

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the City of Houston Parks Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project, Harris and Fort Bend Counties, Texas
HMGP-DR-1999-TX PROJECT #34

Interested persons are hereby notified that the City of Houston has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to the City of Houston for hazardous fuels reduction activities at seven parks throughout the city: Coolgreen Corridor Park; Cullinan JS & LH Park; Cullinan Park at Oyster Creek; Herman Brown Park; Hogg Bird Sanctuary Park; Keith-Wiess Park; and Woodland Park. The project would include removal of trees, tree branches, and understory vegetation to increase vertical clearance. It would also involve minimizing surface fuel, such as dry leaves, pine needles, dead and dying foliage, and fallen trees. Debris would be recycled into mulch and distributed throughout the parks.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Parts 9 and 10). The draft EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) no action; (2) the proposed action described above. Portions of the project are located within the 100-year floodplain and this notice serves as early notice for compliance with Executive Order 11988.

The draft EA is available for review and comment at the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department, 2999 Wayside Drive, Houston, Texas 77023, from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday through Friday from January 1, 2014 to February 14, 2014. The comment period began on January 1, 2014, which was the initial notice publication date. An electronic version of the draft EA can be requested from Dorothy Weir, FEMA Region 6, at dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov or viewed on FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/86353>.

The public comment period has been extended from its original end date of January 31, 2014, and will now end at 5:00 pm on Friday, February 14, 2014. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Dorothy Weir, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, Fax: 940-383-7299; dorothy.weir@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.