



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

October 31, 2014

Mr. Drew Irvin, Administrator  
Village of Lake Bluff  
40 E. Center Avenue  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

**RE: 600 Lansdown Lane Bluff Stabilization, Lake Bluff, Lake County  
Endangered Species Consultation Program  
EcoCAT Review #1505922**

Dear Administrator Irvin:

The Department has received a submission from WBK & Associates Engineering on behalf of their client for the purpose of consultation with the Department of Natural Resources pursuant to the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

Actions to stabilize an eroding bluff are proposed. The property parcel is located at the mouth of a ravine which has been designated by the Department as **Lake Bluff Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Site**. The Site is designated because it is an example of a rare ravine natural community, and because it provides essential habitat for four State-listed endangered or threatened species of plants: the endangered **Grove Bluegrass**, *Poa alsodes*; the endangered **Purple-Flowering Raspberry**, *Rubus odoratus*; the threatened **Ground Juniper**, *Juniperus communis*; and the threatened **Pale Vetchling**, *Lathyrus ochroleucus*.

Virtually all of the area to be disturbed by stabilization efforts (as well as the unstable areas) lies within the boundaries of the INAI Site. While designation of an area as an INAI Site triggers the consultation process, it does not, of itself, confer any legal protection on the area so-designated, but serves to give notice of the unusual, even rare, natural qualities the location possesses. The interest of the Department is to minimize or avoid the degradation of such areas.

The State-listed plants are protected by law, but only to the extent they may not be harmed in any manner without the express written permission of the landowner. They remain the property of the landowner and at his or her disposition, save that they may not be sold. The Department's interest is in preserving the biological diversity of the ravine's natural communities, and in preserving, to the extent possible, the genetic diversity of plant species likely to become extirpated in Illinois.

The nature, timing, and extent of the work proposed is best left to local officials and the engineering professionals directing the physical stabilization of the parcel, who are most familiar with conditions and the urgency of action. The Department notes that instability in these situations may be caused by erosion of the toe of the bluff, or by changes in the phreatic surface of ground water within the slope. The latter may be influenced by the addition or removal of vegetation, or by inappropriate management of storm water above the slope. The chosen prescription should address the correct cause or causes to avoid further damage to the bluff and its natural communities.

**The Department recommends that, to the extent possible, the listed plants in the work area should be identified and, if possible, preserved *in situ*; temporarily removed intact for later replacement; or seeds or viable vegetative parts should be collected for later re-planting. Planting disturbed areas should be done with native plants suitable for the site, if possible.**

It is important that persons performing the work which may result in “taking” listed plants be in possession of a document expressing the land owner’s written permission to do so, in order to avoid violating the law. The land owner is free to impose such conditions on the taking as they desire, in terms of time of taking, number of plants, methods of take, and the disposition of taken plant materials.

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the Village of Lake Bluff desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the Village must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether it will:

- Proceed with the action as originally proposed;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures if not all will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available which was not previously considered; or the proposed action is substantially modified; or additional species, essential habitats, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. The natural resource review primarily reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of this consultation, and is not a substitute for detailed field surveys.

If additional protected resources are encountered during the project’s implementation, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that closing consultation does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,



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