



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Washington DC 20420

January 14, 2025

Sent via email

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment Scoping Notice for the Proposed Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program Project, St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 4801 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud, Minnesota [VA ID# EAXX-029-15-VHA-1736810926]

Dear Valued Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to implement improvements to the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (RRTP) at the St. Cloud VA Medical Center (St. Cloud VAMC) located at 4801 Veterans Drive in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The location of the St. Cloud VAMC campus is shown on Figures 1 and 2. Figure 3 provides an aerial photograph of the campus.

The St. Cloud VAMC currently provides mental health services in Buildings 2, 9, 28, 111, and 115, all located in the northeastern portion of the VAMC campus. Buildings 2 and 28 currently house the RRTP facility. Building 2, constructed in 1923, does not meet VA's current design guide for RRTP facilities and is not conducive for renovation/retrofit to meet these standards.

The purpose of the proposed RRTP project (the Proposed Action) is to correct existing RRTP space and functional deficiencies and to consolidate mental health programs at the St. Cloud VAMC. The Proposed Action is needed to address current and future projected health care needs of Veterans in Stearns County.

The Proposed Action includes constructing a three-story, approximately 64,700 square-foot (SF) RRTP building; renovating approximately 33,400 SF of Building 28; constructing connections between the new RRTP building and Buildings 28, 111, and 115; expansion of an existing parking lot; and infrastructure modifications to support the new development.

All elements of this Proposed Action are located entirely within the St. Cloud VAMC campus on land currently owned by the Federal Government. Figure 4 depicts the current campus configuration and the primary Proposed Action construction areas.

The Proposed Action construction activities would be conducted in phases over approximately two years to minimize campus disruption, support continued campus operations, and minimize the need for temporary swing space during construction. VA is currently in the pre-design phase for the Proposed Action. No project design details are available at this time. VA preliminarily estimates that the Proposed Action construction activities could begin in 2028 and could be completed in 2030.

VA is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action. VA is seeking input from stakeholders as part of the scoping process for the development of this document. VA is preparing the EA according to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S. Code § 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Through this notice, VA is also providing the public with information about the undertaking and seeking public comment and input about the undertaking's effects on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, (54 USC § 306108), and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties). VA is using its procedures for public involvement under NEPA in lieu of public involvement requirements in Subpart B of the Section 106 regulations per 36 CFR Part 800.2(d)(3). This notice does not serve as an invitation to consult under Section 106; it is solely to seek and consider the views of the public. VA will initiate its Section 106 review and send invitations to consulting parties separately.

If you have comments on the scope of the EA, the range of alternatives, and environmental issues for in-depth analysis, please email your comments by **February 28, 2025** to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "***St. Cloud VAMC RRTP NEPA Scoping***".

VA will publish the Draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period. VA will notify stakeholders and invite comments on the Draft EA at that time. The notice of availability of the Draft EA will be published in the *St. Cloud Times*.

Respectfully,

GLENN
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Glenn Elliott
Director, Project Development Services Division
Office of Construction and Facilities Management

