EcoCAT
Ecological Compliance Assessment Tool

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Applicant: Martin Engineering Company
Contact: Adam Pallai
Address: 3223 South Meadowbrook
Springfield, IL 62711

IDNR Project Number: 1607167
Date: 02/09/2016
Alternate Number: 04018-6

Project: Centennial Park Place 6th Addition
Address: Hedley Road, Springfield

Description: Construct a residential subdivision and all related infrastructure including roadways, sidewalks, water and sewer main.

Natural Resource Review Results

Consultation for Endangered Species Protection and Natural Areas Preservation (Part 1075)

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Franklin's Ground Squirrel *(Spermophilus franklinii)*

An IDNR staff member will evaluate this information and contact you to request additional information or to terminate consultation if adverse effects are unlikely.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Sangamon

Township, Range, Section:
15N, 6W, 9
15N, 6W, 10

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
Natalia Jones
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Government Jurisdiction
IL Environmental Protection Agency
Water Permits
1021 N. Grand Ave East
Springfield, Illinois 62794

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

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Conservation Plan
Franklin's Ground Squirrel (Spermophilus franklinii)
Centennial Park Subdivision LLC 6th Addition
Springfield, IL

1. A Legal description of the project area.

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC 6th Addition. Part of the northeast quarter of Section 9 and part of the northwest quarter of Section 10, all in Township 15 north, Range 6 west of the third principal meridian, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois.

B. Biological data

The range of the Franklin's ground squirrel extends from northwestern Indiana, northern and central Illinois, and southern Wisconsin west to northern Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota in the United States and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in Canada (Ostroff and Finck 2003). Within Illinois, the range of Franklin's ground squirrel includes the northern two-thirds of the state (Mohr 1943, Hoffmeister 1989, Lewis and Rongstad 1992).

Franklin's ground squirrels are often associated with mid- and tallgrass prairie (Jones et al. 1983, Hoffmeister 1989, Kurta 1995). However, they also use the juncture of woods and grassland, wetland and bog margins, forest openings, and brushy areas (Sowls 1948, Jones et al. 1983, Erlien and Tester 1984, Johnson and Choromanski-Norris 1992). Thus their habitat includes dense grasses and forbs, shrubs, and small trees (Choromanski and Sargeant 1982, Jones et al. 1983, Martin 2003). They use sites in which the soil and vegetation have not been recently disturbed (Choromanski-Norris et al. 1989). Heavily grazed or frequently mowed areas with short grass, such as golf courses, typically are not used (Wood 1910, Haberman and Fleharty 1972, Hoffmeister 1989). Within Illinois, Franklin's ground squirrels occur in infrequently mowed roadsides and old fields, railroad right-of-way, cemetery prairies, brushy fields, fencerows, and ditch banks (Jackson 1961, Mumford and Whitaker 1982, Masulis and Wells 1988, Hoffmeister 1989, Kurta 1995, Martin et al. 2003, Pergams and Nyberg 2003). Yearlong inhabitants of burrows, Franklin's ground squirrels are limited by the availability of suitable burrowing sites (Hoffmeister 1989, Ostroff and Finck 2003). The burrows must be in well-drained soil and deep enough to remain cool in summer and not freeze in winter (Jones et al. 1983, Hoffmeister 1989, Martin 2003, Pergams and Nyberg 2003). Burrows were consistently 17 inches deep in Nebraska (Haberman and Fleharty 1971); nest chambers of burrows in Missouri were 12-20 inches below the surface (Ellis 1982).

Burrows are often located in embankments to facilitate drainage (Haberman and Fleharty 1972, Hoffmeister 1989). In addition, burrow entrances are frequently located near brush or rocks to obscure them from view (Masulis and Wells 1988, Martin 2003).

