



September 21, 2021

Mr. Benjamin Stevens  
Trask Inc.  
337 Turnpike Road  
SOUTHBOROUGH MA 01772

**Re: 501 Pond Street, Ashland  
"Parcel B-1"  
Resource Area Status**

Dear Mr. Stevens:

At your request, I reviewed the 3.63+/- acre property referenced above on July 6, 2021. I also examined serial historic MASSGIS imagery from 1998 through 2019 of the premises. In the 1990's the subject parcel and the two parcels to its north were a contiguous 8.75+/- acre old-field habitat, with generally level topography. It appears that agricultural use likely ceased on the parcels in the 1970's or 1980's. The condominiums to the west and recreational center to the south were present in the late 1990's.

By 2001 development on the north parcels had commenced; the subject parcel was still fallow field. The spring of 2001 was particularly wet in eastern Massachusetts and that imagery is useful in demonstrating ephemeral surface waters. 2008 imagery shows the field on 501 Pond Street succeeding to scrub-shrub habitat but otherwise unchanged. It appears that during the improvements to Parcel B-2 to the immediate north during the past decade Parcel B-1 was used as a staging and spoils material storage area; the exogenous material currently on the property is probably derived from foundation excavations to on Parcel B-2.

The current status of Parcel B-1 is typical of a recently disturbed and abandoned site in eastern Massachusetts. The soils are at least in part exogenous and compacted. The topography is altered due to the importation of soil, and the prevailing vegetation is largely exotic herbaceous and shrub species. Invasive species of prevalence include autumn olive, western ragweed, mugwort, Oriental bittersweet, purple loosestrife, daisy fleabane, among others. Native species include bigtooth aspen saplings and several goldenrods.

Patches of compacted construction silts contain surface water of less than one inch following rain events. However, no areas on the premises were found to meet the criteria of regulated resource areas under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act

(MGL Ch. 131 §40), or the Ashland Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Ch. 280), or their respective Regulations.

I have attached an orthophotographic figure of the site and vicinity as well as representative photographs from the field for clarity.

If you have any questions regarding this property or its regulatory status, please feel free to contact me at 978-929-9058 x104.

Sincerely,

Oxbow Associates, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian O. Butler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

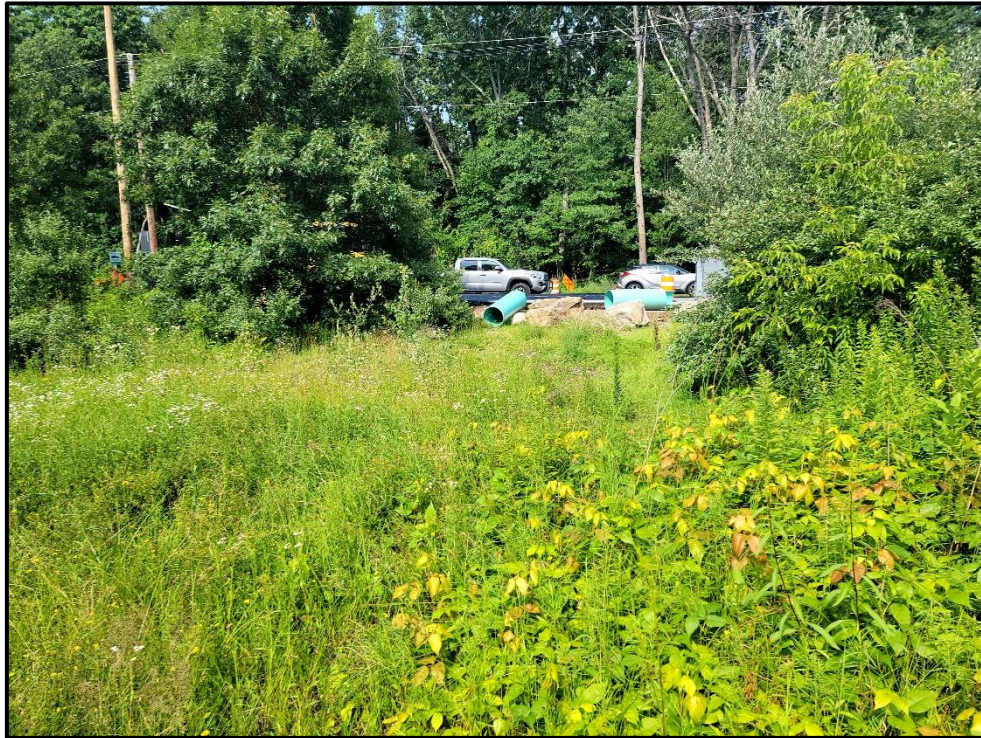
Brian. O. Butler, M. S.

President

Enclosure: Orthophotographic Figure•, Photos.

