

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
Camp Creek Garden of the Gods Detention Facility and Downstream Improvements  
Colorado Springs, Colorado  
March 2016**

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Colorado Springs through the Colorado Division of Emergency Management, has requested funding through the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) (DR-4145-57R) to construct a stormwater detention / sediment retention pond along Camp Creek in Garden of the Gods Park, approximately 0.8 miles upstream of the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood, to mitigate future public and private property damage and the potential for loss of life and or injury due to natural hazards including flooding, erosion and sedimentation along the Camp Creek Corridor. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order (EO) 11988, EO 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts on the human and natural environment and is incorporated by reference. The Draft EA was available for public review and comment for 15 days. No substantive comments were received during the public comment period.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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. All of the Proposed Action project elements are part of the Camp Creek Drainage Improvement Project which was Master Planned in 2013 and 2014. 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.

The purpose is intended to mitigate future public and private property damage and the potential for loss of life and or injury due to natural hazards including flooding, erosion and sedimentation along the Camp Creek Corridor. The need of the Camp Creek Improvement Project is to reduce the overall risk to people and property from future disasters, while also reducing reliance on funding from disaster declarations.

In the EA, the following two alternatives were considered: (1) Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative, which considered the consequences of taking no action; (2) Alternative 2 - Proposed Action which includes three elements:

- Construction of a stormwater detention/sediment retention pond on the north end of the Garden of the Gods Park (the FEMA funded action)

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- Reconstruction of the Gateway Roadway bridge with associated roadway elements
  - Stabilize the natural channel through the Garden of the Gods Park

## MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

The resulting mitigation and stipulations upon which this finding is conditioned are:

- The City will need to obtain a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) before beginning construction activities. The City must comply with the mitigation measures and conditions identified in the Section 404 permit.
- The City must obtain and comply with a Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater permit.
- The City must coordinate with CDPHE and obtain appropriate Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality certifications.
- All excavation and vegetation removal activities would be completed in accordance with Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts to soils and water resources.
- The applicant would need to take reasonable precautions to control dust emissions during excavation activities (i.e., water spray as necessary). A State Air Pollution Permit is required.
- Cut and fill slopes will be constructed at 4:1 or less to facilitate revegetation and blend with adjacent natural topography.
- Disturbed areas must be revegetated using native grass species (and shrubs as necessary).
- Colorado Springs Streamside Design Guidelines will be followed for re-establishing vegetation along the stream banks. Impacted vegetation will be replaced in accordance with the City's revegetation plan (AMEC 2009b) using native grass and shrubs species.
- During the construction period, use of standard BMPs to address short-term impacts to soils, water quality, air quality, ambient noise levels, equipment maintenance, safety, transportation and utility services is required.
- The project area must be surveyed for nesting activity prior to construction in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Access to all properties would be maintained during construction activities. Residents would be notified of any road closures and detours. If traffic rerouting/control becomes necessary for the project, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices guidelines would need to be followed for all traffic control.
- In the unlikely event a spill or leak would occur from the construction equipment within the project area, construction activities would cease, and FEMA and the CDPHE would be contacted regarding the appropriate procedure for handling any contaminated soils or water.
- A CLOMR will be required prior to the start of construction and a LOMR after the work is completed.
- A Floodplain Development Permit will be required from the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department.
- If cultural resources are encountered during project activities, work would be stopped, and FEMA and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) must be notified.

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Based upon the information contained in the referenced EA completed in accordance with NEPA, NHPA, the Endangered Species Act, FEMA's implementing regulations (44 CFR Part 9 and Part 10) for environmental considerations, and EOs addressing Floodplains (EO 11988), Wetlands (EO 11990), and Environmental Justice (EO 12898), it is found that the proposed project, with the prescribed mitigation measures and stipulations, would have no significant adverse impact on the human environment. As a result of this **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This FONSI is valid through the current HMGP grant life cycle.

**APPROVAL**



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Steven E. Hardegen  
FEMA Region VIII Environmental Officer

03 / 04 / 2016

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Date