

**Why You Should Read This:** The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

November 2, 2020

**To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups**

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

**Applicant:** City of Des Moines  
**County:** Polk  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920944 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2019-0198A

The City of Des Moines, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Des Moines is located in Polk County, Iowa approximately 115 miles west of Iowa City, Iowa and 40 miles south of Ames, Iowa. The population of Des Moines according to the 2010 US Census was 203,433. The population is expected to remain stable.

The Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer was constructed in the early 1900s. The Ingersoll Run started at the CSO structure on High Street near 22nd Street and followed the alignment of the former "Ingersoll Run" westerly to about 35th Street. From that point the primary combined sewer continued northwesterly crossing I-235 at approximately 41st Street and continuing north on 42nd Street. The capacity of the Ingersoll Run decreases as the sewer extends westerly. The largest capacity reaches of the Ingersoll Run are located east of 35th Street in the former defined creek area. The capacity of the sewer decreases rapidly as the sewer extends northwesterly toward 42nd Street. The existing Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer in the area from 35th Street north of Ingersoll to 41st and Pleasant is located in an area where there are no existing storm sewers.

The purpose of this project is to achieve the separation of the western part of the Ingersoll Run basin to allow the City of Des Moines and the Wastewater Reclamation Authority to eliminate the Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO 020) by the required date of December 31, 2023. The proposed project includes construction of separate storm sewer projects designed to remove intakes from the combined sewer system. The excavation for each intake will be 5'-10' in width. The project includes construction of approximately 21,400 linear feet of main line storm sewer as well as a number of smaller storm sewer cross runs to various intakes. The size of the storm sewer construction ranges from 15-inch diameter to 60-inch diameter. The majority of the storm sewer will be constructed at depths ranging from 4 to 7 feet. However, some areas of construction as deep as 12 to 15 feet will be necessary where the storm sewer crosses through slightly elevated areas. The majority of the construction will be open cut excavation. Tunneler construction will be used only where utility conflicts would mandate. In most areas, the sewer trench will range from 5 to approximately 10 feet in width. Along Ingersoll Avenue from 35th Street to 39th Street and 39th Street from Ingersoll Avenue to Woodland Avenue, the excavation width will be in the range of 15 feet to 20 feet.

This sewer is tributary to the Walnut Street Combined Sewer that eventually connects to the WRA Des Moines River Outfall and New Main Outfall. The Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers are classified as A1, B(WW1), and HH. Class A1 waters are primary contact recreational use waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risks of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Waters designated Class B(WW1) are those in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrates species. Waters designated Class HH are those in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.

The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

A Programmatic Agreement to avoid and/or minimize impacts to cultural resources has been agreed upon and executed. If project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be

made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c"). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by. The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Please direct your comments to me at [karrie.darnell@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:karrie.darnell@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-725-8340.

Sincerely,



Karrie Darnell  
Environmental Specialist  
502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Bob Veenstra, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.  
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality

Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Stephanie Chickering, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Leslie Leager, Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council  
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority  
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority  
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities  
Jane Clark, Sierra Club  
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development  
Tokey Boswell, USDOJ, National Park Service, Midwest Region  
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office  
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII  
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII  
Des Moines Register

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

***PROJECT IDENTIFICATION***

**Applicant:** City of Des Moines  
**County:** Polk  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920944 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2019-0198A

***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION***

**Location:** The City of Des Moines is located in Polk County, Iowa approximately 115 miles west of Iowa City, Iowa and 40 miles south of Ames, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Des Moines according to the 2010 US Census was 203,433. The population is expected to remain stable.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer was constructed in the early 1900s. The Ingersoll Run started at the CSO structure on High Street near 22nd Street and followed the alignment of the former “Ingersoll Run” westerly to about 35th Street. From that point the primary combined sewer continued northwesterly crossing I-235 at approximately 41st Street and continuing north on 42nd Street. The capacity of the Ingersoll Run decreases as the sewer extends westerly. The largest capacity reaches of the Ingersoll Run are located east of 35th Street in the former defined creek area. The capacity of the sewer decreases rapidly as the sewer extends northwesterly toward 42nd Street. The existing Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer in the area from 35th Street north of Ingersoll to 41st and Pleasant is located in an area where there are no existing storm sewers.

