OUR PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB AT OUR ST. LOUIS DISTRICT HOME PAGE (<u>http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/ConOps/permits/pn.htm</u>). If you have any trouble, please call Danny McClendon at (314) 331-8574 or by e-mail to: Danny.D.McClendon@usace.army.mil

## WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REDUCE OUR PUBLIC NOTICE MAILING COSTS; CHECK OUR WEB PAGE THEN CONTACT US TO HAVE YOUR NAMED REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, please call Jaynie Doerr at (314) 331-

8581, or by email to: <u>Jaynie.G.Doerr@usace.army.mil</u>, or mail this cover-sheet to the St. Louis District, OD-F, 1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, indicating that your name or company named be removed. Changes to our mailing list may take a few weeks to take effect.

US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ST. LOUIS ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F 1222 SPRUCE STREET ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63103-2833



## 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 Ost Conspicuously Until:

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

Public Notice No.

**Public Notice** 

P-2849 Public Notice Date June 10, 2013 Expiration Date July 1, 2013

File Number: MVS-2012-689 (110-Acre Park, St. Charles County, MO)

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: Matt Shively

**<u>APPLICANT</u>**: City of St. Charles Parks and Recreation Dept.; 1900 Randolph Street, St. Charles, Missouri 63301; Point of Contact: Mr. Chris Atkinson (636) 949-3372.

**AGENT:** Jacobs Engineering; One Financial Plaza, 501 North Broadway, St. Louis, Missouri 63102; Point of Contact: Mr. Thomas Juen (314) 335-4655.

**LOCATION:** The approximate 110-acre project site is located adjacent to the city of St. Charles, in St. Charles County, Missouri. The project site is located approximately 0.75 miles north of Highway 370, and approximately 800 feet east of the intersection of Highway 94 and Croix Drive. The geographic coordinates for the approximate center of the site are 38.8149° North, -90.4661° West. The Missouri River is located approximately 1,000 feet east of the project site. A location map is enclosed as Figure 1.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**: Summary: the applicant proposes to construct a public recreation park facility. The proposed amenities include ball fields, picnic and festival grounds, trails, gardens, and other recreational opportunity areas. Construction of the site will result in the placement of fill into approximately 0.70 acres of scrub-shrub wetlands.

The applicant proposes to construct a 100-plus acre multi-use public park in St. Charles County, Missouri. The proposed plan features multi-field facilities for both baseball and football/soccer; a bicycle moto-cross field; picnic, festival, and outdoor theater and performance grounds; a disc golf course; a community garden; trails and nature viewing areas; and multiple parking lots, restrooms, and other support amenities. The proposed site location is a former mobile home park. The mobile home park was abandoned following a FEMA buy-out after the flood of 1993. The residential trailers were previously removed, although roadways and other evidence of the former site use remain. Since abandonment, the site has not been maintained. The former residential area now exists as a mix of early successional, young softwood forest and old-field type areas with scattered trees. Significant waste dumping has occurred within the site, with piles of rubble, trash and debris occurring in multiple areas within the site.

A single tributary to the Mississippi River flows across the site's western border. The site contains ten wetland areas (Jacobs Figure 2). The wetlands are generally linear in nature, and appear to have developed from abandoned drainageways that formerly served the trailer park. However, these areas have been determined to meet the criteria for Corps jurisdiction. The site is within the floodplain of the Missouri River.

The project will result in the placement of fill into 0.7 acres of scrub-shrub wetland. The City of St. Charles Parks and Recreation Dept. states that the impacts are unavoidable, due the impacted wetlands' central location within the site. However, the applicant proposes to avoid approximately 0.47 acres of other emergent and scrub-shrub wetlands. Additional avoidance will be achieved by utilizing portions of the existing roadways, and preserving specimen trees where possible within the site.

The applicant states that the project is necessary due to the increasing demand for outdoor recreational space within the city, as well as the level of use occurring at existing facilities. Additionally, the proposed site offers convenient access from major travel corridors, and could potentially be linked to the adjacent Katy Trail and nearby Boschert Trail. Discovery Elementary School is located approximately 1,600 feet west of the project site. The applicant states that this combination of location factors; as well as the fact that the site is abandoned FEMA buyout area, and has limited potential for other kinds of development; make the site singly desirable and practicable as a park location. As an additional consideration, the site is already owned by the city, and therefore the applicant would not incur property acquisition costs to construct the park.

If the permit is authorized, the Corps will require that compensatory mitigation be provided for the loss of 0.7 acres of wetlands. City of St. Charles Parks and Recreation Dept. has not proposed a formal mitigation plan, but has indicated that it will provide compensatory mitigation per the Corps' approval. The project site occurs within the service area of an approved wetland mitigation bank.

## LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by contacting Matt Shively, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8632. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8741 or by e-mail to matt.s.shively@usace.army.mil.

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

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, 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, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

**<u>SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION</u>**: 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 USACE will determine, through informal or formal coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, whether the proposed work will be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Preliminary information obtained from the Missouri Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Review database indicates that the site is not within the vicinity of known Federally-listed species or habitats. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the public in response to this public notice. Based upon the comments received concerning the potential for cultural resources within the project site, the District may require a reconnaissance survey of the project area or additional cultural resources preservation measures in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

**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 McClenden DANNY B. 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.





