DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS SECTION 219, WRDA 1992, AS AMENDED

July 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District, Planning Branch
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DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated July 2025 for the Village of La Grange Storm Sewer Infrastructure project addresses the deteriorating condition of the existing storm sewers in La Grange, Illinois.

The Draft EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated a "no action" alternative and three alternative plans that would reduce flood risk in the project area. The recommended plan is Alternative 3, which includes:

- Approximately 18,000 linear feet of 6-inch to 24-inch diameter storm sewer pipe would be rehabilitated through the combination of open cut replacement (approximately 213 LF) and cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining methods (approximately 17,750 LF) throughout the project area. Where conditions inhibit CIPP liner installation, open cut replacement would occur.

The Draft EA evaluated the no action alternative as well as three other alternatives. The alternatives include:

- **No Action Alternative** – This alternative would not result in any rehabilitation of the existing storm sewer system. It would result in no upfront construction costs but lead to continued maintenance costs and possible expensive emergency repairs. Due to the age and structural deterioration of the sewers, no action would not be preferred. Rehabilitating the sewers would improve sewer system capacity and flow conditions and minimize the likelihood of a collapse.

- **Alternative 1 – Open Cut Replacement**– This alternative would include excavation and replacement of the entire sewer pipe segment from manhole to manhole. This would result in high upfront construction costs and increased ground disturbance in the project area compared to other alternatives but would allow for the sewer to be replaced in its entirety. This repair method is typically recommended where the sewer has severe structural defects and the cross-sectional area of the pipe is reduced to less than 90% of its original cross-sectional area for more than 50% of its length.

- **Alternative 2 – Lining the Existing Sewer** – This alternative would line the existing sewers using CIPP methods. This would result in savings on upfront construction costs when compared to other alternatives and minimize excavation and restoration efforts. Service laterals can typically be reinstated within 8-12 hours of the start of installation. This repair method is only recommended for sewers that retain their original shape and do not have any defects that would inhibit a liner from being installed.

- **Alternative 3 – Lining the Existing Sewer with Point Repairs as needed** – This alternative would include the rehabilitation of deteriorated storm sewer pipe through a combination of open cut replacement and CIPP lining methods. Segments that are out of round or have severe structural defects inhibiting a CIPP liner to be installed would be repaired with open cut replacement. Afterwards, the sewer segment would be lined using CIPP methods from manhole to manhole. This method minimizes excavation and

restoration efforts, rehabilitates the sewer segment in a timely manner, and produces a structurally sound final product.

For the no action alternative and three alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in the below table:

Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigations	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	☒	☐	☐
Air quality	☒	☐	☐
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☐	☐	☒
Terrestrial communities	☒	☐	☐
Invasive species	☐	☐	☒
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☐	☐	☒
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☐	☐	☒
Floodplains	☐	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Hydrology	☐	☐	☒
Land use	☐	☐	☒
Navigation	☐	☐	☒
Noise levels	☒	☐	☐
Public infrastructure	☐	☐	☒
Socioeconomics	☐	☐	☒
Soils	☒	☐	☐
Tribal trust resources	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☐	☐	☒
Climate	☐	☐	☒

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices, as detailed in the Draft EA, would be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public and agency review of the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) commenced in July 2025. The draft documents were posted on the USACE webpage and notices of availability were distributed to federal, state, and local agencies; elected officials; and local libraries. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, USACE determined the recommended plan would have “no effect” on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties by the proposed undertaking. Coordination with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office is ongoing.

Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, do not apply to the proposed infrastructure project since the project does not involve any discharge or placement of fill into waters of the U.S.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of the alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other federal, state and local agencies, tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: _____

_____

Kenneth P. Rockwell
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

VILLAGE OF LA GRANGE
STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
LA GRANGE, ILLINOIS

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

July 2025

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List of Acronyms

APE	Area of Potential Effects
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
EA	Environmental Assessment
EcoCAT	Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool
ECOS	Environmental Conservation Online System
EO	Executive Order
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HTRW	Hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
IDNR	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
IEPA	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
PM	Particulate Matter
REC	Recognized Environmental Condition
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WIIN	Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation
WRDA	Water Resources Development Act

CHAPTER 1 – PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Purpose

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District is evaluating its decision to support the Village of La Grange, Illinois in improving its storm sewer system by providing planning and construction assistance for the proposed project. The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and rehabilitate storm sewers that are in a deteriorating condition.

1.2 Need for Action

The existing storm sewer system is in a deteriorating condition due to its age. The proposed project would rehabilitate storm sewer segments in the study area bounded by Ogden Avenue to the north, 50th Street to the south, Gilbert Avenue to the west, and East Avenue to the east (Figure 1). These conditions decrease operational efficiency, increase maintenance, and increase the risk of expensive emergency repairs. The existing storm sewer in the area remains in service despite the deteriorating condition. Rehabilitating the sewers would improve sewer system capacity and flow conditions and minimize the likelihood of a collapse.

1.3 Authority

The study is authorized under Section 219(f)(54) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, as amended by Section 108(d) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, Public Law 106-554; and Section 1157 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act) of 2016, Public Law 114-322. These amended authorities allow USACE to provide planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

1.4 Non-federal Sponsor

The project's non-federal sponsor is the Village of La Grange, Illinois.

Figure 1: Locations of the La Grange Storm Sewer Improvement Project Area.

CHAPTER 2 – PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, USACE would not provide funding for the project and the Village of La Grange would not addressing the aging and deteriorating storm sewer infrastructure. This alternative would not result in any rehabilitation of the existing storm sewer system. It would result in no upfront construction costs but lead to continued maintenance costs and possible expensive emergency repairs. Due to the age and structural deterioration of the sewers, no action would not be preferred. Rehabilitating the sewers would improve sewer system capacity and flow conditions and minimize the likelihood of a collapse.

