



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St Paul District

Public Notice

ISSUED: March 1, 2016

EXPIRES: March 31, 2016

APPLICANT: City of Arcadia

REFER TO: MVP-2011-01963-EMN SECTION: 404 - Clean Water Act

1. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO discharge fill material within 600 linear feet of Myers Valley Creek, permanently discharge fill material into 2.62 acres of adjacent wetlands, and temporarily discharge fill material in 0.13 acre of adjacent wetlands as part of a stream relocation/flood mitigation project in the City of Arcadia.

2. SPECIFIC INFORMATION.

APPLICANT'S ADDRESS: City of Arcadia
Robert Reichwein
203 W. Main Street
Arcadia, Wisconsin 54612

AGENT'S ADDRESS: Davy Engineering
115 6th Street South
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in Section 6, T. 20N, R. 9W, Trempealeau County, Wisconsin. The approximate UTM coordinates are 44.24583 / -91.50303. Overview maps showing the project location have been included in the attachments.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: The City of Arcadia has experienced significant flooding damage near Ashley Furniture, DSM Nutrition Products, and the surrounding neighborhoods bordering Washington Street, Harrison Street, Turtle Street, and Cleveland Street. Approximately \$11,000,000 in property damage and economic loss occurred from a flooding event in September 2010 and led the City of Arcadia to develop a flood mitigation project to address this issue at Myers Valley Creek.

The applicant determined that the existing bridge structure that provides access to DSM was the reason for these flooding issues. The bridge has very little freeboard to allow high water levels to pass under the structure and debris (tree branches) frequently becomes trapped under the bridge. When debris becomes trapped under the bridge, water levels increase upstream and the existing levees are not high enough to contain flood waters.

The proposed flood mitigation project would relocate approximately 2,200 linear feet of Myers Valley Creek on a new alignment south of the existing stream channel (reference Figure 4 in the attachments) through the construction of a diversion berm. The DSM Bridge would also be replaced with a box culvert to improve the failing structure and provide access to the DSM property.

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The applicant has stated that relocating Myers Valley Creek to this location would eliminate the threat of property damage and economic loss caused by flooding in excess of a 100-year event. The entire length of the stream downstream of the DSM Nutrition Products Bridge was constructed in the early 1990s as part of a previous relocation of the original stream.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project area is comprised of steep hills, open pasture and agricultural land, industrial/commercial/residential development, fresh (wet) meadow wetlands, and Myers Valley Creek. The land is significantly disturbed due to urban development, a previous stream relocation, and agricultural practices within the project area.

SURROUNDING LAND USE: The surrounding land use is comprised of residential development to the north and northeast, industrial facilities to the north and northwest, and agricultural and pasture land to the south and east of the project area.

VEGETATION IN AFFECTED AREA: The wetlands adjacent to Myers Valley Creek are dominated by reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). The applicant has stated that these wetlands provide moderate to low functions in most categories, but ranked high for flood/stormwater attenuation and water quality protection based upon a functional assessment conducted by Stantec within the project area. In addition, portions of the existing stream channel have been degraded from a prior stream relocation in the 1990s and by farming and pasturing practices within the project area.

QUANTITY, TYPE, AND AREA OF FILL: The applicant's preferred alternative would result in filling approximately 1,750 linear feet of stream channel to divert flow to the new stream channel. The new stream channel would be diverted approximately 750 feet upstream of the DSM Bridge and would follow a westerly path to its convergence with Myers Valley Creek approximately 1,400 feet downstream of the DSM Bridge. The existing stream length would decrease from approximately 2,200 linear feet to 2,050 linear feet in the new stream channel. The applicant has proposed to construct meanders, place root wads, rock vanes and other appropriate structures that would mimic a healthy and diverse stream ecosystem and would be an improvement from the in-stream habitat of the existing stream. In addition, fill material would be permanently discharged into 2.62 acres of wetlands adjacent to Myers Valley Creek as part of the proposed project.

SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL: All fill material needed for the project is proposed to be obtained from the excavation of uplands for the new stream channel. Any additional fill material needed would be obtained from a commercial facility and/or adjacent upland borrow sites.

