



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
St. Louis District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

**FILE NUMBER: MVS-2024-414**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: January 29, 2025**

**EXPIRATION DATE: February 19, 2025**

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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. The purpose of the public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you may be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest.

**COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** 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 or may be submitted electronically at <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs/public-notice>.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Division  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE:** This public notice is issued jointly with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for the project known as, Roadway Improvements for Festus Airport Hardie Redbird Site. The Department of Natural Resources will use the comments to this notice in deciding whether to grant Section 401 water quality certification. Commenters are requested to furnish a copy of their comments to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources by email at [wpsc401cert@dnr.mo.gov](mailto:wpsc401cert@dnr.mo.gov) or by mail at P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

**APPLICANT:** Jefferson County Government, c/o Daniel Navnheim, 725 Maple Street, P.O. Box 100, Hillsboro, Missouri 63050.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The roadway project is located on several roadways within Crystal City and unincorporated Jefferson County. The project (within the Corps jurisdiction) includes improvement to VFW Drive, construction of North Access Road, and South Access Road. The project, overall, is located within Section 17, Township 40 North, Range 6 East, within Jefferson County, Missouri.

**AUTHORITY:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344)

**ACTIVITY:** The applicant proposes roadway improvements and new roadway construction to support the development around the closed Festus Airport site within Crystal City (shown on the attached drawings). The roadway project will seek to provide better access to the airport site, which is proposed to support a Hardie Building Materials manufacturing site, while also improving the roadway infrastructure in the immediate vicinity to the River Hills Road residential neighborhood, VFW Post 3777, St. Pius X High School, a Spire Inc. valve station and the operational quarry. The improvements will include raising and constructing the roadways above the 500-year flood elevation to allow for consistent access to the airport site. In addition, the North Access Road provides a temporary access route for residents while the improvements to VFW Drive temporarily closes the single access route for residents and the quarry. The proposed activities would include grading and

filling within 5 wetland features and one stream for the roadway improvements. The wetland impacts include filling of 0.83 acres of the open water wetland (impoundment) for the raising and widening of VFW Road, filling of 1.1 acres of two emergent wetlands for the North Access Road and filling of 0.15 acres of a forested wetland. The North Access Road will also require the piping of 198 linear feet of a perennial stream. The South Access Road will require the filling of 1.73 acres of forested wetland for the roadway.

**WETLANDS/AQUATIC HABITAT:** The stream is a primary tributary to Plattin Creek and the wetland features are wetlands along, or impound, streams that flow into Plattin Creek, a primary tributary to the navigable Mississippi River. The confluence with the Mississippi River is in close proximity to the project location and many of these resources are within regulatory floodplains and the area is subject to backwater flooding from the Mississippi River. Plattin Creek is designated by the Missouri Department of Conservation as an Ozark-Warmwater-Small River, natural community of concern.

**APPLICANT'S STATEMENT OF AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY**

**MITIGATION FOR UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS TO AQUATIC RESOURCES:** While the project is not water dependent, there were no practicable alternatives that meet the project purpose and need that avoid surface water resource impacts. The project has made adjustments to the roadway alignments to minimize impacts to surface water resources to the extent practicable. The applicant proposed to purchase 839 stream credits (calculated in accordance with the Missouri Stream Mitigation Method) from an in-lieu fee provider within the Apple-Joachim EDU. The applicant is proposing to purchase 41.1 wetland mitigation bank assessment credits (calculated in accordance with the Missouri Wetland Mitigation Method) from the Meramec Bluffs Wetland Mitigation Bank, located within an adjacent EDU because there are no available wetland credits within the project's Ecological Drainage Unit (EDU), Apple-Joachim. The St. Louis District is considering a ratio of 1.1 for the public infrastructure project for the out of EDU purchase rather than the suggested 1.5 credit ratio, because the applicant is having to pursue credits outside of the project's EDU due to lack of credit availability, the alternative EDU is close geographically to the proposed activity (within an adjacent watershed), and the project's purpose is for shared public utility.


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information about this application may be obtained by contacting Samantha Hollenberg, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103, (314) 331-8186. All comments to this public notice should be sent to [Samantha.l.hollenberg@usace.army.mil](mailto:Samantha.l.hollenberg@usace.army.mil).

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** St. Louis District will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 CFR 800. However, we will evaluate input by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (or Tribe designated representative) and the public in response to this public notice, and we may conduct or require a reconnaissance survey of the permit area to check for unknown historic properties, if warranted. The applicant has submitted Cultural Resource Investigations of the project area and no potentially eligible historic properties were identified within the permit area.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The St. Louis District will comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals. The project will require tree clearing of potential summer roost tree habitat of the endangered Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and proposed endangered tricolored bat.

