



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Memphis District

ISSUE DATE: 4 October 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXPIRATION DATE: 6 November 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

**Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Draft Finding
of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and 404 (b)(1) Evaluation**

REPLY TO:

ATTN: Wes Prebeck

Environmental Compliance Branch

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

167 North Main Street, Room B-202

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TITLE: Greenbelt Park Enhancement Project

AUTHORITY: The Flood Control Act (FCA) of 1928, as amended, authorized the Lower Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project, including the Mississippi River Channel Improvement component, which includes construction and maintenance of the Loosahatchie-Memphis Revetment on which the Project is being constructed. In addition, Section 4 of the FCA of 1944, Public Law 534, 78th Congress, 2nd Session, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 460d) authorizes the construction, maintenance, and operation of public parks and recreational facilities on the Project and permits the maintenance and operation of such facilities by local interests. Moreover, the Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Appropriations Act identified Community Directed Funding for the Project within the Workplan under the MR&T navigation business line, originally identified as Tom Lee Park and reallocated to Greenbelt Park.

LOCATION: The proposed project area is within the boundaries of Greenbelt Park, Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Greenbelt Park is situated along the east bank of the Mississippi River, between approximate river miles 738.7 to 737.1 above head of passes (AHP). The project area will be located on the north end of the park, just south of the confluence of the Wolf and Mississippi rivers. (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Proposed project area – Greenbelt Landing, Memphis, Shelby County, TN.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Memphis District, is issuing this notice of the intention to enhance certain aspects of Greenbelt Park, including the installation of a new boat ramp and deadman anchors.

PURPOSE: The purpose and need for the project are to improve the existing Greenbelt Park by providing additional recreational opportunities for the public along the existing riverfront. This project will permit additional boat launching access to the Mississippi River as well as more space for the mooring and parking of cruise boats, fishing vessels, and other smaller watercraft along top bank of the river. The project will also improve public recreation through parking lot, lighting, and signage improvements.

ALTERNATIVES: For the purposes of NEPA, the no-action alternative serves as the baseline against which impacts and benefits of the action alternatives are evaluated. A description of the alternatives is included below:

Alternative 1: The no-action alternative is defined as termination of the proposed project. If the no-action alternative is selected, then additional improvements will not be completed. No additional anchors will be installed, the existing boat ramp will not be constructed and improvements to the existing boat ramp, repair to the lighting, signage, and parking areas will not be completed. There are no other planned alternatives to the proposed project, and there will be no significant environmental impact if the project is terminated.

Alternative 2: The preferred alternative is the proposal to enhance Greenbelt Park by adding deadman anchors, a new boat ramp, repair of the existing boat ramp, new signage, additional lighting, and revamping the parking lot. These enhancements will provide additional recreational possibilities within the project area. The public and tourists utilizing the docking and launching vessels will benefit from the enhancements to security, safety, and added recreational opportunities that are planned within this alternative. Disruptions will be limited and will not significantly affect any environmental concerns.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The proposed work will consist of repairs to the existing boat ramp, construction of an additional new boat ramp, installation of deadman anchors along the top bank on the northern end of the park, modification of the existing parking lot for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, landscaping, and additional lighting and signage for security near the boat ramp(s).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The City of Memphis obtained an Aquatic Resources Alteration Permit (ARAP) from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) to comply with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Coverage under permit number NRS23.078 was issued on September 28, 2023. All operations conducted by USACE will comply with the requirements of this permit.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION AND SECTION 10 OF THE RIVERS AND HARBORS ACT: The impact of the activity on the public interest is being evaluated in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The Section 404(b)(1) evaluation is included in an appendix of the draft EA.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) tool was used to search for documented threatened and endangered (T&E) species along with critical habitat within the project. The search revealed two species of concern within the project area: the alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*), which is a proposed threatened species, and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexipus*), which is a candidate species. No critical habitat exists within the project area for T&E species, nor are any T&E species currently known to be present. USACE determined there would be no effect to either species with the proposed action.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1), the District Archaeologist has determined that this project has no potential to cause effects to historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, no further Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act consultation is required. However, if prehistoric or historic artifacts, human remains, or other archaeological materials subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) are found during construction, all activities are to cease immediately in that area and the Memphis District will notify the State Historic Preservation Officer and tribal NAGPRA representatives, the local sheriff, etc., as required by state and federal law.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed activities and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest.

The decision to proceed with this project will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The potential benefits that reasonably may be expected to accrue from the activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the activity will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; federally recognized Tribes and Native entities, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify or condition the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in preparation of the final EA and/or draft environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. **The draft EA, draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation will be circulated to**

agencies and any other parties that respond to this notice requesting copies. Copies of these documents have been placed on the District's website under Memphis District Civil Works Projects at: <http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/About/Offices/Regulatory/PublicNotices.aspx>

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall clearly state the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed in order to reach a decision on the project.

COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you wish to obtain additional information or to submit comments on this proposal, contact Wes Prebeck at USACE, Environmental Compliance Branch, 167 North Main Street, Room B-202, Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894, telephone 901-544-3135. **Comments should be forwarded to this office by November 6th, 2024.**

Sincerely,

Mark Smith
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch,
Regional Planning and Environmental Division South