DESCRIPTION OF EXCAVATION: The stream relocation would take place in four phases. The first phase would consist of installing ditch checks downstream of Myers Valley Creek, and excavating and effectively stabilizing the new channel. The second phase would consist of removing the ditch checks and rerouting the stream into the new channel. The third phase would consist of installing a storm sewer and placing fill in the abandoned channel area. The fourth (final) phase would consist of removing the bridge and reconstructing the existing access to DSM property.

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THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY THE APPLICANT: The applicant has proposed to use ditch checks, temporary sediment traps, turf-reinforcement mats, erosion control revegetation matrix, storm sewer inlet protection and sediment barriers to protect water quality during and following the construction of the proposed project.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: In addition to the preferred alternative, nine other alternatives were considered in the practicable alternatives analysis and are described below (shown in Figure 3 of the attachments, except Alternative 3):

No Action Alternative: This alternative would result in no changes to the existing stream alignment and no wetlands would be impacted within the project area. The applicant has stated that there are no practicable upland alternatives that would completely address the flooding issues due to the structural and logistical constraints at the DSM Bridge. It is expected that the no action alternative would continue to cause future flooding and would result in significant economic loss and property damage to the City of Arcadia (similar to the damage incurred in 2010).

Alternative 1 – Raise DSM Bridge: This alternative would raise the DSM Bridge to provide more freeboard above the 1% base flood elevation so that debris would pass through without plugging the opening and to increase capacity (reference Figure 3, Alt 1). In order to raise the bridge and increase conveyance, the existing CTH J and Furniture Way intersection would need to be vertically raised and reconstructed. Reconstructing this intersection would require acquisition of two residential properties along CTH J and three residences north of Furniture Way along with relocating existing utilities. The applicant has stated that this alternative is not desirable because it would result in steep grades that would be unsuitable for truck traffic and would make the intersection dangerous and difficult to navigate. This alternative would cost approximately \$2.0 million and would impact approximately 0.4-acre of fresh (wet) meadow adjacent to Myers Valley Creek.

Alternative 2 – Relocate the DSM Bridge upstream: This alternative would relocate the DSM Bridge upstream of its existing location and would meet the project purpose and need (reference Figure 3, Alt 2). The existing levee downstream of the DSM Bridge would be extended several hundred feet upstream along CTH J to provide at least three feet of additional freeboard above the 50-year event. The stream channel would need to be reshaped and widened to provide additional capacity at this location. In addition, the floodplain is approximately 350 feet wide at this location and would require 15,000 cubic yards of fill material to be placed in this area to construct the bridge at a sufficient elevation to provide the needed freeboard above the 100-year flood event. The applicant stated that this alternative is not desirable because it would result in significant floodplain impacts. In addition, this alternative would require ongoing operation and maintenance costs. This alternative would cost approximately \$2.8 million and would impact approximately 0.5-acre of fresh (wet) meadow adjacent to Myers Valley Creek.

Alternative 3 – Peak flow bypass: This alternative would construct an overflow structure upstream from the DSM Bridge to divert flood waters west through the northern portion of the Ashley Furniture overflow parking area. The overall flow channel would meet the project purpose and need, but the cost associated with the proposed work would be identical to the preferred alternative.

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In addition, the applicant stated that the issues with the DSM Bridge would not be addressed under this alternative and wetland impacts are expected to be similar to the preferred alternative. This alternative would cost approximately \$2.1 million and would impact approximately 2.7 acres of fresh (wet) meadow. This alternative was dismissed from further review by the applicant as project costs are similar and the wetland impacts are higher than the applicant's preferred alternative.

Alternative 4 – Relocate Myers Valley Creek through Ashley truck parking lot: The following alternatives meet the project purpose and need and would involve alternate stream re-routes within the Ashley Furniture truck parking lot (reference Figure 3). The applicant has stated that these alternatives would require the City of Arcadia to replace lost truck parking space for Ashley Furniture as a condition of the easement that was granted by Ashley Furniture.

