

PUBLIC NOTICE

**COMBINED NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A NEPA DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT; EARLY NOTICE OF EARLY PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND (EO 11990); NOTICE OF SECTION 106, NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT REVIEW (54 U.S.C. 306108); and ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING
Hempstead Lake State Park
Town of Hempstead, New York**

This provides notice that the State of New York, as the "Responsible Entity," as that term is defined by 24 CFR 58(a)(7)(i), is preparing Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates alternatives for improving and enhancing the resilience of Hempstead Lake State Park and its infrastructure and help to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. The State of New York is the Grantee of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds appropriated by the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Pub. L. 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (Stafford Act) in calendar years 2011, 2012, and 2013. The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) implements the State's obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through duly authorized Certifying Officers. GOSR was formed under the auspices of the New York State Homes and Community Renewal's Housing Trust Fund Corporation (HTFC), a public benefit corporation and subsidiary of the New York State Housing Finance Agency, 99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1224, Albany, New York 12260.

Certifying Officer: Matt Accardi, Assistant General Counsel, New York State Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10004.

Pursuant to 24 CFR Section 58.59 and 24 CFR Part 55 as well as 6 NYCRR 617.12, this combined Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland, Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), Section 106 Public Notice, and Announcement of Public Hearing satisfies three separate procedural requirements for project activities proposed to be undertaken by GOSR.

Project Description: GOSR proposes to provide \$35,000,000.00 in CDBG-DR funding to implement the Hempstead Lake State Park Project (herein after, the "Proposed Activity") located in Nassau County. The Proposed Activity would occur in the Town of Hempstead, on public lands managed by the State of New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The Proposed Activity consists of four (4) components intended to improve stormwater management, enhance natural ecosystems, provide connectivity among diverse populations, enhance safety, and promote education programs at the Park. The Proposed Activity components are as follows: "Dams, Gatehouse and Bridges;" "Northwest and Northeast Ponds;" "Environmental Education and Resiliency Center;" and "Greenways, Gateways and Waterfront Access."

- The Dams, Gatehouses and Bridges component would restore the operation of the dams and associated water flow control infrastructure within the Park to improve stormwater management, including dam improvements to meet current regulatory standards, gatehouse repairs, and installation of pedestrian bridges over park water ways.
- The Northeast and Northwest Ponds component would involve the installation of floatables catchers and sediment basins at pond inlets, as well as creation of stormwater filtering wetlands and dredging of the ponds to remove debris, improve water quality and increase impoundment capacity.
- The Environmental Education and Resiliency Center component would comprise construction of a new, two-story, approximately 8,000-square-foot building west of Lakeside Drive. The focus of the Education and Resiliency Center would be on environmental stewardship and climate change adaptation resiliency.
- The Greenways, Gateways and Waterfront Access component would comprise expansion and improvement to the existing path system within the park, including connection points to the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as installation of observation areas, piers, and kayak launches along Hempstead Lake.

Persons desiring to be heard on environmental issues will be afforded the opportunity to be heard.

Preparation of an Environmental Assessment

This is to give notice that an EA for the Proposed Activity will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and the HUD environmental review regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, as well as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617. A "Project Information Document" has been prepared to provide the public information on the scope and methodology proposed for the environmental review of the Proposed Activity.

Early Notice of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

This is to give notice that the GOSR is conducting an evaluation of the Proposed Activity as required by Executive Order 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations (24 CFR Part 55). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about wetlands facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Funding for the Proposed Activity will be provided by the HUD CDBG-DR program for storm recovery activities in New York State.

The purpose of the Proposed Hempstead Lake State Park Project is to improve stormwater management, enhance natural ecosystems, provide connectivity among diverse populations, enhance safety, and promote education programs at the Park.

The Proposed Activity will result in impacts to 4.18 acres of existing National Wetland Inventory and/or New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) -mapped wetlands. The following impacts will occur:

- The Proposed Activity will remove 1.94 acres of emergent wetland and add 8.18 acres for a net gain of 6.24 acres.
- The Proposed Activity will remove 2.24 acres of shrub red maple wetland, for a net loss of 2.24 acres.

Wetlands maps based on the National Wetland Inventory and DEC data have been prepared and are available for review with additional information at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs>.

Section 106 Notice

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as implemented in 36 CFR Part 800, Section 800.2(d), as well as Section 14.09 of the New York State Historic Preservation Act, as implemented in 9 CRR-NY Part 426, this notice is given to effectively inform the public about the nature of the undertaking, the analysis of its potential effects on cultural resources, and the public's likely interest in it.

Public Review: Public viewing of the Project Information Document is available online at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/environmental-docs> and is also available in person Monday –Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00PM at the following locations:

- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Contact: (212) 480-6265
- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: 500 Bi County Boulevard, Farmingdale, NY 11735. Contact: (631) 465-9679

Further information may be requested by writing to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004, emailing NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org or by calling (212) 480-6265. This combined notice is being sent to individuals and groups known to be interested in these activities, local news media, appropriate local, state and federal agencies, the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency having jurisdiction, and to the HUD Field Office, and is being published in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected community.

Public Comments: Any individual, group or agency may submit written comments on the Proposed Activity. The public is hereby advised to specify in their comments which "notice" their comments address. Comments should be submitted via email, in the proper format, on or before July 17, 2017, at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Written comments may also be submitted at the following address, or by mail, in the proper format, to be received on or before July 17, 2017: Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: 25 Beaver Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10004. All comments must be received on or before 5pm on July 17, 2017, or they will not be considered. If modifications result from public comment, these will be made prior to proceeding with the expenditure of funds.

Announcement of Public Hearing

GOSR will hold a public hearing from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on July 6, 2017. The hearing location is Town of Hempstead Town Hall, 350 Front Street, Hempstead, NY 11550. The purpose of the public hearing is for GOSR to receive comments on the Project Information Document. GOSR will not respond to any of the comments or take action on the Proposed Activity at the hearing. Comments will be considered as part of the preparation of the Draft EA. The meeting facility is accessible to those with disabilities. Any individual who requires special accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternative formats, is requested to contact the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery at (212) 480-6265 or by email at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org.



Governor's Office of
Storm Recovery