



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Zach Morris
MITICO, LLC

Published: May 12, 2025
Expires: June 10, 2025

**St. Louis District
Permit Application No. MVS-2025-164**

STREAM & WETLAND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION BANK PROPOSAL

Interested parties are hereby notified that the MITICO, LLC (Sponsor) has requested review of the Casey Fork Mitigation Bank Prospectus and subsequent approval of the Mitigation Banking Instrument pursuant to 33 CFR 332 and 40 CFR 230 Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resource; Final Rule (Federal Register / Vol. 73, No. 70 Pages 19594-19705, April 10, 2008).

APPLICANT: Zach Morris
MITICO, LLC
701 D Crown Industrial Court
Chesterfield, MO 63005

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site includes approximately 54+/- acres in Jefferson County, Illinois. The proposed Casey Fork Bank Site is located south of Mt. Vernon, between the I-64 and I-57 split. More specifically, the site is located within Section 18, Township 3 South, Range 3 East. Latitude: 38.261665° Longitude: -88.909173°. (See Figure 1).

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), and in compliance with requirements outlined in the April 10, 2008, Final Compensatory Mitigation Rule. Section 408 authorization is not required because there are no federal projects in or near the vicinity of the proposal.

BANK OBJECTIVES: The primary objective of the proposed mitigation bank is to provide compensatory mitigation credit to offset unavoidable losses of aquatic functions and services impacts to jurisdictional waters the United States that occur within the bank service area consistent with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), as well as improving the water quality and wildlife habitat functions at the mitigation bank site and the overall Big Muddy watershed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION/BANK ESTABLISHMENT: The Sponsor seeks approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District (the District) and the Interagency Review Team (IRT); which is comprised of representatives from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service; to establish the Casey Fork mitigation bank. If approved, the Sponsor would make stream and wetland mitigation credit available to Department of the Army permittees seeking to fulfill requirements to purchase compensatory mitigation credit to offset losses of aquatic functions and services. As proposed the Casey Fork Mitigation Bank could generate 32,621.35 stream credits and 23.03 wetland credits.

The Sponsor intends to restore, by reconnecting over 3,700 linear feet of historic stream channel and establishing forested and emergent wetlands within the floodplains of an unnamed tributary and Casey Fork Creek. The onsite tributary contains relatively permanent flow and currently exists as a ditch channel along the north and east borders of the site. The Sponsor intends to reconnect the channel to its historical, meandering path which bisects the property. A series of rock riffle grade control structures will be installed along the restored stream reach and root wad revetment will be installed along the outer bends to stabilize the channel. The stream reconnection work will also include the establishment, enhancement and restoration of its riparian corridor along both sides of the stream channel. This riparian buffer will be a mix of forested and emergent wetland habitats depending on specific elevations described in the mitigation plan.

Outside of the restored stream channel and riparian buffer footprint, 25.8 acres of forested and emergent wetland restoration and enhancement work will be completed, along with 3.2 acres of upland buffer enhancement. The Sponsor proposes the establishment and enhancement of vegetation for the emergent and forested wetlands by seeding a native herbaceous seed mix in the emergent areas and planting native containerized stock (3-gallon) in the forested areas. Hydrology improvement within the site includes blocking existing drainage features, removal of small berms and levees to reconnect the streams to the floodplain and installing armored spillways to facilitate flow between the restore wetland pools. Wetlands will be separated into four pools (See Figure 7, attached). To facilitate flow between the pools and to prevent erosion when floodwaters recede, the Sponsor will install six armored spillways. Water control berms will be constructed six to twelve inches above the spillway (top of pool) elevation in each pool. All areas within twelve inches of elevation above the proposed top of pool elevations are anticipated to achieve the required wetland characteristics and performance standards. The Sponsor will secure financial assurance in the form of a performance bond to fund the fulfillment of the mitigation obligations at the bank site. Additional details concerning the mitigation plan can be found in Appendix A of the banking prospectus. Upon request, a copy of the Mitigation Bank Prospectus can be provided by this office.

SERVICE AREA: The proposed primary service area for the bank site will be the Big Muddy (07140106) HUC 8 watershed, which is solely within the St. Louis District. The Sponsor has also proposed credit sale, with USACE approval, from secondary service areas. These service areas would include; Middle Kaskaskia (07140202), Lower Kaskaskia (07140204), and Upper Mississippi – Cape Girardeau (07140105) HUC 8 watersheds, all within the Illinois boundaries of the St. Louis District.

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: <https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>. Please select Public Notice number MVS-2025-164.

