



# State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

## Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

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### ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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#### EVANSVILLE WATER AND SEWER UTILITY WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS AND GROUNDWATER EVALUATION – ADDENDUM 1 SRF PROJECT DW 22 04 82 04

**DATE: January 15, 2026**

**TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: February 14, 2026**

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the Drinking Water project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed in color at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

#### II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

The SRF Wastewater Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-3, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

#### III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FONSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FONSI; if appropriate, a new FONSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FONSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

**Jenni Curry**  
Environmental Review Manager  
State Revolving Fund  
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
463-261-6943  
[jecurry@ifa.in.gov](mailto:jecurry@ifa.in.gov)

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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### **I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Project Name and Address:	Water Treatment Plant Improvements and Groundwater Evaluation – Addendum 1 Evansville Water and Sewer Utility 1 N.W. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd Evansville, IN 47708
SRF Project Number:	<b>DW 22 04 82 04</b>
Authorized Representative:	Shawn Wright, Director of Planning

### **II. PROJECT LOCATION**

Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) owns and operates the city's Water Treatment Plant (WTP) along the Ohio River in downtown Evansville. The EWSU is located in Vanderburgh County, Pigeon Township, Evansville Quadrangle, Township 6S, Range 10W, Section 31. See **Figures A-9, A-13, C-105, and C-106**.

### **III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE**

The Evansville Water and Sewer Utility (EWSU) existing surface water treatment plant (WTP) was originally constructed in the 1870's and has undergone multiple expansions and plant modifications. Many components are beyond the end of their useful life. In addition, EWSU has reevaluated the use of groundwater to supplement surface water, which would improve the utility's water system resiliency and reliability by diversifying the raw water supply. Utilizing groundwater would also reduce potential future costs associated with treatment of PFAS from the Ohio River. Preliminary investigation and design of a new groundwater wellfield, blending facility, and groundwater treatment plant have begun, and a PER addendum will be submitted to SRF for the construction project.

### **IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Improvements to the WTP are necessary for Evansville to extend the longevity of the existing facility. The WTP Improvements project includes three construction packages.

- Construction Package No. 1 includes clearing, rough grading and stabilization on Ohio River bank; levee and levee cap structural repairs; extending outfall piping in Ohio River to below normal pool elevation.
- Construction Package No. 2 includes High Service Pump Station 2 improvements, including pump rebuild and installation of a new VFD; High Service Pump Station 2 improvements, including installation of new VFDs, MCC, and various electrical modifications; South Filter Building and Filter Nos 29-32 improvements, including replacement of coating systems and installation of new wash water pump, valves and piping, and electrical enclosures; site electrical improvements, including rehabilitation of plant switchgear, power panel, and install generator loadbank, and service generator automatic transfer controller; and site work, including provide alternative routing for filter backwash piping.

- Construction Package No. 3 includes raw water intake bar screens, Low Service Pump Station improvements, including rehabilitation of piping, installation of duplex sump pumps, and rehabilitation of bridge; replacement of roofing, coating systems, space heater system, valve actuators, low voltage switchgear, and pump control system; pump replacement; and installation of new VFDs and soft starters.

## V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$50,000,000. The EWSU intends to finance the project with a loan from the Drinking Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

## VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

Due to the condition of the existing water treatment plant (WTP) and risks related to equipment failures, health and safety hazards, and insufficient levels of treatment, the “**No Action**” alternative is not considered feasible. EWSU has developed several feasible alternatives that result in a finished water capacity of 50 MGD.

**Alternative 1:** Rehabilitate Existing WTP. This alternative includes rehabilitation of existing plant components, treating 100% surface water from the Ohio River.

**Alternative 2:** Build New WTP. This alternative entails building an entirely new treatment plant, treating 100% surface water from the Ohio River.

**Alternative 3:** Rehabilitate Existing WTP and Build New Water Treatment Plant. This hybrid alternative includes rehabilitation of the existing plant south train and other critical components, along with construction of a new plant, treating 100% surface water from the Ohio River.

**Alternative 4:** Rehabilitate Existing WTP and Build New Groundwater Treatment Plant with New Well Field. This alternative includes rehabilitation of the existing plant south train and other critical components, along with construction of a new groundwater plant and well field, for a 50/50 blend of surface water and groundwater. This alternative provides flexibility for the utility, allows for system redundancy, and lowers risks of surface water contaminants such as PFAS. In addition, it is the most cost effective. **This is the selected alternative.**

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

### A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

**Disturbed/Undisturbed Land:** Work related to where the WTP improvements be confined to areas previously disturbed by the installation of the existing WTP property.

