

## Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Designated Floodplain and Wetland

To: All interested agencies, groups and individuals

This is to give notice that Madison County Community Development (MCCD) and the City of Wood River (CWD) have conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Grant Number: B-24-CP-IL-0769 and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant number EMC-2023-FM-001-0012. The proposed project is located at the existing 6<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond in Wood River, Madison County, IL and includes approximately 80 acres to the east and north across 9<sup>th</sup> Street. In order to remove several homes from the flood plain, CWD plans to increase stormwater storage by 1) bringing the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pond, which includes an approximately 5-acre palustrine pond, approximately 6.5 acres of freshwater emergent wetland, and approximately 0.2 acres of riverine surface waters, to the pond's original designed depth and expand it within the parcel, 2) construct a new 418,700-cubic-yard detention pond east of 9<sup>th</sup> Street which will be hydrologically connected to the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Pond via a new culvert under 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 3) store excavated soils in three areas – the field east of the new 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pond, the field north of the new 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pond, and a field further north than this northern field which is south of Hill Top Lane, 4) replace the aging 26 cubic feet per second (cfs) capacity pump with a 56 cfs pump, and 5) create a temporary passageway between the new 9<sup>th</sup> Street Pond and the soil storage field further to the east. The overall footprint includes approximately 115 acres. Soil storage areas within FFRMS flood plains include approximately 29.8 acres of Zone A1. The proposed project will increase floodwater storage and conveyance functions of the existing pond, will allow for groundwater recharge, and habitat for flora and fauna as well as the potential for educational and scientific programs.

MCCD and CWD have considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain and wetland:

- **ALTERNATIVE: Increase 6th Street Pump Station Capacity Only**  
Increasing the capacity of the existing pump station at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond would allow water to be discharged from the pond at a faster rate and would reduce the required storage volume. Increased discharge rates would require installing a new force main from the pump station to the discharge point at the East Fork Wood River, resulting in a higher cost. However, it was assessed that the larger discharge rate, without additional storage, may have negative impacts on the base flood elevation (BFE) for properties downstream of the force main discharge point. Thus, it was determined that this stand-alone project was not a viable option to reduce the footprint of the FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area around this stormwater detention system.
- **ALTERNATIVE: Increase 6th Street Detention Pond Volume Only**  
Increasing the size of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Detention Pond both to the northeast and the south of the existing footprint would provide additional storage volume at its current location. This would also reduce the extent of flooding in the immediate area when a storm event exceeds the current storage volume. However, this proposal would require removing the recreational baseball fields to the south of the pond area to reach the required storage capacity. Therefore, this stand-alone project was dismissed from further consideration.

- **ALTERNATIVE: Install a new 9th Street Detention Pond Only**

Constructing a new pond east of 9th Street and connecting the new pond to the 6th Street Detention Pond via a culvert underneath 9th Street would increase the available storage volume. This was identified as the least expensive alternative that did not require eliminating the existing baseball fields south of the 6th Street Detention Pond. The City would purchase an agricultural field along 9th Street, directly east of the 6th Street Detention Pond, to provide space for the new pond. However, without an increase in discharge capacity, this detention pond would not be effective in retaining a 100-year flood event. Thus, it was dismissed as a stand-alone alternative.

- **ALTERNATIVE: No Action**

The No Action alternative is included to describe potential future conditions if no action is taken to reduce flood risks. Under the No Action alternative, the City of Wood River would not have FEMA funding to implement hazard mitigation or flood risk management activities. Under this alternative, the 6th Street Detention Pond would remain unchanged, the existing pump station would not be upgraded, and the 9th Street Detention Pond would not be constructed. Homes, businesses, roadways, and agricultural fields in the City of Wood River would remain at risk of inundation and damage when there are 50-year or greater storm events. Properties west of the 6th Street Detention Pond would remain in the floodplain and would continue to be at risk of flooding.

- **MINIMIZATION: Reducing Impact**

The project footprint has been designed to the minimum size possible, to avoid the use of previously undisturbed land, and to use non-structural means of stabilizing the pond walls by using 1:3 grading.

- **MINIMIZATION: Soil Erosion Controls**

The following methods will be used to protect the unnamed stream which extends along the southwest and south sides of the proposed 9th Street Pond and along the south side of the eastern soil storage area (east adjacent to the 9th Street Pond)

- Soils will be graded to drain toward the proposed 9th Street Pond. A perimeter erosion barrier may be installed at the top of the bank.
- Erosion control blankets will be installed along the sloping faces of the eastern soil storage area and a perimeter erosion barrier installed at the top of the bank.

- **MITIGATION and RESTORATION: Locally Native Seed**

Once construction is complete, disturbed areas will be seeded with locally native grass seed. Additionally, future habitat within the 6th Street Detention Pond and proposed 9th Street Detention Pond will likely be very similar to the current habitat within the 6th Street Detention Pond.

The MCCD and CWD are in the process of obtaining a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) from FEMA and the Illinois State Water Survey and will obtain the approved CLOMR prior to initiating any construction activities.

The proposed project is in compliance with applicable FEMA, HUD, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regulations.

The MCCD and CWD have reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland and have determined that they have no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain and wetland can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain and wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the MCCD or WCD at the following address on or before Tuesday, June 24, 2025: 111 North Wood River Ave. Wood River Illinois, 62095 and (618) 251-3122, Attention: Mike Velloff, Director of Public Services. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 - 5:00 at the above address and [woodriver.org](http://woodriver.org).

Date: Monday, June 16, 2025