

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Orange Beach has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) Program funding through Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) 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 Orange Beach

Project Title: 162386 - Canoe Trail; PA-04-AL-4563-PW-00396

Location of Proposed Work:

Facility	Address	Latitude	Longitude	Date of Construction
Canoe Trail landing site	Hayden Drive	30.31026	-87.51936	2004
Canoe Trail landing site	Mississippi Avenue	30.30100	-87.51601	2007
Canoe Trail landing site	Look Rook Road	30.29455	-87.53692	2007
Canoe Trail landing site	White Avenue	30.29353	-87.54545	2007
Canoe Trail landing site	Wilson Boulevard	30.29134	-87.55876	2007
Canoe Trail landing site	Perdido Beach Blvd	30.26054	-87.61585	2007

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:

This project is for the replacement of damaged components at several canoe trail launching/landing sites in the City of Orange Beach. The project is located within a VE Zone. Confirmation of location in a Coastal High Hazard Area was determined by the Baldwin County Effective Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Numbers #01003C0959M, #01003C0967M, #01003C0966M, and #01003C0963M, dated 4/19/2019. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of Alabama and local floodplain regulations. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the Coastal High Hazard Area. The proposed work at Look Rook Road and Wilson Boulevard will take place in a designated Marine/Estuarine wetland, per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory, but will not negatively impact wetland values.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

City of Orange Beach plans to repair several launching/landing sites along the canoe trail using best construction practices, replacing wooden split-rail fencing, treated lumber boards, and treated lumber pilings at Hayden Drive location; replacing wooden split rail fence, wooden privacy fence, picnic table, treated lumber boards, treated lumber pilings, concrete sidewalk, and sand at Mississippi Avenue location; replacing wooden split rail fence, treated lumber pilings, treated lumber boards, crushed limestone, rip rap, and wooden benches at Look Rook Road location; replacing wooden split rail fence at White Avenue location; and replacing dune walkover (including posts, treated lumber framing, joists, railing, and decking), handrails (including railing and joists), and install new seaside stair transition (including posts, treated lumber framing, joists, railing, stair stringer, and decking), per local code, at Perdido Beach Blvd location. The purpose of this action is to restore these facilities to pre-disaster condition, with only upgrades at Perdido Beach Blvd to meet local codes, for recreational use by the community of Orange Beach and tourists.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No Action): The 'no action' alternative would ultimately result in a negative impact on the City of Orange Beach. The canoe trail is used recreationally by the community and tourists for waterway access to Wolf Bay, Bay La Launch, Arnica Bay, Bayou St. John and Cotton Bayou.

Alternative #2 (Relocation): The canoe trail launching/landing sites are functionally dependent on their existing location and could not their intended purpose if relocated.

Alternative #3 (Repair in-kind): These facilities facilitate open space use and repairing them in-kind will restore the beneficial value of recreational use of the floodplain.

Comment Period:

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-4563-AL-00396 11988 COMMENT].

All comments are due by no later than 30 days of the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON:

End of Notice