

Public Notice

Public Notice No.
CENAP-PL-E-07-03

Date
18 June 2007

Internet Homepage <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil>

In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

**ASSUNPINK CREEK ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT
BROAD STREET CULVERT
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, the Philadelphia District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to “day light” a section of the Assunpink Creek by removing a culvert between Broad and Warren Streets in Trenton, New Jersey. Under authority of Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, the Corps will remove the structure to improve the quality of the environment in the public interest. The City of Trenton will serve as the non-Federal project sponsor.

The Lower Assunpink Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project study area is located along a 3-mile section of the lower Assunpink Creek in downtown Trenton, New Jersey. Assunpink Creek is 25 miles long and drains approximately 91 square miles in central New Jersey. The main tributaries that feed Assunpink Creek are Shabakunk Creek and Miry Run. The headwaters begin in Millstone Township, in Monmouth County, and flow into the Delaware River at Trenton. The project area evaluated encompasses a 500-foot section of the lower Assunpink Creek in downtown Trenton where the creek is contained within a buried box culvert. The Broad Street culvert recently experienced a structural failure, which increased the urgency to implement a restoration action that would also address a public safety hazard. The proposed work will provide “day lighting” through removal of the existing culvert between South Broad Street and South Warren Street. The resulting open channel design will improve anadromous fish migration, as low-light conditions can disorient migrating fish, hindering their ability to spawn upstream. The project will also benefit businesses adjacent to the site, provide recreational options for visitors and local residents, and provide historical and educational opportunities for the community.

The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered. Among these are conservation, fish and wildlife, general environmental concerns, economies, historic values, recreation, safety, water quality, aesthetics, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, a Draft Environmental Assessment has been developed for this project and is being circulated to the appropriate State and Federal agencies, and other public interests. Impacts to water quality have been evaluated in accordance

with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines of the Clean Water Act. The proposed project will be performed in compliance with the Clean Water Act, the Federal Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and applicable New Jersey water quality and land use regulations. The Environmental Assessment concludes that the proposed action would not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, a draft Finding of No Significant Impact has been prepared. All practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. The public notice and draft Environmental Assessment are available for review on the Philadelphia District web page at www.nap.usace.army.mil. Any person may request in writing within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described above should be received by 22 August 2007.


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