

Appendix C: Public Notices

- Notice of Intent to Prepare E.A.
- Notice of Availability of Draft E.A.

Notice of Intent to Prepare E.A.

Notice of Intent
To prepare an Environmental Assessment for
Garden of the Gods Detention Facility and Camp Creek Stabilization
Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Public notification is hereby given by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed projects on Camp Creek in Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The City of Colorado Springs has requested assistance from FEMA for the proposed construction of a stormwater detention and sediment collection facility in the northeastern corner of the park. A future project to add naturalistic grade control along Camp Creek through Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch will also be included in the EA.

This notification is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990 – *Wetland Protection*, and Federal agency implementation procedures including 44 C.F.R. Parts 9 and 10.

FEMA is considering funding the detention pond project through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which provides funds to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. In accordance with NEPA, an EA will be prepared to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed projects on the human and natural environment. The EA will also address any connected actions that will be carried out as part of the proposed projects.

BACKGROUND

Camp Creek drains a 10 square mile watershed, which originates in the steep and rocky Pike National Forest to the northwest. The Waldo Canyon Fire in the summer of 2012 altered the watershed. The Camp Creek watershed sustained soil burns and loss of vegetation from the fire. This condition has greatly increased the potential for storm runoff and sediment transport and has resulted in increased peak flow rates, runoff volumes, and frequency of runoff events associated with Camp Creek. Large amounts of sediment were deposited along portions of Camp Creek in a large storm event in 2013 and during several storm events this year. Erosion is occurring in other portions of Camp Creek.

The Pleasant Valley neighborhood borders the Camp Creek/31st Street channel and includes over 200 properties that are in the special flood hazard area. The risk of flooding is due to inadequate capacity in the channelized portion of Camp Creek that flows in the center median of 31st Street through the neighborhood. Important pedestrian corridors to neighborhood facilities and schools and 31st Street are included in the Camp Creek floodplain

All vehicle access to the northwest quadrant of the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood is across or

through 31st Street. Thus, emergency access to the neighborhood is cut off during large flood events. Many of the homes in the Camp Creek floodplain have basements that are subject to flooding. Thus, flooding associated with Camp Creek poses property damage and life safety risks.

Sediment deposits and erosion along Camp Creek are having a negative impact on Garden of the Gods and Rock Ledge Ranch. The Gateway Road Bridge over Camp Creek has marginal capacity for flood flows and thus, Gateway Road is closed when the potential for large flows in the creek exists during rainfall events.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed detention pond project is the initial element of a multi-phased Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project that was developed through a planning process with robust public involvement in 2013 and 2014. The proposed pond and future naturalistic channel stabilization are part of the plan that was most favored by the public through the planning process.

The proposed pond will significantly reduce peak flow rates, sediment and debris that must be conveyed through Camp Creek within Garden of the Gods, Rock Ledge Ranch and the 31st Street Channel during large flood events. Thus, it will significantly reduce the potential for flood damage and life safety issues. The project will also reduce the potential for sedimentation and erosion in Garden of the Gods Park and closures of Gateway Road during large runoff events.

The proposed pond will store a portion of the runoff from the contributing watershed during large storm events and release flow to the downstream Camp Creek channel at reduced rates over an extended period of time. In the 100-year flood, the pond will control the peak rate of flow in the downstream portion of Camp Creek to less than half of the inflow rate which will result in a significant reduction in the size of the floodplain along the Creek. A portion of the pond will be configured to collect and store sediment and debris in a location that can be accessed for cleanout by the City.

The future naturalistic stabilization of Camp Creek through Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch will add numerous drop structures constructed of boulders along the creek to mitigate erosion that is occurring with increased runoff from the Waldo Canyon burn scar.

The proposed projects will affect a segment of Camp Creek that is designated as “water of the United States” and has an associated FEMA designated floodplain. All required federal, state and local permits and approvals, including a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the regulatory office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be needed prior to construction.