2.2 Action Alternatives

Alternative 1 – Open Cut Replacement

This alternative would include excavation and replacement of the entire sewer pipe segment from manhole to manhole. This would result in high upfront construction costs and increased ground disturbance in the project area compared to other alternatives but would allow for the sewer to be replaced in its entirety. This repair method is typically recommended where the sewer has severe structural defects and the cross-sectional area of the pipe is reduced to less than 90% of its original cross-sectional area for more than 50% of its length.

Alternative 2 – Lining the Existing Sewer

This alternative would line the existing sewers using CIPP methods. This would result in savings on upfront construction costs when compared to other alternatives and minimize excavation and restoration efforts. Service laterals can typically be reinstated within 8-12 hours of the start of installation. This repair method is only recommended for sewers that retain their original shape and do not have any defects that would inhibit a liner from being installed.

Alternative 3 – Lining the Existing Sewer with Point Repairs as needed

This alternative would include the rehabilitation of deteriorated storm sewer pipe through a combination of open cut replacement and CIPP lining methods. Segments that are out of round or have severe structural defects inhibiting a CIPP liner to be installed would be repaired with open cut replacement. Afterwards, the sewer segment would be lined using CIPP methods from manhole to manhole. This method minimizes excavation and restoration efforts, rehabilitates the sewer segment in a timely manner, and produces a structurally sound final product.

2.3 Recommended Plan (Proposed Action)

The recommended plan is Alternative 3. Approximately 18,000 linear feet of 6-inch to 24-inch diameter storm sewer pipe would be rehabilitated through the combination of open cut replacement (approximately 213 LF) and cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining methods (approximately 17,750 LF) throughout the project area. Where conditions inhibit CIPP liner installation, open cut replacement would occur. Alternative 3 would fully address the needs and is the most cost-effective solution.

CHAPTER 3 – ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

This section discusses the existing conditions by resource category and any potential environmental impacts associated with the no action alternative as well as with implementation of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and Alternative 3 (recommended plan).

USACE evaluated the potentially affected environment and the degree of the effects of the action to consider whether the proposed action's effects are significant. In considering the potentially affected environment, USACE considered the affected area and its resources. USACE defined effects or impacts to mean changes to the human environment from the proposed action or alternatives that are reasonably foreseeable. In considering the degree of the effects, USACE considered short and long-term effects; beneficial and adverse effects; any effects to public health and safety; and whether the action threatens to violate federal, state, or local laws established for the protection of the human and natural environment. USACE considered the severity of an environmental impact as follows:

- None/negligible – No measurable impacts are expected to occur.
- Minor – A measurable and adverse effect to a resource. A slight impact that may not be readily obvious and is within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts should be avoided and minimized if possible but should not result in a mitigation requirement.
- Significant – A measurable and adverse effect to a resource. A major impact that is readily obvious and is not within accepted levels for permitting, continued resource sustainability, or human use. Impacts likely result in the need for mitigation.
- Adverse – A measurable and negative effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in reduced conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Beneficial – A measurable and positive effect to a resource. May be minor to major, resulting in improved conditions, sustainability, or viability of the resource.
- Short-Term – Temporary in nature and does not result in a permanent long-term beneficial or adverse effect to a resource. For example, temporary construction-related effects (such as, an increase in dust, noise, traffic congestion) that no longer occur once construction is complete. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.
- Long-Term – Permanent (or for most of the project life) beneficial or adverse effects to a resource. For example, permanent conversion of a wetland to a parking lot. May be minor, significant, adverse, or beneficial in nature.

USACE used quantitative and qualitative analyses, as appropriate, to determine the level of potential impact for all alternatives. USACE analyzed ecological, aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, and health effects, as applicable. Based on the results of the analyses, this Environmental Assessment (EA) identifies whether a particular potential impact would be adverse or beneficial, and to what extent.

3.1 Project Area

The project area is within the Village of La Grange, Cook County, Illinois. The project area is bounded by Ogden Avenue to the north, 50th Street to the south, Gilbert Avenue to the west, and East Avenue to the east (Figure 1). All work would occur within the roadway right-of-way.

3.2 Physical Resources

3.2.1 Climate

Existing Condition

The climate of the study area is predominantly continental with some modifications by Lake Michigan. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Online Weather Data was queried for the Chicago Midway station since that is closest local climatology reporting location to the project area. Daily and monthly normals for temperature, precipitation, and snowfall between 1991 and 2020 were available (NOAA 2025) (Figure 2). The mean winter high temperature is 32.8°F while the mean winter low temperature is 19.5°F (January). The mean summer high temperature is 85.2°F while the mean summer low temperature is 62.7°F (July). Annual total precipitation for the Chicago area is 40.88 inches. In winter, total snowfall is generally heavy with an annual total snowfall of 38.8 inches. The majority of snowfall occurs between December and February with total snowfall ranging from 7.9 inches (i.e., December) to 10.1 inches (i.e., February) during this timeframe.

