



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12
5500 TRANSPORTATION BLVD. • GARFIELD HGTS., OH 44125 • 216-581-2100

Environmental Document

for

GEA West Woods Road Replace PID 118538

Environmental Document Level: C2

Approved: 9/1/2023

Prepared By: Susan Daniels

Lawhon & Associates, Inc.

Phone: 614-481-8600

E-mail: sdaniels@lawhon-assoc.com

District Contact: Corey Czinger

Phone:

E-mail: Corey.Czinger@dot.ohio.gov

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by ODOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 14, 2020, and executed by FHWA and ODOT.

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Project Information

PID:	118538
Project Sponsor:	Geauga Park District
ODOT District:	12
Funding Source:	Federal
Project Description:	



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The Geauga Park District in coordination with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) propose a project to replace the West Woods Road bridge over tributary to Silver Creek located south of Kinsman Road (SR-87) in Russell Township. The project includes the replacement of the existing roadway and bridle trail with new four-sided precast concrete box culvert with wingwalls and minor pavement replacement work.

No permanent or temporary right-of way is anticipated for this project. Minor utility impacts may occur. During construction pedestrian access to the park and trails will be maintained. Vehicular access to the Nature center will be limited during construction.

One stream (Pebble Brook) will have approximately 114 linear feet of impact may occur from the replacement of the existing pony truss bridge structure (SFN 2830008) with new 4-sided box culvert. Approximately 0.005 acres of wetland A will be impacted. There is 0.229 acre of suitable wooded habitat (SWH) for bats located within 100 feet from the edge of pavement. Approximately, 0.054 acre of SWH is located within the construction limits of the project and will likely to be impacted. According to the USFWS, the project is not located within a known bat buffer. There is no suitable habitat for any other federally or state listed species within the project area.

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project. District RMR approval date was on June 23, 2023.

The project is not located within a regulated floodplain; therefore, no coordination is required.

Cultural Resources was approved under Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix A on September 1, 2023. District environmental staff accessed the SHPO GIS database on August 31, 2023 and in accordance with Appendix A of the Section 106 PA executed November 8, 2017, amended July 11, 2019, the project will not impact historic properties or historic districts. This completes the Section 106 review and no further cultural resource investigations are warranted. A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on June 30, 2023. Based upon review of the DRF it was determined the proposed project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. In accordance with 23 CFR 774.13(d), the temporary occupancy of land and/or access will not constitute a use upon the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with the West Woods. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) regarding the assessment of impacts that are included in the DRF. No further Section 4(f) coordination is required at this time. A re-evaluation of Section 4(f) impacts may be required if changes to the proposed scope of work alter the degree of impacts to the West Woods. Furthermore, all appropriate environmental commitments related to measures to minimize harm and/or resulting mitigation should be listed accordingly in the environmental document. The coordination documents available in Project File/Section 4(f) subsection.

No other environmental or Environmental Justice population impacts will result from this project.

A press release including information about the project was posted in Geauga Park District website Public Announcement webpage on May 1, 2023, providing notification of the project and information about pedestrian access to the parks and trails during construction. The press release also provided an opportunity to the public to comment on the project. The comment period closed on May 31, 2023. No comments were received. A copy of the press release is included in the Project File under Public Involvement/Project Information. Geauga Park District has decided to proceed with the project.

The environmental document and associated studies are approved using Stage 1 design. A copy of the plans is included in the project file.

The next phase of the proposed project is listed on the STIP:

Yes

Ellis STIP Details

Phase	Current STIP Reference
CO	118538: 24-27 STIP



The current cost estimate is in line with existing federal procedures for Ohio STIP Amendments and Administration Modifications: Yes

Select the appropriate project type:

(28) Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in 23 CFR 771.117(e). *Examples include: Railroad projects that close or relocate at-grade crossings*

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117(e), the proposed project cannot be processed as a C2 CE, if it involves -

1. **a.** Acquisition of more than a minor amount of ROW (exceeds strip takes)
2. **b.** Residential or non-residential displacements
3. **c.** A U.S. Coast Guard permit or an Individual Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act
4. **d.** A Section 106 finding of *Adverse Effect*
5. **e.** Section 4(f) impacts greater than de minimis
6. **f.** A finding of *May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect* to Threatened and Endangered Species
7. **g.** Construction of temporary access, or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps, that would result in major traffic disruptions
8. **h.** Changes in access control
9. **i.** Floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths)
10. **j.** Construction activities in, across or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers
11. **k.** No minor public or agency controversy on environmental grounds (no opposition from any organized groups or agencies and no unresolved environmental coordination)
12. **l.** A full Environmental Justice Analysis Report (EJAR) is required (the project must be processed as a D-level CE or higher-level document). If a memo-to-file/letter/IOC-format EJAR Short Report is determined to be the appropriate level of documentation, contact OES regarding NEPA document level.

