



Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

Executive Order 11988: Floodplain Management

This is to give notice that Union County under Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action is located in the floodplain. The project would be funded in part by a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission, grant ARC #SC-20708. Union County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C *Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands*.

The proposed project concerns the restoration of and improvements to the Buffalo Community Park located at 101 Linersville Road in Union County, SC. Activities would include restoring the stream that feeds the park pond, stabilizing the channel to reduce sediment, removing pond sediment, stabilizing the shoreline, and reconstructing the walking path and footbridge. Additionally, park amenities, such as swings, trash receptacles, tables, enhanced lighting, and security cameras, would be installed in the park. It is anticipated that all work will occur on previously disturbed land with minimal new ground disturbance. No acquisition is anticipated. The project area is approximately 7.73 acres in size. Approximately 6 acres of the project area are located in the floodplain (Zone A and Zone D). Natural floodplains provide fish and wildlife habitat protection, natural flood and erosion control, surface water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, and biological productivity. These natural and beneficial values could potentially be adversely affected by the project.

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

Written comments must be received by Union County at the following address on or before December 7, 2022: Union County, 210 West Main Street, Union, SC 29379 and 864-429-1600, Attention: Linda Jolly, Clerk to Council. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during the hours of 9 AM – 5 PM, Monday – Friday at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email at emixon@catawbacog.org.

Date issued: November 22, 2022