



## **Natural Resource Services, Inc.**

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January 18, 2023

Michael Russell, PE  
LDEC Engineering & Consulting, LLC  
207 High Point Avenue, Unit 6  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

RE: Site Inspection for Freshwater Wetlands  
AM 107SE, Parcel 403; Valley Road  
Middletown, Rhode Island

Dear Mr. Russell:

Natural Resource Services, Inc. (NRS) has completed a site inspection for freshwater wetlands for the above referenced property. This fieldwork was performed by me on January 17, 2023. The wetland inspection was established in accordance with the standards outlined in Section 3.21 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act (250 RICR 150-15-3). These land-use regulations are administered by the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Office of Water Resources (OWR).

As part of our work, a hand-held GPS unit was used to locate benchmark features and any observed wetland areas. While this location work should not be construed as a professional survey, the data obtained is valuable for preliminary planning purposes. An aerial photograph is attached to this letter. The GPS data has been added as an overlay on the photo to provide a visual representation of the site conditions.

According to the site plan that you provided NRS, the property is 1.63 acres in size. It is on the westerly side of Valley Road at its intersection with O'Neil Road, a private access roadway. The site is undeveloped and has been cleared of vegetation.

The adjacent access driveway services a commercial plaza with an entrance on Main Road. The stormwater from the pavement of this road enters a catch basin and is discharged to a large detention pond. This stormwater management structure has naturalized over several decades due to lack of maintenance along the perimeter. There is a concrete spillway at the southwest corner of the detention pond which discharges overflow into a swamp. One section of this detention pond occurs within approximately 125 feet of the subject property.

Section 3.5.1 of the regulations lists features which are not considered freshwater wetlands under the regulations. Number 8 of this section identifies the following as features not regulated as wetlands:

“Stormwater control features excavated, constructed or installed to convey, store, or treat stormwater runoff, including detention basins, retention basins, bio-retention basins, bio-filtration areas, rain gardens, and wet vegetated treatment systems;”

Therefore, the off-site detention basin is not regulated as a freshwater wetland.

An inspection of the area between the western property line and the edge of the detention area was performed. Vegetation in this 125-150-foot zone consists primarily of multiflora rose and various goldenrod species. Much of the soil around the detention pond lacked any clear pedogenic development (natural soil profiles) most likely due to the construction of the feature. I did establish a data plot in a location which exhibited a somewhat undisturbed soil profile. The profile described in the attached data sheet does not meet the state standard for a hydric condition which would be indicative of a wetland soil. It is my opinion that no state regulated wetlands are present between the detention pond and the subject property.

A freshwater wetland was identified at the southeast corner of the detention pond behind the Middletown Police Station. There is an area of wet meadow extending up to the mowed lawn in this location. The attached GIS graphic depicts the approximate limit of the wetland meadow in relation to the subject lot. The wetland regulations apply a 100 jurisdictional area (JA) to all freshwater wetlands. Any proposed land disturbing activities within the JA requires a permit from the DEM, Freshwater Wetlands Program. It is clear that the 100-foot JA applied to the wet meadow does not encroach onto the subject property.

Finally, I also inspected the location of Bailey’s Brook off-site to the west of the subject property. The wetland regulations apply a 200-foot JA to all rivers and streams in the state. The 200-foot JA does not encroach onto the subject property.

In summary, there are no state regulated freshwater wetlands present on or immediately adjacent to the parcel 403. The stormwater detention pond located to the west of the lot is not regulated as a freshwater wetland pursuant to Section 3.5.1 of the regulations. The parcel does not fall within the 100-foot JA of the wet meadow located behind the police station or the 200-foot JA of Bailey’s Brook.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have questions or require any additional information.

