

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Sarasota County Resilient SRQ under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Infrastructure & Public Facilities Program HUD grant B-23-UN-12-0004 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and Resilient SRQ will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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 6851 South Biscayne Drive in the City of North Port, Sarasota County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach.

The proposed project, Gene Matthews Club Reconstruction and Gym Rehabilitation, includes the demolition of two club buildings damaged by wind and water during Hurricane Ian, the construction of a new club building, gymnasium rehabilitation, and parking lot expansion on an existing 5.39-acre lot owned by the Boys and Girls Club of Sarasota County, Inc. The new club building would be shifted east of the existing club building locations, so that the eastern wall would almost align with the eastern wall of the existing gymnasium. The expanded parking lot would extend across the former club building locations. The existing lot consists of primarily of maintained grasses utilized for recreational purposes by the students enrolled at Gene Matthews Boys and Girls Club. The action would occur within the FFRMS floodplain and avoid wetlands and the stormwater detention area located in the northwest corner of the project site. The new club building, rehabilitated gymnasium, and expanded parking lot will increase impervious area from 56,468 square feet to 72,545 square feet, an increase of about 28% (less than 0.30 acres) and increase student enrollment capacity by a minimum of 20% annually. The entirety of the anticipated project footprint is within the 500-year floodplain.

Of the six Boys and Girls Club locations in Sarasota County, the Gene Matthews Club is the club that most consistently has a waitlist for membership. Now, with minimal program space the club has been forced to decrease capacity by over half. Due to the demographics of those served, a central component of the club's mission is that they never turn away any child due to inability to pay. They welcome all club members, ages 6-18, and many of the club members they serve pay nothing at all. This means that access is guaranteed if there is capacity.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain 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, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain 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 floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Resilient SRQ on or before September 16, 2024, at the following address:

Resilient SRQ  
301 N. Cattlemen Rd., Suite 200  
Sarasota, FL 34232  
Attention: Jonathan R. Lewis, ICMA-CM, County Administrator

You may also submit comments by phone by calling 311, 941-861-5309, or TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771 during business hours (9:00 AM to 5:00 PM), or via email at [ResilientSRQ@scgov.net](mailto:ResilientSRQ@scgov.net).

Date: August 30, 2024