

Final Notice of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain and Wetlands

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give final notice that Responsible Entity (Kane County) under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Project Funding, HUD Grant Number B-23-CP-IL-0548 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands. This final notice meets the requirements of 24 CFR §55.20.

The proposed project location is at Fox Valley Park District's (FVPD) The Wilds at Red Oak in the Village of North Aurora and the Forest Preserve District of Kane County's (FPDKC) Les Arends Forest Preserve in unincorporated Kane County. The Fox Valley Park District proposes to construct a 900-foot bike and pedestrian bridge over the Fox River to provide bike and pedestrian connectivity between the east and west sides of the Fox River's trail system. There is no practicable alternative that would allow construction of the proposed bike and pedestrian bridge outside of the floodplain.

The bicycle and pedestrian bridge will be funded with \$4,000,000 in U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) Community Project Funding (CPF).

FVPD evaluated four alternative bridge locations based on the proximity to parking, existing topography and natural features, potential trail connections and existing park district amenities. A public meeting was held on September 4, 2025 to present the alternatives and solicit comments. No comments were received.

Location 1 at Red Oak

This location was selected in relation to existing parking lot and The Wilds at Red Oak Nature Center, utilizing the wetland island within Fox River. The bridge would be close to west path; elevations of path and bridge deck would be close in elevations. Floodway width at this location is the widest of the four locations while the floodplain width is the shortest of the four locations. This location also has the second shortest bridge span and longest path and bridge total linear footage .

Location 2 at Les Arends Forest Preserve – South

This location was selected for trail-to-trail connection and shortest waterway crossing. The bridge abutment would be located adjacent to the west Fox River Trail pavement. The west trail would be removed to transition up to potential bridge deck elevation. Floodway width in this location is the shortest of the four locations while the floodplain width is the second widest of the four locations. This has the second longest path and bridge total linear footage.

Location 3 at The Wilds at Red Oak

This location was selected for the parking lot and amenities at The Wilds at Red Oak along with the north parking lot at Les Arends Forest Preserve. There would potentially have all piers within wetland islands of the Fox River. There would be one potential bridge section between the east floodway and floodplain, which may be avoided by filling in the floodplain. For filling in the floodway, there would need to be a location of cutting with a volume matching that of the fill volume (compensatory storage). The west trail would need to be removed and replaced with transition to higher bridge deck elevation, which would occur outside the floodplain. The floodway width in this location is the second longest of the four locations and the

floodplain is the widest of the four locations. This location has the second shortest path and bridge total linear footage.

Location 4 at The Wilds at Red Oak – North Path

This location was selected for trail-to-trail connection based on limited recreation amenities and the shortest Fox River crossing. The west trail to be removed and replaced with transition to higher bridge deck elevation. The existing west path is within the floodway and floodplain, which would require compensatory storage for the fill. The Wilds at Red Oak path would be removed and replaced with transition to higher bridge deck elevation. This work would be inside the floodplain, so compensatory storage would also be needed. The floodway and the floodplain widths are the shortest of the four locations. This has the shortest path and bridge total linear footage. However, more of the existing path system would need to be replaced and would require more fill within the floodway/floodplain.

FVPD selected Location 3 as the preferred alternative. This location was chosen based on minimal impacts to floodway/floodplain and natural areas, optimal connection to the trail system, central location between existing pedestrian crossings, and availability of parking on both the east and west sides of the Fox River.

The proposed bridge anticipates clear spanning of the Fox River using six piers and two abutments. The six piers will be constructed within wetlands; four of which will be constructed on islands within the Fox River. The bridge will be elevated over wetlands and the open water portion of the Fox River, so permanent wetland impacts (0.023 acre) will only occur at the piers. Asphalt approaches will connect the existing trails at the eastern and western ends, outside of wetland limits. No permanent impacts to the Fox River are proposed. Temporary impacts to both the Fox River and associated wetlands total approximately 1.16 acres.

Temporary construction access and temporary causeways, as well as cofferdams, will be located in the floodplain and floodway of the Fox River. The proposed bridge has been designed to minimize temporary and permanent impacts to the floodplain and floodway to the maximum extent possible. Areas disturbed during construction will be restored with native vegetation.

Written comments must be received by Kane County at the following address on or before October 14, 2026: Kane County, 719 S. Batavia Avenue, Building A, 4th Floor, Geneva, IL 60134 and 630.208.5347 Attention: Julia Thavong, Kane County Development & Community Services Department. Comments may also be submitted via email at thavongjulia@kanecountyil.gov.

Date: October 05, 2026