**Structural Resources:** Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF’s finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: “*no historic properties affected.*”

**Surface Waters:** (Figure A-12): The project will not adversely affect outstanding state resource waters listed in 327 IAC 2-1.3-3(d), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), or Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3) or streams on the Outstanding River List for Indiana. The project is near the Ohio River. Outfalls will be extended in the Ohio River to below normal pool elevations. See Outfall Site plans.

**Wetlands** (Figure A-6): Wetlands will not be impacted by the WTP improvements.

**Floodplain** (Figure A-7): Construction will occur in a Ohio River floodway. The project will not impact the existing floodplain levels.

**Groundwater:** The project will not impact a drinking water supply or sole source aquifer.

**Plants and Animals:** The proposed project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

**Prime Farmland:** The project will not convert prime farmland.

**Air Quality:** Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes and dust, but should not significantly affect air quality.

**Open Space and Recreational Opportunities:** The project will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

**Lake Michigan Coastal Program:** The project will not affect the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone.

**National Natural Landmarks:** Construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

## **B. Indirect Impacts**

The town's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: The EWSU's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *Through the authority of its Council, planning commission, or other means will ensure that future development, as well as future water supply, treatment, storage, or distribution system projects connecting to SRF funded facilities, will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological/historical/structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. The EWSU will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

## **C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities**

In correspondence dated September 22, 2025, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated:

*Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-10, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer (“Indiana SHPO”) is conducting an analysis of the materials dated and received by the Indiana SHPO on August 26, 2025, for the above indicated project in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana.*

*Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.*

*If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.*

In correspondence dated December 17, 2025, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

*This responds to your email requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review of the proposed Evansville Water Treatment Plant Improvements project in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. The project includes the extension of existing outfalls into the Ohio River, replacement and addition of yard piping, modification of a pedestrian bridge, and pump rebuilds.*

*These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et. seq.) and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy.*

*There may be suitable roosting habitat in the form of a bridge for the federally endangered Indiana bat and the proposed endangered tricolored bat. The project would require the modification of a pedestrian bridge. This bridge has been assessed for signs of roosting bats, and no signs of bats were found. Additionally, the bridge is not within 1000 feet of forested habitat, which means it is unlikely that bats would use the bridge for roosting. Based on a review of the information you provided, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not anticipate the proposed action to adversely affect the federally endangered Indiana bat and the proposed endangered tricolored bat.*

*The project will also involve impacts to the Ohio River, which may have indirect impacts to the federally threatened longsolid mussel and the federally endangered fanshell, fat pocketbook, pink mucket, and sheepnose mussels. However, this project is expected to provide some benefits to mussel habitat by reducing turbidity, eliminating discharge directly from the riverbank, and stabilizing the banks. Furthermore, the project proponent has agreed to implement best management practices during construction to reduce sedimentation in the riparian area, which will reduce indirect effects to the federally listed mussels. Thus, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would not anticipate the proposed action to adversely affect the federally listed mussels.*

*In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 stat. 884 as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), it is the responsibility of the lead Federal agency to make an effects determination. Should new information arise pertaining to project plans or a revised species list be published, it will be necessary for the Federal agency to reinitiate consultation.*

In correspondence dated August 1, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated:

The Department of Natural Resources replied stating that the Natural Heritage Program's database was checked, and that Sunrise Park is within 0.5 miles of the project site. There were

two State special concern species identified in the project area, but the Division of Fish and Wildlife do not anticipate any significant impacts to these species.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife recommendations to avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible in the proposed project area include:

- 1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas that are currently mowed and maintained with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue) and legumes as soon as possible upon completion; turf-type grasses (including low-endophyte, friendly endophyte, and endophyte free tall fescue but excluding all other varieties of tall fescue) may be used in currently mowed areas.*
- 2. Minimize and contain within the project limits all tree and brush clearing.*
- 3. Do not work in the waterway from April 1 through June 30 without the prior written approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.*
- 4. Do not deposit or allow construction/demolition materials or debris to fall or otherwise enter the waterway. Any incidental fallen material or debris in the waterway must be removed within 24 hours using best management practices, particularly lifting material out of the waterway and not dragging it across the streambed.*
- 5. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the waterbody or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
- 6. Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes not protected by other methods that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets that are heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or that use loose-woven/Leno-woven netting to minimize the entrapment and snaring of small-bodied wildlife such as snakes and turtles (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.*

In correspondence dated November 24, 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

*The Evansville Water & Sewer Utility WTP project in Vanderburgh County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received November 21, 2025, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

