FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as a Subrecipient.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements, and conditions, determined by the scale of the action, potential for controversy, degree of public need, number of affected agencies or individuals, anticipated potential impact, proximity of actions, and similarity of the actions.

Subrecipient: City of Omaha

Project Title: NE-4786-HMGP-16 Hillside Bank Stabilization

Location of Proposed Work: 41.275993, -96.034961

Facility	GPS	Site Name	Date of Construction
Cole Creek Streambank	Between Blondo Street (41.2777915, -96.0348248) and Seward Street (41.27373206, -96.0357959)	Hillside bank	Circa 2003

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone:
All proposed work would take place in a Regulatory Floodplain. Confirmation of the location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was determined by accessing the City of Omaha Flood Insurance Rate Map, Panel Number: 31055C0218J, effective on 3/25/2025. There is potential for the facility to be impacted by future flooding events due to its location within the Regulatory Floodway. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits will be required due to the location and type of work to be completed. This will ensure compliance with EO 11990 and will preserve wetland values.

Proposed Work and Purpose:
The proposed streambank stabilization scope of work will include cross vanes that reduce flooding

degradation, incorporate bioengineering by planting native vegetation, etc. A new single span pedestrian bridge will be built on hillside drive. Existing sanitary sewer system will be relocated further west with new manholes and current existing storm sewer outfalls will be relocated as necessary to maintain storm flow to the proposed alignment of Cole creek. The new curb inlets and will discharge to the riprap portions of Cole Creek. The final portion of the project includes implementing native vegetation such as trees, pollinator friendly plants and shrubbery. Overall, the construction plan will incorporate natural channel design elements including meandering bankfull channels, pool-riffle morphology, and floodplain benches which will provide resiliency to the area and reduce the effect of flooding. The full scope of the project aims to reduce damages from future disasters.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (No action):
The 'no action' alternative would continue to cause the channel to degrade, putting existing infrastructure and property at further risk of flooding. Likelihood of a future storm event could cause significant flooding and residential property and infrastructure damages.

Alternative #2 (Bioengineering):
The city could implement a bioengineering technique called “brush mattress” in which a layer or “mattress” of interlaced live branches placed on the bank. Brush mattress has the potential to slow down velocities and accumulate sediment. Additionally, the brush mattress can serve as a habitat for birds, small mammals, and insects. With the stated benefits, additionally, having a brush mattress can also improve non-point pollution control by getting the sediment and associated pollution coming into the stream from overbank areas. This could enhance livability of residents who live within Cole Creek. The hydrology of this area must be considered for this method to work, alongside other factors such as cost and soil conditions.

Preferred Alternative: (Proposed work):
The flood mitigation project will be completed in one phase with multiple elements: Stream stabilization, pedestrian bridge construction, sheet pile retaining wall construction, sanitary sewer relocation, storm sewer relocation, and end treatments. These benefits will enhance livability and ensure resiliency in future disasters such as flooding events. This hazard mitigation plan will use traditional construction practice and incorporate green infrastructure to enhance livability and resilience against flooding using natural vegetation suitable for such events.

Comment Period:
Comments are solicited from the public, local, state, or federal agencies, and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the following email: fema-r7-ehp-publiccomment@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line: NE-4786-HMGP-16 Hillside Bank Stabilization.

Interested persons may also submit comments and questions in writing of this specific project, by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 7, 11224 Holmes Road; Kansas City, MO 64131. Written comments should be sent with the subject line “NE-4876-HMGP-16 Hillside Bank Stabilization, Floodplain Comments,” to the above address within 15 days of the

date of posting.

All comments are due by no later than 15 days after the posted date of this notice.

POSTED ON: (*2/2/2026*)

***** End of Notice *****