

## Environmental Impact Assessment Outline

As part of the Green Acres funding proposal, each applicant must collect, evaluate, and present pertinent environmental information necessary to ascertain the suitability of the site for the activities proposed. Please review and consider the applicable Landscape Project maps and reports, developed by DEP Fish and Wildlife, during the preparation of the environmental assessment. Information can be found on the [Landscape Project](#) website or by emailing [Fish and Wildlife](#).

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

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

The development of Milkosky Park consists of rehabilitating the area to adhere fully to Jake's Law/ADA requirements for a new playground. This playground will include dura floor installations along the area where the playground equipment will be installed. Various pieces of equipment will be accessible to everyone, including those with various types of disabilities. These pieces of equipment will include platforms, slides, shading ramps, climbers, rockers, a spinner, swings, fitness equipment, and a custom sign. Additionally, there will be sensory equipment installed for those with specific sensory disabilities to use. The objective of this project is to provide fully inclusive recreation opportunities within Linden City through the installation of a fully inclusive park.

### 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Describe existing environmental features:

- a. vegetation
- b. wildlife, including State and federal threatened and endangered species and critical habitats
- 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 park property is mostly lawn, with some trees surrounding the perimeter and some trees within the park. There is a recreation building on site that is currently closed for construction, but will be rehabilitated soon. In the summer, the city operates a city-wide summer camp for children with special needs at this site. Wildlife in the park consists of small animals typically found within fully developed, high density residential development, such as squirrels, possums, geese, and other regional bird species. 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.

There are no historic resources within the project area.

The City of Linden has the Linden Station, which is a stop on the NJ Transit Northeast Corridor Line, as well as many bus stops and an internal transportation system that serves senior residents and those with disabilities.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Impacts are defined as direct or indirect changes to the existing environment, whether beneficial or adverse, that are anticipated to result from 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.).

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

- 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 fully inclusive recreation equipment available to the public.

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

These improvements will primarily serve the existing residential development as well as the community groups that utilize these facilities. The addition of fully inclusive recreation equipment will allow for additional users to participate in recreation opportunities.

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

No adjacent environmental features will be impacted by this work. The park property is already used as dedicated open space, and there are no environmental features on the site.

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

This project requires a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Permit from the Somerset Union Soil Conservation District. Each permit will cost about \$1,000.00 but could cost about \$5,000.00 to be designed by an engineering consultant.

- f. For development that would impact an undisturbed portion of the project site, the local government must submit a [Natural Heritage Data Request Form](#) to the DEP's Office of Natural Lands Management (form available through website or by writing to Natural Heritage Program, PO Box 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0404). Please attach and discuss the results of the search.

The project will not impact undisturbed areas. The project site is located in Milkosky Park, which is fully developed and maintained by the City of Linden. New surfacing will be laid to enhance the new recreation equipment.

- 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 park equipment to be added will be located within an existing park site and will result in additional recreation opportunities, specifically for those with disabilities that hinder them from using existing park equipment. Currently, there is no fully inclusive park within Linden. With the proposed work, this will no longer be a concern.

#### **5. MITIGATING MEASURES**

Describe the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate adverse impacts

Mitigation of adverse impacts to the park or the environment is not necessary for this project as this project will be completed on facilities that are already in existence.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

**6. AUTHOR(S) AND QUALIFICATIONS**

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