



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

January 21, 2016

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
**Allen Creek Drainage District, Washtenaw County  
Stadium Boulevard (Hutchins to Kipke) Stormwater BMPs  
State Revolving Fund Project No. 5509-01**

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

#### **HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?**

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires the DEQ to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. The DEQ has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. The DEQ has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

#### **WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?**

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

#### **HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at [www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund](http://www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund) under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

### **HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?**

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at DEQ, Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance, Revolving Loan Section, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30241, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by the DEQ should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Karol Patton, the project manager, at 517-284-5415, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Sonya T. Butler, Chief  
Revolving Loan Section  
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance  
517-284-5433

Attachments

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Allen Creek Drainage District  
State Revolving Loan Fund Program (SRF)  
Environmental Assessment  
January 2016**

**I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** Allen Creek Drainage District

**Address:** 705 North Zeeb Road, P.O. Box 8645  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107-8645

**Authorized Representative:** Mr. Evan Pratt  
Water Resources Commissioner

**Project Number:** 5509-01

**II. PROJECT SUMMARY**

Allen Creek Drainage District has applied for funding through the SRF program to implement stormwater management practices that will reduce sediment and phosphorus inputs to Allen Creek from nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. The proposed project consists of the installation of infiltration practices in conjunction with the reconstruction of a portion of Stadium Boulevard between Hutchins Street and Kipke Drive. The total project cost of the stormwater treatment practice is estimated to be \$1,125,000. The typical resident in the Allen Creek Drainage District is not expected to see an increase in their quarterly stormwater utility fee. Construction is expected to begin Spring 2016 and be completed Fall 2017 to accommodate the University of Michigan home football schedule.

**III. PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Allen Creek is a tributary of the Middle Huron River, located entirely within the city of Ann Arbor (Figure 1). Much of Allen Creek is a designated county drain and is enclosed in pipe. Allen Creek is a highly urbanized watershed, and has the most impervious surface per square mile in the city of Ann Arbor. The land use consists of residential, mixed-use commercial, university, and public school property.

According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, the population of Ann Arbor is expected to increase during the 20-year planning period from the existing population of 115,382 to an estimated 121,408.

The impervious land cover impacts Allen Creek by increasing the amount and velocity of stormwater runoff, as well as the NPS pollutant load. As imperviousness increases and the opportunity of infiltration of stormwater decreases, the volume and velocity of runoff and the frequency and duration of bankfull flow conditions intensify. These conditions lead to increased pollutant loads. The smaller more frequent storms, referred to as the "first flush," contribute the largest load of NPS pollutants to the area's water bodies.

The Middle Huron River, its tributaries, and its impoundments (Geddes Pond and Belleville and Ford Lakes) have been adversely impacted by high phosphorus sediment, and E. coli levels. Phosphorus contributes to nutrient loadings, causing water quality problems such as algal blooms and oxygen depletion. High sediment loads contribute to total suspended solids loadings, causing poor water quality and adverse impacts to aquatic life. Although some of the pollution can be attributed to point sources, nonpoint sources are the largest contributor.

A total maximum daily load (TMDL) for phosphorus was developed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in 2004, which requires a total phosphorus load reduction of the Middle Huron River of 40 percent. Geddes Pond, just upstream of Allen Creek, has an E. coli TMDL that establishes load reductions for all of the tributaries. Phosphorus and E. coli load reductions for Allen Creek were established at 900 pounds (lbs.) and 300 colonies per 100 milliliters, respectively.

#### **IV. PROPOSED PROJECT**

The no-action alternative is not a viable alternative since Allen Creek would continue to adversely impact the water quality of the Middle Huron River, its tributaries, and its impoundments. The no-action alternative was eliminated from further consideration.

##### **A. Alternatives Considered**

Locations for best management practices (BMP) were selected based on opportunities identified in previous Watershed Management Plans and in the city of Ann Arbor's Capital Improvement Plan. Potential alternatives to reduce NPS pollution, runoff volume, and velocity were compared based on water quality benefits, infiltration capacity, land availability, compatibility with surrounding land uses, ease of implementation, operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, and public education opportunities.

In 2013, the city of Ann Arbor adopted the Green Streets policy, which states that the construction and reconstruction of city streets should utilize green infrastructure to infiltrate as much stormwater as possible when taking the site conditions into account. The infiltration standard ranges from the first inch of rain to 3.26 inches, depending on site and soil conditions.

