



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SRF PROJECT WW 25 05 13 00

DATE: September 10, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY: October 10, 2026

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the Clean 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 Clean Water 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:

**State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publiccomments@ifa.in.gov**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Improvements Project
Town of Leavenworth
529 W Old State Road 62
Leavenworth, IN 47137

SRF Project Number: **WW 25 05 13 00**

Authorized Representative: Jim Uland, Town Council President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Crawford County, Jennings Civil Township, Leavenworth 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 3 South, Range 1 East, Sections 24, 25, 35 and 36; T4S, R1E, Section 1; and T4S, R2E, Section 6. See **Figure 1**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Several pieces of equipment are deteriorated, failed or on the verge of failure. The WWTP improvement will allow for a capacity increase from 0.24 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.49 MGD (Average Daily Flow), from 1.28 MGD to 1.39 MGD (Peak Daily Flow) and from 1.28 MGD to 2.05 MGD (Peak Hourly Flow) to accommodate potential future growth in the County.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The WWTP work will consist of the purchase of a new portable generator, as well as replacing and upgrading the following existing equipment:

- Replacement and upgrade of headworks screening equipment with an in-channel articulating rake screen;
- Replacement of lagoon aeration equipment (both facilities);
- Replacement of secondary clarifier equipment;
- Replacement of non-operational plug valves on drain lines;
- Conversion of the existing chlorine contact tank to UV disinfection and installation of a new drain valve;
- Rehabilitation of the chemical feed/controls building (new roof, remove chlorine lines, house UV controls and automatic sampler);
- Installation of a non-potable water system;
- Replacement of effluent mag meters; and
- Upgrade of site lighting.

Lift Station #1:

- Replace and upgrade existing pumps, valves and controls;
- Install new control panels;
- Add fencing for site safety; and
- Upgrade electrical service.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$3,800,000. The Town of Leavenworth intends to finance the project with a loan from the Clean 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

Wastewater Treatment Plant

The “**No Action**” alternative is not practical, environmentally sound or economical. The WWTP will continue to experience equipment deficiencies as treatment components age even farther beyond their useful lives. During the 20-year buildout period, the WWTP would also become hydraulically overloaded and unable to handle influent flows and loadings. Due to the risks associated with this alternative, it was dismissed from further consideration.

Upgrade Existing WWTP Equipment: In this alternative, deficient or failing WWTP equipment will be replaced and sized to treat the projected 20-year buildout flows. This equipment includes screening and aeration equipment, secondary clarifiers, and chlorine disinfection. **This is the selected alternative.**

Septage Receiving at WWTP Headworks

The “**No Action**” alternative is not practical, environmentally sound or economical. In this alternative, no repairs, improvements or expansions will be completed for the septage receiving process at the WWTP. Due to the buildup and operational issues experienced as a result of the additional septage, this alternative was not analyzed further.

Utilize a Flushing Hydrant: In this alternative, additional non-potable water hydrants would be installed near the headworks structure. When receiving septage waste, the hydrants can be used to dilute and wash down the thickened waste. This would make it easier to send through the process and lower the chances of plugging up the system. This alternative would only include the additional hydrants and, if selected, would be constructed in tandem with construction of a non-potable water system which is included as a separate alternative.

Install a Septage Receiving Station: In this alternative, a septage receiving station would be installed, consisting of a screen and an integrated washing system. A septic tanker truck would have the ability to directly pipe into the system, minimizing odor and operator intervention.

Eliminate Septage Receiving at the WWTP: In this alternative, the Town would elect to suspend septage receiving at the WWTP altogether, therefore eliminating the clogging in the headworks system. **This is the selected alternative.**

Lift Station #1

The “**No Action**” alternative is not practical, environmentally sound or economical. In this alternative, no improvements will be made to Lift Station #1. This would result in further deterioration of the lift station components, some of which are already at the end of their useful lives and create sanitary sewer overflows. The lift station’s capacity would quickly be met as new developments in the area occur, leading to hydraulic overloading. For these reasons, this alternative was not further analyzed.

