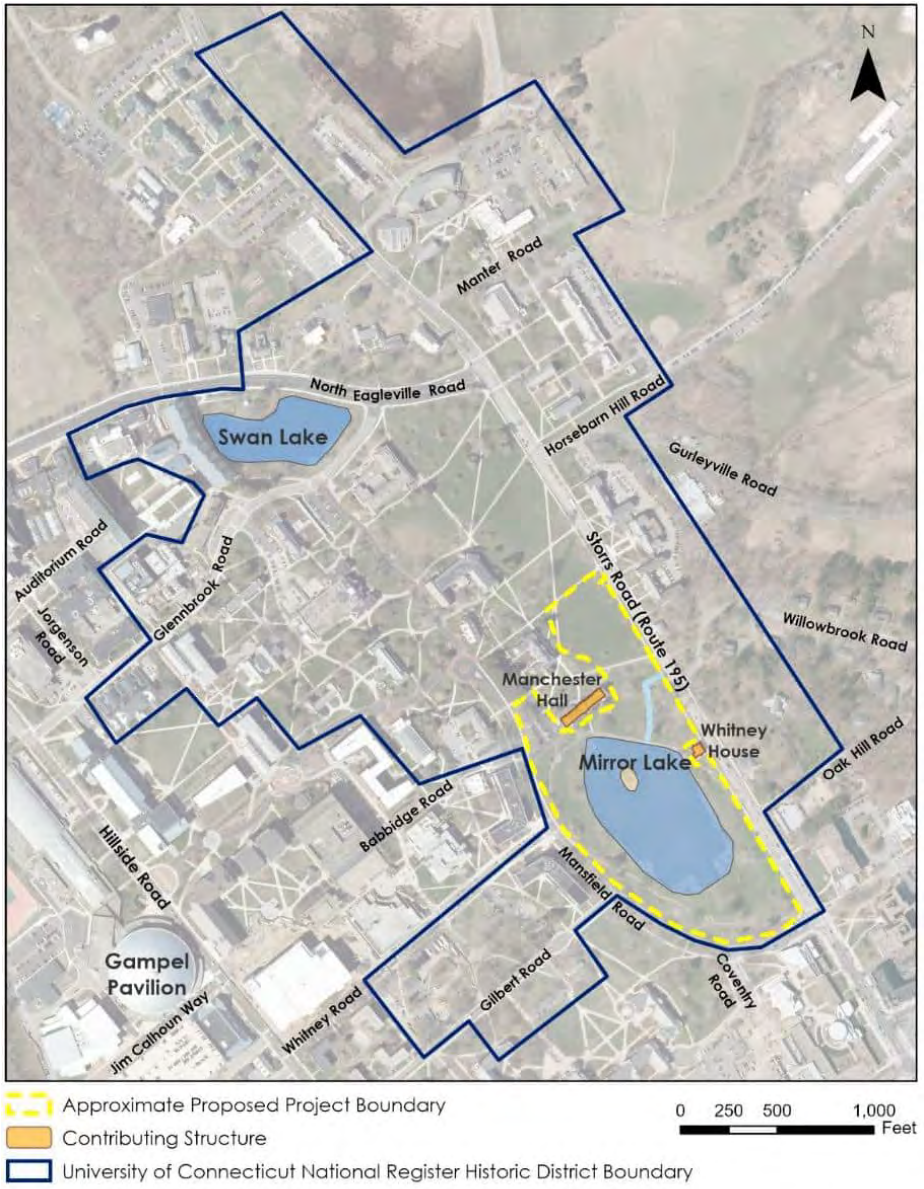
FUSS & O'NEILL

Built Environment

- Visual and Aesthetic Character
  - Proposed Action includes integration of the site with surrounding landscapes and built environment
  - Improvements of visual and aesthetic character from the proposed shoreline and littoral zone plantings in curvilinear beds and increased access to the water's edge
  - Implementation of visual/aesthetic elements of the Campus Master Plan and District guidelines, incorporation of stormwater infrastructure into the visual landscape, and use of natural materials.

