



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Mr. Donnie Faughnan
Donald.J.Faughnan@usace.army.mil
Planning Division
Date: 2/3/2023
Comment Period Closes: 3/3/2023

30-DAY PUBLIC NOTICE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION EAST BRIMFIELD LAKE EAST BRIMFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District plans to perform work at the East Brimfield Lake Flood Risk Management Project subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (P.L. 91-190). The work involves the establishment of a pedestrian bridge over the Quinebaug River at East Brimfield Lake in East Brimfield, Massachusetts by the Brimfield Trail Association (Figure 1) under USACE's Challenge Partnership Program, which is authorized by Public Law 102-580, Section 225 of 33 U.S.C 2328, Water Resources Development Act of 1992. Attachment No. 1 lists pertinent laws, regulations, and directives.

Project Description: The proposed action consists of constructing a 110-foot-long by 8.25-foot-wide prefabricated pedestrian truss bridge over the Quinebaug River. The bridge will be erected on the site of a trolley bridge that was removed in 1960, one mile down river from East Brimfield Lake (Figure 1). The existing south abutment will remain, and a new south abutment will be constructed at a higher elevation further back from the bank of the river. A new north abutment will be constructed out of precast concrete. Trail improvements consist of the addition of 300 tons of gravel to the trail leading to and from the bridge. The bridge will complete 4.7 miles of trail in Brimfield and will create a loop using infrequently traveled country roads and the Lake Siog Pass Trail in Holland. The bridge will also allow access to the trail system in Sturbridge and connect to the trail system in Southbridge, thereby completing a significant portion of the Titanic Rail Trail.

Purpose of Work: The purpose of the trail construction is to add an opportunity for publicly available recreation and to increase the public's awareness of USACE and its missions by encouraging visitation to East Brimfield Lake and Dam.

Alternatives: In addition to the proposed action, the Environmental Assessment evaluated the no action alternative.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the Planning Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Biologist Donnie Faughnan, at the address shown above. He may also be reached by phone at 978-318-8205 or email at Donald.J.Faughnan@usace.army.mil.

Coordination: The proposed work has, or will be coordinated with, the following agencies:

Federal:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

State of Massachusetts:

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office

Tribal Nations:

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Local:

Brimfield Trail Association

Environmental Impacts: An environmental assessment is available for review upon request. I have made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement for the proposed construction is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This determination will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

Other Information:

- a. Local Sponsor: Brimfield Trail Association
- b. Floodplain Management: In accordance with Executive Order 11988, USACE has determined that the proposed work will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.
- c. Endangered Species: It is our preliminary determination that the project is not likely to adversely affect threatened or endangered species. USACE is in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that the proposed activity will not significantly affect any species or critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).
- d. Cultural Resources: USACE is in coordination with the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the pedestrian bridge work may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected as well as the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Donnie Faughnan; or emailed to Donald.J.Faughnan@usace.army.mil within 30 days of this notice.

Date

John A. Atilano II
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Attachments

Attachment 1

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND DIRECTIVES

Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661-667e)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a, et seq.)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 100101 et seq.)

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460L-12 et seq.)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (54 U.S.C. 200301 et seq.)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations, 11 February 1994

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997

Attachment 2: East Brimfield Lake proposed pedestrian bridge location.

