



**FEMA**

U. S. Department of Homeland Security  
FEMA Region 4  
3003 Chamblee Tucker Rd  
Atlanta, GA 30341

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
CITY OF PADUCAH RIVERFRONT PARK PROJECT  
PADUCAH, KENTUCKY FEMA-4540-DR-KY and FEMA-4428-DR-KY**

**BACKGROUND**

On April 17, 2019 and April 24, 2020, President Trump declared a major disasters (FEMA-DR-4428-KY and FEMA-DR-4540-KY) for the State of Kentucky, due to flooding, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance to designated disaster areas.

Heavy rainfall and flooding of the Ohio River caused damages to features of the City of Paducah's Riverfront Park. High velocity water flows, attributed to both of the declared disaster events, caused the severe erosion of the park's shoreline and walking path, washing away embankment materials and rendering these features inoperable. The damages that occurred under FEMA-4428-DR-KY in 2019 had not been repaired prior to the storm event in 2020 (FEMA-4540-DR-KY). The existing damaged areas suffered additional damages by further eroding the embankment. An additional area, not previously damaged in 2019, was also damaged by flooding causing a washout. The areas of the park embankments which suffered scouring were those previously stabilized with riprap, filter stone, and unconsolidated fill. The section of the embankment stabilized with pre-cast revetment blocks, located immediately adjacent to the damaged areas, retained its structural integrity.

The proposed work is to repair the park with shore stabilization mitigation, some of the damaged areas would be repaired in-kind through the replacement of riprap and fill materials, some of the areas would be repaired with upgraded materials, and some of the areas would be expanded in order to armor the embankment against future flood flows from the Ohio River..

A public notice is posted on the City of Paducah website and on FEMA's website. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for viewing on [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema\\_oehp\\_paducah-riverfront-park-project-dr-4428\\_1-27-2021.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_oehp_paducah-riverfront-park-project-dr-4428_1-27-2021.pdf) or per request to the FEMA [FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov) email address or visiting the city of Paducah website at <http://paducahky.gov/sites/default/files/Riverfront-Park-Mitigation-Public-Notice-EA-2021.pdf>.

## **FINDINGS**

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will have minimal or no impact biological, water quality, cultural, floodplains, or social economic resources.

During construction, short term impacts to water quality resources are anticipated. Impacts to floodplains and cultural resources as the result of the proposed action are negligible and not anticipated to be long-term. Long-term positive impacts to socio-economic resources are expected.

## **CONDITIONS**

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. The applicant must apply best management practices (BMPs) such as erosion and sediment control measures. BMPs may include the installation of siltation fencing, upland sediment basins, or alternate measures to be designed and maintained by the Applicant.
2. Project will be required to obtain all applicable floodplain permits from the Kentucky Division of Water Floodplain division or local floodplain administrator.
3. Prior to conducting repairs, the Applicant must identify the source and location of fill material and provide this information to KYEM 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 (SHPO) will be required. Failure to comply with this condition may jeopardize FEMA funding; verification of compliance will be required at project closeout.
4. 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 Kentucky Heritage Council Site Protection Program 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 Kentucky Statutes, Section 72.02.
5. Embankment mitigation activities will not disturb soils below the depth where sand was previously placed to create a man-made peninsula.

Finding of No Significant Impact  
City of Paducah Riverfront Park  
FEMA-4482-DR-KY  
FEMA-4540-DR-KY

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

## **APPROVAL**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 4

Date \_\_\_\_\_