

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared to address the

GREEN ACRES PROGRAM JAKE'S LAW PLAYGROUND FUNDING APPLICATION

For The

Marine Park Improvements
Block: 9, Lots: 5, 5.02, & 5.04

For

The Borough of Red Bank
90 Monmouth Street
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Prepared by:



CONSULTING AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS

1460 Route 9 South, Howell NJ, 07731



Austin Bazuk, Associate Project Manager

January 2025
Our File: 115.RB00202.H01

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

- a. The Borough of Red Bank is proposing improvements to Marine Park including the construction of new plaza areas, a pavilion, an inclusive natural/adventure play area, an event lawn, shade structures, rain gardens, a floating kayak launch, a floating watercraft dock, and an emergency vessel boat lift. These improvements will benefit the surrounding community and park visitors.
- b. The objective of the project is to improve the park and its amenities, enhancing recreational opportunities for the community. The proposed playground aims to focus on inclusion and accessibility, including wheelchair-accessible elevated play areas.
- c. This project is not anticipated to be a multi-phase project.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- a. **Vegetation**

The project site is a partially forested and partially open park. A number of existing trees are present on site throughout the proposed play area and improvements. An open lawn event space is proposed at the location of the existing parking lot off of Wharf Avenue which will convert an existing impervious surface to grass. Some trees will be removed for the installation of the open lawn event space and playground improvements however, all other trees will be preserved where feasible.

- b. **Wildlife**

Based on the NJDEP's GeoWeb Landscape Layer and Natural Heritage Database search results, there is documented foraging habitat for the Black-crowned Night-heron, Bald Eagle, Black Skimmer and Osprey on the site and within the immediate vicinity of the site (refer to *Appendix A: Natural Heritage Database Results*). The project will have no effect on these species because the species are not critically dependent on the area for survival. This work will not destroy, jeopardize, or adversely affect a present or documented habitat for threatened and endangered species and will not jeopardize the continued existence of any local populations.

- c. **Geology, Topography, and Soils**

The project site is located on the Shrewsbury Member with a surficial geology of Upper Stream Terrace Deposits and Salt-Marsh and Estuarine Deposits. The lithology of the Shrewsbury Member consists of quartz sand, fine- to coarse-grained. The lithology of Upper Stream Terrace Deposits consists of sand and pebble gravel, minor silt, and cobble gravel. It is typically yellow, reddish yellow, or yellowish brown. This layer can be up to 20

feet thick. The lithology of Salt-Marsh and Estuarine Deposits consists of silt, sand, peat, clay, and minor pebble gravel. It is typically brown, dark brown, grey, or black. This layer can be up to 100 feet thick.

Existing topographic elevations range from a high point of approximately 30 FT at the southeastern portion of the improvements, to an approximate elevation of 5 FT along the Navesink. In general, the land slopes from south to north.

The USDA Websoil Survey online resource shows the proposed work area to be within an area overlain by Freehold-Urban Land Complex (FrrC) and Freehold Sandy Loam, eroded (FrkE2).

Freehold-Urban Land Complex – 0 to 10 percent slopes and no hydric soil rating. A typical profile consists of 0 to 14 inches of sandy loam, 14 to 21 inches of sandy clay loam, 21 to 35 inches of sandy loam, and 35 to 80 inches of loamy sand.

Freehold Sandy Loam, eroded – 15 to 25 percent slopes and no hydric soil rating. A typical profile consists of 0 to 18 inches of sandy loam, 18 to 25 inches of sandy clay loam, 25 to 35 inches of sandy loam, and 35 to 70 inches of stratified loamy sand to sandy loam.

d. Water Resources/Hydrology

Marine Park lies along the Navesink River. The Navesink River is classified as an SE1 waterway according to the NJDEP (according to the rules found within the Surface Water Quality standards found at N.J.A.C. 7:9B). The site exists upstream, within the same sub-watershed as a Category One water and therefore requires a 300' riparian zone buffer.

