

Public Notice

**US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Regulatory Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

Public Notice No.
P-3154
Public Notice Date
July 23, 2021

Expiration Date
August 23, 2021

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2021-140

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Mitigation Bank Prospectus has been received pursuant to the guidelines contained in the Federal Guidance for the Establishment, Use, and Operation of Mitigation Banks (60 Fed. Reg. Pages 58605-58614, 1995).

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: All comments and/or requests for public hearing must reach this office no later than the 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: Mr. Tyson Zobrist

SPONSOR: Southern Illinois Mitigation Co-op (SIMC), Attn: Mr. Doug Ehorn, 27w 105 Fleming Drive, Winfield, IL 60190-1048. (847) 420-7300.

LOCATION: The proposed wetland mitigation bank is located immediately northwest of the intersection of Route 15 and Route 153, thirteen miles west of Nashville, Southeast ¼ of Section 11, Township 2 South, Range 5 West of the 3rd Principal Meridian, Washington County, Illinois. Approximate geographic coordinates for the site are 38.36677 ° N, -89.61374° W.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The banking sponsor seeks approval from the Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT) which is composed of representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish the Nashville Wetland Mitigation Bank within the Lower Kaskaskia Watershed (HUC 07140204). The primary objective of the proposed mitigation bank is to restore, establish, enhance, and permanently protect 56.6 acres of two wetland types (54.13 acres forested and 2.47 acres emergent) that is currently in agricultural production. The work will include restoration of 54.13 acres of forested wetland through rehabilitation activities, 1.25 acres of emergent wetland enhancement and 1.22 acres of emergent wetland creation. An additional 15 acres of existing forested riparian corridor will be permanently protected through the establishment of a conservation easement, but is not proposed to receive credit. If approved, the restoration and enhancement

activities will be performed generating credits from the environmental improvements and will be available for sale on an incremental basis as long as the mitigation bank meets its anticipated goals set forth in the banking document. Credits from the project are not available for sale until documentation is provided by the bank sponsor that environmental restoration will proceed and written approval is granted by the Corps in consultation with the MBRT. The mitigation bank sponsor is developing the mitigation bank with the intent to sell the mitigation credits to recipients of Section 404 Permits who are required to compensate for unavoidable and adverse environmental impacts to waters of the United States. Specifically, the waters of the United States that will be compensated at the proposed bank include wetlands with emergent, scrub shrub, and forested classifications. Upon request, a copy of the Mitigation Banking Prospectus is available for review in our office.

If approved by the MBRT, the mitigation bank would assist in improving the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Lower Kaskaskia Watershed. The mitigation bank when fully completed would potentially provide 42.50 wetland credits for the restored and enhanced wetland resources. The credits will be available for compensating impacts that occur within the geographic service area of the bank. The proposed geographic service area consists of the Lower Kaskaskia HUC 8 Watershed. On a case-by-case basis and at a higher compensation ratio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may allow debits from impact areas outside the geographic service area to be appropriately mitigated at the proposed bank. This mitigation bank proposal does not preclude any Section 404 permit applicant who intends or is required to use the mitigation bank from complying with Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, the National Environmental Policy Act, and our evaluation of probable impacts on public interest. Likewise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to determining compensatory mitigation through the implementation of current Regulatory Guidance and best professional judgment to consider on-site or within the immediate sub-watershed mitigation opportunities first, when impacts to waters of the United States cannot be practicably avoided or further minimized.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached maps.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Tyson Zobrist, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8578. Your inquiries may also be sent by e-mail to Tyson.J.Zobrist@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

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: In compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.], we will work cooperatively with the applicant and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in analyzing effects posed by proposed actions on listed species or designated critical habitats. We will obtain or review an applicant provided official species list from the Service's IPaC website at <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Following the comment period, we will make an effect determination and consult with the Service on actions that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat to insure those actions will not jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation, comments are solicited from other interested agencies and individuals through this Public Notice.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area. The Corps will continue to coordinate with SHPO and Native American Tribes as appropriate.

