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# Public Notice

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Applicant: **The Nature Conservancy**  
Motter Metro Park

Published: February 3, 2021  
Expires: March 5, 2021

U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Buffalo District  
CELRB-TDR

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Application No: LRB-2019-01423 & LRB-2012-01404  
Section: OH

All written comments should reference the above Application No. and be addressed to:

**Attn: Susan L. Baker**  
**Regulatory Branch**  
**Buffalo District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**1776 Niagara Street**  
**Buffalo, NY 14207**

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**INTERESTED PARTIES ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE NATURE CONSERVANCY HAS PROPOSED THE MOTTER METRO PARK MITIGATION SITE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THEIR IN-LIEU FEE MITIGATION PROGRAM (ILFP). A MITIGATION PLAN HAS BEEN RECEIVED FOR THIS SITE PURSUANT TO 33 CFR 332 AND 40 CFR 230. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED MITIGATION SITE AND THE MITIGATION PLAN. THERE IS NOT AT PRESENT AN APPLICATION FOR WORK IN WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES AT THIS SITE; DEPARTMENT OF ARMY AUTHORIZATION MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THIS MITIGATION SITE WILL BE APPROVED.**

APPLICANT: The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Mitigation In-Lieu Fee Program, 6375 Riverside Drive, Suite 100, Dublin, Ohio 43017-5045

LOCATION: The 21.5-acre proposed Motter Metro Park Mitigation Site (Site) is located south of Columbus-Bluffton Road and northwest of South Main St, Richland Township, Allen County, Ohio (40.885244, -83.908127).

BACKGROUND: Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), applicants requesting Department of the Army permits to discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands and streams, are often required to mitigate for permitted wetland and stream losses by creating, restoring, enhancing, or in exceptional circumstances, preserving wetlands and streams. One method of fulfilling this obligation can be to purchase advanced credits from an approved ILFP. The establishment and use of an ILFP mitigation site must be in accordance with the ILFP instrument signed by the Interagency Review Team (IRT). The IRT is comprised of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the United States Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The Nature Conservancy ILFP was approved in December of 2014 and is authorized to provide compensatory wetland and stream mitigation via sale of advance credits in forty-four service areas within the State of Ohio, including the Blanchard USGS 8-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 04100008.

The Site is proposed to be used to fulfill mitigation obligations assumed by The Nature Conservancy through sale of advance credits in the following service areas: Blanchard (HUC 04100008), Auglaize (HUC 04100007), and St. Mary's River (HUC 04100004).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Site is approximately 21.5 acres in size. One perennial stream (730 linear feet) and one ephemeral stream (141 linear feet) persist on the Site. Four wetlands (emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested) totaling 1.34 acres are present on the Site. The remainder of the Site consists of old field, row crops, and riparian forest habitat.

The topography on the site is generally flat with a portion of the Little Riley Creek stream valley. The site drains from the north to the south, towards Little Riley Creek. Topography generally ranges from 837 mean sea level (MSL) to 815 MSL. The project area was historically altered by land clearing for row crop farming practices, logging, and grazing.

The objectives for the project are as follows:

- Restore and enhance riparian buffers to increase aquatic habitat quality, improve water quality, regulate watershed hydrology, and attenuate runoff.
- Produce high-quality wetlands and wetland buffer habitat that will result in a gain in aquatic resource functions that are currently not present on the Site.
- Provide a diverse interspersed of restored habitat features and buffers and establish connectivity and habitat corridors within an existing natural area.
- Provide an endowment for the long-term maintenance of the Site.

The proposed goals and work plan for the Site are described below:

- re-establish and rehabilitate 1.7 acres (ac) of riparian buffer (Mitigation Type 3),
- re-establish and rehabilitate 3.1 ac of extra riparian buffer (Mitigation Type 4),
- re-establish 9.5 ac of forested wetlands in areas that have existing hydric soils,
- re-establish 4.4 ac of buffer within 50 meters of wetlands, and
- re-establish 2.2 ac of extra buffer beyond 50 meters of wetlands.

