



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor  
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

April 6, 2016

Joseph Vavrina  
HR Green  
420 N. Front St  
McHenry, IL 60050

**RE: McHenry County College Pond Restoration**  
**Project Number(s): 1606201 [HRG-86150281]**  
**County: McHenry**

Dear Mr. Vavrina:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in McHenry County, Township 44 North, Range 7 East, Sections 25 & 36. This project was submitted for consultation in accordance with 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.

The project consists of excavation and restoration of existing pond bottom to remove silt.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that, with the exception below, the resources identified by EcoCAT in the vicinity are unlikely to be affected.

The state-endangered **Blanding's Turtle** (*Emydoidea blandingii*) is known to occur in the vicinity of the project area. These turtles hibernate in wetlands and, depending on the temperature, generally emerge in the spring with upland nesting occurring in June. They may travel up to one mile in their search for nesting habitat. To determine if turtles are using the area, the Department recommends:

- To conduct biological surveys. A trapping survey should be conducted in surrounding wetlands in April and an on-site nesting survey should be conducted from late May to the end of June. The results of the survey should be forwarded to the Department. Please note, any survey activity that will actually capture or handle endangered or threatened species requires personnel doing so to hold Scientific Collection Permits under Part 520 and Part 1070 of the Department's Rules.
- If species is present, the project activities could result in a take of this species, which is a violation of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act. "Take" means, in reference to animals and animal products, to harm, hunt, shoot, pursue, lure, wound, kill, destroy, harass, gig, spear, ensnare, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt to engage in such a conduct. Because of the likelihood of a take, the Department recommends consideration of applying for Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for the Blanding's Turtle in

accordance with 17 Ill Adm. Code Part 1080. Communication concerning the ITA application should be directed to Jenny Skufca, Office Resource Conservation, 217-557-8243 or Jenny.Skufca@illinois.gov.

In addition, to minimize impact to the species the Department recommends the following measures be incorporated into the project:

- Educate personnel working on site about the species. Post photos of juvenile and adult turtles at a central location.
- Install exclusionary silt fence by the end of March and maintain it through October (if needed) to prevent turtles from entering the construction area.
- Conduct daily inspections during construction to ensure that exclusionary fencing is properly installed (dug into the ground) and to check if turtles are present.
- Trenches should be covered at the end of each work day. Before starting each work day, trenches and excavations should be routinely inspected to ensure no turtles (or other reptiles) have become trapped within them.
- If Blanding's Turtles are encountered, crews should stop work immediately and contact IDNR at 815-675-2386 ext. 216 or 217-557-0483.

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is completed. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), please notify the Department of your decision regarding these recommendations. This consultation is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, 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 reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, 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, you 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,

Natalia Jones  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500  
natalia.jones@illinois.gov

cc: Abigail Wilgreen, City Engineer, City of Crystal Lake  
Jenny Skufca, Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator, IDNR