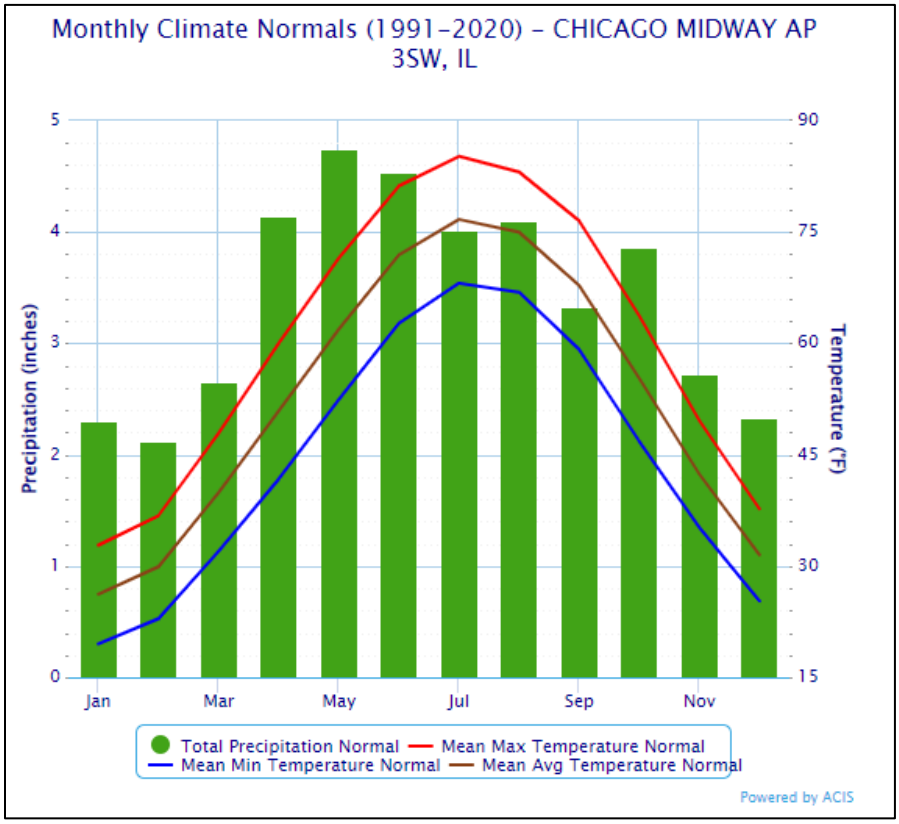

Figure 2: Normal Precipitation and Temperature for the General Project Area between 1991 and 2020 (NOAA 2025).

Alternative Impact

Construction of any of the action alternatives would not result in short-term or long-term impacts to climate. Additional fossil fuels associated with the operation of construction vehicles (e.g., excavator, dump truck, flatbed delivery truck, forklift, etc.) would be needed to construct the improvements, haul the materials to the site, and haul away equipment from the area. However, there would be no measurable impact on climate.

No Action Impact

No impacts to climate are expected under the no action alternative.

3.2.2 Geology & Soils

Existing Condition

Geology – Glaciation within the Chicago region ended about 13,000 years ago when the glaciers receded from the area for the last time. In the Chicago region, the most common type of bedrock is a magnesium-rich limestone called dolomite that was originally deposited on reefs set in shallow seas during the Silurian period about 400 million years ago. The youngest bedrock in the Chicago region dates from the Pennsylvania period about 300 million years ago. Surface features in the region are all made of material deposited by the glaciers or by the lakes that appeared as the glaciers melted. In some places, these deposits are nearly 400 feet thick.

Soils – The U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service's web soil survey was queried for soils present within the project areas. According to the web soil survey for the project area, the project site is made up of Anthroportic Udorthents (811A, 822A, 2223B, 2822A, 2822B), Urban Land (533, 2811A), Varna silt loam (223B), and Elliott silt loam (146A). (Figure 3). The soil present in the project area is not prime farmland soil.

Alternative Impact

Implementation of Alternatives 1, 2, or 3 would include excavation and ground disturbing activities; however, these activities would not impact any unique local geologic features as none are present within the area. Alternative 1 would require the largest extent of ground disturbance and Alternative 2 would require the least ground disturbance. The recommended plan is a combination of Alternatives 1 and 2 with a correspondingly intermediate degree of ground disturbance. The recommended plan includes open trench methods but the areas where excavation would occur are within roadway rights-of-way and have been previously disturbed. Therefore, Alternative 3 would not have any short-term or long-term adverse impacts to local geological features or soils.

No Action Impact

No impacts to geologic features or soils are anticipated as part of the no action alternative.

