

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

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This is to give notice that the City of Salem 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 program. The proposed project is located at Mary Jane Lee Park, 41-49 Palmer Street in Salem, Essex County and may include site preparation, soil remediation, installation of a splashpad and related park improvements to a 31,874 s.f. existing park.

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

- Do not proceed with the splashpad;
- Construct the splashpad outside the floodplain area; or
- Construct the splashpad at the site proposed.

Potential impacts associated with the remediation of contaminated soils and construction of the proposed splash pad include the beneficial impacts of removing an environmental hazard, and adding an amenity to a heavily used urban park in a lower income neighborhood and leveraging \$200,000 in state grant funding. Negative potential impacts include displacement of flood storage, and fugitive dust and eroding sediment leaving the site. In order to preserve flood storage, the project's design will include no substantial vertical construction, maintaining existing grades to the maximum extent practicable. Appropriate erosion and sediment controls will be maintained during construction to prevent erosion. The remediation of contaminated soils must comply with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40), including supervision by a Licensed Site Professional and proper mitigation measures, including dust control. The City of Salem has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. 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. Environmental files that document compliance with Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request from 8am-4pm MTW, 8am-7pm Th, or 8am-noon F at the City of Salem, Dept. of Planning & Community Development (DPCD), 120 Washington St., 3rd Floor, Salem, MA 01970. Written comments must be received on or before 9/11/14 at the DPCD, Attn: Tom Devine, Senior Planner, or at tdevine@salem.com. 978-619-5685.
Date: 9/3/14 (Salem News)