

VERNAL POOL IDENTIFICATION

PROJECT: Quail Ridge, Acton, MA

CLIENT: Northwest Development, LLC

This project consisted of a new 18-hole championship golf course proposed on a 164 acre site located up-gradient of a public drinking water supply. Epsilon examined ten potential vernal pools that had been previously identified on the site by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Epsilon observed evidence of breeding obligate amphibian species at seven of the ten locations that met the criteria for classification as certified vernal pools by the NHESP. Breeding evidence of obligate amphibians consisted of wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) egg masses and tadpoles and spotted salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*) egg masses. These two species are vernal pool dependent and, in association with a confined basin depression with no permanently flowing outlet, are considered direct indicators of vernal pool habitat.

