



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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

Bruce Rauner, Governor
Wayne A. Rosenthal, Director

January 28, 2016

Sarah Rummel
McHenry County Conservation District
18410 US Highway 14
Woodstock, IL 60098

RE: Harrison Benwell Parking & Trailhead Improvements
Project Number(s): 1606426
County: McHenry

Dear Ms. Rummel:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for the project noted above, located in McHenry County, Township 45 North, Range 8 East, Sections 8 & 17. 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 involves reconstruction of the existing parking lot.

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 and individual turtles could be affected if they enter the construction area. To avoid impact to this species, the Department recommends the following measures be incorporated into the project:

- Educate personnel working on site about Blanding's Turtle. Post photos of juvenile and adult Blanding's at a central location.
- Install exclusionary fencing 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.
- Exclusionary 6-inch curbing around entire parking lot area should be incorporated into project's plans to prevent any turtles from entering parking lot and being crushed by vehicles.
- If Blanding's Turtles are encountered, crews should stop work and allow the turtle to move out of the way or contact IDNR at 815-675-2386.

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
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