

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS St. Louis District Gateway to Excellence Reply To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 Public Notice No. <u>P-2984</u>

**Public Notice** 

Public Notice Date: February 24, 2017

Expiration Date: March 16, 2017

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

## File Number: MVS-2016-847

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps.

**<u>COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>**: Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch 1222 Spruce Street St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 ATTN: Jennifer L. Skiles

**<u>APPLICANT</u>**: St. Louis County Park: Paul Andrew, 41 South Central, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Clayton, Missouri, 63105.

**LOCATION:** The project area is a 115-acre tract located east of Creve Coeur Mill Road and south of Fisherman Wharf Road in the City of Creve Coeur. The site is located at 2194 Creve Coeur Mill Road. The project is located in Section 19, Township 46 North, Range 5 East, St. Louis County.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**: The applicant seeks authorization to conduct grading and filling operations in waters of the United States for improvements to an existing soccer complex in the Creve Coeur Lake Memorial County Park. The upgraded complex will consist of 13 lighted artificial turf soccer fields, two small youth fields, one champion field, a main building with locker rooms, parking, restrooms and concession.

The northern portion of the property currently exists as a soccer complex with no wetland impacts. The southern portion of the property exists as open field, two existing lighted artificial turf soccer fields and two grass soccer fields. The open field section of the southern parcel impacted by the project appears to be abandoned agricultural land dominated by invasive Johnson grass and fescue, but the land also contains emergent and early succession forested wetlands in slight depressional areas. The depressional areas may have been created by grading operations completed during the original construction of the complex.

are nine small wetlands near the project site, totaling approximately 6.71-acres. The project plans will impact approximately 4.24-acres of wetland (1.58-acres of relatively low-quality emergent wetland and 2.66-acres of relatively low quality scrub shrub/early successional wetlands dominated by young cottonwood).

Although the applicant is in the process of researching alternatives, reducing the size of the footprint and minimizing proposed impacts to the wetlands, they believe that the remaining impacts are unavoidable. The applicant is actively looking for potential mitigation sites within or adjacent to St. Louis County Park property for wetland impacts determined to be unavoidable. One of the proposed locations for wetland/habitat restoration is an abandoned baseball and soccer complex near the existing Little Creve Coeur Lake Wetland Mitigation Area (see attached aerial photograph). The area is a prime spot for wildlife viewing and in need of clean-up and restoration. Restoration will include a combination of emergent wetland, forested wetland, and warm season/wet-mesic prairie restoration.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached. In addition, the project plans may be viewed in color and in more detail by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at <a href="http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/ConOps/permits/pn.html">http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/ConOps/permits/pn.html</a>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Jennifer L. Skiles, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8579. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to Jennifer.L.Skiles@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be processed under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of dredged or fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The project plans will be submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program (the Agency) in accordance with Section 401. While the Corps of Engineers may provide all relevant information to DNR and request Section 401 review on behalf of the applicant, the applicant assumes final responsibility to ensure that both agencies receive all information required to complete their independent review. If issued, Certification will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

**SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION:** The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

**PUBLIC HEARING**: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal. Any request for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The proposed project is within the range of the endangered Indiana bat (**Myotis sodalis**) and the northern long-eared bat (**Myotis septentrionalis**) that is a proposed candidate for endangered status. A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that this activity will not affect the habitat of these listed and candidate species. The Corps is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and taking measures to minimize potential effects of the

project during construction. In order to further complete our evaluation, written comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The applicant has coordinated with the Corps archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The Corps has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the project.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