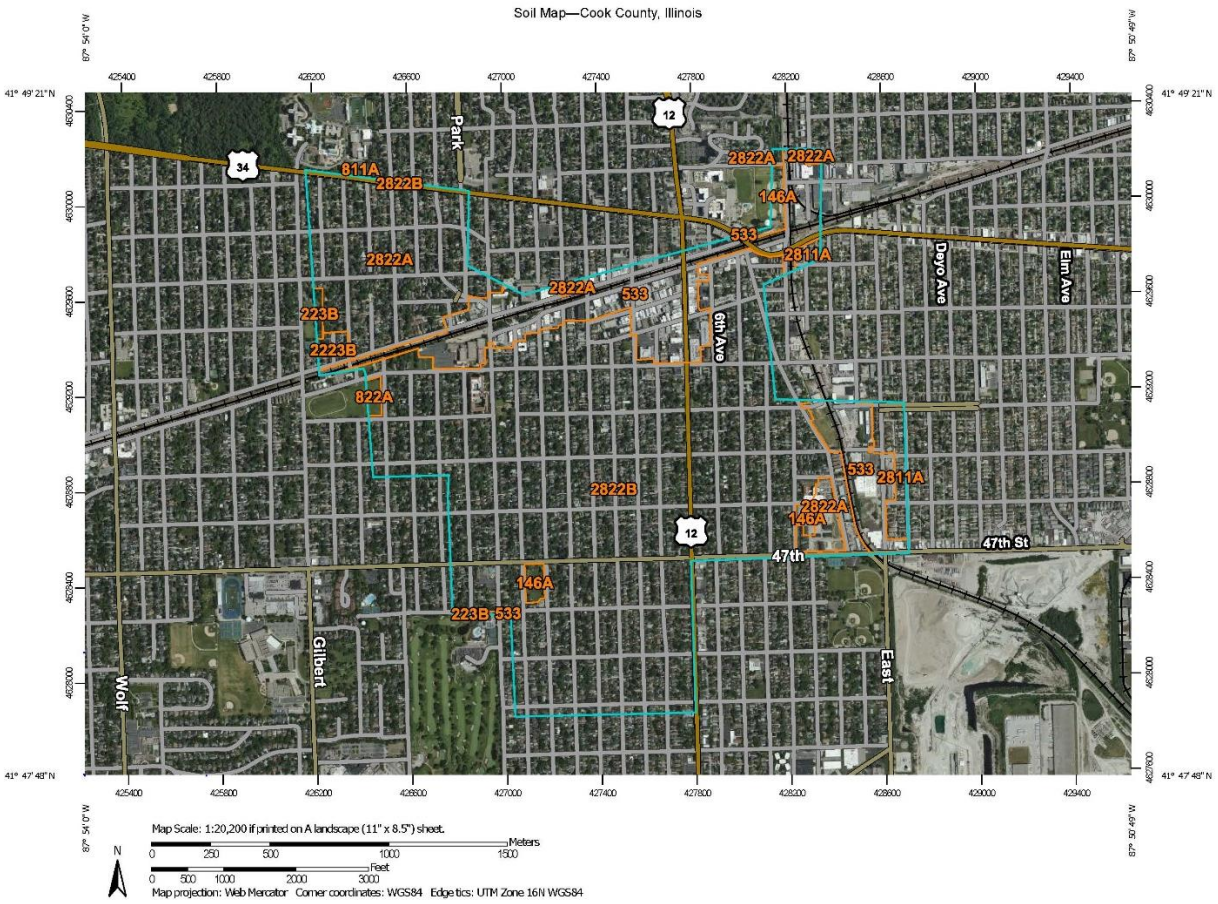

Figure 3: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Map of Soils within the La Grange Storm Sewer Improvements Project Area (NRCS 2025).

3.2.4 Water Quality

Existing Condition

The Village of La Grange purchases surface water from the City of Chicago, which utilizes Lake Michigan as its source via two water treatment plants. The 2023 water quality report for La Grange's source water indicated that there were no contamination violations for water quality.

With regard to water quality within local waterways, Salt Creek is approximately 2 miles from the project area and drains into the Des Plaines River which also lies approximately 2 miles from the project area to the northeast. The 2024 303(d) list of impaired waters within the State of Illinois was queried regarding Salt Creek and the Des Plaines River. Salt Creek (IL_GL-09, IL_G-19) is listed on the 303(d) list of state impaired waters for primary contact due to fecal coliform and aquatic life due to total suspended solids (TSS) (IEPA 2024). Des Plaines River (IL_G-32, IL_G-39) is listed on the 303(d) list of state impaired waters for aquatic life, fish consumption, and primary contact due to chloride, total phosphorus, mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBS), and fecal coliform (IEPA 2024).

Alternative Impact

There are no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to water resources under Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3 (recommended plan). Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 does not apply because the project does not include construction of any structure in or

over any navigable waters. Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) does not apply as the project would not promote development in the floodplain. Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) does not apply as there are no known wetlands within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The Clean Water Act does not apply, because the project does not involve any discharge of dredged or fill material to Waters of the U.S. The project is not expected to have any impact to the Silurian Aquifer System or the Salt Creek waterway located 2 miles from the project area.

No Action Impact

Under the no action alternative, water quality in the project area would remain unchanged.

3.2.4 Air Quality

Existing Condition

The Chicago Metropolitan area, including the study area, is a non-attainment area for ozone. Existing air quality data are available for Cook, DuPage, and Will counties from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Air Data database (USEPA, 2025). Although the trends show overall improvement over the last 10 years, individual measurements and monitoring stations still have measurements that exceed the national standards. The existing air quality should be considered marginal but improving over time.

Table 1: Chicago Area Status for NAAQS Six Criteria Pollutants (USEPA 2025).

NAAQS	Area Name	Most Recent Year of Nonattainment	Current Status	Classification
8-Hour Ozone (2015)	Chicago, IL-IN-WI	2025	Nonattainment	Serious
8-Hour Ozone (2008)	Chicago-Naperville, IL-IN-WI	2021	Maintenance (Since 2022)	Serious
PM-10 (1987)	Southeast Chicago	2004	Maintenance (since 2005)	Moderate
PM-2.5 (1997)	Chicago-Gary-Lake County, IL-IN	2012	Maintenance (since 2013)	Former Subpart 1
Lead	Chicago, IL	2017	Maintenance (since 2018)	---

The USEPA Mandatory Reporting Rule of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) applies to direct GHG emitters, fossil fuel suppliers, industrial gas suppliers, and facilities that inject carbon dioxide (CO_2) underground for sequestration (containment) or other reasons. The State of Illinois aims to reduce GHG emissions to net zero by 2050.

Alternative Impact

During project implementation of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3 (recommended plan), construction equipment would cause negligible, temporary air quality impacts through the operation of construction equipment (i.e. excavators, skid steers, small wheel, rollers, etc.)(Appendix A). Alternative 2 would have less required equipment due to the scope of CIPP lining only. Therefore, Alternative 2 would have the least amount of GHG emissions compared to the other action alternatives. The recommended plan (Alternative 3) would have the next lowest amount of GHG emissions with the combined scope of CIPP lining and as needed point repairs. All equipment used would comply with current air quality control requirements for diesel exhaust, fuels, and similar requirements. Long-term, once constructed, the project would be

neutral in terms of air quality, with no features that either emit or sequester air pollutants to a large degree.

