

City of Biddeford
Conservation Commission

April 05, 2023 1:00 PM Second Floor Conference Room, City Hall & Zoom
<https://biddeford.zoom.us/j/95959133060?pwd=ZWY3S3RHYTljb1dzSlpkQ2UwNXJWQT09>
Webinar ID 959 5913 3060 Passcode 283447

Status: Conservation Commission-Special Meeting-Wednesday, April 5, 2023 1:00 PM-2:00 PM in the City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

1. Discussion

- 1.1. Review of Mark Ward “Follow-up” proposal—— re Vernal Pool/wetlands in Clifford Park.

[Ward-Proposal for Work in Clifford Park.pdf](#)

2. Adjourn

Proposal for Vernal Pool and Spotted Turtle Surveys at Clifford Park

Submitted
April 1, 2023
by
Mark Ward
Ecological Consultant
28 Poor Farm Road
Bristol, ME 04539
207-350-6537
akamward@gmail.com

I propose to visit Clifford Park on two dates in 2023, once in April and once in May, to conduct egg mass counts for vernal pool breeding amphibians and assess the biological significance of four wetlands that were identified in the Clifford Park Vernal Pool Status Assessment report submitted to the Biddeford Conservation Commission in November 2022. On the same dates, I will conduct visual surveys in Clifford Park for spotted turtles at three potential overwintering wetlands for this species that were identified in the Status Assessment report to determine whether this species might be overwintering within wetlands in Clifford Park (based on an April 28, 2020 record of this species).

The April visit will be timed to maximize the opportunity to conduct egg mass counts for wood frogs (likely April 7-20) and to attempt to document spotted turtles on a day and at a time when turtles might be basking in potential overwintering wetlands. The May visit be timed to maximize the opportunity to conduct egg mass counts for spotted salamanders (likely April 24- May 7). On the May visit, I will once again visit potential overwintering wetlands as well as nearby satellite pools to try and document the presence of early season spotted turtles in Clifford Park.

Based on my findings, I will plan to submit documentation on Significant Vernal Pools to the state for potential wetland candidates as well as Rare Animal Forms for spotted turtles (or other rare species) that might be encountered. Finally, I will submit a report to the Conservation on the results of this work by June 30, 2023.

Anticipated Tasks

Vernal Pools

- Conduct egg mass counts and Significant Vernal Pool assessments at wetlands BWA103 (21G), BWA105 (23G), and 8G and submit Significant Vernal Pool paperwork to the Maine DEP for determination.
- Conduct egg mass counts at wetland 24G (a non-natural pool that was not visited by Glynn in 2020) to determine whether this pool provides important breeding habitat for amphibians (it would not warrant SVP designation because it is not natural)

Spotted Turtle Habitat

- Conduct early spring visual surveys for spotted turtles in potential overwintering wetlands at Clifford Park (and at nearby satellite wetlands on the May visit) and submit Rare Animal Forms to MDIFW for any spotted turtles encountered.

Reporting

I will submit a report to the Conservation on the results of this work by June 30, 2023.

Proposed Budget

- Preparation for field work: 4 hrs x \$45 = \$180
- Travel and Field work: 2 days x 9 hrs x \$45 = \$810
- Reporting: 8 hrs x \$45 = \$360
- Travel RT from Bristol: 2 trips @ 160 miles x .655/mile = \$209.60
- **Total Estimated Budget \$1599.60 (round up to \$1600)**