For certification purposes, documentation is required to illustrate no significant impacts will occur to the following environmental resources and that no unusual circumstances exist that would warrant a higher level of NEPA document. Upload all supporting documentation to the project file.

Ecological

Waterways:	Present; No Coast Guard, Individual 404, and/or Section 10 Permit required
Waterways Permit Type:	Permit Determination and/or Permit Application Approval Pending
Isolated Wetland Permit	No
Will any wetlands be impacted?	Yes



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Endangered Species: Present; No finding of May Affect,
Likely to Adversely Affect

Endangered Species - Coordination May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely
Affect

Endangered Species - Coordination Date 07/07/2023

Endangered Species - Critical Habitat Present/Impacted

Indiana bat

Northern long-eared bat

Endangered Species - Other Critical Habitat Present/Impacted: No

Scenic Rivers No National Wild and Scenic River
Within 1000 Feet of the Proposed
Project Area

Scenic Rivers Remarks The project will not impact any Scenic River.

Floodplains

100-Year Floodplain: No Encroachment Within a Special
Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

Floodplain Remarks

The project is not located within a regulated floodplain; therefore, no coordination is required.

Section 4(f)

Section 4(f): Present; No Impacts and/or Access
Restrictions

Section 4(f) Remarks

A Section 4(f)/6(f) Determination Request Form for Recreational Properties (DRF) was submitted to ODOT-OES Policy Staff on June 30, 2023. Based upon review of the DRF it was determined the proposed project can be processed as an exception to the requirement for Section 4(f) approval. In accordance with 23 CFR 774.13(d), the temporary occupancy of land and/or access will not constitute a use upon the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with the West Woods. The determination was made based on the proposed scope of work and concurrence received from the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) regarding the assessment of impacts that are included in the DRF. No further Section 4(f) coordination is required at this time. A re-evaluation of Section 4(f) impacts may be required if changes to the proposed scope of work alter the degree of impacts to the West Woods. Furthermore, all appropriate environmental commitments related to measures to minimize harm and/or resulting mitigation should be listed accordingly in the environmental document. The coordination documents available in Project File/Section 4(f) subsection.

Section 6(f)

Section 6(f): Not present

Cultural Resources



Cultural Resources: Present; No Finding of Adverse Effect

Cultural Resources Coordination: Minimum Potential to Cause Effect
Appendix A

**Cultural Resources Coordination - ODOT Approval/SHPO
Concurrence Date** 04/27/2023

Cultural Resources Remarks

Cultural Resources was approved under Minimal Potential to Cause Effect - Appendix A on September 1, 2023. District environmental staff accessed the SHPO GIS database on August 31, 2023 and in accordance with Appendix A of the Section 106 PA executed November 8, 2017, amended July 11, 2019, the project will not impact historic properties or historic districts. This completes the Section 106 review and no further cultural resource investigations are warranted.

Environmental Resources Considered

The following environmental resources are present and have been studied for potential impacts:

Regulated Materials

Air Remarks The project will not impact air quality.

Noise Remarks The project will not cause traffic noise impacts.

**The project involves ROW acquisition, Deep Excavation, or OEPA
513 Landfill Authorization:** Yes - Screening

Regulated Materials Review Screening:

No Further Regulated Materials Review

Regulated Materials Review Screening - DEC/OES Approval Date: 06/23/2023

Regulated Materials Review Remarks:

Based on the information in the Regulated Materials Review (RMR) Form completed for the project, further RMR activities or special materials management are not warranted for the project.

Environmental Justice

Projects that meet C2 criteria must be in accordance with ODOT's EJ Guidance and activities conducted for Public Involvement are commensurate to the project's type and scope of work.