Very truly yours,



Scott P. Rabideau, PWS  
Principal

Enclosures



*Concrete spillway at the southwest corner of the detention pond*

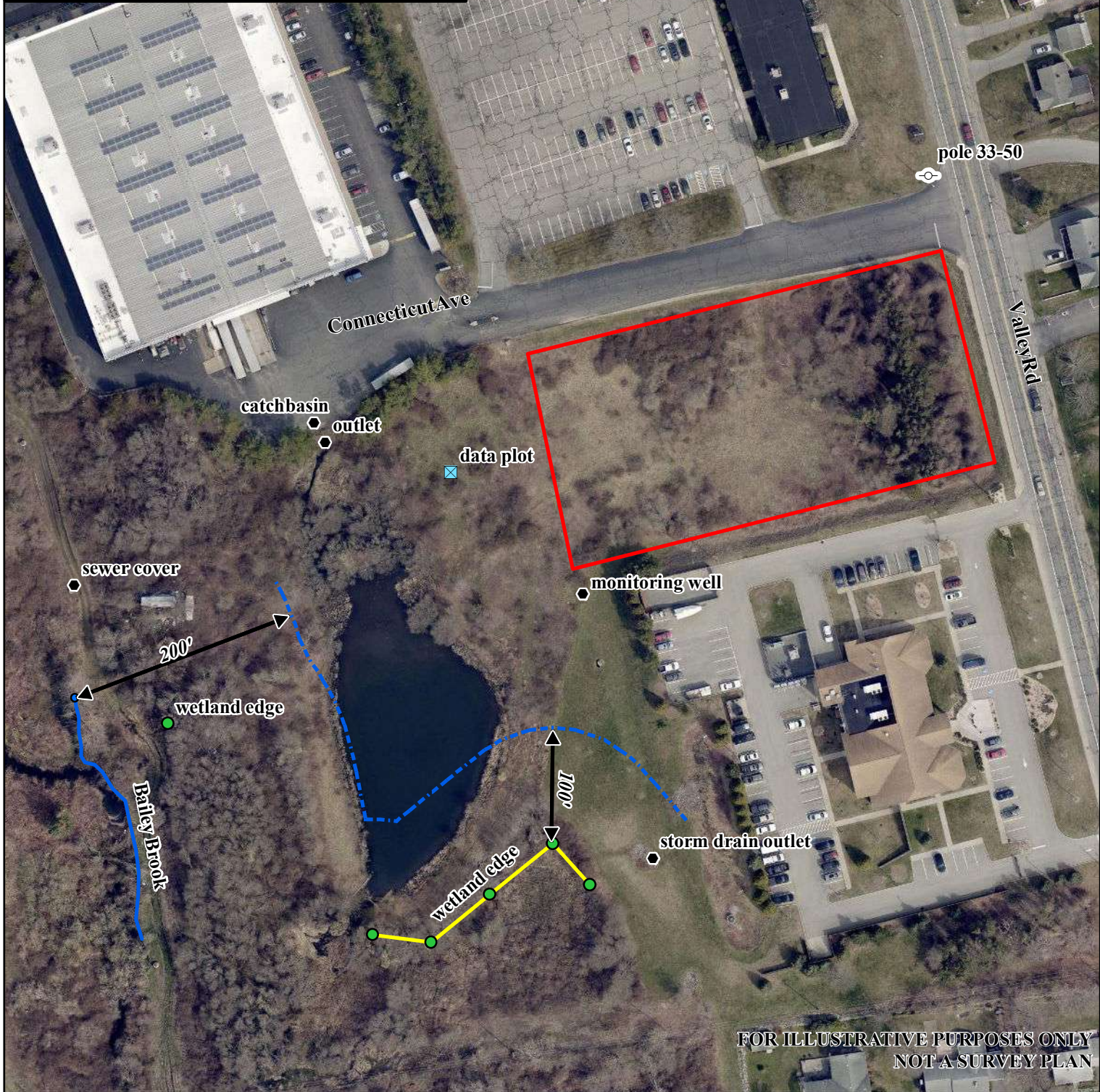


*Looking North at the stormwater detention pond*

**Legend**

- Approximate Site Location (GIS)
- Approximate Wetland Edge
- Approximate Stream Location
- - - Approximate DEM Jurisdictional Area

