



## **Gorman Heritage Farm**

Gorman Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

OH EPA-319 WATERSHED RESTORATION

Gorman Heritage Farm  
10052 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241  
Phone: (513) 563-6663

Prepared by Caroline Bear  
Date: June 20, 2024  
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Gorman Heritage Farm is a historical, nonprofit educational working farm with 122 acres of cropland, pastures, degraded woodlands, livestock paddocks, barns, farmyard, market gardens, and steep slopes. The mission of Gorman Heritage Farm is to cultivate a healthy community through farm-based education and experiences about food, sustainable agriculture, and the natural world.

**PROBLEM STATEMENT:**

Gorman Creek is the primary tributary that flows through the Gorman Heritage Farm and eventually, into the main stem of the Mill Creek. Gorman Creek drains approximately 55 acres that are almost completely contained within the farm property. Southern two-lined salamanders have been documented, suggesting a Class III primary headwater habitat, while cold water macroinvertebrates identified in this stream have been limited to a single crustacean species (*Gammarus minus*).

In its existing condition, Gorman Creek is severely impaired, actively incising, and generating large volumes of sediment due to systemic channel erosion. The lack of cold water and sensitive insect species in the primary headwater stream has been attributed to the highly silted and embedded substrate, which is most severe in the footprint of the proposed restoration project.

The conditions in Gorman Creek are contributing to non-attainment of aquatic life use in the Mill Creek Watershed, which is a 166-square mile basin in southwest Ohio with a 28-mile-long main stem which drains the western side of Greater Cincinnati into the Ohio River just west of downtown Cincinnati. Land use in the Mill Creek watershed is characterized by commercial, transportation, utility, residential and institutional uses. Assessment sites in the Mill Creek located just upstream and downstream of the confluence of this tributary (MC04 and MC11) are both in non-attainment of their WWH aquatic life use with the primary causes and sources identified by MBI being siltation and nutrients from urban runoff.

Just downstream of its confluence with Gorman Creek, the Mill Creek was assessed to be just barely attaining its aquatic life use in 2016, but was only in partial attainment in 2021. This demonstrates that this reach of the Mill Creek is at the margin of attainment, though still suffers from sediment and nutrient problems. The proposed project is designed to reduce sediment and nutrient loading to this downstream location, and in combination with other proposed projects (Critical Area 1, Projects 5 and 8; and Critical Area 2, Project 1), hopefully push this reach back into attainment of its warm water habitat aquatic life use.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

Gorman Creek originates on Gorman Heritage Farm and runs past the Soil and Stars Education Center. Gorman Heritage Farm is owned by the Village of Evendale and operated by Gorman Heritage Farm Foundation, a 501(c)(3). The Soil & Stars Education center, located adjacent to Gorman Heritage Farm at 10020 Reading Rd, is owned by the Soil & Stars LLC. The LLC is governed by a board comprised of two board members and the executive director, respectively, of each of 2 organizations: Gorman Heritage Farm Foundation and iSPACE, another 501(c)(3).

The creek partially originates by the Gorman Heritage Farm farmyard and flows west, going north of the vegetable fields, south of the Interpretive Center, then north of and beneath the parking lot of Soils & Stars (see Figure 3 and Figure 4 in appendix).

Gorman Heritage Farm controls nearly the entire watershed of this primary headwater habitat that is approximately 1,150 linear feet upstream of the Mill Creek. This unique control provides the opportunity to implement a holistic approach (see other management efforts underway below) to restoring stability and biological integrity to Gorman Creek. In addition to reducing sediment and nutrient loads to the Mill Creek, improving Gorman Creek may create a refuge (at its lower reach near its confluence with Mill Creek) for fish in the Mill Creek during high stress periods (e.g. sewer overflows and flash flows). The success story of the biological restoration of Gorman Creek is one that Gorman Heritage Farm is in a unique position to educate the community about through the many educational programs conducted on the property every year.

Gorman Heritage Farm's management of the farm and Gorman Creek involves multiple water quality-based best management practices. The farm does not use chemical fertilizers, uses cover cropping on all fields, practices no-spray and conservation-tillage agriculture on over 35 acres of row crops and vegetable fields, and continues to explore additional BMPs that can be implemented to reduce our environmental impact. The farm has installed water bars and water management infrastructure on our trail system, and uses swales and reforestation throughout the property to capture and slow water run-off from pastures, fields and hillsides.

The project received complementary funding from ODNR H2Ohio Ohio River Basin for the completed installation of a three-celled bioretention wetland system upstream, as well as from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for the installation of a Glade at Soil & Stars, where GHF removed ¼ acre of asphalt directly adjacent to the proposed project and replaced with native woodland plants and meadow for use as an outdoor classroom.