None of the three action alternatives would sequester carbon nor impact the ability of the State of Illinois to meet its emissions goals. Implementation of the preferred alternative would not result in significant short-term or long-term impacts related to GHG emissions or air quality more generally within Cook County.

No Action Impact

Under the no action alternative, air quality in the project area would remain unchanged.

3.2.6 Land Use

Existing Condition

Existing land use in the project area is mostly zoned for residential uses with a few segments zoned for commercial use. The storm sewer rehabilitation project would occur within the roadway right-of-way along with any resurfacing work.

Alternative Impact

Implementation of Alternative 3 (recommended plan) or the other action alternatives would not be in conflict with the Village of La Grange's designation as a roadway right-of-way or the adjacent land use. None of the action alternatives would change the designation of the area to another land use category. Therefore, there would be no short-term or long-term adverse impacts on land use within the project area.

No Action Impact

No impacts to land use would occur as part of the no action alternative.

3.2.7 Floodplains

Existing Condition

Executive Order (EO) 11988, as amended, requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions on floodplains. In order to determine the alternatives' potential floodplain impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) were queried to determine if the proposed project area is located within a Special Flood Hazard Zone Area or Other Area of Flood Hazard. According to the Village of La Grange Flood Map (Area Number 17031C0478J and 17031C0486J), the proposed project is not located within the floodplain(FEMA 2025).

Alternative Impact

As the project area is not within the floodplain, no impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the implementation of any action alternatives.

No Action Impact

As no construction related activities would be implemented, no impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the no action alternative.

3.2.8 Wetlands

Existing Condition

National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps were reviewed for the proposed project area and are included in Appendix B. NWI mapping did not identify any wetlands within or adjacent to the project area (USFWS 2025).

Alternative Impact

No impacts to wetlands are anticipated because no wetlands are within or adjacent to the project area.

No Action Impact

No impacts to wetlands are anticipated for the no action alternative.

3.3 Biological Resources

3.3.1 Aquatic Communities

Existing Condition

There are no aquatic communities with the project area. The closest water resource to the project area is Salt Creek, approximately 2 miles from the project area and drains into the Des Plaines River which also lies approximately 2 miles from the project area to the northeast. Combined sewage overflow (CSO) outlets discharge into Salt Creek during CSO events. Therefore, fish and aquatic macroinvertebrate species that reside in Salt Creek are more likely to be pollution tolerant and common species within the region.

Alternative Impact

Construction would not include any in-water work or discharges to Salt Creek or the Des Plaines River. Therefore, the action alternatives are not expected to have any short-term or long-term adverse impacts to aquatic resources.

No Action Impact

No impacts to aquatic communities are anticipated to occur from the no action alternative.

3.3.2 Terrestrial Communities

Existing Condition

Reptiles and Amphibians

Due to the urban nature of the project area, only common species of reptiles and amphibians would be expected to be present. Common species that may be in the general area include common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), northern watersnake (*Nerodia sipedon*), eastern racer (*Coluber constrictor*), American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*), and snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*).

Birds

The western shoreline of Lake Michigan is recognized as “one of the most important flyways for migrant songbirds in the United States by many ornithologists and birdwatchers worldwide” (Shilling and Williamson, BCN), and is considered globally significant. An estimated 5 million songbirds use the north-south shoreline of Lake Michigan as their migratory sight line every year. Although the project area is within the vicinity of Lake Michigan, there is no significant bird habitat present within the project area. The project area is located within the vicinity of business, manufacturing, residential, and open space land use types. Due to the relative urban nature of the area, birds that may be present within the area would primarily be common species that are fairly habituated to human disturbance. Common species that may be observed include: European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), American robin (*Turdus migratorius*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), and blue jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*).

Mammals

A list of mammals that have potential to occur within the project areas was assembled utilizing publications and available data. Large mammal habitat is degraded or non-extant within the project area; however, coyote (*Canis latrans*), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) make up the large mammal potential for the area. Small mammals that have the potential to occur within the areas include common urban species such as eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), eastern cottontail (*Sylvagius floridanus*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*).

Alternative Impact

Implementation of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3 would have temporary negligible impacts to terrestrial communities. Construction of the action alternatives would occur in a mostly residential area. Therefore, only common species are anticipated to be present. The presence of construction equipment and construction activities is likely to disturb common terrestrial species and cause them to avoid the area in the short-term. However, the species would be expected to return to the area as soon as construction is complete.

No Action Impact

No impacts to terrestrial communities are anticipated to occur from the no action alternative.

3.3.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

Existing Condition

Federal

A query of USFWS's Environmental Conservation Online System Information for Planning and Consultation (ECOS-IPaC) (Consultation Code 2025-0107321) on June 9, 2025 resulted in an official species list of federally listed species that may be present within the project area. Obtaining the official species list from ECOS-IPaC fulfills the requirement for federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action." Eight federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed endangered, and experimental population species were identified as potentially occurring within the project area (Table 2). Critical habitat has been designated for the Hine's emerald dragonfly and proposed for the Rufa Red Knot; however, the project location is outside the critical habitat and proposed critical habitat area for both of these species.

Table 2: Federally listed Species with the Potential of Occurring within the Project Area

Species Name	Federal Status	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)	Proposed Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines – swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests and woods during the summer.	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.

