

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

for:

**PROPOSED SOUTH BRANCH of
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
BLOCK 37.02, LOT 12.01
64 CLOVER PLACE
FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

Owner/Co-Applicant:

Franklin Township
475 DeMott Lane
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Applicant:

Franklin Township Public Library
c/o January Adams, Director of Library Services
Franklin Township Public Library
485 DeMott Lane
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Agent:

The Reynolds Group, Inc.
575 Route 28
Suite 110
Raritan, New Jersey 08869
TRG No. 20-002

July 2021

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I. INTRODUCTION

Franklin Township requires preparation and submission of an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of the overall approval process for preliminary and final site plan approval. As such, this EA has generally been prepared in accordance with the Township's Land Development ordinances, specifically, Article XXV – Environmental and Historic Resources, Section 112-199 – Requirements for Environmental Assessment. Qualifications and Preparers of this EA is presented in Appendix D.

A. Project Location

The Franklin Township Public Library project is proposed to be located on a section of existing Block 37.02, Lot 12 (owned by Franklin Township) from which approximately 2.24 acres will be subdivided and identified as Lot 12.01 – the southern section of existing Lot 12, fronting Baylor Street.

B. Project Description/Site Plan

The project proposes to construct a 5583 square-foot library building on the western side of Lot 12.01 as well as a 36-space parking lot (includes two handicap spaces) on the eastern side of the Lot. Various concrete sidewalks are proposed, including one that will provide access between the proposed library and the adjacent Franklin Park School. Access is proposed to be from Baylor Street via two asphalt-paved driveways (one for ingress and the second for egress). Two rain gardens and one bioretention basin are also proposed and will address runoff from proposed impervious surfaces, as required (see the Stormwater Impact Report, also prepared by The Reynolds Group and submitted in support of the project, for all details regarding stormwater).

Additional documentation regarding the proposed project will be provided by the Applicant's professionals during the public hearing(s).

II. EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

A. Natural Resources

1. Geology/Soils

The Township of Franklin, Somerset County is located within the Piedmont Province of New Jersey. The section of the Piedmont Province in which the project is located is underlain with Triassic sandstone, shale, siltstone, and conglomerate. They are between 230 to 190 million years old. They rest on a large, elongate crustal block that dropped downward in the initial stages of the opening of the Atlantic Ocean. These down-dropped blocks formed valleys known as rift basins. Sediment eroded from the adjacent uplands was deposited along rivers and in lakes within the basins. These sediments became compacted and cemented to form conglomerate, sandstone, siltstone, and shale. They commonly have a distinctive reddish-brown color.

The aquifer system located beneath Franklin Township is primarily associated with the Non-coastal Plain Aquifer System. The principal aquifers are associated with the glacial valley-fill deposits, the fractured shale and sandstone units of the Newark Group, the Valley and Ridge sedimentary units, and the weathered and fractured shale zones of the Highlands crystalline unit. In Franklin Township, Somerset County, underlying aquifers are associated with the Newark Group aquifers. These aquifers are locally important and are commonly interconnected with surface water resources in most New Jersey public water-supply systems.

According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Web Soil Survey, soil data for Somerset County, the following soil types underlie the subject property:

Map Unit: BhnB—Birdsboro silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes

Component: Birdsboro (85%)

The Birdsboro component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 2 to 6 percent. This component is on stream terraces on piedmonts. The parent material consists of old alluvium derived from sandstone and siltstone and/or shale. Depth to a root restrictive layer is greater than 60 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is high. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 2e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Component: Raritan, rarely flooded (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Raritan, rarely flooded soil is a minor component.

Component: Bucks (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Bucks soil is a minor component.

Component: Duffield (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Duffield soil is a minor component.

Map Unit: PeoB—Penn channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes

Component: Penn (85%)

The Penn component makes up 85 percent of the map unit. Slopes are 2 to 6 percent. This component is on hills on piedmonts. The parent material consists of fine-loamy residuum weathered from acid reddish shale, siltstone, and fine-grain sandstone. Depth to a root restrictive layer, bedrock, lithic, is 20 to 39 inches. The natural drainage class is well drained. Water movement in the most restrictive layer is moderately high. Available water to a depth of 60 inches (or restricted depth) is low. Shrink-swell potential is low. This soil is not flooded. It is not ponded. There is no zone of water saturation within a depth of 72 inches. Organic matter content in the surface horizon is about 3 percent. Nonirrigated land capability classification is 2e. This soil does not meet hydric criteria.

Component: Klinesville (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Klinesville soil is a minor component.

Component: Reaville (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Reaville soil is a minor component.

Component: Bucks (5%)

Generated brief soil descriptions are created for major soil components. The Bucks soil is a minor component.

2. Topography

The subject property is relatively flat with steepest on-site slopes only approaching approximately 2.5 percent. There are no unique landforms (i.e. rock outcrops, ledges, cliffs) located on the property.

The proposed subdivision was designed to minimize on-site changes in elevations to the extent possible for purpose of balancing cut and fill and eliminating the need to import fill or export excavated material.

3. Surface Water Resources

According to the NJDEP's GIS databases, there are no surface water resources located on the subject property. Closest mapped watercourse is identified as a Nine Mile Run UNT, located approximately 550 feet to the southwest, at its closest point to the subject property. It is classified as FW2-NTC2.

The subject property is located in the Millstone River (below/incl Carnegie Lk) and the Sixmile Run (above Middlebush Rd) sub-watershed.

a. Wetlands

The NJDEP Division of Land Use Regulation issued a Letter of Interpretation – Presence/Absence Determination (LOI). The LOI is dated July 31, 2019 and remains valid through July 30, 2024. Based on the documentation submitted as part of the application and pursuant to the NJDEP's site inspection, freshwater wetlands nor waters are located on the subject property and no part of the subject property is located within a transition area (buffer). A copy of the LOI is provided in Appendix B.

b. Floodplains

Pursuant to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), no portion of the subject property is located within a floodplain area, within a New Jersey Flood Hazard Area, or within a riparian zone.

4. Groundwater Resources

According to the United States Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2325 entitled *National Water Summary 1986 - Ground Water Quality: New Jersey*, New Jersey aquifers are classified into two groups - Coastal Plain aquifers and non-coastal plain aquifers. That portion of Franklin Township in which the proposed project is located is above non-coastal plain aquifers, specifically those associated with aquifers in the Newark Group.

