

## **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that City of New Orleans( Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58) has determined that the following proposed action under HUD's Community Project Fund (Grant Agreement No. B-23-CP-LA-0625) is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and City of New Orleans will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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 location is within the Sankofa Wetland Park and Nature Trail (Sankofa Park) at 6401 Florida Avenue in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a Climate Informed Science Approach (CISA). The proposed action includes improvements to the existing trail system to include better accessibility and learning signage; in addition to a green amphitheater. The total area to be disturbed for the project is anticipated to be less than 10,000 square feet of land within the FFRMS. Although wetland habitat does exist within the parent Sanfoka Tract, no impacts to the wetland habitat will occur as a result of the Learning Trail improvements and Amphitheater construction.

City of New Orleans 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 site locations/activities outside of the floodplain were considered, however were not selected as viable alternatives due to the existing ownership/development of the Sankofa Park. No impacts will be made to the surrounding wetland or water habitat at the park. Minimal impacts will occur within the floodplain, as the amphitheater will consist of green infrastructure allowing for preservation of water retention, and overall improvements to the trail will allow for continued restoration/preservation of beneficial functions of the park from an educational, recreational, and stormwater storage aspects. All construction activities will be completed in accordance with local requirements.

City of New Orleans has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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 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 floodplain 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 floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of New Orleans at the following address on or before January 21, 2025: City of New Orleans – Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street – Suite 917, New Orleans, LA 70112 Attn: Craig Foundas – Director of Environmental Compliance. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at 1340 Poydras Street – Suite 920, New Orleans, LA 70112. Comments may also be submitted via email at [jrury@leaaf.com](mailto:jryury@leaaf.com).

Date: **January 13, 2025- January 20, 2025**