

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Buffalo, Minnesota, as Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action supported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Project Funding (CPF: B-23-CP-MN-0864) is partially located in a wetland. The City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the wetland and the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by HUD regulations 24 CFR 55.20, Subpart (c) and Subpart (d)(2).

The proposed project will improve safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit operations, by completing the only gap in the existing north-south backage road system along the east side of Highway 55 within the City of Buffalo, Wright County, Minnesota. The proposed improvements include the extension of Ryan's Way from its current terminus south of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 35 (Willems Way) to 1st Street NE, the construction of sidewalk, new stormwater retention ponds, as well as curb and gutter and subsurface utility improvements along the project corridor. The approximately 6.6-acre project area includes or crosses through parcels 103202021703, 103500292325, 103500292326, 103500292309, 103249000020, 103500292406, 103500292315, 103500292404, 103500292405, and 103500292401 in the City of Buffalo, Wright County, Minnesota (Figure 1). A wetland delineation for the project site and surrounding area was completed in August 2023 and based on updated project limits, it is determined that approximately 2.00 acres of wetlands may be impacted by the proposed project. The wetlands provide stormwater storage and sediment retention. There is limited wildlife habitat present.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Buffalo at the following address on or before **January 18, 2025**: City of Buffalo, 212 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN 55313 and 763-682-1181, Attention: Beth Opheim, Compliance Coordinator. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am to 4:30pm at 212 Central Avenue, Buffalo, MN 55313 and <https://www.ci.buffalo.mn.us/>.

Comments may also be submitted via email to: beth.opheim@ci.buffalo.mn.us.

Date of Notice: **January 2, 2024**