

**City of Englewood
Green Acres Jake's Law 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 Denning Park (along Lafayette Pl.), 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.

Denning Park is one of the largest park in Englewood. The park is approximately 5 acres in size and serve the community at large with various accommodations. The City is always investigating the possibilities of providing additional activities at Denning Park in order to meet the needs of its residence. 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 in helping the City achieve that goal.

As part of the proposed improvements, the City is also looking into improving the existing basketball court, soccer field, and 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

One tree is anticipated to be removed, but no other 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 5-acre park located at the Southwest corner of the City. Despite its location, the park is heavily used. The soccer field is used to host tournaments and league play for various youth soccer leagues. The park is traversed by a tributary of Overpeck Creek.

The park property is mostly lawn, with the majority of the 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 three sides of the park. 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

The only environmental impact associated with the proposed project will be the removal of a single tree near the installation site.

b. Discuss short term and long-term project impacts

In the short term, a single tree will be removed near the installation site.

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

The installation of a new fully accessible playground at Denning Park will increase the number of residents that utilize the site after project completion. This will provide recreation that residents of all ability can enjoy while increasing the physical appeal of Denning Park.

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

The only environmental impact associated with the proposed project will be the removal of a single tree near the installation site.

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

No permits will be required for the proposed project.

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.

Not applicable

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.