



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FORT WORTH DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TX 76102-0300

April 27, 2021

Public Notice

Tulsa River Parks Authority – Pedestrian Bridge Replacement

The City of Tulsa - Tulsa River Parks Authority, in association with The Gathering Place - Tulsa Community Foundation, is proposing to replace the Pedestrian Bridge across the Arkansas River in Tulsa, Tulsa County, Oklahoma (T19N R12E SN13) adjacent to the Zink Dam. Components of the pedestrian bridge replacement would impact Levee C of the Tulsa – West Tulsa (TWT) levee system, a federally constructed levee. The levee was constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and after completion in 1945, ownership was transferred to the Tulsa County Drainage District No. 12 for continued operations, maintenance, repairs, rehabilitation, and replacement actions. The proposed alterations and modifications are operation and maintenance responsibilities of the non-Federal sponsor, the City of Tulsa, and will be implemented at no cost to the federal government. Site location maps are included below for reference.

The requestor, the Tulsa River Parks Authority, is requesting permission under 33 USC 408 (Section 408) to alter a portion of TWT Levee C. As part of the pedestrian bridge replacement, the Tulsa River Parks Authority proposes to construct an overbuilt section adjacent to the riverside embankment slope of Drainage District No. 12 Levee C to accommodate a pedestrian ramp for the pedestrian bridge. An existing culvert through the levee would be extended through the overbuilt section. The flap gate will be moved from its current location and will be installed at the downstream end of the proposed culvert extension through the overbuilt section. A building and parking lot will also be constructed on the overbuilt section that will house the control building for the dam gate operations and PSO pump controls. The foundations for the building, pedestrian ramp and parking lot will be kept in the overbuilt sections and will not penetrate the extent of the levee footprint. The construction of these overbuilt sections will consist of removing the topsoil of the levee, scarifying the soil and constructing the overbuilt section in lifts utilizing the proper density and water content and reseeding. The interface between the levee and the ramp embankment will have sufficient drainage as to have no ponding water on the embankment.

This request will be reviewed pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 408). A requestor has the responsibility to acquire other authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program. An approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

The decision whether to grant the request for the alteration under Section 408 is based on several factors which are outlined in Engineer Circular 1165-2-220. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed alteration must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. Review of the proposed alteration will be reviewed by a USACE technical review team considering the following factors:

1. *Impacts to the Usefulness of the USACE Project Determination.* The review team will determine if the proposed alteration would limit the ability of the federally authorized project to function as authorized, or would compromise or change any authorized project conditions, purposes or outputs.
2. *Injurious to the Public Interest Determination.* The review team will determine the probable impacts of the proposed alteration, including cumulative impacts, on the public interest. Factors that may be relevant to the public interest may include, but are not limited to, such things as conservation, economic development, historic properties, cultural resources, environmental impacts, water quality, flood hazards, floodplains, residual risk, induced damages, shoreline erosion or accretion, and recreation.
3. *Environmental Compliance.* A decision on a Section 408 request is a federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable federal environmental and cultural resources compliance requirements.
4. *Technical Analysis.* The Tulsa District will work with the requestor to ensure all required technical plans, maps, drawings, and specifications are provided and complete. The SWT Dam and Levee Safety Section has reviewed submitted plans and specifications.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The 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 the proposed alteration. Comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permission for this proposed alteration.

Please provide any written comments you may have to Dr. David Gade, Limnologist, Environmental Branch, Regional Planning and Environmental Center, by email (David.Gade@usace.army.mil) EHIRUH May 13, 2021. Please direct any questions or requests for additional information to Dr. Gade by email or telephone at 918-669-7579.

Sincerely,

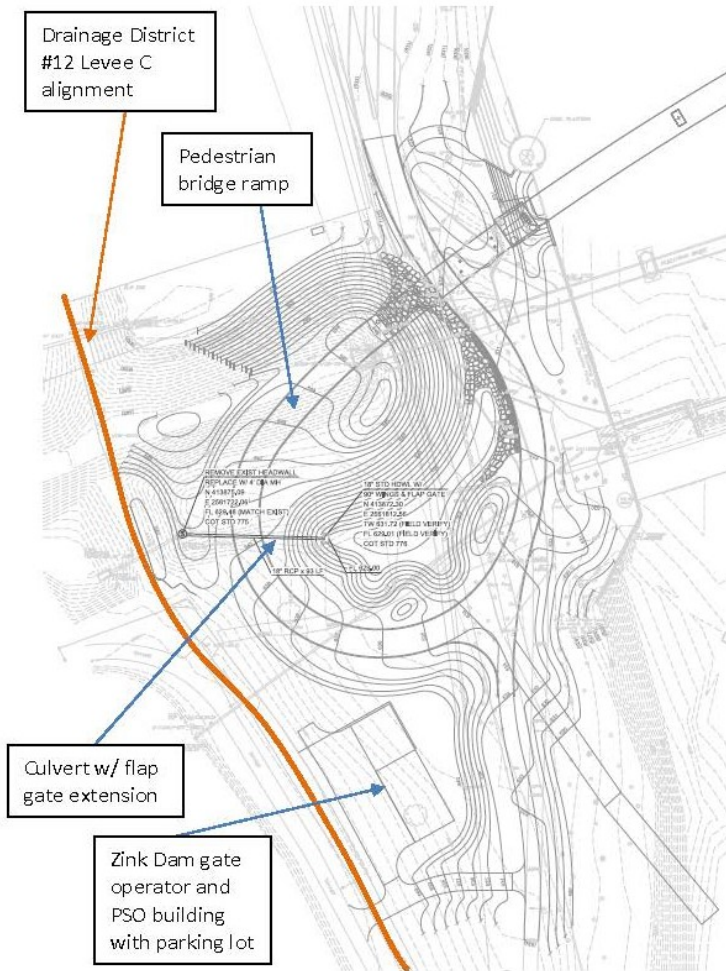
Amanda McGuire

Amanda M. McGuire
Chief, Environmental Branch
Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Enclosures



Figure 1. Pedestrian Bridge Replacement: Area of Interest, DigitalGlobe, Inc.(WV02 imagery from February 2021).



The light gray lines are the existing topography and the darker lines are the proposed elevation lines.

Figure 2. Pedestrian Bridge Replacement: Detailed proposed plans adjacent to the Tulsa – West Tulsa Levee C.