

CGL is pleased to announce our fifth edition of InfoBrief. The purpose of this publication is to inform our clients and business partners of new government laws, regulations, and updates regarding environmental, surveying, and engineering news, and CGL's involvement in these fields that may be of particular interest. We intend for these issues to provide you with valuable information. Any questions or comments would be appreciated. Please give us a call at 630-250-9595.

US Army Corps of Engineers Update

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has revised the rule for compensatory mitigation required for impacts to wetlands and other Waters of the U.S. The new ruling does not necessarily favor onsite mitigation as a first option as it did before. Offsite mitigation banks, onsite mitigation, offsite mitigation, fee in lieu, and other options will all be reviewed to determine the best option for the project and to achieve viable wetland mitigation based on a watershed approach. Replacement for the type of wetland impacted will also be favored. It is still required that avoidance and minimization of impacts are looked at and alternatives are presented. It is highly recommended that a pre-application meeting is held with the USACE prior to permit application submittals to reach an appropriate method of mitigation.

General Permit 25 is expected to receive automatic 401 Water Quality Certification from the USEPA later this summer. GP 25 allows projects in DuPage County requiring USACE permit applications to be reviewed by DuPage County DEC on behalf of the USACE as part of the County's wetland review. In the past, Water Quality Certification-which usually takes 1 year to obtain- was also required for this process.

Please contact Valerie Jakobi at valerie.jakobi@cgl-ltd.com for more information.

Emerald Ash Borer & GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

The Emerald Ash Borer has been a hot topic lately not only in Illinois, but for Cowhey Gudmundson Leder as well. The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive beetle that destroys ash trees. The emerald ash borer is a small, metallic-green beetle native to Asia. The larvae feed on the inner bark of ash trees, disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, causing the trees to starve and

eventually die. Since the ash borer was discovered in 2002, over 20 million ash trees have died in the Midwest (USDA-IL-2006). The Emerald Ash Borer has cost municipalities, property owners, nursery operators, and forest product industries tens of millions of dollars.

Cowhey Gudmundson Leder is actively working with communities that have identified Emerald Ash Borer within their municipal limits. Utilizing the power of GIS mapping, our forestry and GIS staff have helped municipalities track and manage infected trees or trees that need to be monitored for the Emerald Ash Borer. GIS allows the municipalities to display high risk zones for the Emerald Ash Borer along with documenting yearly tree pruning, removal and planting processes.

In addition to coupling staff expertise in arboriculture with GIS mapping, CGL has a full set of database management capabilities to support a variety of mapping and asset management needs. Cowhey Gudmundson Leder utilizes GPS technology to locate features that need to be tracked or monitored such as trees, utilities, and land management activities.

For more information on GIS services, please contact Matt Bardol at matt.bardol@cgl-ltd.com or 630-438-6274.



Emerald Ash Borer (Adult)
Forestry Images: www.forestryimages.org
photo by: David Cappaert

NPDES and Urban Manual Updates

On May 31, 2008, the General NPDES Permit For Storm Water Discharges From Construction Site Activities expired. According to the permit "An expired general permit continues in force and effect until a new general permit or an individual permit is issued. Only those facilities authorized to discharge under the expiring general permit are covered by the continued permit." Projects submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) after the expiration date but before the new permit is issued, are not covered but will not be liable as long as the site complies with the expired NPDES regulations including keeping an up to date Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) onsite, maintaining soil erosion and sediment control on the site, and performing required inspections. Changes to the permit are anticipated and a reissuance is expected later this summer.

CGL is assisting a technical task force with updates to the Illinois Urban Manual. This manual is a technical guidance for urban ecosystem protection and enhancement for Illinois. The goal of the committee is to add new standards, remove out-dated standards, and update current standards. CGL hopes to lend its expertise and incorporate practical and cost effective ideas to the process. Some of the draft standards up for technical review are located on the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' website at <http://aiswcd.org/Programs/ium.htm> . Standards will also be placed on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website for public comment.

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Green School Design



In Illinois, the "Sustainable Schools" Act signed into law in 2007 requires school districts that apply for state construction grants to receive green building certification through the Capital Development Board. Nationally, green school design is a rapidly growing trend and also is supported by the 230 member Chicago Wilderness consortium and its *Leave No Child Inside* initiative.

Green design incorporates creative elements into the interiors, exteriors, and campuses of schools to make them healthier learning environments, save money, and become more environmentally friendly community neighbors. The U.S. Green Building Council and others have documented the benefits of green schools. They include:

- A healthier and more productive learning environment
- Financial savings
- Hands on learning
- Environmentally friendly neighbors

CGL frequently collaborates with LEED-certified architects to provide comprehensive and integrated landscape, infrastructure, and building design services. CGL also has ample experience in consulting for elementary schools, grade-schools, high schools and colleges. Please contact Dwight Trostle at dwight.trostle@cgl-ltd.com for more information.



CGL Website

We invite you to visit our newly revamped website for helpful links, a full listing of CGL services, and helpful industry links. www.cgl-ltd.com

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