Figure 1: St. Cloud VAMC Location Map

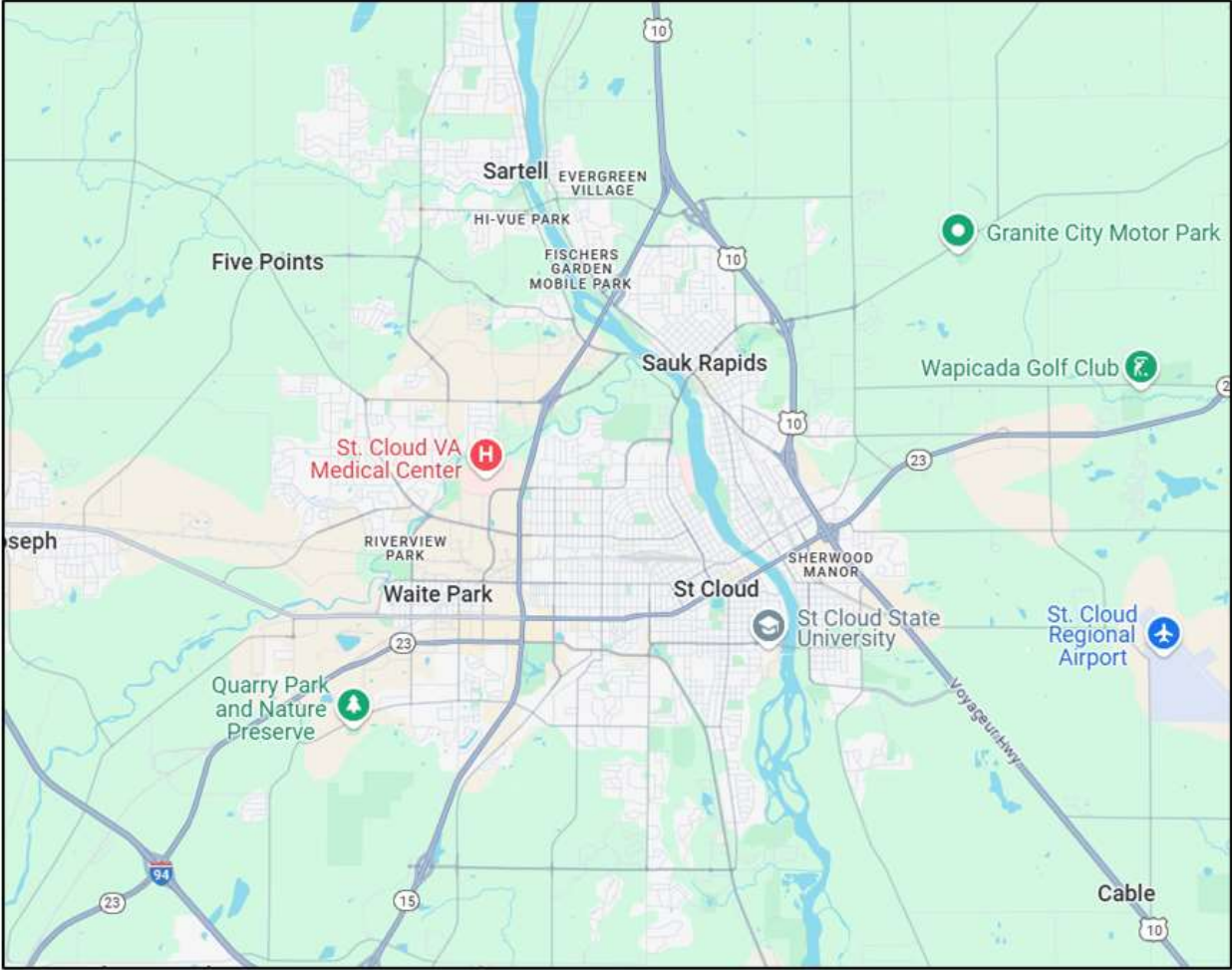


Figure 2: Topographic Location Map

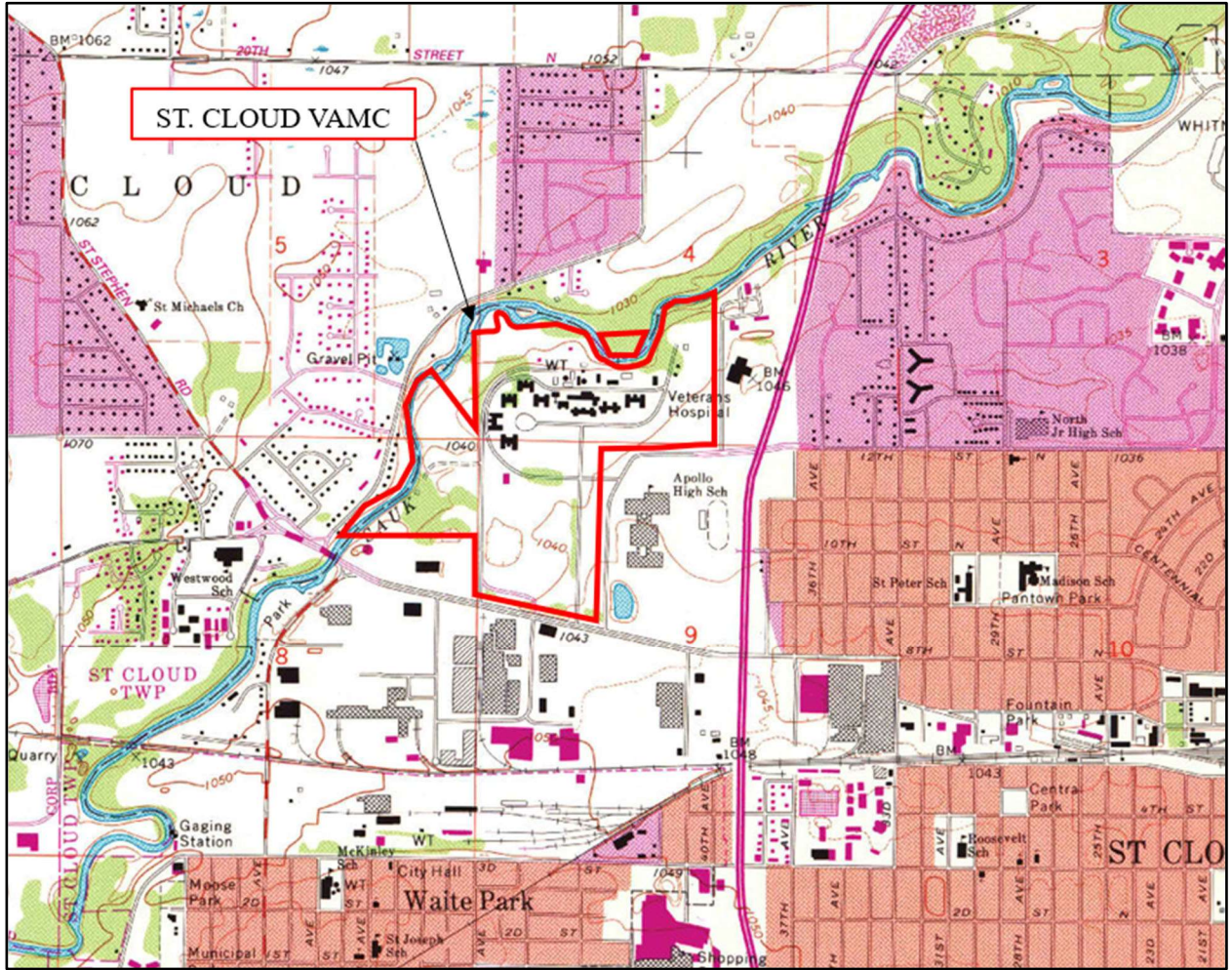


Figure 3: Aerial Photograph of St. Cloud VAMC Campus



Figure 4: Existing St. Cloud VAMC Campus Configuration and Proposed Action Location

