

Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58

This is a suggested format that may be used by Responsible Entities to document completion of an Environmental Assessment.

Project Information

Project Name: Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail

Responsible Entity: Pinellas County

Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): Pinellas County

Project Grant/Contract Number: MT132

Preparer Name and Title: Paul Miselis, P.E., Section Manager, Pinellas County Stormwater and Parks Capital Projects

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Consultant Name (if applicable): Diana Bello, MBA

Consultant Phone Number: 239-984-6529

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Direct Comments to: Mason.Sheppard@kimley-horn.com

Project Location: Joe's Creek in Pinellas County

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

This project includes preliminary engineering, design and construction of the Joe's Creek Greenway improvements, adjacent drainage channel improvements, a multimodal trail, and projects identified by the watershed management plan. Goals of the project include watershed-wide flood protection, erosion control and water quality improvements. These projects will

minimize risk, improve resiliency and catalyze redevelopment in the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area and in the low to moderate income areas of the watershed. These efforts are highly interdependent and will benefit from a coordinated single project approach.

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]: The project aims to reduce flood risk and increase community resilience in the Joe’s Creek Watershed, a 9,256-acre area that includes portions of the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area, the Town of Kenneth City, and the cities of Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg.

Existing Conditions and Trends [24 CFR 58.40(a)]: Properties within the Joe’s Creek watershed basin experience elevated flood risk. Analysis of the current conditions of Joe’s Creek shows invasive species, steep banks, and overgrowth.

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
MT132 / 14.228	CDBG-MIT	\$17,120,395

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:\$17,120,395

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]:

- Total Cost: \$59,804,000
- Resilient Florida: \$27,912,000
- Southwest Florida Water Management District (CFD): \$331,000
- MT132: \$17,120,395
- Penny for Pinellas local funds will be used to cover the remainder of project costs. Other funding methods such as grants are still being pursued.

Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

Compliance Factors: Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6		

Airport Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes No ☐ ☒	The project is not located within the buffer area of any civilian (2,500 ft.) or military (15,000 ft.) airports, the project is in compliance. See maps and supporting information in the Airport Hazards section.
Coastal Barrier Resources Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes No ☐ ☒	The project is not located within proximity or within a coastal barrier resources zone. The project is in compliance. See the Coastal Barrier Resources section.
Flood Insurance Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes No ☐ ☒	The project is located within Zone AE of the FEMA 100-year floodplain and therefore, Pinellas County participates in the National Flood Insurance Program and maintains flood insurance. However, this project does not involve mortgage insurance, refinance, acquisition, repairs, rehabilitation, or construction of a structure, mobile home, or insurable property within floodplain areas. As such, this project does not require flood insurance and is exempt. FIRM Map Numbers Include: 12103C0203J – Effective 8/24/21 12103C0211H – Effective 8/24/21 12103C0208J – Effective 8/24/21 12103C0212G – Effective 9/3/2003. Panels are available in the clearinghouse submittal documentation. The project is in compliance.
STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5		
Clean Air Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) & (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93	Yes No ☐ ☒	Pinellas County is not in an air quality non-attainment zone for any contaminants. See the Nonattainment map attached to the Clean Air worksheet. The project is in compliance.
Coastal Zone Management Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) & (d)	Yes No ☐ ☒	Pinellas County is located in the designated Florida Coastal Zone and consultation with the Florida State Clearinghouse indicates compliance with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan. See email concurrence on 12/8/25 within the Coastal Zone Management worksheet attachments. The project is in compliance.