The Gorman Creek project contributes to a larger effort to restore the highly urbanized Sharon Creek-Mill Creek HUC 12 subwatershed, being done in conjunction with ongoing efforts of the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC) to reduce CSO organic inputs to the Mill Creek. Upstream of the site, WWH Partial Attainment riparian corridor habitat is found in a Hamilton County regional park, Sharon Woods and the Mill Creek Alliance is restoring 4,700 linear feet of Sharon Creek and a total of 14.83 acres of associated riparian corridor. Two upstream tributaries are in Full Attainment. The Project also contributes to four downstream stream and floodplain enhancement projects that have been completed or awarded funding since 2018. Also, the next tributary to the Mill Creek downstream of Gorman Creek is Cooper Creek which is the focus of lots of watershed restoration efforts aimed at mitigating hydrologic alteration by the Cooper Creek Collaborative.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project description was developed in connection with the grant application and can be modified in order to meet the overall goals of the project. 450 linear feet of the Gorman Creek will be restored to reduce bank instability and improve sedimentation in the creek, while supporting a healthy ecology for flora and fauna. Another phase of the project is the creation of a wetland just south of Gorman Creek through removal of a portion of the Northeast corner of the adjacent parking lot. Asphalt will be replaced with native plant species, which are to be added throughout the project area to provide water quality improvements, enhanced habitat, and long-term ecological benefits, while also weighing the competitive ability of a species against soil modifications, pollution or alteration of growing conditions from changes in the landscape. The ultimate goal is to transform Gorman Creek to a Class IIIb Primary Headwater habitat.

Upon completion, the final phase is to incorporate mission-based public engagement opportunities into the project area that encourage and inspire visitors to explore and learn. Gorman Heritage Farm's mission is to cultivate a healthy community through farm-based education and experiences about food, sustainable agriculture, and the natural world. These engagement areas will be used for educational purposes with school groups, camps, adult and family programs, and overall visitor experience.

### **PROJECT PARTNERS**

Mill Creek Alliance and the Hamilton County Conservation District have been advising and supporting Gorman Heritage Farm in its efforts to improve our land management to restore wetland and primary headwater habitat and to reduce nutrient loading into Gorman Creek and the Mill Creek. Both organizations will continue to help Gorman Heritage Farm measure its water quality impacts, plan future improvements, and understand the role that Gorman Heritage Farm plays within the watershed. As Gorman Heritage Farm initiates additional educational programs around our water quality management, MCA and the SWCD will help promote programs to their constituents.

The Village of Evendale, as the property owner, is a partner that provides financial resources for the farm to operate. The relationship and expectations for Gorman Heritage Farm and the Village of Evendale are governed through a contract for management of the farm.

iSPACE, as a partner in managing the Soil and Stars property, supports the effort to improve the water quality adjacent to the property. Their board and executive director will need to sign off on the easement and project design and workplan.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE:**

GHF is seeking proposals from Contractors knowledgeable and experienced in the type of work required as outlined herein. Contractors must have successfully completed similar or comparable projects to be eligible to submit proposals. At a minimum, proposers must detail prior experience with the following:

- Provide examples of 3 projects of similar character
- Supply resumes of the key personnel
- Ecological stream restoration
- Wetland design and creation
- Permitting process for stream restoration and wetland creation
- Provide background of engineers proposed to work on stream restoration and wetland creation

**BUDGET:**

This project is funded by the Ohio EPA 319 Nonpoint Source Program ([Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plan \(NPS-IS Plan\) Sharon Creek – Mill Creek HUC-12 \(05090203 01 03\)](#)). The total available budget for performance under this contract is \$262,875.20. This is a maximum that shall not be exceeded under any circumstances unless prior written authorization is obtained from Gorman Heritage Farm.

Candidates are encouraged to provide input and comment on any tasks included within this RFP and to propose alternate and/or complementary options to complete the project in a more economical and/or higher quality fashion.

**SCOPE OF SERVICES:**

The Contractor selected shall provide the necessary services to fully undertake and successfully complete the following identified project tasks; however, the Contractor is able to suggest additional and/or alternative tasks to better accomplish and/or surpass the stated restoration goals:

1. Conduct site assessment and analyses to develop a restoration and creation approach that will maximize the quality and quantity of restored stream and wetland creation.
2. Topographical survey.
3. Hydrologic and Hydraulic analysis.
4. 90% Design set, Construction Quality Assurance.
5. Survey easements along project boundaries.
6. Develop 30% and 60% Engineering and Design Plans for the stream restoration and wetland creation site. The Final 60% Engineering and Design Plans, from which construction shall occur, shall be signed by an Engineer of Record.
7. Development of an Opinion of Probable Cost at the 30% and 60% design stages.
8. Prepare and submit on Gorman Heritage Farm's behalf all local, state and federal regulatory permits necessary to initiate and complete the project. The Contractor shall pay all permit fees.
9. Plans for removal and disposal of asphalt from Project Area, for the location of the wetland creation portion of proposal.
10. Gorman Heritage Farm asks that the Contractor develop a Planting Plan for the site in conjunction with the 30% and 60% Engineering and Design Plans.
  - a. Hydrology and wetland restoration and enhancement earthmoving activities as proposed within the Engineering and Design Plans.
  - b. Any other construction activities proposed by the Contractor and accepted by Gorman Heritage Farm during the engineering and design process.
  - c. Post-construction monitoring required by permit conditions, if applicable.
11. Project Construction. The selected Contractor shall perform construction of this project per the final 60% design as approved by Gorman Heritage Farm and Ohio EPA, including:

- a. Preparation of an Ohio EPA BMP to protect water quality as much as possible during construction. Erosion and sediment must be controlled throughout the construction process in accordance with any local requirements and the Ohio EPA construction general permit.
- b. Any fill or spoils that need to be moved should remain on-site at a location designated by Gorman Heritage Farm and approved by any permitting authorities or taken off-site at a location also approved by Gorman Heritage Farm. No fill or spoil shall be placed in a stream or wetland area, either on-site or off-site, or within a regulatory floodway zone.
- c. Any areas disturbed or spoil areas must be cleaned up, graded naturally, mulched and seeded in accordance with reasonable timeframes or as required by local government or the Ohio EPA general permit.
- d. The Contractor shall be responsible to repair, replace, or restore any part of the property outside of the project boundaries that are damaged or changed by the contractor or subcontractor doing work on the project.
- e. The Contractor shall be responsible for locating all utilities and avoiding damage to them during construction.
- f. Construction access and staging for this project will be provided at an onsite location. If alternative access points are proposed, please note this in your response.
- g. All materials, reports, surveys, delineations, plans, etc. will be available to and become property of Gorman Heritage Farm.
- h. All materials and each part or detail of work shall be subject to inspection by Gorman Heritage Farm. Gorman Heritage Farm or Gorman Heritage Farm representatives shall be allowed access to all parts of the work and shall be furnished with such information and assistance by the Contractor as required making a complete and detailed inspection.
- i. All design work shall be performed by a licensed (in Ohio) design professional and stamped by a design professional in accordance with Ohio law.
- j. Gorman Heritage Farm desires to utilize high quality, natural materials in all aspects of the project scope and work product. The use of local and native materials is strongly encouraged and desired as a feature of the project and site.

**TRANSFER OF RECORDS/DELIVERABLES:**

Data shall be collected and formatted in a manner consistent with generally accepted good engineering and design practices. All records (original tracings, maps, field sketches, lab reports, flow data, graphics originals, design calculations, electronic files including model input and output files, etc.) generated by the project shall be the property of Gorman Heritage Farm and shall be turned over to Gorman Heritage Farm upon completion and/or as directed.

Project deliverables shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Flash Drive or PDF files of all data, plans and regulatory permits gathered.
- Hydrologic analysis report.
- 30 and 60 percent Engineering and Design Plans, including a final set of plans signed by a licensed engineer of record.
- Copies of permit applications.
- Final report and recommendations, including:
  - As-Built drawings: Prior to submission of a final application for payment, as-built drawings shall be provided to Gorman Heritage Farm showing final, restored site conditions.
  - Construction photographs: Furnish a series of digital construction photos to show the progress of work. Photos must be provided on a CD or other digital media.
- Any other relevant logs, data, information, reports or records.

All deliverables shall be in a format acceptable to Gorman Heritage Farm. Gorman Heritage Farm reserves the right to request additional items pertaining to the project at its discretion

**INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:**

The Contractor shall provide Gorman Heritage Farm with a Certification of Insurance verifying its limits for liability, property damage, and automobile insurance in an amount not less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000), per occurrence.

Gorman Heritage Farm shall be specifically named as an “additional insured” on all policies covering work under this Contract. The required Certificate of Insurance shall show that Gorman Heritage Farm has been added to the policies. ALL insurance shall be endorsed so that it cannot be canceled in less than thirty (30) days.

**SCHEDULE OF WORK PERFORMANCE:**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024
  - Prepare and release bid documents for securing Contractor.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2024
  - Review bids, select Contractor and finalize contract for construction.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024
  - Finalize design and permitting
  - Survey site and establish conservation easement.
  - Remove asphalt
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2025
  - Begin site clearing and in-stream construction and wetland construction
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025
  - Continue in-stream construction and wetland construction
  - Design and order educational signage
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2025
  - Install native plants and spread seed
  - Install educational signage
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025
  - Conduct educational tours
  - Invasive plant maintenance as necessary
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026
  - Install additional native plants and spread additional seed as necessary
  - Invasive plant maintenance as necessary

**CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The Contractor selected shall be required to assume responsibility for all services offered by the Contractor’s proposal regardless of whether they are produced “in-house” or performed under a joint or sub-contractual arrangement. Such firm shall be the sole point of contact with regard to contractual matters, including payment of any and all contract fees. Within the contract documents, Gorman Heritage Farm will not accept a limit to the Contractor’s financial liability for acts of omission or negligence associated with the design and construction of the project.