Adult Franklin's ground squirrels hibernate for long periods of time and typically are only active aboveground from mid-April to August (Hoffmeister 1989, Ostroff and Finck 2003). Breeding occurs shortly after the female emerge from hibernation and they give birth to a single litter from late May to mid-June (Sowls 1948, Iverson and Turner 1972, Choromanski-Norris et al. 1986) Litters typically consist of 6 to 9 pups, but can include as many as 13 (Jones et al. 1983) In Illinois juvenile appear aboveground by mid-July (Martin and Heske 2005). Juveniles do not enter hibernation until September or October (Hoffmeister 1989, Ostroff and Finck 2003, Martin and Heske 2005). These diurnal squirrels vocalize with sharp whistle (Whitake and Hamilton 1998); however, they are not readily observed in the tall, dense vegetation.

C. Habitat and description of activities that will result in take.

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC 6th Addition consists of about 6 acres, most of which has been continuously farmed for the past several years. According to the attached photos, prepared by the University of Illinois at Springfield, the Franklin's ground squirrels are currently active on the perimeter of this site. Although the majority of the work will be done more towards the center, there will be a drainage swale cut into the rear yard of the south property line. Alongside this east/west swale will be a 6" pipe that will connect the individual sump pump lines to the storm sewer system. Other than the silt fence installation, these will be the only times that equipment will be within 20' of the rear yard. The remaining construction will be on the interior. No direct contact with the Franklin's ground squirrels burrows is foreseeable and no habitat loss will occur. This land will be subdivided and will include grading and paving streets, installing sewer lines, water lines and electric to each lot. To do this work it is necessary to use trenchers, backhoes, dump trucks, concrete trucks, curb machines, asphalt paver and scrapers. Most of the equipment will be kept on site, away from the conservation zones. The above mention machinery will not all be on site at the same time, i.e., backhoes will only be on site when sewers are installed, asphalt paver only when streets are being surfaced, etc..

The construction will start in the fall of 2016, if weather permits. First step will be installing the silt fence that will buffer the conservation zones from the construction area. Then sewer work will start on the east side, working to the west. Water main will then be installed, grading of the roads, installing concrete curbs, paving streets, grading lots, installing sidewalks and electric service.

D. Explanation of the anticipated adverse effects on the listed species.

Active Franklin's ground squirrel's would obviously be at a greater risk of being injured or killed, however, the construction noise would serve as a deterrent and unless the animal would just freeze, most of the equipment moves at a slow pace, allowing for escape. There is a possibility that a Franklin's ground squirrel could be killed or disturbed by the movement and noise of heavy machinery. It could also interrupt their search for foraging. Once construction begins, fragmenting habitat areas may occur.

2. Measures the applicant will take to minimize and mitigate the impact.

A. Plans to minimize the areas affected by the proposed actions, the number of individuals of a endangered or threatened species that will be taken, and the amount of habitat affected.

1. Redesign: By redesigning our 6th Addition, (see attached 6th Additional plats, old and new designs) we not only shrink our footprint, but also provide for home sites to the north that are able to be built upon without encroaching into the natural habitat.

2. Avoidance: As shown on the attached Google map, the Franklin's ground squirrels are located on the perimeter of our 6th Addition. With the majority of the work taking place closer to the center of the plat, and by making use of a trenched in silt fence, we will avoid direct contact with their burrows and habitat.

3. Timing: Scheduling for both sanitary and storm sewers construction and the south rear yard swale will coincide with the hibernation period of the Franklin's ground squirrel (October through March). However, interior road construction will need to be constructed during warmer, drier months.

4. Taking: We could possibly take between 2 and 10 Franklin's ground squirrels. The entire habitat potential affected in this project is about six acres. With Dr. Ting's diagram, all burrowing is done in the conservation area (protected area), so less than 10 percent of the burrowing would be impacted by heavy equipment. See attached diagram for the showing of the location of the 15' conservation zone, burrows, rear swale, silt fence, trenching and all sewer locations.

B. Plans for the management of the area affected by the proposed action that will allow continued use of the area by the species.

It should be noted that a natural "fencerow" on our south border is contiguous to the 70 acre prairie reconstruction in Centennial Park. We shall deed the south 15' of our 6th Addition to a third party, preferably the Springfield Park District to further isolate this natural habitat. In addition our west and north borders are natural creek beds. These areas shall be designated as an undisturbed "permanent conservation zone", both on the recorded final plat and in the restrictive covenants, noting that these areas are to remain undisturbed. See diagram referred to in 2A, 4.

