

**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**

October 26, 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 Solon  
**County:** Johnson  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920942 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2019-0293A

The City of Solon, Iowa is planning improvements to their sanitary sewer system. 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 Solon is located in Johnson County, Iowa approximately ten (10) miles north of Iowa City, Iowa and 67 miles west of Clinton, Iowa. The population of Solon according to the 2010 US Census was 2,037. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 4,587.

The existing sanitary sewer collection system is served by a network of gravity sewer mains ranging in size from 8-inch to 15-inch pipes. The southeast part of the Fox Ridge development is served by a sanitary lift station that pumps flows to a manhole at the intersection of Raymond Drive and 5<sup>th</sup> Street located in the Prairie Acres development. Flows from the Fox Ridge lift station combine with flows from the Prairie Acres development east of Kingston Drive where there are intercepted by a manhole on Plum Street a Kingston Drive. Flow from this manhole enters the East Interceptor sewer and flow to the current termination of the East Side

Interceptor at the northwest corner of the Windmill Estates Development at the west end of Majestic Oak Court. A temporary aerial crossing carries flow from this point to the gravity sewer line on Highway 1 at Elm Street.

A temporary lift station was constructed in 2017 to serve the portion of Windmill Estates along Cedar Bend Drive north of the stormwater detention pond. This lift station is anticipate to be abandoned once the North Trunk Sewer line is installed to the lift station wet well.

The existing sanitary sewer running along Mill Creek also collects flow from the area generally bounded by North Street, West Street, Cedar Street and Mill Creek. This service area will contribute flows to the proposed North Trunk Sewer. The remaining collection system in the City of Solon flows to the west of Chabal Street and then to the wastewater treatment facility. (Facility Plan for North Trunk Sewer, Solon, Iowa, May 2019, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.)

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the sanitary sewer system to enhance its reliability, increase capacity, and to safely and reliably operate the City of Solon's sanitary sewer collection system for the next twenty (20) years. The proposed project includes construction of a 24" diameter sanitary sewer from the wastewater treatment plant to the east side of Hwy 1 along a route following and crossing Mill Creek. Additional 15" sanitary sewer will be constructed to connect the east end of the aerial crossing east on Highway 1 on Elm Street. The 8-inch aerial crossing will be abandoned. A 15" sanitary sewer will also be extended to the temporary lift station in Windmill Estates at the north end of River Birch Run. The lift station will be abandoned. The project covers an estimated total of 24.30 acres with approximately 16.00 acres of ground disturbing construction activity.

The treated wastewater from the system will discharge to Mill Creek. It has a use stream designation of A3, B(WW2). A3 waters are children's recreational use waters in which recreational uses by children are common. Class A3 waters are water bodies having definite banks and bed with visible evidence of flow or occurrence of water. This type of use would primarily occur in urban or residential areas. Waters designated Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. The flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consists of small perennially flowing streams.

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.

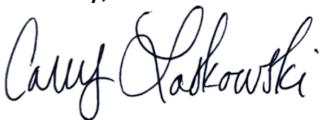
No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project 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 [casey.laskowski@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:casey.laskowski@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-725-0261.

Sincerely,



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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment

## Project Map

### Distribution

List (email): Dave Schechinger, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.  
Michael Drummond, Council on Environmental Quality  
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Sara Carmichael-Stanley, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Leslie Leager, Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council  
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority  
Alyson Fleming, Iowa Finance Authority  
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities  
Jane Clark, Sierra Club  
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Charles Detrick, USDA Rural Development  
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development  
Tokey Boswell, USDO, 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  
Economist

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

***PROJECT IDENTIFICATION***

**Applicant:** City of Solon  
**County:** Johnson  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1920942 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2019-0293A

***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION***

**Location:** The City of Solon is located in Johnson County, Iowa approximately ten (10) miles north of Iowa City, Iowa and 67 miles west of Clinton, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Solon according to the 2010 US Census was 2,037. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 4,587.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The existing sanitary sewer collection system is served by a network of gravity sewer mains ranging in size from 8-inch to 15-inch pipes. The southeast part of the Fox Ridge development is served by a sanitary lift station that pumps flows to a manhole at the intersection of Raymond Drive and 5<sup>th</sup> Street located in the Prairie Acres development. Flows from the Fox Ridge lift station combine with flows from the Prairie Acres development east of Kingston Drive where there are intercepted by a manhole on Plum Street a Kingston Drive. Flow from this manhole enters the East Interceptor sewer and flow to the current termination of the East Side Interceptor at the northwest corner of the Windmill Estates Development at the west end of Majestic Oak Court. A temporary aerial crossing carries flow from this point to the gravity sewer line on Highway 1 at Elm Street.

