



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271
www.dnr.illinois.gov

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

February 11, 2016

Carl Peterson
Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc.
212 S. Main Street
Wheaton, IL 60187

RE: The Boulevard – Retail Development
Project Number(s): 1604850 [DI1401]
County: Will

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reviewed this project involving a retail development with associated infrastructure and stormwater management. The project includes a road crossing over Mink Creek and riparian enhancement of the stream involving earthwork. Pursuant to the Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, the Department provides the following comments:

State Protected Natural Resources

Records for state-endangered black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and corn salad plant (*Valerianella umbilicata*), as well as state-threatened Iowa dater (*Etheostoma exile*), occur in the project area. Records for the state-endangered yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), state-threatened slippershell mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*), and state-threatened little green sedge (*Carex viridula*) also occur in the general project vicinity.

State protected lands in the project area include the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve to the northwest and Lake Renwick East Land and Water Reserve to the north.

Biological Surveys

The Department requests a fish and mussel survey be conducted in Mink Creek and Lily Cache Creek to determine the presence or absence of state-listed species in the project area. If present, efforts should be taken to estimate population density in the project area, as well as potentially affected areas upstream and downstream. The Department requests a plant survey be completed in the project area to determine the presence of state-listed species and estimate the extent of populations. The Department also requests a bird survey to determine the extent to which state-listed and/or other migratory species may use the area.

The Department recommends survey proposals be submitted to the Department for review and concurrence on methods. The principle investigator should obtain the necessary permits from the Department and USFWS (as necessary) to conduct such surveys. Instructions on how to apply

for research permits can be found at:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/ResearchPermits.aspx>

State & Federally-Listed Bat Species

If tree removal is necessary, the Department recommends no trees be felled from April 1 through October 14 to avoid potential impacts to the state and federally-threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). If these dates cannot be accommodated, a bat habitat assessment should be conducted and results submitted to the Department and USFWS (as necessary) for review and further guidance.

Protected Lands

The Department will continue to evaluate potential adverse effects to the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve and Lake Renwick East Land and Water Reserve in coordination with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) and landowner(s). Please forward any existing correspondences to the Department concerning these two properties.

Litter Management

The Department commends you for your efforts to include natural areas and riparian restoration in your project plans. However, the Department is concerned about litter management and in particular, wind-blown litter and litter in stormwater that tends to originate from retail facilities. The Department recommends a "Litter Management Plan" be developed for the retail facility. The plan should consider physical structures, such as a fence or hedgerow, to help keep litter from entering the natural areas, routine litter collection, signage, and an appropriate number of waste collection locations. The Department would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the plan.

Please note that this review is separate and distinct from any other action or regulatory authority of the Department. This coordination will remain open pending results of the surveys. This review does not satisfy consultation requirements under Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this review.



Nathan Grider
Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500

cc: Ellen Raimondi, Gary R. Weber Associates, Inc.
Stasi Brown, USACE
Steve Pescitelli, IDNR, Fisheries
Gary Jereb, IDNR, OWR
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Kim Roman, INPC
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