C. Description of all measurers to be implemented to minimize or mitigate the effects of the proposed action on the endangered or threatened species.

I would like to reiterate that the Franklin's ground squirrels natural habitat is on the perimeter of our 6th Addition site. These are areas that will not be disturbed. The interior, having continuously been tilled and farmed, not allowing for such a habitat to be formed, will be the areas to be disturbed with our construction.

By deeding the south 15' of this 6th Addition (approximately .38 acres) to a third party and restricting the north and west rear yard creeks beds from disturbance by designating these permanent conservation zones, we are insuring the longevity of these habitats. These measures will also complement the previously mentioned 70 acre prairie reconstruction project in Centennial Park.

The .38 acres along the south side is valued at $10,000.00. The three lots that we will lose, due to redesigning the plat, is valued at $180,000.00. The 1.41 acres along the stream is valued at $ 42,300.00. The total amount of loss would be $ 232,300.00.

D. Plans for monitoring the effects of the measure implemented.

This construction project will be overseen by Centennial Park Subdivision LLC. During construction, Centennial Park Subdivision LLC will ensure that the conservation plan is implemented including on-site daily inspections and, if necessary, consulting with IDNR staff. Upon completion of these improvements, Centennial Park Subdivision LLC will conduct or cause to be conducted a survey of the Franklin's ground squirrels abundance in and around the project site. Said survey will be taken during the active season with a copy of this report to be provided to IDNR, within sixty days of its completion.

E. Projected cost of each measure that will minimize or mitigate the effects of proposed action on endangered or threatened species.

Each remedy listed in the conservation plan, restricted construction area, fencing, etc., are standard practices when working with environmental issues. Incorporating them into the construction plans will not cause any inordinate cost measure.

F. Adaptive management practices that will be used to deal with changed or unforeseen circumstances that affect the effectiveness of measures instituted t minimize or mitigate the effects of the proposed action on endangered and threatened species.

Should new information be discovered prior to, or during construction that may impact the effectiveness of this plan, Centennial Park Subdivision LLC and their contractors will alter the plan accordingly. In doing so, the aforementioned will consult with IDNR on a description of the changed circumstances or new information and propose modifications to the plan. Since this would likely occur during or immediately preceding construction, Centennial Park Subdivision LLC and their contractors will request a timely response from IDNR in order to keep the project moving and reduce delays while work is being conducted in the vicinity of any Franklin ground squirrel habitat.

G. Verification that funding to support mitigation activities will be available for the life of the conservation plan.

As previously stated, our project will have no adverse affect on the existing habitat that would call for mitigation; and, obviously, as a private entity we have no federal or state grants available to pass along in support of future Franklin's ground squirrel research. However, with the donation of the .38 acre tract to a third party, we feel that this would best provide for the longevity of the already established habitat for the Franklin's ground squirrels. This donation can only be accomplished with the creation of a separate lot and upon the recording of the completed 6th Addition. This would require no additional financing, but can be accomplished within our ongoing loan from Bank of Springfield.

3. Alternative actions that would not result in the take.

A. Alternative 1: No Build

If the 6th Addition is not constructed, but rather, continued to be farmed as has been the case for numerous years, the farming cycle of tilling, planting, and harvesting could, in itself, be harmful to any Franklin's ground squirrel movement during or between these cycles.

Once our development is completed it is much more likely that the Franklin's ground squirrel will seek refuge in the created safe areas, i.e.: the conservation zones and Centennial Park.

B. Alternative 2: Develop As Currently Approved

The 6th Addition, as has already been approved by The Springfield Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission, is much more intrusive. Our proposed new plan, if approved, not only calls for three less home sites but, by reducing the length of the cul-de-sacs to the north, we provide home sites that do not encroach into the wooded natural habitat. These areas would become conservation zones.

4. Data and information to assure that the proposed taking will not reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species.

The range of the Franklin's ground squirrel extends from northwestern Indiana, northern and central Illinois and southern Wisconsin west to northern Kansas, Nebraska, North and South Dakota in the United States and Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in Canada (Ostroff and Finck 2003). Hoffmann (2008) documented Franklin's ground squirrels in 33 Illinois counties.

