



Town of Simsbury

66 TOWN FOREST ROAD, P.O. BOX 495, SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

~ Department of Public Works ~

Memorandum: Brush Clearing for FBI Investigation – Iron Horse Boulevard

To: Margery Winters, Chairman Conservation Commission
CC: Lisa Heavner, Chief Ingvertsen, Captain Boulter, Mike Glidden
From: Thomas J. Roy, Director of Public Works
Date: January 20, 2016

In October of 2015 the Simsbury Police Department requested the assistance of the Public Works Department in support of an FBI crime scene investigation that was scheduled to be completed in the coming weeks.

Public Works began a dialog with the FBI agents to determine the scope of the investigation and the work that would be required from our Department to support their activity. The work required for this comprehensive and methodical search would require the FBI investigators to move freely within the investigatory area to search for evidence. As part of our discussions with the FBI, we were required to keep the proposed work secret, as any public involvement could compromise the investigation.

Understanding the importance of this wetland and realizing that we would not have the ability to bring the proposed brush clearing before the Conservation Commission, we contracted with All Habitat Services LLC of Branford to provide support and documentation to the brush clearing work we were asked to complete. All Habitat provided the following services:

- All Habitat utilized Roger Gibson a Certified Soil Scientist to conduct and document the site before any work began. A full report from Mr. Gibson is attached for your review.
- All Habitat worked with Public Works staff to determine the most appropriate equipment and methods for the brush removal. This ranged from hand tools to tractors and tracked forestry equipment.
- A qualified representative from All Habitat flagged all of the native species that were important to the ecology of the area and made certain that they were not damaged. At all times that Public Works crews were engaged in work on the site, the All Habitat representative was present to provide oversight and consultation.

We worked to balance the needs of the environment with the necessity to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder that occurred in this area over a year ago. I have included a number of photos to help document the work that was completed and I have attached the report from Roger Gibson. I am available to answer any questions you may have on this work.

P:\Operations\PUBLIC WORKS\Projects - Programs\IronHorse Brush Clearing\Brush Clearing Iron Horse.docx



Simsbury Meadows
Iron Horse Boulevard
Simsbury, Connecticut

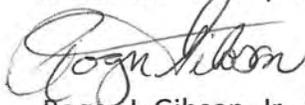
Photographic Log and General Description of Existing Vegetation

The purpose of this report was to document the existing vegetation bordering specific areas at Simsbury Meadows park adjacent to Iron Horse Boulevard in Simsbury, Connecticut. This was completed at the request of All Habitat Services, LLC, under contract to the town of Simsbury. The field walk was completed on November 19, 2015 along with All Habitat Services. Clearing had been proposed to cut back the groundcover within approximately 50 feet of the park road and Helen's Way boardwalk as indicated in the aerial accompanying this photographic documentation of the area. Therefore, the larger trees and native shrubs not hindering this effort would remain where possible.