0 60 120 240 Feet

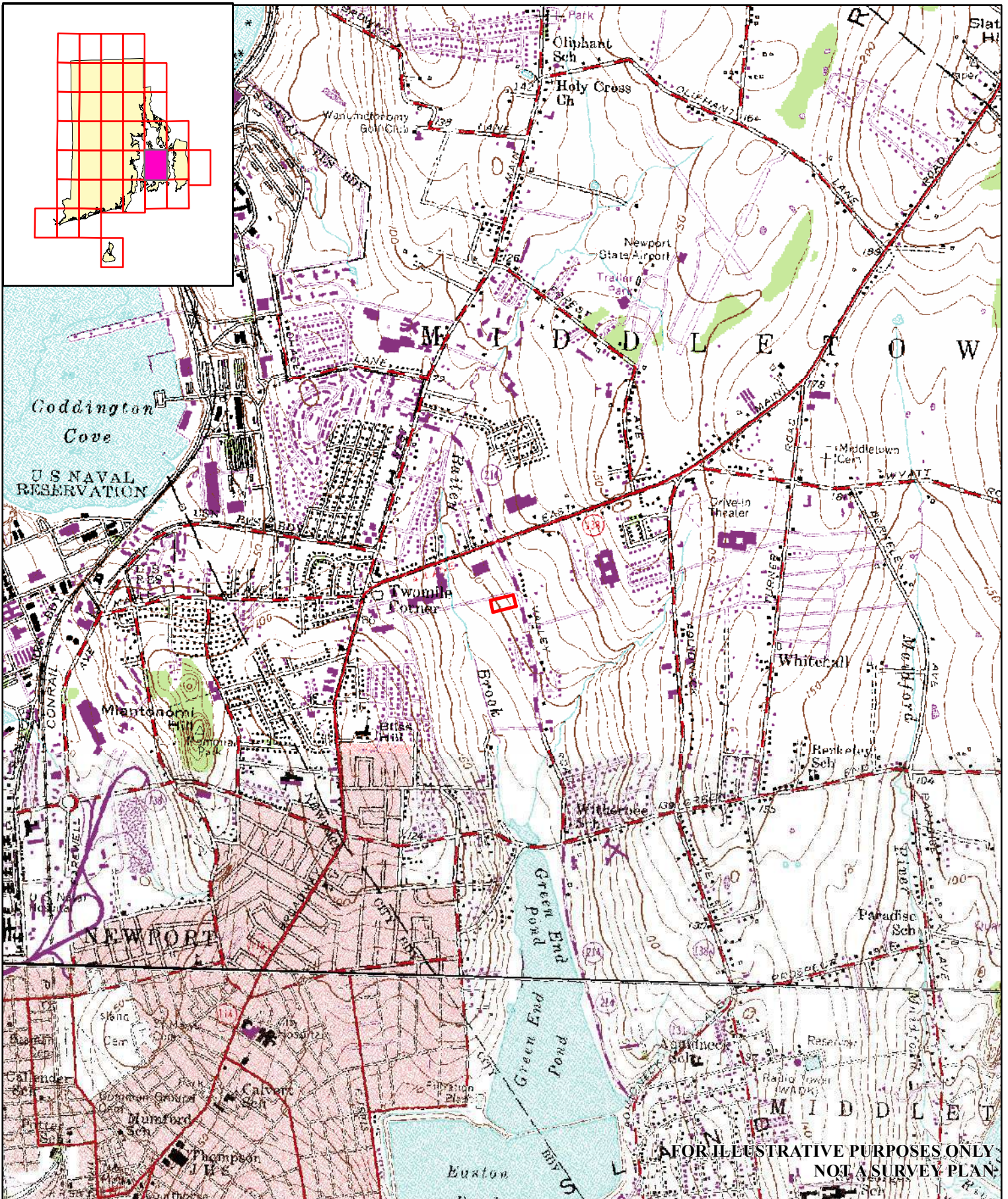


FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY  
NOT A SURVEY PLAN

**Site Inspection Sketch**  
**Valley Rd**  
**A.P. 107SE, Lot 403**  
 Middletown, RI

Performed by  
 Scott P. Rabideau, PWS - 1/17/23  
 Located using hand-held Trimble Geo7X

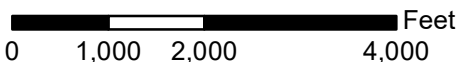
**RIGIS** Spring 2022 aerial  
 RI DEM Mapping  
**Natural Resource Services, Inc.**  
 PO Box 311  
 180 Tinkham Lane  
 Harrisville, RI 02830  
 p: (401) 568-7390  
 (c) RIGIS




**USGS Topographic Map**  
**Valley Rd**  
**A.P. 107SE, Lot 403**  
 Middletown, RI  
 Prudence Island Quad Map

 Approximate Site Location

USGS Topographic Series  
 Contour Interval 10 Feet  
 National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929



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 Natural Resource Services, Inc.  
 PO Box 311  
 180 Tinkham Lane  
 Harreville, RI 02830  
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 (c) RIGIS

## Wetland Edge Delineation Data Form (UPLAND)

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project Name: Valley Road; A.P. 107SE, Lot 403  
 City/Town: Middletown

Wetland No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Flag No. Sequence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Delineation Date: 1/17/23

**Vegetation:** List the three dominant species in each vegetative strata along with their NWI status:

Tree	Indicator Status	Herbs	Indicator Status
-		Solidago sp.	FACU
		Field grass	

Saplings/Shrubs	Indicator Status	Woody Vines	Indicator Status
Rosa multiflora	FACU		

List other vegetative species noted which may have affected determination of the wetland edge: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil:** SCS Soil Survey Mapping Unit: PmB

On Hydric Soils List?  YES  NO

Soil Profile (Note wetland flag no. nearest soil test pit): \_\_\_\_\_

Horizon	Depth	Matrix Color	Mottling Description	Depth to Saturation	Depth to Free Water
A	0 - 10"	2.5Y 3/2			
Bw	10 - 18"	2.5Y 4/3			
Resistance		5YR 6/6	@18"		

Other indicators exhibiting an absence of wetland hydrology (e.g. absence of water marks, lack of redoximorphic features, lack of oxidized rhizospheres, etc.): Saturation at 18", water table at 18"

Landscape position: Shoulder slope

Altered/atypical situation? (describe): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_