Species Name	Federal Status	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Eastern Massasaugua (*Sistrurus catenatus)*	Threatened	Wet areas including wet prairies, marshes, and low areas along rivers and lakes. Use adjacent upland areas.	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.
Red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*)	Threatened	Sandy beaches, saltmarshes lagoons, mudflats, mangrove swamps, and shorelines of large lakes.	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.
Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)	Experimental Population, Non-essential	Found in wetlands, marshes, mudflats, wet prairies, and fields.	**Not expected to occur;** lack of suitable habitat
Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*)	Endangered	Calcareous spring-fed marshes and sedge meadows overlaying dolomite bedrock	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus)*	Proposed Threatened	Prefer grassland ecosystems with native milkweed and nectar plants.	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid *(Platanthera praeclara)*	Threatened	Mesic to wet unplowed tallgrass prairies and meadows.	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.
Leafy Prairie-Clover (*Dalea foliosa*)	Endangered	Prairie remnants along the Des Plaines River, IL in soils over limestone substrate	**Not expected to occur**; lack of suitable habitat.

State

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) was queried on June 9, 2025 for state-listed species that may be present within the vicinity of the project area (IDNR Project Number 2514052). The review resulted in no record of state-listed threatened or endangered species, or registered Land and Water reserves in the vicinity of the project location. The Salt Creek Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site and the Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve were identified in the vicinity of the project location.

Alternative Impact

USACE determined that implementation of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3 would have 'no effect' on the federal-listed species listed in Table 2 because these species are not expected to occur within the vicinity of the project area due to lack of suitable habitat, or because there are no records of the listed species in the project area. Additionally, there are no plans for tree removal as part of the project scope.

The Natural Resource Review Results Letter generated from EcoCAT states that consultation is terminated and is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered.

No Action Impact

No impacts to federal or state listed species are anticipated under the no action alternative.

3.4 Cultural & Social Resources

3.4.1 Cultural Resources

Existing Condition

USACE coordinated its environmental review of impacts on cultural resources under the Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with its responsibilities to take into account effects on historic properties as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. USACE determined and documented the area of potential effect (APE), as required at 36 C.F.R § 800.4 of the regulations implementing Section 106. The undertaking is in Sections 4, 5, and 9, Township 38 North, Range 12 East in Cook County, Illinois (Figure 1). USACE believes that the APE is sufficient to identify and consider potential effects of the proposed project.

USACE has conducted a records search and literature review of the project APE on the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological Sites and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The literature review and records search revealed that there are no previously known archaeological sites within the APE. The project APE is situated within the La Grange Village Historic District (NRHP #79000834) which includes approximately 1,000 structures. USACE has made a good faith effort to gather information from affected Tribes identified pursuant to 36 C.F.R.§ 800.3(f). USACE has consulted with Citizen Potawatomi of Oklahoma, the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, the Hannahville Indian Community of Michigan, the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians of Michigan, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation for assistance in identifying properties which may be of religious and cultural significance. The Tribes have not commented on the undertaking to date.

Alternative Impact

USACE made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties that may be affected by this undertaking. As the undertaking is limited to road rights-of-way, all of the individual structures contributing to the La Grange Village Historic District sit adjacent to the project APE and would not be impacted by the undertaking. As the project APE is entirely within disturbed soil, this precludes the presence of any intact archaeological deposits. For this reason and based on the results of the archival research, USACE has determined that there would be no adverse effect to historic properties by the proposed undertaking. A finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties was submitted to the IL SHPO in July 2025. Coordination is ongoing and USACE anticipates concurrence.

No Action Impact

No impacts to Cultural Resources are anticipated under the no action alternative.

3.4.2 Recreation

Existing Condition

The Park District of La Grange manages 11 parks and recreational facilities. The La Grange Recreation Center also provides indoor opportunities such as a playground, a walking track, volleyball, basketball, pickleball, and a fitness center. Additional nearby recreation opportunities include La Grange Country Club Golf Course and Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve.

Alternative Impact

Since the project area is confined to the roadway and parkway, and road work is not adjacent to any park or facility, implementation of Alternative 1, Alternative 2, or Alternative 3 would have no short-term or long-term impacts to recreation within the project area.

No Action Impact

No impacts to recreation are anticipated under the no action alternative.

3.4.3 Social Setting and Other Social Effects

Existing Condition

The project area is located within the village limits of La Grange, Illinois. The U.S. Census Bureau's Quick Facts (U.S. Census Bureau 2025) for La Grange, Cook County, and Illinois were reviewed for demographic information presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Vintage Year 2024 U.S. Census Data for La Grange, Cook County, Illinois.

Category	La Grange	Cook County	Illinois
Total Population	15,943	5,182,617	12,710,158
Under 18 years	29.2%	20.7%	21.6%
Under 5 years	6.4%	5.2%	5.3%
White	81.0%	65.2%	76.0%
Black or African American	4.3%	23.3%	14.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.1%	0.8%	0.6%
Asian	1.4%	8.3%	6.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
Hispanic of Latino	11.8%	27.0%	19.0%
Two or more races	8.4%	2.3%	2.3%
High School Graduate or Higher	97.3%	88.3%	90.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	65.5%	41.9%	37.2%
Median Household Income	$154,556	$81,797	$81,702
Below Poverty Level	5.1%	13.2%	11.6%

Alternative Impact

When evaluating potential impacts to economically disadvantaged or other historically vulnerable populations, USACE analyzed whether construction of the recommended plan would have a disproportionate impact to minorities and low-income households. To evaluate potential disproportional impacts to minority populations or to low-income households, USACE compared socioeconomic data from Cook County and the State of Illinois to socioeconomic data for the Village of LaGrange.

