



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination

Date: MAR 06 2024

Loan Applicant: City of Bloomington

IEPA Loan Project Numbers: L176803, L176804

To all interested persons:

Section 365.330 of the Illinois Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP) requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conduct an assessment of the environmental impacts of proposed wastewater projects to be funded with loans. This review is carried out in conjunction with the State's review of the applicant's project plan.

Prior to final approval of the project plan, the public's comments are sought regarding environmental impacts of the proposed project. Unless new information obtained through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve the project plan at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant will make the attached Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) available for public inspection. Within 60 days of receiving this letter, the applicant must conduct a public hearing regarding both the PEID and project planning. Advertisement of the hearing must be made at least 10 days in advance. The advertisement must include the purpose of the project along with the date, time, and location of the hearing. A comment period of at least 10 days shall be provided after the hearing in which written comments may be submitted to the loan applicant or to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document.

For information purposes only, a copy of this document is being provided to your local newspaper of record.

Your interest and participation in this process are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary Bingenheimer, P.E.

Manager

Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section

Bureau of Water

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Attachment

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000
595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131

2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

Project Summary and Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID)

The following project summary and environmental assessment has been prepared by the IEPA to assist the loan applicant in complying with the public notice requirements. Information in this report was obtained, in part, from the following sources: Locust Street CSO Elimination Project, dated September 2023, by Clark Dietz, Inc., on behalf of the City of Bloomington, and, in response to requests for additional information, correspondence dated February 27, 2024, also prepared by Clark Dietz, Inc.

Part I – Project Information

Project Name: Locust/Colton Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Phases 8 & 9

Loan Applicant: City of Bloomington (City)

County: McLean

Project Numbers: L176803 and L176804

Current Population: 78,864

Future Population (30 year): 119,449

Number of Service Connections: 28,593 residential connections

Project Description: The City of Bloomington and Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD) West Oakland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) serve the City of Bloomington, Town of Normal and surrounding areas. The WWTP service area is approximately 30.8 square miles. The WWTP has a design average flow of 22.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and a design maximum flow of 45 MGD. Residents account for 98% of the total flow and industrial clients make up the remaining 2%.

After a detailed monitoring period in 2006 and a study in 2007, the Locust combined sewer overflow (CSO) area was identified to have had 8 separate CSO events. The Locust Street CSO sewershed, measured at the Empire/Colton intersection, is just over 1 square mile. The northern portion of the sewershed includes the Bloomington Middle School and High School, the Bloomington Country Club, Eastland Mall and a strip mall north of Empire Street. The southern portion of the sewershed, where most of the combined sewer service area is located, consists of older homes and infrastructure. Much of the sewershed consists of separate storm sewers and sanitary sewers, particularly in the north and northeast. The combined and separate sewer areas are only connected in the northwest and southern corners of the studied area. As a result of excessive CSO volumes, the City of Bloomington decided to develop a phased approach to full sewer separation. During phases 8 and 9, within the area covered by the study, the City intends to construct approximately 4,500 feet of new sanitary and storm sewer, ranging from 8” (inch) to 24” in diameter (phase 8 L176803), and 4,550 feet of new sanitary and storm sewer, ranging from 12” to 24” in diameter (phase 9 L176804).

Project Justification: The City is in the middle of a multiple phase project to develop full sewer separation. This project is taking place at the same time as the Locust Street Water Main Replacement Project phase 8 (L176805) to construct and replace 3,400 feet of water main. Phase 9 of the water main replacement project (L176806) plans to construct and replace 2,100 feet of water mains and relocate service connections to reduce impacts to the local residents. In October

2007, a study was done to identify the wet weather response of the existing combined sewer system tributary to the Locust Street and Colton Avenue CSO locations near Bloomington High School. The study concluded that overflow occurrences exceed acceptable levels. The City must take steps to reduce these occurrences and meet the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) CSO permit. After extensive modeling of the collection system, it was determined that the existing combined sewers have sufficient capacity to handle storm flows if sanitary flows are separated. The separation of sanitary sewers will eliminate overflow events at the Locust CSO, which will remove a major public health hazard.

Project Location: See attached maps for project locations.