Environmental Justice Populations Present; No EJAR Required, Does Not Exceed EJ Guidance Criteria, and No Issues Raised During Public Involvement

Identified Environmental Justice Populations



Census Block Group #	% Minority	% Low Income
390553115001	8	18

Environmental Justice Remarks

Based on mapping from TIMS, the minority populations are 8% for the US Census Block Groups located within the project area and 18% of the population is designated as low income. The proposed project will have no disproportionately high and adverse effects to minority or low-income populations based upon the table above, the attached mapping, and the answers to the questions above. No concerns related to impacts on Environmental Justice were raised as a result of public involvement activities conducted as part of the proposed project. Therefore, in accordance with the protections of Executive Order 12898, DOT Order 5610.2(a), and FHWA Order 6640.23A, no further analysis is required. Based on the above findings an Environmental Justice Analysis Report is not required. The Census mapping may be found in the project file under Environmental Justice.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement:

Minimum PI Requirements Met; No
Minor Public or Agency Controversy
on Environmental Grounds

Public Involvement Remarks

A press release including information about the project was posted in Geauga Park District website Public Announcement webpage on May 1, 2023, providing notification of the project and information about pedestrian access to the parks and trails during construction. The press release also provided an opportunity to the public to comment on the project. The comment period closed on May 31, 2023. No comments were received.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental Commitments

Yes



Ecological

Wetlands

ESR Name:	Wetland ID:	Hydrologic connection:	Wetland category:	Estimated total size (ac.):	Total estimated impact area by alternative (ac.):
GEA West Woods Road Replace	Wetland A	Adjacent	Category 2	0.005	0.005
	Wetland B	Adjacent	Category 2	0.111	0

Has an Approved and/or Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination been made by the USACE? No

Total impact to all wetlands (ac.): 0.005

Total acres of non-isolated wetlands impacted: 0.005

Total acres of isolated wetlands impacted: 0

In accordance with Executive Order 11990 - USDOT Order 5660.1A, this Wetland Finding has been prepared to document that wetlands have been avoided to the extent possible to minimize the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, and to document that there are no practicable alternatives to avoid construction in wetlands.

An analysis of the 'Do Nothing' alternative indicates that it is not practicable because (check all that apply):

It Would Not Correct Safety Hazards.

It Would Not Correct Existing Condition and Maintenance Problems.

An analysis of improvements that avoid all wetland impacts indicates that they are not practicable because (check all that apply):

They Will Not Meet the Identified Needs of the Project.

Include justification supporting the decisions noted above:

The Do Nothing alternative would not correct the condition of the existing bridge. The project proposes to replace the West Woods bridge to address the structural deficiencies and provide an access road to the park's facility; hence, Do Nothing alternative would result in roadway closed due to the condition of the bridge leading to serious impacts to the travelling public, pedestrian safety, and the general welfare of the economy in the area.



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Avoidance of impacts on Wetland A is not possible due to the wetland being located where bridge replacement works are needed. Avoidance of impacts does not meet the identified need of the proposed project (i.e., improving the bridge's structural deficiencies) and will lead to substantial social and economic impacts resulting from the roadway being closed due to the deterioration condition of the bridge over the tributary to Silver Creek.

Impacts to wetlands will be minimized to the extent practicable. While the impact will likely be considered permanent for the purposes of CWA waterway permitting, it is likely that the wetland will recover within the construction limits following construction. Fundamentally, it is not feasible to consider extra cost measures or construction practices to avoid this wetland and still meet the purpose and need of the project.

All practicable measures have been considered and incorporated into the project design to avoid, minimize, wetland impacts. The wetland impact minimization measures that will be followed for the project are documented in the environmental commitments for the project. Wetland mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be provided if required by the Clean Water Act or Ohio isolated wetland law, as regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA regulations (33 CFR parts 325 and 332 and 40 CFR part 230, and OAC 3745-01-54), and (ORC 6111.027). No practicable alternatives exist for the proposed construction in wetlands, and the proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to the wetlands that may result from such use.

Remarks:

Minor impacts to wetlands are necessary to implement the project. These impacts will be accounted for in the CWA waterway permitting process and necessary impact minimization measures that will be implemented during the construction.



Environmental Commitments

C2

1) The Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into plans: The stream has a native breeding of Brook Trout. In-water-work restriction periods to be applied between Jan 1st - Jun 15th and Sep 15th - Dec 15th. A waiver will be obtained for the project if needed.

2) A CERTIFIED ASBESTOS HAZARD EVALUATION SPECIALIST SURVEYED THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION AND/OR REHABILITATION; THE SURVEY DETERMINED THAT NO ASBESTOS IS PRESENT ON THE BRIDGE STRUCTURE.