***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to achieve the separation of the western part of the Ingersoll Run basin to allow the City of Des Moines and the Wastewater Reclamation

Authority to eliminate the Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO 020) by the required date of December 31, 2023.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes construction of separate storm sewer projects designed to remove intakes from the combined sewer system. The excavation for each intake will be 5'-10' in width. The project includes construction of approximately 21,400 linear feet of main line storm sewer as well as a number of smaller storm sewer cross runs to various intakes. The size of the storm sewer construction ranges from 15-inch diameter to 60-inch diameter. The majority of the storm sewer will be constructed at depths ranging from 4 to 7 feet. However, some areas of construction as deep as 12 to 15 feet will be necessary where the storm sewer crosses through slightly elevated areas. The majority of the construction will be open cut excavation. Tunneler construction will be used only where utility conflicts would mandate. In most areas, the sewer trench will range from 5 to approximately 10 feet in width. Along Ingersoll Avenue from 35th Street to 39th Street and 39th Street from Ingersoll Avenue to Woodland Avenue, the excavation width will be in the range of 15 feet to 20 feet.

**Receiving Stream:** This sewer is tributary to the Walnut Street Combined Sewer that eventually connects to the WRA Des Moines River Outfall and New Main Outfall. The Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers are classified as A1, B(WW1), and HH.

Class A1 waters are primary contact recreational use waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risks of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Waters designated Class B(WW1) are those in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrates species. Waters designated Class HH are those in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

## ***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED***

**Alternatives Considered:** This project is required to eliminate the combined sewer overflow at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and High Street in order to comply with requirements of the City of Des Moines Long Term control Plan approved by DNR and consent decree dated April 28, 2010.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The goal of the Western Ingersoll Sewer Separation project is to achieve the separation of the western part of the Ingersoll Run basin to allow the City of Des Moines and the Wastewater Reclamation Authority to eliminate the Ingersoll Run Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO 020) by the required date of

December 31, 2023. The project site was selected for the location of existing infrastructure and minimization of the impacts to the environment.

### **MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT**

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on May 4, 2020 at 5:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Des Moines Register on April 3, 2020 and again on April 22, 2020. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No substantive comments were received.

#### **Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:**

The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Water Resources Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
- Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
- Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
- Santee Sioux Nation
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
- Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
- Spirit Lake Tribal Council

Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations  
Upper Sioux Tribe  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee  
Des Moines Historical Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY***

**Construction:** Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb soils over an area greater than one acre; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

**Historical/Archaeological:** The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Office of the State Archaeologist, the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. Based on the scope of the project, the findings of the Cultural Resources Desktop Evaluation completed by the Office of the State Archaeologist, and the generalized history of the project area, the DNR has determined and the SHPO has concurred (R&C# 200477038) that this undertaking may result in “adverse effects to historic properties.” The existing Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Des Moines Sanitary Sewer Separation (executed on May 8, 2017) has been revised to include the West Ingersoll Run project area in order to avoid and/or minimize impacts to historic properties. The terms of the PA to avoid and/ or minimize impacts to historic properties

include additional documentation and/or restoration of historic sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as needed. The terms of the PA have been agreed upon and executed by all signatory parties, and the final executed PA has been filed with ACHP.

**Environmental:** According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact threatened or endangered species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Water Resources Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

**Land Use and Trends:** The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

**Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources:** Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

### ***POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT***

This project will reduce the frequency of raw sewage discharge events to the environment which can pose not only a health and safety hazard to people, but also could be harmful to amphibians, fish, birds, and other wildlife.

### ***SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT***

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.

- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- A Programmatic Agreement to avoid and/or minimize impacts to cultural resources has been agreed upon and executed. If project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c").
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)"b" for wastewater relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.