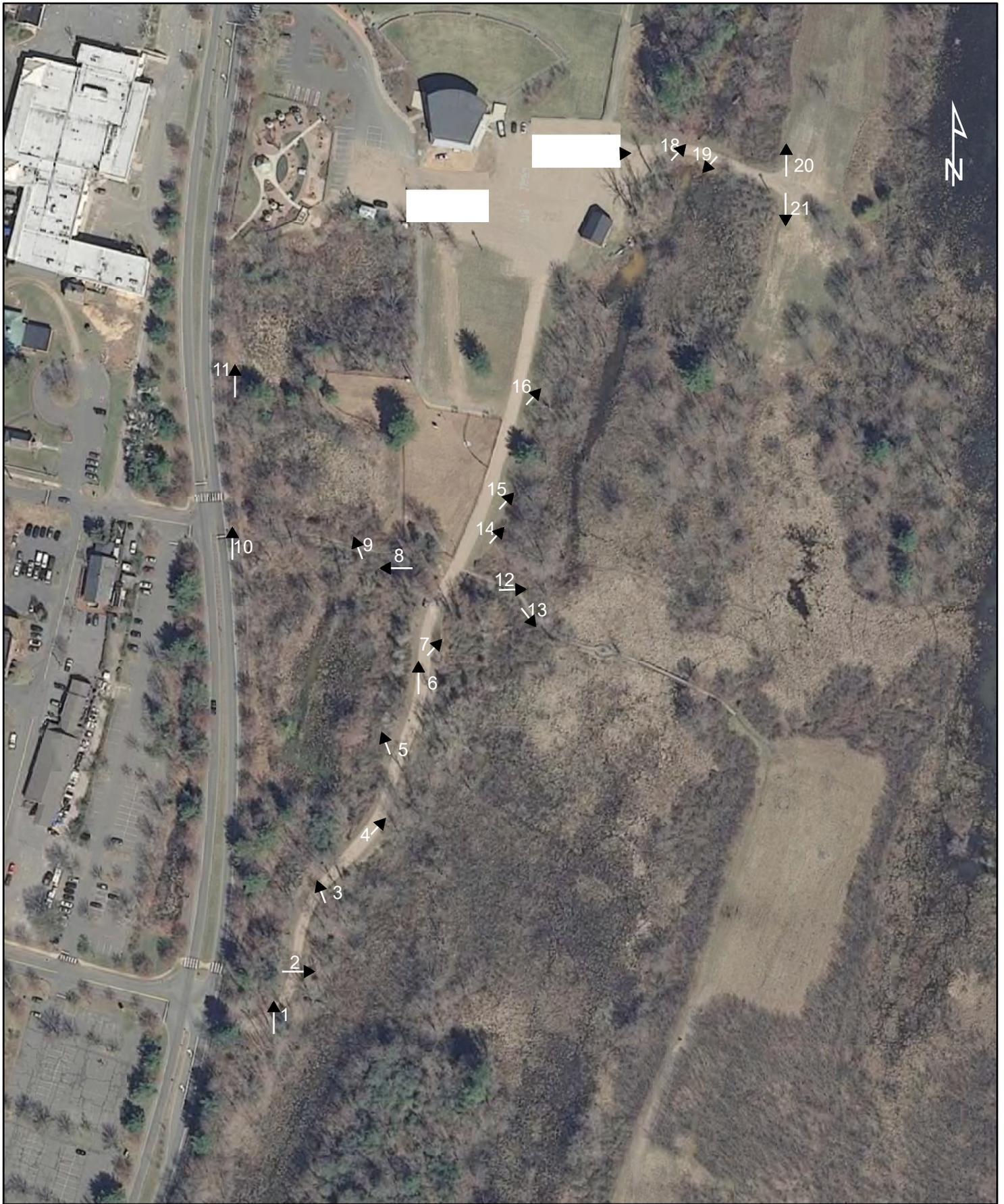
Shrubs of ecological significance bordering the study area were flagged in the field by All Habitat Services, LLC. The shrubs flagged included hazel alder (*Alnus serrulata*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), dogwood (*Cornus sp.*) winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), and willow (*Salix sp.*). Shrubs noted as invasive were planned to be cut during the clearing of the groundcover. Invasive shrubs noted during this site walk included honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*).

The herbaceous layer consisted of a large diversity of wetland and non-wetland species. The herbaceous layer was proposed to be cleared and included both native and invasive species. Given that the forested canopy and area hydrology are to remain unchanged, native forbs, rushes, sedges and grasses may have a better opportunity to compete with the more aggressive non-native species once these non-native and invasive plants have been cut back.

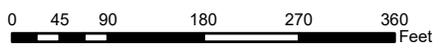
The following pages include an aerial of the site indicating the study area with the numbered observation areas photographed and accompanies the included photographic log.



Roger J. Gibson, Jr., PWS, CPESC
Connecticut Certified Soil Scientist
December 7, 2015



↑ 1 Photographic # and direction



Simsbury Meadows
Iron Horse Blvd.
Simsbury, CT
November 19, 2015



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 1 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

Description:
 Area bordering wetland on both sides, East and West, consisted of the evergreen white pine, *Pinus strobus* and other miscellaneous trees. Invasive vegetation was found to have dominated much of the area that was previously filled along the park's roadway. This included honeysuckle, multiflora rose, autumn olive, oriental bittersweet and japanese knotweed.