- a. Replace parking by filling old channel (Route A). This is the applicant's preferred alternative and would involve relocating the stream along the southern portion of Ashley Furniture's property. This location is desirable due to past grading and leveling from Ashley Furniture's site preparation in uplands to accommodate their future truck parking lot expansion. The southern portion of the property also is the lowest topographical location through the property and would minimize grading and excavation through uplands to accommodate the stream relocation. However, relocating the stream in this location would result in the loss of 124 truck parking spots for Ashley Furniture's parking lot expansion. The applicant has stated that this loss of upland acreage could be replaced by filling the old stream channel and its adjacent wetlands from the DSM Bridge downstream to Ashley's existing access road. The total estimated cost is approximately \$2.1 million and this alternative would impact approximately 2.62 acres of fresh (wet) meadow and temporarily impact 0.13-acre of fresh (wet) meadow and 600 linear feet of existing stream channel.
- b. Replace parking offsite. This alternative would have a similar alignment to the applicant's preferred alternative (Route A), but would angle northwest to intersect with the existing stream channel just downstream of Ashley Furniture's existing access road to the proposed truck parking lot. The applicant stated that this alternative is not desirable due to increased costs associated with additional mileage for vehicles traveling from an off-site location, weight restrictions on local roadways that would restrict the timing and movement of trucks, and logistical constraints coordinating delivery and loading of trucks from the existing facility. The total estimated cost is approximately \$3.0 million along with additional costs passed down to Ashley Furniture due to longer mileage and logistical constraints with an off-site parking location. This alternative would impact approximately 0.5-acre of fresh (wet) meadow as wetland and stream impacts would be avoided in Wetland 1b and minimized in Wetland 1a.
- c. Construct a parking ramp. This alternative would have a similar alignment to the applicant's preferred alternative (Route A), but would angle northwest to intersect with the existing stream channel just downstream of Ashley Furniture's existing access road to the proposed truck parking lot. Currently, the east side of Ashley Furniture has 612 car parking spaces. Nearly all of these spaces would be used to shift truck parking spaces to this area. The estimated cost of constructing a 612 space car parking garage is approximately \$11.0 million and the total estimated project cost for this alternative is approximately \$13.0 million when factoring in the flood mitigation project costs.

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- d. This alternative would impact approximately 0.5-acre of fresh (wet) meadow as wetland and stream impacts would be avoided in Wetland 1b and minimized in Wetland 1a.
- e. Condemn property for Myers Valley Creek relocation. This alternative would have a similar alignment to the applicant's preferred alternative (Route A), but would angle northwest to intersect with the existing stream channel just downstream of Ashley Furniture's existing access road to the proposed truck parking lot. Condemnation of Ashley Furniture's property would not reduce project costs as this property is valuable and the loss of parking is a factor in its valuation. The total estimated construction cost for this alternative is approximately \$1.6 million plus the cost of the land, which could push the total project costs from \$4.6 million to \$14.6 million. In addition, the time frame to condemn the property would result in a loss of grants and funding as the applicant must complete the construction of this project in 2016 or the grants/funds would be lost. This alternative would impact approximately 0.5-acre of fresh (wet) meadow as wetland and stream impacts would be avoided in Wetland 1b and minimized in Wetland 1a.

Alternative 5 – Relocate Myers Valley Creek along Middle Road (Route C): This alternative would relocate Myers Valley Creek to the north side of Middle Road, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the DSM Bridge (reference Figure 3). The applicant has demonstrated that this alternative is not desirable because it would result in the loss of 1.5 miles of existing stream channel and would impact approximately 3.0 acres of fresh (wet) meadow. This alternative also would require a bridge to be constructed to provide access to the City's wastewater treatment lagoons, which would significantly increase the cost of the project. The total estimated cost of this alternative is approximately \$3.0 million plus the cost of acquiring land from three additional landowners.

Alternative 6 – Relocate Myers Valley Creek through the Schank farm (Route B): This alternative meets the project purpose and need and would relocate Myers Valley Creek approximately 0.5-miles upstream from the DSM Bridge (reference Figure 3). This route would avoid conflicts with the proposed Ashley Furniture truck parking lot and is the shortest route considered. However, the terrain becomes steep within this route and would require cuts of up to 50 feet within this route and would leave a considerable amount of runoff to deal with from the watershed downstream of the diversion point. The applicant has stated that this alternative is not desirable because it would divide the Schank farm in this area and would make it impracticable to continue farming north of the relocated stream channel (resulting in the need for an Agricultural Impact Statement and likely condemnation of the property). This option also would have to outlet into sedimentation basins, developed as part of an agreement with the DNR when the City's original wastewater treatment lagoons were abandoned. The increased flow and sedimentation from the rerouted stream channel would negatively impact the integrity of the sedimentation basins in this location. This alternative would cost approximately \$3.0 million and would impact approximately 3.0 acres of fresh (wet) meadow.

