<u>Why You Should Read This</u>: 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.



March 29, 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 Coralville **SRF Number:** CS1921086 01

County: Johnson lowa DNR Project Number: S2023-0059A

State: Iowa

The City of Coralville, 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 Coralville is located in Johnson County, Iowa and shares the southern and eastern boundaries of its city limits with the City of Iowa City. The population of Coralville according to the 2020 US Census was 22,318. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requires that a reasonable planning period of 50 years be considered for trunk sewers and interceptors. The ultimate population is to be considered for sanitary sewers except those segments of sewers that can readily be increased in capacity. For the proposed project, the planning period is assumed to be 20 years, at which time the service area is anticipated to be fully developed.

The City of Coralville is divided into four major service areas. The Third Avenue lift station service area, the West Land Use service area served by the larger diameter Oakdale Trunk Sewer system, the Clear Creek Trunk Sewer service area that flows by gravity to the wastewater treatment plant, and the north and west Coralville service area which is serviced by the Oakdale Trunk Sewer.

The northern area of the City that is currently developed is served by an existing 24-inch trunk sewer with an estimated capacity of 4.3 Million Gallons per Day (MGD). The 24-inch Oakdale Trunk Sewer extends from the wastewater treatment plant, westerly and northwesterly to U.S. Hwy 6 at 25th Avenue. Beyond this point, current development is served by trunks and laterals reducing in size to 18-inch sewer under I-80 and further reducing to 15-inch sewer north of I-80 with smaller segments as the sewer extends north of Holiday Road.

Two large contributors are located at the northern end of the Oakdale trunk sewer: The University of Iowa Oakdale campus and the Brown Deer lift station discharge point. The Oakdale campus includes the Iowa Medical and Classification Center, commonly referred to as the Oakdale Correctional Facility. This facility underwent a large expansion which resulted in increased flows. The Oakdale campus is home to several research facilities and has room to accommodate several additional buildings.

Paralleling the lower portion of the Oakdale Trunk Sewer is the General Growth Relief Sewer. This 27-inch sewer was installed during construction of the Coral Ridge Mall to provide additional capacity to the area north of Interstate 80. The sewer begins at the intersection of James Avenue and 25th Avenue and continues north along 25th Avenue to the entrance to the Coral Ridge Mall. The sewer then continues northeast along the unnamed creek to the south right-of-way of Interstate 80. This sewer has an estimated capacity of 11.3 MGD. The sewer was constructed at the same time as the mall in order to minimize disruption to mall property in the future. The General Growth Relief Sewer is adjacent to the southern portion of the Oakdale Trunk Sewer.

The northeast area of the City is served by the Muddy Creek Trunk Sewer. This trunk sewer was designed to service the area within the existing corporate limits and allow for future service to adjacent county subdivisions. The diameter of this reach varies from 21-inch to 10-inch sewer as it extends north from the Brown Deer lift station up to the north part of the Oakdale Campus on University Parkway. The Muddy Creek Trunk Sewer discharges to the Brown Deer lift station. This lift station was constructed in 1992 to serve the developing area north of Interstate 80. The lift station consists of a 10-foot diameter concrete wet well and submersible pumps with a single pump capacity of 500 gpm and a peak capacity of 700 gpm. The lift station was converted in 2011 from the original below grade packaged dry pit station to the current submersible station following a catastrophic failure of the discharge piping. This lift station serves the current level of development in the service area, but is operating at capacity during high flow periods and will need to be upgraded to accommodate additional future demands.

The Brown Deer lift station discharges into a 10-inch force main that runs in a private easement several hundred feet south of Oakdale Blvd. The force main parallels the CRANDIC railroad right-of-way west of 12th Avenue until it discharges into the Oakdale Trunk Sewer. The force main has had a history of problems and is difficult to access for repairs. Due to these concerns, additional flow is not scheduled to be added to this force main. The force main is not large enough to handle full development flows for the service area and any increase in flow and the resulting pressure will most likely add to the problems associated with this line. A new force main running along Oakdale Boulevard is recommended to allow for increased flow capacity and accessibility of the force main for maintenance.

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 Coralville's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes construction of approximately 8,500 LF of 12" sanitary sewer force main along Oakdale Boulevard from Brown Deer lift station to Oakdale Road then south across the CRANDIC Railroad to the existing sewer west of Lynncrest Drive. Proposed construction methods include open cut construction, directional bored force main, air release structure, clearing, seeding, and surface restoration.