Upgrade Existing Lift Station #1 Pumps, Valves and Controls: In this alternative, the existing wet well would be fitted with the largest pumps that could be accommodated, without performing modifications to the structure, and not surcharge downstream Lift Station #2. This alternative would allow the Town to maximize the capability of the existing lift station at a lower cost of entry, as the existing force main capacity would not be exceeded. **This is the selected alternative.**

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: The recommended improvements are located on property which is developed land and is owned by either the Town of Leavenworth, right-of-way, or in existing easements. Projects proposed as part of this report will not impact established land use plans, policy, or regulations of any agency with jurisdiction over the project. The project is expected to stay within areas disturbed by previous construction.

Structural Resources (Figure 2): 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.*"

Wetlands (Figure 3): There are several pond sites within the Planning Area, particularly in the vicinity of the Town's WWTP. All of the wetlands identified are associated with the Ohio River, the wastewater treatment plant lagoons, and various small private ponds. The project will avoid all identified wetlands. Mitigation measures to lessen or compensate for wetland impacts cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be implemented, if deemed necessary and impacts are unavoidable.

Surface Waters (Figure 4): The Ohio River makes up the southern border of the Town of Leavenworth. To the east of Town, Texas Creek and Dry Run join and flow south into the Blue River, a tributary of the Ohio River. To the west of Town, in Harrison-Crawford State Forest, there are two streams that are also tributaries to the Ohio River. Any impacts to surface waters will be avoided and minimized to the extent possible. In Crawford County, The Blue River, the Little Blue River, Stinking Fork and Turkey Fork are listed as Outstanding Rivers and Streams by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The Blue River is a Natural, Scenic, and Recreational River System. However, none of these waterways are in the project area or will be impacted by the project.

Mitigation measures to lessen and compensate for stream impacts cited in comment letters or permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or Indiana Department of Environmental Management will be implemented.

Floodplain (Figures 5-6): The floodplain of Texas Creek is also in the eastern part of the planning area. Construction located in the floodplain and floodway of these water bodies will be minimized to the extent possible. No significant impacts are anticipated. The design of the project will comply with FFRMS requirements.

Groundwater: Most of the Planning Area has a water depth greater than 200 centimeters. However, a few scattered areas exhibit a water table between 25 and 100 centimeters in depth. If ground water is encountered, appropriate mitigation steps will be taken. The project will not impact a drinking water supply or sole source aquifer.

Plants and Animals: Rare and endangered species habitats are not anticipated to be affected. It is unlikely that the rare and endangered species will be disturbed by construction due to the location of their living environments relative to anticipated project sites. If trees are required to be removed, the number of trees removed will be minimal and will likely be located in urban areas unsuitable for bat roosting. No trees suitable for Indiana bat roosting (greater than 3 inches Diameter at Breast Height (dbh), living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) will be cut from April 1 through September 30.

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. Reasonable and proper construction techniques and clean up practices will be provided. Exhausts of construction equipment will be required to have mufflers for noise and air pollution abatement.

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 PER states: *The Town of Leavenworth, through local zoning laws, the authority of its council or planning commission, or other means, will ensure that future development and utility 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 Town of Leavenworth will require new development and utility projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated September 4, 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 19, 2025, for the above indicated project in Leavenworth, Crawford 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 August 5, 2026, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

The USFWS concluded that the proposed WWTP project impacts, project code 2026-0127646, would have a “no effect” determination on the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the, proposed endangered, Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).

The USFWS concluded that the proposed lift station project impacts, project code 2026-127698, would have a “no effect” determination on the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the, proposed endangered, Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*).

In correspondence dated September 18, 2025, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated:

Project:

Town of Leavenworth wastewater improvements, including upgrades at the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Lift Station #1 (Phase I); SRF #WW 25 05 13 00

County/Site Info: Crawford County

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

Regulatory Assessment:

Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for this project.

