



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-PD-EI  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP13-SL02-13

27 March 2013

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR AN UPDATE TO EXISTING  
MASTER PLAN FOR CHARLESTON PARK IN FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District intends to update a master plan for Charleston Park near Cumming, Georgia in Forsyth County. Forsyth County revised the existing Master Plan to relocate a foot bridge to a new location.

The recipient of this notice is requested specifically to review the proposed action as it may impact federal lands. We also ask your comment on any other potential impact.

**WATERWAY AND LOCATION:** Lake Sidney Lanier (Lake Lanier), Georgia.

**PROJECT AUTHORIZATION:** Title 16 of the United States Code (USC) Section 406(d) approved December 22, 1944, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of the Army to lease lands at Water Resources Development projects if those leases are in the best interest of the general public. Additionally, federal actions (i.e. leasing of land) require the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) documentation in order to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Forsyth County proposes the modification of the existing Master Plan, which consists of the construction of a pedestrian bridge over a small stream located on the northern portion of the park property. The proposed pedestrian bridge will be approximately 55 feet long and ten feet wide. The bridge is to be constructed of steel and wood and will be located at an elevation of approximately 1,074 feet above mean sea level. The bridge is necessary to complete the trail system and provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the remainder of the park. In addition to the bridge construction, minor adjustment to both sides of the trail will occur to align the trail with the new bridge location along with minimal fill placement to match the grade of the trail to the bridge elevation. Supports for the bridge will be placed outside the limits of the stream channel and the construction of the bridge is not anticipated to result in disturbance or impact to the stream or nearby wetland areas.

**USE BY OTHERS:** Implementation of the proposed project may have a temporary impact on recreation during construction. Construction noise associated with the installation of the pipeline will be temporary and minor due to project design.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) CONSIDERATIONS:** In addition the proposed Master Plan change was addressed in a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA). This Draft EA indicated an environmental impact statement for the Charleston Park Master Plan Modification is not needed. The EA is available for review at the USACE Mobile District webpage: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/EnvironmentalAssessments.aspx>. Upon completion of the coordination period set forth in the notice, comments received will be incorporated into the EA and a final determination of NEPA documentation requirements made. The final determination of this document will be posted on the USACE Mobile District webpage for future reference.

**HISTORIC PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS:** As per requirements outlined in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (NHPA), and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800, the Mobile District must consider the effects of the proposed action on historic properties. Historic properties are defined as cultural resources determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). A literature and background check for previously recorded cultural resource sites and surveys was made of the project Area of Potential Effect (APE). The APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and no properties eligible for or listed on the NRHP were identified within the APE. No cultural resource sites or areas considered to have potential for historic properties were identified within the project APE. Therefore, the Mobile District has determined no historic properties affected by the proposed project as per 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1).

**ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES:** There is no potential habitat for any Federally-listed threatened and endangered species with potential to exist in the proposed project area. However, the proposed project area provides potential foraging habitat for Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and although they are not Federally listed as threatened or endangered they are still protected under the Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The level of development and human presence proximate to the proposed project area would make it highly unlikely that bald eagles utilize the proposed project area. The proposed project would not “take” bald eagles, as defined by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on the evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may be reasonably expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are general environmental setting, soils, wetlands, floodplain, flora, fauna, endangered and threatened species, cultural resources, noise, air quality, water quality, groundwater, recreation, and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes.

In as much as the proposed work would involve the discharge of materials into waters of the United States, designation of the proposed discharge site associated with this federal project is being made

through application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army.

**COORDINATION:** The USACE is soliciting comments from the general public; Federal, State, and local agencies, and officials; American Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be used by the USACE to determine whether or not to proceed with the proposed action. 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 preparing an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the NEPA compliance.

Among the agencies receiving copies of this public notice are:

Region IV, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Field Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division  
Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer

You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to **Public Notice Number FP13-SL02-13** and should be directed to the Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628, Attention: CESAM-PD-EI (Mr. Matthew Horton) within 30 calendar days from the date of this public notice. Mr. Matthew Horton may be contacted at telephone number (251) 694-4636 or e-mail address [matthew.w.horton@usace.army.mil](mailto:matthew.w.horton@usace.army.mil) for additional information.



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