Project # / Phase	Start Construction	End Construction	Cost Estimate
L176803	March 2025	November 2026	\$5,189,000
L176804	March 2026	November 2027	\$5,585,000

Part II – Environmental Review and Impacts

Project construction impacts: Temporary adverse environmental impacts such as construction-associated noise, blowing dust, air emissions, traffic disruption, and soil erosion may occur during construction.

Consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966: The City of Bloomington submitted project information to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and multiple tribal organizations with registered interest in McLean County, including the Osage Nation Historic Preservation Office (ONHPO), for consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA. In a letter dated January 4, 2024, SHPO returned a determination of no further concern. Review by the ONHPO is still underway. If the ONHPO determines that a cultural resources survey is necessary, that survey will be completed before project design is finalized. Any required additional mitigative measures will be incorporated into project design.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR): The City also submitted project information to the IDNR EcoCAT website to determine compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, the Illinois Wetlands Act, and Title 17 Ill. Adm. Code Parts 1075 and 1090. The Department has concluded that adverse effects are unlikely.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): The project was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for review. Phase 8 is not under review as no construction will impact jurisdictional waterbodies. Phase 9 was found to have a portion of its construction cross over a river, and review is still ongoing. When the USACE responds, the City of Bloomington will follow all permit conditions and required mitigative measures.

Part III – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The City of Bloomington is proposing to finance this project with two loans from the IEPA Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP). Two loans totaling \$10,774,000, with an estimated interest rate of 1.81% for a thirty (30) year period, would have a total annual repayment of approximately \$465,683. The current loan program interest rate is 1.81%. The interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued. The final loan and annual repayment amounts will be based on the as bid project costs, and the loan terms in effect on the date the loan agreement is issued. A rate increase will be necessary to repay the debt service associated with this loan.

Source of Loan Repayment: User rates

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$39.80

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: \$44.48

Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 600 cubic feet

How is the monthly residential rate/cost of service calculated?

Bloomington measures usage in cubic feet and bills monthly. Current monthly charges are a City water use charge of \$2.78 per 100 cubic feet, a \$2.61 flat fee and a \$20.51 BNWRD fee. An average system customer, consuming 600 cubic feet per month, would have a monthly bill that equates to: $\$2.78 \times 6.00 + \$2.61 + \$20.51 = \39.80

The sewer rates will increase by 3% annually from 2024 to 2027, while the BNWRD fee will increase by 4.5% annually from 2024 to 2027, resulting in a future monthly user bill of \$44.48.

Median Household Income (MHI): \$69,003

Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service:

0.77%

Financial evaluation of the proposed project: To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the average, annual cost for water service is utilized. The MHI listed above is from the current fiscal year's census information. The proposed annual water cost of \$533.76 is 0.77% of the MHI for the City. The percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

