

**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water, Permit Section
(IEPA)**

1021 North Grand Avenue East, Post Office Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, 217/782-3362

The IEPA has issued a Public Notice of a request for a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification that would allow the issuance of a federal permit for the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

Public Notice Beginning Date:

June 9, 2022

Public Notice Ending Date:

July 8, 2022

Agency Log No.:C-0038-22

Federal Permit Information: Federal permit/license no. LRC-2021-454 is under the jurisdiction of Chicago District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Name and Address of Discharger: Winnetka Park District, John Peterson - 299, 261, and 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Discharge Location: In Section 21 of Township 42-North and Range 13-East of the East 3rd Principal Meridian in Cook County. Additional project location information includes the following: shoreline areas of 299, 261, and 225 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan

Project Description: Stabilization of a public beach facility, as well as a bluff toe protection.

Construction Schedule: Beginning Jun 2022 and ending Nov 2023

The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters must provide their name and address along with comments on the certification request. The IEPA Log number must appear on each comment page. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. Only hearing requests and comments that pertain to Clean Water Act Section 401 authority will be considered. This authority provides consideration of whether the permit or license would be consistent with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of the CWA, as well as "any other appropriate requirement of State [or tribal] law". Requests for additional comment period must provide a demonstration of need. The final day of comment acceptance will be on the Public Notice Ending date shown above, unless the IEPA grants an extended notice period.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a detailed description of the project and the findings of the IEPA's antidegradation assessment.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please see the contact information below.

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Post Document. No. C-0038-22-06032022- PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

The Winnetka Park District (WPD) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with the construction of a new shoreline protection and stabilization system with sand nourishment in Lake Michigan at Elder Lane and Centennial Park in Winnetka, Cook County, Illinois. The project site known as Elder/Centennial Beach, can be found in Township 42N, Range 13E, Section 21. The proposed project would allow for the removal of four steel jetties, steel sheet piles, a concrete pier, and existing stormwater discharge pipe, and a chain-link fence and construction of a new breakwater protected beach system. The WPD plans to improve and conjoin Elder and Centennial Park and the adjacent beach areas into one combined park. The beach at Elder/Centennial is currently in an erosive state and needs updating to its infrastructure to provide a stable and more sustainable shoreline amenity for the public. The proposed project will resolve access, erosion and structural damages in the beach areas that have occurred over time and will provide a significant upgrade to the community park system in Winnetka. Currently, Elder Lane beach has been closed for two years and Centennial Beach has been intermittently closed due to shoreline damage and beach stability concerns. The property currently has an eroding beach with an exposed steel seawall, previously buried for decades, a storm-wave damaged beach house, a falling modular concrete block pier and stormwater outfall, and boat storage racks on concrete foundations. The proposed project will improve these issues, provide more stable access to Lake Michigan, offer new recreational activities to beach-goers, and provide a sustainable shoreline for the community.

A new breakwater protected beach system is also being proposed that is comprised of three quarystone and steel breakwater structures and a steel and concrete pier in the center. The northernmost breakwater is a shore-connected stone and steel breakwater that projects east into the lake and then curves south. It is 265 feet long and includes two sheetpile sections of which the northern section is a 155-foot-long curved row of capped steel with 155 feet of steel louvers attached. The southern section of sheetpile is 100-foot-long row of capped steel. This row creates the planter pocket as well as establishes the vehicle ramp edge. The most eastern section of the structure will be quarystone with a 3 stone crest. The existing 54-inch stormwater outfall will be relocated into this breakwater with two 36-inch steel ductile pipes that exit at the east end of the structure embedded within the armor stone.

South after a 150-foot gap, is a 260-foot-long breakwater/pier with a 300-foot-long steel and concrete pier connecting to land. The lakeward portion of the pier will be 16 feet wide and the land-connecting section will be 13 feet wide.

South after a 180-foot gap is the southernmost shore-connected stone and steel breakwater. It projects east into the lake and then curves north, mirroring the north breakwater. It is 300 feet long and includes two sheetpile sections. The southern section is a 185-foot-long row of capped steel with 185 feet of steel louvers attached to the cap. The northern sheet piling section is a 113-foot-long curved row of capped steel. This row creates the planter pocket. The most eastern section of the breakwater structure will be quarystone with a 3 stone crest. Sandfill will be placed in accordance with IDNR regulations.

New steel sheetpiles and caps will be installed along the bluff and beach. The new vehicle access ramp apron at the beach will be formed by a steel sheetpile wall. South of this structure will be approximately 156.25 feet of sheeting installed along the bluff until it reaches the existing concrete stairs adjacent to the existing beach house. Three new sections of sheeting will be installed south and east of the beach house in lengths of approximately 183.9, 152 and 126.9 feet. The installed steel will be used to protect these improvements from possible future damage due to fluctuating lake levels.