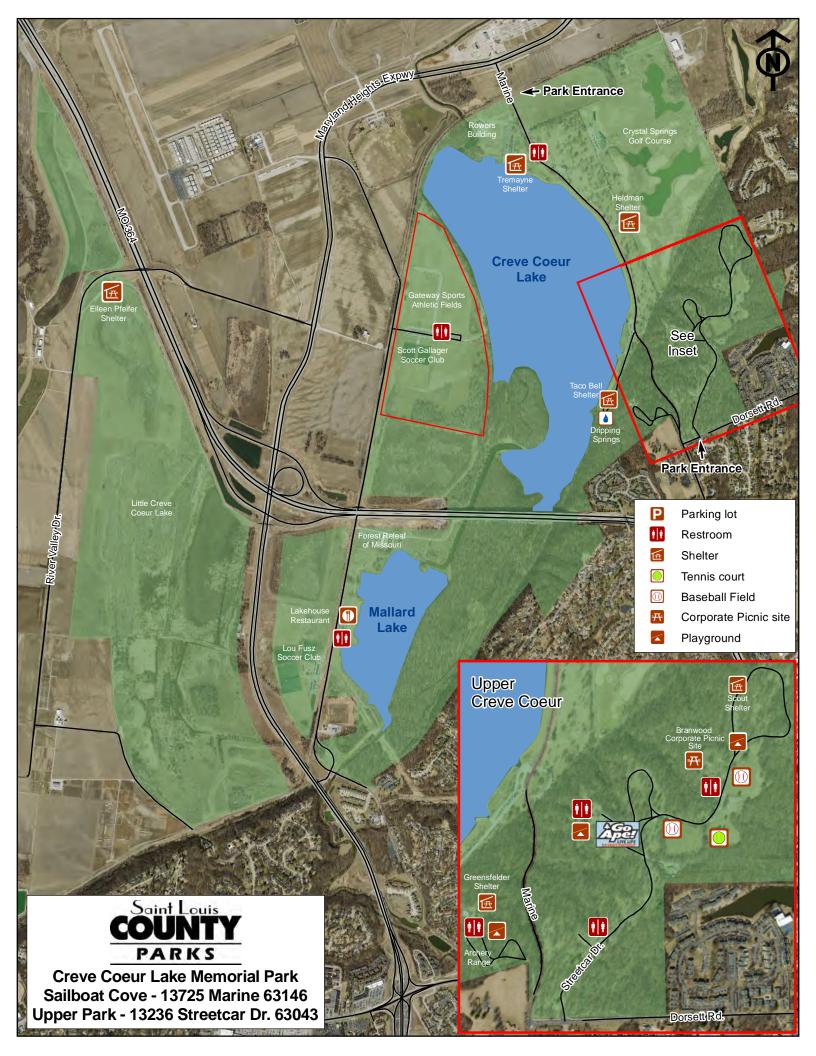
**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS**: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army 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 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.