Natural Heritage Database: *The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. The Division of Nature Preserves does not anticipate any significant impacts to the State threatened Creeping Cucumber (*Melothria pendula*), which has been documented within 0.5 miles of the project area in addition to a Migratory Bird Concentration Area (MBCA) and the Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*).*

Fish & Wildlife Comments: *Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:*

A) Heritage Species: The Division of Fish and Wildlife does not expect negative impacts to the Bachman's Sparrow or Migratory Bird Concentration Area due to this project.

The additional measures listed below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas that are not 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 only.

2. Minimize and contain within the project limits all tree and brush clearing.

3. *Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana Bat or Northern Long-eared Bat roosting (3 inches or greater diameter-at-breast height, living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) from April 1 through September 30.*
4. *Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
5. *If erosion control blankets are used, they shall be heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or 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.*
6. *Replace each mature tree removed (trees that are 10" diameter-at-breast height/dbh or larger) with 2 native trees of 3-gallon stock or larger.*

In correspondence dated March 6, 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

The Town of Leavenworth wastewater improvements preliminary engineering report in Crawford Count, Indiana as referred to in your letter received March 5, 2025, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

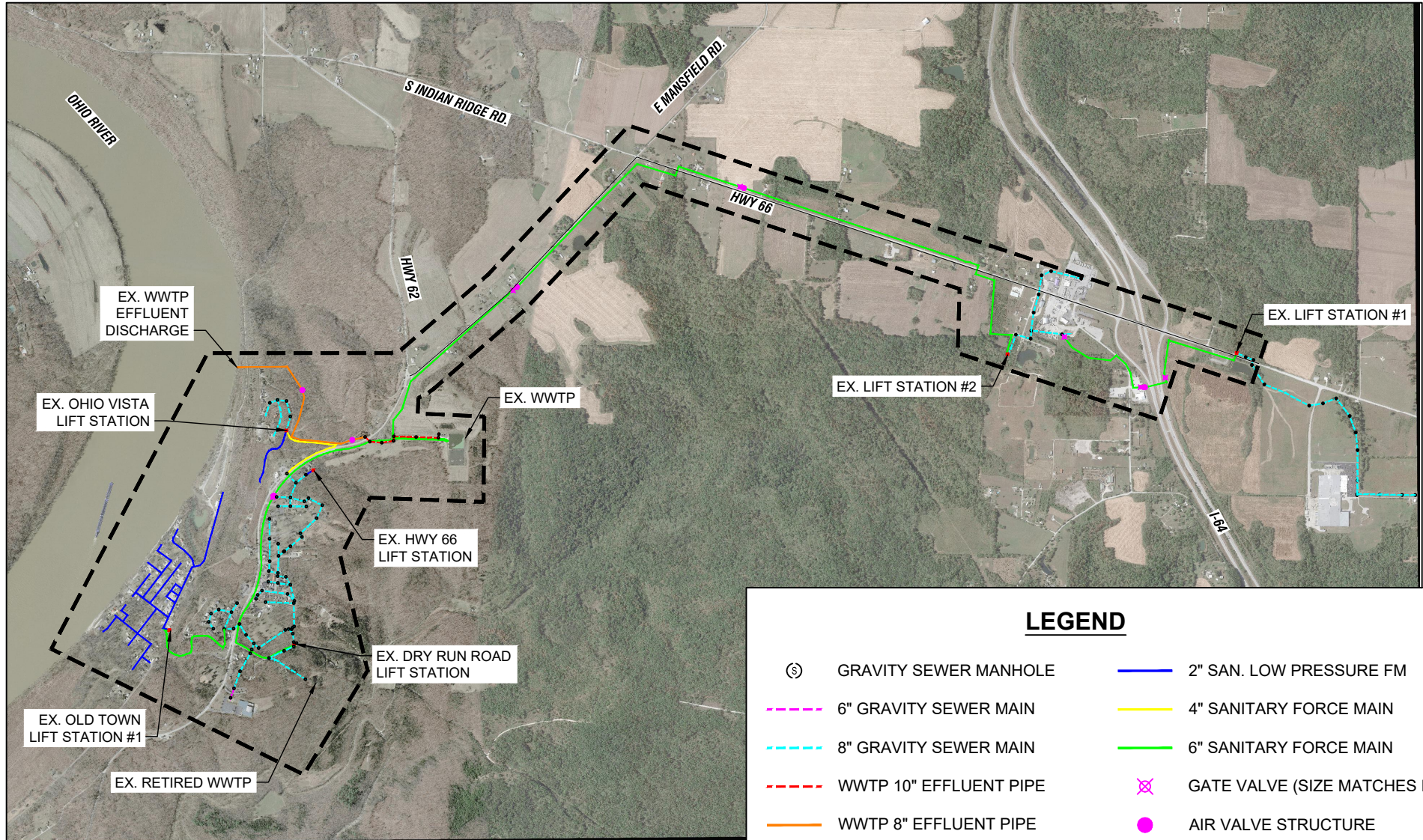
VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

