



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

Planning Branch
Environmental Formulation and Analysis Section

Dear XXXXXXX:

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District has prepared a Draft Detailed Project Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment for the Section 506 Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Study, Jeorse Park Beach, East Chicago, Indiana. This document was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

This document is available for your review and can be downloaded at:

<http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorksProjects/JeorsePark.aspx>

The proposed project includes restoration of 15.8-acres of the Jeorse Park Beach, owned and operated by the City of East Chicago. The proposed restoration plan includes invasive species removal and native plantings within 14.8 acres of beach and dune habitat; planting native plants on 1 acre of existing breakwater; and the placement of 4 rock reef habitats totaling 2.5 acres within the shallow, sandy littoral zone of Lake Michigan. Proposed restoration actions will benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species, including littoral zone fishes, the Mudpuppy salamander (*Necturus maculosus*), the Six-lined Racerunner lizard (*Aspidoscelis sexlineata*), resident birds, migratory waterfowl and song birds and small mammals.

A Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) along with the Section 404(b)(1) evaluation for placement of stone habitat reefs into waters of the United States has been prepared to accompany the Integrated EA. The preliminary FONSI concludes that implementing the tentatively recommended alternative does not constitute a major Federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment. Any comments you may have concerning the proposed project should be made within thirty (30) days from the receipt of this letter. If no comments are received by the end of the thirty (30) day review period, it will be assumed that you have no comment. Please direct your comments to: ATTN: CELRC-PL-E (Matthew Shanks) at the address located at the top of this notice or by email to matthew.r.shanks@usace.army.mil.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the discharge and/or disposal of fill material into the waters of the U.S. may request a public hearing. To be considered, the request must be submitted in writing to the contact provided above within the comment period of this notice. The request must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Following the comment period and a review of the comments received, the District Engineer will make a final decision regarding the necessity of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. Based on the conclusions of the EA, it appears that preparation of an EIS will not be required.

Sincerely,

Susanne J. Davis, P. E
Chief of Planning Branch