**Karrie Darnell**

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

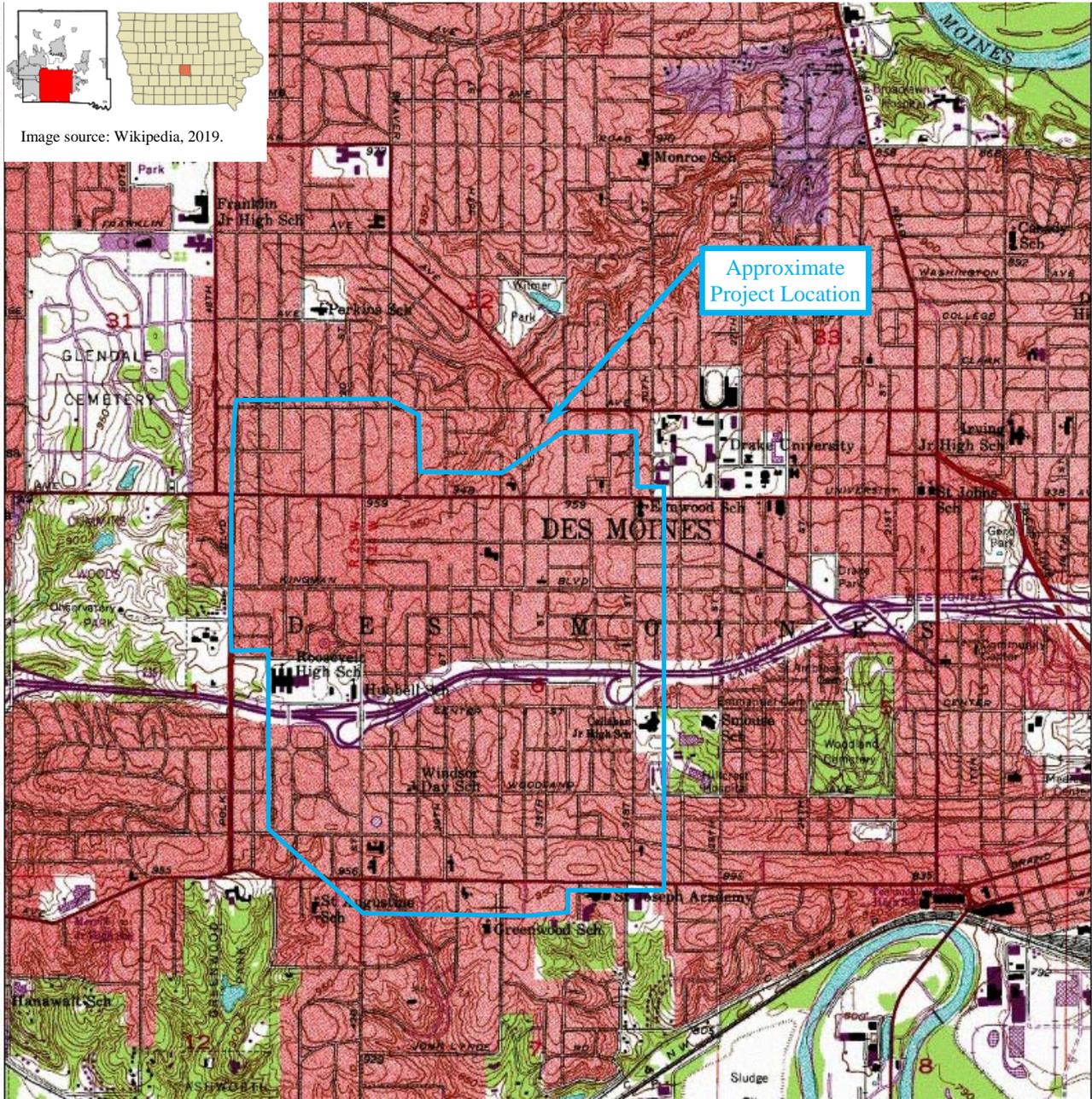
**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Des Moines SW**  
**Sections: 6, 7 Township: 78 N Range: 24 W**  
**Sections: 1, 2 Township: 78 N Range: 25 W**  
**Sections: 31, 32 Township: 79 N Range: 24 W**  
**Date: 1976**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**



Image source: Wikipedia, 2019.