A temporary lift station was constructed in 2017 to serve the portion of Windmill Estates along Cedar Bend Drive north of the stormwater detention pond. This lift station is

anticipate to be abandoned once the North Trunk Sewer line is installed to the lift station wet well.

The existing sanitary sewer running along Mill Creek also collects flow from the area generally bounded by North Street, West Street, Cedar Street and Mill Creek. This service area will contribute flows to the proposed North Trunk Sewer. The remaining collection system in the City of Solon flows to the west of Chabal Street and then to the wastewater treatment facility. (Facility Plan for North Trunk Sewer, Solon, Iowa, May 2019, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.)

### ***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the sanitary sewer system to enhance its reliability, increase capacity, and to safely and reliably operate the City of Solon's sanitary sewer collection system for the next twenty (20) years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes construction of a 24" diameter sanitary sewer from the wastewater treatment plant to the east side of Hwy 1 along a route following and crossing Mill Creek. Additional 15" sanitary sewer will be constructed to connect the east end of the aerial crossing east on Highway 1 on Elm Street. The 8-inch aerial crossing will be abandoned. A 15" sanitary sewer will also be extended to the temporary lift station in Windmill Estates at the north end of River Birch Run. The lift station will be abandoned. The project covers an estimated total of 24.30 acres with approximately 16.00 acres of ground disturbing construction activity.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the system will discharge to Mill Creek. It has a use stream designation of A3, B(WW2). A3 waters are children's recreational use waters in which recreational uses by children are common. Class A3 waters are water bodies having definite banks and bed with visible evidence of flow or occurrence of water. This type of use would primarily occur in urban or residential areas. Waters designated Class B(WW2) are those in which flow or other physical characteristics are capable of supporting a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. The flow and other physical characteristics limit the maintenance of warm water game fish populations. These waters generally consists of small perennially flowing streams.

### ***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED***

**Alternatives Considered:** The North Trunk Sewer will provide sanitary sewer service to the existing developments on the east side of the City and will also serve future annexation areas to the north and east of the City. For planning purposes, a route was selected that will generally serve the Mill Creek drainage basin. For this reason, the trunk sewer is proposed to be constructed adjacent to Mill Creek with future extensions of the sewer following the creek and its tributaries.

The existing collection system includes a sewer along Mill Creek from the wastewater treatment plant to Iowa Street. The sewer then deflects to the southeast to collect flows to the south. The proposed North Trunk Sewer will be designed to follow the existing alignment to reduce the impacts to mature trees and to follow the previously disturbed corridor. East of Iowa street, the sewer will diverge from the existing sewer alignment to follow along Mill Creek to the east side of Highway 1 to allow future extension along Mill Creek as indicated above.

East of Highway 1, the current project will extend to the south and east to the end of the existing East Side Interceptor sewer. The East Side Interceptor sewer currently discharges to a temporary 8-inch aerial crossing sanitary sewer at this point. A reach will also be extended to the temporary lift station at Windmill Estates to abandon that lift station.

Pipe sizing for the North Trunk Sewer was evaluated for capacity and cost for the proposed project. The main segment between the wastewater treatment plant and Highway 1 was evaluated to determine the capacity for various pipe sizes and resulting potential service area in the Mill Creek drainage basin based on the capacity of the sewer

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The No-Action alternative is not viable due to future population growth, an increased number of service connections, and absence of existing infrastructure where growth is expected to occur.

The project site was selected for the availability of land, engineering criteria, service boundaries, proximity to existing infrastructure, and cost, as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

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

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on December 18, 2019 at 5:30PM. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Economist on November 14, 2019. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral 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  
Johnson County Historical Society

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. Therefore, 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”).

This project may require the disposal of sewage sludge. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the disposal of any sewage sludge complies with applicable requirements found in 40 CFR Part 503 and 567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 67. Properties that contain regulated materials are located within or very near the proposed project area. If construction activities find an unknown area of contamination, it is the responsibility of the applicant to follow the procedure for notification of hazardous conditions (567 IAC 131.2). Excavated soil that contains a hazardous substance must be assessed and properly disposed of (567 IAC 100.4).

**Historical/Archaeological:** The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government, and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred, that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase IA Archeological Reconnaissance conducted on the project property. However, 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).

**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 and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree that the project will not impact threatened or endangered species or their habitats, 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 Flood Plains 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.

