

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF LAGRANGE, GEORGIA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LAND WATER CONVERSION FUND

PURPOSE OF NOTICE

The proposal involves a federal action to transfer protection of park and recreation uses from property located at 110 Smith Street (LaGrange City Park 13-00593) to property located at 1374 Upper Big Springs Road. It is the purpose of this notice to provide for the exchange of information regarding the effect of the proposal on the community. This purpose is in accordance with and pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321-4347) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of LaGrange proposes to remove federal protection from 12-acres located at 110 Smith Street which had been used as a city park and converted to an amphitheater. Park land and recreational use will be replaced by transferring federal protection to 44.88 acres at 1374 Upper Big Springs Road. Recreational improvements at the project site were funded in part using a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant in 1986 which is protected under Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. Conversion of such parkland for non-recreational use requires adequate replacement of the displaced site and use and preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the NEPA. The replacement site, 1374 Upper Big Springs Road (44.88 acres), is located approximately 2.7 miles southeast of the project site and proposed to include recreation opportunities to exceed those uses that were displaced on the conversion site.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The National Park Service (NPS) is the federal agency responsible for compliance with the LWCF Act and NEPA, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers the LWCF grant program on behalf of NPS. The City of LaGrange is issuing this public notice on behalf of the NPS and DNR to encourage public review and comment on the proposed project and its probable impacts. The Draft Environmental Assessment is available for review at 200 Ridley Avenue, LaGrange, GA 30240. Comments will be accepted beginning Friday, April 9, 2021, until 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 10, 2021. Submit written comments to Bill Bulloch at City of LaGrange, 200 Ridley Avenue, LaGrange, GA 30240, or via email to bbulloch@lagrangega.org. All comments received prior to or on May 10, 2021, will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the proposal.