Aquifers within the Newark Group are comprised of fractured shale and sandstone units. This aquifer system is generally interconnected with surface water sources (i.e. streams, ponds, wetlands). Aquifer recharge occurs as direct precipitation and seepage from surface waters. Specifically, the project site is underlain with red shale and sandstone associated with the Brunswick Formation, the most important aquifer in the Triassic Basin.

Although there are no specific studies regarding recharge areas, local flow systems are typically recharged at higher elevations (topographically) and discharge at low areas. Within the project site, the naturally vegetated upland areas containing no impervious surfaces are likely well-suited to recharge. Due to lack of any on-site improvements/impervious surfaces, the majority of the site is likely suitable for aquifer recharge. Generally, recharge is nearly entirely from precipitation within the aquifer basins.

According to studies done for the Township's Master Plan, the project site is underlain by the Passaic Formation / Passaic Formation gray formation.

Proposed new impervious surfaces associated with the proposed project will affect pre-construction groundwater recharge. For purpose of compensating for the decreased recharge, some of the runoff generated by the proposed project will be infiltrated. An infiltration basin is proposed to be constructed as part of the project. Refer to the Stormwater Impact Report, prepared by The Reynolds Group and submitted (under separate cover) in support of the proposed project for details pertaining to recharge.

5. Vegetation

Lot 12.01 (and the remainder of Lot 12) is currently unimproved and naturally vegetated. It had appeared to once be forested; however, a significant number of trees were observed to be either blown over or in poor condition as well as being overgrown with grape. Trees did appear to be in slightly better condition along the western edge of the subject property. Tree species characterizing the property included sassafras, black cherry, white mulberry, Norway maple, box elder, white ash, tree-of-heaven, black walnut, pin oak, staghorn sumac, and red cedar. The limited shrub layer was predominantly comprised of Russian olive and multiflora rose. Emergent species included common milkweed, Indian hemp, mugwort, garlic mustard, and Japanese stiltgrass.

a. Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the NJDEP, Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of Natural Lands Management, Natural Heritage Program (NHP)/Landscape Project correspondence dated April 9, 2020 (Appendix C), no rare plants, ecological communities, Natural Heritage Priority sites, or vernal pool habitat were reported to be located on or within the immediate vicinity of the project site.

6. Wildlife

Given its pre-subdivision size and the condition of the vegetation associated with it, in conjunction with its location within a relatively densely-developed section of the Township in which it is located, species diversity and population numbers can be expected to be relatively low. White-tailed deer, raccoon, opossum, red fox, skunk, gray squirrel, and eastern chipmunks as well as a number of smaller rodents (i.e. mice and voles) could reasonably be expected to utilize the subject property; however, most would likely be transient. The number of avian species utilizing the subject property likely fluctuates with migration but it is expected that a number of common species utilize the on-site habitats yearly for foraging, nesting, and cover.

a. Threatened and Endangered Species

According to the documentation provided by the NHP/Landscape Project, dated April 9, 2020, with exception of the Great Blue Heron (Foraging - Special Concern), no rare (threatened or endangered) species were reported to be located on or in the immediate vicinity of the subject property. Regarding great blue herons, because there are no wetlands or waters located on or adjacent to the subject property, great blue heron foraging habitat cannot then be located on or adjacent to the subject property.

B. Man-made Resources

1. Existing Land Use

As previously referenced, the subject property is unimproved excepting for a section of Baylor Street (a non-dedicated roadway) and characterized by upland forest.

2. Zoning

The subject property is located in the R-20 – Single-family Residential District. The Owner/Applicants believe that the proposed library is a permitted use within the R-20 District. Additional documentation regarding zoning and compliance with same will be provided by the Applicant’s professionals during the public hearing(s), as required.

3. Master Plan Delineation

The site is located within Planning Sector 2, according to the 2006 Master Plan. Pursuant to review of the NJDEP’s GIS databases, the subject property is located in Planning Area 2 (Suburban).

4. Community Facilities and Utilities

The Franklin Township Administrative Offices, Police Department, and Public Library are all housed in the municipal complex on DeMott Lane in Middlebush, with the exception of the Department of Health, Department of Social Services/Welfare, and the Department of Parks and Recreation. These Departments are located more centrally to the most heavily populated portion of the Township.

The Township is served by ten volunteer fire companies. These are administered in four fire districts. The project site is located nearest to the Franklin Park Fire Company, located to the south.

Regarding utility service, water, sewer, gas, and electric service exits within Clover Place and will be routed into the subject property to the proposed new library building as illustrated on the Utility Plan (Sheet 5).

Storm Sewer

Stormwater runoff generated on-site will be collected and conveyed to the two proposed rain gardens as well as a bioretention basin before ultimately be conveyed into the storm sewer system located in Baylor Street and the adjacent Franklin Park School. Refer to the Stormwater Impact Report prepared by The Reynolds Group, Inc. (submitted in support of the proposed project under separate cover) for details regarding on-site drainage.

Additional documentation regarding utility service will be provided by the Applicant's professionals during the public hearing(s), as required.

5. Cultural Resources

Pursuant to review of the NJDEP's GIS databases, the subject property is not listed as a historic property nor is it mapped as being located within a historic district. Neither historic properties nor historic districts are mapped as being located adjacent or proximate to the subject property. Neither the subject nor area properties are identified as being located within a mapped historic archaeological grid site.

6. Pollution Problems

Under present conditions, no readily-observable signs of issues with on-site polluted/contaminated areas were observed to be located on-site, which is currently unimproved. According the NJDEP's GIS databases, the subject property is not identified as a Registered Underground Storage Tank (UST) facility nor is identified as being listed on the Known Contaminated Sites List (KCSL). There are no areas of historic fill, deed noticed areas, or groundwater contaminated areas located on or proximate to the subject property.

Based on the above, construction of the proposed project would not be affected by or exacerbate any issue with pollution or contamination. Because the project proposes a public library, it would not result in the introduction of a land use (i.e. industrial / research) that has the potential to adversely affect the subject or adjacent properties.