The Stadium Boulevard site was identified as an opportunity to coordinate stormwater treatment improvements with a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) reconstruction project. Two alternatives were evaluated for this section of Stadium Boulevard. Alternative No. 1 consists of oversized first flush storm sewers with sump, weirs, and pollutant control units to attenuate peak stormwater flows, settle and remove pollutants. The estimated project cost for Alternative No. 1 is \$1,640,000. Alternative No. 2 consists of infiltration trenches and perforated storm sewers. The estimated project cost for Alternative No. 2 is \$1,125,000. Extensive soil borings discovered a fairly large sand seam beneath this area of Stadium Boulevard, which accommodates the use of infiltration practices. In addition, the infiltration trench alternative will meet the Green Streets policy goals.

## **B. Selected Alternative**

The selected alternative consists of infiltration trenches and 2,442 lineal feet of perforated storm sewers beneath Stadium Boulevard (Figure 2). Roadway catch basins will collect the stormwater flow and route it to the perforated storm sewers. Stormwater from those sewers will seep into the infiltration trench, then into the existing sand seam. The 11 storm manholes contain large weirs that will detain the stormwater flow to allow the infiltration to occur. The trenches will be installed between Hutchins and Edgewood, from Edgewood west to South Main Street and from Stadium Way to Kipke Drive. The trenches will be approximately 11 feet wide by 7 feet deep. Stormwater in excess of the design capacity will be discharged to either the existing underground infiltration basin at Pioneer High School or to Allen Creek.

The infiltration trenches are designed to infiltrate the first inch of rainfall. They will capture and infiltrate approximately 6,642 cubic feet of stormwater, which is equivalent to 100 percent of the first flush volume.

The city of Ann Arbor will be responsible for the long-term O&M of the infiltration and stormwater components. Annual vactoring of the storm sewer manhole sumps will be performed. The waste will be transported and disposed at a licensed disposal facility.

## **C. Project Costs**

The total project costs for the Stadium Boulevard reconstruction stormwater management practices is estimated to be \$1,125,000, including construction, contingencies, engineering, administrative, and legal services. It is anticipated that this portion of the project will be funded through the SRF program, administered by the DEQ and the Michigan Finance Authority. The repayment period is 20 years at the current interest rate of 2.5 percent. Costs related to the reconstruction of Stadium Boulevard will be paid through MDOT funding.

The typical household in the Allen Creek Drainage District is not expected to see an increase in its existing stormwater utility fee. The drainage district is expected to receive principal forgiveness for a portion of the total loan as a result of provisions in the 2014 Environmental Protection Agency Capitalization Grant for Green Project Reserve and Additional Subsidies.

## **V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

### **A. Primary Impacts**

The proposed project will reduce NPS pollution to Allen Creek by providing runoff infiltration, filtering of pollutants, and reducing peak flows.

The stormwater management practices will treat 6,642 of cubic feet of stormwater runoff, which is up to 100 percent of the first flush volume. The estimated annual load reduction is 987 lbs. of sediment, 0.29 lbs. of phosphorus, and 1,199 billion E. coli colonies. These reductions will have a beneficial impact on the water quality of

Allen Creek and the Middle Huron River and will contribute to load reduction in the TMDLs.

Impacts of the construction activities associated with this project are considered short-term disruptions that, for the most part, do not extend beyond the period of construction. Short-term adverse impacts associated with construction include noise, dust, exhaust fumes, removal of groundcover and other vegetation, and increased soil erosion potential.

Construction may cause brief inconveniences to those who live and travel through the project area. Construction will be scheduled to allow full pedestrian and vehicular traffic during the University of Michigan football season. Noise and dust generated by construction activities will temporarily impact residents, especially the installation of the infiltration areas in the rights-of-way and the reconstruction of the roadway. Traffic control measures will be used to minimize impacts. Disturbed areas will be restored as soon as possible. Any excavated material will be deposited in an upland site, and then stabilized. Construction provisions will be enforced for compliance pursuant to Part 91, Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, to prevent damage to the surrounding areas from soil erosion, dust, and sedimentation.

The proposed project will not impact any floodplains, wetlands, or inland lakes and streams.

Both the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory have reviewed the proposed project. Both agencies have determined that no endangered or threatened species habitat will be affected by the project. All anticipated impacts to fauna and flora resulting from construction are expected to be temporary.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the proposed project for impacts on historical and archeological resources. There was an archeological site adjacent to the project area. The University of Michigan removed human remains from this site in 1933. The site is believed to be fully removed, and construction that has taken place in the area since 1933 has not identified additional concerns. The likelihood of encountering additional remains or archaeological material is low; however, if artifacts or remains are discovered, work will immediately stop and the SHPO will be notified. Based on these findings, the SHPO has determined the project, as proposed, will have no adverse impact on any historical/archeological resources.

The Bay Mills Indian Community, Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians have reviewed the proposed project for impacts on tribal historic, religious, and archeological resources. They have determined that the project, as proposed, will not have an impact on any known tribal historic, religious, or cultural resource.

## **B. Secondary Impacts**

No adverse secondary impacts are anticipated for this project.

**VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In 2014, the Huron River 2013 Project Plan was amended to incorporate a new project and to modify some of the projects contained therein to reflect Ann Arbor's Green Streets Policy. The 2014 amendment was developed based on recommendations presented in the Middle Huron, Malletts, and Miller Creek Watershed Management Plans, and the city of Ann Arbor's Capital Improvement Plan. Each plan involved the public and received input through a series of public meetings and workshops.

On May 18, 2014, the SRF public hearing notice was published in the *MLive Daily Edition of AnnArbor.com* and the draft project plan was made available for review. The formal public hearing was held June 25, 2014, at the New Center in Ann Arbor. Comments were addressed regarding the project identification and selection process, project cost, and pollutant control benefits. The Huron River Green Infrastructure Drain Drainage District passed a resolution on June 27, 2014, unanimously approving the project plan and agreeing to implement the recommended alternatives.

**VII. REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

No long-term significant impacts are associated with this project. Long-term positive impacts include reduced sediment and phosphorus inputs and stormwater runoff leading to water quality improvements in the Middle Huron, Allen Creek, and its impoundments. The benefits of the proposed project are anticipated to outweigh the short-term adverse construction-related impacts.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Sonya T. Butler, Chief  
Revolving Loan Section  
Office of Drinking Water and Municipal Assistance  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 30241  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7741  
Telephone: 517-284-5433  
E-Mail: [butlers2@michigan.gov](mailto:butlers2@michigan.gov)

