



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Application Number 408-NAB-2025-0015 Cumberland River Park Canal Place Geotechnical Borings

Comment Period: 13 January 2026 – 31 January 2026

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AUTHORIZATION WILL BE GRANTED AT THIS TIME.

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) has received a request to alter a USACE Civil Works Project, pursuant to 33 United States Code (USC) § 333 (Section 408 Program).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

APPLICANT: City of Cumberland

AGENT: Mr. Robert Smith, Director of Engineering and Utilities

FEDERAL PROJECT: Cumberland, MD & Ridgeley, WV Flood Risk Management System

LOCATION: City of Cumberland, Maryland

ACTIVITY: Perform a subsurface investigation consisting of four borings that will be used to provide geotechnical engineering analysis for the proposed River Park at Canal Place project, which will provide recreational amenities at the Cumberland waterfront. Two of the four boring locations will be drilled to an anticipated depth of 15.0 feet, while the other two locations will be drilled to an anticipated depth of 6.0 feet. Each boring will be drilled 90 degrees to the ground surface and advanced using a 3.25-inch outer diameter hollow stem auger (HSA). Seed/straw will be applied to all disturbed areas following completion of the project. Alterations to the USACE levees will be limited to the advancement and backfill of the geotechnical borings; future work associated with the proposed River Park at Canal Place project will be under a separate Section 408 request.

The decision whether to issue approval will be based on an evaluation of the proposed modification specifically to the authorized federal civil works project to ensure that it is not injurious to the public interest or affect the USACE project's ability to meet its authorized purpose(s).

In addition, a decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action, and therefore subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental compliance requirements. The decision on whether to authorize proposed non-federal alterations at existing civil works projects includes an evaluation of the probable environmental impacts of that alteration on USACE-owned facilities.

USACE will prepare a document in compliance with NEPA (Title 42 USC § 4321 et seq.); US Department of Defense (DoD) NEPA Implementing Procedures issued 30 June 2025; and applicable USACE NEPA guidance. This process involves evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed project to the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem, endangered and



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threatened species, hazardous and toxic materials, aesthetics and recreation, cultural resources, the general needs and welfare of the public, and other considerations. As the potential significant impacts of a project increase, so does the complexity of reaching an agency action.

USACE has jurisdiction under Section 408 only over the specific activities or portions of activities that have the potential to alter a USACE project. Therefore, if the proposed alteration is part of a larger project (and/or its associated features) that extends beyond the USACE project boundaries, the USACE District will determine what portions or features of the larger project USACE has sufficient control and responsibility over to warrant their inclusion in the USACE review. The scope of analysis for both the technical review and NEPA compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review will be limited to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration found on USACE property or other easements.

The applicant must obtain any federal, state, or local government permits that may be required.

USACE 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 within the USACE project limits. Any comments received will be considered by USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal.

Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest in the proposed activity.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted within 15 days of this notice via email to the address below, or, in writing, to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

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

Please communicate the information in this notice to any persons you know to be interested, who did not receive a copy of this notice. Additional information concerning this application may be obtained by calling Kathy Anderson at 410-952-3007, via email at Kathy.Anderson@usace.army.mil or writing this office at the above address.