Town of Leavenworth's PER states: Most of the environmental impacts will occur during the construction of the proposed improvements. These issues will be temporary in nature, since no significant impacts to environmental, historical, or other regulated resources are involved. These temporary construction impacts include the potential for noise, dust, and construction site erosion. Provisions will be included in the construction specifications to limit such problems and to provide erosion control in accordance with current state standards. The work is expected to be completed during normal working hours, restricting any work-related nuisances to those hours. All construction equipment will be required to have mufflers to reduce noise pollution.

Additionally, reasonable and proper construction techniques and clean up practices will be required by the contractor to reduce dust emissions. Proper surface wetting practices will be required.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

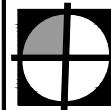
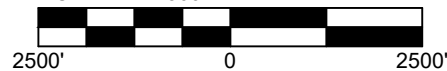
A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 17, 2025, at 5:30 pm at the Leavenworth Town Hall to discuss the PER. All questions presented during the hearing were answered at that time. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.



LEGEND

(S)	GRAVITY SEWER MANHOLE		2" SAN. LOW PRESSURE FM
	6" GRAVITY SEWER MAIN		4" SANITARY FORCE MAIN
	8" GRAVITY SEWER MAIN		6" SANITARY FORCE MAIN
	WWTP 10" EFFLUENT PIPE		GATE VALVE (SIZE MATCHES FM)
	WWTP 8" EFFLUENT PIPE		AIR VALVE STRUCTURE
	STUDY AREA LIMITS		LIFT STATION

SCALE: 1"=2500'



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TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH
CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

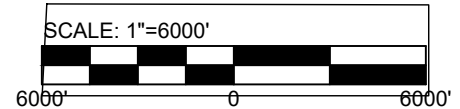
STUDY AREA MAP
FIGURE 1

DHPA IHBBC Map



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- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Counties | Contributing |
| Cemeteries | Demolished |
| County Survey Sites | Civil Township Boundaries |
| Outstanding | USGS Topo Quads |
| Notable | |



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Indiana DNR DHPA
Indiana DNR

LEGEND

STUDY AREA LIMITS



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TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH
CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

