**Illinois Environmental Protection Agency**
**Bureau of Water, Permit Section**
**(IEPA)**

2520 West Iles, Post Office Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, 217/782-3362

The IEPA has issued a Public Notice of a request for a Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification that would allow the issuance of a federal permit for the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

| **Public Notice Beginning Date:** | **Public Notice Ending Date:** |
|---|---|
| Wednesday, January 7, 2026 | Tuesday, January 27, 2026 |

**Agency Log No.: C-0370-25**

**Federal Permit Information**: Federal permit/license no. LRL-2025-446 is under the jurisdiction of Chicago District, Regulatory Branch U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**Name and Address of Discharger:** Village of Carol Stream - Dept of Engineering Services, Adam Frederick, P.E., CFM - 500 N Gary Ave., Carol Stream, IL 60188

**Discharge Location:** In Section 30 of Township 40-North and Range 10-East of the East 3rd Principal Meridian in DuPage County. Additional project location information includes the following: Klein Creek; Illini Drive to Thunderbird Trail, Carol Stream, IL 60188

**Name of Receiving Water:** Klein Creek

**Project Name/Description:** Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization Segment II: Thunderbird Trail to Illini Drive - proposed bank stabilization for a section of Klein Creek between Thunderbird Trail and Illini Drive with the use of gravity block walls bordering a low-flow meander within the channel with wetland shelves intended to improve water quality in the area

**Construction Schedule:** Beginning Nov 2025 and ending Dec 2025

The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters must provide their name and address along with comments on the certification request. The IEPA Log number must appear on each comment page. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. Only hearing requests and comments that pertain to Clean Water Act Section 401 authority will be considered. This authority provides consideration of whether the permit or license would be consistent with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 of the CWA, as well as “any other appropriate requirement of State [or tribal] law”. Requests for additional comment period must provide a demonstration of need. The final day of comment acceptance will be on the Public Notice Ending date shown above, unless the IEPA grants an extended notice period. The attached Fact Sheet provides a detailed description of the project and the findings of the IEPA’s antidegradation assessment.

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 see the contact information below.

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Post Document. No. C-0370-25-01072026-PublicNoticeAndFactSheet.pdf

401 Water Quality Certification Fact Sheet for Klein Creek Streambank Stabilization-Section II

IEPA Log No. C-0370-25

Contact: Angie Sutton 217-782-9864

The Village of Carol Stream ("Applicant") has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for impacts associated with streambank stabilization to Section II of Klein Creek, in Carol Stream. The project will involve various improvements to a 2197-ft reach of Klein Creek between Thunderbird Trail and Illini Drive within Armstrong Park and includes both banks throughout the entire reach. The project has received IEPA Section 319 funding. These proposed practices will stabilize the streambank erosion, reduce sediment from entering the creek due to erosion, and improve in-stream habitat. Sediment has accumulated in Klein Creek to a depth of 24-48" throughout this reach. The proposed improvements will remove the accumulated sediment and replace the streambed with a low flow meander and wetland shelves through the existing channelized river cross-section. Due to the limited space the easement allows existing overhead utilities, retaining walls are proposed at the easement limits. The low flow meander and wetland shelves will be created between the proposed gravity block retaining walls. The proposed project site is located in Township 40 North, Range 10 East, Section 30, in DuPage County, Illinois. The main components of the project include:

- 0.51 acres of wetland shelf within Klein Creek
- Installation of 4,551 linear feet of gravity block retaining wall at the easement limits or at ComEd OHW limits
- Installation of one flat rock riffle in-stream structure
- Installation of 7 improved stormwater outlets with pools to aid in stabilization and provide instream fish habitat.
- Conversion of open water areas of two excavated ponds to wetlands
- Conversion of a turf grass area to wetland
- 4.72 acre of wetlands and 2.65 acre of buffers restored/enhanced

The gravity block retaining wall construction will involve excavation for placement. The upper bank will be re-graded and stabilized with cover crop, permanent native seeding, and erosion control blanket. Emergent plant plugs will be planted just below the normal water level (NWL) through the rock toe to further naturalize the banks and filter pollutants through the creek. Additional enhancements include removal of non-native invasive species along the banks of the creek and creating wetland shelves to allow the stream to access these areas more frequently. These areas will be vegetated with native wetland/riparian vegetation as shown on the plans.

