

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District, CENAN-OP-RU Upstate Regulatory Field Office 1 Buffington Street, Bldg. 10, 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl. North Watervliet. New York 12189-4000

## In replying refer to:

Public Notice Number: NAN-2022-00076-USH

Issue Date: January 19, 2023

Expiration Date: February 17, 2023

### To Whom It May Concern:

The New York District, Corps of Engineers has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. C. 1344).

APPLICANT: Rivers Ledge of Niskayuna, LLC

857 First Street

Watervliet, New York 12189

ACTIVITY: Discharge of fill material into waters of the United States to facilitate the

construction of a senior housing development and attendant features

WATERWAY: Wetlands and Unnamed tributary (Mohawk River Watershed)

LOCATION: Town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County, New York

A detailed description and plans of the applicant's activity are enclosed to assist in your review.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

ALL COMMENTS REGARDING THE PERMIT APPLICATION MUST BE SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO <a href="mailto:brad.Sherwood@usace.army.mil">Brad.Sherwood@usace.army.mil</a>, OR PREPARED IN WRITING AND MAILED TO THE ATTENTION OF BRAD SHERWOOD AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS, TO REACH THIS OFFICE BY THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THIS NOTICE, otherwise, it will be presumed that there are no objections to the activity.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this permit application. All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any person may request, in writing, before this public notice expires, that a public hearing be held to collect information necessary to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons why a public hearing should be held. It should be noted that information submitted by mail is considered just as carefully in the permit decision process and bears the same weight as that furnished at a public hearing.

According to the list of Federally-listed species on the Information for Planning and Conservation website for the New York Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service no endangered species are expected to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, our preliminary determination is that the activity for which authorization is sought herein will not affect Federally endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat. However, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531), if new information warrants, the District Engineer will consult with the appropriate Federal agency to determine the presence of and any potential impacts to listed species or their critical habitat in the project area.

Based upon a review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, there are no known sites eligible for, or included in, the Register within the permit area. However, archaeological and/or historic resources have been identified in the project's vicinity. Therefore, further consultation with the N.Y.S. Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (SHPO) regarding potential effects to archaeological and/or historic resources will be conducted and will be concluded prior to the final decision.

Reviews of activities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 (b) of the Clean Water Act and the applicant will obtain a water quality certificate or waiver from the appropriate state agency in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act prior to a permit decision.

In addition to any required water quality certificate and coastal zone management program concurrence, the applicant has obtained or requested the following governmental authorization for the activity under consideration:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Stormwater Permit

In order for us to better serve you, please complete our Customer Service Survey located at:

#### http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/CustomerSurvey.aspx

It is requested that you communicate the foregoing information concerning the activity to any persons known by you to be interested and who did not receive a copy of this notice. If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Brad Sherwood of this office at (518) 266-6355.

For more information on New York District Corps of Engineers programs, visit our website at http://www.nan.usace.army.mil

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
Stephan A. Ryba
Chief Regulatory Branch