The project site is located within the Monmouth Watershed Management Area, the Navesink River / Lower Shrewsbury River Watershed, and the Navesink R (below Rt 35)/Lower Shrewsbury Sub-watershed.

e. Historic/Archaeological Resources

According to the NJDEP's GeoWeb Online GIS Resource, Marine Park is not within an archaeological site grid, historic district, or historic property and will therefore not impact any historic or archaeological resources.

f. Transportation/Access to Site

Marine park currently has two parking lots on site, one along Union Street and one at the end of Wharf Avenue. The lot along Wharf Avenue will be removed for the installation of the open lawn event space, however an HMA driveway and small parking lot is proposed

adjacent to the event lawn. The existing lot along Union Street will provide access to the park going forward. Additionally, there is street parking located along Union Street and Wharf Avenue. The proposed improvements will not impact site access except for temporary impacts during construction.

g. Adjacent land uses/Description of the surrounding neighborhood

The project area is composed entirely of recreational land, all work is to take place within the same area. The park is bounded by the Navesink River to the north, commercial land use to the east and south, and recreational land to the west.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

- a. The proposed project includes the removal of some trees for the play area improvements and construction of the event lawn, however the removal of trees will be avoided as much as possible. In total, twelve (12) trees will be removed for the proposed improvements. This includes seven (7) trees for the construction of the event lawn, adjacent parking lot, and pavilion; four (4) for the adventure/play area and modular seating area, and one (1) for the paver seating area. In addition, the asphalt parking lot along Wharf Avenue will be replaced with maintained lawn for the proposed event space thereby reducing impervious surface onsite.

The proposed improvements are located within the 300 ft riparian zone of the Navesink River. This area is regulated by the NJDEP and any disturbance to vegetation within this area will require compliance with State regulations.

The proposed activity meets the definition of a “major development” as there will be more than 1 acre of land disturbance and more than $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of new impervious surface, and therefore must comply with the Stormwater Management rules at N.J.A.C. 7:8.

- b. Any short-term impacts resulting from the proposed improvements will be those occurring during the construction. These include any disturbances to the riparian zone and changes in ambient noise resulting from construction of the improvements. Access to the park will be impacted temporarily during construction.

Long-term impacts will include an increase in recreational opportunities and access/use of Marine Park. The proposed improvements at Marine Park will not negatively affect water quality. The project improvements include the replacement of the parking lot on the north end of the property with an event lawn, thereby reducing the impervious surface coverage on site and offsetting a majority of the project disturbances.

- c. The goal of the project improvements is to increase recreational opportunities within Marine Park. Therefore, it is anticipated that recreational usage and overall use of the site will increase over time.
- d. Adjacent environmental features that will be impacted include the riparian zone of the Navesink River, of which a majority of the disturbance will be to maintained grass lawn. This will largely be accounted for through the construction of a grass event lawn and the replacement of disturbed vegetation. Compliance is required with the NJDEP and will be reviewed prior to permit issuance.
- e. No permits have been obtained as of the date of this assessment, however an application has been sent to the NJDEP for a CAFRA Individual Permit Major Modification and a Waterfront Development Individual Permit. Given there is an existing CAFRA Individual Permit (DEP File No.: 1340-07-0007.4) which was approved for the parking lot improvements, the additional improvements require a Major Modification to the existing permit. The proposed floating kayak launch, floating watercraft dock, and floating boat lift require work within the Navesink River and therefore, an In-water Waterfront Development Individual Permit is required.
- f. A Natural Heritage Database Report was received on August 28, 2024 for the Marine Park Improvements. According to the Report, there is documented foraging habitat for the Black-crowned Night-heron, Bald Eagle, Black Skimmer and Osprey on the site and within the immediate vicinity of the site (refer to *Appendix A: Natural Heritage Database Results*). The project will have no effect on these species because the species are not critically dependent on the area for survival. This work will not destroy, jeopardize, or adversely affect a present or documented habitat for threatened and endangered species and will not jeopardize the continued existence of any local populations.
- g. Sea level rise is not anticipated to have a major impact on this project. The structures to be constructed at the site will be designed to resist impacts from water and debris during the flood hazard area design flood. The proposed structures will also resist collapse and displacement due to hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces resulting from the flood hazard area design flood in accordance with State regulations.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

- a. No alternative sites were identified for this project due to the goal of the project being to revitalize the park. However, alternative designs were explored for the park.

b. Primary considerations taken for the design of the park improvements included the inclusion of passive recreational activities while preserving open space, reducing erosion and minimizing the impacts of future storm surges, and providing water access for kayaks. Three concepts were proposed for the Marine Park Improvements, each of which included the similar improvements with different layouts.

Concept 1 proposed a skate park and playground on the western side of the park at the location of one of the existing parking lots with picnic lawns and meadows located in the center area of the park.

