

**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity
in a 100-Year Floodplain or Wetland
Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization Stormwater Project**

Date: May 7, 2026

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands for the proposed expansion of the Stevens Canal Bank Stabilization Project under the U.S. Department of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program. The proposed Stephens Canal Bank Stabilization Project involves the installation of sheet piling along approximately 1.27 miles of the Stevens Canal to prevent the severe erosion it experiences during and immediately following a severe weather event. The Project is located along the canal banks from behind 1969 Red Cedar Circle to 746 Reed Canal Road in South Daytona, Florida. Nearly all of the project area is within the 100-year floodplain, and all of the project area is in a riverine habitat as designated by National Wetland Inventory maps.

The Stevens Canal in South Daytona serves as a primary stormwater drainage route. This project proposes to stabilize both banks of the Stevens Canal by the excavation of the banks and installation of vertical sheet pile walls ensuring that stormwater can flow efficiently and safely away from residential areas. The project also includes installation of yard drains with flap valves, upgraded backflow preventers, and new wall structures at key road crossings such as Ridge Boulevard and Big Tree Road. Turning the sloped unlined banks into vertical sheet piling would make the canal wider and capable of conveying water faster to the pumps at the Reed Canal Stormwater Control Facility.

The proposed project would not change the function of the 100-year floodplain from conveyance. The natural and beneficial functions and uses of the floodplain (conveyance) would be retained and management of floodwater improved. The estimated total project cost is \$2,500,000.

The Stevens Canal in South Daytona serves as a primary stormwater drainage route. During heavy rain events, sections of the canal banks have collapsed creating blockages. These blockages restrict stormwater flow resulting in less drainage of upstream properties and increased flooding for properties near the blockage. These conditions have contributed to roadway flooding, property damage, and drainage inefficiencies throughout the area. The purpose of the project is to strengthen the canal banks and improve its conveyance efficiency. reduce flooding of property flooding, and increase long-term resilience in our community to severe storm events like Hurricane Ian which devastated Volusia County.

The Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: A. Continue Bank Repairs as Needed, and B. Take no action. The proposed project is a mitigation of the current project conditions. No other locations were considered as work in other locations would not mitigate the issues with the existing canal.

The Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency has reevaluated the alternatives to the proposed stabilization of the canal banks and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Just continuing to repair the canal banks after each storm would result in repeated construction costs into the future without alleviating the problem of the collapsing banks causing flooding nearby. The proposed project is a mitigation of the current project conditions. No other locations were considered as work in other locations would not mitigate the issues with the existing canal. The stabilization of the banks is the most viable Alternative. Also, the beneficial functions and values of the floodplain will be retained. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains 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 floodplains it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency at the following address on or before May 15, 2026 (eight days after publication date cannot end on a U.S. Mail holiday or a Sunday). Comments can be sent to the County at 1578 N. Woodland Blvd. De Land, FL 32720-4213 and phone number 386-717-2831, Attention: Melissa Dewall. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at, or copies requested from, the Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency from the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at 1578 N. Woodland Blvd. De Land, FL. Comments may also be submitted via email to Melissa DeWall, Office of Recovery and Resiliency, at mdewall@volusia.org.

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Pursuant to Title II of the ADA, Volusia County does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in providing or conducting its services, programs, or activities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of county policies to participate in a meeting or other event, should contact the County's ADA Title II Coordinator, Mr. Jim Corbett at (386) 246-1760 no later than 2 days before the event or meeting.