Photo No. 2 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 East

Description:
 Upland fill area bordering cattail swamp. View from park road, see aerial for location and direction.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. **Date:**
 3 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northwest

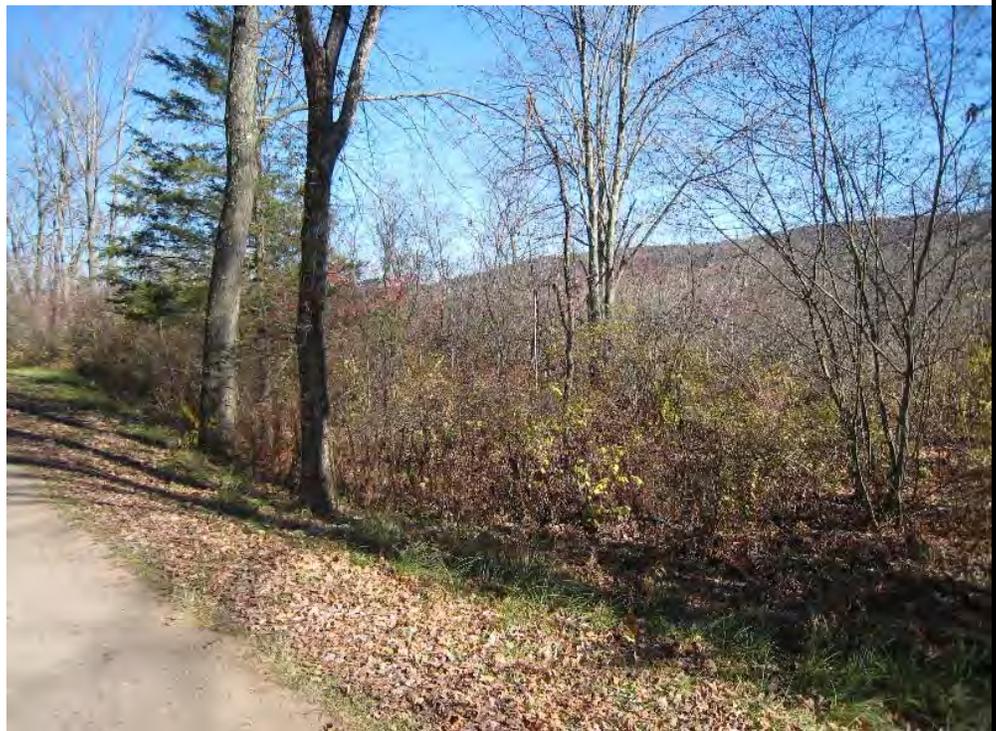
Description:
 View on the other side of the park road with cattail shown in wetland area.



Photo No. **Date:**
 4 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northeast

Description:
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) and Alder (*Alnus serrulata*) were found as shrubs of ecological importance in this area along with several invasive species.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. **Date:**
 5 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northwest

Description:
 Upland fill area along road indicated no known vegetation of ecological importance other than dense groundcover for small mammals. Cattail swamp shown behind filled area.



Photo No. **Date:**
 6 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

Description:
 View North towards Helen's Way boardwalk.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 7
Date: 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northeast

Description:
 View Northeast towards boardwalk. Vegetation in vicinity included ecologically important alder, *Alnus serrulata*, along with invasive species such as oriental bittersweet and multiflora rose.



Photo No. 8
Date: 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 East

Description:
 Helen's Way boardwalk crossing wetland. Wetland flags shown in blue and red completed recently by Soil Science and Environmental Services, Inc. The dominant vegetation includes red maple (*Acer rubrum*), willow (*Salix sp.*), hazel alder (*Alnus serrulata*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), and dogwood (*Cornus sp.*).



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name: All Habitat Services, LLC	Simsbury Meadows Iron Horse Blvd. Simsbury, Connecticut	Project Assignment: Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.
--	--	--

Photo No. 9	Date: 11/19/2015
-----------------------	----------------------------

Direction of Photo Taken: Northwest

Description:
 Helen's Way boardwalk crossing wetland, view Northeast.
 Cattail shown in background.