III. REQUIRED APPROVALS

The following licenses, permits, and approvals are required:

STATE

NJDEP DLUR Letter of Interpretation Regulatory Presence/Absence Determination – issued;

COUNTY

Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District - pending
Somerset County Planning Board - pending

MUNICIPAL

Franklin Township Planning Board – in progress
Franklin Township Sewerage Authority - pending

IV. ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL/CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

1. Soils/Water Quality

Impacts to water quality as the result of construction of any proposed project can consist of temporary and permanent impacts. Temporary impacts are those that occur during construction and include soil erosion and sedimentation/siltation. Permanent impacts include runoff generated from impervious surfaces constructed as part of any proposed project.

Because the project results in more than 5000 square feet of overall land disturbance, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification is required and will be obtained from the Somerset-Union SCD. During construction of the proposed project, measures would be undertaken, such as the installation of silt fencing and/or staked hay-bales, around the limits of construction to preclude the off-site transport of soil by stormwater runoff during construction.

Runoff generated on-site by the proposed project will be managed for both quantity and quality control in accordance with the Stormwater Management Regulations. Refer to the Stormwater Impact Report prepared by The Reynolds Group, Inc. (submitted in support of the proposed project under separate cover) for details regarding on-site drainage.

a. Wetlands

As there are no wetlands, waters, or transition areas located on the subject property, none will be adversely impacted.

b. Floodplains

As there are no streams, rivers, lakes, or ponds or floodplain areas located on the subject property, none will be adversely impacted. No part of the subject property or proposed project are located within a riparian zone.

2. Air Quality

Impacts to air quality as the result of construction of any proposed project can consist of temporary and permanent impacts. Temporary impacts are those that occur during construction and include increased particulates (dust). Permanent impacts include increases of particulates and emissions generated from daily operations of a proposed project.

During construction of the proposed project, an increase of dust may result, however any increase would be temporary and dust levels would recede to normal upon completion of construction.

Because the project does not involve manufacturing processes (i.e. commercial or industrial uses) no stationary emissions associated with the manufacturing process will be discharged to the outside environment. Discharge of emissions associated with on-site operations will be associated with vehicular traffic that would use the proposed facility.

3. Noise

Impacts to the noise environment as a result of construction of any proposed project can consist of temporary and permanent impacts. Temporary impacts are those that occur during construction and include increased noise associated with the operation of construction machinery.

Permanent impacts include an overall increase in ambient noise over existing as a result of daily operations of a proposed project.

Increases in noise levels would be experienced during construction of this proposed project, however these increases would be temporary and would revert to normal upon completion of construction.

Once constructed, noise associated with the project would revert back to passenger vehicles visiting the proposed library.

4. Vegetation and Wildlife

Regarding vegetation, as part of the proposed project, nearly all of the existing vegetation will be cleared.

Anytime areas of natural vegetation are removed from the landscape and converted to other uses, be it either for relatively passive land uses (i.e. parks, recreational facilities (athletic fields) and even agricultural uses) or for more intensive land use (residential, commercial, industrial uses), certain parts of an areas wildlife population will experience a permanent decrease (mortality) in size. A common misconception is that displaced species will relocate to off-site areas containing similar pre-construction habitat(s) – an idea that is often used to “soften” the impacts to wildlife resulting from a proposed development. Fact is, those off-site habitats are likely at carrying capacity. As such, as it pertains to the proposed project, loss of some of the on-site wooded areas represents a loss of cover (all wildlife species) and nesting habitat (avian species) as well as a source of food (primarily smaller mammals and avian species).

Conversion of large areas of naturally-vegetated areas generally result in significant impacts. Impacts to wildlife realized by the project is not expected to be significant; however, given the relatively small size of the area impacted and the condition of the habitat. Notwithstanding the issues documented above, some of the displaced species may have the opportunity to be absorbed into the larger naturally-vegetated areas located proximate to the subject property. In addition, species installed as part of the proposed Landscape Plan will increase species diversity that includes a number of evergreens that will provide cover and breeding (avian species) and trees/shrubs that will provide a variety of food sources.

Because there are no rare species (plant or animal) located on-site, none would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

5. Undesirable Land Use Patterns

It is expected that the proposed project will not result in the introduction of undesirable land use patterns to the section of Franklin Township in which it is proposed to be located. The proposed new library does not introduce a use that is atypical of the

surrounding area (it would be located adjacent to the existing Franklin Park School. It also represents a relatively low-impact use that is not expected to adversely impact the adjacent residential land use.

6. Aesthetics

Aesthetics associated with the proposed project will be consistent and in-kind with area land use, particularly the adjacent Franklin Park School. In addition, the project will be screened/buffered from adjacent residential land use via the proposed Landscape Plan.

7. Displacement of People/Business

The proposed project will not result in the displacement of people or business, as none are currently located on-site.

8. Displacement of Viable Farms

The proposed project does not result in the displacement of a viable farm. As previously noted, the subject property is forested and does not contain any agricultural fields or structures (i.e. barns, silo's).

9. Destruction of Man-made Resources

As previously indicated, the subject property is unimproved excepting for a section of Baylor Street (a non-dedicated roadway) and characterized by upland forest. That section of Baylor Street located on-site is proposed to be left in place with two small sections of curb removed to provide for the proposed access drives.

10. Disruption of Desirable Community and Regional Growth

It is expected that the proposed project would not result in the disruption of desirable community and regional growth. Similar to Section No. 5 above, the proposed new library does not introduce a use that is atypical of the surrounding area (it would be located adjacent to the Franklin Park School. It also represents a relatively low-impact use that is not expected to adversely impact the adjacent residential land use.

11. Traffic

Refer to the Traffic Report, prepared by Hamal Associates, Inc., submitted as part of the application for details regarding traffic associated with the project.

12. Health, Safety, and Well-being of the Public

Health, safety and well-being of the public would not be adversely impacted as a result of construction and operation of the proposed project. It is expected that all areas of construction will be fenced and gated so that those areas are kept separate from the public. Further, during construction, safety measures will be implemented (i.e. orange plastic safety fence) to ensure safety of both employees and passers-by.

The proposed library use is a low-impact use in that it does not represent a commercial or industrial use that could typically have activities associated with them that could be construed to represent adverse impacts on the surrounding neighborhood (i.e. use of heavy machinery / significant truck traffic).