Concept 2 proposed a skate park and tennis courts on the western side of the park at the location of one of the existing parking lots with the playground located in the center of the park between the lawns and meadows and adjacent to the existing bathrooms.

Concept 3 proposed basketball courts and tennis courts on the western side of the park at the location of one of the existing parking lots with the playground located between the lawn and meadows and an overlook plaza dividing it. This concept eliminated the parking lot on the eastern side of the site.

Ultimately, the chosen design was based on the master plan which merged ideas from each of the concepts while emphasizing open space with a sizeable event lawn, relocating parking away from the water's edge and improving the lot at the western side of the site, providing water access, providing a play area closer to the restrooms, and preserving as many large trees as possible.

c. The three concept alternatives do not differ significantly in proposed environmental impacts. Concepts 1 and 2 would result in increased impervious cover from the proposed parking area on the eastern portion of the site and recreational facilities at the western side of the park at the location of one of the existing parking lots. Riparian zone impacts would be similar for each concept plan due to similar proposed improvements, however the chosen concept compensates for riparian zone disturbance due to the event lawn proposed to replace the parking lot on the eastern end of the park.

MITIGATING MEASURES

Measures will be taken to mitigate for any adverse impacts to the project site. Tree protection and selective removal will be utilized during design and construction phases to minimize impacts to existing trees onsite. Riparian zone disturbance will be limited to the greatest extent possible. The creation of a grass lawn event space will offset some of the disturbance to the riparian zone and reduce impervious coverage on site. Floating docks will reduce disturbances resulting from in-water work.



AUTHORS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Austin Bazuk, Associate Project Manager, CME Associates.
- Haley Wilmot, Associate Scientist, CME Associates.



REFERENCES

Kummel, H.B. (1940) The Geology of New Jersey; Department of Conservation and Development, State of New Jersey.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (July 2023) Stormwater Best Management Practices Manual.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (August 2023) Surface Water Quality Standards, N.J.A.C. 7:9B.

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (July 2023) Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules, N.J.A.C. 7:13.

NJDEP-GeoWeb3.0. State of New Jersey. <<https://www.nj.gov/dep/gis/geoweb3.0.htm>>



Appendix A: Map Graphics



LOCATION MAP
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Union Street
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Red Bank
BLOCK: 9 **LOTS:** 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00504.H01

