Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.

IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

June 13, 2024

To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

Applicant: City of Ottumwa
County: Wapello
State: Iowa
SRF Number: S2019-0263B
Iowa DNR Project Number: CS192097201
Ottumwa Blake's Branch Sewer Separation Phase 8 Division 3

The City of Ottumwa, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Ottumwa is located in Wapello County approximately 22 miles southeast of Oskaloosa, Iowa and 42 miles west of Mount Pleasant, Iowa. The population of Ottumwa according to the 2010 US Census was 25,045. The overall City of Ottumwa population has remained relatively level for the past several decades. A planning period of 50 years and annual growth rate of 0.5% is assumed for this project. A review of the 2010 Census Tracts indications that Blake's Branch Drainage Basin has approximately 5,912 residents. It is estimated that 25% of the City's population resides within Blake's Branch Drainage.

Blake's Branch box is a combined sewer starting at the Des Moines River near S. Vine Street. The box is approximately 8,000 linear feet and extends north past the intersection of Pennsylvania and Jefferson Street. The box was built in the early 1900s, constructed of brick, approximately 8 feet in height, and 10 feet in width with an arched top. Blake's Branch Basin is generally bounded by Alta Vista Avenue to the north, N. Elm Street to the east, Main Street to the south, and Court Street to the west. There are several sewers in the area that are combined sanitary and storm sewers connected directly to the Blake's Branch brick box.

Alta Vista Avenue is the approximate high point and the topography slopes down to the north toward Grandview Avenue. This area consists of a sanitary sewer gravity pipe network that collects and directs flow to

a wet well near the intersection of Grandview Avenue and N. Elm Street. The sanitary sewer is pumped through a force main pipe to a manhole near the intersection of Pike Road and N. Elm Street. The sanitary sewer travels by gravity pipe to Blake's Branch Box just north of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

According to the National Institute of Health: In dry weather, a combined sewer system sends a town's entire volume of waste-water to a sewage plant, which treats and discharges it into a waterway. Rain and snowmelt, however, can fill up a combined sewer. Combined sewers have been specifically designed with escape overflow pipes so that the mixture of sewage and stormwater doesn't back up into buildings, including homes. The resulting combined sewer overflow (CSO) dumps raw sewage into lakes, rivers, and coastal waters, potentially harming public health and the environment.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's wastewater infrastructure to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Ottumwa's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project is Phase 8 of the Blake's Branch Sewer Separation included in the Long Term Control Plan dated February 11, 2011 and agreed upon between the City of Ottumwa and State of Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Administrative Consent Order No. 2011-WW-14. Phase 8 of this project will eliminate Blake's Branch CSO #4 and convert Blake's Branch Box to strictly stormwater flows under the Long Term Control Plan.

The proposed project will separate the combined sewer in the Blake's Branch drainage area by constructing a new sanitary sewer. This project will involve the construction of approximately 6,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer, 8,500 linear feet of storm sewer, 7,500 linear feet of water main, 35 blocks of paving, and all necessary connections and appurtenances.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary floodplain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c"). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or

water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Your comments can be sent to SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov or directly to me at hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by Hailey Andersen
Date: 2024.06.13 07:38:03 -05'00'

Hailey Andersen
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution List (email): Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Mindy Wells, Iowa Department of Public Health
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Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council
Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority
Rick Andriano, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club

Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDOI, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeek, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Ottumwa Courier

Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.

IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Ottumwa
SRF Number: S2019-0263B
County: Wapello
Iowa DNR Project Number: CS192097201
State: Iowa
Ottumwa Blake's Branch Sewer Separation Phase 8 Division 3

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Ottumwa is located in Wapello County approximately 22 miles southeast of Oskaloosa, Iowa and 42 miles west of Mount Pleasant, Iowa.

Population: The population of Ottumwa according to the 2010 US Census was 25,045. The overall City of Ottumwa population has remained relatively level for the past several decades. A planning period of 50 years and annual growth rate of 0.5% is assumed for this project. A review of the 2010 Census Tracts indications that Blake's Branch Drainage Basin has approximately 5,912 residents. It is estimated that 25% of the City's population resides within Blake's Branch Drainage.

Existing Combined Sewer System: Blake's Branch box is a combined sewer starting at the Des Moines River near S. Vine Street. The box is approximately 8,000 linear feet and extends north past the intersection of Pennsylvania and Jefferson Street. The box was built in the early 1900s, constructed of brick, approximately 8 feet in height, and 10 feet in width with an arched top. Blake's Branch Basin is generally bounded by Alta Vista Avenue to the north, N. Elm Street to the east, Main Street to the south, and Court Street to the west. There are several sewers in the area that are combined sanitary and storm sewers connected directly to the Blake's Branch brick box.