The Winnetka Park District is requesting a 10-year sand nourishment permit which would enable them to have the ability to mobilize up to 2000 Cubic Yards (CY) of sand annually if and when necessary to help maintain a stable beach.

Breakwaters will be built by a combination of marine and land-based access pending lake level and conditions at the time of construction. Approximately 9276 CY (21,243 tons) of clean quarried stone will be placed to construct the breakwater system. Sandfill will be placed in and around the system using approximately 23,200 CY of clean sand.

This project is expected to improve the lakebed and water quality with the quarystone breakwaters creating fish habitat. Additionally, 2000 tons of sand will be placed annually for beach nourishment. Because of this, no additional mitigation is proposed for the project.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated February 24, 2022, and April 11, 2022.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Lake Michigan has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Lake Michigan is classified as a Lake Michigan Basin Use Water. Lake Michigan is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Lake Michigan, Waterbody Segment IL_QLM-01, is listed on the 2020/2022 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for aesthetic quality with a potential cause given as total phosphorus, and fish consumption use with potential causes given as aldrin, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mercury, mirex, polychlorinated biphenyls and toxaphene. Aquatic life use, primary contact use, and public and food processing water supply uses are fully supported.

Winnetka Elder Beach, Waterbody Segment IL_QK-09, is listed on the 2020/2022 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and for primary contact recreation use with a potential cause given as E-coli.

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report has been prepared and approved by the USEPA for 51 beaches along Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline to address Primary Contact Use Recreation impairments due to excess bacteria. The proposed activity occurs within an area identified by the May 15, 2013 report "Shoreline Segments in Suburban Lake County, Illinois" as a Beach Protection Area and is therefore subject to this TMDL.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids. These increases are a normal and unavoidable result of the placement of the quarystone breakwaters and quarry sand beach fill. The fill material will consist of clean quarried stone and sand that will be placed using a combination of marine and land-based access and is expected to cover 1.0 acres of lakebed. Breakwater and pier construction includes 9276 CY of stone and sand fill includes 23,200 CY of placement.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in total suspended solids would be local and temporary, and existing aquatic life use in the shallow, nearshore zone will be temporarily disturbed, but will recover over time. The proposed project will consist of building structures designed to address the shoreline erosion and stabilize the shoreline by protecting critical infrastructure and habitat for aquatic species. The quantity of sand is intended to fill the beach area up to the capacity that could be held by the structures plus an additional 20% overfill. The overfill is intended to reduce the potential that sand flowing along the shoreline from north to south would be captured within the enclosed beach area. The proposed fill will improve the quality of the lakebed and water with the quarystone breakwaters creating habitat for fish. As this system will be monitored annually for 5 years north and south of the site, sand removed from the littoral drift system can be better quantified for replacement. Additionally, this permit calls for up to 2000 tons of sand to be placed annually or as needed for beach nourishment. Based on this information, no additional mitigation is proposed.

The Corps has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time and will make the final determination on whether the proposed mitigation is appropriate and practicable in accordance with 33 CFR Part 332.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of the proposed activity is to provide stabilization of a public beach facility as well as bluff toe protection, improved access, and increased public recreational activities. The Winnetka Park District (WPD) plans to improve and conjoin Elder and Centennial Park and the adjacent beach areas into one combined park. The project will resolve access, erosion and structural damage in the beach areas that have occurred over time and will provide a significant upgrade to the community park system in Winnetka.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The applicant evaluated the following alternatives:

Option 1 – Do Nothing This option results in leaving the currently eroding beach in its existing state. The public beach amenities have outlived their design lives and the record high lake level is causing severe erosion at the site, as well as damage to infrastructure. The lakefront at this site is vulnerable to lakebed downcutting as well as bluff toe erosion. Additionally, as this is a public beach, the residents do not have a safe environment to recreate or launch watercraft.

Option 2 – Beach Nourishment This option is not sustainable as it would require annual maintenance. The Beach Nourishment option was eliminated from consideration due to high ongoing costs.

Option 3 – Master Plan Concept The Winnetka 2030 Master Plan Concept was prepared as a starting point for improving the useability of Elder Lane Park and Centennial Park Shoreline Stabilization Project. The approved Master Plan Concept included a north and south breakwater arm and a center groin with a breakwater T at the lakeward end of the groin along with many improvements with property acquisition.

Option 4 – Beach Breakwater System Only This option includes north and south breakwater arms with a concrete T-shaped pier in the center of the system surrounded by quarystone for the lakeward portion of the structure. This option extends around 260' east of the existing shoreline. This option is similar to the Master Plan concept but has been modified due to coastal engineering. This plan meets the needs of the community based on the Master Plan and community input for the shoreline.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities.

On May 5, 2022, the IDNR EcoCAT review was initiated for the project area (Project #2212731). An automatic consultation termination was generated indicating that there is no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, INAI sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity would result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity would benefit The Winnetka Park District by providing shoreline stabilization and sand nourishment to eroding beach areas. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.