COMMENT PERIOD

A public comment period related to the Proposed Action will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. In addition to this initial comment period, a final opportunity for public review and comment will be provided when the Draft EA becomes available. Interested parties may submit comments or request additional project information by contacting:

Vancel Fossinger
Project Manager
Wilson & Company

5755 Mark Dabling Boulevard, Suite 220
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Email: vance.fossinger@wilsonco.com
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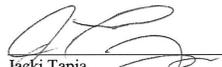
Published in the Colorado Springs Gazette October 1, 2015

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF COLORADO
COUNTY OF EL PASO

I, Jacki Tapia, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that she is the Legal Sales Representative of THE COLORADO SPRINGS GAZETTE, LLC., a corporation, the publishers of a daily public newspaper, which is printed and published daily in whole at the city of Colorado Springs in the County of El Paso, and the State of Colorado, and which is called The Gazette; that a notice of which the annexed is an exact copy, cut from said newspaper, was published in the regular and entire editions of said newspaper 1 time(s) to wit, **October 1, 2015.**

That said newspaper has been published continuously and uninterruptedly in said County of El Paso for a period of at least six consecutive months next prior to the first issue thereof containing this notice; that said newspaper has a general circulation and that it has been admitted to the United States mails as second-class matter under the provisions of the Act of March 3, 1879 and any amendment thereof, and is a newspaper duly qualified for the printing of legal notices and advertisement within the meaning of the laws of the State of Colorado.


Jacki Tapia
Legal Sales Representative

Subscribed and sworn to me this **October 1, 2015**, at said City of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Colorado. My commission expires **September 28, 2019.**


Lori A. Conary
Notary Public

LORI A. CONARY
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID # 20074036830
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

The Gazette

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To prepare an Environmental Assessment for
Garden of the Gods Detention Facility and Camp
Creek Stabilization
Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch,
Colorado Springs, Colorado

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COMMENT PERIOD
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Vance Fossinger
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Published in CS Gazette October 1, 2015

Notice of Availability of Draft E.A.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Emergency Management Agency Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment For the Camp Creek Garden of the Gods Detention Facility and Downstream Improvements Colorado Springs, Colorado

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS), in cooperation with the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado are preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed projects on Camp Creek in Garden of the Gods Park and Rock Ledge Ranch in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Funding for the Camp Creek Garden of the Gods Detention Facility portion of the Proposed Action would be provided through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which funds long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an EA is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of each of the proposed alternatives on the human and natural environment. This also provides public notice to invite public comments on the proposed project in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands.

The City of Colorado Springs has identified the need to mitigate future public and private property damage and the potential for loss of life and injury due to natural hazards including flooding, erosion, and sedimentation along the Camp Creek corridor. The Proposed Action would consist of the Garden of the Gods Detention Facility on Camp Creek in the northern portion of Garden of the Gods Park and additional elements which are outside of the scope of the HMGP and will be funded through other sources. The additional elements include bridge and roadway improvements to Gateway Road and naturalistic channel stabilization improvements to Camp Creek between the outlet of the proposed stormwater detention facility and Chambers Way. The timing of construction of the additional elements is dependent on funding and is yet to be determined. Other Federal Agencies may choose to adopt FEMA's NEPA analysis in accordance with their own implementing regulations. All of the Proposed Action project elements are part of the Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project which was Master Planned in 2013 and 2014.

A public comment period related to the Proposed Action will remain open for 15 days following publication of this notice. If no substantive comments are received by the above deadline, the draft EA will become final and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

The draft Environmental Assessment will be available for public viewing at the City of Colorado Springs, City Engineering Office at 30 South Nevada Avenue, Suite 401, Colorado Springs, Colorado between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (MT) Monday through Friday. The document will also be available on the City of Colorado Springs Camp Creek Project website at <https://coloradosprings.gov/resident-services/public-works/city-engineering/camp-creek> . Comments and requests for technical information can be submitted to Vancel Fossinger, Project Manager, Wilson & Company, Engineers & Architects, Inc., at (719) 302-6742 or by email at vance.fossinger@wilsonco.com

Interested parties may also submit comments or request additional information by contacting Daniel Jones, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region VIII, Denver Federal Center, P.O. Box 25267, Denver, Colorado, 80225, by telephone at (303) 231-1887 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (MT), Monday thru Friday, or by email at Daniel.Jones5@fema.dhs.gov.