



**WETLANDS STATEMENT**

**FOR**

**LOT 8 & 9 - BLOCK 57**

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**

**MONMOUTH COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**June 24, 2024**

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph J. Malison', written over a horizontal line.

Joseph J. Malison  
Project Manager



WJH Engineering was retained to perform a field inspection of Block 57 Lots 8 & 9 located within the Borough of Highlands in order to determine if there is the presence of wetlands on the subject lot that would require a NJDEP Permit for any proposed disturbances.

Wetlands regulated by the N.J.D.E.P. are defined as follows:

“Freshwater wetland or wetland means an area that is inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, commonly known as hydrophytic vegetation; provided, however, that the Department, in designating a wetland, shall use the three-parameter approach (that is, hydrology, soils and vegetation) enumerated in the April 1, 1987 interim-final draft “Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual” developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.E.P.A.) and any subsequent amendments thereto” (New Jersey Register June 6, 1988 R.1988d.267 N.J.A.C. 7:7A).

Pursuant to this definition, wetlands are identified as areas that exhibit all three (3) of the following parameters:

1. *Wetland Vegetation* (Hydrophytes)
2. *Hydric Soils*
3. *Hydrology* - the degree of flooding or soil saturation as described below.

1. **Vegetation** - First, wetlands are sites that have hydrophyte species as their predominant plants. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.F.W.S.) has developed a classification scheme that assigns species to habitat classes according to the following rules:

<i>PLANT AFFINITY FOR WETLAND CONDITIONS</i>	
<b>Classification</b>	<b>% Occurrence in Wetlands</b>
Obligate (OBL)	> 95
Facultative Wet (FACW)	66-95
Facultative (FAC)	33-66
Facultative Upland (FACU)	1-33

Wetlands are identified as those areas that are dominated by obligate (OBL), facultative wet (FACW), and facultative (FAC+ and FAC) species.

The following plants and affinity to wetlands were noted: Four (4) 12” to 18” Dia. Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharum*) Uplands, English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) (FACU), Plantain, (FACU), Carrot Grass (Uplands), Crab Grass, (FACU), Greenbriar, (FAC), Aster, (FAC), Honeysuckle, (FACU), Virginia creeper (UP), Fescues, (Uplands), Clover, (FACU). The plant species identified on site do not correspond to a wetlands affinity condition therefore not addressing the wetland parameter.

2. **Soils:** Second, sites must have as their predominant substrates soils that exhibit hydric characteristics, as defined by the N.J.D.E.P. as follows:

“Hydric Soils” means a soil that in it’s undrained condition is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation. The soil mapped onsite by the Monmouth County Soil Survey is a Tinton Loamy Sand soil with a Seasonal High Water Table of six (6) feet or greater. Wetlands have to occur in the layers from the surface to within 12 inches, therefore this wetlands condition or parameter does not exist.

3. **Hydrology:** Third, wetland areas must also meet the criteria for wetland hydrology. The sites must have a seasonal high water table within twelve (12) inches of the soil surface and/or be seasonally saturated or inundated at least

12.5 percent of the growing season. Wetland indicator characteristics for hydrology may also be used and they include drainage patterns, depressions, ponding, drift lines, watermarks, surface water or streams, etc. The site has adequate slopes that conveys any surface water from the curblineline to the rear of the site which is approximately two (2) feet lower in elevation and continues to slope toward 2<sup>nd</sup> street. The site does not address the hydrological parameter for wetlands.

In summary the wetlands investigation presented in this statement is a preliminary study of the soils, vegetation and hydrology of the site, performed on June 24, 2024. It is the opinion of this office that a wetlands condition does not exist on the subject parcel since none of the three (3) required parameters were noted and a NJDEP Permit would not be required for any future site disturbances.