MITIGATION: The applicant has proposed to provide compensatory mitigation for all unavoidable wetland impacts associated with the proposed project by debiting credits from an approved mitigation bank. The applicant would compensate for the permanent impacts to 2.62 acres of wetland by debiting a minimum of 3.14 credits from the Foggy Acres Mitigation Bank in Chippewa County, Wisconsin.

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3. REPLIES/COMMENTS.

Interested parties are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections within 30 days of the date of this notice. These statements should bear upon the suitability of the location and the adequacy of the project and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes believed to be desirable. Comments received may be forwarded to the applicant.

Replies may be addressed to Regulatory Branch, St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 1314 Contractors Blvd., Plover, Wisconsin 54467.

Or, IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT, call Eric Norton at the Stevens Point field office of the Corps, telephone number (651) 290-5879.

To receive Public Notices by e-mail, go to: http://mvp-extstp.mvp.usace.army.mil/list_server/ and add your information in the New Registration Box.

4. FEDERALLY-LISTED THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE OR PLANTS OR THEIR CRITICAL HABITAT.

None were identified by the applicant or are known to exist in the permit area. However, Trempealeau County is within the known or historic range of the following Federally-listed threatened (T) and endangered (E) species:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
Eastern massasauga (Proposed as T)	Open to forested wetlands and adjacent uplands
Higgins' eye pearl mussel (E)	Mississippi River
Northern long-eared bat (T)	Hibernates in caves and mines – roosts and forages in upland forests during the summer

This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments it may have concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

5. JURISDICTION.

This application is being reviewed in accordance with current practices for documenting Corps jurisdiction under Section(s) 9 & 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

We have made a preliminary determination that the aquatic resources that would be impacted by the proposed project are subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If an approved jurisdictional determination is completed as part of the review process for this application, a copy will be posted on the St. Paul District web page at the following link:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

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THE APPLICANT HAS STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATE, COUNTY, AND/OR LOCAL PERMITS HAVE BEEN APPLIED FOR/ISSUED: The applicant has stated that they have submitted an application for an individual water quality certification from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

6. STATE SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION. This Public Notice has been sent to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is considered by the District Engineer to constitute valid notification to that agency for Section 401 water quality certification. A permit will not be granted until the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has issued or waived Section 401 certification.

7. HISTORICAL/ARCHAEOLOGICAL.

This public notice is being sent to the National Park Service and the State Archaeologist for their comments. The Corps will review information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the project area. The Corps will also consider the potential effects of the project on any properties that have yet to be identified. The results of this review and the Corps' determination of effect will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer independent of this public notice. Any adverse effects on historic properties will be resolved prior to the Corps authorization, or approval, of the work in connection with this project.

8. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

9. PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including 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 benefit 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. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, 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 and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Environmental and other documents will be available for review in the St. Paul District Office.

The 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 this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal.

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To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the 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.

Marie H. Kopka
Chief, NE Section (Acting)

