

threshold. This NPC is the third required five-year SDP update, and the SRP did not contain a termination date. Additionally, since 2012, construction has proceeded on several projects, none of which have individually met or exceeded MEPA review thresholds.

The 2022-2027 SDP, included as part of the NPC, provides a description of the current conditions at UMass Lowell, the new projects planned for the next five years, projected future conditions in 2027, the environmental effects of the planned projects, and the mitigation measures that UMass Lowell will employ to reduce traffic volumes, conserve water, manage stormwater, reduce solid and hazardous wastes, reduce greenhouse gas emission, and limit construction period effects.

The NPC also describes all projects undertaken and completed at UMass Lowell during the last 5-year planning period (from 2016-2021). Completed projects include the following: North Quad Pod Addition, Southwick Courtyard, Perry Hall Engineering Building, South Campus Mall, Central Services and Facilities Operations Buildings, Perkins Properties (renamed River Hawk Village), Fox Hall Elevator Addition, Aiken Street Recreation Fields (renamed the Campus Recreation Complex), Pawtucket Street Riverfront Park (renamed the Northern Canal Overlook), and the Accelerated Energy Program (AEP).

Project Background

In August 2011, UMass Lowell filed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the North Campus Garage (EEA#14777) that did not require the preparation of an EIR. That project, as described in the ENF, entailed the construction of a 650-space parking garage on UMass Lowell's North Campus. In accordance with the ENF Certificate issued on September 9, 2011, UMass Lowell was directed to develop a SRP for any new projects at UMass Lowell. On March 23, 2012, the Secretary of EEA entered into a SRP with UMass Lowell to guide the environmental review of the UMass Lowell Master Plan/SDP (at the time, covering the period 2011-16 as outlined in the 2012 Capital Projects Update), as well as projects proposed in subsequent five-year time periods.

Under the SRP in accordance with 301 CMR 11.05(8), UMass Lowell was required to submit an NPC that presented potential cumulative environmental impacts, analysis of alternatives, and appropriate mitigation measures. As

of those projects, and to adopt appropriate measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate those effects. An NPC containing the 2017-2021 Strategic Development Plan was filed in January 2017 and a Certificate requiring no further MEPA review was issued on February 10, 2017.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and associated impacts on UMass Lowell's financial position resulted in a temporary freeze of the campus's construction activity and a delay in developing its capital plan. Consequently, the MEPA Office granted a request from UMass Lowell for a one-year extension of the deadline to file an NPC under SRP. As noted above, the current NPC addresses the five-year planning period of 2022-2027.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

UMass Lowell's North, South, and East Campuses currently occupy approximately 140.09 acres of land, contain 58 buildings, and house 4.44 million gross square feet (sf) of built space. Through the implementation of the 2022-2027 SDP, the project area will increase by approximately 4.74 acres to a total of 144.83 acres. Due to the 2022-2027 SDP focus on building retrofits and modernization of od

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Jurisdiction and Permitting

The implementation of the five-year development program is subject to MEPA review through a NPC pursuant to the SRP. The cumulative projects presented in the NPC do not collectively exceed any mandatory EIR thresholds or require any Permits. Projects detailed in the 2022-2027 SDP may require review the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) pursuant to M.G.L. c

The NPC also provides information on the new projects planned for the 2022-2027 time frame which are designed to

East Campus

- x Acquisition of LeLacheur Park – Acquire LeLacheur Park baseball stadium from City of Lowell and invest in capital projects to address significant

result in any significant changes to campus land use. The acquisition of LeLacheur Hall by the City of Lowell will increase the acreage of landholding impervious area, and building square footage on campus; however, it will be a continuation of the current use of the facility under new ownership and is not anticipated to generate new impacts. Additionally, the NPC notes several projects that have resulted in reducing impervious surfaces, including the conversion of the Southwick Courtyard from impervious surface parking to landscaped open space on the North Campus; the removal of redundant concrete pathways around Weed Hall, introduced new pervious landscaping at the South Campus bus hub on Wilder Street, and redesigned walking paths around Coburn Hall to reduce impervious surfaces on the South Campus; and completion of the Campus Recreation Complex which replaced a large, paved parking lot and warehouse structure with athletic fields and a subsurface groundwater recharge system that retains nearly all of the stormwater that falls on the property on the East Campus.

