

Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Proposed Public Facility Improvements - Construction of the Bucktown Learning Pavilion (aka Bucktown Bird's Nest) at Bucktown Harbor Park, 325 Metairie Hammond Highway, Metairie, LA 70005

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Jefferson Parish has determined that the following proposed action utilizing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds is located in the 100-year floodplain. Jefferson Parish will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The proposed project consists of the construction of an educational pavilion in an area of Bucktown Harbor, which is considered a neighborhood park. The pavilion will have educational plaques/placards placed throughout the pavilion area. The Bucktown Learning Pavilion will overlook the protected Bucktown Marsh and its soon-to-be-created Living Shoreline extension. Improvements include new public facilities/infrastructure being added to an open area with adjacent parking, walking/bike paths, picnic spaces, and wetland/waterfront/nature areas. The new pavilion will have some concrete base infrastructure that requires minimal digging. This area is outside of the levee protection area. There is no land acquisition involved.

The purpose of the project is to address the impacts of the construction and the project. The improvements are expected to have minimal impacts on the floodplain due to the small size of this project, which would be $\frac{1}{4}$ acre and there would not be an increase in capacity of infrastructure beyond the 20% threshold. The project is not located in a wetland, but is located within 1,000 feet to an existing deep-water estuarine and marine wetland area (Lake Pontchartrain). However, no impacts on wetlands are anticipated. The construction is being funded through the U.S. Department Housing and Urban Development CDBG funding. The location of the proposed project is described above.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government

determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

In accordance with provisions of the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, as amended, Jefferson Parish shall not discriminate against individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you require auxiliary aids or devices, or other reasonable accommodation under the ADA Amendments Act, please submit your request to the ADA Coordinator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance or as soon as practical. A seventy-two (72) hour advanced notice is required to request Certified ASL interpreters. The contact information is as follows: ADA Coordinator Office of Citizens with Disabilities, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 403, Jefferson, LA 70123, (504) 736-6100, ADA@jeffparish.net.

Written comments must be received by Jefferson Parish at the following address on or before August 18, 2021: Jefferson Parish Department of Community Development, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Suite 605, Jefferson, LA 70123, 504-736-6262, Attention: Nicole A.M. Fontenot, Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the address listed above and at www.jeffparish.net. Comments may also be submitted via email at JPCommunityDevelopment@jeffparish.net. No choice limiting actions will be taken until the completion of the 8 Step Floodplain Process and receipt of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Authority to Use Grant Funds documentation.

Date: August 2, 2021