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Ford House Selects GEI Consultants in Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project

GROSSE POINTE SHORES, MI (September 5, 2023) – Ford House, the historic home of Eleanor and Edsel Ford and National Historic Landmark, selects GEI Consultants to help plan the Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project, funded by a \$7 million Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant from NOAA (made available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law). This grant supports the environmental future of the Great Lakes and Ford House’s plans to restore the natural habitats of Ford Cove and nearly 1 mile of Lake St. Clair’s shoreline.

GEI Consultants is partnering with three Michigan-based businesses to support this transformational project. These include In-Site Design Studio and LimnoTech, both based in Ann Arbor, and Edgewater Resources, based in St. Joseph. This collaboration will support Ford House with the experience, creativity, and range of services this project deserves. This team has well over a century of experience working in the Great Lakes and more than 20 years working with NOAA, EGLE, and USACE. GEI has designed and helped implement more than 25 NOAA-funded Great Lakes Restoration projects over that period.

InSite Design Studio will lead the landscape design and has 25 years of experience creating ecologically sensitive, innovative designs through ongoing consideration of hydrologic, topographic, and vegetative systems.

Edgewater Resources will lead the hard infrastructure design, such as potential boardwalks, viewing platforms, and offshore wave breaks. The company specializes in planning, design, and implementation of sustainable waterfront environments and has many years of experience with local, state, and federal government agencies on shoreline, coastal, marina design, and other engineering issues.

LimnoTech will lead the hydrodynamic and wind-wave modeling. The company offers the latest water science and engineering expertise in numerous disciplines within the areas of watershed and waterway management, contaminated site and sediment evaluation and restoration, permitting and regulatory assistance, water sustainability and stewardship, ecosystem studies, and applied research.

GEI Consultants were chosen because the company balanced the value of proposed services within budget, presented a highly qualified project team, and drew attention to current and recent relevant examples of successful projects.

“We are looking forward to working with them and seeing this project move forward,” says Kevin Drotos, Ford House Landscape and Natural Areas Manager and Project Manager for the project. “It’s thrilling to see years of thoughtful planning coming together for the betterment of the Great Lakes and its natural inhabitants.”

“We are excited and grateful to have the opportunity to work with the Ford House team to restore and conserve badly needed nearshore habitat on Lake St. Clair,” says a representative of GEI. “It is clear from the quality of the work already done on this project and from the beautiful Ford House estate that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us.”

In addition to the businesses working together with Ford House on this once-in-a-lifetime restoration, additional support and collaboration are provided by the following government agencies: Macomb County Planning and Economic Development, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Michigan

Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division (MDNR), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant award schedule covers a 3-year and 5-month period for a total amount of \$7,052,050.00 in Federal funds. The Lower Lake St. Clair Habitat Restoration Project's proposed timeline, which is tentative, has engineering and design ending in August of 2024, with construction occurring from October 2024 to late 2025. Post-construction monitoring and maintenance will be completed by the end of November 2026.

Images

For the concept renderings and photos of Ford Cove, visit

<https://www.fordhouse.org/coveimages/>

About GEI Consultant

GEI Consultants is a consulting engineering firm that delivers professional services that improve our world's built environment. With more than 1,440 staff and 54 offices in North America, GEI is a leader in providing multi-disciplined engineering and environmental services to a range of private and public sector clients, both domestically and abroad. As a member of the employee-owned GSI family of companies, we foster personal relationships with our clients and support our staff in a partnership model, which is underpinned by continuous learning and sharing of knowledge. We retain proven, recognized experts and attract the best minds to deliver to our clients a refreshing blend of technical expertise, collaborative spirit, and innovation that is rare in our profession. We engineer solutions in five primary end markets: Water Resources, Energy, Buildings, Infrastructure, and Industrial. For more information on GEI, please visit www.geiconsultants.com.

About Ford House

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization and National Historic Landmark dedicated to preserving and sharing the legacy of the Ford Family.

Ford House is located at 1100 Lake Shore Rd. in Grosse Pointe Shores. The historic lakeside estate was the family home of Edsel Ford – Henry and Clara Ford’s only son – where he lived with his wife Eleanor and their children beginning in 1928. Since 1978, Ford House has welcomed hundreds of thousands of visitors to share Eleanor Ford’s vision of preserving the estate for future generations through interpretive tours, family activities, lectures, exhibits, gardens, and grounds events. It inspires, educates, and engages visitors through the exploration of its unique connections to art, design, history, and the environment while celebrating family traditions and community relationships. For more information, visit www.fordhouse.org or call (313) 884-4222, and connect with Ford House on Facebook and Instagram.