

**NONPROFIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
PARK DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

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 the Department's Division of Fish and Wildlife, during the preparation of the environmental assessment. Information about the Landscape Project can be found at www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape or by writing to the Division of Fish & Wildlife, P.O. Box 400, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0400.

OUTLINE

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

- a. Briefly describe the total development project

The Hamilton Area YMCA (Y) proposes to renovate existing recreational facilities including resurfacing and rehabilitating the main camp pool, baby pool and surrounding pool deck, resurfacing the outdoor basketball court, replacing the perimeter fencing around the large baseball field and partial fencing around the small baseball field and install 3 permanent sun sails to provide shade for families, campers and spectators on its Sawmill Day Camp and Recreation Center (Sawmill). Sawmill was originally a 69-acre farm acquired by the Y in 2000 located in the SE corner of Hamilton Township, Block 2730, Lot 14.01, Attachment 1-Tax Map. In 2002, the Y opened Sawmill. In 2009, the Y sold 18-acres along the Crosswicks Creek to Mercer County to incorporate in its Crosswicks Creek Greenway. Concurrently, the Y sold a conservation easement to Mercer County on the remaining 51 acres. Mercer County obtained reimbursement from the Green Acres Program for a portion of the fee and conservation easement purchase.

Sawmill is a year round recreation facility that is home to an administration/support building with bathrooms, offices, kitchen, and indoor gymnasium, an outdoor pool, two hardball/softball fields, a Miracle League Field, three playing fields, two basketball courts, three pavilions with bathrooms, two sand volleyball courts, an amphitheater, parking, a large support building, paths etc., Attachment 2-Site Map.

The project only involves the restoration of existing facilities. When the conservation easement, non implemented artificial turf field GA application and the fee sale to Hamilton Township extensive environmental research was conducted for their Environmental Assessments and no areas of concern were identified.

- b. State objectives of the project

The project would allow the continued extensively use of existing recreational facilities.

- c. Fully describe multi-phase projects

This application is the only phase being requested.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Describe existing environmental features:

- vegetation

The project would involve the rehab of existing facilities. Grass areas surrounding the facilities would be temporarily used during construction and restored to existing or better condition. No trees or shrubs will be removed or affected.

- wildlife

The wildlife impacts are very minimal if not non existent. The small widths of grass surrounding the facilities that would be temporarily used during the project do not provide habitat for wildlife.

- geology, topography and soils

The project involves only already disturbed areas of Sawmill.

- water resources/hydrology

Sawmill borders on the County owned portion of the Crosswicks Creek Greenway and has two tributaries to the Creek. However, the project will not impact those areas since the renovations are in the interior of the site and buffered extensively.

- historic/archeological resources

According to NJDEP Geo-web, there are no historic/archeological resources in the project area.

- transportation/access to site

Access to the site is immediately off Sawmill Road. People generally drive cars and car pool when accessing the site. Parking is available to access not only Sawmill, but Mercer County's Crosswicks Creek Greenway. However, the heaviest use of Sawmill is during the summer when the Day Camp is in session. The Y buses campers from Title 1 schools to the camp. It is possible to run, walk or bicycle to Sawmill since the author has done so.

- adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood

Three single family houses border Sawmill to the north along Sawmill Avenue. Two of the houses were constructed after the camp was constructed and the other house is home to the family who sold the land to the Y. Wooded areas and farms exist to the west and east. To the south is the County's Crosswicks Creek Greenway.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

Impacts are defined as direct or indirect changes in the existing environment, whether beneficial or adverse, that is 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.).

The author has inspected the site on numerous occasions. There would be only temporary very

minimal environmental impacts during the project.

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

The project involves the renovation of existing facilities. There will be no effect on resources. During the renovation, best BMPs will be used during resurfacing and application of coatings.

- b. Discuss short term and long-term project impacts

Short term impacts include equipment used to mill two inches of the existing basketball, application of coating and installing the support for the sun sails. These activities will be conducted in accordance with all applicable Township ordinances including those for noise and hours of operation. The minor impacts will last approximately several days for each project.

Air quality impacts due to the operation of heavy equipment including dust will be kept to minimum with a water truck to keep dust levels down. There would be specific points of entry for construction equipment.

No long-term impacts are anticipated.

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

The project is expected to allow for a slight increased use of this area of Sawmill due to newly renovated facilities. Camp use, team use and games played are expected to increase slightly to the benefit of many.

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

There would be no impacts to adjacent environmental features.

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

It is not expected that any permits will be required, but if required, all will be obtained.

All areas impacted by the project are already disturbed with facilities. Any temporary impacts to grass areas surrounding the facilities will be restored to existing or better condition.

4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

- a. Identify alternate sites

The Y does not have an alternate site. Sawmill is an existing recreational facility, and the planned renovations make perfect sense for the site. Any other site would require acquisition costs, time and impacts far greater than the minimal impacts to Sawmill.

- b. Discuss alternate levels and types of development

This is a renovation project. Everything planned is to maintain the existing facilities for continued use. The no build alternative is reasonably not possible for the camp to continue functioning in a safe manner. The proposed renovations represent the best-case scenario for the Y.

- c. Compare environmental impacts of each alternative

The proposed project would result in minimal if no environmental impacts. The no build alternative would result in no environmental impacts.

5. MITIGATING MEASURES

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

It doesn't appear that permits will be required, but if so, all, the Y would obtain all required permits and approvals. All local codes would be followed including those for noise and hours of operation. construction. All construction areas will be restored to existing or better condition.

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Resume attached