**NOTICE**

**OF**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

February 22, 2018

West Virginia Development Office

Community Assistance Division - Capitol Complex

Building 3, Suite 700

Charleston, West Virginia 25305

(304) 558-2234

[www.wvcad.org/infrastructure/land-and-water-conservation-fund](http://www.wvcad.org/infrastructure/land-and-water-conservation-fund)

**ACTION:** National Park Service (NPS) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Project 54-00247, Lewisburg Elementary-Middle School Park replacement for Williamsburg School Park conversion. The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) proposes to remove federal protection from all school park facilities at the former Williamsburg Elementary School, to be mitigated by the dedication and development of new school park facilities at the Lewisburg Elementary-Middle School.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with e NEPA Act of 1969 and the LWCF Act of 1965 the WVDO intends to provide an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Action to the NPS for approval of replacement sport and playfields FROM the former Williamsburg Elementary School in Williamsburg WV, TO the Lewisburg Elementary-Middle School in Lewisburg WV. This action is necessary due to the consolidation of the former Williamsburg School with the Lewisburg School.

**PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT AND FURTHER INFORMATION:** NO FORMAL PRESENTATION WILL BE MADE. A copy of the Environmental Assessment is available for public review at the Greenbrier County Public Library, 152 Robert W. McCormick Drive, Lewisburg WV 24901, The Greenbrier County Schools Central Office, 202 Chestnut Street, Lewisburg WV 24901, and the Community Assistance Division’s website [www.wvcad.org/infrastructure/land-and-water-conservation-fund](http://www.wvcad.org/infrastructure/land-and-water-conservation-fund). Written comments may be submitted online or by mail to John McGarrity, West Virginia Development Office, Capitol Complex, Building 3 – Suite 700, Charleston WV 25305-0311 or [john.r.mcgarrity@wv.gov](mailto:john.r.mcgarrity@wv.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

1. Description of the Proposed Action: Seven acres of LWCF-assisted land for ‘sport and playfields, picnic areas, and support facilities’ adjoining the former Williamsburg School are to be replaced by 5.98 acres of land reserved for the same purposes adjoining the new Lewisburg Elementary-Middle School. In a comparison of land values, the smaller Lewisburg replacement property exceeds the value of the larger Williamsburg property by $30,800 owing to its different location. Property valuations were developed according to federal UASFLA standards [Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions].
2. Alternatives: No alternatives were considered for relocation of the Williamsburg School Park other than to Lewisburg due to realignment of school attendance areas based on declining student cohorts in Greenbrier County.
3. Scoping and Review: A draft conversion amendment for this proposed Action was file with the NPS in 2013, and required EA revisions at this time due to the time lapse since original submission. The results of the NPS review is to assure a satisfactory replacement of lands converted with lands replaced having equivalent recreational usefulness that serve the same general population.
4. Significant Issues: No significant issues were noted in the Williamsburg School Park Environmental Assessment, including considerations of change in land use, fish and wildlife, vegetation, geology and soils, mineral resources, air and water quality, water resources and hydrology, historical and archeological resources, transportation and access, energy resources, and socio-economic effects. A beneficial impact was noted from the provision of an increased public benefit from new playfields for the Lewisburg area, while maintenance would continue for the existing Williamsburg School Park facilities through the Williamsburg Community Action Group.
5. Additional Review and Consultation: The NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund program is further described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, CFDA Title 15-916, and is subject to review under Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs, and Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
6. Availability of the Environmental Assessment: Copies for examination of the Williamsburg School Park Environmental Assessment are available from the ‘Further Information Contacts’ noted above. Individuals interested in obtaining a copy of this Environmental Assessment for review should contact the WVDO.

**AUTHORITY: 16 USC 4601-4 et. seq.** **40 CFR 1508.13**