13. Employment and Property Tax

The project may result in some employment opportunities within the Township. It is not expected to have an adverse impact on property taxes as would a proposed residential

subdivision (according to a Rutgers University study, every acre of Somerset County converted to residential uses costs tax payers an average \$10,084.00 per year in municipal services on a perpetual basis).

V. PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

No real project alternatives analysis was completed as part of the development process wherein the typical no-build, reduction in scope, or alternative site(s) were vetted as would be required for larger residential subdivisions, commercial, or industrial complex projects that might result in any number of adverse impacts to the natural and/or man-made environments. The proposed library represents a relatively small public use project that, via the documentation provided in this EA has no significant impacts to either the natural and/or man-made environments.

VI. METHODS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Methods to minimize adverse impacts pertain to both temporary (construction) and permanent impacts. Methods employed to minimize adverse impacts include but are not limited to the following:

VEGETATION

As previously indicated, as part of the proposed project, nearly all of the existing vegetation will be cleared; however, a significant number of trees were observed to be either blown over or in poor condition as well as being overgrown with grape. Species installed as part of the proposed Landscape Plan will increase species diversity that includes a number of evergreens that will screen/buffer the proposed library from adjacent residential uses as well as numerous shade/ornamental trees that represent replacements for those removed as part of the proposed project.

WILDLIFE

As previously indicated, adverse impacts to area wildlife resources are expected to be minimized to the extent possible, as follows:

- Species installed as part of the proposed Landscape Plan will increase species diversity that includes a number of evergreens that will provide cover and breeding (avian species) and trees/shrubs that will provide a variety of food sources;
- Larger, higher quality habitats are located proximate to the subject property. These habitats will not be affected by the proposed project.

WATER QUALITY

Implementation of the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to reduce impacts to adjacent properties and areas on-site proposed to remain in their pre-subdivision existing condition. This includes the installation of silt fencing and/or staked hay-bales around the limits of construction.

Potential contamination of groundwater could possibly occur as a result of leaking construction equipment and/or accidental spills. Proper maintenance procedures on the construction site would avoid most leaks and mishaps. Any spills (oil, gasoline, brake fluid, transmission fluid, etc.) would be contained immediately and disposed of properly, off-site, in accordance with State (NJDEP) and Federal (USEPA) protocol.

As part of the Stormwater Management Plan, the State's criteria for addressing water quality, under the Best Management Practices (BMP) regulations, has been satisfied.

AIR QUALITY

The application of various control measures during construction activities would be employed in order to minimize the amount of construction dust generated. These measures would include applying water or other suitable moisture-retaining agents on temporary on-site dirt roads, covering haul trucks carrying loose material, or treating materials likely to become airborne and contribute to air pollution if left untreated.

To minimize the amount of emissions generated, maintenance and protection of traffic patterns would be implemented during construction to limit disruption of traffic and to ensure that adequate roadway capacity is available to general traffic during peak periods.

NOISE

Methods to control the temporary increase in ambient noise generated during construction includes ensuring that construction equipment and motor vehicles meet specified noise emissions standards, construction activities be limited to times permitted by Township ordinance, and that construction material be handled and transported in such a manner as to not create unnecessary noise.

TRAFFIC

During project construction, to avoid unnecessary construction-related traffic within the project area, construction vehicles would be limited to designated routes and would be kept in the designated staging area. Refer to the Traffic Report, prepared by Hamal Associates, Inc., submitted as part of the application for details regarding traffic associated with the project.

AESTHETICS / VISUAL

Construction machinery and materials would be temporary and confined to the site, thereby reducing the unsightliness of these objects within the surrounding area. Once constructed, aesthetics associated with the proposed project will be consistent and in-kind with area land use.

VII. REFERENCES

Hamal Associates, Inc. Traffic and Transportation Consulting. Traffic Engineering Analysis Letter Report. June 28, 2021.

NJDEP Division of Parks and Forestry, Office of Natural Lands Management, Natural Heritage Program. Rare Species Correspondence. April 9, 2020.

NJDEP. GIS Data and Aerial Photography. Accessed June 30.

The Reynolds Group, Inc. Preliminary and Final Sites Plans. June 30, 2021, unrevised.

The Reynolds Group, Inc. Stormwater Impact Report. June 2021.

Township of Franklin. Master Plan. 2006 with applicable Amendments.

