



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

December 10, 2015

Mr. Charles Szoke  
Channahon Park District  
24856 W. Eames Street  
Channahon, IL 60410

**RE: Arroyo Trails Park, Channahon, Will County  
Endangered Species Consultation  
EcoCAT Review #1605276**

Dear Mr. Szoke:

The Department has received your submission for this project for the purposes of consultation 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.

As indicated, your proposed action—a multi-use trail along a wooded ravine—is in the vicinity of records for the State-listed threatened **River Redhorse**, *Moxostoma carinatum*, and the **Northern Long-Eared Bat**, *Myotis septentrionalis*. The latter is also listed as threatened by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the federal *Endangered Species Act*.

The River Redhorse can be found just below the I&M Canal dam on the DuPage River. This is a likely spawning site for this species as well as a feeding area. Siltation and sedimentation which might reach the River during and after construction as a result of soil erosion along the trails could coat and smother eggs and potentially cover invertebrate food resources important to this species. *The Department recommends that design measures be incorporated into the trail's construction to minimize and avoid soil erosion during and after construction.* Measures such as water bars, level spreaders, erosion mats, rip-rap, and native vegetation should adequately control erosion if properly installed and maintained.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat requires forested areas with trees of adequate size for roosting and rearing young. Suitable trees are larger than three inches in diameter at breast height (dbh), a condition met by the woodland in the ravine where the project is located. This species has been

captured and positively identified by the Forest Preserve District of Will County at McKinley Woods Forest Preserve, placing your project site, which is linked to McKinley Woods by closely-spaced wooded tracts, within the average foraging radius of a maternity colony territory. One or more maternity colony roost trees may be located within the project site.

This species spends the winter hibernating in caves or mines or, rarely, within human structures such as culverts and storm sewers. Its active season extends from roughly April 1 through the beginning of October. *Tree removal necessary for trail construction should occur after October 1 and before April 1 to avoid the potential for a prohibited taking of the Northern Long-Eared Bat.* Alteration of habitat does not require a permit if the bats are not “taken” in the process.

Alternatively, *removal of trees during the active season should be preceded by acoustic and mist-net surveys to determine whether the site is occupied by this species.* (Acoustic surveys require no permits, but may not produce definitive results, while mist-netting requires both federal and state survey permits and produces clearer outcomes.) If so, no removal work can be done without an Incidental Take Permit from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and an Incidental Take Authorization from the Department of Natural Resources. Both procedures are time and cost-intensive, so avoiding the active season is usually preferred.

Use of the trails, once constructed, is unlikely to be disruptive to bat roosting and foraging and the site should continue to serve the species’ needs. Because this species is federally-protected, you may wish to consult the guidelines for bat protection promulgated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Consultation on the part of the Department is closed, unless the Park District desires additional information or advice related to this proposal. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the District should 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 modified; or additional species, essential habitats, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review primarily reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of this consultation, 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, the applicant must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action. Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith M. Shank". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Keith M. Shank

Impact Assessment Section

Department of Natural Resources

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