BANK SITE NEED/TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY/ECOLOGICAL SUITABILITY: The proposed mitigation site is located along Casey Fork creek and an unnamed, relatively permanent tributary, south of Mt. Vernon in Jefferson County, Illinois. The onsite unnamed tributary is a 2nd order stream that was relocated and channelized in the 1960s and Casey Fork is a 4th order stream. Casey Fork flows south from the site for five miles to Rend Lake, an 18,900-acre reservoir which provides drinking water to local communities, wildlife habitat, and recreation to the region. The Sponsor has chosen the site based on characteristics that will meet the needs of the Casey Fork and ultimately the Big Muddy Watershed. The Casey Fork watershed is impaired due to historic wetland loss and stream channelization, including channelization of the unnamed tributary within the project site. This has led to increased nutrient pollution, flooding, and other impairments related to urban and agricultural runoff. This site will address multiple functions of the watershed by reconnecting the channelized tributary to its historic floodplain and providing hydrology to a mosaic of emergent and forested wetlands. Elevations of the abandoned historic tributary are similar to the current bed elevation of the channelized tributary, allowing for reconnection to the historic channel without altering upstream hydrology or inundation on adjacent properties. The project area includes a wide section of floodplain, bordered by natural elevation features to the west, preventing flooding on adjacent properties. These circumstances create a unique opportunity for this scale of restoration to occur in a highly altered watershed.

The proposed wetland areas are highly suitable for wetland restoration with presence of hydric soils and existing wetland vegetation. Burrowing crayfish mounds are prevalent throughout the site. However, most the site is currently drained for farming, including the channelization of the relatively permanent tributary, and is lacking fully functional wetlands. The eastern portion of the site contains two sections of historic stream channel within a forested area along the channelized stream. These two sections will be reconnected, and agricultural levees will be removed to allow high flows to disperse into the floodplain and provide hydrology to the restored wetland areas.

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT: The bank site will be protected in perpetuity under a USACE approved conservation easement that will be filed and recorded with the Jefferson County, Illinois County Recorder of Deeds.

Once performance standards are met and annual monitoring is discontinued, the Sponsor will enter into a contractual arrangement with a land trust to manage the site for conservation consistency with adaptive management principles pursuant to the provisions of 33 CFR 332.7(c). This will include addressing any serious conditions that threatens project integrity consistent with the approved adaptive management principles and repairing or replacing damaged signs or structures. To ensure sufficient resources

are available for long-term management of the site, the Sponsor will secure an endowment with sufficient funds for the land trust to manage the site.

SPONSOR QUALIFICATIONS: MITICO, LLC is a Missouri limited liability company with experience in wetland and stream mitigation. Through its staff and expert consultants, MITICO has planned and performed every phase of the mitigation of environmental impacts, from preliminary site assessment and land acquisition to the development of mitigation planning instruments and construction oversight of mitigation projects. MITICO counts on the talents of a group of diverse staff and subcontracted experts. MITICO has been involved with and completed work for multiple mitigation banks and In-lieu fee programs within the St. Louis District.

WATER RIGHTS: No federal, state or local agency has regulations governing water rights for this type of project at this location. There are no known plans for any entity to consume so much water upstream of the Bank that would alter stream flow or regime.

AGENCY REVIEW: The Corps of Engineers is participating in this matter as the chair of an Interagency Review Team (IRT). The IRT consists of the Corps of Engineers (St. Louis), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The project would require Section 404 of the Clean Water Act authorization prior to the proposed construction. If approved, the proposed bank could provide wetland and stream credit for future, Section 404, authorized projects that require compensatory mitigation. Formal authorization of the bank proposal occurs through Corps approval of a Mitigation Banking Instrument.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation website has been completed and the following species were identified to potentially be present in the project vicinity: The endangered Indiana Bat (**Myotis sodalis**), Northern Long-eared Bat (**Myotis septentrionalis**), proposed endangered Tricolored Bat (**Perimyotis subflavus**), threatened Piping Plover (**Charadrius melodus**), experimental population Whooping Crane (**Grus americana**) and candidate species Monarch Butterfly (**Danaus plexippus**). In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the project May Affect, Not Likely Adversely Affect the three (3) bat species, which will include tree clearing restrictions as a special condition of the Department of the Army permit. A No Effect determination has been made for the remaining three (3) listed species. No critical habitat will be adversely affected by the project. The Corps is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the applicant is taking measures to minimize any 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.