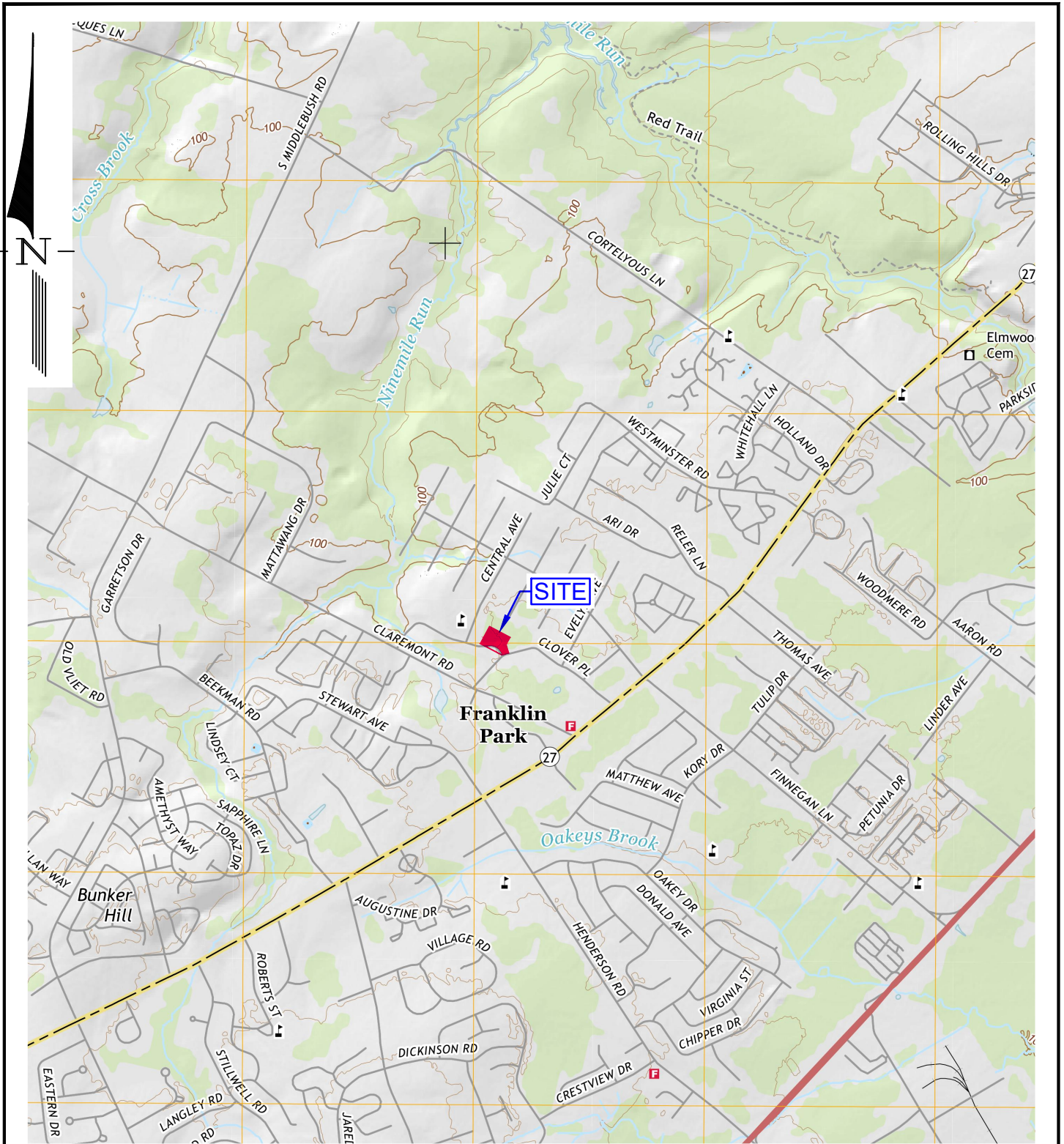
Township of Franklin. Reexamination of Master Plan and Development Regulations. 2016.

Township of Franklin. Environmental Resource Inventory. July 2008.

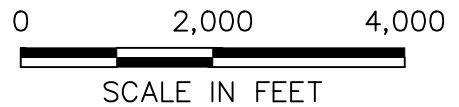
Township of Franklin. Tax Map.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Web Soil Survey (WSS). Accessed June 30, 2021. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

**APPENDIX A -
Map Figures**



MONMOUTH JUNCTION QUADRANGLE, NJ
7.5-MINUTE SERIES, 2016



**The Reynolds
Group, Inc.**

State of New Jersey
Certificate of Authorization
Number 24627989200
21MH00004300

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Landscape Architects
Land Surveyors
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F. Mitchel Ardman, P.E., P.P.
Jeffrey D. Reynolds, P.L.A.

SCALE: 1"=2000'

TRG Job No.:20-002

Date: 06-30-21

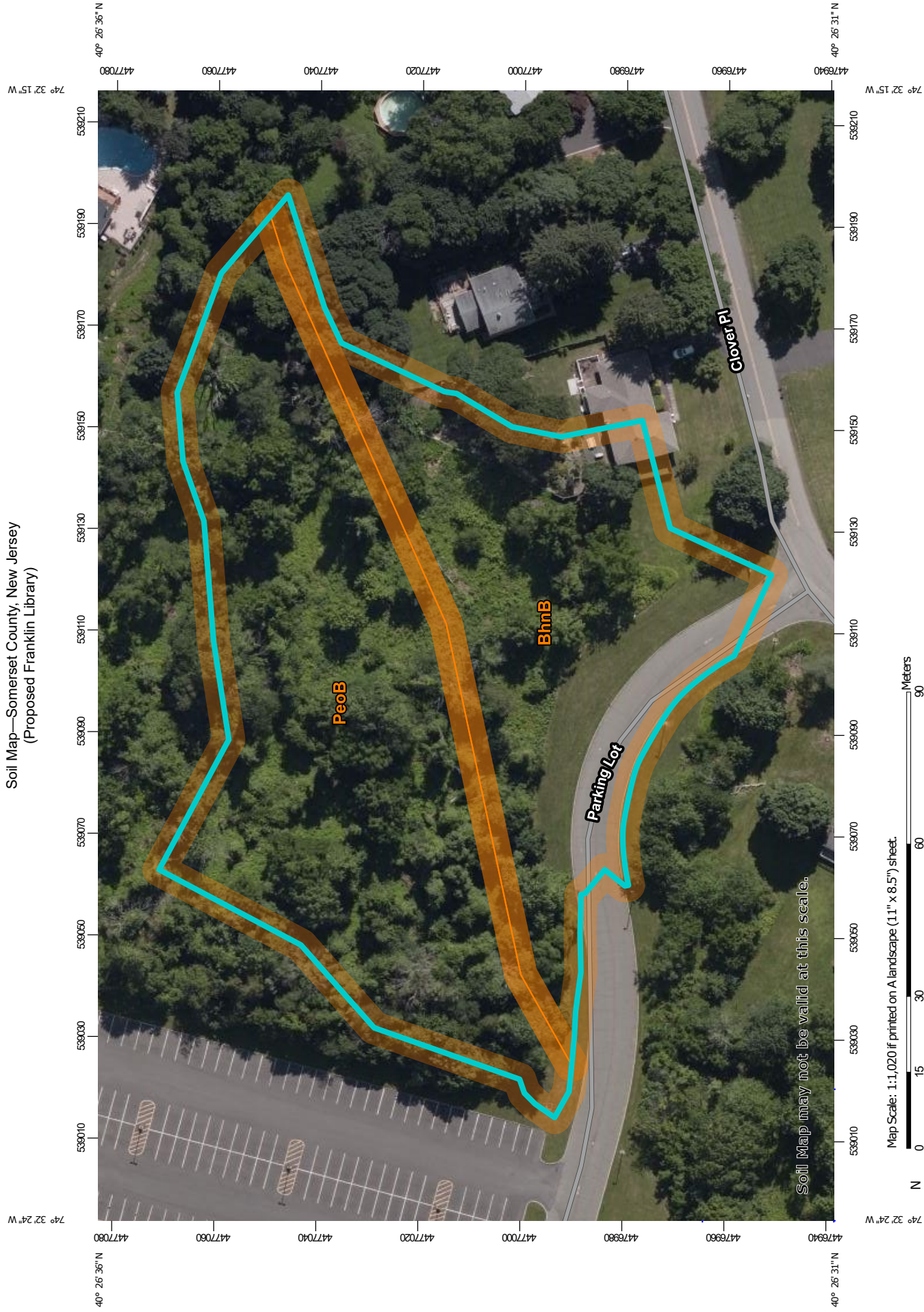
Project:

FRANKLIN LIBRARY
BLOCK 37.02 LOT 12.01
TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Figure No.:

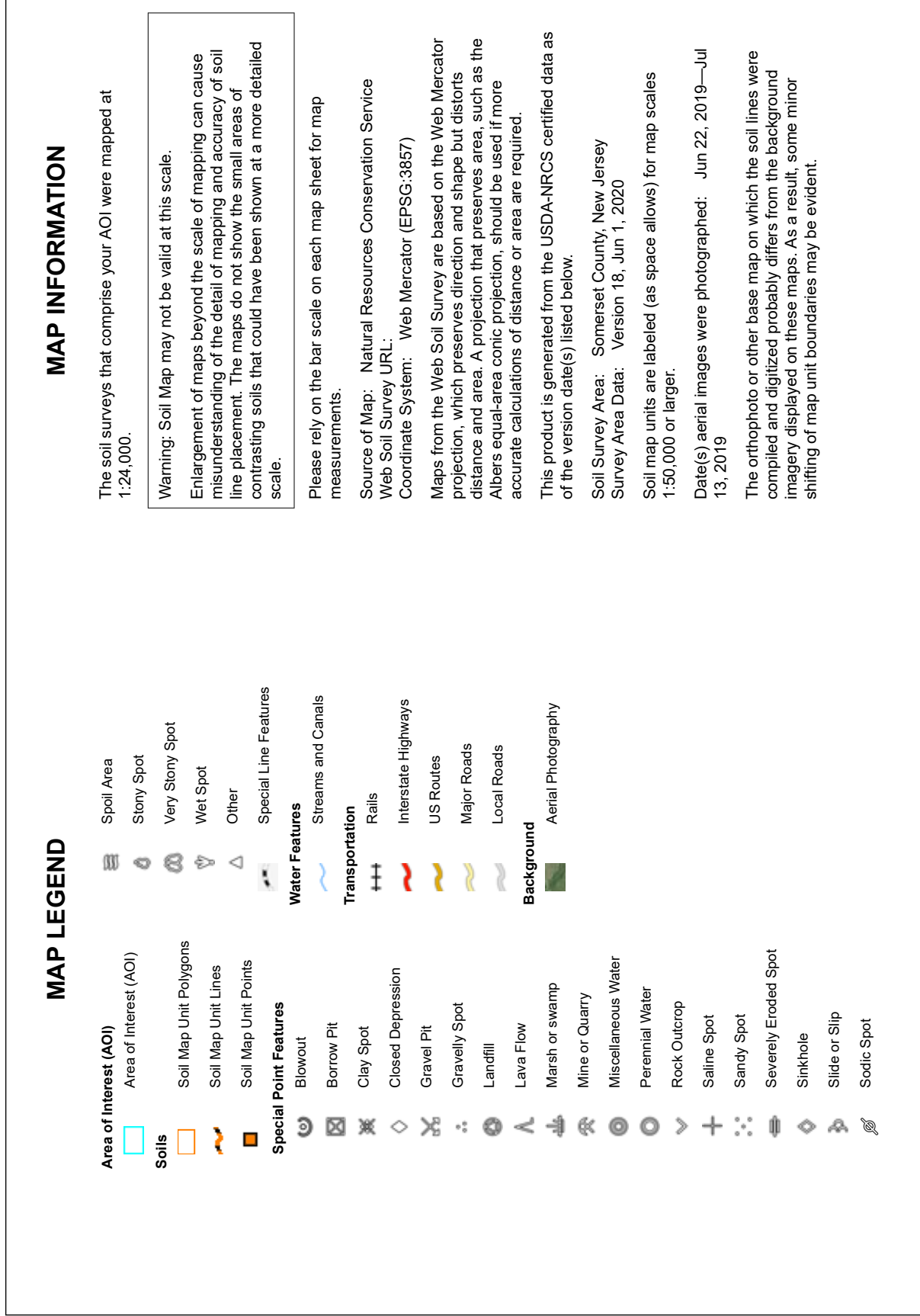
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Soil Map—Somerset County, New Jersey
(Proposed Franklin Library)



Map Scale: 1:1,020 if printed on A landscape (11" x 8.5") sheet.