According to the Natural Heritage Database (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), known areas with Franklin's ground squirrel in Springfield close to the Sangamon Valley Trail include the N & S Railroad spur between Wabash Avenue and I-72 at its juncture with Cockrell Lane and the northwest corner of the intersection of Cockrell Lake and I-72. Franklin's ground squirrels were captured at these sites in 2007. In addition, Franklin's also were seen at Vredenburg Park in 2007.

On 11 March 2010, The Illinois Department of Natural Resources requested that the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) determine habitat suitability for the state-threatened Franklin's ground squirrel (*Spermophilus franklinii*) along the proposed Sangamon Valley Trail. It was determined that several areas along the former railroad line could provide suitable habitat for the Franklin's ground squirrel from Centennial Park to north of Meadowbrook.

In addition, two sites with burrow entrances approximately the size of those used by Franklin's ground squirrels were located, The first site was immediately southeast of the trail's juncture with Lenhart Road., The area was mowed which in not typical habitat for Franklin's ground squirrel; however, the Franklin's seen at Vredenburg Park in 2007 also had burrows in mowed areas. This site was not included in the delineations of suitable habitat, but the area will be trapped. The second Site where burrows were located

occurred in mounds of soil on the south side of the trail roughly 300m southwest of Archer Elevator Road. This site is included in the sixth area listed as suitable habitat.

In addition, Centennial Park Subdivision LLC 6th Addition, burrows were located on the south side next to the park, and in the creek bed on the north side, on the outskirts of any dirt or excavation work. See attachment.

5. An implementing agreement, which shall include, but not be limited to:

A. Names of all participants in the execution of the conservation plan.

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC owns the northeast quarter of Section 9 and part of the northwest quarter of Section 10, all in Township 15 north, Range 6 west of the third principal meridian, Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois.

B. The obligations and responsibilities of each identified participants with schedules and deadlines for completion of activities in the conservation plan and a schedule for preparation of progress reports to be provided to the Department.

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC shall direct their contractors to:

A. Ensure that all tasks are completed as described in the Conservation Plan.

B. Ensure that all maps are accurate and up to date showing areas of Franklin Ground Squirrel habitat that is most suitable.

C. Install barrier fencing to restrict the area of construction in those areas most suitable for Franklin ground squirrels.

D. Conduct daily inspections during construction of barrier fencing.

E. Conduct daily inspections of the area for Franklin ground squirrels.

F. Report to IDNR any sightings of Franklin ground squirrels.

Long-term Maintenance Work:

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC and IDNR will coordinate responsibilities including:

A. Ensure procedures in the Conservation Plan are implemented.

B. Continue to monitor and survey the deeded 15' Centennial Park extension and the rear yard conservation zones, on a periodic bases, to ensure mitigation measures have succeeded in protecting the Franklin's ground squirrel's habitat.

C. Progress Reports

During the ITA period, prior to the completion of the 6th Addition improvements, annual reports will be provided to IDNR during the month of January, reporting on the progress of the said improvements, the projected timeline for completion, and any reported Franklin's ground squirrels sightings.

The undersigned certify that, collectively we represent 100% ownership of Centennial Park Subdivision LLC and individually have legal authority to carry out the responsibilities as defined in the above conservation plan. We further state that it is our intention to comply with all the Federal, State, and Local permitting requirements going forward.

Albert Giacomini
Albert Giacomini – Partner — 3/8/16 Date

Robert Giacomini
Robert Giacomini – Partner — 3/8/16 Date

Thomas Giacomini
Thomas Giacomini – Partner — 3/8/16 Date

D Churchill
Dennis Churchill – Partner — 3/8/16 Date

Public Notice is hereby given that:

Centennial Park Subdivision LLC of 505 Fraase Road, New Berlin, IL 62670, pursuant to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, has requested from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources authorization for an Incidental Take for Franklin's ground squirrels which, through initial review, has been determined to be present in the vicinity of the proposed Centennial Park Subdivision LLC 6th Addition, Springfield, Illinois.