**FLOODPLAINS:** This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. By this public notice, comments are requested from individuals and agencies that believe the described work will adversely impact the floodplain. The project includes fills within FEMA Floodzones AE and A and the County is pursuing all the appropriate floodplain requirements.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that may result in a discharge. The scope for CWA Section 401 certification by the certifying authority shall evaluate whether the activity will comply with applicable water quality requirements. The certifying authority's evaluation is limited to the water quality-related impacts from the activity subject to the Federal license or permit, including the activity's construction and operation. The applicant is solely responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying agency. In accordance with Certification Rule part 121.12, the Corps will notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator when it has received a Department of the Army (DA) permit application and the related certification. The Administrator is responsible for determining if the discharge may affect water quality in a neighboring jurisdiction. The DA permit may not be issued pending the conclusion of the Administrator's determination of effects on neighboring jurisdictions.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The decision to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including the 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 benefits 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, esthetics, 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 and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). 

**COMMENTS:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and other interested parties 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.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request, in writing, prior to the expiration date of this public

notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Such requests shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

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](mailto: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.

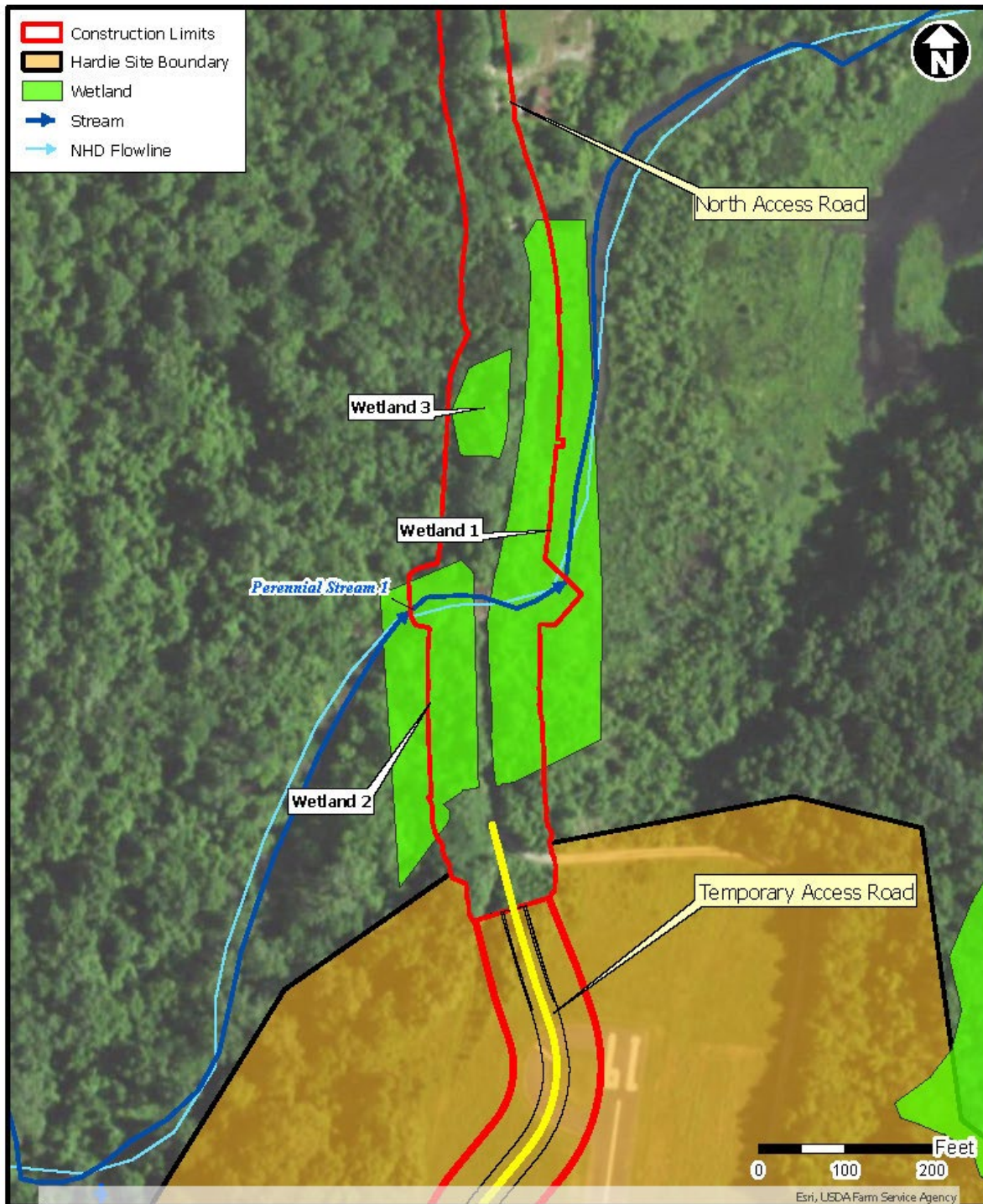
Tyson Zobrist  
*Acting* Chief, Regulatory Division

