

Memorandum

To: Brandon Nemmers, Heather Ussery **Date:** June 29, 2021

From: Jeff Walters, PWS

CC: Andy Burke, Snyder & Associates, Inc.

RE: Edwards Park Pond

On June 9, 2021, Snyder & Associates, Inc. environmental sciences staff completed wetland delineation fieldwork at the Edwards Park pond. Based on the findings of the wetland delineation, one emergent wetland, one deepwater habitat, one intermittent stream, and one drainageway were found. The wetland appears to be the result of the pond silting in over time.

The report will be submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Rock Island District for an approved jurisdictional determination. The USACE will review the report and determine if the features are jurisdictional, which would require USACE permitting prior to impacts, or non-jurisdictional, which would not require permitting.

Based on the June 23, 2021 meeting with Brandon Nemmers and Heather Ussery, there are three primary options that the City should consider.

Option 1: No Build/Sale

Under this option, the City retains ownership of the site and completes minimal maintenance such as mowing. Over time, the pond will silt in, creating a larger wetland area. The current wetland is relatively low-quality with cattail as the dominant species, which over time will become a monoculture species of cattails. While the City retains land, the uses are limited to passive recreation with relatively low-quality wildlife habitat.

Option 2: Pond Improvements

The City retains ownership, completes survey and design plans, obtains appropriate permitting from the USACE (assuming the features are jurisdictional), and makes site improvements. Improvements include pond dredging, stilling basin construction, and revegetation. Improvements could also include modification to the berm and outlet structure, depending on site analysis and design. The site improvements can improve the overall watershed health by reducing downstream sedimentation, filter pollutants, and reduce flooding. A current cost estimate for pond improvements has not been developed.

The City retains the land and the pond will be improved, however over time, there will still be maintenance expenses such as stilling basin cleanout and mowing.

Option 3: Sell Pond Property

The City would sell the pond property, likely to an adjacent homeowner. The new landowner would be responsible for appropriate permitting, assuming the wetland and drainageways are jurisdictional.

A stormwater flowage easement would be required on property to ensure that stormwater would flow through the site during a given storm event. Stormwater flows, storm event sizes would need to be calculated to determine the flowage easement area requirements.

The land located east of the pond was included in the wetland delineation and consists of upland with no wetlands identified during the delineation. If the City is interested in subdividing this upland parcel for future residential development, permitting from the USACE is not necessary.