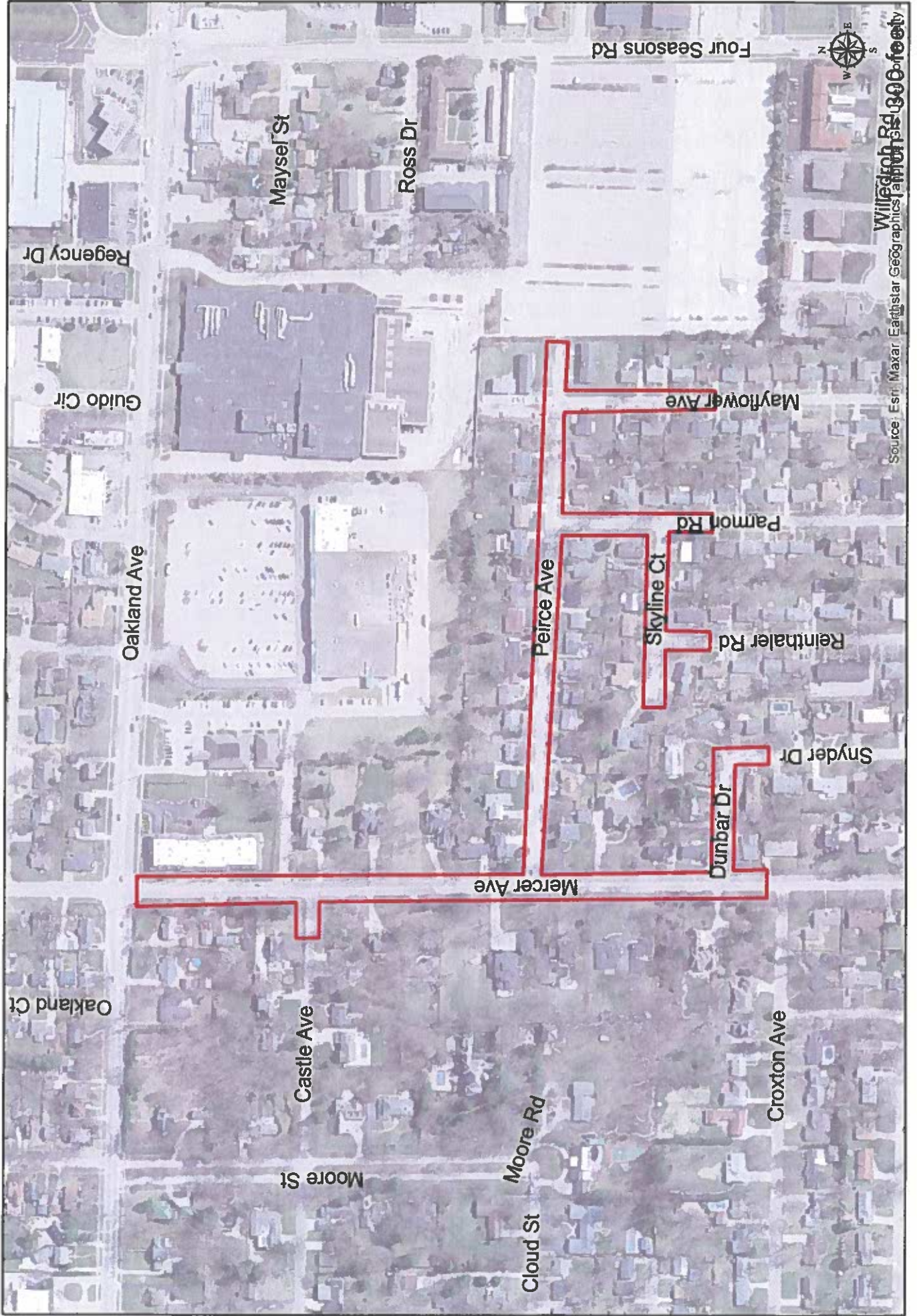
Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information contact:

Devin McReynolds, Project Manager
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

Bureau of Water
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 1927
(217)782-2027

