

**City of Englewood
Green Acres Park Development Program
Environmental Impact Assessment**

1. Description of proposed action

- a. Briefly describe the total development project*
- b. State objectives of the project*
- c. Fully describe multi-phase projects*

The proposed project seeks to make improvements to the municipal play area in Mackay Park (along William St.), by removing the existing playground equipment and providing a new completely inclusive playground area.

The facilities to be improved serve the entire City population of close to 30,000 residents.

Over the years the playground continues to be heavily used and plays a critical role in the everyday programing of nearby youth care facilities that promote and encourage physical activity at a young age. The use of this playground is expected to continue to grow as the City's population continues to expand with every passing year.

Mackay Park is the largest park in Englewood. The park is approximately 28 acres in size and serve the community at large with various accommodations. The City is always investigating the possibilities of providing additional activities at Mackay Park in order to meet the needs of its residents. One of the biggest challenges facing the City is to incorporate ADA compliant or all-inclusive activities into the existing characteristics of the park. The addition of a completely inclusive playground area would go a long way in helping the City achieve that goal.

As part of the proposed improvements, the City is also contemplating the installation of auxiliary activities such as a free book sharing library area, picnic area to compliment the proposed playground area. This will provide additional options for park goers to participate in and enjoy the newly renovated playground area.

This project is anticipated to be completed in two phases:

- Phase I: Demolition of existing playground equipment
- Phase II: Installation of new completely inclusive playground area

No trees or existing features of the park are anticipated to be disturbed as part of this project.

2. Description of the Environment

Describe existing environmental features:

- a) vegetation*
- b) wildlife*
- c) geology, topography and soils*
- d) water resources/hydrology*
- e) historic/archeological resources*
- f) transportation/access to site*
- g) adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood*

The existing playground area is located within a fully developed 15-acre park in the center of the City. Although the park property is mostly lawn, this park also contains a portion of the Englewood

trail, the Gatehouse at Englewood Avenue, a historic structure registered on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and two tributaries of the Hackensack River, Overpeck Creek and Metzler Brook.

Otherwise, the park property is mostly lawn, with some mature trees surrounding the perimeter. Wildlife consists of small animals typically found within fully developed, high density residential development, such as squirrels, chipmunks and regional bird species. No federal threatened and endangered species or critical habitats are known to exist within the boundaries of the park.

The park is less than half a mile away from NJ transit stops and is accessible via residential streets on four sides of the park. There is a parking lot for the park located on the William Street, adjacent to the proposed area for the playground and another parking lot along Englewood Avenue side of the park. Additionally, there is parking for the Gatehouse on the Englewood Avenue Side of the park. Street parking is also available.

The property has no exceptional geology, topography, or hydrologic characteristics that are of concern to environmental factors in this project as this project site is located at a fully developed park.

3. *Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action*

Impacts are defined as direct or indirect changes in the existing environment, whether beneficial or adverse, that are anticipated as a result of the proposed action or related future actions and uses. Any off-site impacts, such as increased traffic on neighborhood roads or increased noise levels in surrounding areas, should be described. Whenever possible, environmental impacts should be quantified (i.e., number of trees to be removed, cubic yards of cut/fill, etc.).

a. Discuss all affected resources and the significance of each impact

As the proposed project primarily consists of adding to existing facilities within an existing, fully developed park, it is not anticipated that the project will affect any environmental resources. No trees will be removed in the proposed project.

b. Discuss short term and long-term project impacts

There is very limited land disturbance proposed. The disturbance will be limited to site clearing of existing improvements and access for construction equipment. Any disturbance within the park will be restored with topsoil and seeding upon completion of the project. The long-term impact of this project will be open space that is more readily accessible to the public by making these facilities accessible year round.

c. Discuss anticipated increase in recreation and overall use of site over time

These improvements will primarily serve the existing residential community groups that utilize these facilities. The proposed improvements will only serve to increase the usage of the park by providing all-inclusive activities to better serve the community.

d. Identify adjacent environmental features that may be affected by the proposal

No adjacent environment features will be affected by the project.

e. *List any permits required for project and a brief status of each (i.e., waterfront development)*

The applicant will obtain a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan certification for the project; however, the total area of disturbance expected for this project is less than what is required to obtain this permit.

f. *For development that would impact an undisturbed portion of the project site, the nonprofit must submit a Natural Heritage Data Request Form to the DEP's Office of Natural Lands Management (form available at www.nj.gov/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/ datareq.html or by writing to Natural Heritage Program, PO Box 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625- 0404). Please discuss (and attach) the results of the search.*

The project impact some existing lawn areas. The project site is located in Mackay Park, which is mostly lawn, fully developed and maintained by the City Englewood. A Natural Heritage Data Request Form will provided.

g. *Discuss if/how the project may be impacted by sea level rise and any related design considerations.*

This project will not be impacted by the sea level.

4. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

- a. *Identify alternate sites*
- b. *Discuss alternate levels and types of development*
- c. *Compare environmental impacts of each alternative*

The proposed improvements are to be completed within an existing park site and suited for the goals set forth by the City to provide more inclusive activities for its residents. No alternate sites or developments are being proposed.

5. Mitigating Measures

- a. *Describe the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate adverse impacts*

Mitigation of adverse impacts to the park or the environment will be at a minimal. Appropriate measure will be implemented to meet all Soil Erosion and Sediment Control guidelines during the construction phase of the project.

6. Author and Qualifications

Prepared by Frantz Volcy, City Engineer.