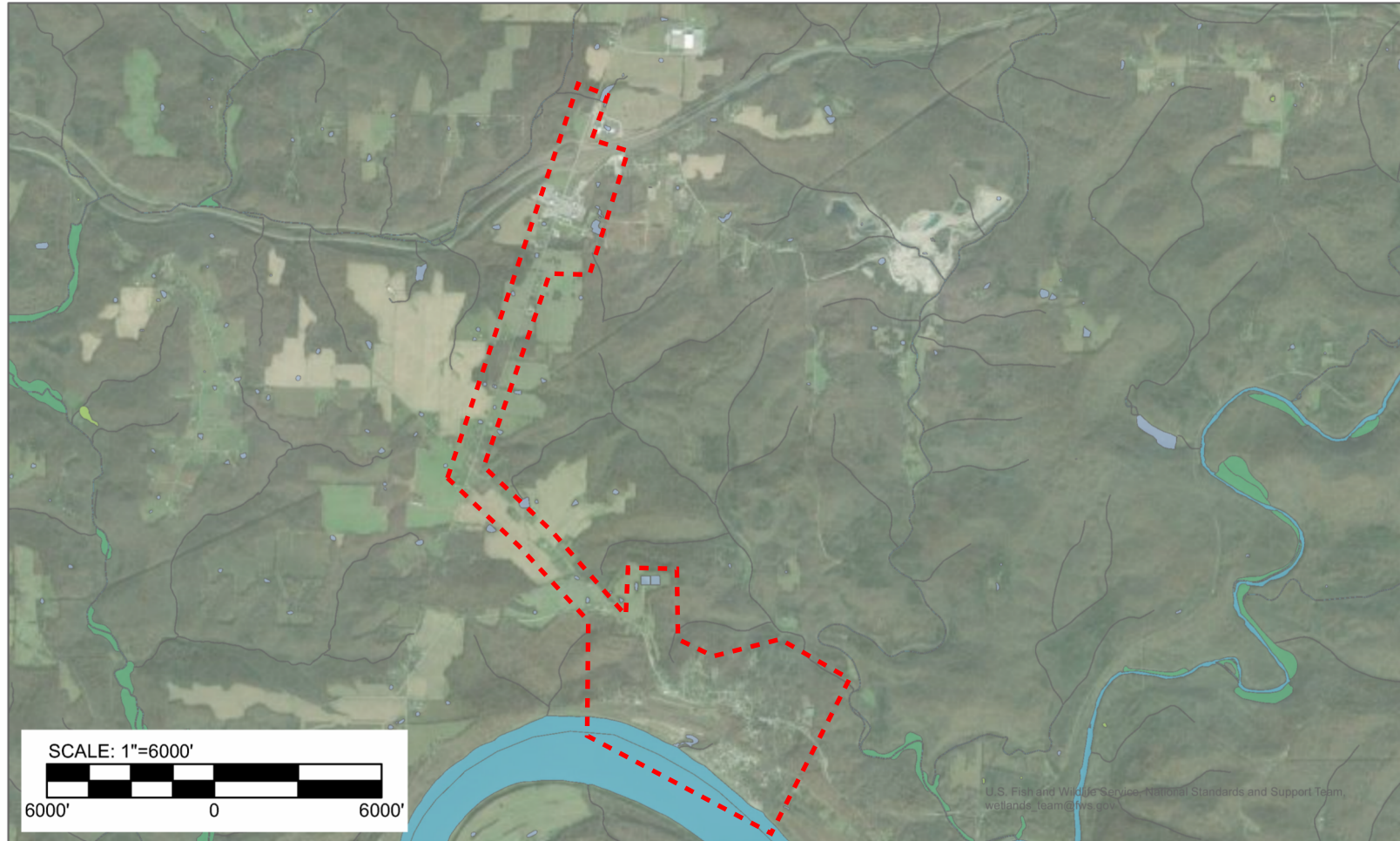
SHAARD/IHBBC MAP
FIGURE 2

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

Wetlands



March 4, 2025

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond

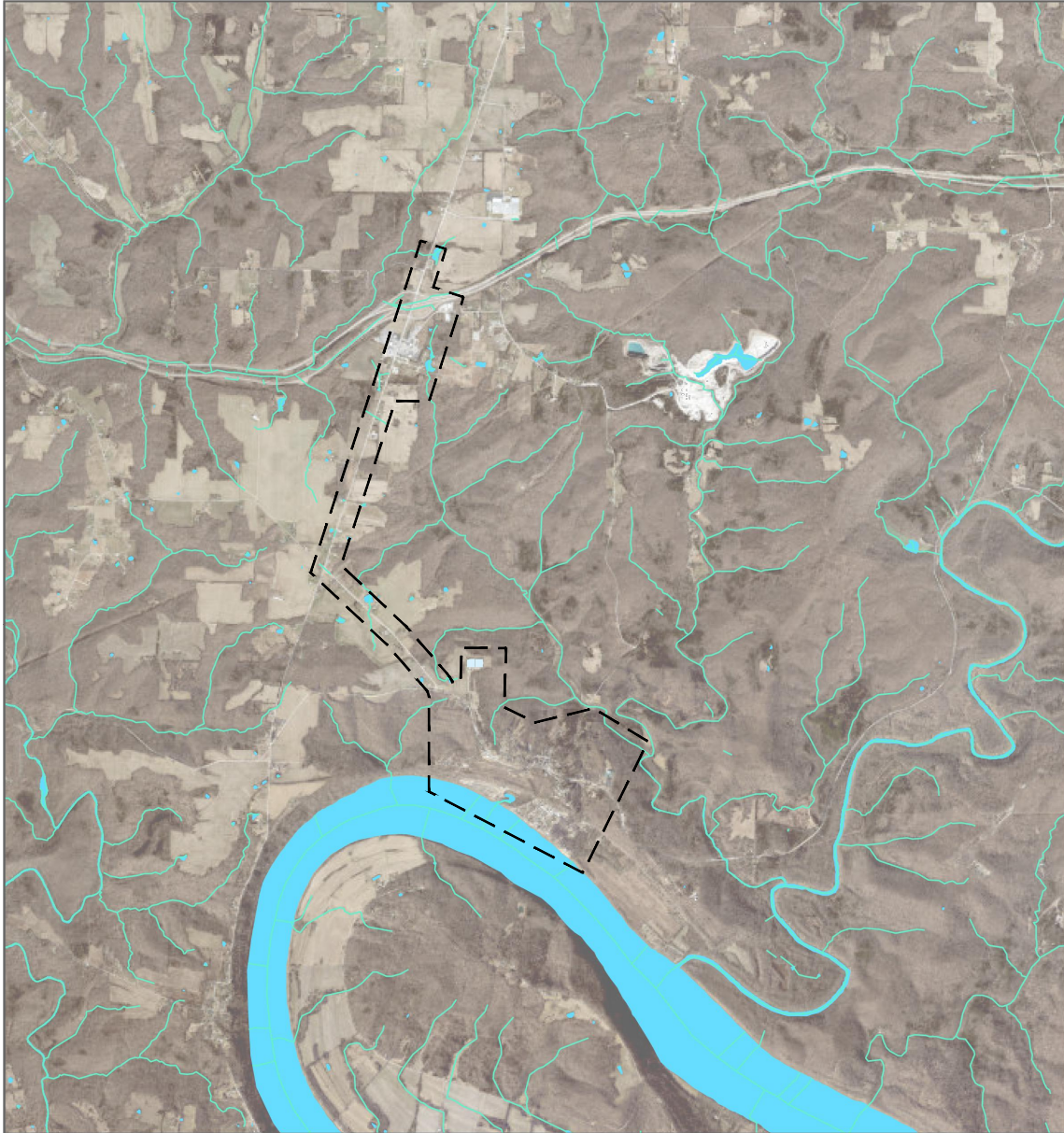
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)
This page was produced by the NWI mapper

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Surface Water



March 4, 2025

- NHD Classified Flowlines
- NHD Linear Waterbodies - Linear Water Bodies
- StreamRiver
- NHD Discrete Waterbodies
- LakePond
- Reservoir

