



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Planning Branch  
Environmental Formulation and Analysis Section

Dear Recipient:

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, River Riparian, Chicago, Illinois. 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/RiverRiparian.aspx>

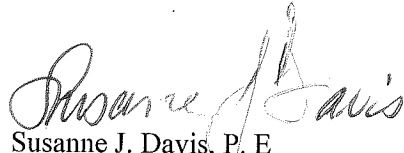
The proposed project includes restoration of about 49-acres of lands within and riparian to the North Shore Channel and the North Branch Chicago River, owned by the Chicago Park District and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and operated by the Chicago Park District. The proposed restoration project includes invasive species removal and native plantings within 49-acres of aquatic bed, river bank and riparian oak savanna habitat; removal of 1 dam (grade control structure) at River Park; removal of concrete channel and placement of natural fluvial materials (sand/gravel/cobbles) within the North Branch Chicago River; and the placement of 2 large woody debris habitats within the North Shore Channel. Proposed restoration actions will benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species, including providing access to about 356-acres of North Branch Chicago River habitat via grade control structure removal.

A Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) along with the Section 404(b)(1) evaluation for placement of stone, large woody debris and other natural fluvial materials into waters of the United States has been prepared to accompany the Integrated Environmental Assessment. 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 (Frank Veraldi) at the address located at the top of this notice or by email to [Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil](mailto:Frank.M.Veraldi@usace.army.mil).

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the placement 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