

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Applicant: Spring Creek Development Date: September 30, 2021

Date: September 30, 2021 Expires: October 28, 2021

CEMVR-OD-P-2021-0858

Section 404

## Joint Public Notice US Army Corps of Engineers Illinois Department of Natural Resources

- 1. Applicant: Spring Creek Development Group, 330 Spring Creek Rd., Rockford, IL 61107.
- 2. **Project Location**: Section 36, Township 45 North, Range 2 East. Winnebago County, Illinois. Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16. Latitude: 42.329389, Longitude: -88.955667.
- 3. **Project Description and Purpose**. The applicant is proposing improvements to include an extension of Interstate Blvd., to serve a new industrial user in The Business Park at Spring Creek Lakes. A regional, consolidated detention pond is proposed in Outlot B to serve the future plat of The Business Park at Spring Creek Lakes. A portion of the proposed pond will impact existing wetlands which were recently remapped. The pond will be constructed in two phases, with the majority of wetland impacts occurring during the interim phase. The berm for the detention pond will impact a total of .95 acres of wetlands. The detention pond will detain stormwater for The Business Park at Spring Creek Lakes. To achieve the volume necessary, a portion of the existing wetlands must be impacted. Without construction of the berm in a portion of the wetlands, the adjacent lots would not be detained and therefore would be in violation of the City Stormwater Ordinance.
- 4. **Avoidance and Minimization Statement**. The applicant has provided an alternative analysis for this project. Multiple alternatives were considered to reduce and avoid impacts to aquatic resources while maintaining project purpose. The applicants preferred alternative is to pursue a wetland style basin, which long term will consolidate storm water management in the planned outlot. The final basin will incorporate areas to the north of this location which are not yet developed. The proposed design will create a 1-foot wetland sump, transitioning to a 3-foot max depth for a limited open water pool area. This style of wetland development allows for a smaller basin footprint (no bottom slope), some sedimentation capacity, and limits the amount of over-dig that would be ordinary in a full wet pond situation. The applicant has proposed purchasing credits from the Afton South Prairie wetland mitigation bank to offset the 0.95 acres of wetland loss caused by the creation of the detention pond and berm.

## 5. Agency Review.

a. <u>Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers</u>. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

## b. State of Illinois.

- (1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.
- (2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation, and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5).
- (3) Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at <a href="mailto:dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov">dnr.dwrm@illinois.gov</a> or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <a href="http://dnr.state.il.us/owr">http://dnr.state.il.us/owr</a>.
- 6. **Historical/Archaeological**. The District Archaeologist consulted with the Illinois geographic information systems archeological site and survey databases online. A previous cultural resource survey (#15476) covers the location of the permit area. The survey was accepted by IL SHPO under IHPA Log #002062906. Based on the previous survey that did not locate any historic properties in the location of the permit area, it is the recommendation of the District Archaeologist that there is **no potential to affect** an historic resource at this location 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).
- 7. **Endangered Species**. District staff have 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 following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as occurring in Winnebago County, Illinois: (http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/illinois-cty.html)
  - Indiana bat. The endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis) is considered to potentially occur in any area with forested habitat in any county in Illinois. Indiana bats migrate seasonally between winter hibernacula and summer roosting habitats. Winter hibernacula include caves and abandoned mines. Females form nursery colonies under the loose bark of trees (dead or alive) and/or cavities, where each female gives birth to a single-young in June or early July. A single maternity colony may utilize a number of trees during the summer, typically a primary roost tree and several alternates. The species or size of tree does not appear to influence whether Indiana bats use a tree for roosting provided the appropriate bark structure is present.
    - There will be no tree clearing associated with this project, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
  - Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid. The threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It occupies wet prairie remnant habitat. There is no critical habitat designated for this species.
    - O Since there is no wet prairie remnant habitat to be affected by the project, there will be **No Effect** on the eastern prairie fringed orchid.

- Northern long-eared bat. The northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis) is listed as threatened. It hibernates in caves and mines and swarms in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. It roosts and forages in upland forests and woods.
  - o There will be no tree clearing associated with this project, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- Prairie Bush-clover. The Prairie Bush-clover (Lespedeza leptostachya) is listed as threatened. The threated Prairie Bush-clover may potentially be found in any Illinois county. It is a federally threatened prairie legume found in tallgrass prairie regions.
  - o The project area is a heavily disturbed agricultural area, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- Hine's Emerald Dragonfly. The Hines Emerald Dragonfly (Somatochlora hineana) is listed as Endangered. The Hine's Emerald Dragonfly may potentially be found in any Illinois county. Adults lay eggs in small streams, in fens and sedge meadows. After hatching the larvae spend close to 5 years in wetlands before emerging as adult dragonflies.
  - o The project area is a heavily disturbed agricultural area, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- Monarch Butterfly. The Monarch Butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is listed as a candidate.
  - o The project area is a heavily disturbed agricultural area, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.
- Rusty Patch Bumble Bee. The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee (Bombus affinis) is listed as
   Endangered. The Rusty Patch Bumble Bee need areas that provide flowers for their
   pollen and nectar along with nesting locations underground and where rodents previously
   occupied for winter hibernating.
  - o The project area is a heavily disturbed agricultural area, therefore a **No Effect** determination has been made.