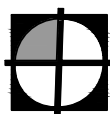


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Indiana Viewer

LEGEND

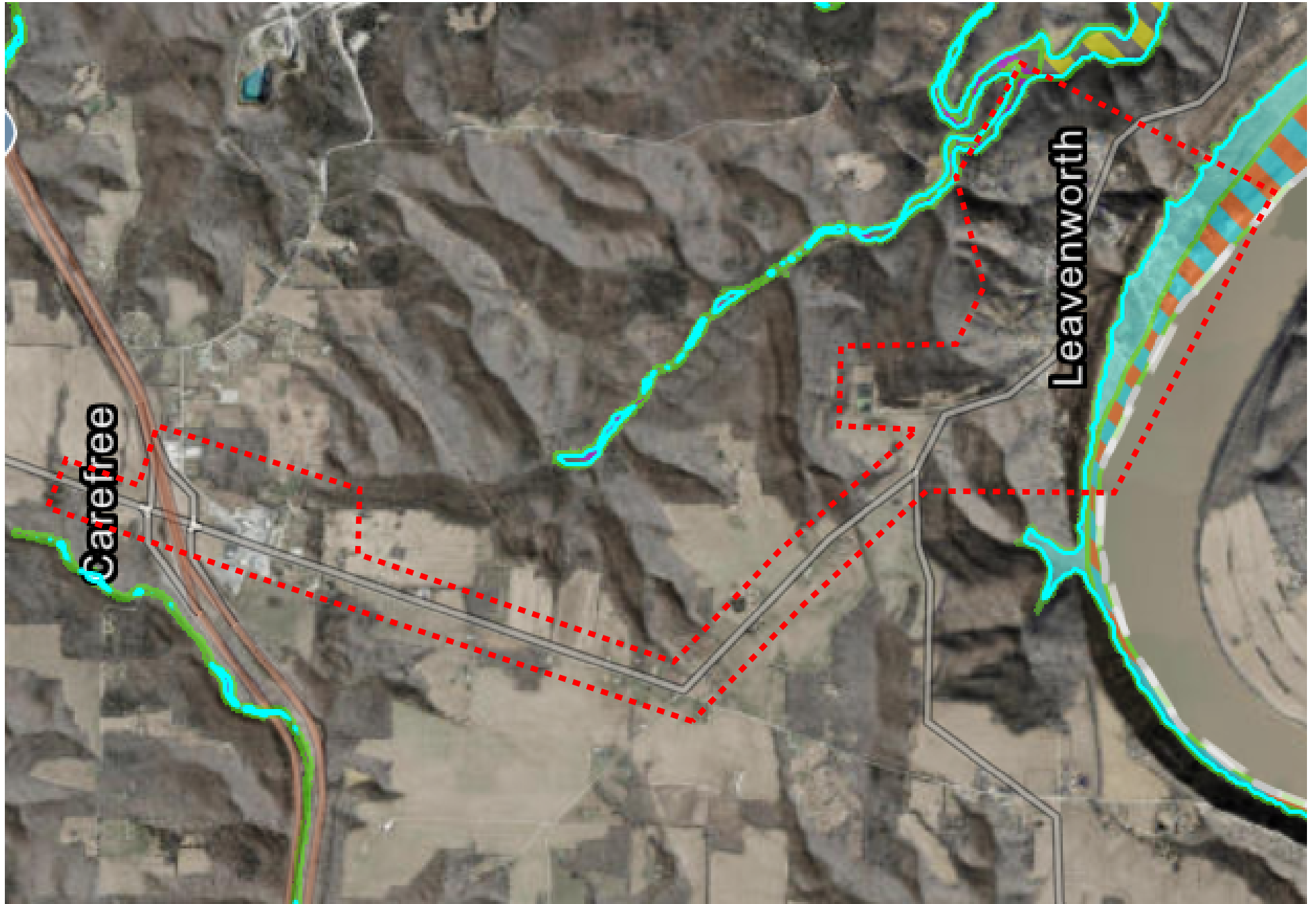
--- STUDY AREA LIMITS



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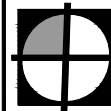
TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH
CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT

FIGURE 4



LEGEND

- - - STUDY AREA LIMITS



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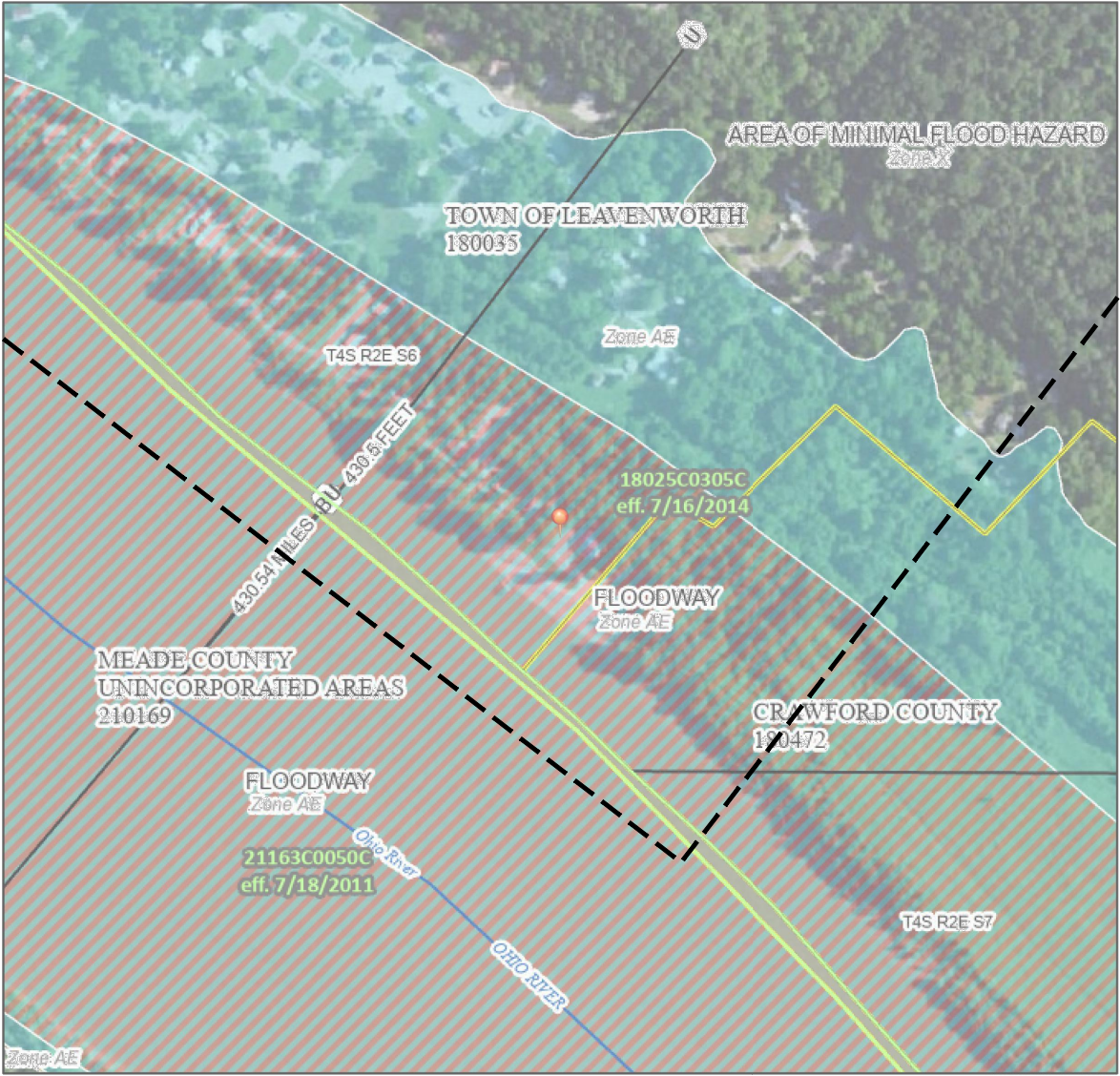
TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH
CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT
FIRMETTE MAP
FIGURE 5

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National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



86°20'50"W 38°11'48"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS		Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
		With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD		0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
		Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
		Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, Zone X
		Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS		NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
		Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES		Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard Zone D
		Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
OTHER FEATURES		Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
		Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation 20.2 17.5
MAP PANELS		Coastal Transect
		Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
OTHER FEATURES		Limit of Study
		Jurisdiction Boundary
OTHER FEATURES		Coastal Transect Baseline
		Profile Baseline
OTHER FEATURES		Hydrographic Feature
		Digital Data Available
MAP PANELS		No Digital Data Available
		Unmapped

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 3/4/2025 at 4:09 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

LEGEND

--- STUDY AREA LIMITS



TOWN OF LEAVENWORTH
CRAWFORD COUNTY, INDIANA
PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT
FIRMMETTE MAP
FIGURE 6