

PUBLIC NOTICE
DR-4428-KY & DR-4540-KY
January 2021

The public is hereby notified of the intent of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare an Environmental Assessment. The Assessment will analyze the effects of alternatives related to the proposed armoring of a damaged streambank in Riverfront Park in the City of Paducah.

The City of Paducah is seeking reimbursement for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the form of Public Assistance (PA) Program Funding.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA is required to consider practical alternatives for proposed actions. The draft environmental assessment will consider at least three alternatives. These will include the following:

Alternative No. 1, "The No Action Alternative"

The "no action alternative" proposes that there should be no effort to repair the damaged streambank and walking path. This will likely lead to ongoing scouring of the embankment and negative impacts to the existing park infrastructure. The increased sedimentation in the water from the ongoing scouring will potentially affect endangered mussels downstream.

Alternative No. 2, "Repair to Pre-Disaster Condition"

This alternative proposes to replace lost riprap and fill in-kind at 8 damaged areas of the embankment for a combined length on 1,637 feet. This would return the park to its previous condition but would not protect from similar flooding damage in the future and would risk repeated damage in the area. Increased sedimentation from future damage and erosion can threaten the threatened and endangered mussels known to be downstream from this location.

Alternative No. 3, "Repair with Shore Stabilization Mitigation"

This alternative would repair three areas in kind with replacing riprap and fill materials for a combined length of 978 feet. One area that previously had riprap would be mitigated by replacing lost riprap with riprap, a filter stone base, and precast revetment blocks for 120 feet of streambank. One area that previously had riprap would be repaired with replacing lost riprap and adding 300 feet of interlocking erosion control blocks. Three areas that had no previous mitigation measures and lost fill would replace the lost fill and add precast erosion control blocks along the existing sidewalk. This would repair the damaged areas and protect the park infrastructure from future flooding damage.

The President of the United States has issued Executive Orders (EO) that require federal agencies to focus attention on the environment and on human health when considering a proposed action or the funding of an action. Particular attention is to be paid to Floodplain Management (EO 11988). Compliance with the Executive Orders, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and other environmental laws, will be documented in the draft EA.

During the preparation of the draft EA, FEMA coordinated with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The full document can be viewed at the following website:

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_oehp_paducah-riverfront-park-project-dr-4428_1-27-2021.pdf

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to:

FEMA Internal 11988 Reviewer
FEMA Region 4
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4540-KY EA COMMENT].