

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Columbia Public Housing Authority, and tenants of Bear Creek/Elleta Blvd. Columbia Public Housing Authority development.

This is to give notice that the City of Columbia has conducted an evaluation 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 Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant under B-15-MC-29-0001. The proposed project(s) is located on the south side of Elleta Blvd and connects to Rangeline Street. The project consists of constructing a 5 feet wide, 440 linear feet long sidewalk connecting the Bear Creek Columbia Housing Authority development to Rangeline Street. 65 feet of the 440 foot sidewalk will be located in the 100 year floodplain near the intersection of Rangeline St. and Elleta Blvd. The project will take place on a 1.9 acre strip of vacant land. The project will improve safety and pedestrian access to Rangeline St, while connecting tenants of the Bear Creek development to a bus stop and additional neighborhood amenities. The proposed project is located on the south side of Elleta Blvd near the intersection of Elleta Blvd. and Rangeline Street in Columbia and Boone County, Missouri.

The City of Columbia has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

1. Relocate the Bear Creek Townhomes development to alleviate the need for an improved sidewalk.
2. Re-route proposed sidewalk through Bear Creek Park.
3. No action/not complete the proposed project.

Relocating Bear Creek Townhomes residents to a new development and re-routing the proposed sidewalk through Bear Creek Park both proved to be cost prohibitive solutions. The Bear Creek development consists of 76 units of housing and would result in the need to redevelop 76 additional units and relocate an equal number of households. The current development also maintains a public facility that was recently renovated and is being used for Head Start programming. This is a convenient location for child care and early childhood development services and would be costly to replicate. A sidewalk east through Bear Creek Park connecting to Parker St. would be approximately 2,000 linear feet and involve purchasing easements through multiple property owners.

The City of Columbia has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

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. 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 the City of Columbia at the following address on or before August 10, 2015: City of Columbia, 701 E. Broadway, P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO 65205-6015 and 573-874-6321, Attention: Randy Cole, Housing Programs Supervisor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8am to 5pm Monday through Friday at City Hall, 5th Floor, Community Development, 701 E. Broadway, P.O. Box 6015, Columbia, MO 65205-6015. Comments may also be submitted via email at rlcole@gocolumbiamo.com.

Date: July 31, 2015