



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Parks of Boston:

Boston African-American National Historic Site,  
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, and  
Boston National Historical Park  
Charlestown Navy Yard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02129-4543

June 29, 2022

Ms. Mary Ellen Schloss  
City of Weymouth Conservation Commission  
75 Middle Street  
Weymouth, MA 02189

Re: Mass DEP File No. 81-1172 Order of Conditions Extension Request

Ms. Schloss,

The National Parks of Boston is requesting an extension to the Ecological Restoration Order of Conditions (MA DEP File No. 81-1172) issued for invasive plant management and native plant propagation in the freshwater wetland project area on Grape Island in Weymouth, MA. The original Order of Conditions is set to expire August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The habitat restoration work is requested to continue to follow the maintenance plan outlined in the original Notice of Intent, which includes physically removing (without digging) and chemically treating non-native invasive plants in the project area. While the work to date has increased the native plant biodiversity and cover in and around the freshwater wetland and adjacent uplands, additional invasive plant management is required to allow the native plants to expand their populations and thus preserve and improve the ecological integrity of the site.

In addition to the work mentioned above, we also propose to continue to manage the expanding patches of mile-a-minute vine and Japanese stiltgrass that are located outside of our original project area. This work, which was approved as a Minor Modification in February 2022, is vitally important to meet the goal of controlling newly arriving highly invasive plants not just on Grape Island, but throughout Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area, and surrounding mainland landscapes, especially given the fact that mile-a-minute has only been documented on Grape Island thus far.

We request an extension of one year to the existing Order of Conditions to continue habitat restoration in the approved areas of Grape Island. If approved, the extended Order of Conditions would expire on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Per Special Condition 25 in the Order of Conditions, we plan on submitting a comprehensive updated maintenance plan sometime next year so that habitat restoration work can continue on Grape Island after this Order expires.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (978) 360-0421 or [marc\\_albert@nps.gov](mailto:marc_albert@nps.gov).

Sincerely

Marc Albert  
Science and Stewardship Partnerships, National Parks of Boston