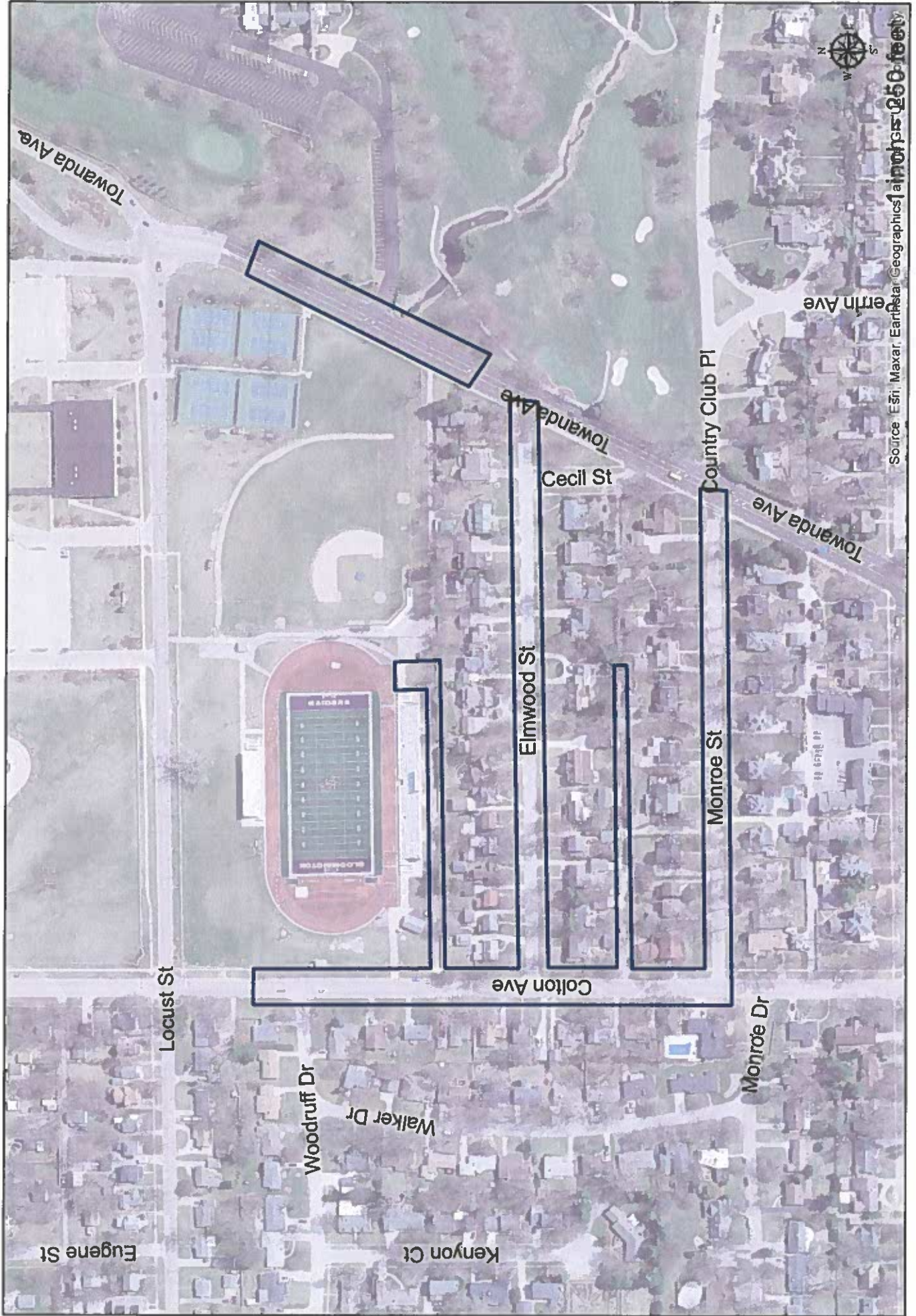
City of Bloomington

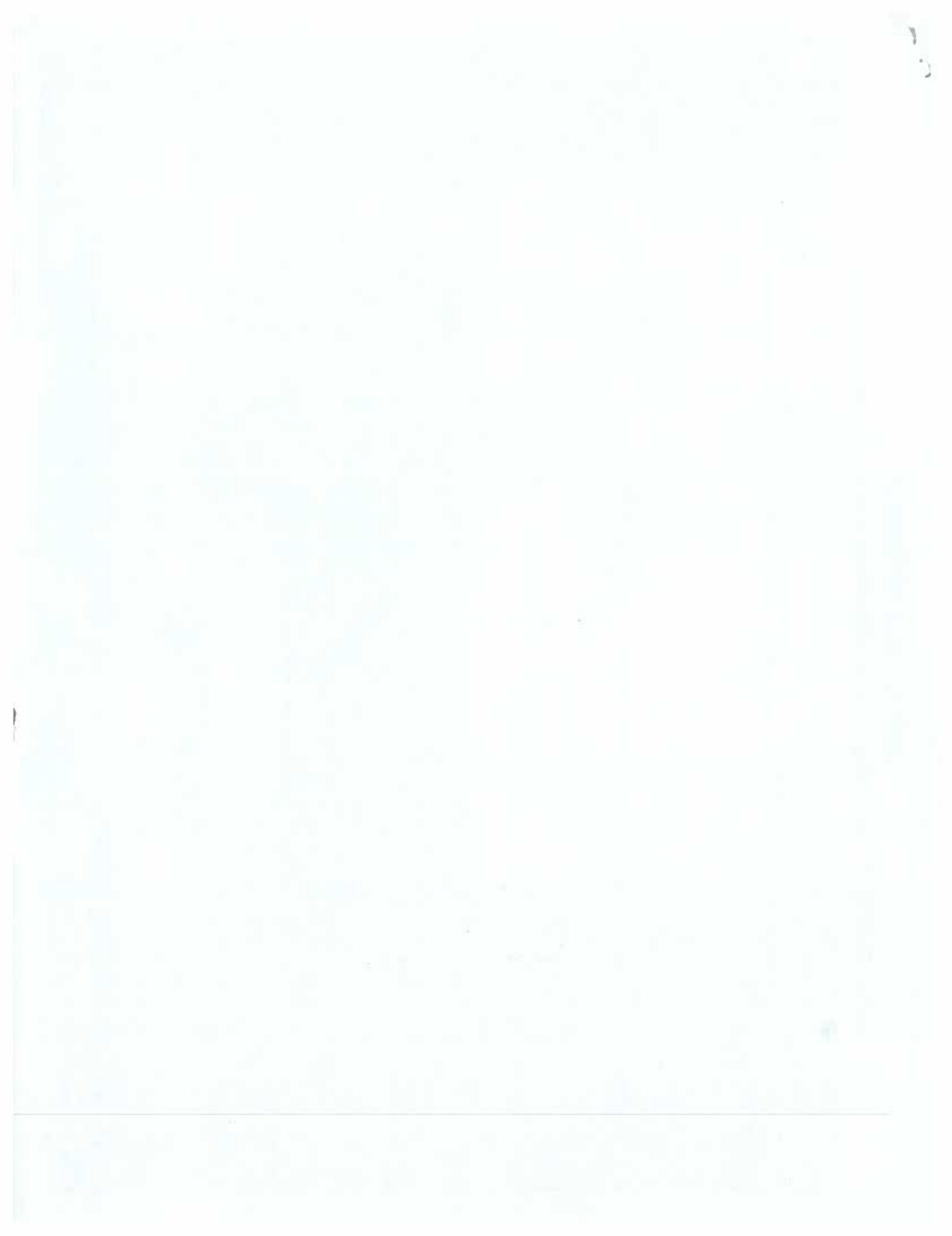
Locust St CSO Elimination/ Water Main Replacement Phase 8 Project Area





City of Bloomington Locust St CSO Elimination/ Water Main Replacement Phase 9 Project Area





Mailing List – Environmental Review

Project: Bloomington

L17: 6803

Check entities to receive Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination/Notice of Categorical Exclusion. Agencies may be omitted if they have already provided an unconditional written sign-off on the planning.

_____ Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (SHPO)

_____ Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Realty & Environmental Planning (for rare/endangered species, natural areas, and Interagency Wetlands Policy Act)

_____ Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources (for lakes, rivers and stream crossings, floodway/floodplain construction)

_____ Illinois Department of Agriculture

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Check Appropriate Regional Office

_____ Rock Island District

_____ St. Louis District

_____ Chicago District

Designated 208 Areawide Planning Agency – Check Appropriate Agency

_____ CMAP

_____ GERPDC

_____ SWIPC

Green Infrastructure Coordinator: _____ Chris Covert

IEPA Field Office (Mclean)

Loan Applicant

Mboko Mwilombwe, Mayor

City of Bloomington

115 East Washington Street

Bloomington, IL 61702-3157

(Continued on Back)

Local Newspaper of Record

The Pantagraph

205 North Main Street

Bloomington, IL 61701

Consulting Engineer

Chris Gutkowski

125 West Church Street

Champaign, IL 61820-3510

Other Interested Parties

CC: Village Clerk

Bcc: Chron File

Planning File

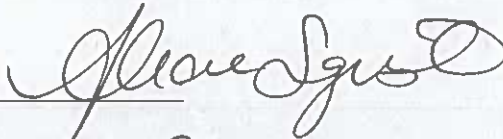
Scan to Devin McReynolds

Project Manager: Devin McReynolds

Date: 2/26/24

Copies of the Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination/Notice of Categorical Exclusion have been mailed to the above entities.

Signed: Devin McReynolds



Date: 2/26/24

3/6/24

