



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor
Laurie A. Stevenson, Director

April 15, 2020

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**City of Columbus – Franklin County
Holton Park and Eureka Avenue, Green Infrastructure Improvements
Loan number: CS390274-0322**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater treatment project in Columbus which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its WPCLF program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Bernstein, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Holton Park and Eureka Avenue. Green Infrastructure Improvements

Applicant: Tracie Davies, Utilities director
City of Columbus
910 Dublin Road
Columbus, OH 43215

Loan Number: CS390274-0322



Figure 1. Franklin County, Ohio

Project Summary

The City of Columbus is requesting a \$500,000 low-interest loan through the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to construct a bioretention facility in the City's North Hilltop neighborhood in Franklin County (Figure 1).

History & Existing Conditions

This project is part of the Terrance Avenue/Broad Street Stormwater System Improvements Project. The goal of the project is to treat and reduce the stormwater discharge of total suspended solids, bacteria, phosphorus, and nitrogen to the nearby Dry Run Creek, a tributary to the Scioto River.

Currently there are stormwater drainage problems at Holton Park that need to be addressed (See Figures 2 and 3).



Figure 2. Drainage problem at southwest corner of Eureka Avenue and Grace Street Intersection



Figure 3. Drainage problems in the Holton Park area

There is a limited amount of existing storm sewer infrastructure located near the proposed project. There are curb inlets on both sides of North Eureka Avenue adjacent to the site that are connected into a 12-inch diameter storm sewer system that directs flow to the north where it discharges into

Dry Run. This existing storm sewer infrastructure is not anticipated to create any conflicts with the proposed improvements.

Bioretention basins are a type of green infrastructure that are becoming popular to address stormwater management goals in a way that is beneficial to humans and the environment. A bioretention system is designed to filter stormwater runoff and reduce peak discharge rates for drainage areas up to 5 acres. The grading of a bioretention system is typically designed to allow for shallow ponding (up to 12 inches) to occur at the surface. This provides for a reduction in peak discharge rates, which can reduce downstream flooding or protect against streambank erosion. Best engineering practices are to design a bioretention basin to fully capture and treat a common storm event (typically 0.75-inch storm event) for that particular drainage area. The Holton Park site has a relatively small drainage area with a lot of impervious surfaces and is therefore an ideal site for a bioretention basin.

As shown in Figure 4 below, there are two existing catch basins on Eureka Avenue adjacent to the green space that currently drain to the north through an existing storm sewer. As part of the planned Terrace Avenue/Broad Street Stormwater System Improvements, a number of additional catch basins will be installed including two to the south of the Eureka and Broadway intersection, a group of catch basins to the west of the park property on Glenview, and several catch basins down Eureka. These new catch basins are currently planned to discharge to a new 78-inch pipe installed during the Terrace Avenue/Broad Street project.

Project Description

The Holton Eureka project's design objective is based on improvements constructed during a separate project (Terrace Avenue/Broad Street project). As a result, the drainage area to be managed through the Holton Eureka project must be inferred from the water quality volume design objective for the group of stormwater projects in the Terrace/Broad Street project area. The determination of the appropriate drainage area is important because it has direct bearing on the performance of the final collection of stormwater basins.

The basin will treat a contributing drainage area of 3.02 acre and provide regional storm water quality treatment for the corridor along North Eureka Avenue and around the Holton Park property. This green infrastructure basin will be 2,379 square feet within the public right-of-way and will hold approximately 5,226 cubic feet of water volume. During the 100-year storm, there may be about 20 inches of water detained in the basin. Most of the year, the basin will be dry.

In order to maximize the available site, the bioretention basin will be surrounded by a 30 inch or shorter retaining wall to provide maximum volume in a limited space. The bioretention basin will be landscaped and have specialized soil that will facilitate filtering of the captured stormwater. The outlet to the basin will discharge to an existing storm sewer. There will be no outlet to Dry Run as that was constructed as part of another project. Final projected appearance of the bioretention basin can be seen in Figure 5.

Implementation

The City of Columbus is requesting \$500,000 from the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to construct a bioretention basin. The stormwater rates increased from \$4.71 to \$4.76 per month in January 2019 for a typical residential customer inside the city to offset the cost of the stormwater projects. The City of Columbus median household income (MHI) is \$47,156. The new stormwater fee is .012% of the MHI.

The project is scheduled to start in May or June 2020 and be completed in spring 2022.



Figure 4. Holton Park drainage areas

Public Participation

A public meeting was held on September 5, 2018 at the Holton Park Recreation Center (303 N. Eureka Ave) to present the project to the community.

Ohio EPA is not aware of any significant public concern about this project.

As part of its State Environmental Review Process, Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance (DEFA) will post this Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact to its web page located at <http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx>.

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the project type criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater collection system, which involves functional improvements to existing stormwater drainage infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect and will require no specific impact mitigation because this project will provide habitat where there is currently very little. One tree will be removed outside the bat nesting time period.

Will have no effect on high-value environmental resources because none are present in the project area.

Is cost-effective because the project is part of a larger project to minimize flooding impacts to the surrounding community.

Is not a controversial action because the project will address local flooding and water quality issues.

Does not create a new, or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters because the project will increase infiltration and decrease erosive stormwater peak flows, thereby improving water quality in the receiving stream.

Will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population because the project addresses existing local stormwater problems and does not provide increased capacity.

Contact information

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Figure 5. Proposed final appearance of the bioretention basin