## **VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES**

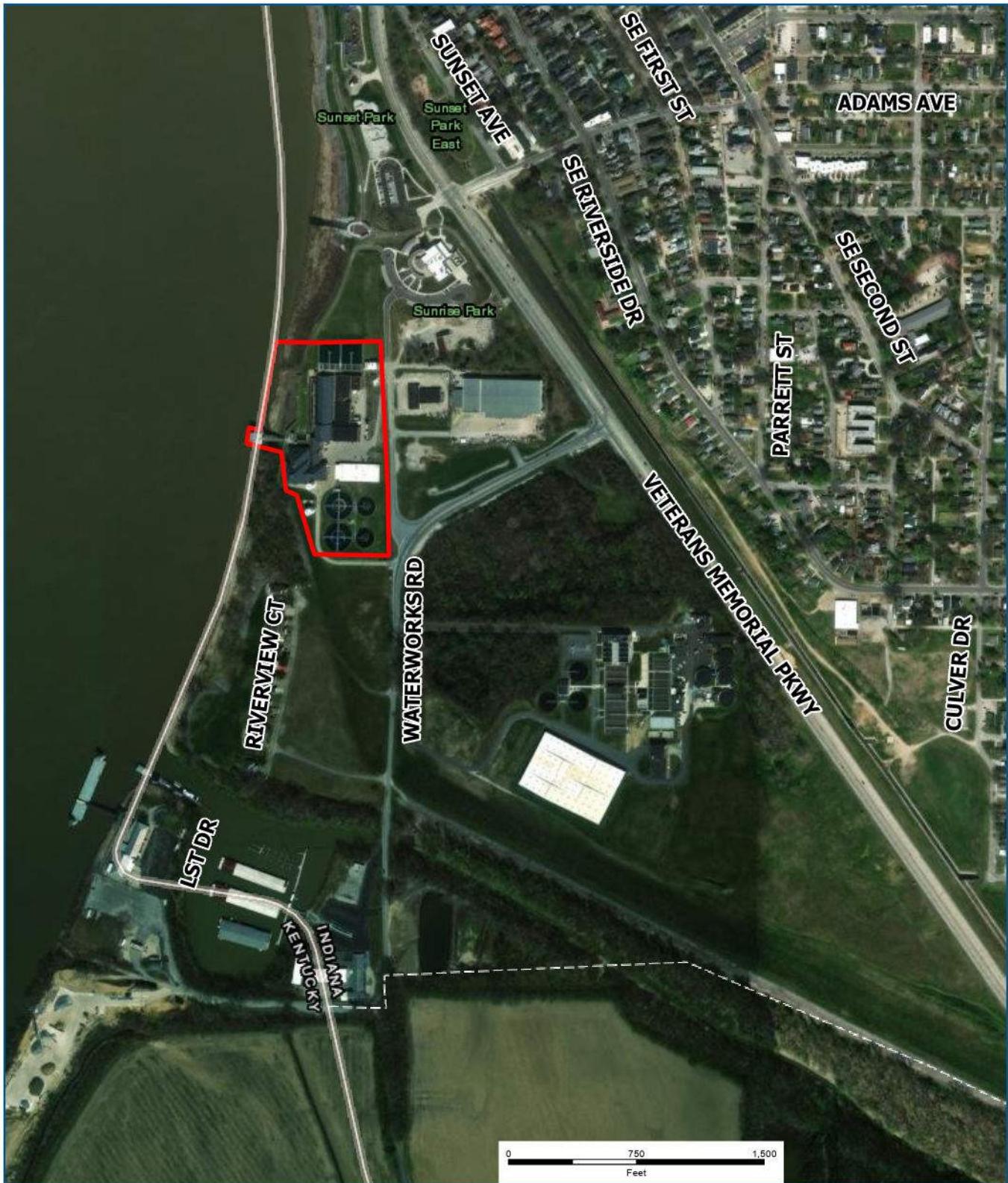
EWSU's PER states:

*Adequate erosion control measures will be practiced on site during all construction activities. Additionally, contractors will be required to restore disturbed land to its pre-construction conditions or better. Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes, and dust normally resulting from such activity. The adverse impacts caused by dust may be alleviated by periodic wettings of exposed soil to reduce the suspension of particles. Work activities can be limited to normal daytime hours to reduce noise impacts.*

## **IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A properly noticed public hearing was held on December 10, 2024, at 3:00 pm at the Sunrise Pump

Station, 1200 Waterworks Rd, Evansville, IN 47713, to discuss the PER. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.



