



PUBLIC NOTICE

US Army
Corps of Engineers
Rock Island District

Applicant: City of Cedar Falls, Iowa Date: September 03, 2020
CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1140 Expires: October 02, 2020
Section 404

Joint Public Notice
US Army Corps of Engineers
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

1. **Applicant:** City of Cedar Falls, 220 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.
2. **Project Location:** Section 12, Township 89 North, Range 14 West. Black Hawk County, Iowa. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 15. Latitude: 42.538814, Longitude: -92.443818.
3. **Project Description and Purpose.** The applicant is proposing a recreational improvement project on the Cedar River just upstream of the West 1st Street Bridge. This is phase one of two phases. The project would consist of modifying the Gateway Park Dam, removing safety hazards and constructing five structures (deflectors) that create waves or holes that cater to recreational and freestyle kayakers and anglers. These structures are constructed using large, grouted rock anchored into the bed and bank of the river. The deflectors act to funnel the water towards the center of the structure during low and medium flows, an area that is designated to create whitewater features and deep fishing habitat. The project also includes several bank stability and river access improvements. The project purpose is to provide the community river recreational use by enhancing the aquatic habitat for multiple species, support waterfowl that inhabit the river, provide bank improvements designed to stabilize the banks and to attract visitors to the area. This project will serve three main user-types: in-stream users, on-bank users and anglers. The primary in-stream users will be whitewater enthusiasts including kayakers, canoeists, stand up paddleboarders, rafters, tubers, swimmers, and boogie board/surfers. On-bank users include anglers, pedestrians, joggers, picnickers, and bird watchers. The design elements specifically address fish habitat and will accommodate anglers with improved river access, deep overwinter habitat, feeding lanes, and velocity refuge.
4. **Avoidance and Minimization Statement.** The project has been designed to consider exiting infrastructure, desired access points, optimal spacing for safety, avoiding wetland impacts and potential floodplain impacts. The design includes dewatering of the area to locate and identify the underwater obstacles and hazards. These hazards will be mitigated, and the concrete modified and stabilized to enhance the existing whitewater feature. The city has provided an alternatives analysis identifying three alternative designs. This site was ultimately chosen as the ideal location because it has the least amount of sensitive environmental and biological habitat for impact and it has the potential to create a valuable amenity directly adjacent to the central business district.

5. **Agency Review.** The project plans have been submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the Department's opinion that the proposed activity will comply with Iowa's water quality standards (Chapter 61 IAC). The applicant has also applied for authorization of work in the floodplain pursuant to Chapter 455B of the Iowa Code and other applicable state permits. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Iowa should be addressed to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. A copy of the comments should be provided to the Corps of Engineers office (see paragraph 11, of this public notice for address).

6. **Historical/Archaeological.** The District Archaeologist consulted with the Iowa geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. The current project area has not been previously surveyed. Several areas in the vicinity have been surveyed with a mill race identified west of the proposed project area. A single historic property has been identified in the current project area – a 1950's era sportsman's club dam. Based on the information to hand it is the opinion of the District Archaeologist the dam is not significant and not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. As such there will be no historic properties affected by the issuance of the permit because “the nature, scope, and magnitude of the work, and/or structures to be permitted are such that there is little likelihood that a historic property exists or may be affected” (33 CFR Part 325, Appendix C.3.b). Formal coordination of this determination will be provided to the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office and any other interested party under a separate coordination letter.

7. **Endangered Species.** District staff has performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis serptrionallis*), Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), Prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) and Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*) are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as occurring in Black Hawk County, Iowa. The project will not affect dry to mesic or wet prairies or sedge meadows so neither of the plant species will be affected. The project site is within the core of the summer range for the bat but no trees are planned to be impacted or removed. To avoid any direct or indirect effects to these species, preservation will be a major component in the development of the property. Our preliminary determination is that this project has no potential to affect any federally endangered, threatened or candidate species, or Critical Habitat. Accordingly, our preliminary determination is subject to change should further information become available.

8. **Public Interest Review.** The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

9. **Who Should Reply.** The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

10. **Public Hearing Requests.** Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

11. **Reply to the Corps of Engineers.** Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Abby Steele by phone: (309/794-5377), email: Abigail.a.steele@usace.army.mil or Mail: US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-P, Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004.