Built Environment

- Cultural Resources
  - Within University of Connecticut National Register Historic District, but not impacting contributing resources to the District
  - Pending further review of landscape elements, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has indicated no anticipated adverse impact to historic resources
  - UConn continuing discussion and opportunity for comment with SHPO and Preservation Connecticut
  - Design team includes landscape architects with experience in cultural landscapes and historic districts



Built Environment

- Utilities
  - No anticipated impacts to electrical service, water, gas, and sewer utilities
  - Proposed Action supports the goals in the campus Drainage Master Plan to improve stormwater management and increase resilience of Mirror Lake/Roberts Brook system to stormwater runoff under future development and climate conditions
  - Stormwater utilities designed in accordance with the Connecticut Stormwater Quality Manual and any memoranda of agreement between UConn and CTDEEP related to stormwater in effect at the time of construction

Construction Period

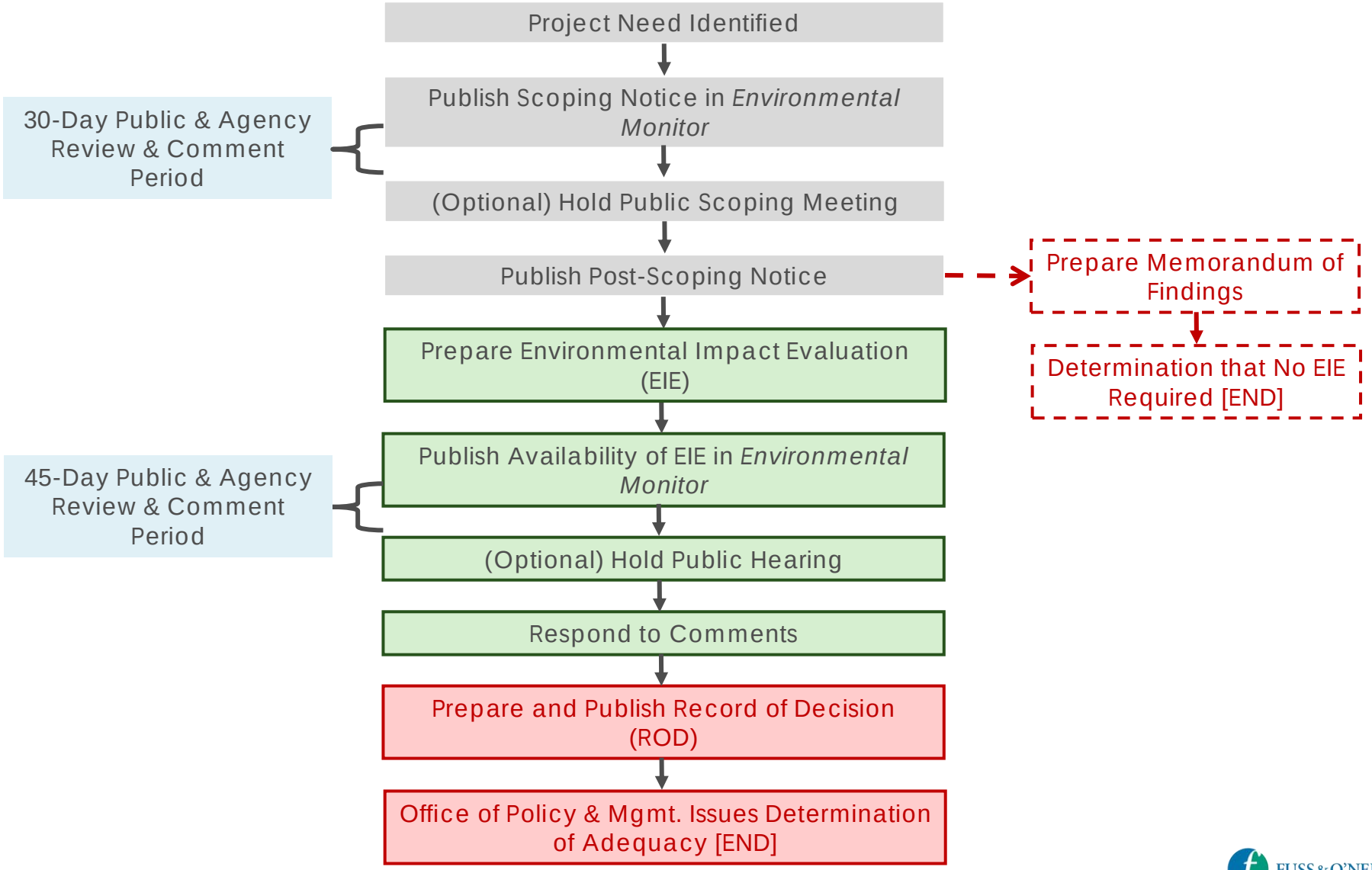
- Temporary construction-related impacts (noise, traffic disruption, waste generation, etc.) will be mitigated by appropriate best management practices and permitting requirements.
- Dewatering area for hydraulically dredged materials may require closure of the Manchester Hall lot and/or use of the Great Lawn or law area south of the Manchester Lot, all of which would be restored following construction.

Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

- No indirect impacts associated with induced growth or encroachment/alteration anticipated
- No cumulative negative impact anticipated.
- The Proposed Action supports maintaining discharges from Mirror Lake to pre-1993 conditions – significant action to mitigate and avoid cumulative impacts from past and reasonably foreseeable development

Next Steps

CEPA Process Map & Proposed Timeline



FUSS & O'NEILL

Schedule Milestones

Milestone	Tentative Date
Public Hearing	April 13, 2022
End of CEPA EIE Public Comment Period	May 20, 2022
CEPA Record of Decision (ROD)	Sept 2022
Planned Start of Construction	Winter 2022 to Spring 2023 (*depending on permitting*)

Comments

- Comments accepted tonight (via comment sheet, chat, or by raising hand)
  - State name, address, and your comment(s)
- Submit comments
  (email preferred – **"Mirror Lake EIE" in subject line**) to:
  - Name: Ian Dann, Project Manager
  - Address: 31 LeDoyt Rd, Unit 3038, Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3038
  - Fax: (860) 486-3117
  - E-mail: ian.dann@uconn.edu
- End of Comment Period: May 20, 2022
- Additional information on the project, as well as a link to a recording of the meeting, is posted at:
  https://updc.uconn.edu/mirror-lake
- Recording will be posted after April 14, 2022

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment F

Summary of EIE Comments and Responses

Summary of EIE Comments & Responses (with EIE Section References)

The Town of Mansfield, CT Town Council provided written comments from Antonia Moran, Mayor, dated May 13, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
MANF #1	After a review of the EIE and information provided at the public hearing, it appears that the proposed activities will have a long-term positive impact by: • Improving Mirror Lake's ability to manage stormwater on campus and within the Roberts Brook subwatershed. • Increasing the safety of the dam and reducing stormwater flows out of the lake. • Enhancing access and recreational and aesthetic values of Mirror Lake. • Improving the water quality of Roberts Brook and enhancing the associated riparian zone	No response required	-
MANF #2	[A]s with any project this size, there is the potential for construction-related impacts. To minimize these [construction-related] impacts, it is recommended that UConn implement best management practices and consider the following: *Erosion and Sedimentation Control*. Given the extensive activities in and near Roberts Brook, the use of best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control is imperative to protect this brook and the associated riparian zone. • At a minimum, the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control should be adhered to during construction and newer and innovative approaches should also be considered where such measures would provide stronger protection. • If the dewatering location proposed on the great lawn is used, it should be carefully secured to avoid sedimentation to Roberts Brook and to Rte. 195. • Temporary routing measures should also be used to keep water off the western sidewalk on Route 195 from the dewatering operations be routed to stormwater structures.	Note the following statements related to erosion and sedimentation control in the EIE: • Section 3.19 states that "BMPs will be implemented to protect water quality of Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook, an impaired surface waterbody. Sedimentation and erosion controls consisting of silt fencing, straw bales, and/or straw wattles will be installed upgradient of Roberts Brook and Mirror Lake as per the Site Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (BVH, Towers Golde LLC, et al., 2022). BVH, Towers Golde LLC, et al. (2022) states that "erosion control measures will be installed in accordance with the State of Connecticut 2002 Soil and Erosion Control guidelines" • The "Construction Period" subsection of Section 4.4 also states that mitigation measures during construction will include the "[u]se of appropriate erosion and sediment controls during construction, consistent with the 2002 Connecticut Guidelines for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (as amended) and the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities	3.19 & 4.4

