

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated
Floodplain and Wetland**

October 13, 2026



To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Huntingdon County has determined that the following proposed action to be undertaken using Community Development Block Grant funds, Contract No. C000095316, Pending FFY 2026, is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetland. Huntingdon County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Federal Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is Riverside Park, 16652 Pennsylvania Avenue, Smithfield Township, Huntingdon County, PA. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a 0.2 percent flood approach.

Huntingdon County on behalf of Smithfield Township has allocated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds, FFY 2025, C000095316, in the amount of \$81,593.00; FFY 2026, pending contract number, in the amount of \$82,154.00 to the Riverside Park ADA Pier activity occurring at the Riverside Park, 16652 Pennsylvania Avenue, Smithfield Township, Huntingdon County, PA.

The proposed scope of work includes the construction of an ADA-compliant accessible route along the riverbank at the location with the most gradual slope to the water's edge. Additional work includes installation of a properly graded access ramp leading to a new fishing pier. The newly installed pier is intended to enhance accessibility to the water for all users.

The project site is approximately 4.01 acres and encompasses approximately 4.01 acres of the FFRMS floodway and wetland. All areas of earth disturbance will be returned to their original condition, best management practices will be implemented during project activities, and native plant species will be planted or restored. There will be no change in the footprint as a result of the project, and it is anticipated that there will be no adverse effects to the floodplain.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain and wetland and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about the floodplain and wetland can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal Government determines it will participate in actions taking place in the floodplain and wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Laurie Nearhood, Huntingdon County, 205 Penn Street, Annex 1 Building, Huntingdon PA, 16652, (814) 643-5091, and/or Larissa Hassinger, SEDA-Council of Governments, 201 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837, (570) 524-4491, by October 28, 2026. Issues raised during the course of the review will be integrated into the decision-making process. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at <https://se-da-cog.org/departments/community-development/environmental-reviews/>. Comments may also be submitted via email at lhassinger@seda-cog.org. A notice describing the Huntingdon County's findings and a public explanation of its decision will be published in this paper on or after October 30, 2026. After publication of that notice, a 7-day period will be permitted for public comment on the decision.