

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Recreation and Parks has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) as a sub-recipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicant: City of Port St. Joe

Project Title: DR-4399 Buck Griffin Lake Walking Path Bridges

Location of Proposed Work: Buck Griffin Lake Park, City of Port St. Joe

Facility	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Construction
3 pedestrian bridges	Buck Griffin Lake Park, 1903 Forest Park Ave Port Saint Joe, FL 32456	29.800409	-85.291983	2007

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project is to restore three of the pedestrian bridges in Buck Griffin Lake Park, which were over 50% destroyed by Hurricane Michael in 2018. One of the bridges has already been replaced; work is yet to begin on the other two. All work was located in an AE zone (1% annual chance flood elevation), as determined by Gulf County Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number: 12045C0341G, dated 04/16/2009. The work conformed to all applicable State of Florida and local floodplain regulations. There was a potential for the facilities to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within SFHA.

Proposed and Completed Work and Purpose:

The City of Port St. Joe plans on restoring each of the three original wooden pedestrian bridges in the park with aluminum structures of the same design and dimensions as the original bridges. Two of the bridges will be replaced in the footprint of the original bridges. One bridge has already been replaced and was moved approximately 30 yards to the southeast of its original location to take advantage of cost savings associated with a narrower stream crossing at that point. The purpose of these actions is to restore the park to full, pre-disaster use by the public.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No action): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on Buck Griffin Lake Park in the form of reduced park use by visitors. If the pedestrian bridges were not to be all rebuilt, then adverse economic and social impacts to the community may occur through reduced visitation.

Alternative #2: Rebuilding the three pedestrian walkway bridges is the only practicable choice as it is cost effective and does not result in additional impacts on the natural values of the floodplain.

Comments:

This will serve as the final public notice regarding the above-described actions funded by the FEMA PA Program. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region IV - EHP, 3005 Chamblee Tucker Rd., Atlanta, GA 30341-4112 or by email at FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please include in the subject line of the email “DR-4399-FL EHAD.” Comments should be sent in writing at the above address within 15 days of the date of this notice. Please remove after 15 days after posting.

POSTED ON: 09/23/2020

End of Notice