CULTURAL RESOURCES & TRIBAL TRUST: The District requested that the Sponsor provide a reconnaissance survey of the proposed mitigation bank boundary to investigate and provide an informed analysis of potential affects. A Phase I Cultural Resource Survey will be conducted by a certified archaeologist on behalf of the Sponsor and is expected

to be completed by late Spring 2025. Once the survey is completed, USACE will review the results and provide a determination of potential impact that will be coordinated with the Indian Tribes and IL SHPO. A preliminary historic properties review was conducted by USACE and found that a portion of the bank site has been previously surveyed, and an unevaluated site was discovered. The Sponsor will reevaluate the unevaluated site during the Phase 1 survey.

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 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 approve the proposed bank. Any comments received will be distributed to the members of the IRT. Comments should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. Comments should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable. Any person may also request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

REPLY TO THE CORPS ENGINEERS: Comments or questions concerning this notice may be directed to Tyson Zobrist via phone (314/331-8578), email (Tyson.J.Zobrist@usace.army.mil), or by writing to the following address: US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, ATTN: Tyson Zobrist-RD, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis Missouri 63103.

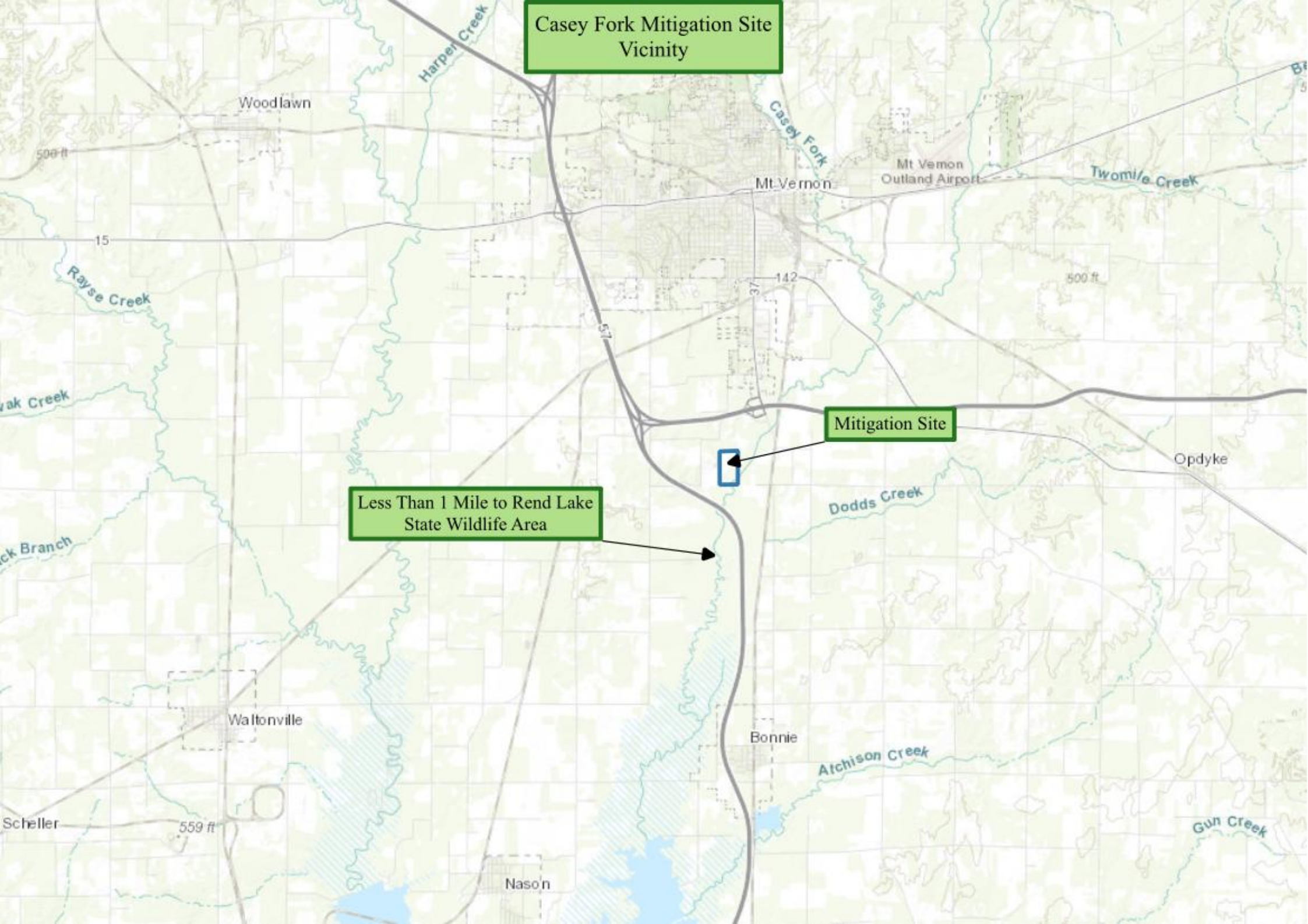
COMPLETE PROSPECTUS: The complete prospectus can be found on our public website at: <https://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>. Please select Public Notice number MVS-2025-164. Hard copies are also available by request.