Stormwater from the project site ultimately discharges to the Merrimack River, which is among the waterbodies subject to total maximum daily loads (TMDLs). To the extent practicable, stormwater BMPs that control pathogens should be incorporated into 2022-2027 SDP projects. Consideration also should be given to utilizing BMPs that control other impairments identified in the Integrated List of Waters for which TMDLs have not been prepared, including mercury and phosphorus.

The NPC also provides information on the existing and proposed conditions of stormwater drainage infrastructure on the three campuses. UMass Lowell's Stormwater Management Program has been updated from the 2009 version to address the requirements of the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) S4 General Permit, including compliance with the required six Minimum Control Measures to the extent practical. In addition, UMass Lowell implemented green infrastructure and Low Impact Development (LID) techniques to the extent possible in its recent projects. Minor projects to rehabilitate parking areas and outdoor landscapes have also been completed.

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and staff members, and the anticipated growth in number of employees and staff between 2022 and 2027.

UMass Lowell has committed to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles (SOVs) by the campus population through the implementation of MassDOT's Comprehensive Sustainability Initiative (

an effort in partnership with the City of Lowell and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to redesign Pawtucket Street, which connects the South Campus to the East Campus, as a complete street with enhanced pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

Bicycles and Pedestrians

The 2027~~2027~~ SDP continues to emphasize pedestrian needs and accommodations and the importance of eliminating conflicts with other modes of transportation to improve pedestrian safety. The NPC identified the existing off-campus bicycle networks that connect the campus to the City of Lowell and beyond. A system of street bike lanes, shared bike routes, and street multiuse trails link the three campuses, as well as Downtown Lowell, the ICC, and the Kennedy Bus Transfer Center and MBTA Lowell Commuter Rail Station at the Gallaghe

Water and Wastewater

The NPC includes a discussion of existing and proposed conditions associated with water consumption and wastewater flows and infrastructure. UMass Lowell relies on the municipal Lowell Regional Water Utility (LRWU) for water supply which sources and treats water from the Merrimack River. The NPC states that despite subsequent declines during the COVID pandemic, actual water use in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 exceeded the water use projection in the 2020-SDP. Actual water use intensity, incorporating the actual total floor area on campus, was also higher than projected. The NPC notes that several factors likely contributed including overall campus growth, including the addition of the River Hawk Village residence halls, and the expansion of the research program. According to the NPC, UMass Lowell is projecting a decrease in the water use intensity with a minor increase in enrollment and an increase in research activity over the course of the 2022-2027 SDP. This will be accomplished by having more accurate data, greater water conservation through fixture upgrades and replacements in renovated spaces, and implementing efficient design standards for new and existing buildings and outdoor landscapes. Additionally, UMass Lowell is in the process of procuring and implementing a cloud-based remote water management system for the irrigation system which will track water use and leaks in real-time, automatically adjust irrigation based on need, and shut off irrigation remotely. UMass Lowell anticipates the system to be fully in place by the end of 2027 and reduce the amount of water used for irrigation by up to 35%. According to the NPC, implementation of the 2022-2027 SDP will reduce water usage by 19,000 gpd on average and reduce the daily peak by 38,000 gpd.

UMass Lowell's sanitary wastewater flows to Lowell City Wastewater Utility's (LRWWU) Duck Island Waste Water Treatment Plant. However, LRWWU does not track wastewater flow associated specifically with UMass Lowell. Due to the ongoing efforts to reduce water usage and improve water efficiency, the NPC projects a reduction in wastewater generation of 7,000 gpd on average and a reduction of the daily peak by 34,000 gpd.

Historical and Archaeological Resources

In 2012, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) conducted an archaeological survey of the UMass Lowell campus. The survey identified several areas of potential archaeological significance, including the River Hawk Village residence halls and the former Lowell Regional Water Utility (LRWU) treatment plant. The survey also identified several areas of potential historical significance, including the former Lowell Regional Water Utility (LRWU) treatment plant and the former Lowell Regional Water Utility (LRWU) treatment plant.

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MassDEP's regulations regarding Air Pollution Control (310 CMR 7.01, 7.09-7.10), and Solid Waste
Facilities (310 CMR 16.00 and 310 CMR 19.00, including the waste ban provision at 310 CMR
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