Photo No. 10	Date: 11/19/2015
------------------------	----------------------------

Direction of Photo Taken: Northeast

Description:
 Japanese knotweed, *Polygonum cuspidatum*, shown invading corner and area North along asphalt walkway.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior
 to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 11 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

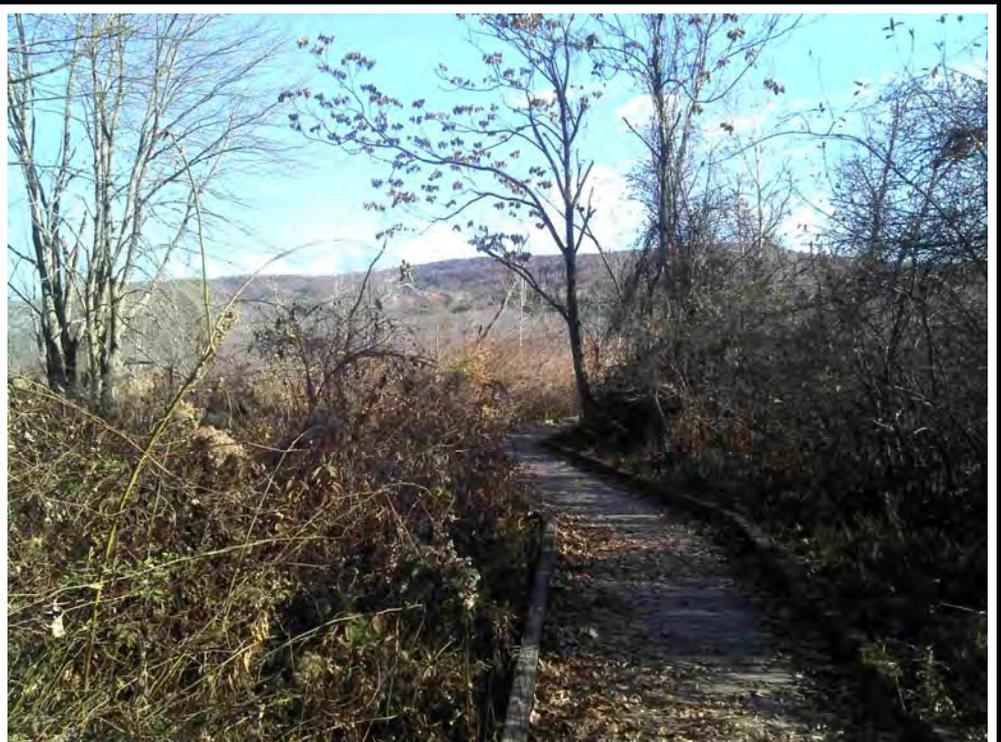
Description:
 Japanese knotweed
 (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
 dominating the area bordering
 wetland.



Photo No. 12 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northeast

Description:
 Helen's Way easterly
 boardwalk.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 13 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 East

Description:
 Shrubs of a greater ecological significance shown being flagged by All Habitat Services personnel.



Photo No. 14 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

Description:
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus alba*), willow (*Salix sp.*), were identified and flagged along this stretch towards the red garage including the invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*).



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 15
Date: 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northeast

Description:
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus alba*), willow (*Salix sp.*), were identified and flagged along this stretch towards the red garage including the invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*).



Photo No. 16
Date: 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

Description:
 Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), red osier dogwood (*Cornus alba*), willow (*Salix sp.*), were identified and flagged along this stretch towards the red building including the invasive honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*).



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 17 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 East

Description:
 Gated area northeast of red garage.



Photo No. 18 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Northeast

Description:
 Winterberry with fruit shown flagged for saving.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
 All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
 Iron Horse Blvd.
 Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
 Document existing conditions prior to vegetation clearing.

Photo No. 19 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 Southwest

Description:
 Pink ribbon on vegetation proposed to save as shown, included buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), and hazel alder (*Alnus serrulata*).



Photo No. 20 **Date:** 11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
 North

Description:
 Upland shrubs such as goldenrod (*Solidago sp.*) shown between open field and wetland.



PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Client Name:
All Habitat Services, LLC

Simsbury Meadows
Iron Horse Blvd.
Simsbury, Connecticut

Project Assignment:
Document existing conditions prior
to vegetation clearing.

Photo No.	Date:
21	11/19/2015

Direction of Photo Taken:
South

Description:
Upland shrubs such as
goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) shown
between open field and
wetland.