The treated wastewater from the existing facility will discharge to the Iowa River. It has a use stream designation of A1,B(WW1),HH. Designation A1 indicates waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities

sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. B(WW1) indicates waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams. HH indicates waters in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

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 August 1 to October 11 in order to minimize potential impacts to Rusty Patch Bumble bee. 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 local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. 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 <a href="mailto:SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov">SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov</a> or directly to me at <a href="mailto:hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov">hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov</a> or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Hailey Andersen Environmental Specialist 502 E 9<sup>th</sup> St Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

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 Dan Narber, Iowa Economic Development Authority

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

The Gazette

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#### PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

**Applicant:** City of Coralville SRF Number: CS1921086 01

County: Johnson lowa DNR Project Number: S2023-0059A

State: Iowa

#### **COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Location:** The City of Coralville is located in Johnson County, Iowa and shares the southern and eastern boundaries of its city limits with the City of Iowa City.

**Population:** The population of Coralville according to the 2020 US Census was 22,318. The lowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requires that a reasonable planning period of 50 years be considered for trunk sewers and interceptors. The ultimate population is to be considered for sanitary sewers except those segments of sewers that can readily be increased in capacity. For the proposed project, the planning period is assumed to be 20 years, at which time the service area is anticipated to be fully developed.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The City of Coralville is divided into four major service areas. The Third Avenue lift station service area, the West Land Use service area served by the larger diameter Oakdale Trunk Sewer system, the Clear Creek Trunk Sewer service area that flows by gravity to the wastewater treatment plant, and the north and west Coralville service area which is serviced by the Oakdale Trunk Sewer.

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The Brown Deer lift station discharges into a 10-inch force main that runs in a private easement several hundred feet south of Oakdale Blvd. The force main parallels the CRANDIC railroad right-of-way west of 12th Avenue until it discharges into the Oakdale Trunk Sewer. The force main has had a history of problems and is difficult to access for repairs. Due to these concerns, additional flow is not scheduled to be added to this force main. The force main is not large enough to handle full development flows for the service area and any increase in flow and the resulting pressure will most likely add to the problems associated with this line. A new force main running along Oakdale Boulevard is recommended to allow for increased flow capacity and accessibility of the force main for maintenance.

## **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 Coralville's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes construction of approximately 8,500 LF of 12" sanitary sewer force main along Oakdale Boulevard from Brown Deer lift station to Oakdale Road then south across the CRANDIC Railroad to the existing sewer west of Lynncrest Drive. Proposed construction methods include open cut construction, directional bored force main, air release structure, clearing, seeding, and surface restoration.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the existing facility will discharge to the Iowa River. It has a use stream designation of A1,B(WW1),HH. Designation A1 indicates waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming,

diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. B(WW1) indicates waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams. HH indicates waters in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

**Alternatives Considered:** Two route options were evaluated for the new force main. The lift station site is the beginning point for either route and the Oakdale Trunk Sewer upstream manhole south of the CRANDIC railroad is the ending point for both routes.

Muddy Creek Route - To minimize disturbance to residential property, the route from the lift station to the intersection of Brown Deer Road and Oakdale Boulevard was evaluated for an option to construct the force main north from the lift station to the Oakdale Boulevard right-of-way. This route includes two stream crossings and impacts wooded areas along Muddy Creek. The force main would continue on common route for both options from Brown Deer road west along Oakdale Boulevard to the intersection of Oakdale Road. The route would turn south and follow Oakdale Road to the west and turn south to cross the CRANDIC railroad. The existing Oakdale Trunk Sewer would receive flow from the new force main.

Brown Deer Road Route - To avoid impacts to trees along Muddy Creek and the two creek crossings and a high point between the creek crossings associated with option 1, a route along Brown Deer Road was evaluated. With this option, force main would be directional bored behind the back of curb along Brown Deer Road. The existing right-of-way contains a number of existing utilities that will need to be located prior to constructing the new force main. If conflicts are present, the force main may need to be pushed beyond the right-of-way into private easements. This is not preferred, however, the homes on the south side of Brown Deer Road west of Highland Park Ave. are located on large lots with the homes located on the uphill portion of the lot which creates good separation from the easement area.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** General repair or direct replacement were considered but were quickly ruled out due to issues with access to repair and maintain the existing force main. This led to the evaluation of alternative locations to construct the new force main. Key factors in route selection included cost, property ownership, accessibility, visibility, as well as minimization of impacts to the environment. The evaluation of alternatives led to the selection of the Brown Deer Road Route.

## **MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT**

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on March 19, 2024 at 6:30PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in the Gazette on February 17, 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

Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. 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# 240152687), 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. 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 August 1 to October 11 in order to minimize potential impacts to Rusty Patch Bumble bee. 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 provided all necessary local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. 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 Coralville in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This 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 access to sanitary sewer services for this service area within the City of Coralville allowing for the proper treatment and disposal of wastewater.

#### 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 August 1 to October 11 in order to minimize potential impacts to Rusty
  Patch Bumble bee. 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 local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by.
- 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.