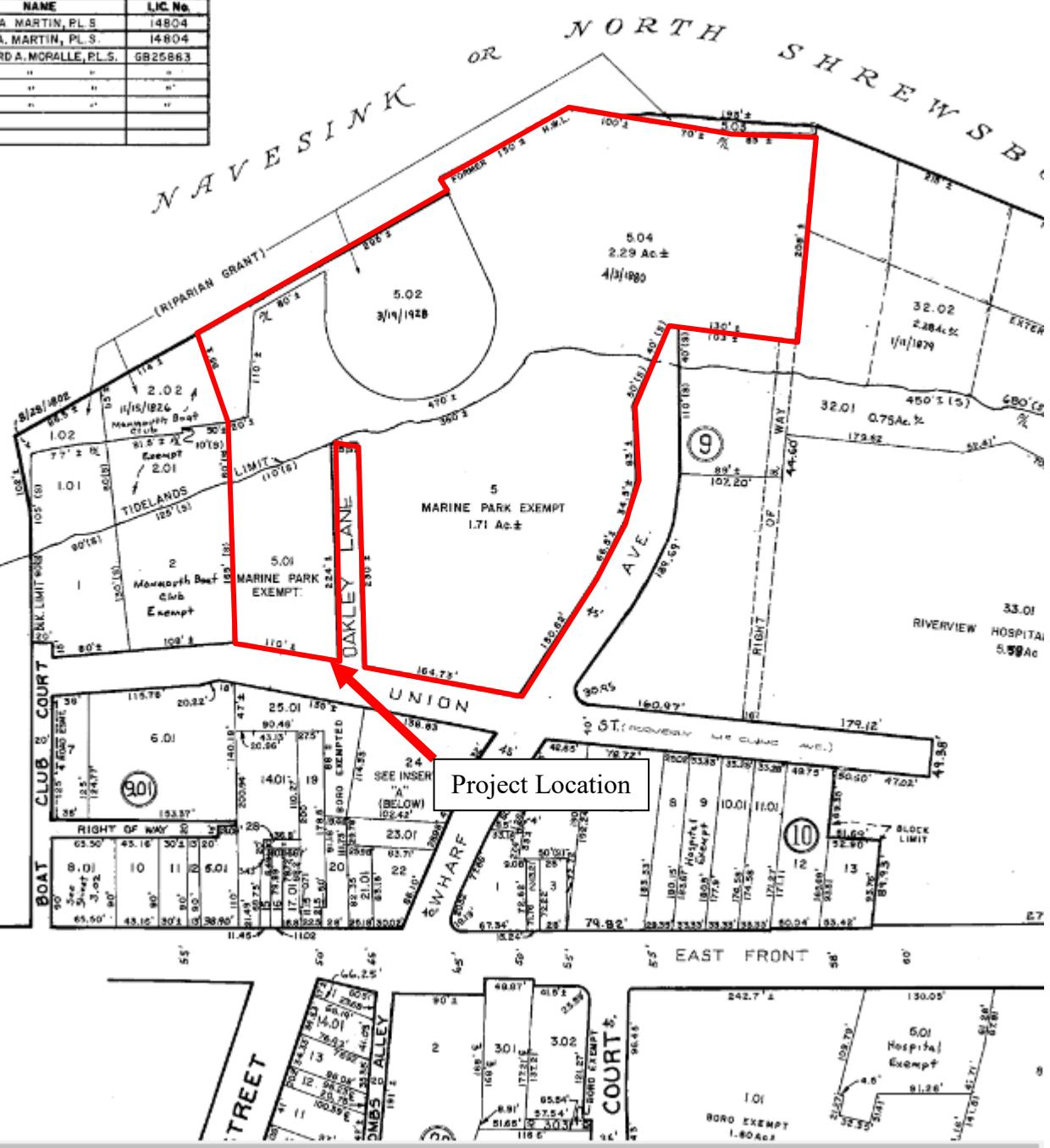


CONSULTING AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS

3141 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, PARLIN, NEW JERSEY 08869 — 1460 ROUTE 9 SOUTH, HOWELL, NEW JERSEY 07731

REVISIONS

DATE	NAME	LIC. No.
12-3-87	JOHN A. MARTIN, P.L.S.	14804
2-29-88	JOHN A. MARTIN, P.L.S.	14804
11-30-06	RICHARD A. MORALLE, P.L.S.	GB25863
07-31-11	"	"
12-31-12	"	"
05-31-14	"	"