In accordance with the credit generation ratios portrayed in the table below, The Nature Conservancy proposes to generate a total of 167.7 stream credits and 10.9 wetland credits to offset stream and wetland activities permitted by the Corps of Engineers or other agencies. The credits generated would be used to fulfill the mitigation obligations assumed by The Nature Conservancy through the sale of stream and wetland credits anywhere within the following Service Areas: Blanchard (HUC 04100008), Auglaize (HUC 04100007), and St. Mary's River

(HUC 04100004). These three Service Areas are all within the Lake Erie Western Basin (USGS 6-digit HUC 041000).

Stream or Wetland (Type)	Method of Compensation	Acres	Estimated Credit Ratio	Estimated Stream Credits	Estimated Wetland Credits
Riparian Forest Buffer	Re-establishment/ Rehabilitation	1.7 ac	1:6	114.3	--
Extra Riparian Forest Buffer	Re-establishment/ Rehabilitation	3.1 ac	1:10	53.4	--
Forested Wetland	Re-establishment	9.5 ac	1:1	--	9.5
Forested Wetland	Rehabilitation	0.5 ac	1:2	--	0.3
Upland Buffer for Wetlands (50 m)	Re-establishment	4.4 ac	1:4	--	1.1
Extra Habitat	Re-establishment	2.2 ac	--	--	--
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167.7</b>	<b>10.9</b>

The entire Motter Metro Park In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Plan, including site photographs, may be found on the Buffalo District’s website along with this Public Notice:

<https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

The plan includes the mitigation work plan as well as other required mitigation plan elements. All portions of the plan are subject to review and approval by the IRT and Corps of Engineers.

Comments or questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should reference the Application Number and be directed to the attention of Susan Baker, who can be contacted at the above address, by calling (716) 879-4474, or by email at Susan.L.Baker@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Based on preliminary findings, there do not appear to be any properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places within the area of potential effects as shown on Sheet 1 of 3. The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) Geocortex Viewer (Viewer) was reviewed for eligible or listed historic federal properties at or near the proposed Site. No known eligible or listed federal historic properties or cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the Site as per the Viewer. Additionally, the Archeological Atlas of Ohio (Mills, 1914) does not depict any resources within or immediately adjacent to the Site. This notice constitutes initiation of consultation with the OHPO per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps has determined that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed Site establishment and requests concurrence with this determination. Should any additional information concerning historic properties or cultural resources be submitted to the Corps before the end of the comment period of this notice, the Corps will forward the submitted information to the OHPO.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), the Corps of Engineers will consult at the appropriate time with the USFWS to evaluate any potential impacts to Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat to ensure that the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize their continued existence or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. This notice requests early input from USFWS concerning potential impacts to these species and recommendations for minimization of impacts.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-332. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments in writing, so they are received no later than 4:30pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the review for this proposal. All written comments will be made part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps internet website. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment. Copies of comments received will be forwarded to the sponsor and to the members of the Interagency Review Team.

