



## *Richard A. Alaimo Associates*

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May 27, 2026

Mr. Nordan Murphy, P.E., P.P.  
County Engineer  
County of Passaic  
Department of Engineering  
401 Grand Street, Room 524  
Paterson, New Jersey 07505

Re: Passaic County  
Highlands Rail Trail Phase II  
Phase 1A Archaeological Survey  
Our File No. A-0160-0035-000

Dear Mr. Murphy,

As requested by NJDOT during their review of the CED, we have obtained a proposal from Hunter Research to perform a Phase 1A Archaeological Survey. The Phase 1A will be performed at the proposed staging area and along the southern bank of the proposed pedestrian bridge. The additional costs are as follows:

Hunter Research Phase 1A -	\$7535.00
Richard A. Alaimo Associates-	\$2500.00

Hunter's cost is as per their proposed tasks and the Alaimo additional cost is for coordination with our subconsultant, and any revisions needed to the CED related to the Phase 1A conclusions and recommendations. The total cost does not include any additional archaeological surveys or plan revisions.

Attached please find the Hunter Research proposal and fee task breakdown.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 609-26-8310 ext. 258 or via email at [tcappettijr@alaimogroup.com](mailto:tcappettijr@alaimogroup.com).

Sincerely yours,

RICHAD A. ALAIMO ASSOCIATES

*Thomas D. Cappetti Jr*

Thomas D. Cappetti Jr., Environmental Planner  
Senior Associate

TDC:

Mr. Miles Powell, President, RAAA  
Mr. Erik Svensen, P.E., Senior Associate, RAAA

- Consulting Engineers -

Civil • Structural • Mechanical • Electrical • Environmental • Planners

# HUNTER RESEARCH

Richard W. Hunter  
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VICE PRESIDENT

James S. Lee  
VICE PRESIDENT

Patricia A. Madrigal  
VICE PRESIDENT

March 18, 2026

Thomas Cappetti, Jr., Environmental Planner  
Senior Associate  
Alaimo Group  
200 High Street  
Mount Holly, NJ 08060

## By E-mail

Re: Phase IA Archaeological Survey  
Highlands Rail Trail Phase II  
Block 300, Lot 1 and Block 301, Lot 1.01  
Wanaque Borough, Passaic County, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Cappetti:

Please accept this proposal for a Phase IA Archaeological Survey in connection with a section of the proposed Highlands Rail Trail on the southern bank of the Wanaque River between Ringwood Avenue and the former Erie Railroad's New York and Greenwood Lake Railway rail bed in Wanaque Borough, Passaic County. While most impacts are limited to the rail bed, parts of the temporary riparian buffer and temporary transition area (approximately 0.7 acres) will be subject to ground disturbance at this location as illustrated on Sheets 18 and 19 of the project plans. This survey does not include archaeological survey beyond Block 300, Lot 1 and Block 301, Lot 1.01. Our understanding is that the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (NJHPO) requested this survey during a technical assistance meeting with the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), who are funding this Passaic County project. During this same meeting the NJHPO also noted that there were no historic architectural concerns. The project site is adjacent to, but not within, the eligible Wanaque Reservoir Historic District on the west side of Ringwood Avenue.

Hunter Research will undertake a Phase IA Archaeological Survey comprising background research, a site visit and an assessment of the potential for archaeological resources within the areas of proposed ground disturbance sufficient for review by the NJHPO. Phase II of the Highlands Rail Trail project includes the construction of a pedestrian bridge spanning the Wanaque River, using the abutments of a no longer extant railroad bridge. The project site will be used for staging during the construction of this bridge.

Preliminarily, cultural resources concerns for this project appear to be quite limited. There are no known precontact archaeological sites in the immediate vicinity per NJHPO's Archaeological Site grid. Based on historic maps and aerial photographs, a single dwelling has been present within this area through much of the 20th century. Nineteenth-century maps indicate structures in the immediate vicinity, but probably just beyond the tax parcels that are the subject of this study.

