

Public Notice: Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in an FFRMS Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, FEMA- Texas Division of Emergency Management, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Houston as required under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) program Grant Number 22-082-006-D204 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands. As such, the City of Houston will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project totals 45.16 acres (ac) and consists of 22.60 ac of Boone Park (29.695549, -95.578533) and 22.56 ac of Hackberry Park (29.694531, -95.602984) in Houston, Harris County, Texas (Project Area). Boone Park is bounded by Boone Road to the east, a utility corridor to the west, and residential and commercial development to the north and south. Hackberry Park is bounded by S Dairy Ashford Road to the west and residential and commercial development to the north, east, and south. The proposed 45.16-ac project would create stormwater detention capacity within Boone Park and Hackberry Park and reduce water surface elevation (WSE) within D122-00-00 during storm events. This project would increase detention capacity and reduce flood risk to the surrounding area, resulting in beneficial impacts to the floodplain and wetlands. No acquisition is required for this project. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands was determined using the 0.2 Percent Annual Chance Flood Approach. Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA) data is not available since the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool (FFSST) is no longer available as of May 7, 2025.

The proposed action includes creating stormwater detention capacity within Boone Park and Hackberry Park in order to store excess stormwater and release it slowly in D122-00-00 during storm events. The proposed action includes an impact area of 45.16 ac, within which there are 1.11 ac within the Regulatory Floodway, 22.17 ac within the 100-year floodplain, and 21.88 ac within the 500-year floodplain (panel numbers 48201C0830L, effective June 8, 2007, and 48201C0840L, effective June 18, 2007). Proposed activities within the floodway and wetlands include the construction of a concrete intake weir and a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) outfall into D122-00-00 in each park with stabilizing riprap placed along the ditch bottom. In Boone Park, an additional two 24-inch storm sewer outfall pipes and associated stabilizing riprap will be constructed within the floodway; in Hackberry Park, a single additional 24-inch storm sewer outfall pipe and associated stabilizing riprap will be constructed within the floodway.

A total of 18 wetlands are located within the Project Area, which were determined to be non-jurisdictional by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in Approved Jurisdictional Determinations (AJDs) issued on July 24, 2025. Proposed project activities would result in the disturbance of 0.328 ac of wetlands; however, the project proposes to construct detention basin compartments within both parks that would serve a similar function within the floodplain as the wetlands that are proposed to be disturbed. Additionally, it is anticipated that wetland vegetation would reestablish on shelves within the proposed detention basin compartments over time, resulting in the potential formation of 0.59 acres of wetland vegetation. The proposed detention basin shelves are expected to minimize long-term impacts to wetland functions and offset the loss of existing wetland vegetation.

The impacted floodplain and wetlands provide the following natural and beneficial functions: floodwater conveyance and storage, wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. The floodplain and wetlands do not provide recreational, educational, scientific, cultural, or historical value. This project is needed to reduce the risk of structural flooding in residential areas and reduce the burden on nearby drainage channels, including D122-00-00, the drainage channel that extends along the northern boundaries of Boone Park and Hackberry Park.

Suitable habitat for the federally proposed endangered tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), and alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) were identified within the Project Area; although these species do not receive statutory protection under the Endangered Species Act, HPW will conduct vegetation clearing activities outside of the migratory bird nesting season (March 15 - September 15) to the extent practicable. If clearing must occur during the migratory bird nesting season, nest surveys will be conducted within 5 days of any vegetation clearing activities to ensure no incidents of a take. A species specific nest buffer will be placed around any nest observed and construction will not be allowed to continue in that area until the nest has been determined to be abandoned. All tree removal activities should be restricted to occur outside the tricolored bat maternity season (May 15 - July 31). If tree clearing is required during this timeframe, a survey indicating no presence of the tricolored bat will be conducted before the clearing of the property. Construction debris and trash will be properly handled and disposed of to avoid impact to wildlife.

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

Written comments must be received by the City of Houston at the following address on or before July 29, 2026, **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Dept.**, 2100 Travis St, 9th Floor Houston, TX 77002. Attention: HCD Environmental Team. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the address listed above or upon request to hcdenvironmental@houston.tx.gov. Appointments for office visits to view the project description/environmental review in person are recommended to avoid any potential for delays. Comments or questions may also be submitted via email at the same address or (832) 394-6319.

Date: July 14, 2023