



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHICAGO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500
CHICAGO IL 60604

December 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Fort Sheridan Ravine and Coastal Section 506 Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Project Public Notification

Dear Fort Sheridan Neighbor,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake County Forest Preserve District, Openlands, Lake Forest Open Lands Association, and the City of Lake Forest will soon begin an ecosystem restoration project east of Sheridan Road within the City of Lake Forest, Town of Fort Sheridan, City of Highland Park, and unincorporated Lake County Illinois. The project area includes four main ravines, the bluff along the coastline, the lakeshore, and the coastal zone along Lake Michigan, encompassing McCormick Ravine Natural Area, Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve, and Openlands Lakeshore Preserve. Since your property is near this area, we wanted to inform you about this project.

The Fort Sheridan Ravine and Coastal Section 506 Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) project includes restoring four ravines (McCormick, Hutchinson, Schenck, and Scott), 40 acres of bluff and about 1.5 miles of coastal lake and dune habitat. The goal of the project is to stabilize coastal communities and restore historical native plant and fish communities along Lake Michigan.

A five-year contract in the amount of \$7.4 million was awarded to John Keno and Company in September 2015. The contract includes two years of heavy construction and three years of establishment and maintenance. Selective tree and shrub removal is expected to begin in December 2015. Heavy construction is expected to begin in April 2016, which will include excavation and demolition of dilapidated structures in the ravines, transport of excess material from excavation for use at other areas of the project, and placement of boulders and cobblestones to create step pools and riffles. During the period of heavy construction you may notice truck traffic on Walker Avenue, Patten Road, Leonard Wood Avenue, Gilgare Lane, and Cliff Road. Restoration work may include a number of methods, including controlled burns and application of herbicide. Neighbors will be provided advanced notice prior to any controlled burns and flagging will be used to mark areas treated with herbicide.

Should you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at 312-846-5330 or via email at chicagodistrict.pao@usace.army.mil.

For additional information about the project, please visit <http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorksProjects/FortSheridan,IL.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirston Buczak".

Kirston Buczak
Project Manager

Encl



FACT SHEET

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Fort Sheridan Ravine and Coastal GLFER Project

Project Description

The project is part of the northeastern Illinois coastline of Lake Michigan; bounded by Lake Michigan to the east and Sheridan Road to the west. The southern limits include the Schenck Ravine watershed while the northern limits include the McCormick Ravine watershed. The restoration project is located east of Sheridan Road within the City of Lake Forest, Town of Ft. Sheridan and City of Highland Park, and unincorporated Lake County, Illinois. Local sponsors for the project are Lake County Forest Preserve District, Openlands, Lake Forest Open Lands Association, and City of Lake Forest.

The Ft. Sheridan Ravine and Coastal Section 506 Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) project includes restoring four ravines (McCormick, Hutchinson, Schenck, and Scott), 40-acres of bluff and about 1.5 miles of coastal lake and dune habitat. The goal is to reestablish connectivity of ravine streams to Lake Michigan, provide geomorphically stable ravine stream habitats, and improve coastal habitat by reestablishing historical native plant communities along Lake Michigan.

Project Benefits

Plant Community will be restored by removing invasive plant species, reestablishing native canopy cover and structure, and planting native seeds and plugs. River habitat restoration will include riffle and pool reestablishment, amphibian and reptile stone cascade structures, promotion of natural riverine sediment transport and substrate sorting, and native plantings. At the lake, fish habitat will be improved by the addition of structures created out of dolomitic limestone slabs, glacial boulders and cobble and large woody debris. These structures were designed to provide habitat diversity for fishes, including the State Threatened Mudpuppy. This project will benefit rare and endangered ravine and coastal plant and animal species, taking care not to disrupt high quality habitat patches already existing within the study area. This habitat project was designed to provide habitat structure, utilizing natural processes to ensure sustainability, and where natural processes are no longer functional, mimicking these situations with indicative native materials and geospatial positioning.

Types of Activities Expected

- Invasive tree and shrub removal (Dec 2015-Jan 2016)
- Stockpiling trees from invasive tree removal activities for use in the water as part of the habitat creation along the groins (separate contract) (Feb 2016)
- Creating access points for equipment (Apr 2016)
- Excavation and demolition of existing dilapidated structures in ravines, placement of boulders and cobble to create the steps pools and riffles in the ravines, and demolition and removal of existing dilapidated structures in the lake (Apr-Nov 2016)
- Herbiciding and invasive species removal (May 2016-Nov 2016)

**Expected activities, detailed information will follow pending contractor submittal of construction schedule.

The Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program (GLFER)

The GLFER program authorizes the Corps to plan, design and construct ecosystem restoration projects that support the restoration of fisheries, ecosystems, and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes. GLFER Projects require the non-federal sponsor to cost share the project, 65% federal and 35% non-federal.

Chicago District has 12 GLFER projects constructed or in construction for a total of 1200 acres. Most projects are in an urban area and these projects are important resources for providing benefits to wildlife and people.

Fort Sheridan Project Area

