

Environmental Justice Screening Form

Project Name	Mill Pond Salt Marsh Restoration Project
Anticipated Date of MEPA Filing	March 17, 2026
Proponent Name	Town of Truro
Contact Information (e.g., consultant)	Mitchell A. Buck, P.E. Woods Hole Group 107 Waterhouse Rd Bourne, MA 02532 Direct Phone: (508) 495-6210 mbuck@woodsholegroup.com
Public website for project or other physical location where project materials can be obtained (if available)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.truro-ma.gov/337/Mill-Pond-Salt-Marsh-Restoration-Project
Municipality and Zip Code for Project (if known)	Town of Truro – 02666
Project Type* (list all that apply)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Infrastructure • Ecological Restoration • Resiliency • Transportation – Roadways/transit
Is the project site within a mapped 100-year FEMA flood plain? Y/N/unknown	Yes
Estimated GHG emissions of conditioned spaces (click here for GHG Estimation tool)	N/A

Project Description

1. Provide a brief project description, including overall size of the project site and square footage of proposed buildings and structures if known.

The Mill Pond Restoration Project seeks to restore tidal exchange and improve long-term roadway and coastal resilience at Mill Pond and the surrounding Pamet River Basin. The existing undersized culvert beneath Mill Pond Road currently attenuates the tidal range by approximately two feet, degrading tidal wetland function, impairing stormwater drainage, and contributing to poor water quality and habitat conditions. The roadway has a documented low point of EL 7.37’ and is vulnerable under current storm conditions, with modeling (MC-FRM) projecting a 100% flood-inundation probability by 2030.

The project is entering environmental permitting and design advancement following conceptual design, alternatives evaluation, and public engagement completed between 2022 and 2025. It is partially funded through state and federal programs including NOAA, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management, the Massachusetts Department of Ecological Restoration, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service/Cape Cod Conservation District.

The project area includes Mill Pond Road, Depot Road, Mill Pond, and the adjacent fringing salt marsh and coastal bank along the Pamet River system. Major project components include replacing the existing tidal crossing, stabilizing vulnerable embankments, enhancing stormwater management, and improving roadway resilience.

The project seeks to:

- I. Restore tidal exchange and improve aquatic habitat:
 - Replace the undersized tidal crossing to reduce tidal attenuation,
 - Restore salt marsh function and ecosystem connectivity, and
 - Improve drainage infrastructure at Depot Road.
- II. Improve roadway and public safety resilience:
 - Improve the resilience of Mill Pond Road and Depot Road embankments from erosion and failure, and
 - Reduce vulnerability to storm surge and sea level rise.

The proposed project includes the following major elements:

- I. Mill Pond tidal crossing replacement – The existing approximately 3-foot culvert will be replaced with a larger 8-foot-wide by 8.5-foot-high concrete box culvert, improving tidal exchange while maintaining roadway access. Roadway approaches will be reconstructed, and embankment armoring will be replaced.
- II. Mill Pond Road resilience improvements – Mill Pond Road will be “designed to flood”, while reducing erosion risk and improving post-storm recovery through:
 - Reconstruction of roadway embankment armoring to modern design standards
 - Roadway resurfacing and potential regrading to improve drainage
- III. Depot Road bank stabilization and stormwater upgrades – Work at Depot Road will include:
 - Slope stabilization using fill grading
 - Biodegradable erosion control blanket installation
 - Stormwater upgrades, including catch basins and subsurface infiltration

The project will:

- Improve hydrologic connectivity
- Enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Provide long-term roadway resilience
- Support climate adaptation goals identified in ResilientMass and MVP programs