Chief, Regulatory Branch

**Enclosures** 

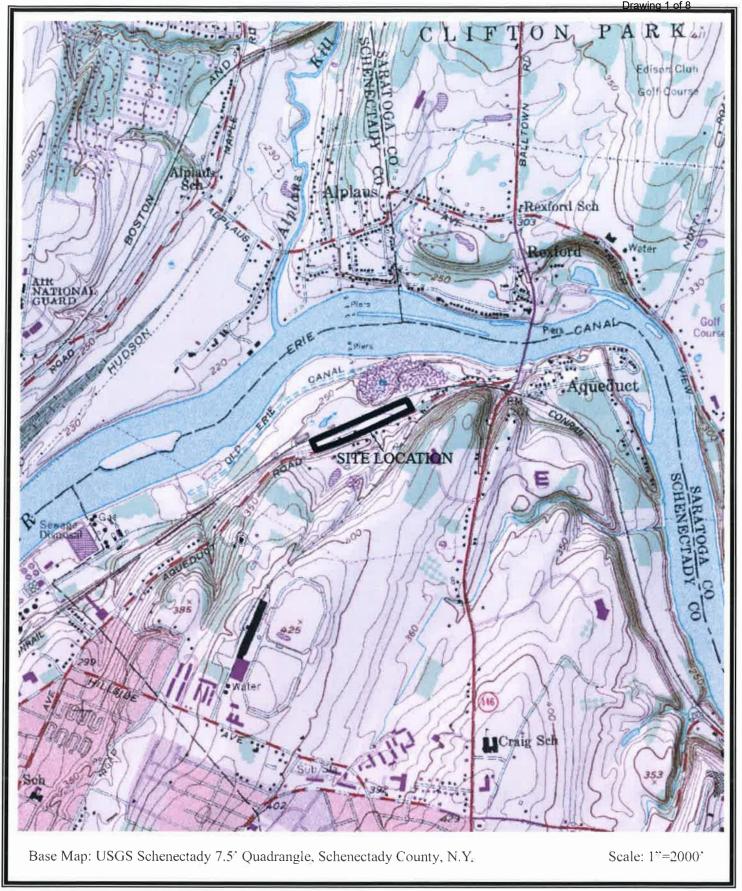
#### **WORK DESCRIPTION**

The applicant, Rivers Ledge at Niskayuna, LLC, has requested Department of the Army permit for the discharge of fill material into approximately 0.84 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands and approximately 285 linear feet of stream channel to facilitate the construction of a senior housing development and attendant features. The project is located of Aqueduct Road, in the Town of Niskayuna, Schenectady County, New York.

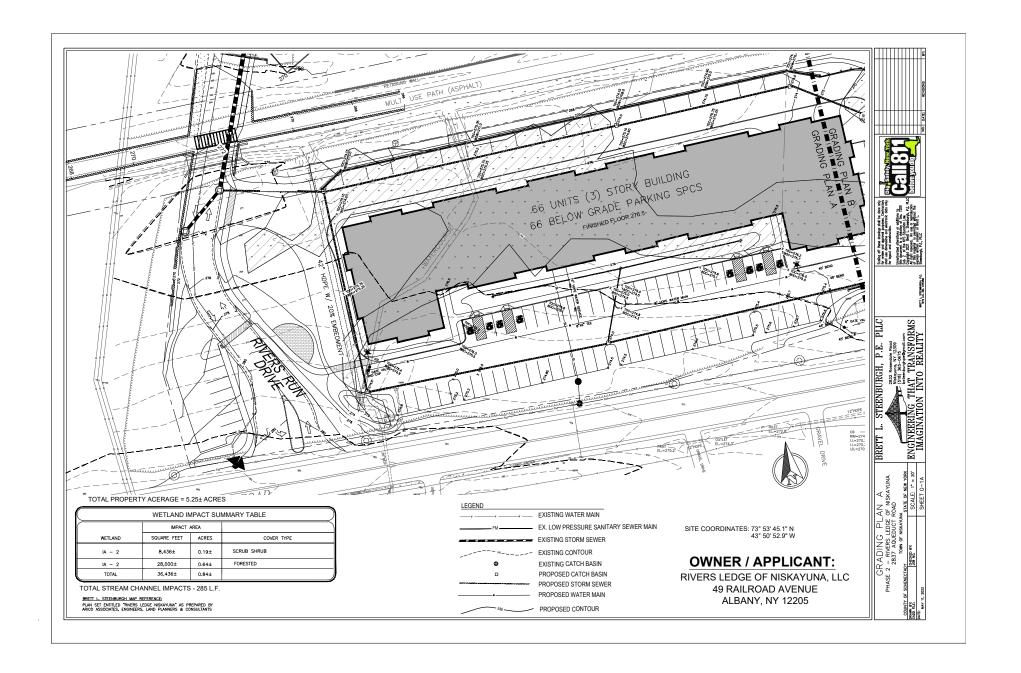
The work currently proposed in Phase II of the project would involve the construction of one (1) three-story senior apartment building that would include 66 housing units, and 66 associated below grade parking spaces. In addition, the project would include additional parking surrounding the apartment building, and the necessary stormwater and drainage. The proposed project would result in the permanent impacts to approximately 0.64 acre of forested wetland and 0.19 acre of scrub-shrub wetland, including approximately 285 linear feet of perennial stream channel. Phase I of the project was constructed and completed in 2022, and resulted in no impacts to waters of the United States