Abigail A. Steele

Attach
Plan

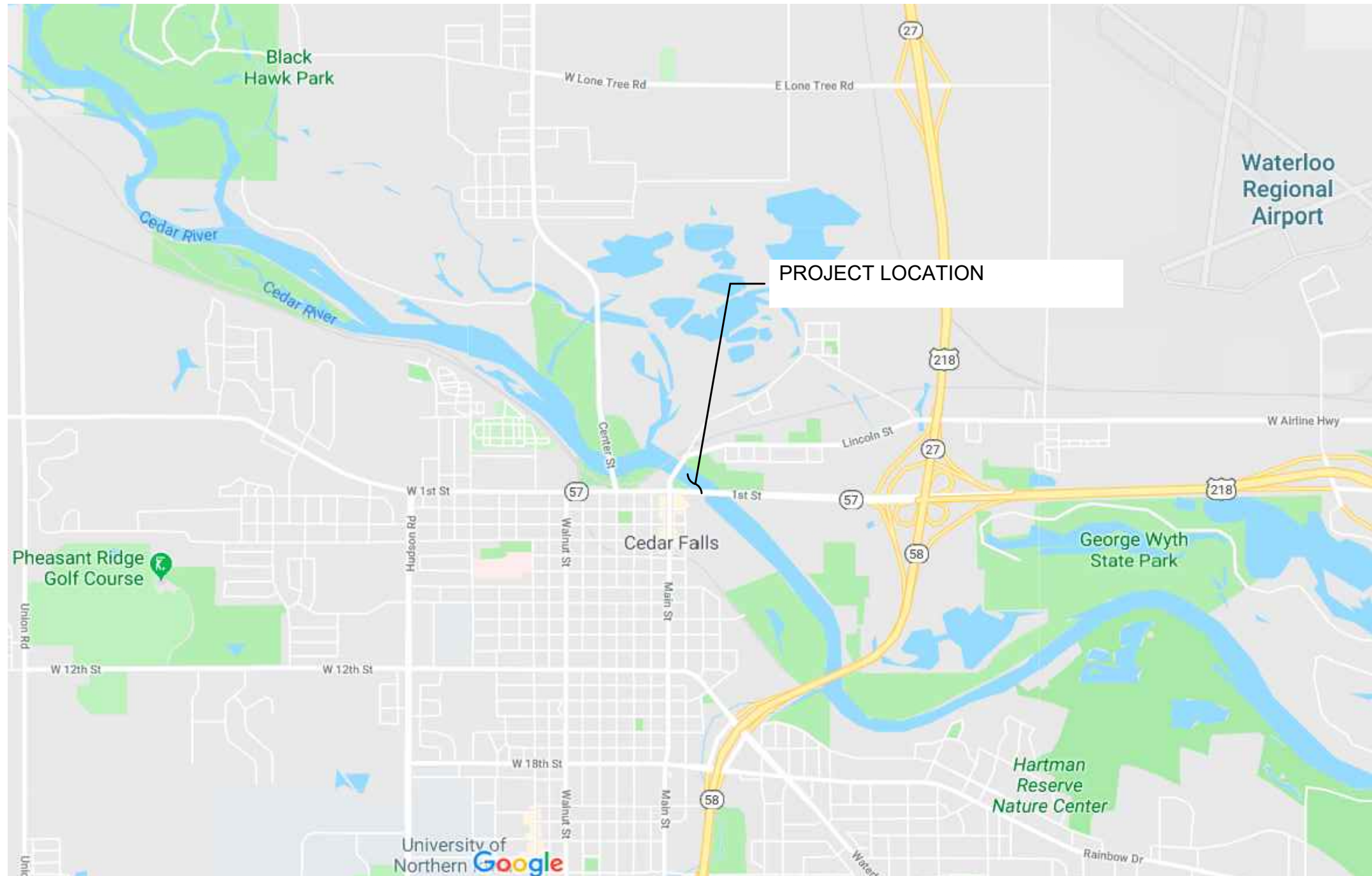
Ms. Abigail Steele
Project Manager, Iowa Permit Section
Regulatory Branch

REQUEST TO POSTMASTERS: Please post this notice conspicuously and continuously until the expiration date specified at the top of page 1.

