

US Army Corps of Engineerso Vicksburg District 4155 Clay Street Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435 www.mvk.usace.army.mil

## **Public Notice**

APPLICATION NO .:	MVK-2023-463
EVALUATOR:	Ms. Camryn Willoughby
PHONE NO.:	(601) 631-5478
E-MAIL:	Camryn.E.Willoughby@usace.army.mil
DATE:	August 29, 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	September 18,2024

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District is considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-RD, 4155 East Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39183-3435 and must reach this office by the cited expiration date.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule (Certification Improvement Rule, 40 CFR 121), effective November 27, 2023, requires certification for any license or permit that authorizes an activity that has the potential to result in a discharge. The scope of a CWA Section 401 certification is limited to assuring that a potential discharge from a Federally licensed or permitted activity will comply with water quality requirements. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying authority. As of the date of this public notice, the applicant has submitted a certification request to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (certifying authority). In accordance with Certification Improvement Rule, once the applicant submits a certification request, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the certifying authority will jointly establish the reasonable period of time for the certifying authority to act upon the certification request.

<u>Law Requiring a Permit:</u> Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), which applies to discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>Name of Applicant</u>: Mr. Gary Lash YMCA of Northwest Louisiana

Shreveport, Louisiana 71101

400 McNeil Street

Name of Agent: Mr. Michael Harris H and T Environmental, Inc. Post Office Box 239 Elysian Fields, Texas 75642 <u>Location of Work</u>: Section 10, T17N-R13W, Latitude 32.480174N, Longitude -93.697189W within the Middle-Red Coushatta Drainage Basin (8-digit USGS HUC: 11140202), Bossier Parish, Louisiana.

**Description of Work: (See enclosed maps and drawings.)** 

The following descriptions of the proposed project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit to conduct regulated activities within jurisdictional waters of the United States (U.S.) for the purpose of constructing eight new baseball fields and enhancing the existing facility at the Shreveport YMCA. The proposal consists of three 200-foot radius fields, two 230-foot radius fields, and three 275-foot radius fields. Drainage piping and catch basins with grate inlets would be installed and directed to the proposed retention pond that would be placed in existing wetlands.

In order to construct the aforementioned items, the proposed site would need to be graded to achieve the design elevations for the proposed facility. A portion of onsite wetlands would be replaced with a stormwater retention pond and would be stabilized with grasses.

Within the project footprint, 2.58 acres of scrub/shrub wetlands were identified. All of the 2.58 acres of scrub/shrub wetlands would be impacted by clearing and/ or fill. No streams were observed within the project footprint.

The applicant proposes to mitigate for the unavoidable loss of jurisdictional impacts through the purchase of credits from an approved mitigation bank that services the project area.

The majority of the property is developed with the exception of the proposed project location. Primary hydrology indicators observed on site include surface water, saturation, and oxidized rhizospheres along living roots. The dominant wetland vegetation within the project area consists of black willow (*Salix nigra*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), common rush (*Juncus effusus*), loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*), and southern wax myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*). Soil within the project area consists of Severn silt loam and Severn very fine sandy loam with NRCS hydric soil ratings of 0%.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project. <u>State Water Quality Permit</u>: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: The Regulatory Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the <u>National Register of Historic Places</u>, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the proposed undertaking upon these properties: The permit area is composed (entirely) of low-lying wetlands with no existing or subsided natural levee landforms: and therefore, has a very low potential for yielding unidentified cultural deposits that may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Copies of this public notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to historic properties that could result from the proposed activity.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: The Threatened and Endangered Species list for the project area includes the Red Cockaded Woodpecker and the Northern Long-eared Bat. Utilizing the Information for Planning and Consultation tool for Endangered Species in Louisiana (as per Memorandum of Agreement, signed on January 14, 2020, between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Ecological Services Office), the Corps has determined that the proposed activity would have no effect on the Red Cockaded Woodpecker or the Northern Long-eared Bat.

<u>Floodplain</u>: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Floodplain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a floodplain development permit is required. Floodplain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements. The project area is located within the 100-year floodplain.

<u>Evaluation Factors</u>: The decision to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

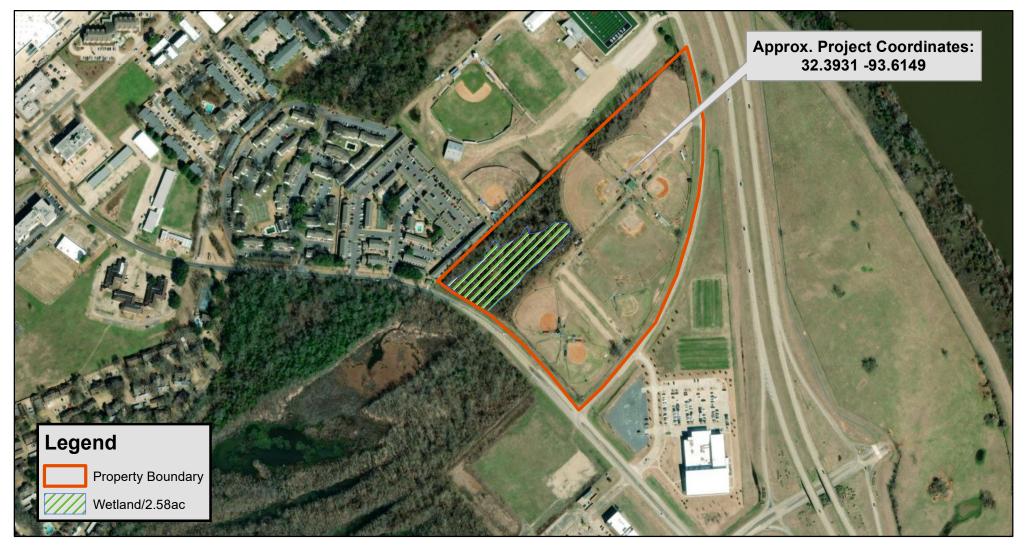
Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

<u>Public Involvement</u>: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

<u>Opportunity for a Public Hearing</u>: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

<u>Notification of Final Permit Actions</u>: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <u>http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

Andy Sanderson Chief, Louisiana Branch Regulatory Division





October 27, 2023 MVK-2023-463 Applicant: YMCA Northwest LA Proposed Work: Development	US Army Corps of Engineers.
Location: Sections 10, T17N-R13W Shreveport East, Quadrangle Caddo Parish, LA	Regulatory Branch
Map Background: NAIP Aerial (2015) <b>Delineation Only</b> Prepared by: Robert G. Ulmer, Jr.	Enforcement Section 0 325 650 L I I I I I I Feet