Alta Vista Avenue is the approximate high point and the topography slopes down to the north toward Grandview Avenue. This area consists of a sanitary sewer gravity pipe network that collects and directs flow to a wet well near the intersection of Grandview Avenue and N. Elm Street. The sanitary sewer is pumped through a force main pipe to a manhole near the intersection of Pike Road and N. Elm Street. The sanitary sewer travels by gravity pipe to Blake's Branch Box just north of the intersection of Jefferson Street and Pennsylvania Avenue.

According to the National Institute of Health: In dry weather, a combined sewer system sends a town's entire volume of waste-water to a sewage plant, which treats and discharges it into a waterway. Rain and snowmelt, however, can fill up a combined sewer. Combined sewers have been specifically designed with escape overflow pipes so that the mixture of sewage and stormwater doesn't back up into buildings, including homes. The resulting combined sewer overflow (CSO) dumps raw sewage into lakes, rivers, and coastal waters, potentially harming public health and the environment.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's wastewater infrastructure to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Ottumwa's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project is Phase 8 of the Blake's Branch Sewer Separation included in the Long Term Control Plan dated February 11, 2011 and agreed upon between the City of Ottumwa and State of Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Administrative Consent Order No. 2011-WW-14. Phase 8 of this project will eliminate Blake's Branch CSO #4 and convert Blake's Branch Box to strictly stormwater flows under the Long Term Control Plan.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project will separate the combined sewer in the Blake's Branch drainage area by constructing a new sanitary sewer. This project will involve the construction of approximately 6,000 linear feet of sanitary sewer, 8,500 linear feet of storm sewer, 7,500 linear feet of water main, 35 blocks of paving, and all necessary connections and appurtenances.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: The elimination of combined sewer overflows into the Des Moines River from Blake's Branch brick sewer box requires construction of a separate pipe improvement project. It is not feasible to construct a cost-effective separate storm sewer pipe system within the drainage basin and it is not desirable to use the brick box as a sanitary sewer. Therefore, the alternatives presented are based on constructing a separate sanitary sewer pipe system at two different locations within the drainage basin.

Alternative 1 consists of the construction of a new 36-inch diameter separate sanitary trunk sewer within existing street rights-of-way as much as practicable to minimize acquisition of permanent sewer easements. This alternative will utilize the existing 8-foot x 10-foot Blake's Branch brick box as a separate storm sewer and will construct either a new storm sewer or sanitary sewer pipe laterals within side street rights-of-ways depending on existing pipe diameter. It is anticipated the existing lateral sewers will be used as a sanitary sewer pipe as initial review of the existing pipe diameter indicates it would be undersized for storm sewer flows, and new lateral storm sewers will need to be constructed.

Alternative 2 is the same scope of work as Alternative 1 except this alternative will construct a new 36-inch diameter separate sanitary trunk sewer adjacent to Blake's Branch brick box. The existing Blake's Branch box was constructed in the existing drainage and covered with dirt to be flush with adjacent land. The alignment of the box indicates structures have been constructed either on top or right adjacent the box over the years (i.e. parcel west of Birch north of Plum Street, parcel west of Norris street near N. Jefferson Street, parcel north of Jefferson, several houses west of Jefferson Street, etc.). Alternative 2 will require acquisition of permanent

easements and in some cases purchase of parcels with residential structures. The acquisition of permanent easements and parcels with structures will add cost and time to the construction schedule.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the DNR Consent Administrative Order to eliminate the combined sewer. Alternative 1 is selected as the best viable option to minimize acquisition of permanent easements and therefore reduce cost and time for acquiring easements. The proposed project site was selected for the availability of land (majority right-of-way), as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on February 20, 2024 at 5:300PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published on the City's website and social media January 18, 2024 and in the Ottumwa Courier on January 20, 2024. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
Flandreau Santee Sioux
Ho-Chunk Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Omaha Tribal Council
Osage Tribal Council
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Prairie Island Indian Community
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Santee Sioux Nation

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Tribal Council
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
Upper Sioux Tribe
Winnebago Tribal Council
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
Ottumwa Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public to date. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Construction: Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb one or more acres of soil; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

Historical/Archaeological: The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred (R&C#220590147), that this undertaking will result in “no adverse effect” to historic properties based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey conducted on the project property and a Phase IA Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

Environmental: According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact protected species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. Therefore, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Land Use and Trends: The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Ottumwa in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction

Nondiscrimination: All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Ottumwa, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants and nutrients to the receiving stream, and improved water quality in the receiving stream.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.

- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c").
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)"b" for wastewater relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.

