

### 3. Environmental Assessment Reports

#### **ATTACHMENT I: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT OUTLINE (North Bergen Pre-K Program at Braddock Park)**

##### **I. A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION**

###### **A. Title/name of proposed activity: Diversion of the following properties:**

North Bergen Pre-K Program at Braddock Park - Block 437.02, Lot 1 - 8701 Boulevard East, North Bergen, NJ, includes the 17 Pre-K Temporary Classroom Units and Administrative Offices, the Tot Lot, and adjacent Parking Lot Area which includes 6 parking spaces nearest to the Tot Lot and the area for dumpsters. (While included for Diversion purposes, it should be noted that the parking spaces will have signage indicating that they will be reserved only during the hours school is in session and will be available to the public at all other hours).

**B. Preparer of Document:** North Bergen Township, North Bergen Board of Education, County of Hudson, and Millennium Strategies LLC

**C. Location maps with the site outlined on the following:** See attached Section 9

##### **II. A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON THE PARKLAND PROPOSED FOR DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION AND REPLACEMENT PARCELS (IF ANY) PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

**A. Natural Resources of the Site and Surrounding Area:** Natural features at the site include a lake and a bird sanctuary. The area proposed for diversion in Braddock Park is flat parkland. There are no land forms, hydrological features, surface water, or threatened or endangered species or critical habitats within the boundaries of the diversion parcel.

**B. Man-made Resources:** The area proposed for conversion measures 1.339 acres and includes the 17 Pre-K Temporary Classroom Units and Administrative Offices, the Tot Lot, and adjacent Parking Lot Area which includes 6 parking spaces nearest to the Tot Lot and the area for dumpsters. (While included for Diversion purposes, it should be noted that the parking spaces will have signage indicating that they will be reserved only during the hours school is in session and will be available to the public at all other hours). The remaining land area of Braddock Park totals 167 acres and provides for a wide range of passive and active recreational uses described below. Access to the site is through a driveway on JFK Boulevard. There are no known hazardous substances or waste at the site, nor any underground storage tanks. There is sewer infrastructure connected to an existing system that pre-dates the placement of TCUs on the property. The area is served by NJ Transit Bus lines 23, 128, 165, 168, 181, and 750. The site is currently zoned as parkland owned by the County of Hudson and leased to the Township of North Bergen.

- C. **Human Resources:** The site is located within Braddock Park, one of Hudson County's largest open space sites. Established in 1910, it features a variety of lighted sports fields and courts including 21 tennis courts, three basketball courts, three bocce courts, handball courts, three football fields, six volleyball courts, playground equipment, a fitness station, a dog run, and various parking areas. It serves a majority low-income and minority population with critical Pre-K educational services. There are 17 TCUs, a tot lot, and 6 parking spaces and dumpster area within the boundaries of the diversion parcel. There are no known historical, archeological, or architectural resources.

### **III. PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO THE PARKLAND AND REPLACEMENT PARCELS (IF ANY) IF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE IS CONSTRUCTED**

#### **A. Land**

- a. Plan Consistency:
- b. Changes to General Character of the Area: The general character of the area will not be changed by the diversion. The TCUs, tot lot, and parking spaces will remain in use for PreK purposes.
- c. Loss or Alteration of Ecologically Sensitive Lands: The proposed diversion will not result in the loss or alteration of any ecologically sensitive lands.

#### **B. Water**

- a. Meeting State Water Quality Standards: The project does not involve water.
- b. Impacts on Surface Waterbody: The project will not affect any surface waterbody.
- c. Effects on Aquatic Biota and Habitats: The project will not affect any aquatic biota or habitat.
- d. Effects on Surface and Ground Water Quality and Quantity: The project will not affect surface and ground water quality or quantity.

#### **C. Air**

- a. Meeting Applicable Emissions Standards: The project will meet applicable emissions standards and regulations contained in the State Air Pollution Control Code.
- b. Precautions Taken to Prevent Noise Problems: There are no noise problems. The only added noise is children playing in the Tot Lot, the same noise heard throughout the park at all the recreational facilities it offers.
- c. Precautions Taken to Prevent Odor Problems: All state, county, and local health and waste management rules and regulations are adhered to at the site to ensure the prevention of potential odor problems.

#### **D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife**

- a. Loss or Gain of Wildlife Habitat: The project does not affect wildlife habitat.
- b. Impact on Threatened and Endangered Plants or Animal Species: The project does not affect threatened or endangered plants or animal species or critical habitat.
- c. Impacts to Trees: The project does not impact any trees.