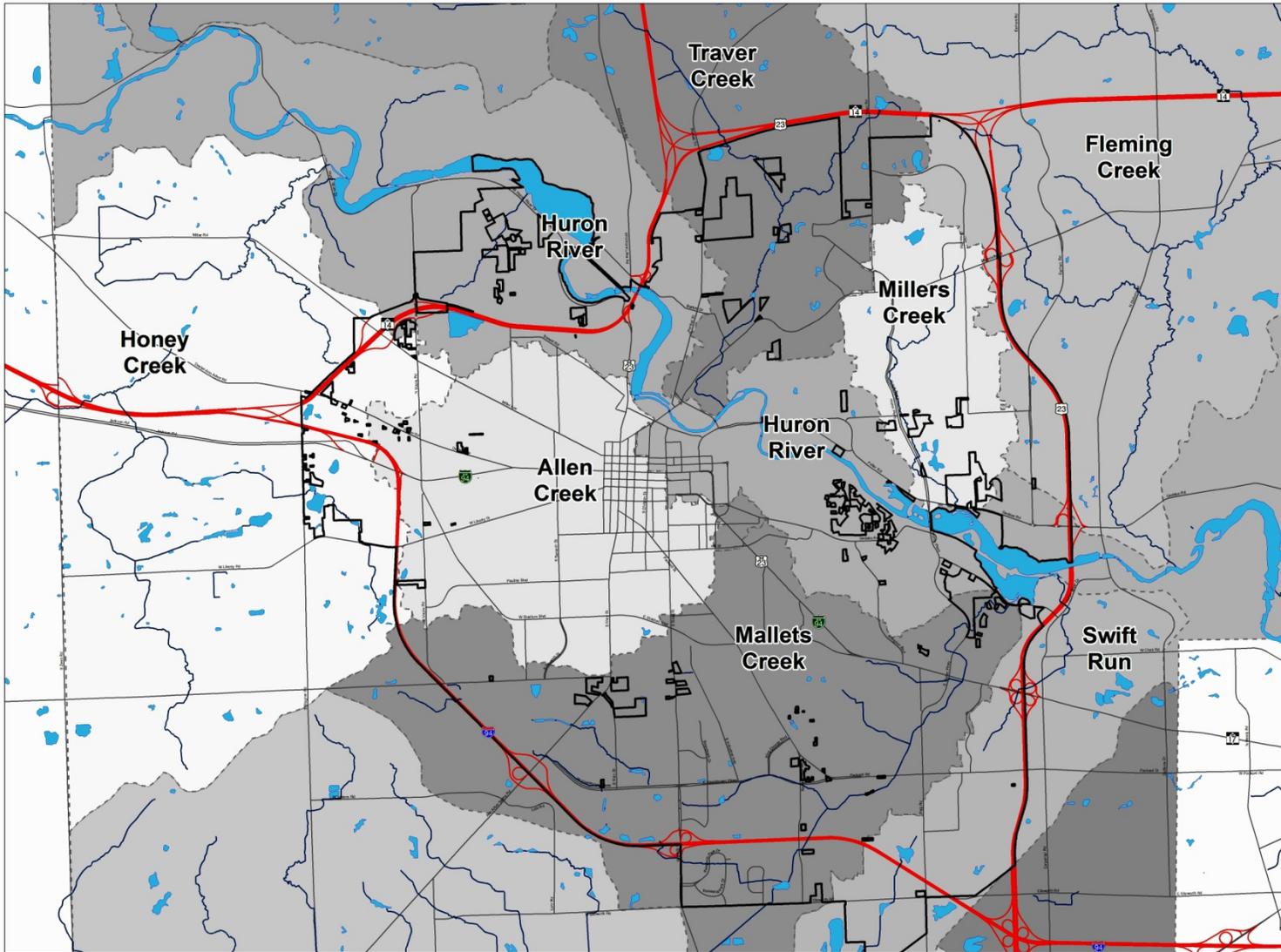


Figure 1 Creekshed Map

# Stadium Blvd Reconstruction Hutchins to Kipke

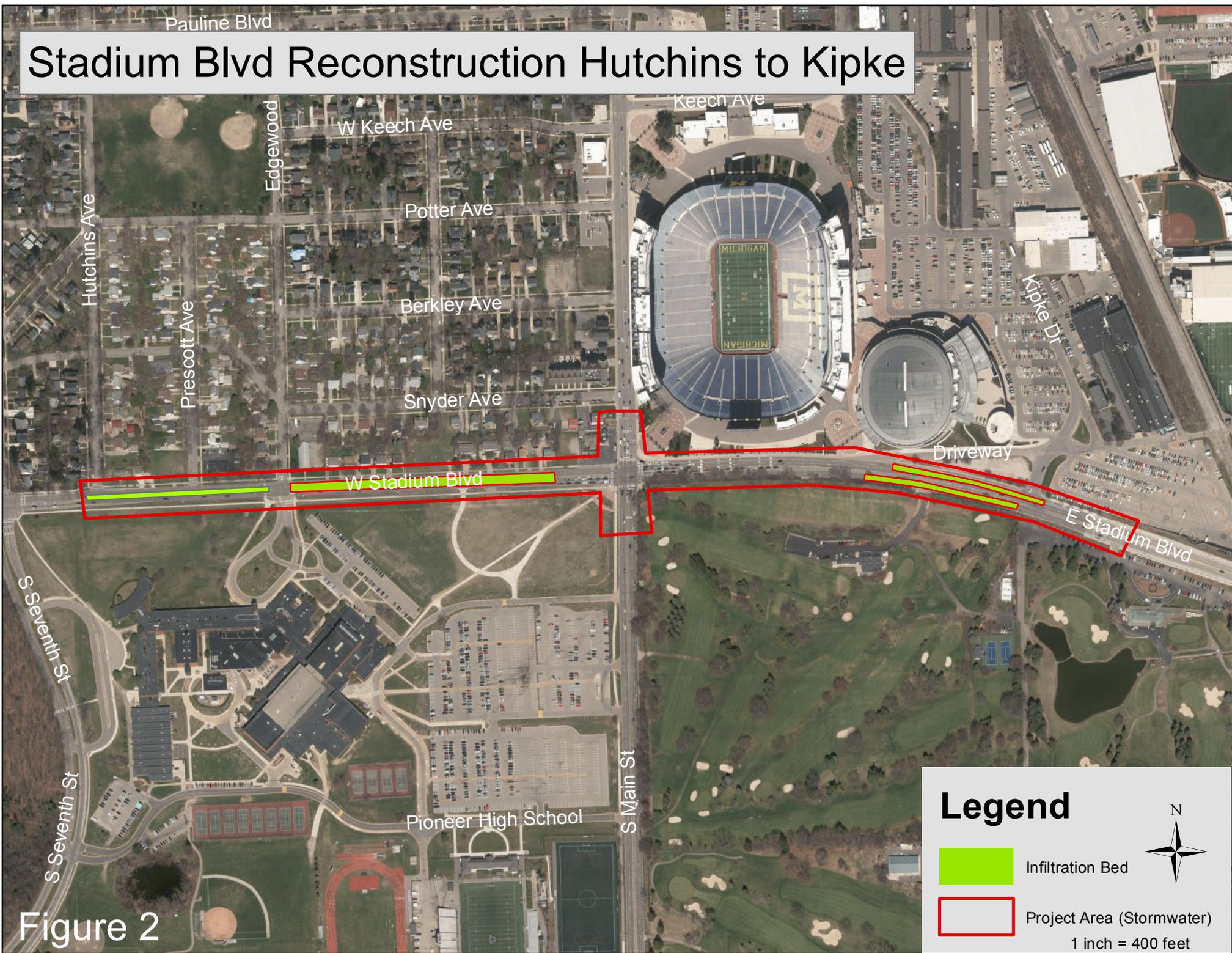


Figure 2

## Legend

-  Infiltration Bed
  -  Project Area (Stormwater)
- 1 inch = 400 feet

