

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT (FONSI) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE CITY NEW BERN STANLEY WHITE RECREATION CENTER**

The City of New Bern Parks and Recreation Department is seeking reimbursement for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the form of Public Assistance (PA) Program Funding for the relocation of the new recreation center in New Bern, North Carolina. The objective of the FEMA PA Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal, and Local Governments, and certain Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President. Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of eligible disaster-damaged facilities. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing grants for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

The Stanley White Recreation Center was located at 901 Chapman Street, in the Greater Duffyfield neighborhood in New Bern, North Carolina. This alternative proposes to construct a new recreation center outside the floodplain, but within the Greater Duffyfield neighborhood. The proposed site (35.11271 latitude, -77.05396 longitude) is approximately 670-feet or 0.15-miles southwest of the former recreation center location. The total site is approximately 3.4 acres. The previous facility was a single-story conventional load bearing masonry building erected upon a shallow foundation system with concrete slab on grade of approximately 18,057-square feet. The proposed action will be a two-story structure of approximately 36,074-square feet and a footprint of approximately 26,000-square feet with 128 parking spaces.

This proposed action will support the uses in the previous facility and allow for additional uses and services requested by neighborhood residents during the Fall 2020 Public Engagement sessions (presentations and findings shown in Appendix E). The City determined in order to meet the needs of residents during future flooding events, to provide a safe and secure location where youth can learn new skills after school, and to provide a venue to where seniors or underinsured persons can go to access health and wellness resources, a new recreation center should be constructed outside the floodplain, but within the Greater Duffyfield neighborhood.

This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates actions undertaken by FEMA to provide financial support to the city of New Bern covered in the scope of this document on the proposed relocation of the Stanley White Recreation Center in New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina. This EA also provides the public and decision-makers with the information required to understand and evaluate the potential environmental consequences of these actions and to consider these impacts in the decision-making. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA in FEMA Directive 108-1: *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements*, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508. FEMA prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts resulting from FEMA's financial support to the City of New Bern for the proposed relocation of the Stanley White Recreation Center in New Bern, Craven County, North Carolina.

Notice of the availability of the draft EA was provided for agency and public review and comment for a period of 30 days. The public notice was posted on the FEMA website at: [Region 4 - Environmental Documents and Public Notices | FEMA.gov](#) the City of New Bern website https://www.newbernnc.gov/departments/stanley_white_recreation_center_project.php between, July 16, 2021 and August 15, 2021. Hard copies of the document were available, and comments made, at the following locations: New Bern City Hall – 300 Pollock Street (Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm), West New

Bern Recreation Center – 1225 PineTree Drive (Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm; Saturday 9am – 3pm), New Bern – Craven County Public Library 400 Johnson Street (Monday – Thursday 9am – 7pm); Friday and Saturday 9am – 6pm), Omega Center – 800 George Street (Monday – Thursday 9am – 12noon) and on location at the proposed site.

Comments received to date are documented in Appendix E of the EA.

CONDITIONS

Actions under this EA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable for the project and could jeopardize the receipt of funding.

- The City of New Bern (the City) is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal laws, permits and approvals.
- Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized and maintained throughout construction to control soil erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection. BMPs will be determined during the design phase and implemented by the construction company. Environmental compliance during construction will be required to ensure that all BMP devices are constructed and working properly during the life of the project. Erosion controls will be in place prior to any ground disturbing activity.
- No environmental permitting is anticipated for this project. However, if permits are required, all work must be performed in accordance with any approved permit requirements and conditions. Changes to project design that alter permitted actions may require re-engagement with regulatory agencies to determine if revisions and modifications to issued permits are required.
- No compensatory mitigation is anticipated for this project due to lack of anticipated impacts associated with the preferred alternative. In the event that this changes, compensatory mitigation would be pursued through either the North Carolina Division of Mitigation Services (NCDMS) or an approved mitigation bank.
- The project will follow State and local stormwater and erosion control requirements and will be covered under the City's State National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, which follows federal guidelines and regulations.
- Site soils will be covered and wetted during construction to minimize fugitive dust.
- Heavy machinery and equipment to be used for the proposed action will meet any applicable federal, state, or municipal clean air standards.
- Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction must be disposed of and handled in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations. During all activities, appropriate measures to remove, prevent, contain, minimize, and control spills of any potentially hazardous materials will be employed.
- Construction activities will be conducted during the daytime hours (7:00am – 9:00pm on weekdays and weekends, as defined by City of New Bern Ordinances Section 26-71 [5]) to reduce adverse noise impacts.
- All equipment shall comply with pertinent equipment noise standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State of North Carolina, and City of New Bern. For example, federal noise standards include the provision that all equipment used shall have sound control devices (e.g., mufflers, intake silencers, engine enclosures) no less effective than those provided on the original equipment; no equipment shall have un-muffled exhaust.
- If human remains or intact archaeological deposits are uncovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken.

The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant shall contact the North Carolina State Archaeologist and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities; all work shall stop immediately, and the proper authorities notified in accordance with *North Carolina Statutes, Section 70-29 (2019)*.

- Prior to construction, the City must identify the source and location of fill material and provide this information to NC SHPO and FEMA. If the borrow pit is privately owned, or is located on previously undisturbed land, or if the fill is obtained by the horizontal expansion of a pre-existing borrow pit, FEMA consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer will be required. Failure to comply with this condition may jeopardize FEMA funding; verification of compliance will be required at project closeout.
- Any changes to the approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the State and FEMA, prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with Section 106.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the EA, the potential impacts resulting from the two alternatives analyzed in the EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA in FEMA Directive 108-1: *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements*, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This FONSI is based upon the proposed action described in the EA and meeting all conditions prescribed for that project type.

APPROVAL

Stephanie D. Everfield
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