Our firm's services in this instance will involve the completion of a study that will: 1). conduct background research; 2). carry out a field inspection to preliminarily assess the project location's potential for containing archaeological resources; 3). evaluate likely project impacts on identified archaeological resources; and 4). make recommendations, as necessary, concerning the need for additional archaeological study and avoidance and/or mitigation of project impacts.

We propose undertaking the following work tasks:

**1. Background Research** – research will be undertaken using in-house and online materials and will be supplemented by examination of maps and files at the New Jersey State Museum, the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the New Jersey State Library and local libraries in Passaic County, as needed. No primary archival research will be undertaken.

**2. Field Investigations** - following completion of the background research, a half-day of fieldwork is proposed for the proposed archaeological inspection. This work will involve systematic inspection of the property, the taking of notes and photographs and the annotation of project plans. No subsurface testing is proposed.

**3. Analysis and Report** - upon completion of all research and fieldwork tasks, Hunter Research will analyze the assembled research and field data. Upon completion of analysis, Hunter Research will prepare a project technical report in which archaeological resources within the area of study will be identified, described and preliminarily evaluated, and a preliminary assessment of archaeological potential will be given.

The likely project effects on eligible or potentially SR/NR eligible historic archaeological resources will be preliminarily assessed. Areas of archaeological sensitivity (i.e., those parts of the project location that are considered likely to hold substantially intact below-ground cultural deposits and may therefore merit further investigation) will be indicated on project maps. Recommendations will also be offered, as appropriate, concerning whether or not there is a need for further archaeological study within the context of the proposed temporary use of the site.

The report is estimated as being approximately 25 to 40 pages in length including attachments (copies of maps, photographs, resumes, etc.). The attached cost estimate makes allowance for the transmission of the following: one PDF copy of a draft report submitted to the client for initial review; one final digital copy with original photograph files. The project report will be prepared in accordance with current NJHPO guidelines.

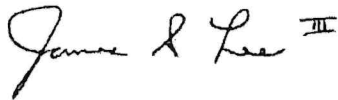
*Schedule:* Hunter Research will provide a draft project report giving preliminary results of survey findings within 10 weeks of the project award.

*Fee:* A separate fee proposal is enclosed.

All work will be accomplished in accordance with the various guidelines for archaeology and historic preservation projects issued by the NJHPO. Senior staff conducting this work will meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for history, architectural history and archaeology.

We look forward to the opportunity of providing you with these services. If you have any questions, please feel to contact me at this office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James L. Lee III". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James Lee, M.A., RPA  
Vice President/Principal Archaeologist

encl.: Cost estimate

copy: Richard W. Hunter, HRI

PHASE IA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 HIGHLANDS RAIL TRAIL PHASE II  
 BLOCK 300, LOT 1 AND BLOCK 301, LOT 1.01  
 WANAQUE BOROUGH, PASSAIC COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

TIME AND COST ESTIMATE

LABOR

	Hours	Loaded Rate	Cost
<b>1. Background Research and Field Preparation</b>			
Principal Investigator	2.00	\$135.00	\$270.00
Historian	16.00	\$75.00	\$1,200.00
GIS Specialist/Archaeologist	<u>2.00</u>	\$95.00	<u>\$190.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20.00</b>		<b>\$1,660.00</b>
<b>2. Field Investigations</b>			
Senior Archaeologist	<u>4.00</u>	\$97.50	<u>\$390.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4.00</b>		<b>\$390.00</b>
<b>3. Analysis and Report</b>			
Principal Historian	4.00	\$135.00	\$540.00
Principal Investigator	8.00	\$135.00	\$1,080.00
Senior Archaeologist	16.00	\$97.50	\$1,560.00
Historian	12.00	\$75.00	\$900.00
Report Manager	4.00	\$135.00	\$540.00
GIS Specialist/Archaeologist	<u>8.00</u>	\$95.00	<u>\$760.00</u>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>52.00</b>		<b>\$5,380.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LABOR</b>	<b>76.00</b>		<b>\$7,430.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Travel	150 miles @	\$0.700	\$105.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$105.00</b>
<b>TOTAL COST</b>			<b>\$7,535.00</b>