



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
FEMA Region 5
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60605

FEMA

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE FOR A PROPOSED ACTIVITY WITHIN IN FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) has applied for Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for EMC-2023-BR-001-0038 and LPDM-PJ-05-IL-2024-001 Farmers Prairie Creek Stormwater Management Project. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9, FEMA hereby provides this final public notice of its intent to carry out an action affecting floodplains and wetlands.

Historically, overbank flooding along Farmers Creek and Prairie Creek has resulted in impacts on people, property, infrastructure, transportation, and the local economy throughout the area. The purpose of this project is to reduce flood risk in the vicinity of the project area. The project would improve stormwater conveyance and increase flood storage capacity at several locations around the Maine Township and the cities of Park Ridge and Des Plaines. The Proposed Action would include channel improvements and streambank stabilization along both creeks, repair and replacement of existing culverts, a new storm sewer, enlarging stormwater ponds near Lutheran General Hospital, and adding a pump station near the ponds. Implementation of the Proposed Action would disturb up to approximately 18.5 acres.

According to Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 17031C0236J, effective August 19, 2008, most of the project area is within Zone AE, which is subject to inundation by the one percent annual chance flood and Zone AE - Regulatory Floodway, which refers to the channel of a watercourse and the adjacent land that must be reserved to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height. A portion of the project is in a flood hazard zone with a 0.2-percent annual chance of flooding (Zone X Shaded). Additionally, portions of the project are within areas that have been identified as wetlands through a wetland assessment of the project area, which was conducted on May 9 and 11, 2023, in accordance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regional wetland delineation procedures. Based on wetlands identified in this assessment, the Proposed Action would fill approximately 0.032 acres of wetlands in the project area.

Implementation of the project is expected to decrease flood elevations in the project area vicinity. Specifically, the Proposed Action would reduce maximum water levels during a 100-year storm event by approximately 1 foot, resulting in the removal of approximately 119 properties from the floodplain and elimination of flooding along Dempster Street. The effective floodplain map is proposed to be revised to reflect the reduced flood hazard areas. On August 1, 2024, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources posted a public notice for the proposed floodplain map revisions associated with the project on their website. The public notice provided by the IDNR will serve as the initial public notice pursuant to EO 11988, EO 11990, and FEMA's implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 9.

In addition to the stormwater improvements, the project would include regrading and planting native vegetation along the banks of Prairie Creek to stabilize the soil. A section of Prairie Creek that is currently underground would be daylighted and restored to an open channel, restoring habitat for local wildlife. A map of the area and additional information regarding the project is available upon request.

This notice will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described action funded by FEMA's HMA programs. Interested parties may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project, within 15 days of this notice, by email to fema-r5-environmental@fema.dhs.gov or by mail to:

Duane Castaldi
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 5
536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60605