> DANNY D. MCCLENDON Chief, Regulatory Branch

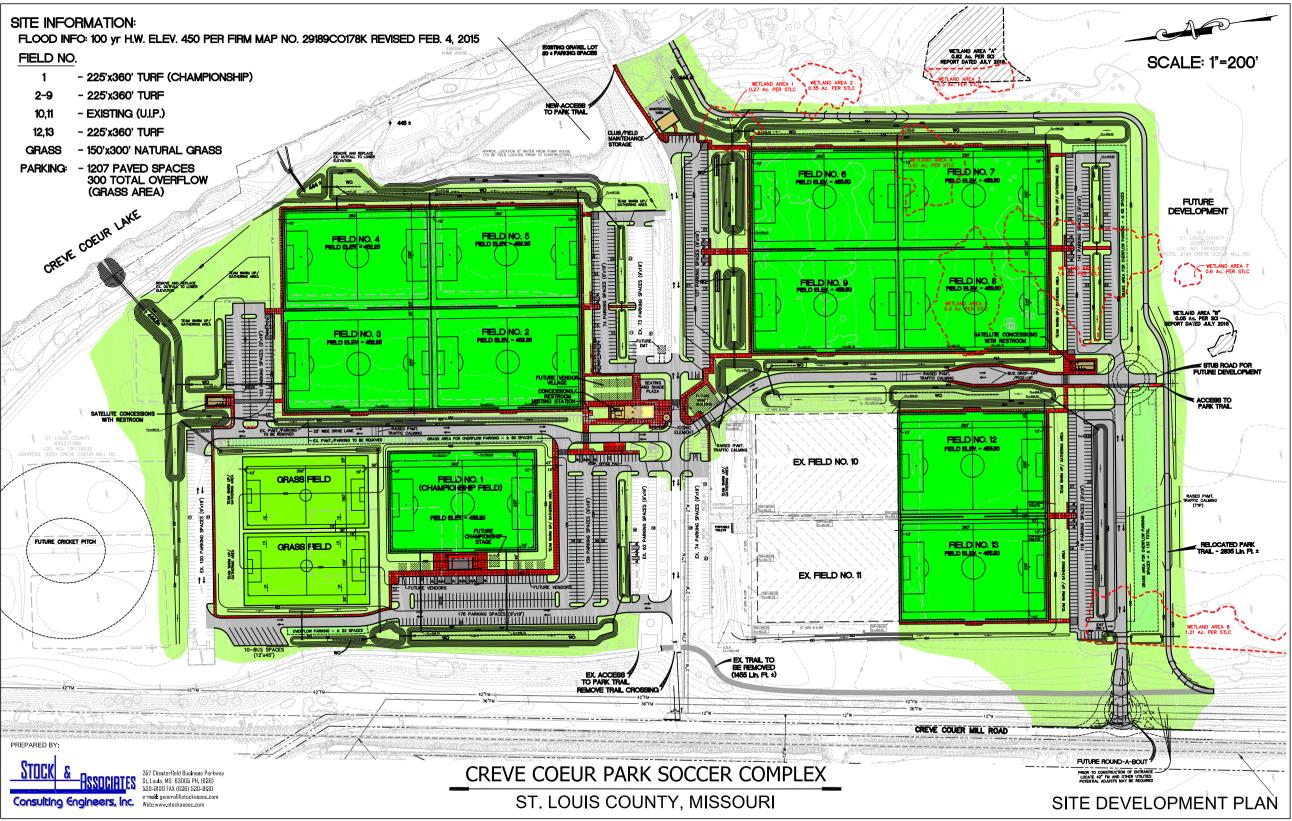
Attachments

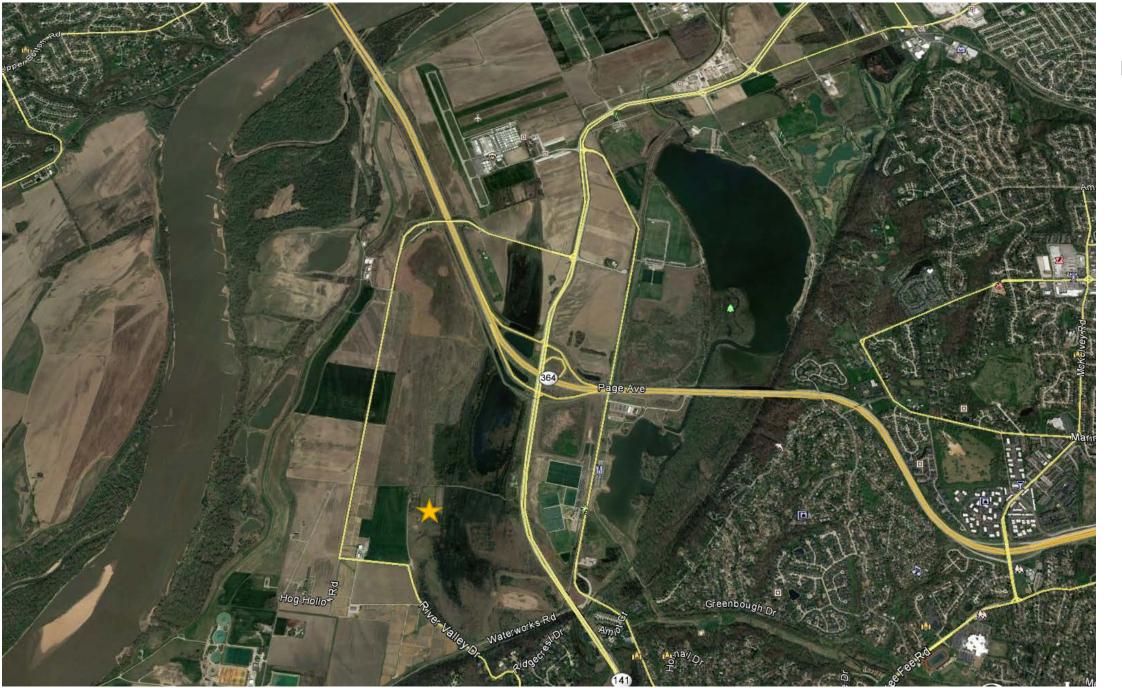
## **NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 21 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.









Proposed Mitigation Site

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