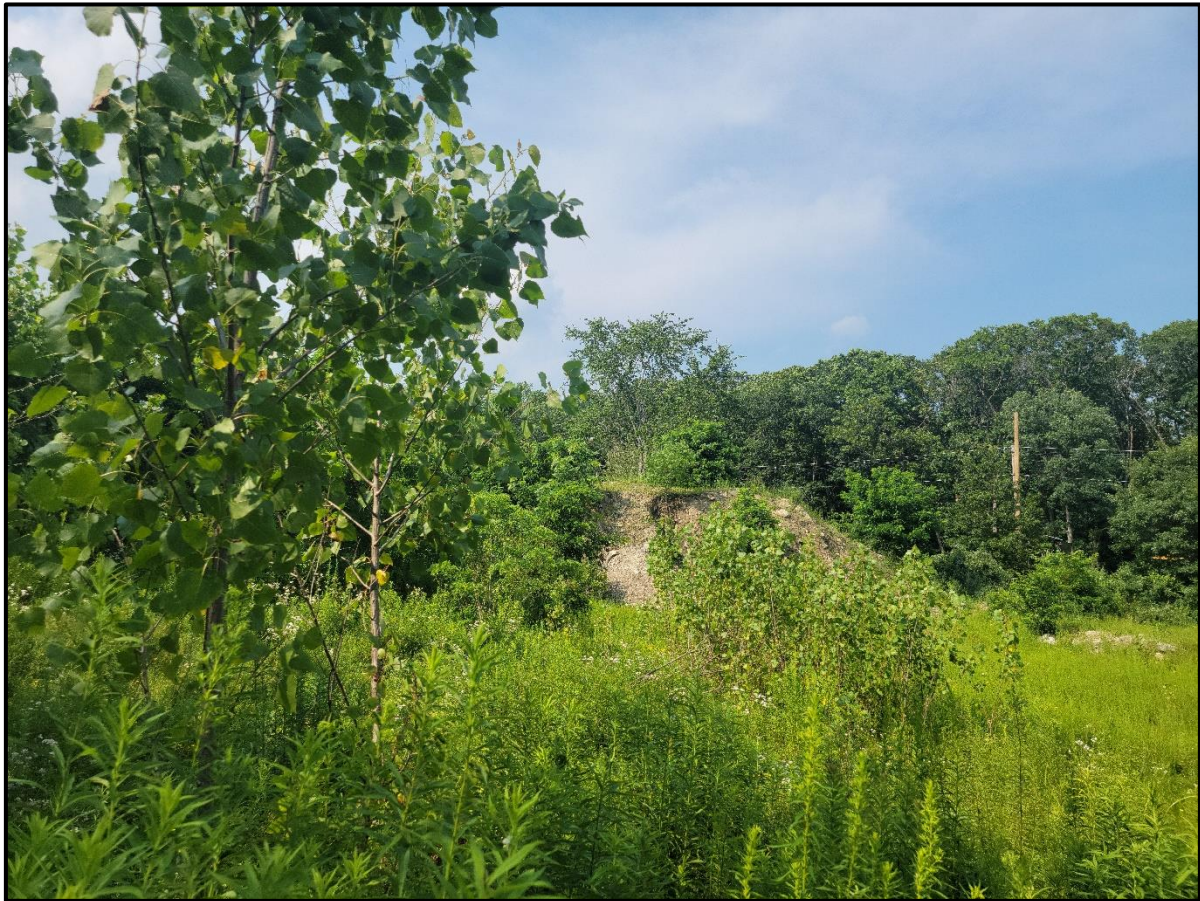


**501 Pond Street, Ashland**  
**Field Photographs, July 6, 2021**



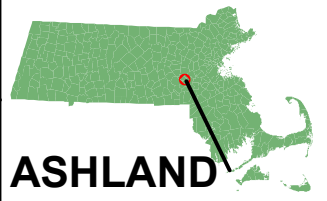
Top and bottom: Views to the east showing compacted mineral soil with aspens, goldenrods and autumn olives.





Top and bottom: Non-native topography due to tailings piles displaced to the site ca. 2015 for construction to the north.

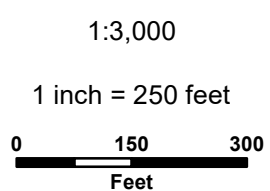




**ASHLAND**

**Legend**

- 501 Pond St. (Parcel B-1)
- WETLANDSDEP\_ARC
- WETLANDSDEP\_POLY



**2001 Orthophotograph  
501 Pond Street  
Ashland, MA**

**September 23, 2021**

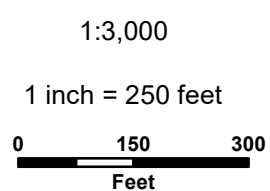
MassGIS





**Legend**

- 501 Pond St. (Parcel B-1)
- WETLANDSDEP\_ARC
- WETLANDSDEP\_POLY



**2019 Orthophotograph**  
**501 Pond Street**  
**Ashland, MA**

**September 23, 2021**

MassGIS