**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***

Positive environmental effects will be increased capacity on the north side of Solon to serve developing areas and plan for future growth, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, and maintained water quality in the receiving stream.

#### ***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.
- No Historic Properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, 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” relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.



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**Casey Laskowski**

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Solon**  
**Section: 23 and 24, Township: 81 N, Range: 06 W**  
**Date: 1972**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**

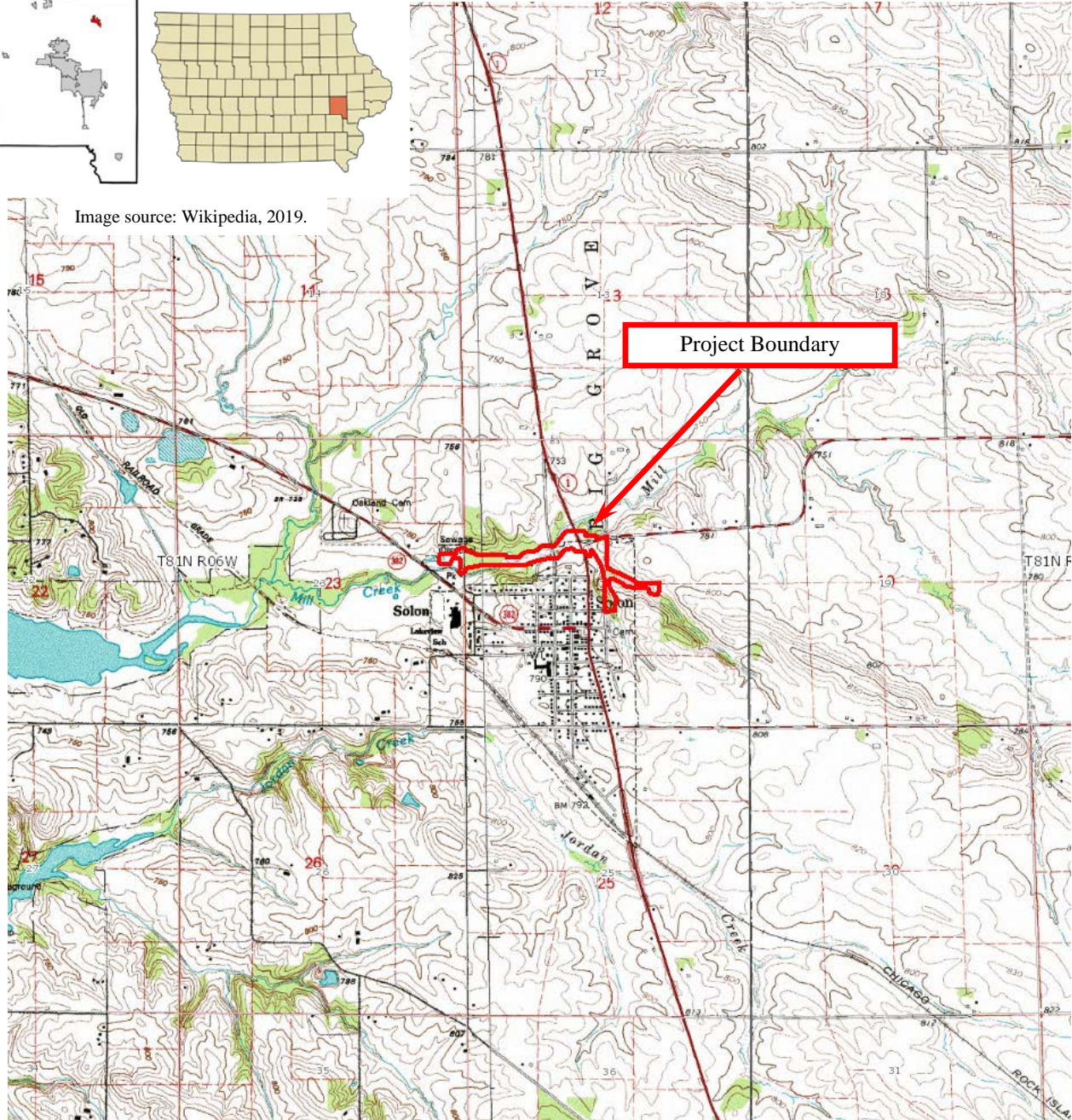


Image source: Wikipedia, 2019.

## USGS Topographic Map

City of Solon – North Trunk Sewer  
Solon, IA



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

2015



North



## Aerial Photograph

City of Solon – North Trunk Sewer  
Solon, IA



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