Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed

Activity in a Floodplain

Woldenberg Riverfront Park Phase 3 Improvements

To: All interested Federal, State and Local Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of New Orleans has determined that the following proposed action under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development FY 2022 Community Project Funding Program and HUD grant agreement # B-22-CP-LA-0351 is located in the 100 year floodplain, and the 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 and 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 at Woldenberg Riverfront Park, 1 Canal St, New Orleans, LA 70130.

Audubon Nature Institute is proposing to construct Phase 3 Improvements at Woldenberg Riverfront Park. The proposed construction work is located entirely within the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) and includes surface-level improvements and below deck wharf repairs.

Surface-level improvements include enhancements to walking paths, steps, and site/planter walls; upgraded lighting, bollards, and electrical infrastructure; improved water fountains and ADA access; removal of outdated features; reinstallation or replacement of benches and garbage/recycle bins; selective tree removal and new plantings and trees; conversion of select hardscape to green space; fill and grading; landscaping with terrace walls; new irrigation; and related construction work. This work will occur within existing areas of previously disturbed soil and will include shallow excavation to a depth of approximately 3 ft in that soil.

Proposed wharf repairs include 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. Construction will take place at various locations within an area totaling approximately 6 acres.

The purpose of the project is to revitalize Woldenberg Riverfront Park. 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 proposed activity will not adversely impact the floodplain or its intrinsic values, including its role as a public amenity. No adverse impacts are anticipated. In addition, no wetlands are impacted by this project.

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

In accordance with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, as amended, the City of New Orleans shall not discriminate against individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities. If you require auxiliary aids or devices, or other reasonable accommodation under the ADA Amendments Act, please submit your request to the ADA Administrator at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance or as soon as practical. A seventy-two (72) hour advanced notice is required to request Certified ASL interpreters. Contact Information: ADA Administrator Eva Hurst, City of New Orleans – City Hall 1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W10, New Orleans, LA 70112, Phone: (504) 658-4020, Email: emhurst@nola.gov

If you need assistance with language interpretation, please contact the City of New Orleans Language & Communication Access Program, 1300 Perdido Street, Suite BE13, New Orleans, LA 70112, Email: citylanguageaccess@nola.gov

Written comments must be received by the City of New Orleans at the following address on or before February 9, 2026 **[a minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication]**: City of New Orleans, Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street, 10th floor, New Orleans, LA 70112, 504-658-4365: Attention: Craig Foundas. A full description of the project may also be reviewed weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at the above address. Comments may also be submitted via email cafoundas@nola.gov.

Publication dates 1-23-2026 through 2-9-2026