The proposed project is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. 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

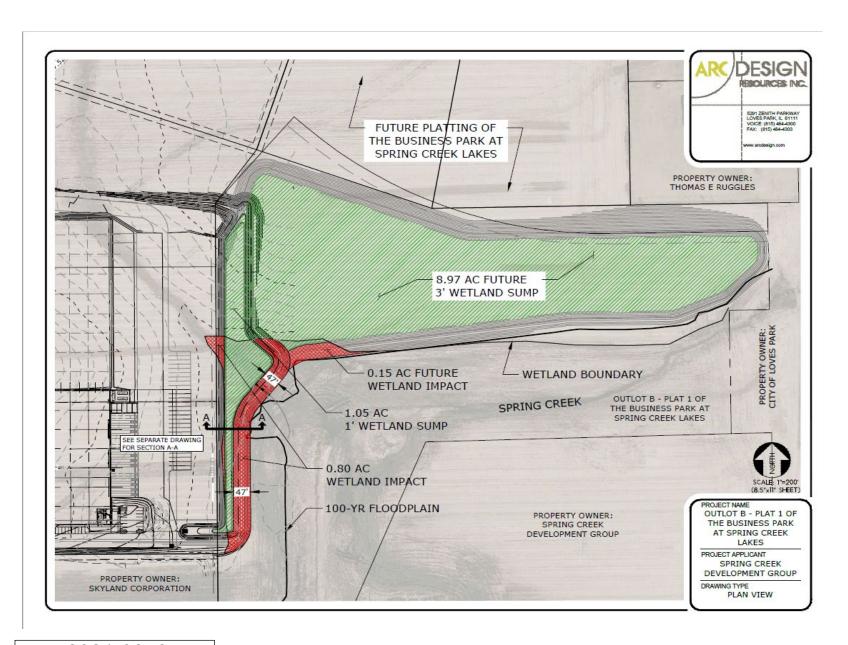
be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion 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 concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: OD-PE (Jackie Groves), Clock Tower Building Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Ms. Jackie Groves at 309-794-5351 or email: jackie.m.groves@usace.army.mil.

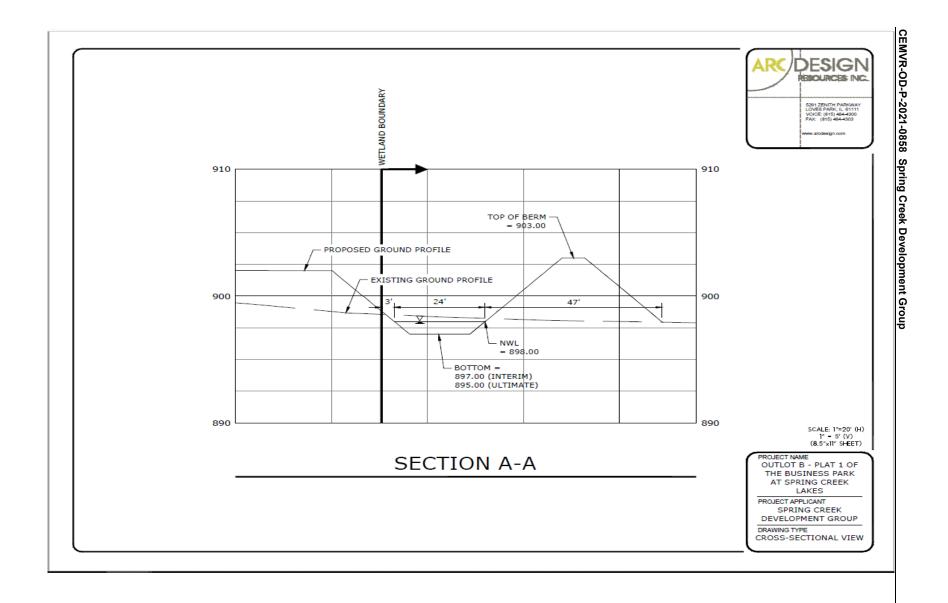
Attachments:

Mr. Trevor E. Popkin Chief, Eastern Branch Regulatory Division

1 of 2 Plan View 2 of 2 Cross Sectional View



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2021-0858 Sheet 2 of 2 Cross-Sectional View