Enclosures: Project location maps, figures, and drawings

City of Arcadia, Wisconsin

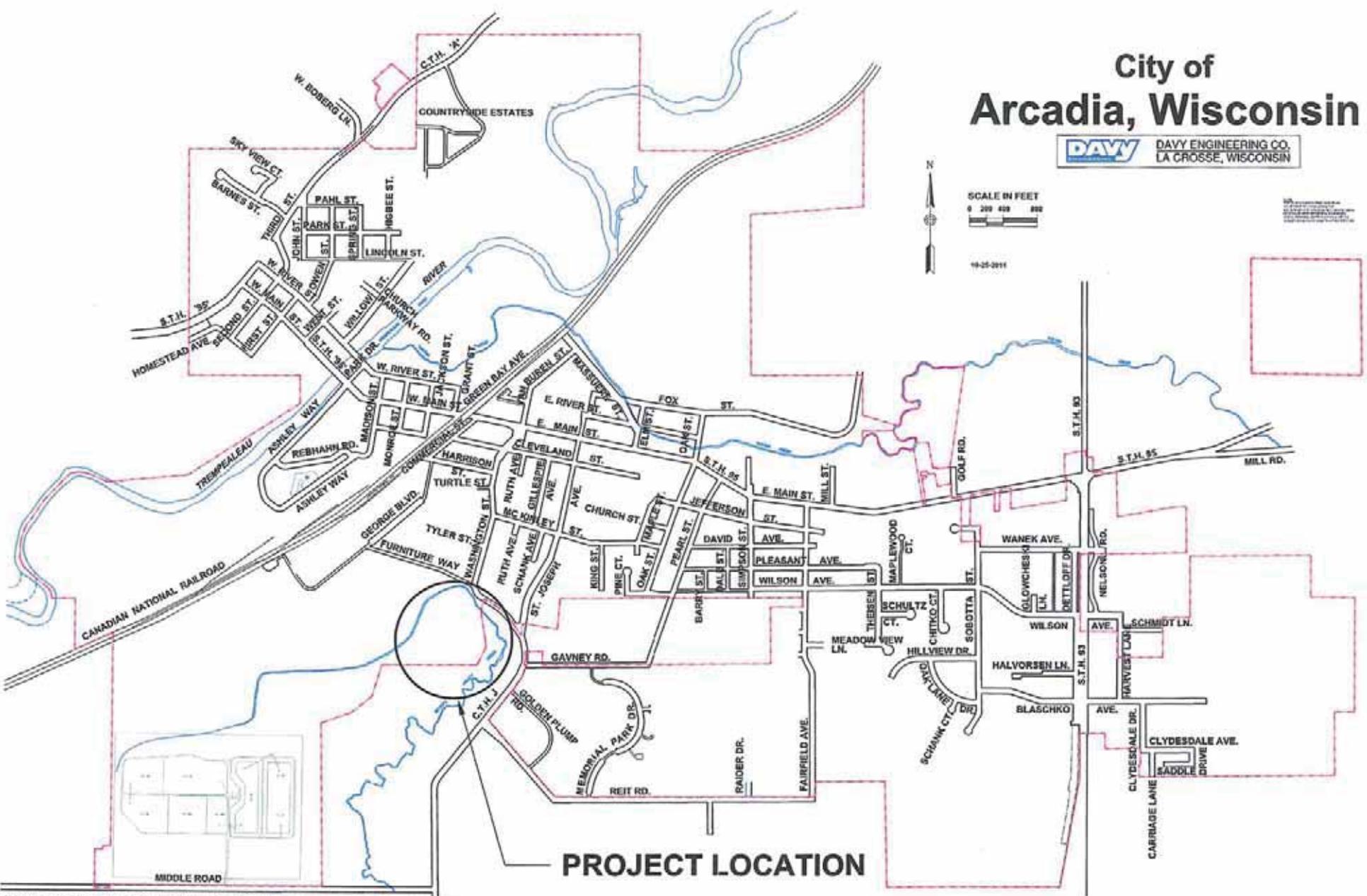
DAVY DAVY ENGINEERING CO.
LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN



SCALE IN FEET
0 200 400 800

10-25-2011

NOT TO SCALE
THIS MAP IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY
IT IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR ANY LEGAL ACTION
OR AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER'S DESIGN



