



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

09 December 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program (Section 510) – Plum Creek Restoration Project Draft Integrated Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE) has prepared a draft Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Plum Creek Restoration project, located in Adams County, Pennsylvania. The project is necessary to restore Plum Creek's degraded stream system to a more natural hydrologic condition, reduce erosion, create aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, and ultimately reduce sediment and nutrient loads to the South Branch Conewago River, the Susquehanna River, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. This project will directly contribute to Chesapeake Bay restoration goals.

The purpose of the project is to daylight Plum Creek by removing approximately 1,700 linear feet of defunct pipes that are failing structurally and causing erosion, flooding, degraded aquatic habitat, and increased concerns for human health and safety. The project would restore a natural channel, incorporate in-stream features to decrease flow velocities, reduce erosion and sediment accumulation, as well as expand floodplain functions, create 1.05 acres of wetlands, and restore native vegetation.

The non-federal sponsor, Conewago Township, requested assistance from USACE for the restoration project through the Section 510 Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program. The program offers design and construction assistance to non-federal entities for water-related environmental infrastructure, resource protection, and development projects affecting the Chesapeake Bay estuary, including sediment and erosion control projects.

In compliance with NEPA, USACE has prepared this draft IFR/EA and evaluated potential effects on the human environment. All applicable environmental laws have been considered. Potential impacts to the human and physical environment were assessed. Impacts from the proposed project include short-term, minor (i.e., detectable and localized), adverse impacts to migratory birds, vegetation/terrestrial resources, soils, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions, noise, aesthetics/recreation, and traffic during construction. Appropriate steps to minimize potential adverse impacts, such as the implementation of best management practices will be incorporated into the project. No adverse effects will occur to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. No impacts to cultural resources or National Register of Historic Places properties are expected. Tribal coordination has also been completed with no concerns of impacts. The non-federal sponsor will secure all required permits prior to construction.

USACE requests comments regarding the draft EA and FONSI within 30 days of the date of this notice. The draft IFR/EA and FONSI are available at the USACE website: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/510/>

Comments can be submitted electronically to: Christopher.A.Johnson@usace.army.mil. Written comments can be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Chris Johnson, Planning Division, 10th Floor, 2 Hopkins Plaza, Baltimore, MD 21201. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Johnson by email at the address above.

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