Minorities comprise approximately 19% of the total population in the Village of La Grange. The minority population of the Village of La grange is lower than that of the rest of Cook County (34.8%) and the State of Illinois (24%). The alternatives are expected to have a beneficial impact on the La Grange community as rehabilitated sewers would improve sewer system capacity and flow conditions and minimize chances of a collapse.

5.1% of households in the Village of La Grange are below the poverty line, which is lower than in Cook County (13.2%) and the State of Illinois (11.6%). Implementation is expected to have an overall beneficial impact on the La Grange community. Therefore, implementation is not expected to have a disproportionate adverse impact on low-income populations.

Implementation of any of the action alternatives would have no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to the social setting within the area. Beneficial impacts are expected as rehabilitated storm sewers would improve system capacity and flow conditions and minimize chances of a collapse.

No Action Impact

The no action alternative could have a long-term adverse impact to the social setting within the project area due to safety concerns from potential sewer collapses within the residential area.

3.5 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

Existing Condition

A Phase I Hazardous, Toxic, or Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was completed for the project area in accordance with ASTM Practice E 1527-21 and USACE Engineer Regulation 1165-2-132. The investigation relied on site reconnaissance and a review of reasonably ascertainable environmental records, including regulatory database information and historic information, to determine the likelihood that the project area contains a recognized environmental condition (REC) or HTRW. The Phase I ESA was conducted in general accordance with ASTM Standard Practice E-1527-21 and constitutes “all appropriate inquiry into the previous ownership and uses of the property consistent with good commercial or customary practice,” as defined at 42 USC §9601(35) (B). The Phase 1 ESA identified seven RECs in the project area or adjoining properties that have the potential for HTRW (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

Alternative Impact

There is an elevated risk of encountering HTRW during implementation of Alternative 1 compared to Alternative 2 due to extensive excavation and ground disturbing activities required for open cut replacement of sewers. There is a low risk of encountering HTRW during implementation of Alternative 2 due to limited excavation activities required for CIPP installation. There is a low risk of encountering HTRW during implementation of Alternative 3 (recommended plan) except for during excavation activities required for sewer point repairs as a result of increased excavation. In accordance with ER 1165-2-132, Hazardous Toxic, and Radioactive Waste for USACE Civil Works projects, construction of civil works projects in HTRW contaminated areas should be avoided where practicable. Where HTRW contaminated areas or impacts cannot be avoided, response actions must be acceptable to the EPA and applicable state regulatory agencies. All HTRW response actions, including off-site disposal of materials containing CERCLA regulated substances, are 100% non-federal project sponsor responsibility. In accordance with ER 1165-2-132, the recommended plan has been developed

to avoid excavation activities and proposed sewer point repairs in areas with identified RECs. As shown in Figure 4, none of the anticipated excavation sites fall within the identified RECs.