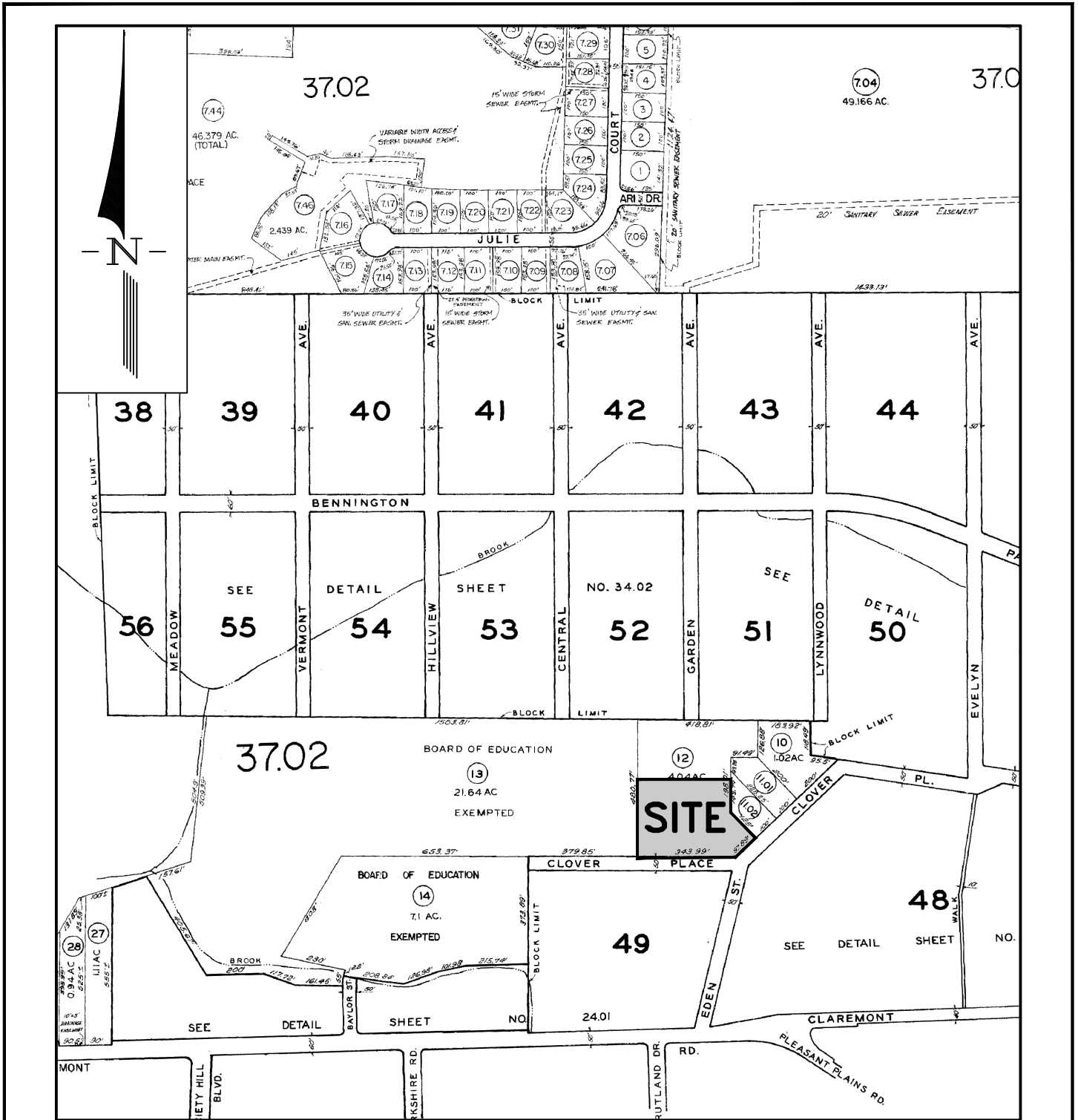
Map projection: Web Mercator Corner coordinates: WGS84 Edge tics: UTM Zone 18N WGS84



Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
BhnB	Birdsboro silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1.2	42.4%
PeoB	Penn channery silt loam, 2 to 6 percent slopes	1.6	57.6%
Totals for Area of Interest		2.8	100.0%

FIGURE 2



TAX MAP
 SHEET No. 34
 SCALE: 1"=400'±



**The Reynolds
 Group, Inc.**

State of New Jersey
 Certificate of Authorization
 Number 24627092000
 21MH00004300

Engineers
 Landscape Architects
 Land Surveyors
 Planners

575 Route 28, Suite 110
 Raritan, N.J. 08869
 Tele 908-722-1500
 Fax 908-722-7035

F. Mitchel Ardman, P.E., P.P.
 Jeffrey D. Reynolds, P.L.A.

SCALE: 1"=400'

TRG Job No.:20-002

Date: 06-30-21

Project:
FRANKLIN LIBRARY
 BLOCK 37.02 LOT 12.01
 TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
 SOMERSET COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

Sheet No.:

3

APPENDIX B -
NJDEP DLUR Letter of Interpretation



State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Division of Land Use Regulation
Mail Code 501-02A
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420
www.nj.gov/dep/landuse

CATHERINE R. McCABE
Commissioner

JUL 31 2019

January Adams
Franklin Township Public Library
485 DeMott Lane
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

RE: Letter of Interpretation: Presence/Absence Determination
File No.: 1808-19-0004.1
Activity Number: FWW190001
Applicant: FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
Block: 37.02; Lot: 12
Franklin Township, Somerset County

Dear Ms. Adams:

This letter is in response to your request for a Letter of Interpretation from the Division of Land Use Regulation indicating the presence or absence of freshwater wetlands and waters on the referenced property.

In accordance with agreements between the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Philadelphia and New York Districts, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Division of Land Use Regulation is the lead agency for establishing the extent of State and Federally regulated wetlands and waters. The USEPA and/or USACE retains the right to reevaluate and modify the jurisdictional determination at any time should the information prove to be incomplete or inaccurate.

Based upon the information submitted, and upon a site inspection conducted by the staff of the Department on July 12, 2019, the Division of Land Use Regulation has determined that **freshwater wetlands and waters are not present** on the referenced property. In addition, the Department has determined **that no part of the above referenced property occurs within a transition area or buffer** as designated in N.J.A.C. 7:7A-3.3(d)1 and 2.

Pursuant to the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act Rules (N.J.A.C. 7:7A), you are entitled to rely upon this jurisdictional determination for a period of five years from the date of this letter. This letter in no way legalizes any fill which may have been placed, or other regulated activities which may have been conducted on this site. This determination does not affect your responsibility to obtain any State, Federal, county or municipal permits which may be required.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:7A-21, any person who is aggrieved by this decision may request a hearing within 30 days of the date the decision is published in the DEP Bulletin by writing to: New Jersey

APPENDIX C -
NHP/LANDSCAPE PROJECT DATA



State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-04

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DIVISION OF PARKS & FORESTRY

NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE

OFFICE OF NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

P.O. BOX 420

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0420

Tel. (609) 984-1339 Fax (609) 984-0427

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

Lt. Governor

CATHERINE R. McCABE

Commissioner

April 9, 2020

Lynne Krauser
The Reynolds Group, Inc.
575 Route 28, Suite 110
Raritan, NJ 08869

Re: Franklin Township Public Library
Block(s) - 37.02
Lot(s) - 10, 11.01, 11.02 and 12
Franklin Township, Somerset County

Dear Ms. Krauser:

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 topographic map(s) submitted with the Natural Heritage Data Request Form into our Geographic Information System. 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 ¼ mile) of the referenced site. Additionally, the Natural Heritage Database was checked for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities within ¼ 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 <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/countylist.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 http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/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>.