ODOT SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (OEPA) NOTIFICATION OF DEMOLITION AND RENOVATION FORM, PARTIALLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY THE BRIDGE OWNER, TO THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLETE THE FORM AND SUBMIT IT TO ONE OF THE ADDRESSES BELOW AT LEAST TEN (10) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY DEMOLITION AND/OR RENOVATION.

ASBESTOS PROGRAM
OHIO EPA, DAPC
P.O. BOX 1049
COLUMBUS, OH 43216-1049
OR

ASBESTOS PROGRAM
OHIO EPA, DAPC
50 W. TOWN ST., SUITE 700
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE ENGINEER AT LEAST TEN (10) WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF ANY DEMOLITION AND/OR RENOVATION. THE FORM SHALL INCLUDE: 1) THE CONTRACTORS NAME AND ADDRESS, 2) THE SCHEDULED DATES FOR THE START AND COMPLETION OF THE BRIDGE REMOVAL AND 3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNED DEMOLITION WORK AND THE METHOD(S) TO BE USED. COPIES OF THE OEPA FORM AND BRIDGE INSPECTION REPORT ARE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AT THE ODOT DISTRICT 12 OFFICE, 5500 TRANSPORTATION BOULEVARD, GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO 44125.

BASIS FOR PAYMENT THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FURNISH ALL FEES, LABOR, AND MATERIAL NECESSARY TO COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE OEPA NOTIFICATION FORM. PAYMENT FOR THIS WORK SHALL BE INCLUDED IN: ITEM 202 PORTIONS OF STRUCTURE REMOVED, AS PER PLAN.

3) The Project Designer shall incorporate the following note into the plans: NO TREES SHALL BE REMOVED UNDER THIS PROJECT FROM APRIL 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30. ALL NECESSARY TREE REMOVAL SHALL OCCUR FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH MARCH 31. THIS REQUIREMENT IS NECESSARY TO AVOID AND MINIMIZE IMPACTS TO FEDERALLY AND STATE LISTED BAT SPECIES AS REQUIRED BY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTE, A TREE IS DEFINED AS A LIVE, DYING, OR DEAD WOODY PLANT WITH A TRUNK THREE INCHES OR GREATER IN DIAMETER AT A HEIGHT OF 4.5 FEET ABOVE THE GROUND SURFACE, AND WITH A MINIMUM HEIGHT OF 13 FEET.

4) Tree Removal AMM 1: Modify all phases/aspects of the project (e.g., temporary work areas, alignments) to avoid tree removal in excess of what is required to implement the project safely.

5) Tree Removal AMM 3. Ensure tree removal is limited to that specified in project plans by clearly marking clearing limits. Ensure that contractors understand clearing limits and how they are marked in the field.



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- 6) The Geauga Park District will obtain all appropriate waterway permits prior to any work with the jurisdictional boundary of any waterway, including wetlands, and all applicable waterway permit conditions will be included in the plans and adhered to during construction.
- 7) Access to The West Woods shall be maintained at all times, except for the time needed to temporarily occupy the property, which shall be less than the time needed for construction of the project.
- 8) Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the Section 4(f) property and the public.
- 9) Appropriate signage shall be installed to alert users of The West Woods of construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points.
- 10) The contractor shall be required to closely coordinate the construction schedule with ODOT and Geauga Park District prior to the start of construction activities.



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Preparers and Approvals

Form Preparer: Susan Daniels
Lawhon & Associates, Inc.
1441 King Avenue, Columbus OH 43212
614-481-8600
sdaniels@lawhon-assoc.com

Supporting Form Preparer(s): Amanda Krakower
Matthew McCue
Nicholas Viau
Sumia Mohamed

Approvals & Electronic Signatures

Approved & Electronically Signed By:	Approval Date:
Mark Carpenter (TRANS ENGR 3)	9/1/2023



Appendix

General

Aerial Map.pdf

County Map.pdf

STIP Listing.pdf

USGS Quadrangle Topographical Map.pdf

ESA

Project Related OES Decision - Asbestos.pdf

RMR Screening Approval - District Determination.pdf

Ecological

ODNR Comments

ODNR Scenic River MOA Conditions

USFWS/ODNR Ecological MOA Conditions

Other Resources

Census Bureau Urbanized Area Map.pdf

Water Source Protection Area Map.pdf

Well Log Data.pdf

Section 4(f)

OES Recreational 4(f) Determination.pdf

OWJ Coordination.pdf

Environmental Justice

Census Mapping.pdf

Public Involvement

Press Release.pdf

Permits

FEMA FIRM.pdf