**SUBCONTRACTING:**

Any subcontractors and/or subsidiaries, outside associates or consultants required by the Contractor in connection with the services outlined in the Scope of Services herein will be limited to such individuals or firms as are specifically identified in this proposal unless otherwise approved in writing by Gorman Heritage Farm. Design and construction activities to be performed by a subcontractor will be awarded to qualified firms consistent with State procurement protocols.

**INDEPENDENT CAPACITY OF CONTRACTOR:**

The parties hereto agree that the Contractor, and any agents and employees of the Contractor, in the performance of this agreement, shall act in an independent capacity and not as officers, employees, or agents of Gorman Heritage Farm. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to create a partnership, joint venture, or other relationship between the Contractor and Gorman Heritage Farm.

**COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE STATE AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS:**

This project is funded with Ohio EPA monies. In the performance of the duties and obligations, the Contractor selected agrees to comply with all applicable regulations and requirements, including, but not limited to:

- Ohio Governor Executive Orders.
- Federal, state and local laws, regulations (rules), assurances, orders, and
  - a) Contract Work Hours and Safety Standard Act,
  - b) Ohio Department of Commerce Prevailing Wage Guidelines, regarding prevailing wages, deductions, worker compensation, taxes, social security and unemployment compensation, and any contributions thereto,
  - c) Termination for cause and convenience,
  - d) Rights to Inventions Made Under Contract or Agreement,
  - e) Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,
  - f) Drug Free Workplaces,
  - g) Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity,
  - h) Elections and Campaign Contributions, and Conflicts of Interest / Ethics,
  - i) Procurement of Recovered Materials; Domestic preferences for procurements,
  - j) Byrd-Anti-Lobbying Agreement, and
  - k) Local building codes and regulations.
- Federal state, and local laws and regulations (rules, ordinances), assurances, and orders, whether or not specifically referenced herein.
- Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended,
- Certification Regarding Disbarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters,
- Terms and conditions of the Ohio 319 Nonpoint Source program.
- Disposal of waste shall be in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- All encumbrances or deed restrictions affecting the Project Area.

Contractors submitting proposals agree that all applicable compliance language will become a part of the design-build contract.

**LIABILITY:**

The Contractor agrees to release, indemnify and hold Gorman Heritage Farm, their officers, employees and volunteers, harmless from and against any and all liabilities, damages, business interruptions, delays, losses, claims, judgments of any kind, including all costs, reasonable attorney's fees, and expenses incidental thereto, which may be suffered by, or charged to Gorman Heritage Farm by reason of any loss of or damage to any property, or injury to or death of any person arising out of or by reason of any negligence of or omission by the Contractor, its subcontractors, their servants, employees or agents of any covenant or condition of this Agreement, or by any act or failure to act of those persons. Within the contract documents, Gorman Heritage Farm will not accept a limit to the Contractor's financial liability for acts of omission or negligence associated with the design and construction of the project.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION:**

Throughout the contract period, the Contractor shall carry Workers' Compensation Insurance, as required by the Ohio Workers' Compensation Act, upon all its employees engaged in this work and shall be responsible to see that any subcontractors carry such insurance on their employees. The Contractor shall also provide general liability and property damage insurance for the entire period and name Gorman Heritage Farm as an additional insured.

A copy of the Contractor's Workers' Compensation Certificate shall be submitted to Gorman Heritage Farm. It is agreed that in the event any carrier of such insurance exercises cancellation, notice will be made immediately to Gorman Heritage Farm of such cancellation.

**SITE VISITS DURING PROPOSAL PERIOD:**

Gorman Heritage Farm offers educational programs and Summer Camps for children. As such, proposers do not have permission to access the Project Area without emailing a preferred date, time, party names and contact information to Caroline Bear (info@gormanfarm.org). Once approved by Gorman Heritage Farm, proposers may access Project Area for site visit.

A site visit led by Gorman Heritage Farm is scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 PM on Monday, July, 8th, 2024. Attendance is not mandatory although proposing Contractors are encouraged to attend.

