

# **FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

The City of University City has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) funding through Missouri State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) as a Subrecipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements, and conditions.

**Subrecipient:** City of University City, St. Louis County, MO.

**Project Title:** Grants Manager #684116 – University City Centennial Commons Recreation Facility; PA-07-MO-4665-PW-00122.

## **Location of Proposed Work:**

Facility	GPS	Description of damages	Date of Construction
Centennial Commons, interior spaces	38.66853, -90.32132	Approximately 3 to 4 feet of floodwaters swept across outdoor pool area, and entered indoor soccer arena, basketball court, and other interior spaces. Floors, walls, interior electric outlets, and many pieces of equipment were damaged by floodwaters.	2005
Centennial Commons, indoor soccer field	38.668146, -90.321627	Approximately 3 to 4 feet of floodwaters swept across outdoor pool area, and entered indoor soccer arena, basketball court, and other interior spaces. Floors, walls, interior electric outlets, and many pieces of equipment were damaged by floodwaters.	1970s
Heman Park pool area	38.668304, -90.322310	Floodwaters swept across outdoor pool area, damaging pool components and fouling pool.	1933

## **Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:**

The Centennial Commons facility is partially located within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on University City Flood Insurance Rate Map 29189C0212K, dated 2/4/2015. Specifically, the nearby water channel of the River Des Peres is a regulatory floodway, and the floodplain extends over the area of the Heman Park pool, adjacent bathhouse, and indoor soccer field. The offices and recreation areas of the facility, generally the northeast corner constructed circa 2005, is outside the mapped floodplain. Floodwaters during the storms of July 26-28, 2022, entered and damaged the facility by overcoming

landscape features that were designed to protect against the 100-year floodplain level. There is a potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location near the flood hazard area. The proposed work will not take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory and will have little potential to impact or affect wetland values.

### **Proposed Work and Purpose:**

The scope of work is to replace recreational facility contents and remove and replace damaged interior floors and walls, drywall and insulation, other interior recreational features, and interior electrical and mechanical systems.

Cleaning and stripping damaged materials from Centennial Commons has already occurred. Remaining work for interior spaces will replace wooden planks on interior basketball courts and underlaying sub-base; replace indoor soccer arena field surface and underlying sub-base; replace interior drywall and wall insulation throughout flood-damaged areas, up to a height of four feet; replace interior electrical outlets; and replace carpeting, flooring, and trim with materials similar to the original components. Work in the pool area will replace reception desk, electrical components including wall outlets, transformer, and electrical panel; exterior fencing for pool area; pool lighting and electrical panels; and water heater. Individual contents will be replaced throughout the facility, to include pool equipment such as floats; weight and exercise room equipment; office equipment, including desks, chairs, and computers; kitchen equipment and appliances, to include microwaves, refrigerators, and ice machine; and safety equipment including automatic electronic defibrillator (AED).

University City is required to maintain flood insurance on this facility as a condition of this grant.

### **Project Alternatives:**

**Alternative #1** (No action): The 'no action' alternative would leave the community without safe public use of the pool and recreational facilities, potentially allowing more significant damage from future flooding events.

**Alternative #2** (Relocation): This alternative is not practicable as it would discontinue safe public use of the athletic fields and recreational facilities. Additionally, there is no practicable available land for the city to purchase for such an endeavor.

**Alternative #3** (Repairs, with mitigation): Mitigation has been considered for this project, but no cost-effective or feasible mitigation measures have been identified for these sites. The facility already has low-rise natural flood barriers facing the floodway of the River Des Peres.

### **Comment Period:**

Comments are solicited from the public, local, state, or federal agencies, and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the following email: [teri.toye@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:teri.toye@fema.dhs.gov). Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4665-MO-00122 11988 COMMENT].

All comments are due by no later than 15 days after the posted date of this notice.

**POSTED ON: May 19, 2023**

**End of Notice**