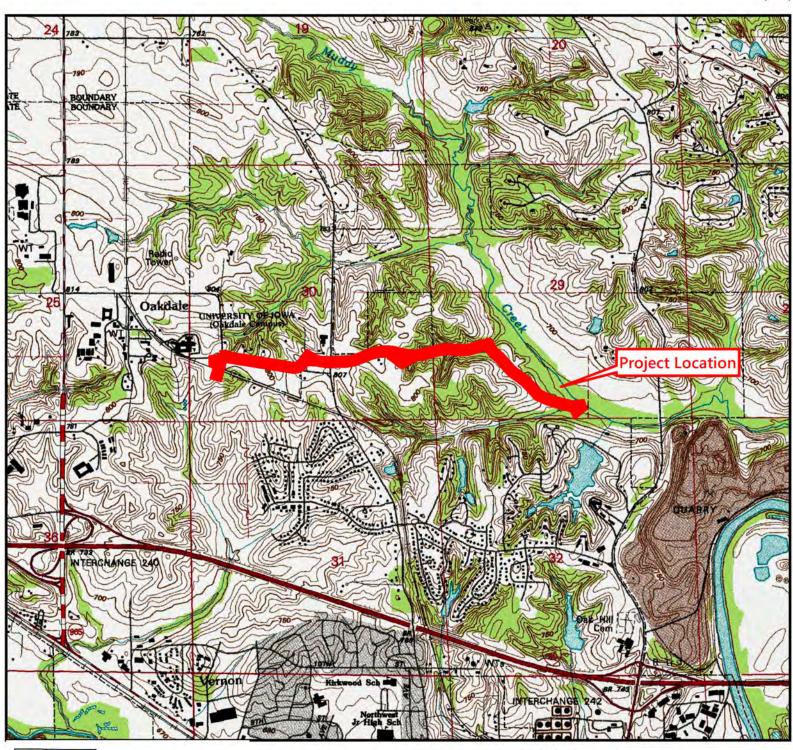
# **Hailey Andersen**

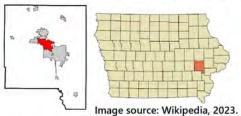
Environmental Review Specialist State Revolving Fund Iowa Department of Natural Resources



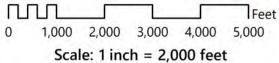
# **USGS Topographic Map**







Oakdale Boulevard Force Main Coralville, IA (Johnson County)



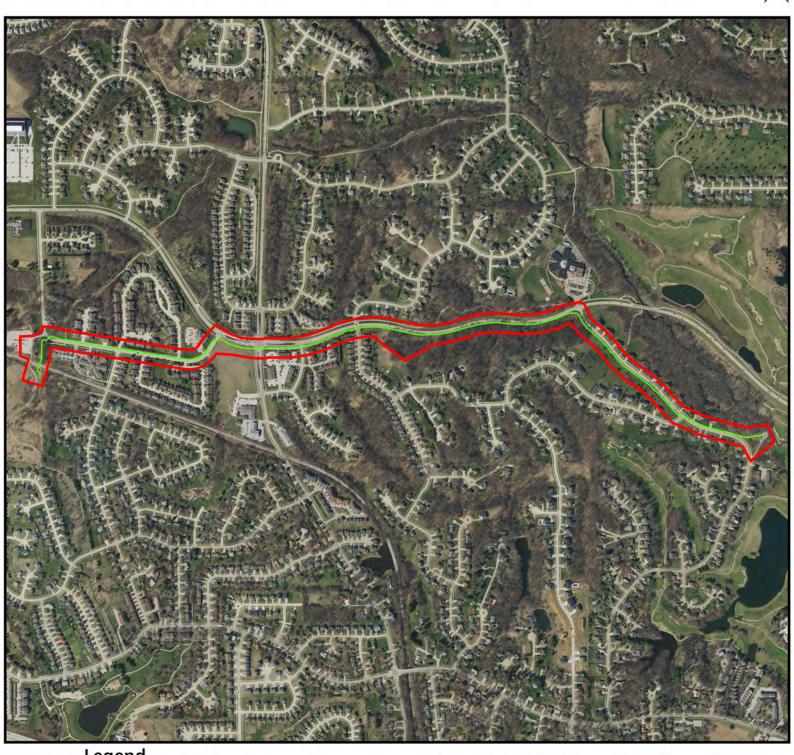
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Iowa City W Section: 29, 30, Township: 80 N, Range: 06 W

Date: 1994



# 2016 Aerial Photograph





Legend

Area of Potential Effect

Proposed Force Main

Feet
0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500

Scale: 1 inch = 1,000 feet

Oakdale Boulevard Force Main Coralville, IA (Johnson County)

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Iowa City W Section: 29, 30, Township: 80 N, Range: 06 W Date: 03-28-2016