**LEGEND**

 Project Area

Data source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS Community

418136\_EWTP July 25, 2025

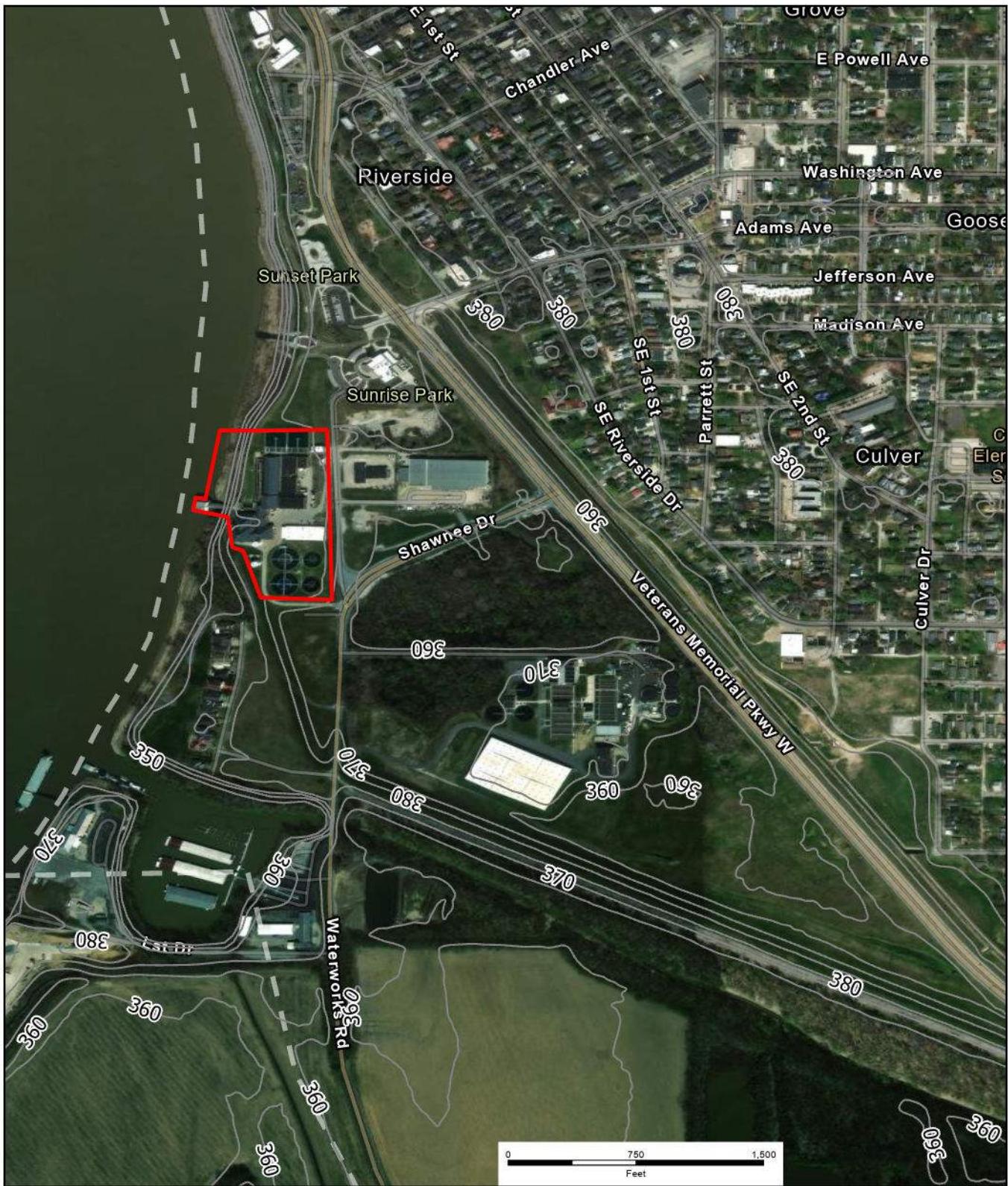


**Exhibit A-9  
Proposed Site Map**

Evansville Water and Sewer Utility

EWSU WTP IMPROVEMENTS







**LEGEND**

- Project Area Wetlands
- Parcels
  - Freshwater Emergent Wetland
  - Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
  - Freshwater Pond
  - Lake
  - Riverine

Data source: NWI Wetlands HU8\_05140202

418136\_EWTP July 25, 2025



**Exhibit A-6  
Wetlands Map**

Evansville Water and Sewer Utility

EWSU WTP IMPROVEMENTS



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LEGEND

- Project Area
- Parcels
- Levee
- 0.2 PCT ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD HAZARD
- AREA WITH REDUCED FLOOD RISK DUE TO LEVEE
- FLOODWAY
- Zone AE (EL 364)

Data source: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer; Cnty of Vanderburgh, IN

418136\_EWTP August 07, 2025



**Exhibit A-7**  
**Floodplain Map**

Evansville Water and Sewer Utility

EWSU WTP IMPROVEMENTS



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LEGEND

- Project Area Waterbody Area
- Parcels
- Lake / Pond
- Stream / River
- Reservoir

Data source: National Hydrography Dataset downloaded from USGS on 2/4/2022

418136\_EWTP July 25, 2025



**Exhibit A-12  
Waterways Map**

Evansville Water and Sewer Utility

EWSU WTP IMPROVEMENTS



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