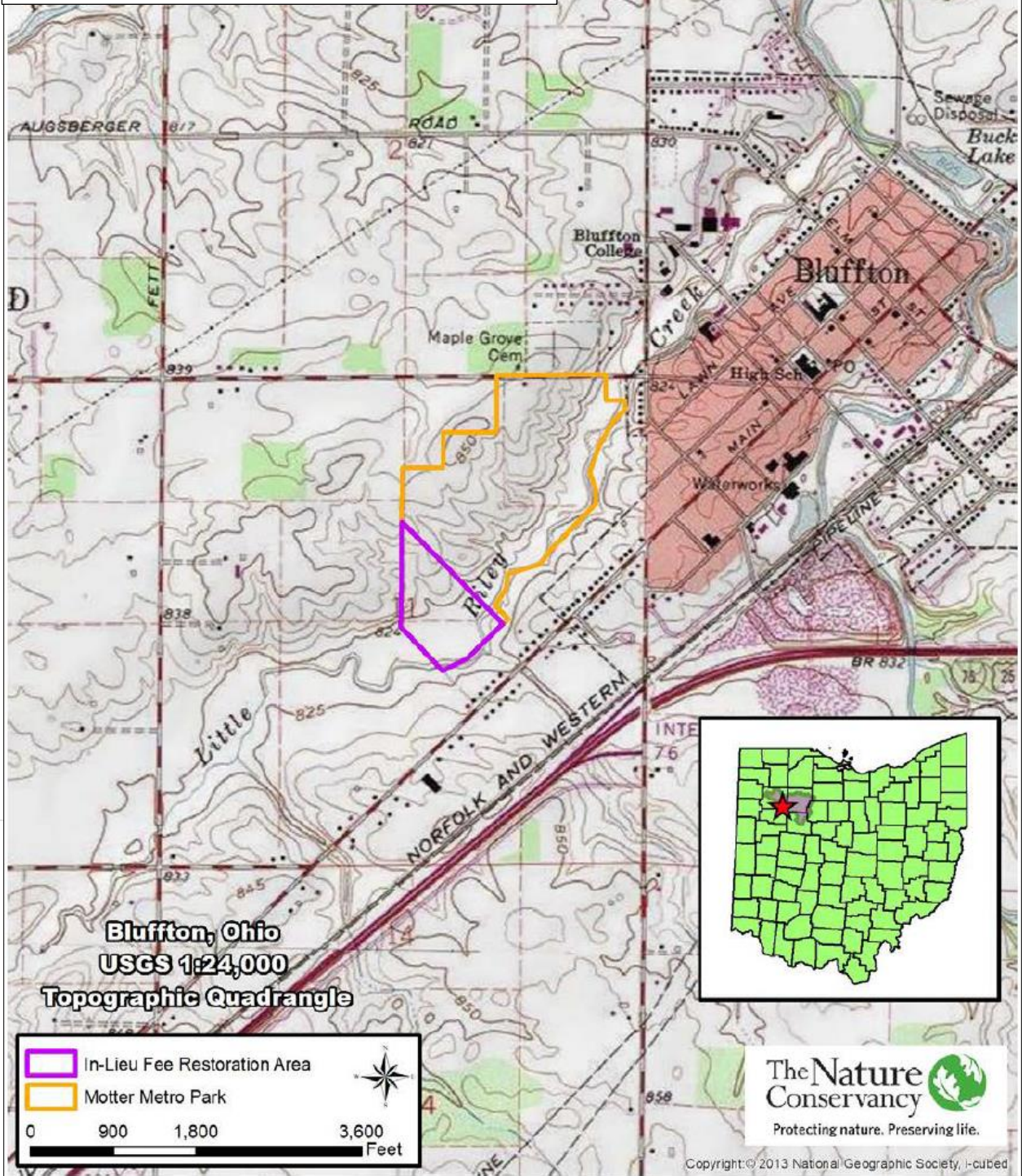
**SIGNED**

Mark Scalabrino  
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch



**NOTICE TO POSTMASTER:** It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.




The Nature Conservancy – Motter Metro Park  
D/A Processing No. LRB-2019-01423 & LRB-2012-01404  
Quad: Bluffton, OH  
Allen County, Ohio  
Sheet 1 of 3



