

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Publication Dates: May 5, 2026- May 12, 2026

City of New Orleans
Office of Community Development
1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor
New Orleans, LA, 70112
504-658-4200

On or about May 13, 2026, the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development will submit a request to the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Project Funding grant funds under Public Law 113-2 of the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, to undertake a project known as Woldenberg Riverfront Park Improvements Phase 3.

Created by Audubon Nature Institute in 1989, Woldenberg Riverfront Park is a sprawling green space stretching between the Mississippi River and the historic French Quarter, adjacent to Audubon Aquarium and Audubon Insectarium. The Park has a riverside jogging path, artwork and is a popular venue for festivals and other events. A portion of the park sits atop the Bienville Street Wharf. Both the park and wharf are City-owned and managed by Audubon Nature Institute under the Audubon Commission.

Phase 3 Improvements, funded by FY 2022 HUD Community Project Funds, builds on prior locally funded improvements, landscaping, shaded seating, & pedestrian upgrades, completed under Phases 1 & 2. Phase 3 includes surface-level upgrades within Woldenberg Park & repairs beneath the Bienville Street Wharf deck. The project area lies within FEMA Flood Zone AE & the Vieux Carre Historic District.

The project consists of the following Surface Level Improvements:

- Improve pedestrian movement by replacing existing walking paths, adding new walkways and steps, and removing steps in select areas.
- Repair or replace site walls and steps to improve safety; paint planter walls to enhance appearance and create a more welcoming environment.
- Improve lighting to enhance visibility and nighttime safety; Bollard replacement to improve safety; Improve electrical infrastructure for lighting and other items.
- Refresh park aesthetics by removing outdated features like bench pads; reinstall or replace benches and garbage cans/recycle bins as needed to support construction, waste management, and user experience.
- Upgrade water fountains to better serve visitors.
- Remove select trees as needed for new walking path to rebalance landscaping and enhance site appearance in coordination with new plantings; Plant new trees to promote shade and comfort and enhance site appearance; Replace select hardscape areas with green space creating a more natural and welcoming environment and enhance visual appeal.
- Improve ADA access from raised pedestrian crosswalk entrances into park.
- Fill and grading for new paths, terrace wall installation, hardscape-to-greenspace conversion, and discreet event bathroom location; landscaping and terrace walls to enhance appearance and manage elevation; new irrigation to support plantings.
- The above work will occur within existing areas of previously disturbed soil. It includes shallow excavation to a depth of approximately 3 ft in that soil.

Below Wharf Deck Repairs:

-Structural repairs to the Bienville wharf which supports part of the park to ensure long-term use of the park and to promote safety. The work includes in-kind replacement of existing damaged steel columns and bracing on the wharf structure. There is no in-water work, excavation or dredging. The wharf is an integral structural component of the park and is considered part of the park.

The proposed project will not change the park's land use designation, function, size, capacity or service area. All work will occur within the existing, previously disturbed and developed footprint between Iberville and St. Louis Streets. The park footprint is not changing. No property acquisition is required. Work will comply with applicable federal, state, & local requirements. Required permits, including USACE and LDNR permits, will be obtained before construction. Overall, the project includes safety, economic, and mobility benefits for southeast Louisiana residents and millions of annual visitors. It will result in a revitalized public amenity. Improved amenities will make the Park more user-friendly and safer for all who visit and help increase the quality of life through beautified urban green space.

The project will use \$3,000,000.00 of community project funding grant number B-22-CP-LA-0351.

The activities proposed are categorically excluded under HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58 from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project is on file at City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112. The ERR can be examined by contacting the Environmental Compliance Office, Craig Foundas, Director of Environmental Compliance, Room 917 in the same building on weekdays from 9A.M to 4P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development, Environmental Compliance Unit, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th Floor, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112. All comments received by May 12, 2026, will be considered by the City of New Orleans prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of New Orleans Office of Community Development certifies to the U S Department of Housing and Urban Development that Helena Moreno, Mayor, City of New Orleans in her capacity as Certifying Environmental Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of New Orleans to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of New Orleans certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of New Orleans; (b) the City of New Orleans has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have

committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to:

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
Attn: Leticia Ibarra, Regional Director, Region 6
Office of Community Planning and Development
Hale Boggs Building
500 Poydras Street, 9th floor
New Orleans, LA 70130

Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period regarding the federal funds. Objections can be emailed to CPDRROFNOR@hud.gov

Helena Moreno, Mayor - Environmental Certifying Officer

Jeffrey E. Schwartz
Director of Housing, Community Development, and Special Projects