The Town of Mansfield, CT Town Council provided written comments from Antonia Moran, Mayor, dated May 13, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
		Note the following statements related to dewatering in the EIE: • As noted in Section 4.4, with regards to dewatering at the Great Lawn or Manchester Hall parking lot, "[c]are will be taken to protect existing utilities to avoid damage and/or interruption of service during the construction process." • Additionally, "Mirror Lake and surrounding area, and the Great Lawn/Manchester Hall parking lot will be restored following the conclusion of construction." In addition, dewatering area near Route. 195 will be managed to avoid impacts to Roberts Brook, Route 195, or adjacent sidewalks.	
MANF #3	To minimize these [construction-related] impacts, it is recommended that UConn implement best management practices and consider the following: *Use of Native Species*. • Native species should be used when possible. • Invasive or potentially invasive species as determined by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council should be avoided. • Species deemed invasive or potentially invasive in other nearby states invasive such as yellow flag iris (Iris pseudacorus), Callery pear (Pyrus calleryana) should be avoided.	Note the following statements related to native species in the EIE: • Section 3.18 mentions that the "Proposed Action introduces performative landscapes with native species planting that will provide additional filters for stormwater runoff, contributing to the overall improvements to aquatic health of Mirror Lake under current and future climate conditions." Additionally, planting plans will avoid the use of invasive species as determined by the Connecticut Invasive Plants Council prior to the start of construction.	3.18
MANF #4	To minimize these [construction-related] impacts, it is recommended that UConn implement best management practices and consider the following: *Sediment Removal*. Given the urbanized area draining into Mirror Lake, sediment removed from the lake should be tested for contaminants and disposed of properly.	Note the following statements related to testing and handling of dredged sediment in the EIE: • Section 3.3 mentions, "once excavated the sediments and soils will need to be characterized and managed accordingly as hazardous waste, solid waste, or clean fill for reuse (i.e., clean fill) or disposal."	3.3
MANF #5	To minimize these [construction-related] impacts, it is recommended that UConn implement best management practices and consider the following: *Public notice*.	Note the following statements related to public notifications in the EIE:	3.19, 4.1, & 6

The Town of Mansfield, CT Town Council provided written comments from Antonia Moran, Mayor, dated May 13, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
	• UConn should consider notifying all residents of the Roberts Brook subwatershed of the project and providing a project contact in case increased sedimentation is observed during construction. • Windham Water Works and the Army Corps of Engineers should also be notified.	• The BMPs require that notification of the project start date be sent to the applicable public water supplier (i.e., UConn Facilities and Operations (FACOPS) and Windham Water Works) and that UConn FACOPS and Windham Water Works personnel be granted daily site access to review compliance with site best management practices. In addition, UConn EHS, Windham Water Works, the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section, and appropriate sections of the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) must be notified immediately of any chemical/fuel spill or any major failure of an erosion and sedimentation control at the construction site. Emergency telephone numbers and a statement identifying the construction site as a sensitive public water supply area will be posted where they are readily visible to contractors and other on-site personnel. Also note that Section 4.1 and Section 6 of the EIE mention that resource areas associated with Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook will be subject to the conditions of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Connecticut General Permit, which would serve as notification to the USACE. Additionally, UConn commits to notifying the Town by inviting the Town Engineer (or delegate) to construction meetings and will also provide a University contact to the Town to receive any complaints. The project team will make all other notifications as required by permit.	