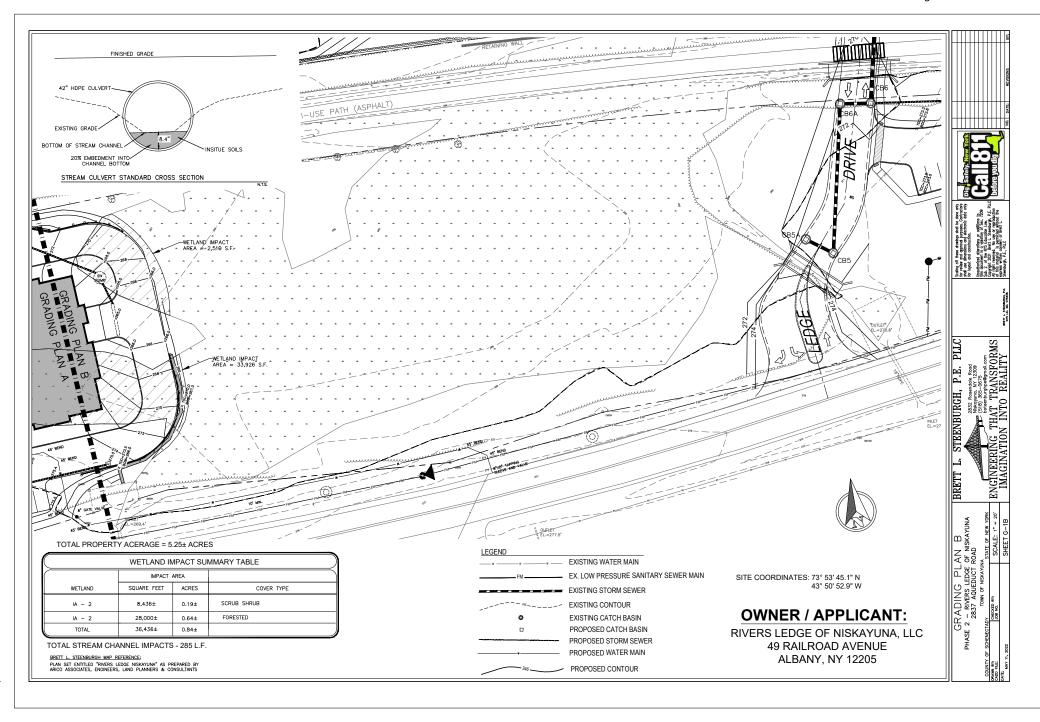
The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized proposed impacts to the maximum extent practicable by limiting construction to the smallest area practicable, including designing the layout of the building and parking areas to limit impacts to the wetland areas and by altering the initially proposed project from two buildings to the one currently proposed. The applicant has proposed to purchase 2.4 wetland credits from The Wetland Trust Susquehanna Basin Headwaters and Adjacent Basins In-Lieu Fee Mitigation Program, Mohawk Service Area – HUC (02020004), as mitigation for the proposed permanent impacts to waters of the United States. In addition, the applicant is proposing to deed restrict the remaining 2.33 acres of non-impacted wetlands onsite, and proposing off-site, permittee-responsible mitigation to stabilize and restore approximately 120 linear feet of stream channel at an alternative location within the watershed, at the Animal Protection Foundation, at 53 Maple Avenue, in the Town of Glenville, Schenectady County.

The stated purpose of this project is to construct a senior housing development in the Town of Niskayuna.



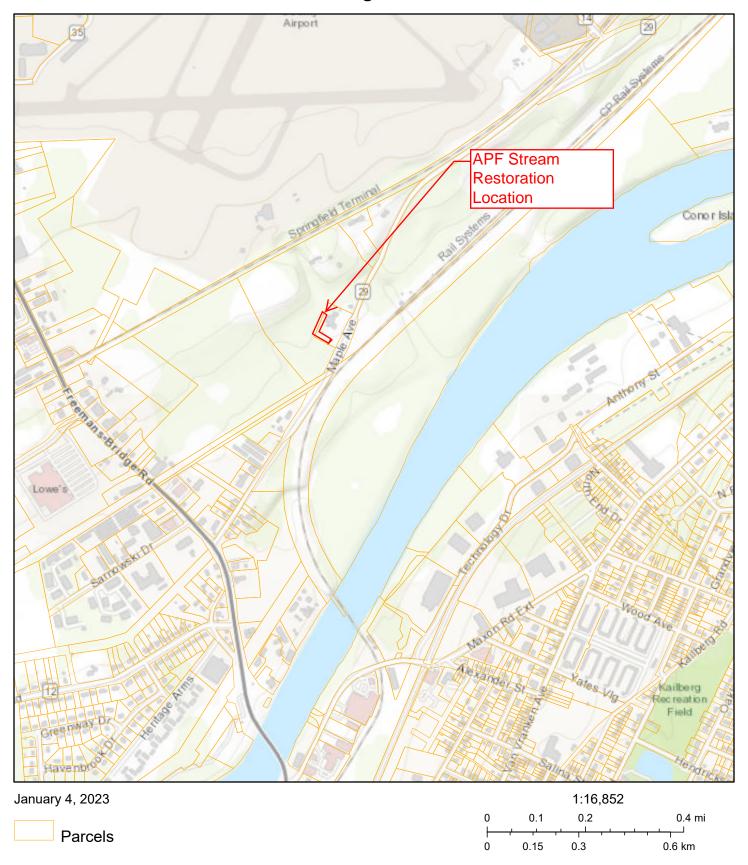






NAN-2022-00076-USH Rivers Ledge of Niskayuna, LLC Drawing 4 of 8

# **APF Mitigation Area**



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