**RESTRICTED COMMUNICATIONS:**

To avoid situations where a potential or perceived conflict of interest could occur or where an unfair competitive advantage could be obtained or perceived, all inquiries or other communications regarding this RFP shall be exclusively directed to Caroline Bear as outlined herein. Contractors are hereby expressly instructed not to otherwise communicate with Gorman Heritage Farm regarding this RFP. Contractors are allowed to communicate with Gorman Heritage Farm regarding other matters, contracts or potential projects that are not related to this RFP. This prohibition is also applicable to Contractor's affiliates, officers, employees, agents, subcontractors, consultants and proposing team members.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERERS/PROPOSAL CONTENT:**

In responding to this request, proposers should include the items listed below. Please keep responses brief and to the point to the extent possible.

1. Cover letter (up to 2 pages in length).
2. Proposed approach to the project and description of services to be provided.
3. Itemized budget identifying key components and costs, including invasive plant removal and revegetation costs. The Contractor may also include a one-page budget narrative to better support the budget.
4. Proposed project schedule for performance of key project components and tasks.
5. A summary of the Contractor's qualifications. This section should include the following:
  - a. List and describe each entity, including proposed subcontractors that are a part of the Contractor's Project Team.
  - b. A summary of up to three previously completed, successful design-build stream restoration projects.
  - c. Identification of and proposed roles / responsibilities of all key Project Team personnel, including key subcontractor personnel, who will be involved in the project, including the experience, knowledge, technical expertise, certifications, and licenses, and resumes of key personnel. Resumes shall not count toward the total proposal page limit.
6. Three project references, including contact information and a brief description of the project and Contractor's responsibilities. At least one of the references should be from project summaries as described above.
7. Concept Plan. It is recommended, though not required, that Contractors provide a very preliminary one-page Concept Plan as part of their proposal. Such a Concept Plan, even at a very basic and preliminary degree, will help Gorman Heritage Farm get a better feel for the Contractor's creativity and vision for the Project Area.

Proposers are encouraged to submit proposals that provide a quality overall presentation that is concise, neat, well-organized and easy for a lay person to understand. It is the responsibility of each proposer to become familiar with the RFP requirements; demonstrate compliance with these RFP guidelines; and provide sufficient information and detail to allow effective review and evaluation of their proposal in accordance with the identified criteria.

Contractor, by submitting a proposal, agrees that any costs incurred by the Contractor in responding to this RFP are to be borne by the Contractor and may not be billed to Gorman Heritage Farm or this project.

**PROPOSAL SIZE:**

Proposal page limitations are recommended to ease preparation and review time, but not mandatory. Please try and limit proposal response to 25 pages in length, single-sided. The following sections shall not count toward the page guideline: cover page, cover letter, table of contents and resumes. The proposal should be in 12-point or larger font on 8.5"x11" paper. Larger (11"x17") pages may be utilized within the proposal for items such as maps, concept plans, graphs or charts, if desired.

**SUBMITTAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

All proposals should be submitted in the format specified to be considered.

Proposals must be sealed and submitted to:

Caroline Bear, Director of Operations  
Gorman Heritage Farm  
10052 Reading Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45241  
ATTN: Gorman Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration

To be considered, proposals should be received no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, July 19, 2024. Any proposals received after close of business (5:00 p.m.) Friday, July 19, 2024 need not be considered. Proposers should allow sufficient delivery time to ensure timely receipt.

**DISPOSITION OF PROPOSAL MATERIALS:**

All material submitted in response to this RFP will become the property of Gorman Heritage Farm and may be returned only at the option of Gorman Heritage Farm and at the expense of the Contractor. Gorman Heritage Farm reserves the right to retain a copy of any materials returned. Successful and unsuccessful Contractors will be notified in writing. Gorman Heritage Farm will not provide copies of submitted proposals to any Contractor, unless a Contractor is asking for return of their proposal, as noted above.

**PROPOSAL EVALUATION FACTORS:**

Gorman Heritage Farm will review all proposals received, utilizing the evaluation and rating criteria outlined below to determine the Contractor most qualified to perform the design-build services requested:

1. Overall qualifications and experience of the proposing firm and project team
2. Prior relevant and successful experience with design-build stream restoration and wetland creation, and Ohio EPA permitting
  - a. Note: It is expected that the design and construction personnel identified in the Proposal and within the Contractor's prior project experience be the same design and construction personnel completing this project.
3. Proposed approach, including Concept Plan and itemized description table identifying unit measurement and estimated quantities, and budget utilization
4. Overall quality of the proposal and compliance with identified RFP requirements
5. Achievement of project schedule goals
6. Design that reflects thought given to use of space as a non-profit education facility and physical connectors from the Project Area to Gorman Heritage Farm.
7. Shows an understanding and acknowledgement of Gorman Heritage Farm's Mission; and takes into consideration an opportunity to incorporate creative ways for public engagement and educational programming upon completion.

**PROCUREMENT/SELECTION PROCESS:**

All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the specific instructions outlined herein to receive consideration. Any proposer submitting inadequate, incomplete, or inaccurate information need not be considered. Gorman Heritage Farm reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to reject any or all proposals for any reason, to waive any irregularities, technicalities or informalities, and to request additional information or clarification from proposers.

