



TOWN OF HINGHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Resource Area Delineation Policy

All inland and coastal wetland resource areas within the vicinity of a proposed activity shall be delineated in accordance with the following policy, unless waived by the Commission and/or Conservation Officer.

1. The applicant is responsible for hiring a qualified professional to delineate the Resource Areas. The Commission considers a qualified professional to be one of the following: a certified Professional Wetland Scientist; a non-certified Professional Wetland Scientist with a minimum of five (5) years of experience in the field of wetland science; or a professional who demonstrates expertise in wetland science to the satisfaction of the Commission.
2. Resource area boundaries shall be delineated in accordance with the definitions established by the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations found at 310 CMR 10.00 and the Hingham Wetland Regulations (HWR) for each applicable resource area. In instances where the local and state definition differ, the local definition shall be applied, unless otherwise accepted by the Commission.
3. Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW) shall be delineated in accordance with the Massachusetts Handbook for Delineation of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (Mass DEP Second Edition, September 2022) and any other applicable federal delineation manual. The Commission recommends that vegetation, soils, and other indicators of hydrology always be considered when delineating BVWs, as appropriate and based on the complexity of the site.
4. Coastal Banks shall be delineated in accordance in the [Wetlands Program Policy 92-1: Coastal Banks | Mass.gov](#). The following information should be submitted with the application: the coastal bank should be delineated and mapped on a plan(s) to a scale of not greater than 1 inch = 50 feet, including a plan view and a cross section(s) of the area being delineated showing the slope profile, the linear distance used to calculate the slope profile, and the location of this linear distance. Also, the delineation description must indicate which of the five diagrams included in the program policy [Coastal Bank Figures 1-7](#) is (are) representative of the site.
5. The qualified professional shall uniquely identify the boundaries of each Resource Area in the field by affixing colored, lettered, and consecutively numbered flagging to fixed objects such as woody vegetation or survey stakes (e.g. Wetland Series A, flags #A1-A10; Inland Bank, flags #B1-B10). Flagging should be clearly visible in the field and placed at intervals no greater than 40 feet.
6. Resource Area flagging may be performed year-round however if field conditions or seasonal considerations do not allow for an accurate boundary delineation (e.g. vernal pool) or review by staff, the Commission will postpone any determination until conditions allow for a sufficient assessment of the resource areas.
7. Documentation of the methodology used to delineate the BVW boundary (e.g. BVW Field Data/Determination Form, Final Order of Resource Area Delineation or other delineation method) as well as methods used to delineate any other resource areas, shall be included with the application. A Wetland Summary Report may be accepted in lieu of BVW Data Forms with approval of the Conservation Officer and based on the complexity of the delineation.
8. Resource Area flagging must be current and delineated within three (3) years of application submission.