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated May 20, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
CTDEEP #1	DEEP Dam Safety understands that anticipated development downstream will likely result in an increase in hazard classification. This classification will dictate what the appropriate design storm of the spillway should be. DEEP looks forward to seeing that analysis.	Note that details on the selection of the spillway design flood are included in Section 2.2. Analysis will also be provided as part of the permitting process.	1.2 & 2.2
CTDEEP #2	DEEP Dam Safety supports the increase in spillway capacity, which will require a dam safety individual permit.	Note that Section 4.1 and Section 6 of the EIE indicate that a dam safety individual permit will be sought for the Proposed Action.	4.1 & 6
CTDEEP #3	Dam Safety recommends following the suggested criteria below in selecting the Spillway Design for the reclassified dam. Spillway Design Storm: The "spillway design storm" is used to determine the appropriate spillway size and capacity based on the dam's size, classification, and its hazard potential. The size classification of dams ranges from small to large based on their height and storage capacity. The hazard potential is the extent to which loss of life and economic damage can be expected in the event of a dam's failure. The minimum spillway design storm which DEEP accepts is the 100- year return frequency storm with one foot of freeboard. Design storms may range from the 100- year return frequency storm to the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) event. In selecting a spillway design storm, UConn should consider, among other things, the downstream hazard, and the volume of water which would be discharged following such storm.	See previous response to comment CTDEEP #1 regarding the SDF selection criteria highlighted in the EIE.	2.2
CTDEEP #4	Add Fisheries Mitigation to Section 4.4, Table 2, Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures. Specifically, add the aquatic improvements to support fish including the methods listed in the EIE. Those methods include the proposed installation of boulders and boulder clusters in Robert's Brook, potential stocking, and to continue discussions on deepening the lake to provide additional habitat and diversity while offer overwintering habitat for fish (as mentioned in 3.6.2).	Aquatic improvements to support fish are noted in Sub-Section 3.6.2. Specifically, the EIE states: "Fish habitat improvements and potential fish stocking of Mirror Lake are being considered during the final design and permitting phase." While Mirror Lake is not designated for recreational fishing, quantitative and qualitative improvements will be incorporated to support potential habitat. The University will endeavor to provide boulders and boulder clusters, deeper pockets (as opportunities present themselves), and potential stocking. UConn is also assessing the feasibility of providing overwintering and other specific fish habitat enhancements and will	3.6

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated May 20, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
		continue to discuss this with CTDEEP in the permitting process.	
CTDEEP #5	Discuss the potential impact and mitigation measures during hydraulic and mechanical dredging to the fish community.	Note the following statements related to testing and handling of dredged sediment in the EIE: • Fish kill is noted as a potential impact in Section 3.19. To mitigate against this potential impact, "Drawdown of the lake will be initiated in a controlled manner to prevent damage to Roberts Brook and prevent downstream flooding or a fish kill." • "Consultation [with CTDEEP Bureau of Natural Resources – Inland Fisheries Division] to address fisheries issues associated with the hydraulic dredging permitting" is noted as a mitigation measure in Section 6 UConn will continue to discuss potential impacts and mitigation measures with CTDEEP in the permitting process.	3.19 & 6
CTDEEP #6	The document does not mention the species that are found in Mirror Lake or Robert's Brook. It should be noted in the document that there have been accounts of Largemouth Bass, Bluegills, Koi, and some minnow species.	During the site visit (noted in Section 3.6), no physical evidence of fish was found. However, UConn acknowledges anecdotal accounts of fish species noted in the CTDEEP #6 comment.	3.6
CTDEEP #7	The Fisheries Division remains supportive of this effort and believes this project will ultimately result in improved habitat and angling opportunities.	No response required	-
CTDEEP #8	The Remediation Division agrees with the statement in the EIE that sediments and glacial soils located within the lake footprint are not considered a "waste" and subject to waste regulations, while in-situ, but once excavated the sediments and soils will need to be characterized and managed accordingly as hazardous waste, solid waste, or clean fill for reuse (i.e., clean fill) or disposal.	No response required	3.3
CTDEEP #9	The [Remediation] Division also agrees that the need for CT DEEP GP for Contaminated Soil and/or Sediment Management will be assessed once final soil pre-characterization is completed during design. Excavated clean fill and natural soils can be reused on-site. Excess natural soils can be taken off-site as "clean" fill without restriction. The University and/or its contractors must follow applicable	No response required.	3.3 & 3.19