Flow diversion and temporary work structures to isolate the work area will be implemented and will include cofferdams at the Mitchell Lakes outfall. The coffer and bypass system is designed to bypass normal events.

The 4400 linear foot (LF) retaining wall will require 1811 Cubic Yards (CY) of fill and the stream bed will receive 1283 CY of fill and placed in a total of 0.45 Ac. Approximately 4666 CY of material is expected to be excavated and hauled to Armstrong Park detention basins, and a new sand, cobble, and gravel streambed will be constructed. Overall, the proposed project will have a positive effect on Klein Creek as the streambanks will be stabilized and naturalized. No mitigation is proposed for this project as the project itself is compensation for any impacts proposed. Additionally, onsite wetlands will be restored and enhanced as part of the proposed project.

Information used in this review was obtained from the application documents dated March 18, 2024, September 22, 2025, October 29, 2025, and November 7, 2025.

**Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.**

Klein Creek has 0 cfs of flow during critical 7Q10 low-flow conditions. Klein Creek is classified as General Use Water. Klein Creek 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. Klein Creek, Waterbody Segment IL_GBKC-01, is listed on the 2024 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List as impaired for aquatic life use with potential causes given as alteration in stream-side or littoral vegetative covers, flow alteration-changes in depth and flow velocity, and flow regime modification. This segment of Klein Creek is not subject to enhanced dissolved oxygen standards.

The stream substrate consists of sediment. The banks are eroded and are typically 2-4' high and have overhanging roots. The watershed area at the furthest downstream point of the project is 7.94 square miles. There are single family residential homes which are situated near the top of the streambanks. Klein Creek is identified as WOTUS 1.

The project area also includes two excavated ponds within Armstrong Park, which is located directly north of the stream corridor. Two manmade basins within Armstrong Park hold stormwater and overflow from Klein Creek during large rainstorm events.

A wetland and stream delineation were conducted on March 12, 2024, for the survey area within the Klein Creek watershed. The site consists of a section of Klein Creek flowing between Illini Drive and Thunderbird Trail. The section of Klein Creek flows through the backyards of the houses on Silverleaf Boulevard to the west and Hiawatha Drive and Seminole Lane to the east between Illini Drive to the north and Thunderbird Trail to the south. This section is bordered by regulatory wetlands and was identified by the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) as riverine habitat.

One wetland (WETLAND 1) was identified and is associated with the southeast corner of the investigated section of Klein Creek. The USFWS NWI does not identify any wetlands in the study area. The DuPage County Wetland Map identified the creek as bordered by regulatory wetlands.

Hydrology is provided by precipitation, surface runoff, and possibly groundwater. Hydrophytic vegetation was dominant and consisted of Box elder (*Acer negundo*) and Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*). All three criteria for wetland determination were met for the sample site. The Native Mean C and FQI were both 0.0, characterizing the wetland as poor quality and providing low level functions. The wetland also provides a small amount of usable wildlife habitat and has a Wildlife Habitat Assessment score was 3.5 which indicates regulatory status.

**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, a normal and unavoidable result of dredging and placement of fill in Klein Creek may occur as a result of streambank improvement activities. Permanent fill will be discharged to 4551 LF (3094 CY) as a retaining wall and stream bed material. Temporary impacts from cofferdam placement and wetland conversion are expected. Sediment impacts to downstream water resources during construction are expected to be temporary.

Construction runoff may temporarily increase sediment loading to streams in the proposed action area. However, most of the suspended solids would settle out a short distance downstream of construction areas, especially in pools where stream velocity is reduced. It is expected that impacts to aquatic organisms will only be detectable in areas of in-stream activities and for short sections downstream. The increased suspended solids, sedimentation and water chemistry alterations will be short term and recolonization of affected stream reach by benthic invertebrates and fish will be relatively rapid as long as measures to minimized sedimentation are followed.

**Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.**

The increase in total suspended solids would be local and temporary and existing riverbed habitat would be temporarily disturbed by construction activities. To construct the proposed improvements, the creek and lake will be dewatered and bypassed, and construction will occur in the dry creek bed. This will eliminate sediment from entering the creek. A series of coffer dams and phasing of the stabilization is proposed to achieve this. Stabilization will be completed in short segments to avoid having an area destabilized for extended periods of time. Segments are excavated, stone placed and graded, and stabilization with seed and blanket will follow. If any additional dewatering is necessary within the active construction limits, water will be pumped into sediment containment devices before being directed back into the stream or storm sewer.

Permanent impacts from the retaining wall and backfill are expected during this project. Flow diversion and temporary work structures will be utilized to isolate the work area. These structures include non-erodible coffer dams at the Mitchell Lakes outfall and use of a bypass pumping to bypass normal events, and a filtration system. A license agreement between DuPage County

Stormwater Management (DPCSM) and the Village allows for the Contractor to bypass flow in Klein Creek utilizing DPCSM's Armstrong Park Flood Control Reservoir. As shown on the construction plans, the Contractor will construct cofferdams, manually operate a flap gate, provide and operate plugs, pumps, hoses, and appurtenances to pump water from Lake George to the Reservoir's upper basin. The Contractor will only operate the bypass pumps during working hours. Outside working hours, the Contractor will utilize the existing storage in Lake George and Mitchell Lakes to temporarily store the flow when the bypass pumps are not operating.

Materials will be temporarily stored in staging on site. All disturbed areas will be planted with native deep-rooted vegetation and stabilized with erosion control blanket following completion of soil disturbing activity in that area. All disturbed areas will be planted with native deep-rooted vegetation and stabilized with erosion control blanket following completion of soil disturbing activity in that area. The proposed improvements to the basins at Armstrong Park will not result in the loss of waterways or wetlands. The project as proposed will have minimal impacts to the aquatic environment. Additional area enhancements include removal of non-native invasive species along the banks of the creek and creating wetlands shelves to allow the stream to access these areas more frequently. These areas will be vegetated with native wetland/riparian vegetation as shown on the plans.

Concerning excavation for placement of the retaining wall, the upper bank will be re-graded and stabilized with cover crop, permanent native seeding, and erosion control blanketing. Additionally, emergent plantings just below the NWL will further naturalize the banks and filter pollutants within the creek. Overall, the proposed project will have a positive effect on Klein Creek as the streambanks will be stabilized and naturalized. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Planting Plan has been included as part of the application documents.

The storm sewer that connects Lake George with the Reservoir's lower basin will have a plug operated which is intended to isolate the Reservoir's lower basin. This practice is to avoid exposing the vegetation to prolonged periods of elevated water levels. The plug will be designed so that it can be removed and reinstalled when submerged under low head conditions. In cooperation with the Village and DPCSM, the plug may be removed to maintain proper water levels in the Reservoir's lower basin for the existing vegetation. It may also be removed during and/or after significant storm events in order to drawdown the water levels in Lake George and Mitchell Lakes. The DPCSM will continue to operate the outflow gates in the Reservoir's upper basin per their normal operational procedures.

Overall, the proposed project will have a positive effect on Klein Creek as the streambanks will be stabilized and naturalized. Mitigation will include 0.49 Ac of low-flow meander, 0.51 Ac of wetland shelf within the waterway, 4551 LF of gravity block retaining wall, installation of a flat rock riffle instream structure, installation of 7 stormwater outlets with pools to provide fish habitat, and restoration in Armstrong Park that includes conversion of two excavated ponds and mowed turf grass to wetlands. The restored and enhanced areas will total 4.72 Ac of wetlands and 2.65 Ac of buffer area in the park.

**Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.**

The project purpose is to stabilize the streambanks while developing and enhancing habitat that will benefit benthic macroinvertebrates, fish and mussels. The proposed improvements will provide structural support for the infrastructure and buildings on each side while reducing channelization through creation of a low flow meander through the reach to increase sinuosity and create habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

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

The proposed project will reduce pollutant loading within Klein Creek. The material being placed consists of clean CA7 base material, and cobble, sand, and gravel for the purpose of restoring the creek to a more natural system and stabilizing the banks reducing sediment from entering the creek. Alternate project locations and a no action alternative are not possible as this type of restoration must occur within the stream.

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

An EcoCAT endangered species consultation was submitted on October 29, 2025 (Project #2606880) to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The consultation indicated that according to the Illinois Natural Heritage Database, it has no record of any state-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land Wate Reserves in the vicinity of the project location . The Illinois Wetlands Inventory did not show wetlands within 250 feet of the project location. The consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 and 1090 was automatically terminated.

A Section 7 consultation was conducted in order to determine whether any federal or state listed species or habitat are likely to be adversely impacted by the project. It was determined that the following federally listed species may occur within the boundary of the proposed project: Eastern prairie fringed orchid, Leafy-prairie clover, Northern Long-eared Bat, and Hine's emerald dragonfly.

- Eastern prairie fringed orchid *(Platanthera leucophaea)* - The Eastern prairie fringed orchid is a federally threatened species. Habitat for this species is moderate to high quality wetlands, sage meadow, marsh, and mesic to wet prairie. The wetland community was not determined to be high quality with a native FQI greater than 20 and a native mean C greater than 3.5. The Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid is not likely to be present within the action area and evidence of the Orchid was not found at the time of the field visit. As such, the proposed action is anticipated to have *no effect* on this species.

- Leafy-prairie clover *(Dalea foliosa)* - The leafy-prairie clover is a federally endangered species. Habitat for this species is prairie remnants on thin soil over limestone. This location is unsuitable for growth of leafy-prairie clover and as such, the proposed action is anticipated

to have no effect on this species.

- Northern Long-eared Bat *(Myotis septentrionalis)* - The Northern Long-eared bat is a federally threatened species. Habitat for this species include caves and mines during hibernation, surrounding wooded areas in autumn during swarming, and roosts and forages in upland forests and woods. The proposed activity will not remove known occupied roost trees or remove trees with 150 feet of known occupied roost trees from June 1 through July 31 or remove trees within 0.25 miles of a hibernaculum at any time of the year. Incidental take from tree removal activities is not prohibited unless it results from removing a known occupied maternity roost tree or from tree removal activities within 150 feet of a known occupied maternity roost tree from June 1 through July 31 or results from tree removal activities within 0.25 mile of a hibernaculum at any time. Based on these conclusions, the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, this species.

- Hine's emerald dragonfly *(Somatochlora hineana)* - The Hine's emerald dragonfly is a federally endangered species with designated critical habitat. Habitat for this species is spring-fed wetlands, wet meadows, and marshes. Critical Habitat Designated for the Hines Emerald Dragonfly is not located near the project and as such, the proposed action is anticipated to have no effect on this species.

- Monarch Butterfly *(Danaus plexippus)* – The Monarch Butterfly is a proposed threatened species with no designated habitat. Habitat consists of prairies, meadows, grasslands, and along roadsides across most of North America. There is no habitat present, therefore the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

- Western Regal Fritillary *(Argynnis idalia occidentalis)* – the Western Regal Fritillary is a federally proposed threatened species. It is Virtually restricted to remnant native prairies, including disturbed or somewhat degraded examples and native pastures. These prairies range from xeric to wet, and ideal habitat may be places with abundant violets in both dry and wet microhabitats. Violets are the sole larval host plant for the fritillary. There is no habitat present, therefore the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

- Whooping Crane (Grus americana) -The Whooping Crane is an experimental population During migration, whooping cranes use a variety of habitats wetland mosaics appear to be the most suitable. Experimental population migrating through our area only. There is habitat present in the project area however the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

**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 the community by reducing channelization through creation of a low flow meander through the reach to increase sinuosity and create habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species and providing stabilizing the streambanks to support infrastructure and buildings in the project area. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.