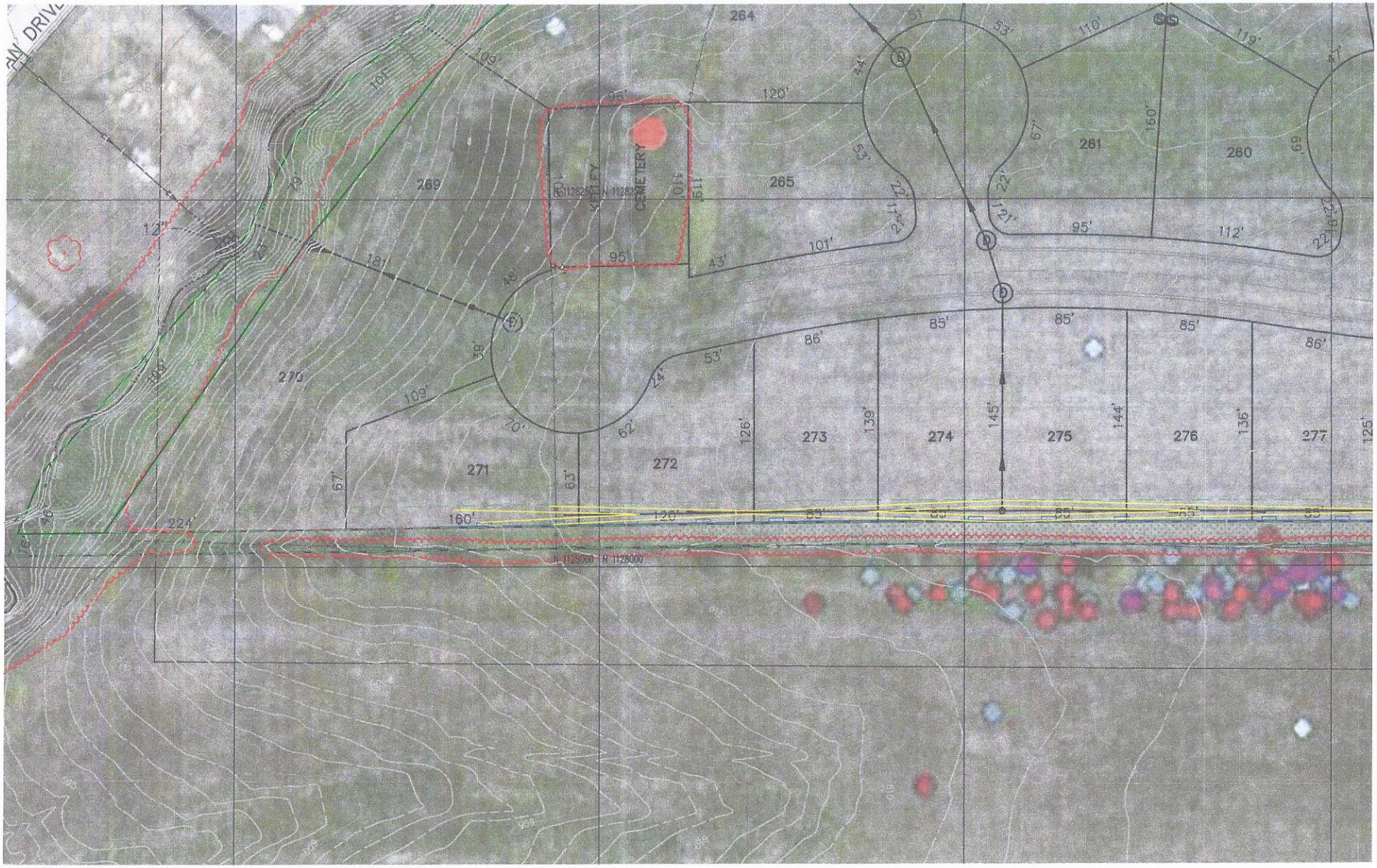
This proposed 6th Addition borders Centennial Park to the South and is contiguous to previously developed Centennial Park Place 2nd, 3rd and 5th Additions to the North, West, and East. It can be reached by traveling West on Hedley Road from Lenhart Road ¼ mile. Turn South onto Whiteside Place. After traveling 400' turn West onto Kelley Point Drive which dead ends at the proposed site.