SHEET 2

TAX MAP

Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Union Street

MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Red Bank

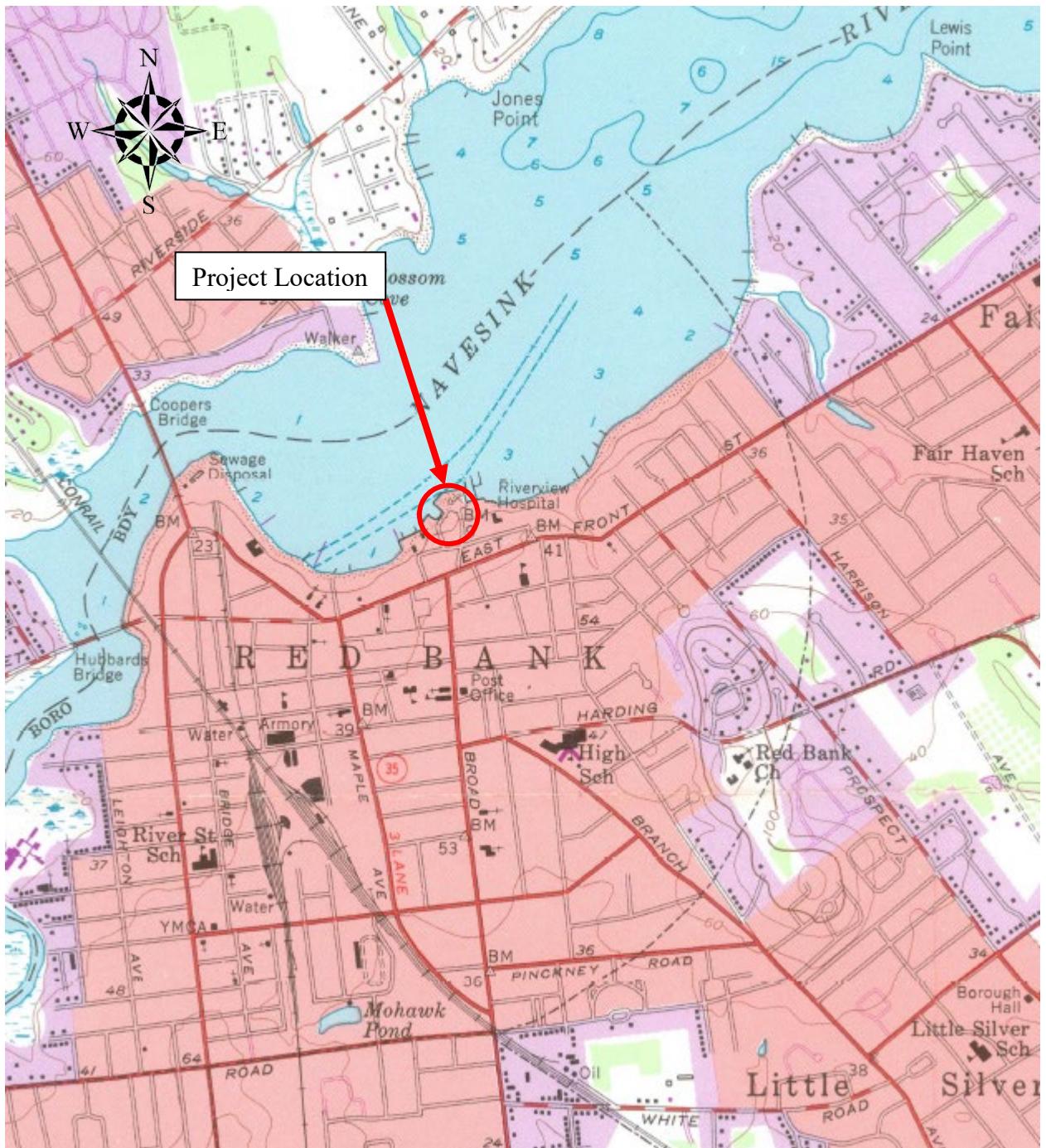
BLOCK: 9 **LOTS:** 5, 5.02 & 5.04

COUNTY: Monmouth County

FILE NO: 115.RB00504.H01


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USGS QUAD MAP
Marine Park Improvements

SHEET: Long Branch Quadrangle
LOCATION: Union St.

MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Red Bank

BLOCK: 9 **LOTS:** 5, 5.02 & 5.04

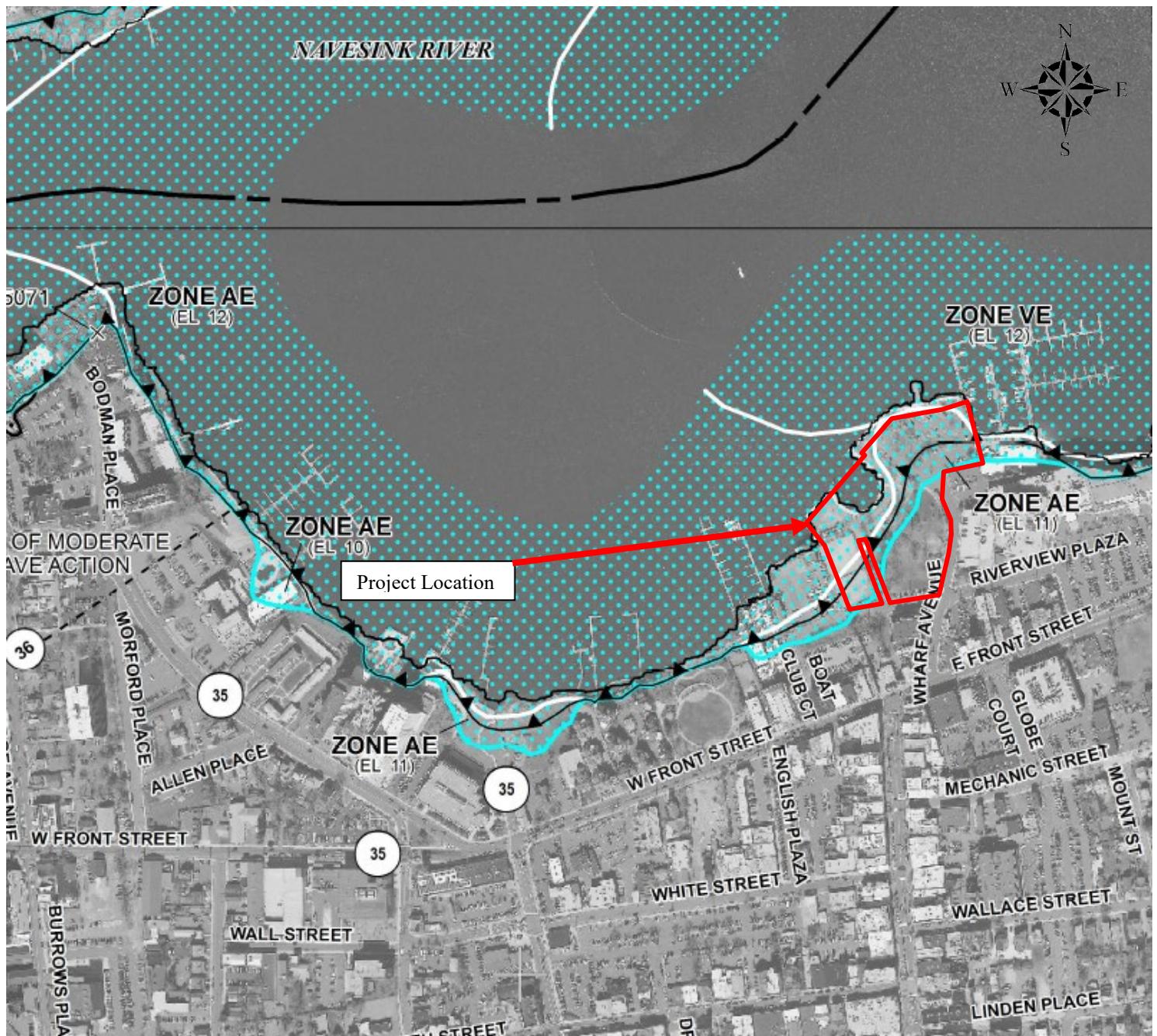
COUNTY: Monmouth County

FILE NO: 115.RB00504.H01



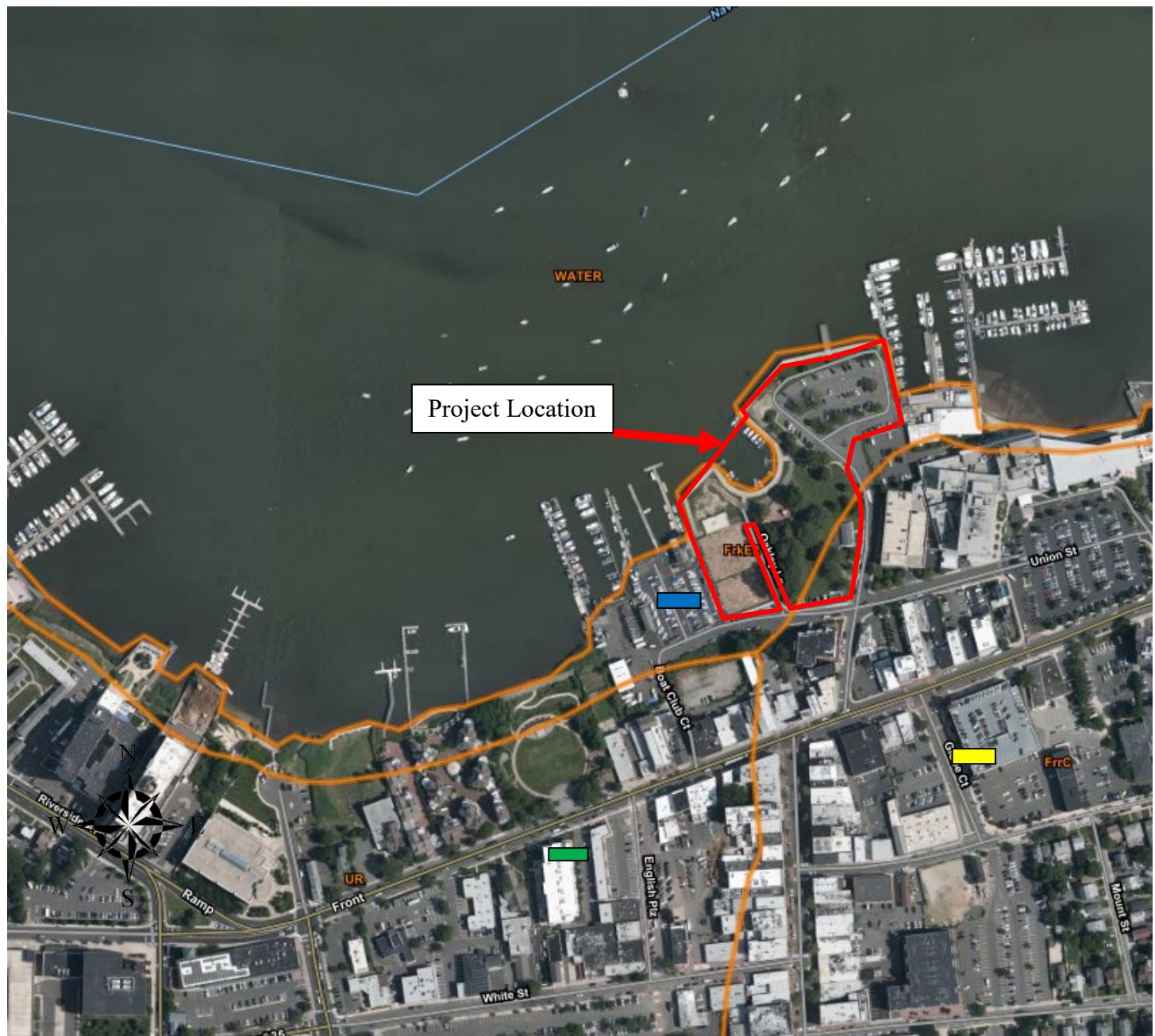
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FEMA MAP
Marine Park Improvements