Proposals will be reviewed using the evaluation and rating criteria outlined herein. Gorman Heritage Farm expects to negotiate a contract with the considered proposers.

However, if for any reason Gorman Heritage Farm decides not to execute a contract with the firm being considered, Gorman Heritage Farm, after first notifying said firm in writing of its decision not to enter into said contract, shall then be free to negotiate a contract, if possible, with the next firm of consideration, and so on down the list of proposers until a contract agreement is concluded.

Gorman Heritage Farm reserves the right to reject all proposals and to not enter into a contract with any proposing Contractor.

**ORAL PRESENTATIONS/INTERVIEWS:**

Gorman Heritage Farm reserves the right to request interviews with some or all of the proposing Contractors. Should interviews be deemed necessary, Gorman Heritage will notify the respective Contractor(s) following the proposal deadline. Interviews may be conducted in person, via Zoom/Teams, or over the telephone at the option of Gorman Heritage Farm.

**CONTINGENCIES TO AWARD OF CONTRACT:**

Gorman Heritage Farm shall not be required to award a contract to any of the Contractors that submit a proposal in response to this RFP. Reasons for non-award of this contract may include, but are not limited to, Gorman Heritage's dissatisfaction with the submitted proposals, insufficient interest from Contractors, withdrawal of or reduction in the grant referenced herein that are providing funding to the Project.

The final award of the Project is conditional on the successful Contractor executing a written Contract acceptable to Gorman Heritage Farm, in its sole and absolute discretion, and approved by the Ohio EPA as applicable.

Gorman Heritage Farm anticipates awarding a contract for the required services on or before Friday, July 26, 2024.

**QUESTIONS:**

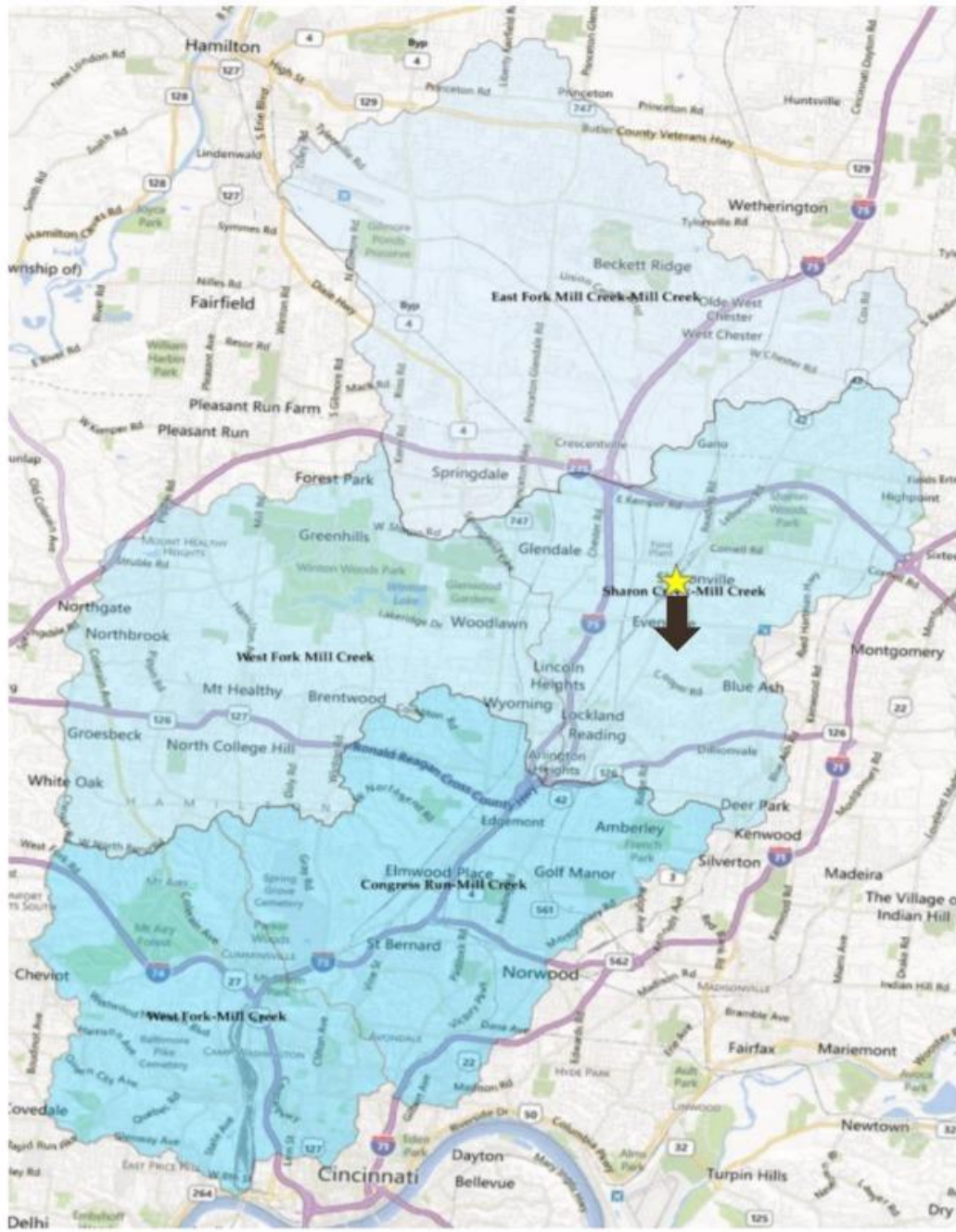
All questions regarding this RFP and the Gorman Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration project should be emailed to Caroline Bear at [info@gormanfarm.org](mailto:info@gormanfarm.org).

