

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

a. Three (3) pickleball courts, three (3) bocce ball courts, and one (1) beach volleyball court are proposed to replace the existing softball field area within the existing Beverly Way Park. These courts will replace the area of grass and dirt fields in this complex. See graphic aerial attached.

b. Objectives of this project involve providing enhanced recreational and outdoor sports opportunities in Neptune Township. This will improve existing conditions for use by recreational enthusiasts, and Residents utilizing the complex.

c. There is no proposed phasing to this project currently planned.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

a. The project site is an existing, maintained, grass and dirt softball sports field; see attached aerial graphic included in application package. Wooden spilt rail fence and softball chain-link backstop are also existing. The existing surrounding area consists of woods, two roadways (Beverly Way and Elmwood Drive), and single family dwellings neighboring the woods. The existing grass field (not occupied by the courts) will remain. No clearing of vegetation will be necessary as part of the installation of the courts. The surrounding natural undeveloped woodland setting will remain as well.

b. Various wildlife known to the area (i.e.: squirrels, deer, opossum, fox, rabbits, chipmunks, etc.) may randomly utilize or graze near the fields. The replacement of existing grass with courts may reduce the amount of animals grazing in this area, but will not prevent wildlife from utilizing the area and will have minimal impact to the adjacent woodland area.

c. Given that the site is an existing maintained sports field, the topography exists as managed and gently sloping. The geology is Weathered Coastal Plain formations (Qwcp) consisting of exposed sand and clay of coastal plain bedrock formations. This includes thin, patchy, alluvium and colluvium and pebbles left from erosion of surficial deposits, chiefly Pleistocene, locally Miocene and Pliocene.

d. The proposed courts will not require as much water usage as the prior grass field area.

e. This site is an existing developed recreational area of the Township. It is located outside of any historic designated district(s), and there are no known cultural resources as determined in past development applications and confirmed through review of LUCY (NJSHPO) GIS-tool.

f. The site is located along Beverly Way which is a local Township Road that connects to Lakewood Road and South Riverside Drive, making it an easily accessible location. The site has sufficient on-street parking areas to accommodate visitors.

g. Adjacent to the park are single family residential lots/neighborhoods.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

a. There should be no significant impact on local resources for the proposed renovation of this park. No trees are being cleared as a part of the proposed project. No lighting is existing, nor proposed

at this time. Given the transition from a grass field, which requires maintenance and irrigation, to courts, water usage for landscaping purposes should be reduced. Earthwork will be minimal.

b. The site could see an increase in traffic flow along Beverly Way in both the short and long term. However, this should be minimal as the project includes the upgrade of an existing field area. Additionally, there could be an increase in noise pollution related to an increased use of the courts. Given that this is a previously existing recreational area, with minimal residential areas nearby, the impacts of this project are minimal and have been minimized to the best extent practicable.

c. It is anticipated that the recreational courts usage may increase over time at the site, due to the increased quality of the complex, depending on demand.

d. Adjacent features will see minimal impact. Lights are not existing nor proposed. Noise will be minimized to the best extent practicable and follow all Land Use Ordinance requirements.

e. It is expected that a soil erosion control application will be made to Freehold Soil Conservation District for any work over 5,000 SF. Approval will be obtained prior to land disturbance.

f. This development will not impact an undisturbed portion of the project site and there will be no required vegetation clearing.

g. This project will not be impacted by any rise in sea level. The entire project is outside designated low-lying areas.

4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

a./b./c. No other sites have been chosen, and no alternative is proposed.

5. MITIGATING MEASURES

To mitigate site activities, a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control plan will be implemented, and Certification will be obtained. All control measures will remain in place until the entire site area is stabilized.

6. Author(s) and Qualifications

James M. Oris, PE, PP, CME, CFM

Remington & Vernick Engineers

Township Engineer