Included in this request is a conservation plan designed to minimize and mitigate the effects of said development. This plan includes, but is not limited to, reducing the footprint and providing for construction timing to coincide with the hibernation period. The entire proposal is available for inspection at the Springfield Public Library located at the corner of 7th Street and Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois.

Comments on the conservation plan may be submitted to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resource Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

All written comments must be received no later than (**date to be determined**), 30 days from last publication.



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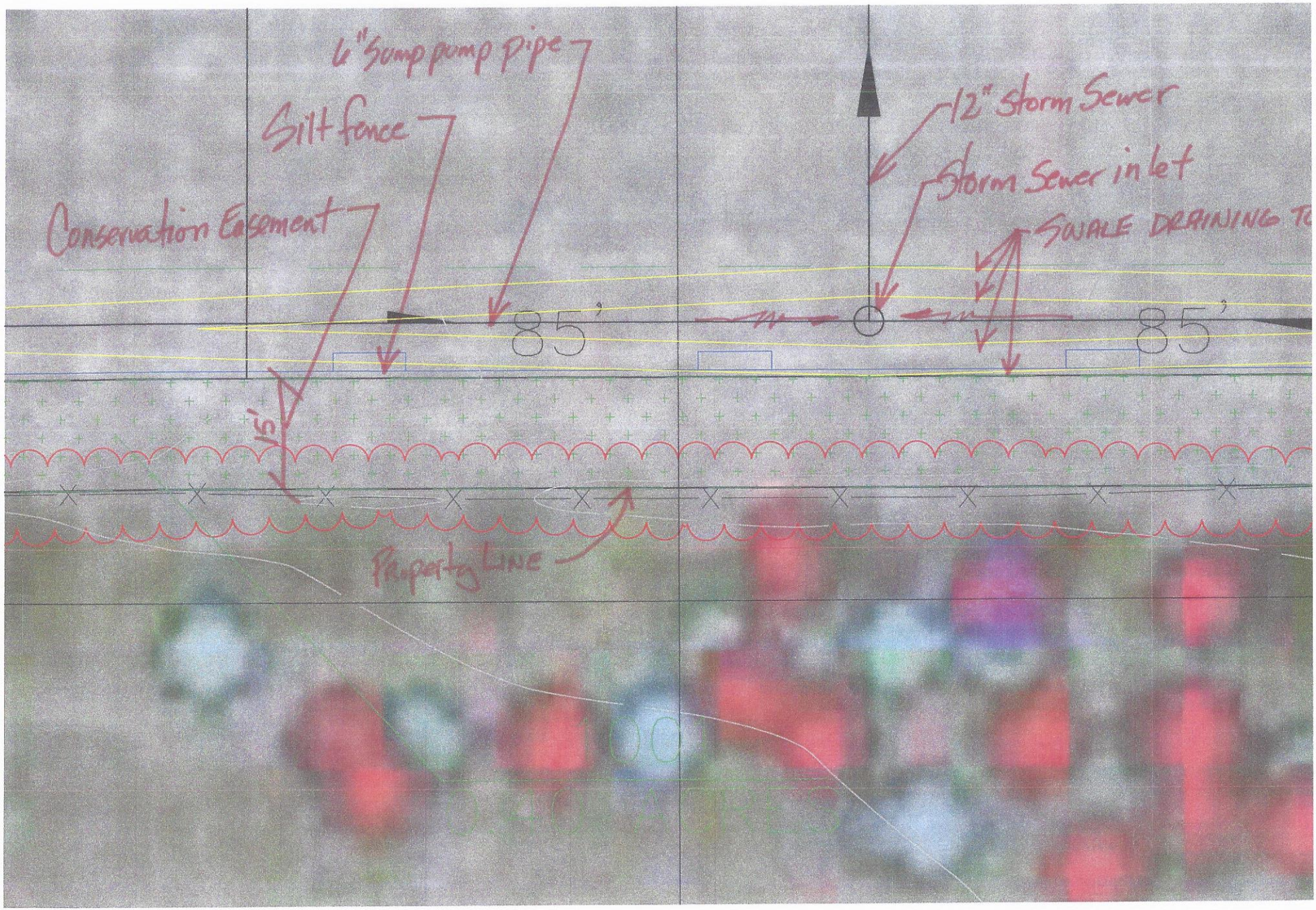
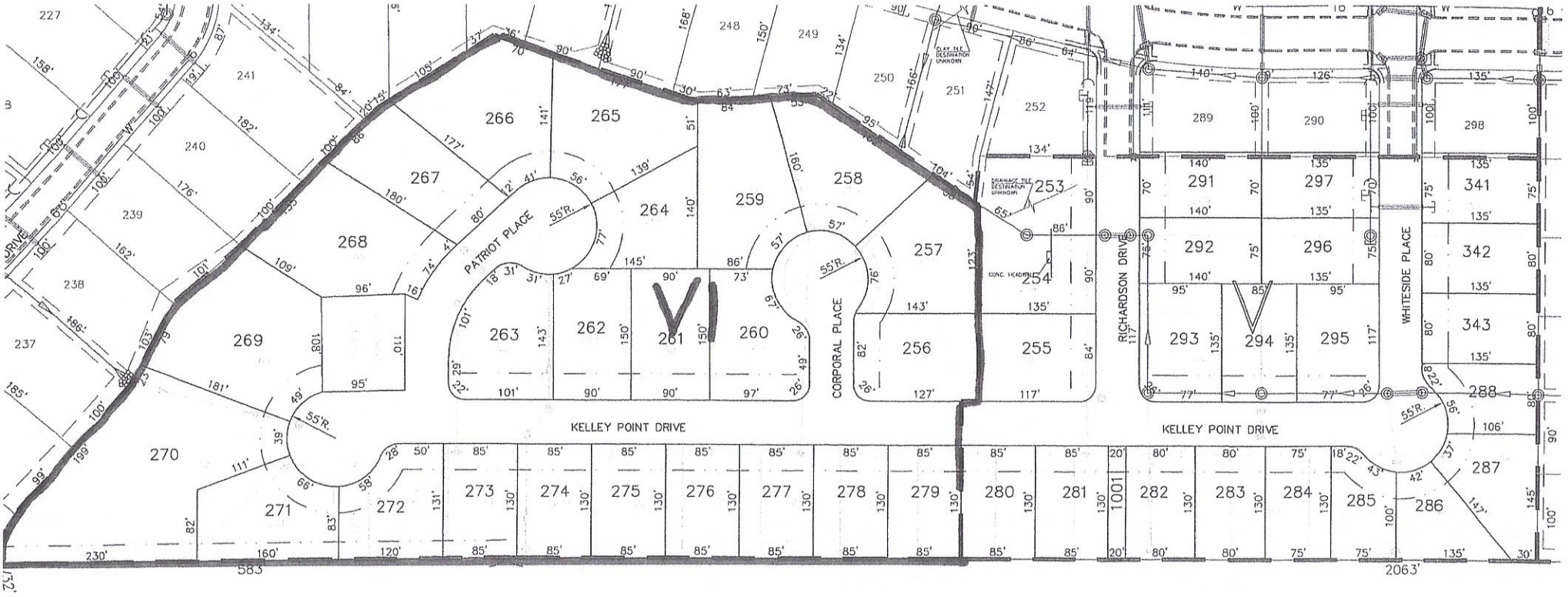

