



CITY OF WOONSOCKET, RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

TO: All Individuals and Groups Interested in the City of Woonsocket Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

FROM: N. David Bouley, Director of Planning & Development

SUBJECT: **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland**

DATE: August 26, 2014

For your information, the legal notice ("Notice") being sent with this memo is to notify all interested parties of the City of Woonsocket's **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland.**

This is being done in compliance with HUD's environmental review process and in accordance with 24 CFR Part 55. The "Notice" also is being prominently displayed within City Hall, posted on city website (www.ci.woonsocket.ri.us) and posted in other public buildings.

Any comments may be sent to the address contained in the "Notice."

Thank you.

City of Woonsocket

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

This is to give notice that the City of Woonsocket, Rhode Island ("City") has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The project area is located within Cass Park, located off of Cass Avenue, in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. The Proposed Action includes replacing a portion of Cass Pond's hardscaping timber retaining wall and installing a vegetative buffer along a portion of the pond. The area of floodplain and wetlands impacted is less than 5,000 square feet.

The City has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: The Proposed Action is for the replacement of a portion of the pond's hardscaping timber retaining wall and installation of a vegetative buffer along a portion of the pond. There is no work proposed outside of existing developed areas. Alternatives considered were a) locations outside the floodplain - the Proposed Action is to repair an existing timber retaining wall for a pond which is located within the floodplain, so by definition cannot be located outside of the floodplain; and b) a determination not to approve any action (No Action Alternative) - If no action were taken, the timber retaining wall would continue to deteriorate. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative would not meet the basic project objective and is therefore not a viable alternative. Mitigation measures include: No adverse impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action. The existing retaining wall structure is located within the 100-year floodplain and wetland; however, the footprint will not change as part of the proposed project and there is no work proposed outside of existing developed areas. There are no significant changes to site grading or changes to existing flood storage proposed. Therefore, no increased flooding impacts are anticipated as a result of the proposed project. The project is not anticipated to impact wetlands. The City of Woonsocket will implement the Proposed Action. The City will take an active role in monitoring the construction process to ensure no unnecessary impacts occur nor unnecessary risks are taken regarding the floodplain and to minimize potential impacts to wetlands. State and local floodplain and wetland regulations will be followed.

The City has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and 11990, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands 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/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City at the following address on or before September 8, 2014: City of Woonsocket, 169 Main Street, Woonsocket RI, 401-767-9232, Attention: Paulette Miller, Deputy Director of Housing and Community Development. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 to 4:00 at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at PMiller@Woonsocketri.org.

Date: MAILING/POSTING 8/26/14

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