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CITY OF CEDAR FALLS, IOWA

RECREATIONAL RIVER AREA AND RIVERBANK IMPROVEMENTS



VICINITY MAP



RIVERWISE
ENGINEERING, LLC
PO BOX 706
DURANGO | CO | 81302
WWW.RIVERWISE.ORG

PROJECT OWNER:
CITY OF CEDAR FALLS
220 CLAY STREET
CEDAR FALLS, IA
50613

RIVER AREA & RIVERBANK IMPROVEMENTS
CEDAR RIVER BLACK HAWK COUNTY
PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
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REVISIONS:	
NO.	DATE

DESIGNED: SS, MH, LK, RG
CHECKED: XX GRADED: RG
PLOT DATE: 12/2/2019

DRAWING NO.
C-01
SHEET C-01 OF 33

CEMVR-OD-P-2020-1140
Sheet 1 of 3
Vicinity Map

Phase I Project Area

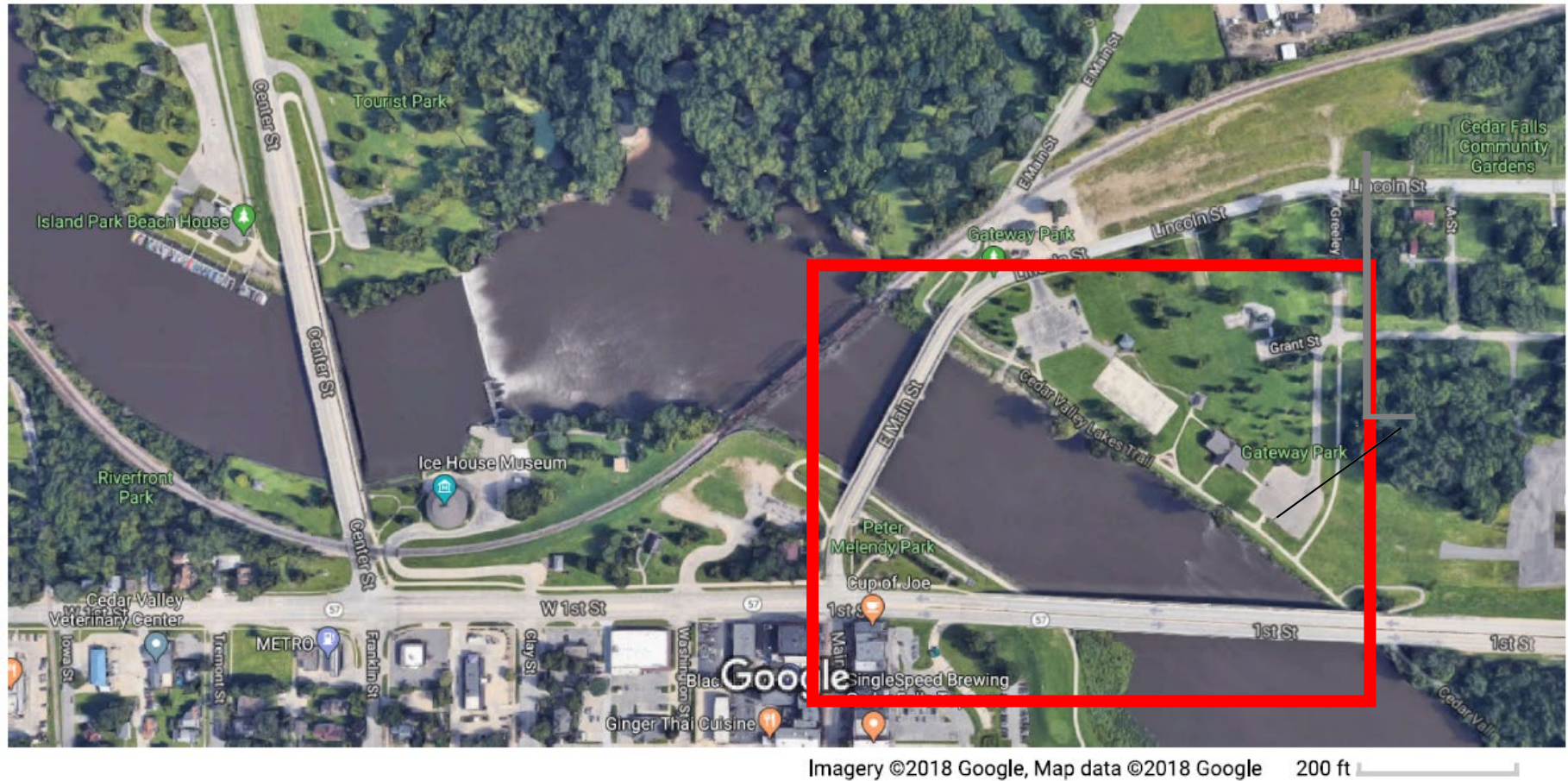


Figure 2: Manchester Whitewater Park

Bank improvements such as trails, seating areas, collection areas, bankside access points, and viewing areas have proven to create community interest for recreation, river stewardship, economic development, and cultural enhancement. Rivers are a foundational human resource and river parks aim to harness multiple uses and attractions.

City of Cedar Falls Project Overview