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Linda Brunza, Environmental Analyst, dated May 20, 2022.			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
	state and federal regulations regarding the proper management of potentially impacted media.		
CTDEEP #10	In enlarging and reshaping the island, ensure that adequate sampling of the material to be dredged and reused onsite has occurred and that the dredged material on the island meets the RDEC values. Adequate sampling is generally 1 sample per 1,000 cubic yards (CY) of dredged material. If the values are not met, discuss the results with the Remediation Division. It is anticipated that these materials would not be considered a release and would likely be incidental sources, though that is subject to change pending the lab results. Recommend testing for SVOCs, VOCs, ETPH, Metals, Pesticides/Herbicides, and PCBs.	As noted in the EIE, appropriate characterization of dredged material will be conducted prior to reuse or disposal.	3.3 & 3.19
CTDEEP #11	The [Remediation] Division states that adequate sampling will be required to determine the appropriate disposal or reuse options of such dredged material, rather than the statement in the EIE that the majority of glacial till materials are not impacted by contaminants and based on their characterization can be removed from the lake bottom for reuse off-site as clean fill.	UConn agrees that characterization of dredged material will be conducted as indicated in Section 3.3 & Section 3.19.	3.3 & 3.19
CTDEEP #12	It isn't clear in the EIE if the relocation and reconstruction of the island will be completely from dredged material or if offsite material will also be used. Only clean soils will be allowed to be brought in for use in this project. Disposal locations should be determined based on the results of sampling conducted after dredging and dewatering of dredged material.	To clarify, if dredged material is suitable for geotechnical and environmental reuse, it will be used. Otherwise, clean fill material would be used. Section 3.3 notes that "According to the grading plan, reconstruction/relocation of the island will require importing 3,500 cubic yards of granular fill." As noted in Section 3.3 & Section 3.19, appropriate disposal locations for any dredged material will be determined based on sampling results.	3.3 & 3.19

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Eric Thomas, BWPLR/Planning and Management/Watersheds, dated June 3, 2022			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
CTDEEP #13	The EIE provides multiple statements of improving water quality within the lake and downstream Roberts Brook without identifying whether designated uses can be restored by these or other proposed actions. The Department's current and newly drafted 2022 integrated water quality assessments of Roberts Brook list the watercourse downstream of Mirror Lake as not meeting its designated use support of Aquatic Life (aka Habitat for Fish, Other Aquatic Life and Wildlife), with no listing for cause(s) of impact to this designated	Note the following statements related to monitoring: • BMPs will be implemented to protect water quality of Mirror Lake and Roberts Brook, an impaired surface waterbody. Sedimentation and erosion controls consisting of silt fencing, straw bales, and/or straw wattles will be installed upgradient of Roberts Brook and Mirror Lake as per the Site Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (BVH, Towers Golde LLC,	3.19 & 4.4

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Eric Thomas, BWPLR/Planning and Management/Watersheds, dated June 3, 2022			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
	use. The improvements project should design a conceptual monitoring plan with phases that incorporates pre-improvements conditions, concurrent with the dewatering and construction phases, and following final construction site work. Interim reporting can better inform evaluation measures for proposed water quality improvement targets. Such plan can be detailed during the multi-layered permitting process.	et al., 2022). Turbidity monitoring, in addition to routine site inspections, will be required monthly. The construction team shall provide all necessary "Qualified Inspectors and Professionals" as defined in the permit regulations. Additional BMPs and other conditions may be identified through the permitting process. (Section 3.19) UConn will consider this suggestion and discuss it further with CTDEEP during permitting.	
CTDEEP #14	[T]he Proposed Action relies on the end-of-pipe, vegetated stormwater forebays and hydrodynamic separator devices to reduce pollutants from future stormwater loading, without providing an analysis of contributing watershed pollutant sources and calculated loading rates. It is still unclear how the proposed woody vegetated species selected for the forebay plantings will be maintained through periodic forebay dredging and cleaning.	Note the following statements related to forebays and maintenance: • As part of the on-going maintenance of the stormwater system, sediment will be collected from the forebays and pretreatment systems. That sediment will be characterized for appropriate reuse or disposal consistent with CTDEEP guidance and regulations and is not anticipated to result in a significant direct or indirect impact on solid waste generation or disposal. (Section 3.9) • Final design will also incorporate considerations for ongoing maintenance of the forebays to allow for continued effective function for stormwater management. (Section 3.13) As part of the final design, UConn will develop a plan to maintain the forebay plantings to ensure proper performance.	3.9 & 3.13
CTDEEP #15	Flood inundation maps with stated assumptions and relevant calculations should be made available for review by the Department's Dam Safety program to assess permit and other regulatory responses to the applicant.	Stated assumptions and relevant calculations will be made available for review by the Department's Dam Safety program. See also the response to the CTDEEP #1 comment above.	1.2 & 2.2
CTDEEP #16	It is unclear how the proposed lake drawdown and forming of a lake bottom sump for collecting diversion channel flow, then pumped over the dam into Roberts Brook, beyond indications of use of a turbidity curtain and coffer dam, will maintain and not further degrade water quality and stream flow conditions of	UConn will address these details and discuss them further with CTDEEP during permitting as suggested.	3.19