2. List anticipated MEPA review thresholds (301 CMR 11.03) (if known)

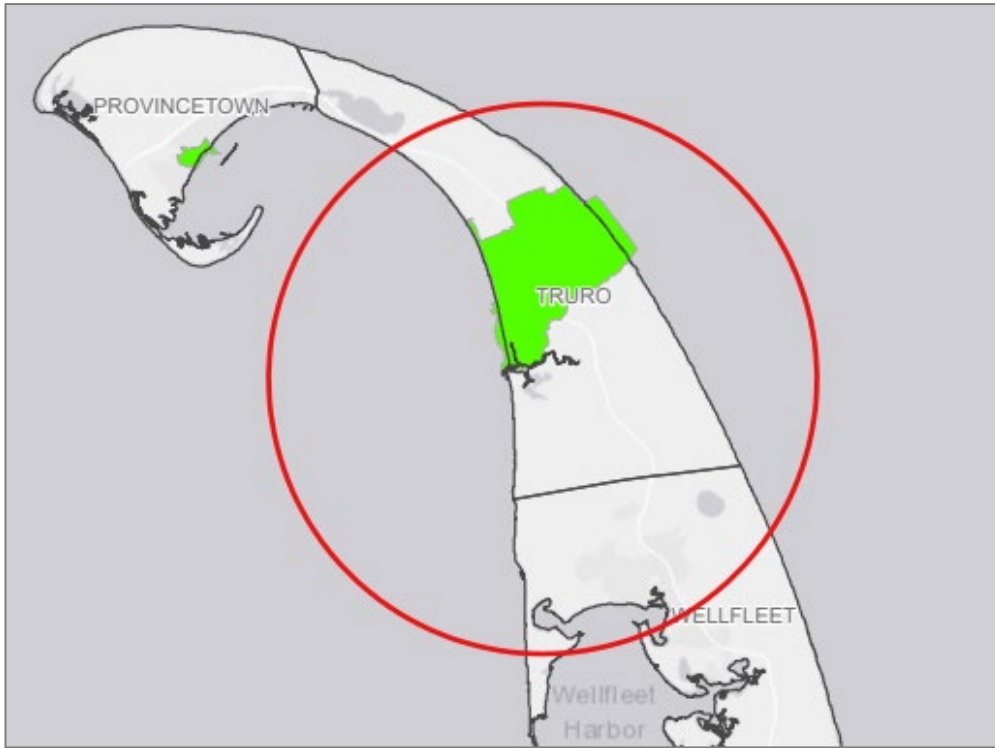
ENF and Other MEPA Review if the Secretary So Requires:

- 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)1.a. – Provided that a Permit is required, alteration of a coastal bank
- 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)1.d. – Provided that a Permit is required, alteration of 5,000 or more sf of BVW
- 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)1.f. – Provided that a Permit is required, alteration of ½ or more acres of any other wetland

3. List all anticipated state, local and federal permits needed for the project (if known)

- MEPA – Secretary’s Certificate on EENF
- MEPA – Secretary’s Certificate on EIR
- Cape Cod Commission – Development of Regional Impact Decision
- Truro Conservation Commission – Order of Conditions
- MassDEP Wetlands & Waterways – 401 Water Quality Certification
- MassDEP Waterways – Chapter 91 License
- US Army Corps of Engineers – General Permit
- MA Coastal Zone Management – Federal Consistency Determination

4. Identify EJ populations and characteristics (Minority, Income, English Isolation) within 5 miles of project site (can attach map identifying 5-mile radius from [EJ Maps Viewer](#) in lieu of narrative)



5. Identify any municipality or census tract meeting the definition of “vulnerable health EJ criteria” in the [DPH EJ Tool](#) located in whole or in part within a 1 mile radius of the project site

The Town of Truro meets the criteria for Childhood Blood Levels and Low Birth Weight.

6. Identify potential short-term and long-term environmental and public health impacts that may affect EJ Populations and any anticipated mitigation

Potential short-term environmental impacts include disruption of automobile/pedestrian transportation patterns during construction, noise and/or dust from construction vehicles, and increased truck traffic during construction. These potential public health impacts are expected to be minimal however, since the project site is not located along a major transportation route and vehicle access to the project site will avoid the EJ community. Further, location of the EJ community north of the project site with a separate transportation network suggests there will be little interaction between EJ populations and the project work site.

7. Identify project benefits, including “Environmental Benefits” as defined in 301 CMR 11.02, that may improve environmental conditions or public health of the EJ population

The Mill Pond Restoration Project will provide multiple environmental and public health benefits, consistent with the definition of “Environmental Benefits” under 301 CMR 11.02. The project restores degraded tidal wetlands, improves climate resilience of critical public infrastructure, and supports safe access for residents.

The primary environmental benefits of the project include:

- Restoration of tidal exchange and salt marsh habitat through replacement of the undersized Mill Pond culvert with a larger box culvert, which will improve water quality, reduce stagnation, and enhance ecosystem productivity;
- Improved stormwater drainage and flood resilience, decreasing roadway overtopping and flood-related roadway closures that limit access for emergency response and vulnerable populations;
- Stabilization of eroding embankments at Mill Pond Road and Depot Road which improves long-term shoreline stability;
- Replacement of aging, failing infrastructure to reduce future release of debris, roadway materials, and armoring into coastal wetlands.

The project also advances public health and safety benefits for the EJ population within one mile of the site by:

- Reducing flood risk to Mill Pond Road and Depot Road, which serve as secondary routes connecting residential neighborhoods to emergency services;
- Reducing standing water and associated mosquito breeding and vector-borne illness risk through improved tidal flushing and stormwater function;
- Decreasing the likelihood of roadway washouts and closures that disproportionately impact residents with limited mobility and limited transportation options.

8. Describe how the community can request a meeting to discuss the project, and how the community can request oral language interpretation services at the meeting . Specify how to request other accommodations, including meetings after business hours and at locations near public transportation.

The next project meeting for the Mill Pond Salt Marsh Restoration Project is on February 25, 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. The meeting link can be found here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86072120415>

To learn more about the project and/or provide feedback regarding their use of project area, or request a meeting, please can contact Katie Riconda at kriconda@truro-ma.gov.