Questions must be received by 5:00 PM, July 10, 2024, to assure time for a response. Responses will be circulated by the end of day, July 12, 2024. All Contractors interested in submitting a proposal and being included on the question and response distribution list should notify Caroline Bear at the above reference email no later than July 11, 2024.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Figure 1. Watershed Map
- Figure 2. USGS Quadrangle Map
- Figure 3. Aerial Map
- Figure 4. Conservation Easement Area and Concept Design

Figure 1. Watershed Map



Project location ★

Figure 2. USGS Quadrangle Map

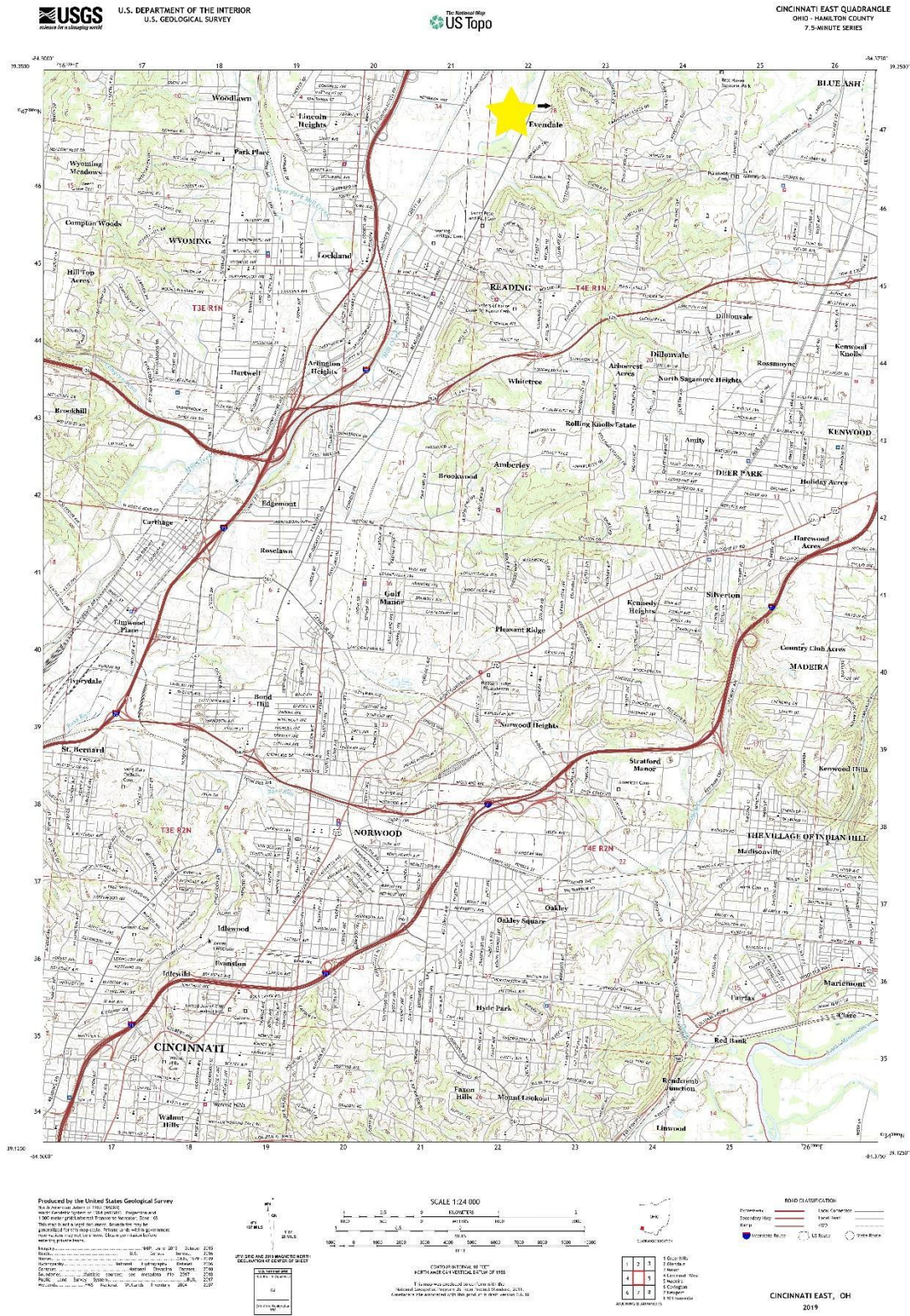


Figure 3. Aerial Map

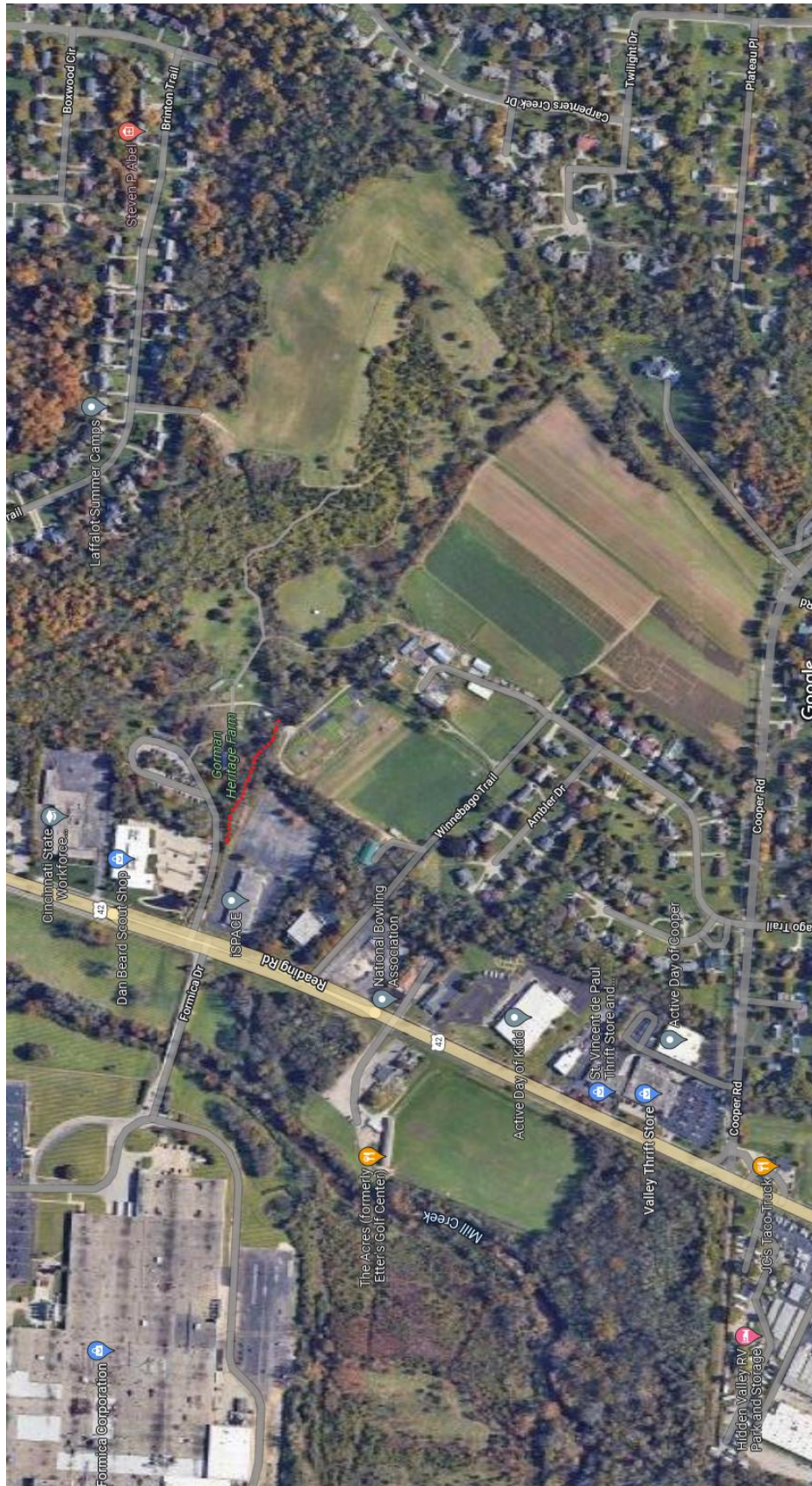


Figure 4. Conservation Easement Area and Concept Design

