

IEPA Log No.: **C-0106-18**
CoE appl. #: **LRC-2018-968**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **September 5, 2019**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 26, 2019**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification for Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Park District of Highland Park – 636 Ridge Road, Highland Park, IL
60035

Discharge Location: Near Highland Park in Section 25 and 31 of Township 43N, Range 12E of the 3rd
P.M. in Lake County.

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Michigan and unnamed ravine tributary

Project Description: Proposed 10 year annual maintenance project for constructed breakwater protected
beaches at Rosewood Park limited to placement and grading of approximately 12,000 cubic yards
of sand nourishment using washed quarried sand to maintain the designed sand fill volumes and
contours of the public beach.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water
quality certification to discharge dredged or fill material into the waters of the State associated with a Section
404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin
and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received
will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional
time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested
persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address.
Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application.
Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear
on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for
inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application,
the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public
hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be
provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please contact Darren Gove at email
darren.gove@illinois.gov or phone no. 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
For Park District of Highland Park
IEPA Log No. C-0106-18
COE Log No. LRC-2018-968
Contact: Angie Sutton 217/558-2012
Public Notice Start Date: September 5, 2019

Park District of Highland Park (“Applicant”) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with the beach nourishment project at Rosewood Beach on Lake Michigan in Highland Park, Lake County, Illinois. The proposed project would allow for annual beach nourishment for 10 years with 12,000 cubic yards of clean torpedo sand the first year to nourish approximately 2.6 acres. Less sand is expected to be required in the following years as the beach will be annually maintained. Rosewood Beach was originally enhanced in 2014 to revitalize the swimming beach and protect it from wave erosion. There are 3 areas of quarystone breakwaters to help keep the sand against the shore. Due to water level increase and strong storms in 2018, significant beach erosion has occurred in all 3 areas. Recreational activities have been impacted as the beach erosion has affected the boardwalk and lounging areas. Since 2014 approximately 12,000 cubic yards of beach sand have been lost into Lake Michigan with about 9370 cubic yards of that having been lost since 2015. The purpose of the proposed project would restore the beach to the original fill volume and provide maintenance nourishment to supplement sand after beach erosion due to storms and wave action. A 10-year permit is sought for regular routine nourishment with fill activity being restricted to original footprint of beach in recreational areas where there is a high need. No areas where vegetation and habitat have begun to grow will be covered.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated January 16, 2019, February 1, 2019, and December 14, 2018.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Lake Michigan has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Lake Michigan is classified as a Lake Michigan Basin Use Water. Lake Michigan is not listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*, nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Rosewood Beach, Waterbody Segment IL_QJ, is listed on the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for fish consumption use with potential causes given as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls and for primary contact use with potential cause given as E-coli. A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report has been prepared and approved by the USEPA for 51 beaches along Illinois’ Lake Michigan shoreline to address Primary Contact Use Recreation impairments due to excess bacteria. The proposed activity occurs within an area identified by the May 15, 2013 report “Shoreline Segments in Suburban Lake County, Illinois” as a Beach Protection Area and is therefore subject to this TMDL.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids. These increases are a normal and unavoidable result of the placement

of nourishment sand and impact of wave activity on the newly placed sand. The sand would be washed sand obtained from a quarry (torpedo sand). The existing benthic habitat would be temporarily disturbed by fill activities but impacts to the aquatic life uses of this area are anticipated to be temporary during sand placement and will recover over time. Sand is to be placed during periods of low wave activity using land-based equipment to minimize load increases. Any areas that show signs of established vegetation will be avoided.

According to the U.S. EPA approved TMDL for *E. coli* within Lake Michigan along shoreline segments in Lake County, bacteria may be harbored at higher levels within embayment structures designed to catch and retain littoral sand. Rosewood Beach at 883 Sheridan Road may exhibit similar characteristics due to its general orientation with respect to lake currents.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in total suspended solids would be local and temporary. The existing aquatic life use in the shallow, nearshore zone will be temporarily be disturbed, but will recover over time. No mitigation is proposed as this project will only replenish areas of the existing beach footprint and no areas with established vegetation will be covered.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The purpose of this project is to replenish sand on Rosewood Beach in order to maintain habitat for water's-edge flora and nesting grounds for migratory birds. The lounging and boardwalk areas for recreation purposes have also been affected by beach erosion. Sand nourishment will provide protection to upland infrastructure and habitat while providing public access to the water and beach. The proposed project would restore the beach to the original fill volume and provide maintenance nourishment to supplement sand after beach erosion due to storms and wave action.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The Applicant has provided the following alternatives:

Option 1 – Do Nothing:

This option results in leaving the currently eroding shoreline in its existing state. This option would jeopardize existing infrastructure and habitat. Upland infrastructure is at risk of failure with persistent high lake levels and public recreation opportunities within the park would also be reduced.

Option 2 – Replenish Sand to Original Beach Footprint:

This option will use sand native to the area to nourish eroded beach areas. The sand will come from upland areas and be washed to reduce the potential load increases from fines. Nourishment sand will be pushed from the land toward the water in order to avoid introducing construction equipment to the water. The wave action is expected to reshape the shoreline over time and provide a more stable profile than what could be achieved with construction equipment. This is the preferred alternative.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities.

On January 16, 2019, the IDNR EcoCAT review was initiated for the project area. The review identified protected resources that may be in the vicinity of the project site, but IDNR evaluated the information and determined that adverse effects are unlikely. IDNR terminated the consultation request on January 16, 2019. According to the Army Corps of Engineers public notice dated February 11, 2019, The National Register of Historic Places has been reviewed and it was determined that no properties listed would be directly affected by this project.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity would result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity would benefit Rosewood Beach by replenishing sand lost to erosion in order to maintain the beach for recreational use as well as to provide habitat for water's-edge vegetation and migratory bird nesting areas. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.