PROJECT LOCATION

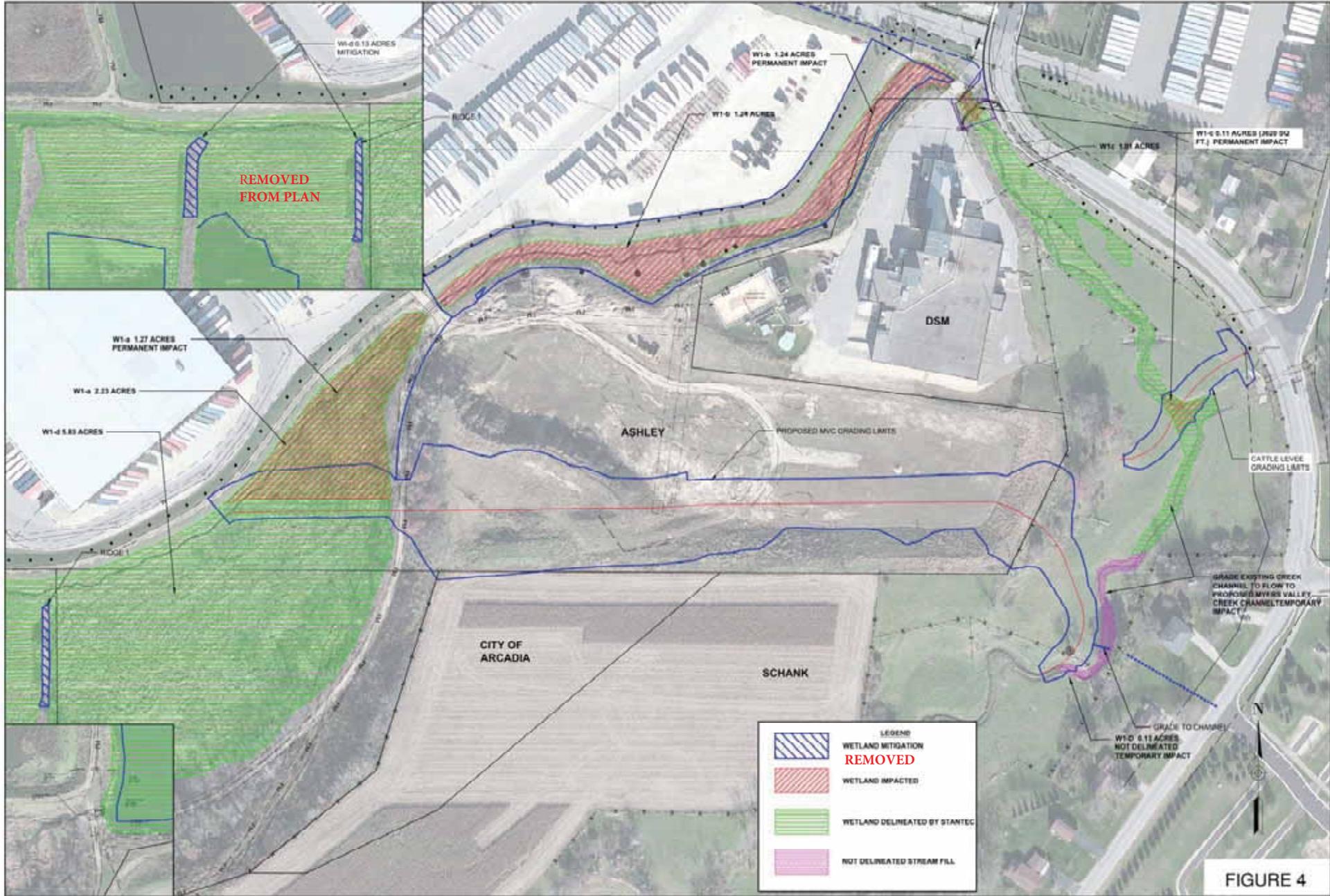
C:\Users\jld\OneDrive\2016\Myers Valley Creek Relocation\2016\Drawings\2016\1405-205-023\1405-205-023.dwg, 1/15/2016, 11:25:33 AM



FIGURE 3

PROJECT NUMBER 1405-205-023	ALTERNATIVE ROUTES 2016 MYERS VALLEY CREEK RELOCATION ARCADIA, WISCONSIN	DATE 01/15/2016	CHECKED BY DRAWN BY SCALE AS SHOWN	REVISION DATE	REVISIONS
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LEGEND

- WETLAND MITIGATION **REMOVED**
- WETLAND IMPACTED
- WETLAND DELINEATED BY STANTEC
- NOT DELINEATED STREAM FILL

FIGURE 4

<p>PROJECT NUMBER 1405-200.023</p> <p>SHEET NO. OF</p>	<p>REVISION DATE</p> <p>REMARKS</p>
<p>DAVY ENGINEERING CO LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN</p>	
<p>WETLAND IMPACT MAP 2016 MYERS VALLEY CREEK RELOCATION ARCADIA, WISCONSIN</p>	
<p>FILE NUMBER: 1405-200 SCALE: N/A DRAWN BY: [Name] CHECKED BY: [Name] DATE: 01-11-2016</p>	