Digitally signed by Hailey Andersen
Date: 2024.06.13 07:39:09 -05'00'

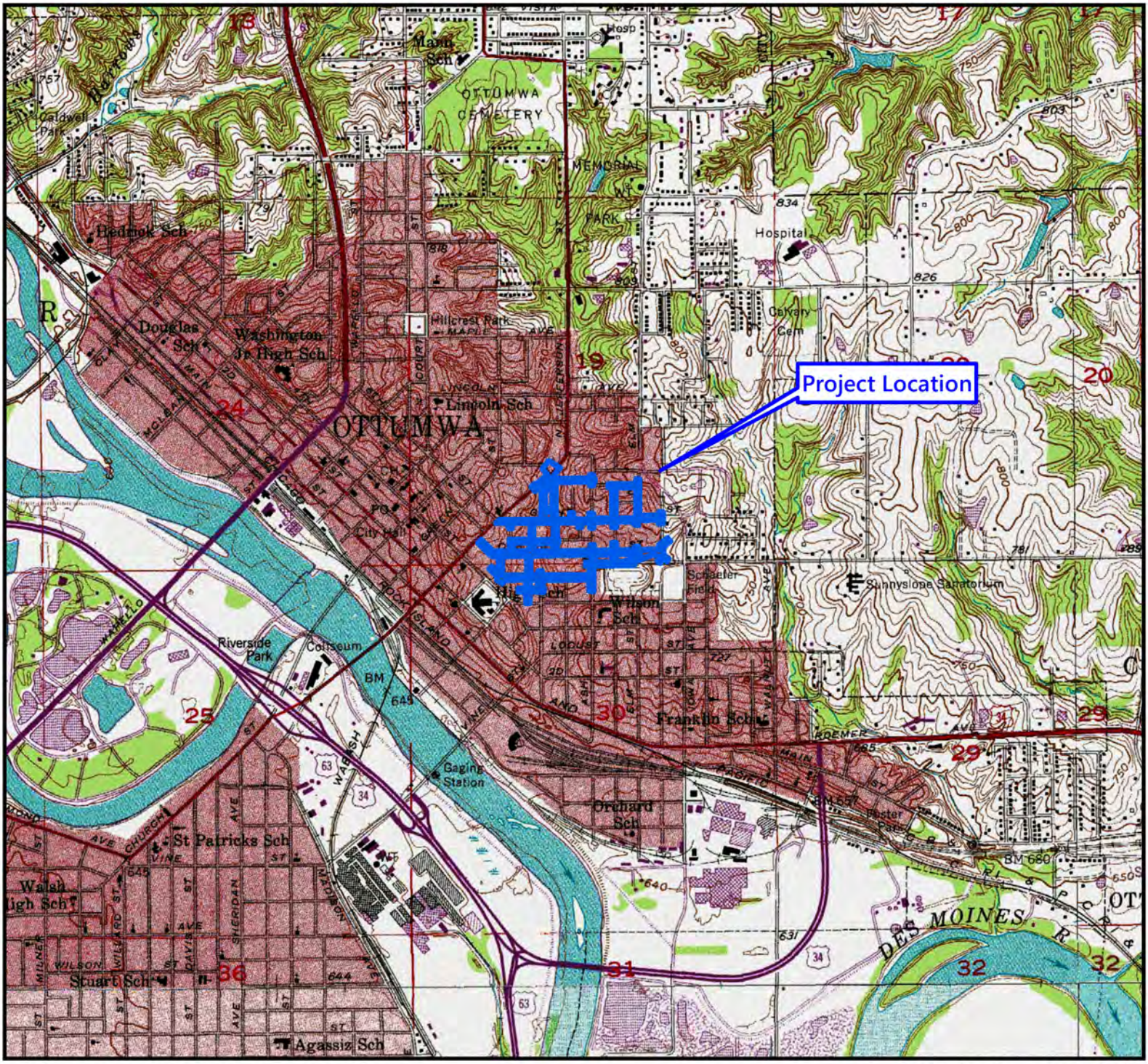
Hailey Andersen
Environmental Review Specialist
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

SRF IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY
AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

USGS Topographic Map

N

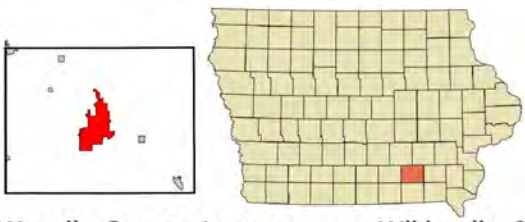


Blake's Branch Sewer Separation
Ottumwa, Iowa

Legend

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 Feet



Wapello County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.

