Muddy River Restoration Project
Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee
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Brookline, Massachusetts 02447
www.muddyrivermmoc.org

HABITAT SPECIALIST NEEDED

The Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC) is seeking a qualified individual to provide an independent analysis of the potential habitat impacts of proposed modifications to the approved project design relating to culverts and daylighting in the Riverway and Brookline Avenue areas, as further described below.

Project Background

The Muddy River Restoration Project (Project), a joint project of the City of Boston and the Town of Brookline, working with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, to be funded with federal, state and local money and designed and managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, has five objectives: control flooding; improve water quality; restore landscape and historic resources; enhance aquatic and riparian habitat; and implement improved stormwater management throughout the Muddy River watershed. Construction on the Project is expected to begin in 2008.

The Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee (MMOC) is a citizen-based oversight committee created by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs in 2002 to work with the project proponents, other stakeholders and government agencies, to ensure public participation in the Project, protect the public investment, and provide independent oversight of the maintenance and management of the park system after the completion of the Project.

The Project is being designed in two phases: Phase 1, which involves the "daylighting" of two sections of the Muddy River currently enclosed in underground culverts in the area near the Landmark Center (formerly the Sears Roebuck building) in Boston; and the enlargement and reconstruction of several culverts where the Muddy River passes under roadways in the same area; and Phase 2, which will involve extensive dredging of the Muddy River, reconstruction of its banks and replanting with appropriate wetland vegetation.

During the design process of Phase 1, the Corps of Engineers has identified several elements of the design that, if modified, would reduce costs and simplify construction. In brief, these changes include daylighting an additional section of the river, and using bridges rather than culverts to provide passage under the roads for the Muddy River. These proposed changes in design will require approval through the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act program (MEPA), and the Corps is expected to file a Notice of Project Change (NPC) shortly.

Habitat Assessment

Habitat assessments were performed by both the Corps of Engineers and by the Project proponents during the permitting and review process. The Project has been designed to enhance aquatic and riparian habitat primarily by removing accumulated sediment from the river and replacing invasive, non-native plants in the riparian corridor with a diverse plant community. Aquatic habitat addressed in the Project includes that of the benthic community, water column invertebrates and various fish populations, including the rare and threatened Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) and

the Blueback herring (*Alosa aestivaus*). Riparian habitat addressed by the Project is primarily of importance to a wide variety of resident and migratory bird species.

Phase 1, the daylighting of the Muddy River and construction of culverts in the area of the Landmark Center, will not impact the habitat area of the Threespine Stickleback. It will also not include dredging. However, habitat improvements are expected as a result of Phase 1, primarily because daylighting will improve the potential for fish passage and will involve the construction of new bank.

The MMOC is seeking a qualified individual to provide an independent analysis of the potential habitat impacts of the proposed modification to the approved project design. The MMOC seeks information about the potential habitat impacts of using bridges rather than culverts, and daylighting an additional section of the river rather than having it pass through a long culvert.

Scope of Work

1. Review Studies and Reports with Habitat Assessment information:
    a. US Army Corps of Engineers "Muddy River Feasibility Report," 1998
    b. US Army Corps of Engineers "Muddy River Restoration Project Decision Document" 2002
    c. Muddy River Restoration Project Draft and Final Environmental Impacts Reports
2. Review the approved design in the Phase 1 area with particular emphasis on the habitat impacts of that proposed design.
    a. Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report
3. Review NPC when filed
4. Within 2 weeks of NPC filing, prepare a Draft Report to MMOC of potential impacts of design changes proposed in NPC, positive and negative; potential design alterations to improve habitat outcomes; and any potential mitigation for any negative outcomes from the new design.. The Draft Report should be in MS-Word, and should be submitted in electronic form. The MMOC will review and make any comments on the Draft Report within 1 week of receipt of the Draft Report.
5. Within 1 week of receipt of comments from the MMOC, submit a Final Report to the MMOC. The Final Report should be in MS-Word, and should be submitted in electronic form.

<u>Contract Administration</u>

This contract will be administered by the Operations Committee of the MMOC. The budget for this project will be determined after negotiations with the Operations Committee. The Project will be managed by the Chair of the MMOC's Water Quality Subcommittee, Kate Bowditch.

<u>Qualifications</u>

The MMOC seeks an experienced individual with expertise in urban fresh water ecosystems and habitat analysis. Preference will be given to individuals with experience in providing expert testimony and/or expert reports on urban freshwater habitat issues.

Interested individuals should contact:
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