



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

Public Notice

Project: Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Management Site:
Gorman Creek Restoration

Date: 6 May 2025

Expires: 5 June 2025

In Reply Refer to:

Regional Planning and
Environment Division North

1. Project Proponent. St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers, 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

2. Project Authority. The proposed actions were authorized under the authority of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930, as amended.

3. Project Location. The proposed action would be located in Wabasha County, Minnesota.

4. Summary of the Proposed Project. The purpose of the proposed action is to restore a stream channel within an area of wetlands on the Rolling Prairie Dredged Material Management Site. The historic channel of Gorman Creek passes through the southwestern portion of the Rolling Prairie site, in an area that is planned for riparian and emergent and forested wetland restoration. Restoring the historic creek alignment would contribute to the restoration goals for the site and those of the adjacent McCarthy Lake Wildlife Management Area, as well as restore hydrologic function both on and around the Rolling Prairie site. The proposed action is part of the long-term management plan for the site.

5. Construction Schedule. Construction of the proposed actions is tentatively scheduled to be initiated in 2025.

6. Permits/Coordination.

a. General. The proposed action is being coordinated with local agency partners through the River Resources Forum.

b. Federal. A Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared and coordinated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service occurred during the planning process.

c. Clean Water Act. The Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 USC §1251 et seq.) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Section 404 of the CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States and is administered by USACE. The Proposed Alternative may involve impacts to Section 404 regulated wetlands. The Corps will comply with the Clean Water Act to include the requirements of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 27 for Section 404 discharges where applicable. NWP 27 covers “activities in waters of the United States associated with the restoration, enhancement, and establishment of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and riparian areas, the restoration and enhancement of non-tidal streams and other non-

tidal open waters, and the rehabilitation or enhancement of tidal streams, tidal wetlands, and tidal open waters, provided those activities result in net increases in aquatic resource functions and services.” The Proposed Alternative would result in conditions resembling those prior to agricultural development and would result in an increase to ecological function and service of the area. Applicable general and regional conditions of NWP 27 would be met by the Proposed Alternative as planned. Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification is provided for NWP 27 through a December 21, 2020 letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to the Corps Regulatory Branch. The Corps would comply with all conditions of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. These would include marking construction area boundaries, washing equipment to avoid invasive species transport, minimizing sediment transport through incorporated project design, and constructing during low-flow or winter conditions. The contractor will also be required to utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to water quality.

7. Summary of Environmental Impacts. The proposed project would have temporary minor adverse effects on noise levels, air quality, and surface water quality. The proposed project would have substantial beneficial effects on wetlands, aquatic habitat, and habitat diversity and interspersions, and minor beneficial effects on aesthetic values, recreational opportunities, terrestrial habitat, biological productivity, and surface water quality.

8. Report. A Draft Environmental Assessment that describes the project and the environmental impacts in detail is available to the public and can be viewed by finding the project page on the St. Paul District’s Public Notice Webpage: <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/PublicNotices.aspx>. The report includes project drawings and a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact.

9. Review and Comment. If you have any comments on the environmental assessment they should be provided before the expiration date of this notice. Persons submitting comments are advised that all comments received will be available for public review, to include the possibility of posting on a public website. Questions on the project or comments on the Environmental Assessment can be directed to CEMVP_Planning@usace.army.mil. Please address all formal written correspondence on this project to:

St. Paul District, Corps of Engineers,
ATTN: Regional Planning and Environment Division North,
332 Minnesota Street, Suite E1500,
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Jonathan Sobiech
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Environment Division North