EVALUATION OF PROBABLE IMPACTS: The decision whether to authorize SIMC to enter into an agreement with the Corps and MBRT 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 FROM THE PUBLIC: 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 approve, modify, or deny authorization 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 also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Robert S. Gramke

ROBERT S. GRAMKE
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments




NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

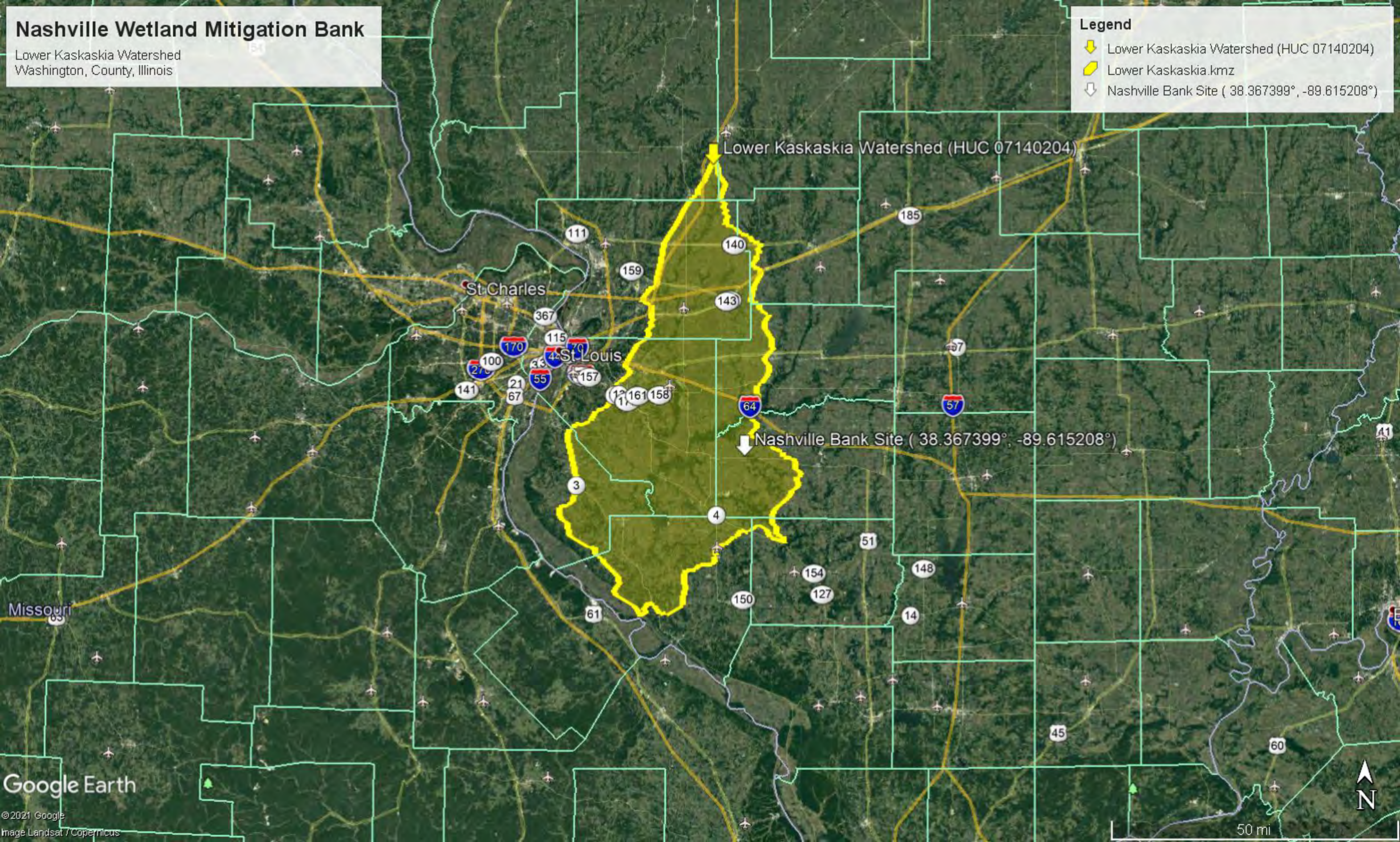
It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.

Nashville Wetland Mitigation Bank

Lower Kaskaskia Watershed
Washington, County, Illinois

Legend



-  Lower Kaskaskia Watershed (HUC 07140204)
-  Lower Kaskaskia.kmz
-  Nashville Bank Site (38.367399°, -89.615208°)



Nashville Wetland Mitigation Bank

Lower Kaskaskia Watershed
Washington, County, Illinois

Legend

-  Bank Boundary
-  Nashville Bank Site (38.367399°, -89.615208°)



↓ Nashville Bank Site (38.367399°, -89.615208°)

15

153

Dove Rd




1000 ft



Project site 13 miles west of Nashville, Illinois along Elkhorn Creek

PROPOSED WETLAND DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON ILLINOIS

 Areas to be excavated 4-6 Inches

Low Berm (appx. 3 inches high) to be constructed to hold water on west side of site longer.

Geff soils excavated to create emergent area on west edge of existing pond

Berm planted with trees

Prospectus Exhibit 4

**Nashville, IL Mitigation Site
 Southern Illinois Mitigation Co-op
 Carbondale, Illinois**

75 Acre Site