6" Sump pump Pipe
Silt fence
Conservation Easement
12" Storm Sewer
Storm Sewer inlet
SWALE DRAINING TO
85'
85'
15'
Property Line


PATRIOT PLACE
CORPORAL PLACE
RICHARDSON DRIVE
WHITESIDE PLACE
KELLEY POINT DRIVE
KELLEY POINT DRIVE
583'
2063'

OLD DESIGN

PAT TILLMAN DRIVE
KELLEY CEMETERY
CONSERVATION ZONE
263
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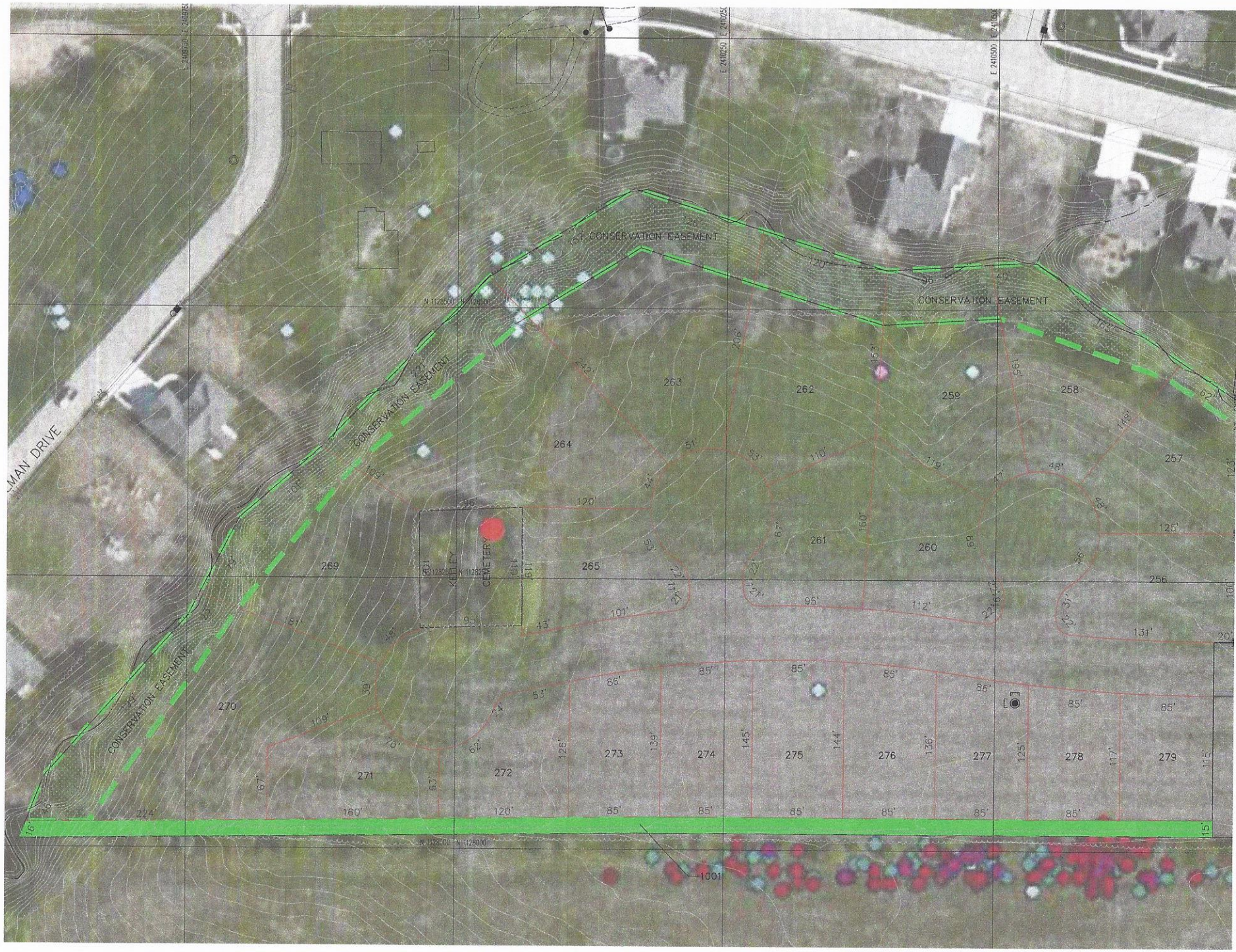
NEW DESIGN

Partial Map of FGS at Centennial Park and Adjacent Parcels

Prepared by Tih-Fen Ting, Department of Environmental Studies, U of I at Springfield



CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
MAN DRIVE
KEELEY CEMETERY
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CONSERVATION EASEMENT
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CONSERVATION EASEMENT
KELLEY CEMETERY
MAN DRIVE
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E 2410250
E 2410500
1001

Pat Tilman Dr
Hedley Rd
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
CONSERVATION EASEMENT
HEDLEY CEMETERY
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