To join our public notice mailing list and receive all of our Public Notices electronically, please email your request to: MVS-Regulatory@usace.army.mil and include your name, email, and phone number with your statement of request to be added to the Public Notice mailing list.

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

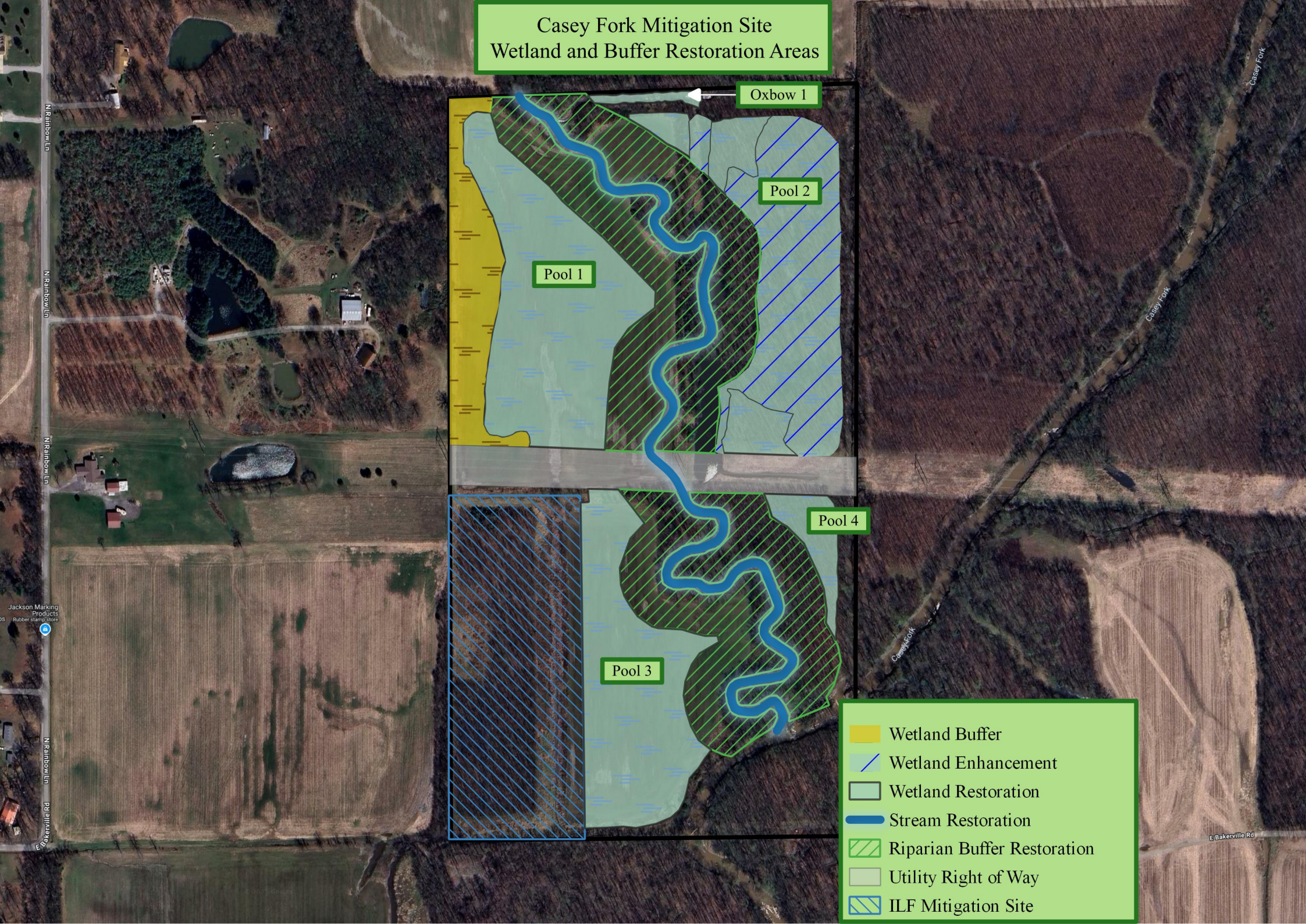


Casey Fork Mitigation Site
Vicinity

Mitigation Site

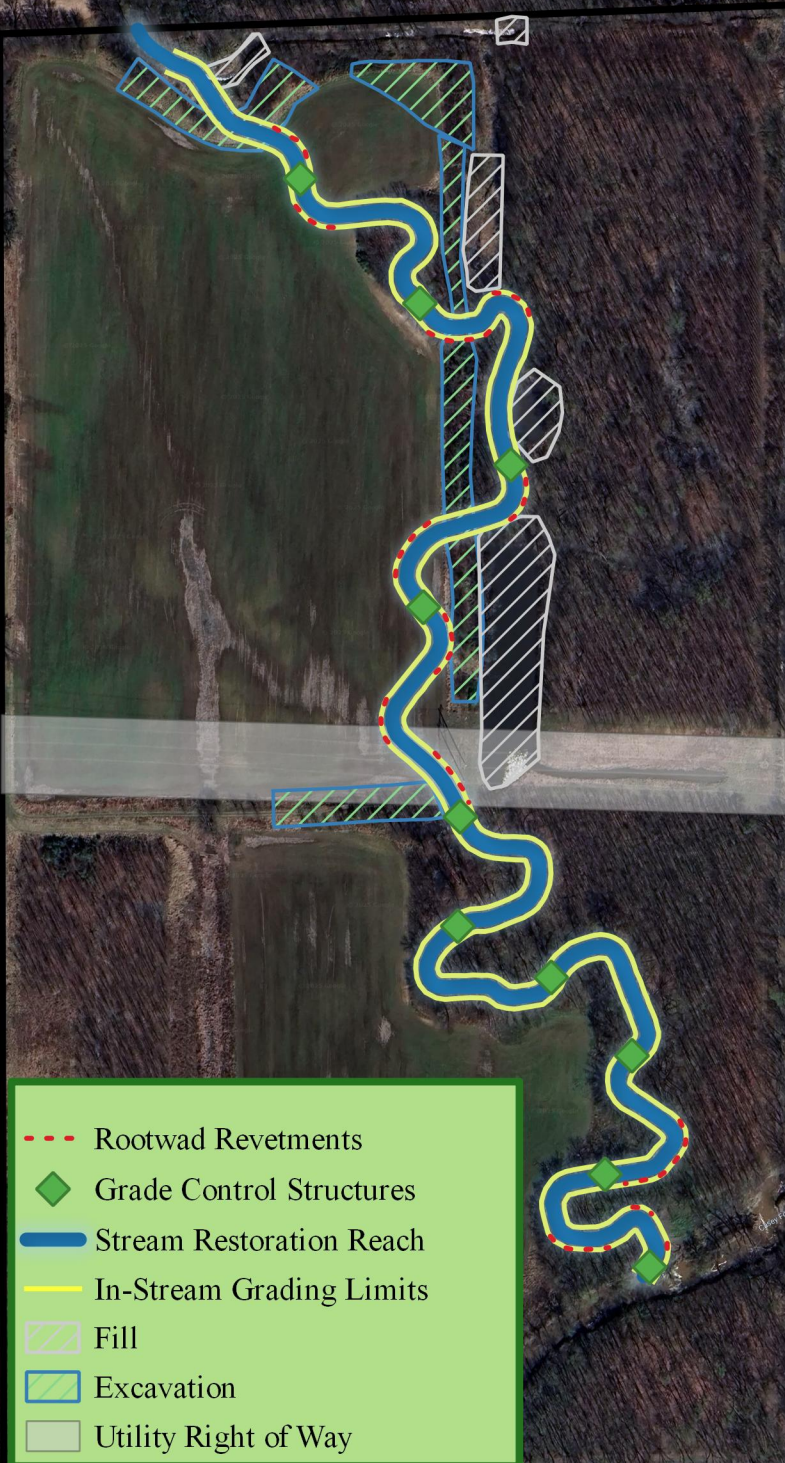
Less Than 1 Mile to Rend Lake
State Wildlife Area

Casey Fork Mitigation Site Wetland and Buffer Restoration Areas



- Wetland Buffer
- Wetland Enhancement
- Wetland Restoration
- Stream Restoration
- Riparian Buffer Restoration
- Utility Right of Way
- ILF Mitigation Site

Casey Fork Mitigation Site Construction Overview



- Rootwad Revetments
- ◆ Grade Control Structures
- Stream Restoration Reach
- In-Stream Grading Limits
- Fill
- Excavation
- Utility Right of Way

Casey Fork Mitigation Site Wetland Habitat Types and Elevations