PANEL: 177G
LOCATION: Union Street
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Red Bank
BLOCK: 9 LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00504.H01



SOIL SURVEY MAP

Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Union Street

MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Red Bank

BLOCK: 9 **LOTS:** 5, 5.02 & 5.04

COUNTY: Monmouth County

FILE NO: 115.RB00504.H01



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Appendix B: Site Photographs



PHOTO LOCATION MAP
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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VIEW A

Viewing west from the eastern side of the parking lot.



VIEW B

Viewing east from the western side of the parking lot.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
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VIEW C

Viewing southwest by the marina towards the proposed playground.



VIEW D

Viewing southeast along the existing walkway.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

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COUNTY: Monmouth County
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VIEW E

Viewing south towards the existing playground.



VIEW F

Viewing northeast at the marina.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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VIEW G

Viewing north along the marina.



VIEW H

Viewing northeast from the northwestern corner of the park towards the marina.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
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VIEW I

Viewing southeast towards the new parking lot.



VIEW J

Viewing southeast along the existing walkway.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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VIEW K

Viewing north towards the marina.



VIEW L

Viewing east along Union Street towards Wharf Avenue.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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VIEW M

Viewing northeast along Wharf Avenue towards the restrooms.



VIEW N

Viewing north near the restrooms along Wharf Avenue towards the eastern parking lot.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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VIEW O

Viewing northwest near the restrooms towards the playground and western parking lot.



VIEW P

Viewing northwest along Wharf Ave towards the marina.



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS Marine Park Improvements

LOCATION: Marine Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank
BLOCK: 9
LOTS: 5, 5.02 & 5.04
COUNTY: Monmouth County
FILE NO: 115.RB00202.H01



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Appendix C: Natural Heritage Database Results



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

STATE PARKS, FORESTS & HISTORIC SITES

OFFICE OF NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

501 East State Street

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 501-04

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420

Tel. (609) 984-1339 * Fax (609) 984-1427

<https://www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/index.html>

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHAWN M. LATOURETTE

Commissioner

TAHESHA L. WAY

Lt. Governor

August 28, 2024

Rachel Boyce
CME Associates
1460 Route 9 South
Howell, NJ 07731

Re: Marine Park Improvements
Block(s) - 9, Lot(s) - 5, 5.02 & 5.04
Red Bank Borough, Monmouth County

Dear Ms. Boyce:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site.

Searches of the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project (Version 3.3) are based on a representation of the boundaries of your project site in our Geographic Information System (GIS). We make every effort to accurately transfer your project bounds from the map(s) submitted with the Natural Heritage Data Request Form into our GIS. We do not typically verify that your project bounds are accurate, or check them against other sources.