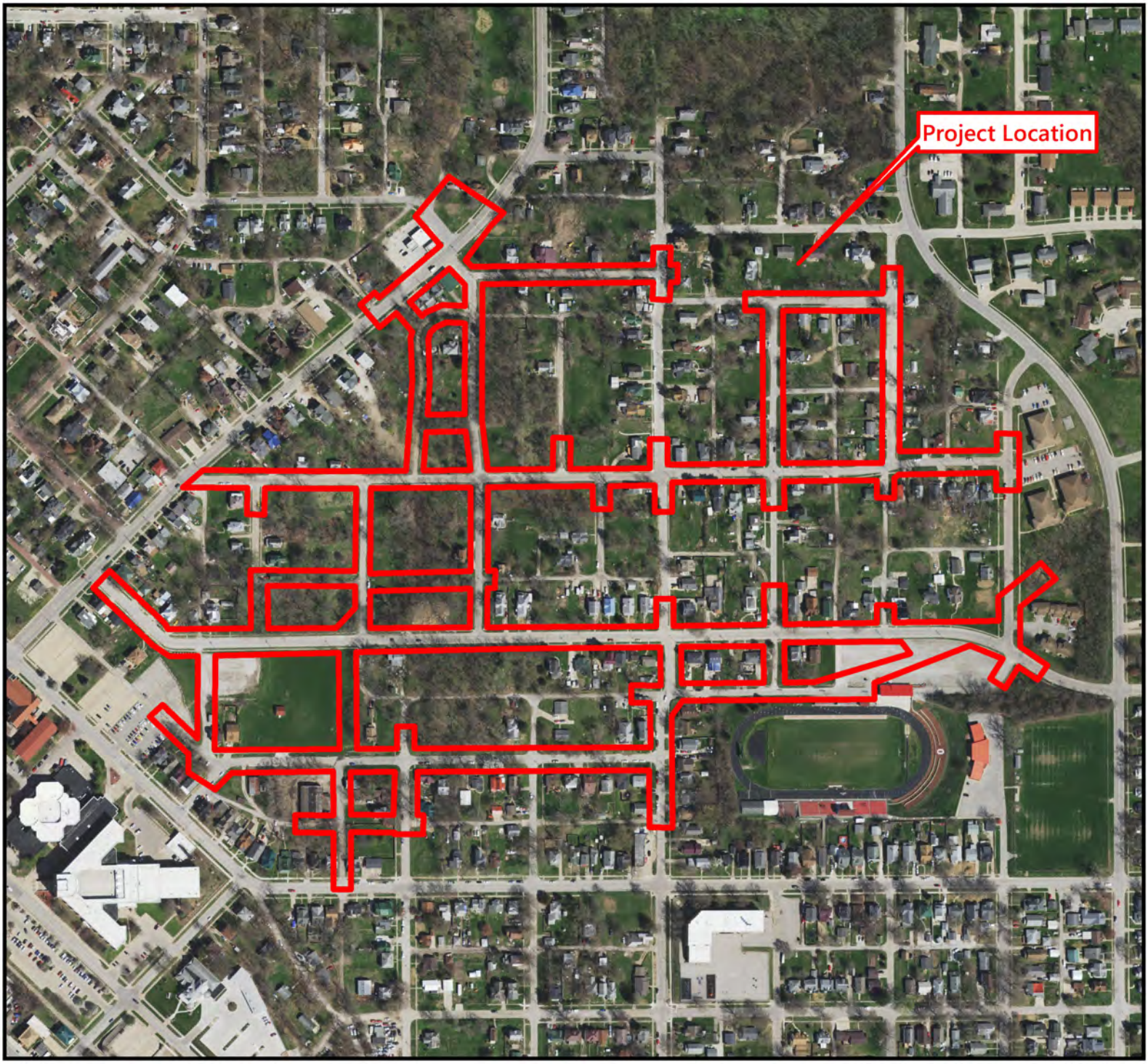
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Ottumwa North
Section: 19, 30, Township: 72 N, Range: 13 W
Date: 1976

SRF IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY AND THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Aerial Photograph

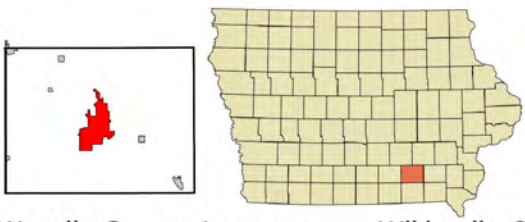
N



Blake's Branch Sewer Separation
Ottumwa, Iowa

Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

0 200 400 600 800 1,000 Feet



Wapello County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Ottumwa North
Section: 19, 30, Township: 72 N, Range: 13 W
Date: 4.9.2016