

**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain  
Onondaga Creekwalk Phase 2 Project – PIN 3755.14  
Jefferson Street to Colvin Street, City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, NY  
Date: August 5, 2017**

**To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals**

This is to give notice that the City of Syracuse has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with 23 CFR 650 Subpart A, Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments in Floodplains. The City of Syracuse is seeking to construct a recreational mixed use trail to create a link between various City neighborhoods and the existing Phase 1 Onondaga Creekwalk. The proposed project parallels Onondaga Creek from Colvin Street to Walton Street in the City of Syracuse.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, 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.

The City of Syracuse has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize potential adverse impacts due to the Creekwalk Phase 2 project and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values of the floodplain:

1. The project as proposed is functionally dependent on being located near Onondaga Creek and at least partly within its floodplain as one of the goals of the project is to develop a recreational trail in the Onondaga Creek corridor. The Creekwalk Phase 2 trail must also link to the Creekwalk Phase 1 trail which is located in the floodplain at its terminus at Jefferson Street. Any feasible site to be analyzed for alternative construction to serve trail users would have similar design constraints within the floodplain.
2. The no-action alternative was considered, but not selected because it did not meet the design criteria of providing a recreational trail and transportation link within Syracuse.
3. A hydraulic study was conducted for the proposed trail construction to assess its impacts upon Onondaga Creek flood elevations within the regulated floodplain (Special Flood Hazard Area or 100 Year Floodplain). The hydraulic study found that the proposed trail construction will not increase base flood elevations. No properties will be added to the Onondaga Creek floodplain as a result of the project, and flood elevations will not increase on properties within the floodplain.
4. As required by City of Syracuse ordinance, the project will maintain flood storage along Onondaga Creek, as project excavation volume will exceed fill volume within the floodplain.

The City of Syracuse has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Starting **August 7, 2017**, project information pertaining to steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, will be available for public inspection, review and copying during business hours (8 AM to 5 PM) at the City of Syracuse, Dept. of Engineering (address below).

Written comments pertaining to this Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain will be accepted by the City of Syracuse at the address below on or before **August 15, 2017**:

City of Syracuse, Dept. of Engineering, City Hall Room 401  
233 East Washington Street, Syracuse, NY 13202  
Attn: Mr. Russell Houck, PE.

Comments may also be submitted via email on or before **August 15, 2017 to [comments@onondagacreekwalk.com](mailto:comments@onondagacreekwalk.com)**. Comments will become part of the official record and will be considered when making future project related decisions.

The Creekwalk Phase II Project Draft Design Report is also available for review on the Project website:  
<http://www.syr.gov.net/cw2>