Contamination and Toxic Substances 24 CFR Part 50.3(i) & 58.5(i)(2)	Yes No ☐ ☒	ECHO reports from surrounding areas indicate 13 EPA facilities within ½ mile of the project site. These reports do not indicate recent contamination violations from hazardous sources within ½ mile. See the ECHO reports included in the supplemental materials.
Endangered Species Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402	Yes No ☒ ☐	The IPAC tool was utilized to generate a species list. This species list along with the project APE and activities were provided to Brendan Meyers at FWS for technical assistance. As a result of this, the Service had opportunity to comment on potential impacts to species. It is not reasonably certain that Eastern Indigo Snake and Eastern Black Rails will occur within the project boundaries. Wood Storks may be present during construction but are expected to avoid immediate areas of impact. The service recommends that standard Manatee precautions are taken in areas accessible by Manatees. A Biological Analysis was completed for the project, resulting in No Effect determinations being made for all listed species.
Explosive and Flammable Hazards 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C	Yes No ☒ ☐	Upon GIS analysis of nearby above-ground flammable storage tanks, only one location is within the acceptable separation distance to the project area. This AST is 285 feet away from the project area, within the ASD for people of 722 feet. This is mitigated by physical barriers between the project location and the AST, such as buildings and significant elevation difference of 14.4 feet. Due to the natural barrier of elevation difference and the physical barrier of buildings, this ASD risk is mitigated, and the project is in compliance. See the attached analysis in the Explosive and Flammable Hazards section.
Farmlands Protection Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections	Yes No ☐ ☒	The project does not involve acquisition of undeveloped land or a land use conversion that has potential to impact farmland. See the

1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658		farmlands and soil map. This project is in compliance.
Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55	Yes No ☒ ☐	Through advanced modeling (ICPR4 and HEC-RAS) and field investigations, it is clear that much of the project corridor, including the main channel of Joe's Creek, its tributaries, and adjacent lands, lies within both the 100-year and 500-year FEMA-designated floodplains. Early floodplain notice was published on November 23, 2025. No comments were received. Final Floodplain notice was published on December 16, 2025, No comments were received. Upon completion of the 8-step process, this project is in compliance.
Historic Preservation National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800	Yes No ☒ ☐	Florida SHPO was contacted on March 27, 2025, and made comment on April 29, 2025, describing that the SHPO concurs with the presented survey results and recommendations and finds that conditional upon the avoidance of site 8PI39 by all ground-disturbance within a 30m buffer of its boundary, the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP. If avoidance of site 8PI39 as described above is not possible, the consultant should be directed to reach out to DHR to develop a strategy prior to any ground disturbance. A total of 15 historically significant properties or sites were identified. These items are listed in the Historic Preservation worksheet. Three tribes were identified using the TDAT tool and contacted on March 4th, 2024, to make comments. These tribes were recontacted on April 29th, 2026, and given 30 days to state their interest in the project. No responses were received. See supporting documentation in the Historic Preservation worksheet attachments and appendix.
Noise Abatement and Control Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet	Yes No ☐ ☒	According to 24 CFR 51.101(a)(3), the Noise Abatement and Control section does not apply to actions or projects funded by

Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B		disaster assistance provisions that are intended to save lives or protect property.
Sole Source Aquifers Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes No ☐ ☒	Project is not located on a Sole Source Aquifer according to the EPA Sole Source Aquifer map.
Wetlands Protection Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes No ☒ ☐	Through advanced modeling (ICPR4 and HEC-RAS) and field investigations, it was determined that the project impacts approximately 44.73 acres of wetlands. The early wetland notice was published on November 23, 2025. No comments were received. Final wetland notice was published on December 16, 2025. No comments were received. Upon completion of the 8-step process, this project is in compliance.
Wild and Scenic Rivers Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes No ☐ ☒	No wild or scenic rivers are located in Pinellas County or within St. Petersburg city limits. The closest Scenic River is approximately 21 miles away.
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE		
Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898	Yes No ☐ ☒	This provision is no longer required.

Environmental Assessment Factors [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

Impact Codes: Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation

(4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
LAND DEVELOPMENT		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	2	This project will not convert or change any land use and is compatible with existing regulations.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	1	This project will be beneficial to erosion, drainage, and storm water runoff throughout the Joe's Creek watershed.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	2	No impact is anticipated as per the noise abatement and control worksheet.
Energy Consumption	2	This project will not have a long-term impact on the energy consumption of the community.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
SOCIOECONOMIC		
Employment and Income Patterns	2	Employment and income patterns are unlikely to see direct impacts as a result of this project, any impacts are likely to be marginally beneficial.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	No demographic character changes or displacement of the community is anticipated.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	2	No impact on educational and cultural facilities is anticipated as per the cultural resources survey.
Commercial Facilities	1	This project is likely to have a beneficial impact on the commercial facilities in the community due to flood reduction and induced economic activity from increased community activity.
Health Care and Social Services	2	No impact on health care and social services is anticipated.

Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	2	No impact on solid waste disposal or recycling is anticipated
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	2	No impact on wastewater or sanitary sewers is anticipated.
Water Supply	2	No impact on the drinking water supply is anticipated.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	2	No impact is anticipated for emergency services, although reduced flooding may increase the ability to respond to emergencies during weather events.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	1	This project will directly enhance parks, open space, and recreation in Pinellas County due to its greenway trail component.
Transportation and Accessibility	2	No impact on transportation and accessibility is anticipated although enhanced drainage may enhance the mobility of the community during weather events due to decreased roadway flooding.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
NATURAL FEATURES		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	1	Due to the project's nature as a creek restoration, this will have a direct positive impact on natural features and water resources.
Vegetation, Wildlife	1	This project will remove invasive species and restore the quality of vegetation and wildlife that rely on Joe's Creek.
Other Factors	1	General economic benefits have been observed because of environmental restoration and park/trail construction. It is probable that Pinellas County will see improvements in various other sectors of the economy as a result of this project.

Additional Studies Performed: Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey, Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail Preliminary Engineering Report.

Field Inspection (Date and completed by): 9/7/23, Chronicle Heritage Cultural Resources Assessment Team.

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

- Florida State Clearinghouse
 - Lindsay Weaver

- Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Brendan Myers, Regulatory Biologist
- Division of Historical Resources
 - Alissa Slade Lotane, Director, Division of Historical Resources
- Miccosukee Tribe
 - Talbert Cypress, Chairperson & Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- Muscogee Nation
 - Tribal Historic Preservation Office Staff
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
 - Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Staff
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
 - Tribe Staff
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
 - Fred Willis, Historic Preservation Officer
- Poarch Creek Indians
 - Historic Preservation Officer

List of Permits Obtained: Although not yet obtained, the following permits are anticipated.

- Federal
 - USACE Section 404 Permit (retained waters)
 - CSX Utility Permit
- State
 - SWFWMD ERP
 - State Sovereign Lands Authorization for State Submerged Lands
 - Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) ROW Encroachment Permit
 - FDOT Utility Permit
 - NPDES Construction General Permit
 - FDEP Dewatering Permit
- County
 - County Site Development
 - County Building Permit
 - County ROW Utilization Permit

Public Outreach [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]:

Early public notice for floodplain and wetlands published on 11/23/2025, Final public notice for floodplain and wetlands published on 12/16/2025, Opportunities for community involvement were provided during the trail alignment siting study and the project development phase.

- In 2020 and 2021, two public outreach efforts were conducted to gather public comments.
- Future public meetings and outreach sessions will be organized during the final design and construction phases to share project updates and design plans with the community.
- July 18, 2023: Pinellas County held an open house from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Lealman Exchange, 5175 45th Street N., for the community to provide input on the Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail project

Cumulative Impact Analysis [24 CFR 58.32]: Due to the goals established during the public outreach phase, the design of the project focused on environmental impacts since inception. Because of this, the cumulative impacts of this project on the environment will be widely beneficial, including habitat restoration, expansion of riparian habitat, water quality restoration, and stormwater management. Coordination with State authorities indicate support for the project, and no expectation of negative environmental impacts, with FWS stating that endangered species are unlikely to be negatively impacted and the SHPO indicating that no historically significant properties will be negatively impacted.

Alternatives [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9]:

1. Alternative A (Constrained/Conventional Improvements)

- **Channel Improvements:** Focused on working within existing right-of-way (ROW) and around current encroachments and utilities. Improvements included bank stabilization, limited channel widening, and trail placement along the top of bank.
- **Stormwater Management:** Upgrades to existing stormwater infrastructure, such as culvert upsizing and limited detention areas, to improve flood conveyance and reduce localized flooding.
- **Water Quality:** Installation of pretreatment swales, biosorption activated media (BAM), and vegetated benches to enhance pollutant removal.
- **Habitat:** Restoration using native vegetation where feasible, but limited by space and existing infrastructure.

