

MEMORANDUM

DATE December 18, 2018

TO Arlington Conservation Commission

FROM Joseph Famely
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Reeds Brook Fall 2018 Sediment Observations

The following map and photographs document Woods Hole Group's observations made in Reeds Brook at McClennen Park on December 4, 2018.

We observed two types of possible iron impacts on the substrate of Reeds Brook:

1. Loose organic floc of a dull orange tinge that has accumulated on the leaf litter and among the bases of emergent wetland vegetation. This material is easily disturbed and likely gets flushed out of the higher flow areas, especially during storm events.
2. Orange floc/staining on a portion of the sediment particles. This condition is only at the sediment surface in a very localized area, and affects a very small proportion of the sediment particles in place (i.e. its occurrence is diffuse).

Based on these conditions and on observations of biological activity (songbirds, mallards, buffleheads, heron, sunfish, and benthic invertebrates such as water boatmen, larval dragonflies, and larval hellgrammites) throughout Reeds Brook, we do not believe the floc constitutes a condition of readily apparent harm.



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Areas with no observed floc (MP3A, MP3B, MP4A, MP4B, MP4C, MP5A, MP5B, MP5C):



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Areas with dull orange organic floc settled on surface of vegetation but highly susceptible to mobilization (MP1A, MP2A, MP6A, MP5B, MP5C):



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Areas with dispersed (<5% coverage) orange floc on sediment surface (MP6B, MP7B):



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