PLEASE SEE 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA', which can be downloaded from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/newcaution2008.pdf>.

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. 20-4007445-18936

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	G-rank	S-rank
Aves	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,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	Great Blue Heron	Ardea herodias	Foraging	2	NA	Special Concern	G5	S3B,S4N

**APPENDIX D –
Qualifications and Experience of Preparers**

Jeffrey D. Reynolds

Vice President

Professional Experience

29 Years

New Jersey - No. 21AS00087800

Professional Registration

Professional Landscape Architect

Highlights of Experience

THE REYNOLDS GROUP, INC.

1992 - Present

Vice President - Project Manager responsible for a multitude of site development projects in both the public and private sectors. Aspects of projects include, site assessment, conceptual site plans, grading plans, lighting plans, landscape plans, recreation planning, details and specifications, soil erosion control plans, cost estimating, bidding, construction administration. Expert testimony provided at planning boards as required. Specific tasks include development of project proposals, marketing, budget supervision, team management and design of projects in accordance with municipal land use ordinances.

JOHNSON ENGINEERING, INC.

1991-1992

Junior Landscape Architect

Prepared conceptual plans for various types of development. Field investigation and site analysis of projects to clarify perspectives, objectives, layouts, design considerations, etc. Prepare site plans and details, preliminary landscape plans and grading plans. Investigate zoning and land use policies set forth by the township in which the project is located. Prepare renderings for presentation.

OFF-CAMPUS-MUNICH, GERMANY (1 Semester)

1991 (August – December)

Independent Study Experience - investigation of German parks and their systems. Focus of investigation was how German parks are designed and constructed and how they function within the German culture.

**JOHNSON ENGINEERING, INC. - Assistant to Landscape Architect / Survey instrument man
(Summers – 1986 – 1991)**

DONALD H. STIRES ASSOCIATES – Survey department instrument man

1983 - 1985

Education

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY - 1991

S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Bachelor of Science, Landscape Architecture

PAUL SMITH'S COLLEGE - 1987

Associates in Applied Science, Forest Recreation

Professional Organizations

American Society of Landscape Architects
New Jersey Chapter ASLA

**Professional Experience
27 Years**

Highlights of Experience**NJDEP Wildlife Conservation Corps Volunteer Projects and Endangered and Nongame Species (ENSP) Work****NJDEP ENSP Amphibian Crossing Survey: 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011**

In conjunction with the NJDEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) conducted amphibian (frog and salamander) vehicle mortality survey and rescue operations at known amphibian road crossings. Served as team leader for the 2008 and 2009 survey work. NJDEP ENSP Bobcat

NJDEP ENSP Bobcat Project: 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Conducted scent post surveys (motion camera) work from ENSP and obtained photos of bobcats from areas in Sussex County where bobcats were suspected, but had not been confirmed, to be located. Worked with ENSP Principal Zoologist live-trapping and radio-collaring bobcats from Sussex and Warren Counties. Responsibilities included setting, baiting, re-baiting as required, daily checking traps, releasing non-target species (raccoons, opossums, skunks, feral cats), assisting with collaring and releasing of bobcats, subsequent telemetry work included tracking radio-collared bobcats from the ground as well as from the air.

NJDEP ENSP Woodland Raptor Survey: 2006, 2011

Conducted surveys for red-shouldered hawks, Cooper's hawks, northern goshawks, and barred owls (barred owls only in 2011). Surveys included broadcast of taped calls during appropriate season/weather conditions and listening for response. All work was conducted in accordance with ENSP protocols. 2006 survey conducted for purpose of continuing the long-term breeding population status of the listed species. 2011 survey conducted to validate Landscape Version 3.0 mapping.

NJDEP ENSP Copperhead Trapping/Tracking Project: 2009, 2010

Assisted with installation of drift fence and traps in and around a known venomous snake den. Trained by ENSP to check traps and handle venomous snakes, as required. Responsibilities included checking drift fence/traps, twice daily, for the presence of suitable-sized copperheads required for a telemetry study. Small copperheads and non-target species, including timber rattlesnakes, were released. Radio-tracked (telemetry) a copperhead fitted with a small transmitter for purpose of observing summer movements (summer 2010).

NJDEP ENSP Timber Rattlesnake Den Survey: 2007, 2008, 2010

Under ENSP direction, conducted surveys within suitable habitat for locations of dens as identified by computer-modeling as well as undocumented reports. Surveys comprised of a systematic search of suitable denning locations located along the Kittatinny Ridge. Surveys consisted of walking potential den sites looking for rattlesnakes and/or the presence of possible indicators (copperheads and black snakes).

NJDEP ENSP Winter Hibernacula Bat Survey: 2010

Accompanied ENSP Principal Zoologist into the Hibernia Mine for purpose of conducting the annual population count as well as to observe the effects of White-nose Syndrome (WNS) on the hibernating population. Assisted with banding of numerous bats. Assisted with collection (swabs) of samples from visible affected as well as "clean" bats for laboratory analysis.

NJDEP ENSP Summer Bat Trapping Project: 2010

Assisted ENSP Principal Zoologist with the trapping and subsequent banding and collection of data from summer bat roosting colonies for purpose of identification of individual bats at hibernacula sites located in New Jersey.

Member, NJ Venomous Snake Response Team: 2010 – Present

Trained by ENSP Principal Zoologist to handle, capture, and relocate venomous snakes as required. Applied for and obtained a Scientific Collecting Permit for this work.

USFWS Raptor Banding Program: 2005 - Present

USFWS-licensed Raptor Bander. Conducts studies at the USFWS-licensed Kittatinny Mountain Raptor Banding Research Station raptor banding station in Sussex County. Research includes trapping diurnal raptors for data collection. Data collection includes: species identification, age, sex, overall condition, wing chord, tail chord, and weight. Banding is completed with USFWS-issued bands. To date, species caught and banded includes sharp-shinned hawks, Cooper's hawks, northern goshawks, red-tailed hawks, red-shouldered hawks, northern harriers, American kestrel, and merlin.