Attachments

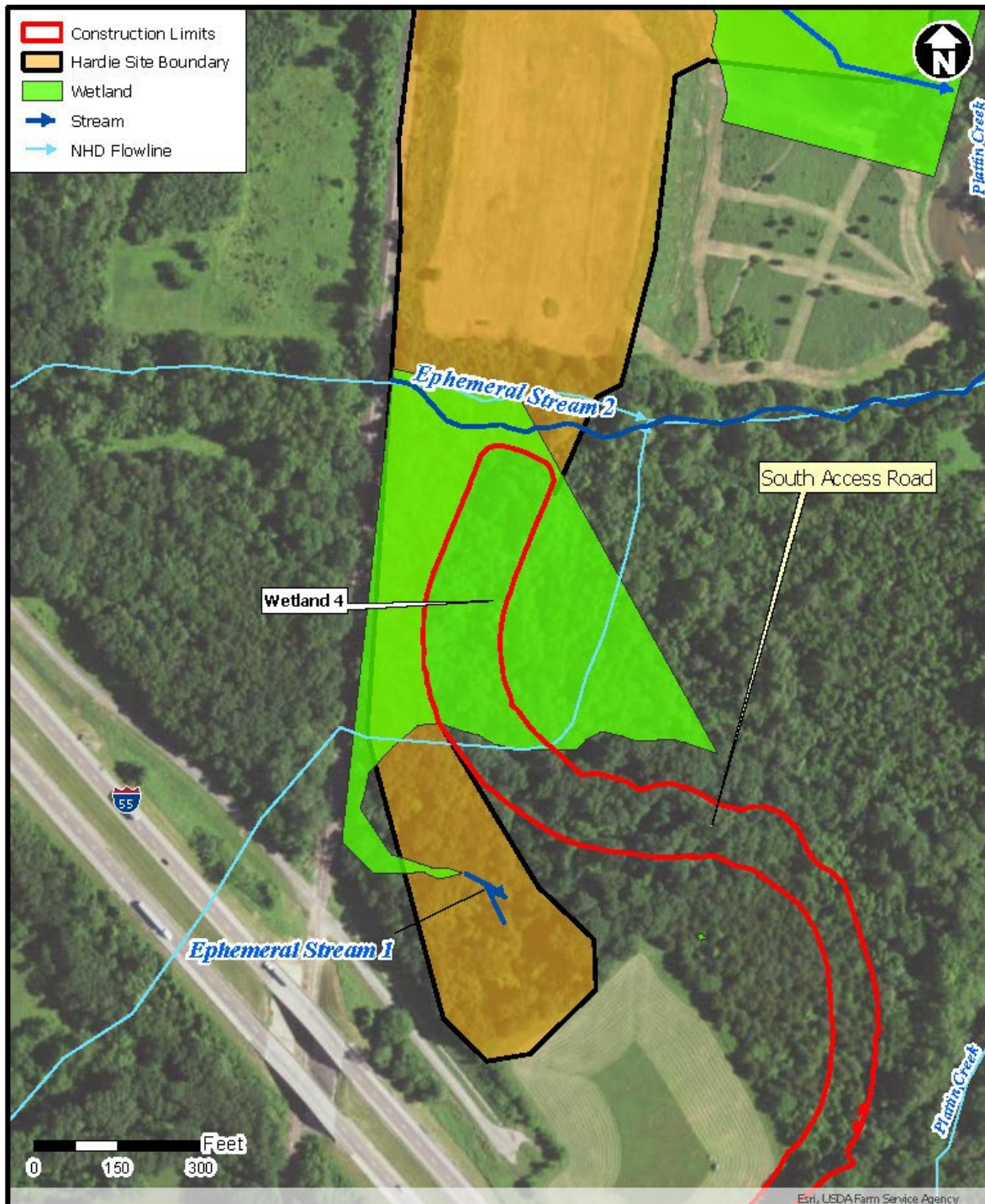
**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

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





**Project Redbird Access Roads  
Surface Water Resource Impacts - 1 of 2**



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**Surface Water Resource Impacts - 1 of 2**