



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Detroit District

Joint Public Notice

Applicant: Charter County of Wayne County, Division of Parks

In Reply Refer To: Corps File No. LRE-2007-00905-7-S11
MDEQ File No. 09-82-0048

Date: March 23, 2011
Expires: April 23, 2011

Proposed Elizabeth Park Foot Bridge Rehabilitation & Replacement, Detroit River, Trenton, MI

Applicant: Charter County of Wayne County Division of Parks
33175 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185-1466

Project Location: The proposed project would occur in the Elizabeth Park Canal of the Detroit River within Elizabeth Park in the city of Trenton, Wayne County, Michigan. The site lies south of Slocum Street, east of West Jefferson Avenue, north of Grosse Ile Parkway and west of the Detroit River.

Federal Authority: The applicant has applied for a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

State Authority: Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires that all discharges of dredged or fill material must be certified by the State as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as an application to the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Land and Water Management Division and constitutes its public notice as required by Section 401 of the Act. Coastal Zone Management Certification (or waiver thereof) is required from the State of Michigan if this proposed activity would occur within the designated coastal zone.

Project Description: As shown on the attached plans, the applicant proposes to:

-Remove three (3) Elizabeth Park concrete arch pedestrian bridge structures to the arch-supporting abutments and remove original bridge railings, including decorative features;

-Make surface "chip and patch" repairs to the bridge abutments and install embedded galvanic anodes along perimeter of concrete patches and/or along interface between new and existing concrete. Modify the bridge abutments by notching and placing a new concrete seat to accept placement of the new arch structures then replacing the three (3) bridge structures with precast concrete arch structures with the same 60-foot bridge span, 9-foot bridge rise and 12.5-foot bridge width. For all bridges, pour headwalls in place to match the original headwall arch elevations; pour steps in place to match the original bridge top walking surface elevation; hand-apply concrete waterproof sealer to top horizontal surfaces, non-skid concrete sealer to walking surfaces, and concrete surface coating (mist gray) to structure surfaces; repair and refurbish (clean, strip) the original bridge railings. Where necessary, fabricate new railings to match original railing (design and material), including decorative features to replace missing

portions of the railing. Apply protective coating (black) and remount on new bridge arch structures; and remove existing bollards across the bridge approach on both sides of bridges 1 and 2 and replace with three (3) decorative bollards for prevention of vehicular access onto the structure.

-Discharge approximately 60 cubic yards of plain riprap per bridge along the shoreline in a one (1) - foot layer on both sides of the canal in each of two (2) 20-foot x 20-foot areas upstream and two (2) 20-foot x 20-foot areas downstream of the bridges substructures.

The project is expected to be conducted over a 6-month period. The work would be conducted using shore-based and/or barge-mounted construction equipment including crane, front-end loader, excavator, pneumatic chipping hammers, barge, and concrete trucks.

According to the applicant, the bridge arch structures require replacement as the deterioration of the concrete has progressed beyond the point of repair. The applicant's stated purpose for the project is to rehabilitate and replace the Elizabeth Park pedestrian bridges.

Avoidance & Minimization: The applicant has stated that impacts to waters of the United States (US) have been avoided by using the existing bridge abutments in the bridge replacement project instead of replacing the entire structure, thus avoiding the associated in-water work.

The impacts resulting from riprap placement are unavoidable since the discharge is necessary to protect the shoreline adjacent to the bridge abutments from further erosion. The short and long term water quality impacts associated with the discharge would be minimized by the use of filter fabric under the riprap.

Impacts to waters of the US from project activities including removal, repair, and replacement activities and from access, staging and storage activities would be minimized by immediate removal of any demolition/construction debris in the waterway, the use of a barge to catch as much debris as possible and the use of appropriate Best Management Practices designed and engineered specifically to reduce or eliminate the off-site migration of soils via water runoff, wind, vehicle tracking, etc. during construction.

Post project, impacts to waters of the US would be minimized by the appropriate restoration/protection of all exposed areas including earthwork areas, exposed slopes, staging/storage areas, access roads, construction work areas, etc. from erosion.

The Corps has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization statement at this time.

According to the applicant, mitigation is not necessary or appropriate for the proposed work since the riprap shoreline protection is self mitigating in that it would prevent further negative water quality impacts due to erosion and would provide some aquatic habitat.

The Corps has not verified the adequacy of this mitigation proposal at this time.

Other Authorizations:

The applicant has received the following governmental authorization:

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Permit under the provisions of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams and Part 31 Floodplain/Water Resources Protection of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

Comments: We are publishing this notice in compliance with Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 320-332 and the Michigan statutes listed above. Comments on the project should be submitted in writing and postmarked or delivered by the expiration date of this public notice. Comments of a positive or negative nature may be submitted. All responses must refer to file number LRE-2007-00905-7-S11 (09-82-0048). We will interpret a lack of response as meaning that there is no objection to the permit application. Comments should be filed with:

a. Wally Gauthier, Chief, Permit Evaluation Eastern Branch, Regulatory Office, Detroit District, Corps of Engineers, 477 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48226-2550. Comments may be e-mailed to: Colette.M.Luff@usace.army.mil, but must include a name and postal mailing address.

b. State permit and/or water quality certification comments should be filed with the MDEQ, Land and Water Management Division, P.O. Box 30204, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

After the closing of the response period, the Corps and the MDEQ will exchange timely comments received.

Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

Evaluation: The decision whether to issue the Department of the Army permit and State permits will be based on independent conclusions of the Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, respectively, after evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. These decisions will reflect the national/state concerns for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the US. Therefore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Endangered Species: We will review this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. We are not aware of the presence of any listed species or critical habitat at or in the vicinity of the proposed worksite. We invite information and/or comments regarding the potential presence of, or impacts to, any listed species or critical habitat.

Cultural Resources: The District staff has reviewed existing information on historic properties potentially affected by the proposed project, including the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and there are no recorded historic properties within the permit area.

A review of existing information revealed that the three (3) foot bridges were constructed in Elizabeth Park between 1924 and 1930 for pedestrian access to/from the mainland side of the park over man-made canals of the Detroit River. Elizabeth Park is recognized as the first county park in the state of Michigan and the beginning of the Wayne County Park system which was a product of the evolution of the automobile industry. Currently, the original use and setting are retained by the park and bridges. However, physically the bridges are dilapidated; portions of the bridge railings are missing, the original bridge approach lampposts have been removed; and bollards are installed across the bridge approaches to prevent vehicular traffic.

The District Engineer has made an initial determination that the three (3) pedestrian bridges, despite some physical alterations and some loss of physical integrity, appear to be potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP and the proposed repair project could potentially have an adverse effect on these properties since the proposed rehabilitation and replacement activities would result in physical alteration as well as partial physical removal of the structures.

The District Engineer invites responses to this Public Notice from federal, state and local agencies, historical and archaeological societies, Indian tribes, and other parties having knowledge of, or concerns regarding historic properties in the area. We also invite information and/or comments regarding the identified potentially historic properties and alternatives and/or or modifications to the proposed project that could avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on such properties.

Additional Information: Questions concerning this application may be directed to Colette Luff at the Corps of Engineers address listed above, or telephone number 313-226-7485.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Dan Wyant
Director, Michigan Department of
Environmental Quality

Wally Gauthier
Chief, Permit Evaluation Eastern Branch
Regulatory Office

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

We request that the above notice be conspicuously and continuously posted for the time period of this notice