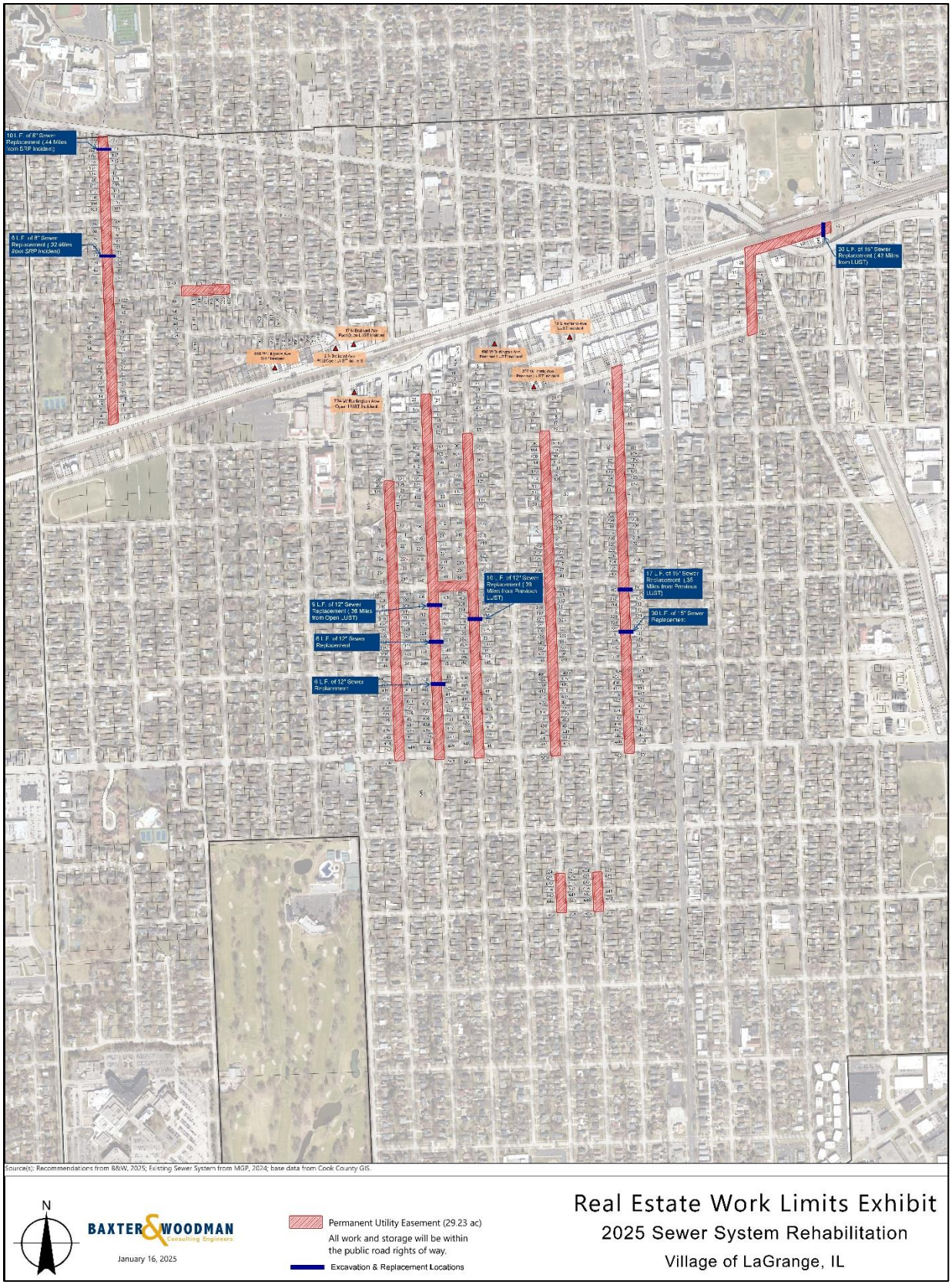

Figure 4: HTRW locations in relation to storm sewer work limits.

Excess soil management and waste disposal activities would be conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

No Action Impact

The no action alternative would have no short-term or long-term impacts to HTRW contaminated areas.

3.7 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

The recommended plan would not entail significant irretrievable or irreversible commitments of resources. Long-term sustainability actions were included for the benefit of environmental resources.

3.8 Short-term Use of Man's Environment and Maintenance of Long-term Productivity

NEPA, Section 102(2)(C)(iv) calls for a discussion of the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity in an environmental document. The short-term use of man's environment would consist of disturbances including construction noise, minor traffic disruptions, and visual impacts.

The negative short-term effects resulting from the recommended plan are of minor concern when compared with the positive long-term benefits that would enhance and maintain long-term productivity. Long-term, improved functioning and reliability of the storm sewer system will benefit residents in the study area.

Under the no action alternative, no project would be implemented. Therefore, the risk of operational inefficiency, increased maintenance, expensive emergency repairs, potential for a collapse in the area would not be reduced.

3.9 Probable Adverse Effects Which Cannot be Avoided

There are no probable effects which cannot be avoided from the implementation of proposed action.

3.10 Summary of Potential Effects

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary of the potential effects of the recommended plan is presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Environmental Impact Summary

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigations	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	☒	☐	☐
Air quality	☒	☐	☐
Aquatic resources/wetlands	☐	☐	☒

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigations	Resource unaffected by action
Terrestrial communities	☒	☐	☐
Invasive species	☐	☐	☒
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	☐	☐	☒
Historic properties	☐	☐	☒
Other cultural resources	☐	☐	☒
Floodplains	☐	☐	☒
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	☐	☐	☒
Hydrology	☐	☐	☒
Land use	☐	☐	☒
Navigation	☐	☐	☒
Noise levels	☒	☐	☐
Public infrastructure	☐	☐	☒
Socioeconomics	☐	☐	☒
Soils	☒	☐	☐
Tribal trust resources	☐	☐	☒
Water quality	☐	☐	☒
Climate	☐	☐	☒

CHAPTER 4 – COORDINATION AND COMPLIANCE

4.1 Regulatory Requirements

The proposed action is in full compliance with appropriate statutes, executive orders and regulations, including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Clean Air Act, as amended, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), EO 11988 (Floodplain Management), and the Clean Water Act, as amended.

4.1.1 National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 300101, et seq.) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of proposed federal undertakings on historic properties included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The implementing regulations for Section 106 (36 C.F.R. Part 800) require federal agencies to consult with various parties, including the SHPO and Indian tribes, to identify and evaluate historic properties, and to assess and resolve effects to historic properties. The USACE is in ongoing consultation with the Illinois SHPO to identify and evaluate historic properties, and to assess and resolve effects to historic properties pursuant to regulations for Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800) of the NRHP (54 U.S.C. § 300101, et seq.). A finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties was submitted to the IL SHPO in July 2025.

4.1.2 Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires USACE to ensure its activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habit. USACE accessed the USFWS IPaC website on June 9, 2025 to determine whether endangered, threatened, or proposed species could potentially be present in the action area, and if the action area overlapped with any designated or proposed critical habitat (Project Code 2025-0107321; Appendix B). The results of the IPaC search are shown in Section 3.3.3. USACE used best available information to evaluate whether the species on the IPaC list would be potentially affected by the action. Due to the project occurring in an area where there is no suitable habitat present for the identified species, USACE determined the action would have “no effect” to federally listed species or their critical habitat.

4.1.3 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Because the project will not affect or modify surface waters, including wetlands, consultation under the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act , 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., is not required. However, coordination with both USFWS and IDNR occurred through the NEPA process during scoping and during public and agency review. Additionally, IDNR’s Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) was queried on June 9, 2025 for state-listed species that may be present within the vicinity of the project area.

4.2 Public and Agency Review

Review by the public, federal and state agencies, tribal organizations, and other stakeholders was conducted as set forth in policy. The NEPA scoping process extended from July 31, 2024 through August 30, 2024. In total, one response was received from agencies and stakeholders. Public and agency review occurred from ___, 2025 through ___, 2025. All comments received during public and agency review will be considered, incorporated into the final EA, as appropriate, and maintained in Appendix B.

CHAPTER 5 - BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Appendix A: Vehicle and Equipment Usage for Design Alternatives

Appendix B: Coordination