

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain or Wetland

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 conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 as amended by Executive Order 13690 and Executive Order 11990, and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Mitigation (MIT) program Grant Number B-18-DP-48-0002, (GLO contract No. 22-082-006-D204).

The proposed project is located at Boone Park (29.695549, -95.578533) and Hackberry Park (29.694531, -95.602984) in Houston, Harris County, Texas. 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 project is in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands.

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 acres, including approximately 1.11 acres within the Regulatory Floodway, 22.17 acres within the 100-year floodplain, and 21.88 acres within the 500-year floodplain (panel numbers FM48201C0830L, effective June 8, 2007, and FM48201C0840L, 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 and a dry-bottom detention pond with a storage volume of 24.50 ac-feet 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, also reshape and deepen existing ponds to create two detention ponds with deep pools and shallow water areas for a total storage volume of 36.08 ac feet within the floodway.

The 18 wetlands identified within the Project Area were determined to be non-jurisdictional by the USACE through Approved Jurisdictional Determinations issued July 24, 2025. Accordingly, the proposed disturbance of approximately 0.328 acres of non-jurisdictional wetlands does not require compensatory mitigation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Nevertheless, the project has been designed to minimize impacts to wetland functions by incorporating detention basin shelves that are anticipated to support the reestablishment of wetland vegetation and provide floodwater storage and other wetland functions within the Project Area. The affected wetlands primarily provide natural functions associated with floodwater storage and conveyance, wildlife habitat, and groundwater recharge. The proposed project has been designed to maintain access to park amenities and minimize impacts to recreational use. 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.

The City of Houston has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland:

Alternative 1) Design similar for the proposed action as described in this notice with changes to stormwater detention construction and leveling.

Alternative 2) Design similar for the proposed action as described in this notice with changes to intake weir and walkway size and placement.

Alternative 3) The design for the proposed action as described in this notice; and

Alternative 4) No-Action Alternative.

Changes to stormwater detention construction and leveling would result in less total storage volume and reduced access to park amenities. For these reasons, Alternative 1 was not selected.

Changes to intake weir and walkway size and placement would result in less total storage volume, greater impacts to wetlands, and reduced access to park amenities. For these reasons, Alternative 2 was not selected.

Under the No Action Alternative, no detention basins would be constructed, the floodplain would not be impacted, and the surrounding communities, businesses, and infrastructure would continue to be affected by street ponding during storm events. Under the No Action Alternative, the Alief area will continue to flood, causing additional impacts, costs, and safety concerns. The No Action Alternative fails to meet the purpose and need of the Project. Given that this alternative does not meet the purpose and need, it is not a viable alternative.

The proposed action is the preferred alternative because it meets the project's purpose and need by providing stormwater detention capacity within the Brays Bayou watershed and reducing WSE within D122-00-00 during storm events, reducing surface ponding and flooding in the surrounding area. This alternative would achieve the purpose and need of the project while providing the greatest access to recreational amenities to the surrounding community and lowest burden of long term maintenance. As such, Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative.

The City of Houston has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetlands and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetlands development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 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 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 September 2, 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@houstontx.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: Wednesday, August 26, 2026