
**CAMP MEETING AVENUE,
HILLSBOROUGH ROAD AND
HOMESTEAD ROAD OVER
TRENTON LINE (CSX)
SOMERSET COUNTY
BRIDGE REHABILITATION**

Wetland Identification Survey Report

Prepared for:



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WETLAND IDENTIFICATION REPORT AT HOMESTEAD ROAD, HILLSBOROUGH ROAD AND CAMP MEETING AVENUE OVER TRENTON LINE

This report presents the results of a wetland identification survey conducted at three bridge crossings over the Trenton Railroad Line in Hillsborough and Montgomery Townships, New Jersey. The bridge crossings are located at Homestead Road, Hillsborough Road, and Camp Meeting Avenue.

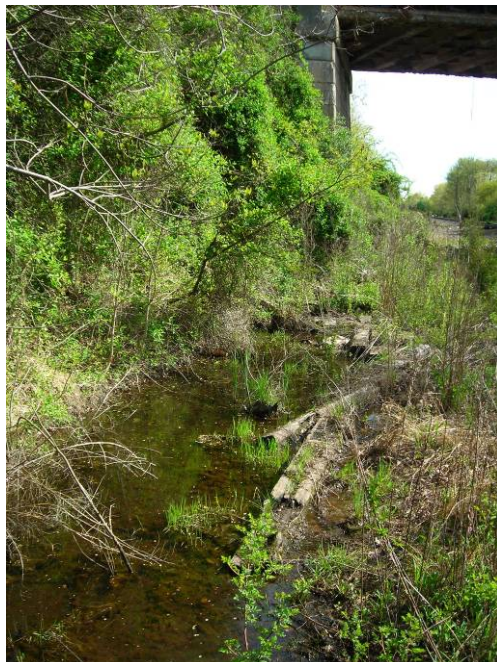
An area within approximately 100 feet of the bridge crossings was searched for evidence of wetlands or state open waters. Dominant vegetation observed near each bridge crossing was recorded and representative photographs taken of each crossing.

Results of the survey are presented in terms of the intersection of the railroad line and respective road, with reference to a northeast (NE), northwest (NW), southwest (SW), and southeast (SE) quadrant for each intersection (see attached sketches from field notes).

Homestead Road Crossing



At this crossing, the two western quadrants contained a ditch that was continuous beneath the crossing. In the NW quadrant, the ditch was primarily rock-lined and largely unvegetated (lower right-hand corner of photo at left). In the SW quadrant, the ditch contained several common wetland plants, such as cattail and sensitive fern. Thus, in the SW quadrant the ditch appears to possess wetland characteristics (photo below).



The SE quadrant contains rock fill and upland soil from the bridge support structure to approximately 25 feet south of the structure. However, beyond that distance a ditch is present adjacent to the railroad tracks. This ditch also contained several typical wetland plants, such as soft rush and green ash, and appears to possess wetland characteristics (photo at right).



The NE quadrant contains no evidence of wetlands/waters and is basically an area of upland and rock fill (photo at left).

Hillsborough Road Crossing

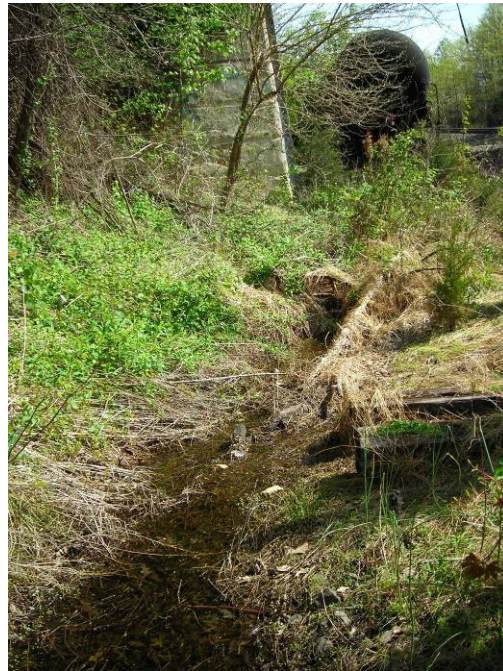
The NE (photo below-left) and SE (photo below-right) quadrants contained no ditch or depression and appeared to consist of upland only.



Both the NW and SW quadrants contained ditches, but the ditches were not continuous beneath the road crossing. Both ditches contained few emergent wetland plants, but both contained algae and an unidentified aquatic plant. In the NW quadrant, the ditch had several ashleaf maples along its banks, and it contained several sedges emerging from the water (photos below). This ditch appears to possess wetland characteristics.



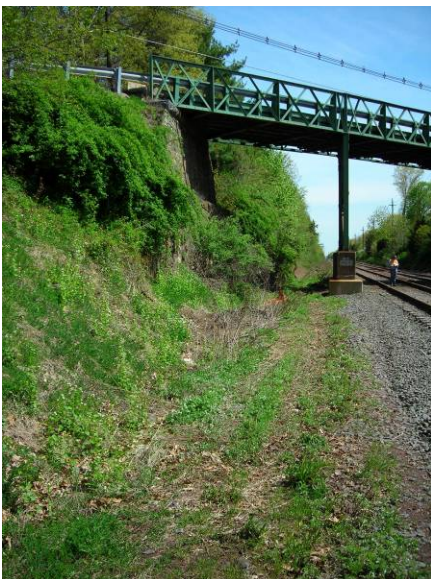
Emergent vegetation was not observed in the SW quadrant ditch (photo at right). Plants along its banks included poison ivy and red cedar (photo below). Lacking wetland plants, this ditch may not be considered a wetland.



Camp Meeting Avenue Crossing

Most the quadrants at this crossing showed evidence of recent ditch dredging or modification. What appeared to be dredge spoil had been placed between the railroad tracks (photo at right).

The SW quadrant is the only quadrant that did not contain a ditch. It appears to consist of upland (photo below).



The NE (photo below-left) and SE (photo below-right) quadrants contained a continuous ditch that gradually flowed to the north. The ditch contained no emergent plants but did contain algae and aquatic plants. The ditch had evidently been excavated, dredged, or deepened in the recent past, as mud was still adjacent to the ditch and in the center of the railroad tracks. This ditch does not possess wetland characteristics but appears to constitute state open water.



The NW quadrant contained a ditch with steady flow to the south. The ditch flowed into a plastic culvert approximately 20 feet north of the bridge support structure. The outflow of this culvert could not be located in the vicinity. This ditch contained no vegetation and also appeared to have been recently altered (both photos below: right is toward crossing and left is upstream/north). This ditch does not possess wetland characteristics but appears to constitute state open water.

