

**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity
in a Wetland
Portona Drainage Improvements Project**

Date: April 8, 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 11990 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Protection of Wetlands for the proposed expansion of the Aspen Stormwater Pond Expansion 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 Portona Drainage Improvements Project is the development of two new stormwater ponds and upgraded piping to increase system capacity.

The proposed project area is a developed residential neighborhood with two undeveloped and vegetated areas. Residential area on both sides of Charles Street between 1st Street and 5th Street, Port Orange, Florida. The undeveloped area to the north of Charles Street is bordered to the east by railroad tracks. Parts of the project area are within the 500-year floodplain. There are wetlands on the project site. The proposed pond area to the north has a Riverine Habitat and the proposed pond area to the south has an area designated as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland Habitat in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps.

The proposed project is the development of two new stormwater ponds and upgraded piping to increase system capacity. The project includes the construction of a 9.7-acres stormwater pond south of Charles Street and a 1.1-acre pond north of Charles Street. The project also includes inflow structures (mitered end sections) routed from new stormwater collection system, and drainage control structure with discharge weir with discharge to ditch on east side of railroad tracks; and approximately 5,000 feet of new or upgraded stormwater collection system. Action within the railroad right-of-way would include rehabilitation of culvert, remove and replace the endwall on each side of the railroad tracks, and installation of a backflow prevention device in each culvert. The estimated total project cost is \$4,930,000.

The proposed project would not affect the 100-year floodplain. None of the streets in the project area are within National Wetland Inventory (NWI) designated wetlands. The proposed 9.7-acres stormwater pond south of Charles Street includes 4.14 acres of NWI Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland habitat. The project area is vegetated shrubs and trees. The vegetation would be removed and soil excavated to construct the proposed retention pond. The constructed pond would qualify as freshwater pond habitat.

The proposed 1.1-acre pond north of Charles Street includes a small segment of natural drainage that flows through a culvert under the railroad into constructed drainage canal that drains into the Halifax River. This drainage is identified as NWI Riverine Habitat. The project area is vegetated shrubs and trees. The vegetation would be removed and soil excavated to construct the proposed retention pond. The portion of the Riverine Habitat impacted by the construction of the pond would end up as qualifying as freshwater pond habitat. The new pond would still drain under the railroad into the constructed drainage canal. The remainder of the riverine habitat east of the railroad would not be impacted.

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. Increase Capacity of Stormwater Pipelines, B. Increase Capacity of Stormwater Pipelines and Construct One Pond, and C. Take no action.

The Volusia County Office of Recovery and Resiliency has reevaluated the alternatives to the proposed drainage improvements at Portona and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Only increasing the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage pipelines would help the flow of stormwater out of the neighborhood during light rain events but would not include any storage off the stormwater and would not be sufficient to drain the stormwater during heavy storm events. Building the one retention pond at the northeast of the neighborhood would allow some storage of stormwater from heavier storm events and allow control of the stored water to the drainage canal but would not have the storage capacity needed to prevent flooding of streets and homes in the neighborhood. The stormwater retention capacity of the two proposed retention ponds is needed to store the stormwater from heavy storm events and allow controlled release to the drainage canal, and is the most viable Alternative 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 wetlands 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 wetlands 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 wetlands 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 April 16, 2026 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.