The State of Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) provided written comments from Eric Thomas, BWPLR/Planning and Management/Watersheds, dated June 3, 2022			
Comment Number	**Comment**	**Response**	**EIE Section**
	the water quality-impaired stream. These details will need addressing in permitting reviews for the Inland Wetlands and Water Course permits, and the Section 401 Water Quality and Flood Management Certification.		
CTDEEP #17	Tall vegetation and canopy shading should be incorporated into the streamside planting design to offset potential temperature increase with proposed placement of large mass boulders that absorb solar energy and can release unwanted thermal energy to Roberts Brook. Enhanced levels of in-stream dissolved oxygen and aquatic habitat are referenced but neither quantified nor compared to downstream, low-gradient Roberts Brook segments for an assessment of the proposed scale of stream restoration.	UConn will consider these suggestions and discuss them further with CTDEEP during permitting. See also the response to the CTDEEP #13 comment above regarding water quality and monitoring.	3.5 & 3.13
CTDEEP #18	The case for proposing public access site amenities to the downstream section of this lake and dam improvements project is not compelling from a watershed health perspective, given that other improvements project alternatives (e.g., promenade, pedestrian bridge and new island) provide for increased water edge accessibility and views. Project resources should be dedicated for mitigative measures for improved water quality and restorative streamflow conditions for upper Roberts Brook and its watershed health. This could include increasing the areal and functional extent of the wetlands adjacent to the Roberts Brook corridor, as well as increasing areal extent of under-managed vegetated shoreline buffers around Mirror Lake, appropriately commensurate to mitigate for the remaining manicured turf areas between the surrounding roadways and the lake.	UConn will consider these suggestions and discuss them further with CTDEEP during the final design	3.13
CTDEEP #19	The University is encouraged to hold a direct meeting with the Department's Stormwater program to best assess permitting and other approval needs for this project. This would include reviewing criteria for an Individual Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities.	UConn has and will continue to coordinate with departments at CTDEEP, including the Department's Stormwater program for related permits. Also, as noted in the response to the CTDEEP #2 comment above, Section 4.1 and Section 6 of the EIE indicate that a dam safety individual permit will be sought for the Proposed Action.	4.1 & 6

FUSS & O'NEILL

Attachment G

Revised Renderings of Mirror Lake Improvements


CT ROUTE 195 - STORRS ROAD
WHITNEY HOUSE
ROBERTS BROOK
MANSFIELD ROAD
RIP RAP ARMORED BERM
BRIDGE ACROSS SPILLWAY
LAKE SPILLWAY
WALKWAY TO LOOP AROUND LAKE
IMPROVED STORMWATER OUTFALL
WALKWAY OVER BERM
FOREBAY
PLANTED BERM
CULVERT SPILLWAYS INTEGRAL WITH BERM
MIRROR LAKE
MANCHESTER HALL
ISLAND
AQUATIC PLANTS
BRICK PAVER OVERLOOK TERRACE
COVENTRY ROAD
STONE SPILLWAYS
BRICK PAVER OVERLOOK TERRRACE
MANSFIELD ROAD
BRICK PAVER TERRACE
GILBERT ROAD
WILSON HALL
BUDDS BUILDING
MONTEITH BUILDING
WHITNEY ROAD
ARJONA BUILDING
TOWERS | GOLDE


TOWERS | GOLDE


TOWERS | GOLDE

FUSS & O'NEILL