We have checked the Landscape Project habitat mapping and the Biotics Database for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat on the referenced site. The Natural Heritage Database was searched for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities that may be on the project site. Please refer to Table 1 (attached) to determine if any rare plant species, ecological communities, or rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat are documented on site. A detailed report is provided for each category coded as 'Yes' in Table 1.

We have also checked the Landscape Project habitat mapping and Biotics Database for occurrences of rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat in the immediate vicinity (within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile) of the referenced site. Additionally, the Natural Heritage Database was checked for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the site. Please refer to Table 2 (attached) to determine if any rare plant species, ecological communities, or rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat are documented within the immediate vicinity of the site. Detailed reports are provided for all categories coded as 'Yes' in Table 2. These reports may include species that have also been documented on the project site.

The Natural Heritage Program reviews its data periodically to identify priority sites for natural diversity in the State. Included as priority sites are some of the State's best habitats for rare and endangered species and ecological communities. Please refer to Tables 1 and 2 (attached) to determine if any priority sites are located on or in the immediate vicinity of the site.

A list of rare plant species and ecological communities that have been documented from the county (or counties), referenced above, can be downloaded from <https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/database.html>. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, the species in that list have potential to be present.

Status and rank codes used in the tables and lists are defined in EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS, which can be downloaded from https://nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/docs/nhpcodes_2010.pdf.

Beginning May 9, 2017, the Natural Heritage Program reports for wildlife species will utilize data from Landscape Project Version 3.3. If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend that you visit the interactive web application at the following URL, <https://njdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0e6a44098c524ed99bf739953cb4d4c7>, or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program at (609) 292-9400.

For additional information regarding any Federally listed plant or animal species, please contact the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, New Jersey Field Office at <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/njfieldoffice/endangered/consultation.html>.

Information supplied by the Natural Heritage Program summarizes existing data known to the program at the time of the request regarding the biological elements (species and/or ecological communities) or their locations. They should never be regarded as final statements on the elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments.

Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. The attached invoice details the payment due for processing this data request. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Cartica
Administrator

c: NHP File No. 24-4007338-31112

Table 1: On Site Data Request Search Results (6 Possible Reports)

<u>Report Name</u>	<u>Included</u>	<u>Number of Pages</u>
1. Possibly on Project Site Based on Search of Natural Heritage Database: Rare Plant Species and Ecological Communities Currently Recorded in the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database	No	0 pages included
2. Natural Heritage Priority Sites On Site	No	0 pages included
3. Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat on the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3 Species Based Patches	Yes	1 page(s) included
4. Vernal Pool Habitat on the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3	No	0 pages included
5. Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat on the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3 Stream Habitat File	No	0 pages included
6. Other Animal Species On the Project Site Based on Additional Species Tracked by Endangered and Nongame Species Program	No	0 pages included

**Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat on the
Project Site Based on Search of
Landscape Project 3.3 Species Based Patches**

Class	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feature Type	Rank	Federal Protection Status	State Protection Status	Grank	Srank
Aves								
	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Foraging	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S2N
	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S3N
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,S4N
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S4N

Table 2: Vicinity Data Request Search Results (6 possible reports)

<u>Report Name</u>	<u>Included</u>	<u>Number of Pages</u>
1. Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Search of Natural Heritage Database: Rare Plant Species and Ecological Communities Currently Recorded in the New Jersey Natural Heritage Database	No	0 pages included
2. Natural Heritage Priority Sites within the Immediate Vicinity	No	0 pages included
3. Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat Within the Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3 Species Based Patches	Yes	1 page(s) included
4. Vernal Pool Habitat In the Immediate Vicinity of Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3	No	0 pages included
5. Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat In the Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Search of Landscape Project 3.3 Stream Habitat File	No	0 pages included
6. Other Animal Species In the Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Additional Species Tracked by Endangered and Nongame Species Program	No	0 pages included

**Rare Wildlife Species or Wildlife Habitat Within the
Immediate Vicinity of the Project Site Based on Search of
Landscape Project 3.3 Species Based Patches**

Class	Common Name	Scientific Name	Feature Type	Rank	Federal Protection Status	State Protection Status	Grank	Srank
Aves								
	Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Foraging	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S2N
	Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Foraging	4	NA	State Endangered	G5	S1B,S1N
	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S3N
	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,S4N
	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Foraging	3	NA	State Threatened	G5	S2B,S4N