2. Alternative B (Enhanced/Restorative Improvements)

- **Channel Improvements:** Proposed regaining lost ROW, realigning utilities, and more extensive channel reconfiguration, including wider floodplain benches and in-channel vegetated benches for improved flood storage and habitat.
- **Stormwater Management:** Larger, managed detention areas with operable weirs, expanded culvert crossings, and greater integration with park and trail features.
- **Water Quality:** Conversion of existing ponds (e.g., Silver Lake) into treatment marshes with upgraded weirs, floating wetlands, and adaptive control structures for optimized pollutant removal and flow management.
- **Habitat:** Greater emphasis on natural channel design, wetland creation, and connectivity for wildlife, with more robust native plantings and habitat complexity.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]: Under the no action alternative, Pinellas County would continue current maintenance and operational practices in the Joe's Creek watershed without implementing any of the proposed flood mitigation, water quality, or habitat restoration projects. As a result, the watershed would continue to experience frequent and severe flooding, particularly in vulnerable areas such as the industrial park and residential neighborhoods. Water quality impairments, including elevated levels of nutrients and fecal coliform, would persist, failing to meet regulatory standards and TMDL requirements. Aquatic and riparian habitats would remain degraded, with limited opportunities for native species recovery or invasive species management. The community would not benefit from improved recreational access, greenway trail connectivity, or enhanced neighborhood resilience. Over time, the impacts of

climate change, including increased rainfall intensity and sea level rise, would likely exacerbate these challenges, resulting in greater risks to public safety, property, and environmental health.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions: In summary, Alternative B was the preferable alternative in most BMPs identified. Going forward, the Joe's Creek Restoration and Greenway Trail project is fully compliant with environmental and historic preservation requirements. It will deliver substantial benefits to flood protection, water quality, habitat restoration, and community recreation, with no significant adverse impacts identified. Continued coordination with agencies and implementation of recommended mitigation measures will ensure protection of cultural and natural resources throughout the project lifecycle.

Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
State Historic Preservation Office	The SHPO has provided concurrence with the Chronicle Heritage Cultural Resources Survey and finds that conditional upon the avoidance of site 8PI39 by all ground-disturbance within a 30m buffer of its boundary, the proposed project will have no adverse effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP. If avoidance of site 8PI39 is not possible, the DHR will be contacted to develop a strategy prior to any ground disturbance. Currently, the project is not expected to impact site 8PI39.
Fish and Wildlife Service	As per our endangered species analysis and technical assistance from Brendan Myers from FWS, standard conditions will be included for the Eastern Indigo Snake across the project area and Manatees for all in-water work in areas accessible to manatees. Inclusion of these conditions will mitigate any impacts to endangered species identified in the area of effect.
Wetlands Protection	• Avoidance of direct encroachment into mapped wetlands wherever possible. • Use of permeable surfaces and bioswales to reduce and treat stormwater runoff before it reaches wetlands. • Restoration and planting of native wetland vegetation to stabilize soils and enhance habitat.

	• These elements are included in the PER and will be incorporated as part of the construction
Floodplain Management	• Use of permeable surfaces to reduce runoff and promote infiltration. • Natural landscape enhancements to maintain or restore natural hydrology. • Restoration of native plant species to stabilize soils and improve habitat. • Installation of bioswales to manage and treat stormwater on-site. • Stormwater capture and reuse, and green infrastructure elements. • These elements are included in the PER and will be incorporated as part of the construction.

Determination:

☒ **Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
Publish Concurrent notice per Section 58.43 and 58.45 **and obtain “Authority to Use Grant Funds”** (HUD 7015.16) per Section 58.70 and 58.71 before committing or drawing down any funds.

☐ **Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature: Paul L. Miselis

Date: 6/24/2026

Print Name/Title/Organization: Paul L. Miselis, PE, Section Manager, Pinellas County Stormwater and Parks Capital Projects

Certifying Officer Signature: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Print Name/Title: Click or tap here to enter text.

APPROVED AS TO FORM
By: Joseph A Morrissey
Office of the County Attorney

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).