

PUBLIC NOTICE

Rayhill Memorial Trail Environmental Assessment FEMA DR-4472-NY

FEMA is notifying the public that an environmental assessment considering the impacts of the proposed Rayhill Memorial Trail project is available for review and comment. The Town of New Hartford has requested funding from FEMA's Public Assistance program through New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the project.

FEMA conducted this environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws and executive orders. The assessment considers two alternatives: no action where FEMA funds would not be available for the project and the proposed project. The Town intends to restore the eroded embankment, address chronic flooding, and restore the function of the trail for public use. This includes removal of debris, sediment, and gravel from the stream channel; construction of floodplain benches to reduce flooding of neighboring properties; restoring the embankment using nature-based solutions; restoring the paved trail and utilities in the project area; and, installation of rock structures in the channel to slow the flow of water to reduce future erosion. The project area extends from just downstream of Chenango Road by the New Hartford Highway Department to the New York Mills Clinton Street Bridge downstream. Because this project is in the floodplain, the environmental assessment and this public notice also incorporate FEMA's requirements for evaluating impacts to floodplains.

The environmental assessment is available for public comment starting on August 22, 2024, and FEMA will accept comments emailed or post-marked by the end of the 30th day, closing on September 21, 2024. The environmental assessment is available online at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa/environmental-assessment-rayhill> and at <https://www.townofnewhartfordny.gov/>. FEMA shared a copy of the environmental assessment with the Sauquoit Creek Basin Intermunicipal Commission through the Oneida County Planning Department. A printed copy of the environmental assessment is available at the Town Clerk's Office at The Orchards, 8635 Clinton Street. FEMA will accept comments sent by email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov or by mail addressed to;

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Attn: EHP
Region 2, Leo O'Brien Building
11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 600
Albany, New York 12207-2335

If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the EA as final, and will issue a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSI). If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will determine whether to revise and issue a Final EA, address comments in a FONSI, or to select the no action alternative.