**Bluffton, Ohio**  
**USGS 1:24,000**  
**Topographic Quadrangle**

 In-Lieu Fee Restoration Area  
 Motter Metro Park

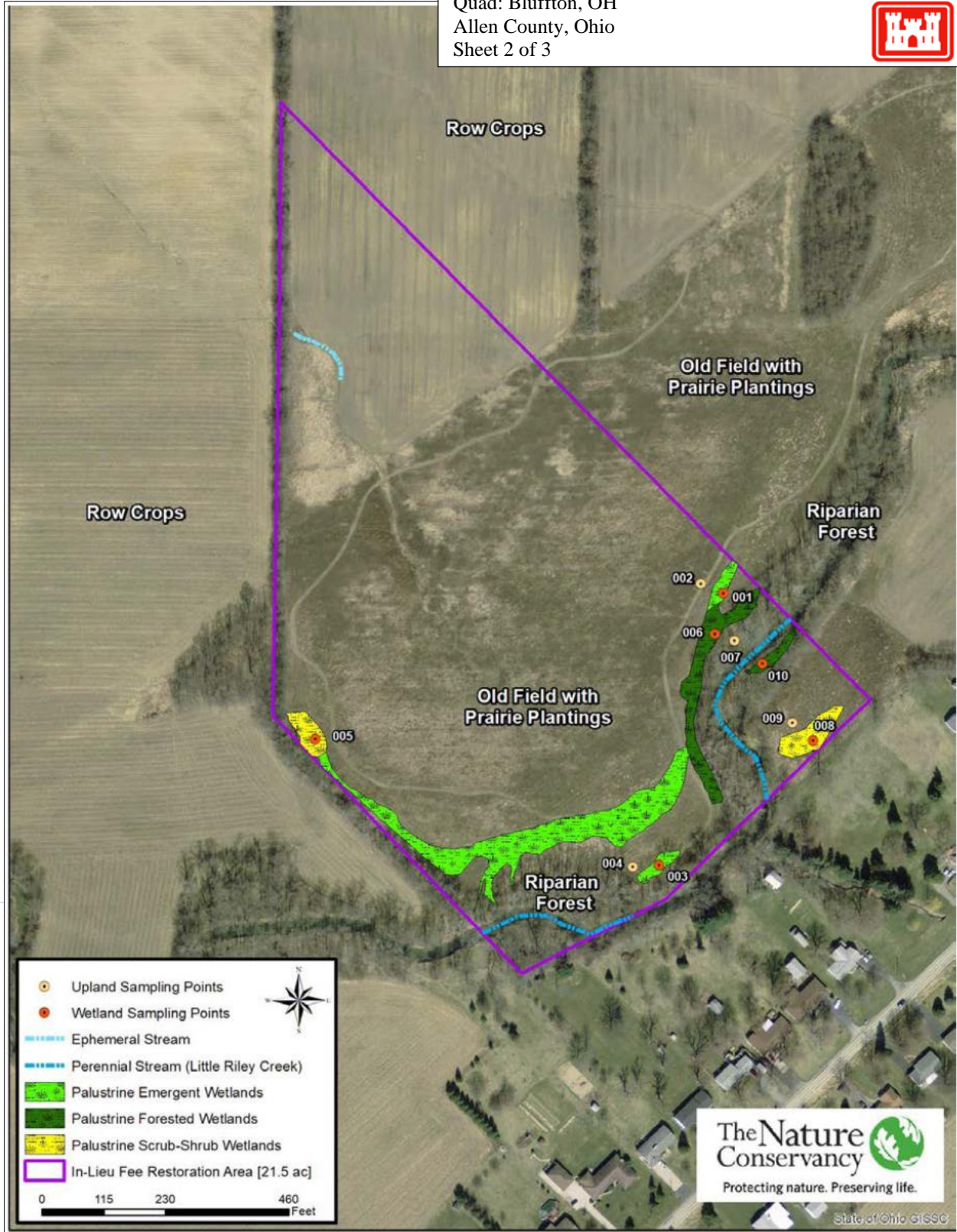
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**The Nature Conservancy**  
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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 D/A Processing No. LRB-2019-01423 & LRB-2012-01404  
 Quad: Bluffton, OH  
 Allen County, Ohio  
 Sheet 3 of 3