## USGS Topographic Map

Des Moines West Ingersoll Run Sewer Separation Project  
Des Moines, Iowa

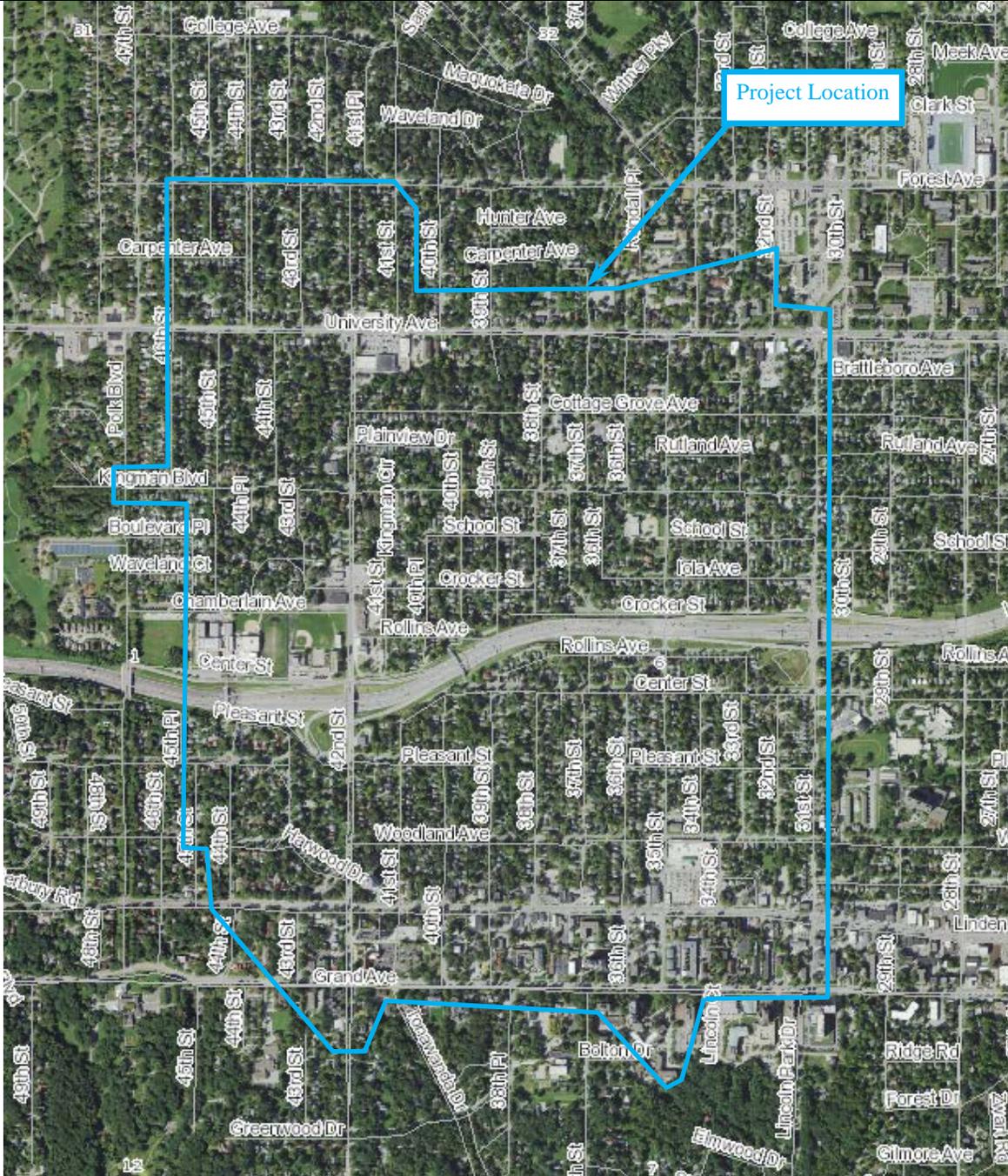


State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.



North



## Aerial Photograph

Des Moines West Ingersoll Run Sewer Separation Project  
Des Moines, Iowa



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