- E. Social and Economic
  - a. Affects on Historic, Archaeological or Cultural Resources: The project does not affect any historic, archaeological, or cultural resource.
  - b. Affects on Public Access and Public Recreation Facilities: The current use of the site, including 17 TCUs, a tot lot, and 5 parking spaces, replaced a pre-2001 use as a practice softball field. However, the field was not a regulation size. Since 2001, the Township has replaced and improved facilities for the softball program at 64<sup>th</sup> Street, 76<sup>th</sup> Street, and Braddock Parks.
  - c. How Environmental Justice was Considered: The project does not have environmental justice impacts.
  
- F. Solid Waste: Solid waste is collected routinely by the North Bergen Department of Public Works in collaboration with the North Bergen Board of Education.
- G. Aesthetics: The area, previously a practice softball field, will retain the current use and character: 17 TCUs, a tot lot, and 5 parking spaces.
  
- H. Sustainability: There are no anticipated environmental impacts that would result from the continued operation of the site in its current configuration.
  
- I. Cumulative Effects: Cumulative effects include safe and convenient location for full day Pre-K ACES program, Robert Fulton, and Horace Mann children

**IV. METHODS OF PROMOTING APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND METHODS OF MITIGATING ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION:**

There are no known or anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

**V. AVOIDANCE OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

There are no known or anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

**3A. Environmental Assessment Report**

**ATTACHMENT I: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT OUTLINE (North Bergen EMS South Building)**

**I. A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION**

**A. Title/name of proposed activity: Diversion of the following properties:**

North Bergen EMS South Building - Block 103, Lot 127 - 1814 43rd Street, North Bergen, NJ, includes the building that houses one of two North Bergen EMS companies and North Bergen Cares, a community assistance organization.

- B. **Preparer of Document:** North Bergen Township, North Bergen Board of Education, County of Hudson, and Millennium Strategies LLC
- C. **Location maps with the site outlined on the following:** USGS 7.5 Minute Quad, USDA Soils, County Road and Tax Map- **See attached Section 9.**

**II. A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS ON THE PARKLAND PROPOSED FOR DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION AND REPLACEMENT PARCELS (IF ANY) PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

- A. **Natural Resources of the Site and Surrounding Area:** The area proposed for diversion is located at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Street Park, which dates back to the 1950's. It encompasses a structure built in 1999 now used by the North Bergen EMS South Unit and NB CARES. There are no land forms, hydrological features, surface water, or threatened or endangered species or critical habitats within the boundaries of the diversion parcel.
- B. **Man-made Resources:** The area proposed for conversion measures .167 acres and encompasses a two-story structure with a garage bay for ambulances. Adjacent parkland includes playground areas and basketball courts. Access to the building is by a driveway off of 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. There are no known hazardous substances or waste at the site, nor any underground storage tanks. It is close to busy Tonnelle Avenue/Route 1, NJ Transit 83 and 127 bus lines, and a Bergen Light Rail Station. It is itself a man-made resource as a site for North Bergen Emergency Services and NB CARES.
- C. **Human Resources:** The site is located in the south end of the Township, which allows for swifter response times for emergency services for residents and visitors in that area in densely populated and highly congested North Bergen. It is staffed 24/7 with both full time and part time personnel. The park and recreational facilities include playground areas and basketball courts. There are no known historical, archeological, or architectural resources.

**III. PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS TO THE PARKLAND AND REPLACEMENT PARCELS (IF ANY) IF THE PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE IS CONSTRUCTED**

- A. Land
  - a. Plan Consistency:
  - b. Changes to General Character of the Area: The general character of the area will not be changed by the diversion.
  - c. Loss or Alteration of Ecologically Sensitive Lands: The proposed diversion will not result in the loss or alteration of any ecologically sensitive lands.
- B. Water
  - a. Meeting State Water Quality Standards: The project does not involve water.
  - b. Impacts on Surface Waterbody: The project will not affect any surface waterbody.

- c. Effects on Aquatic Biota and Habitats: The project will not affect any aquatic biota or habitat.
  - d. Effects on Surface and Ground Water Quality and Quantity: The project will not affect surface and ground water quality or quantity.
- C. Air**
- a. Meeting Applicable Emissions Standards: The project will meet applicable emissions standards and regulations contained in the State Air Pollution Control Code.
  - b. Precautions Taken to Prevent Noise Problems: All applicable noise ordinances regulating emergency service facilities are followed.
  - c. Precautions Taken to Prevent Odor Problems: All state, county, and local health and waste management rules and regulations are adhered to at the site to ensure the prevention of potential odor problems.
- D. Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife**
- a. Loss or Gain of Wildlife Habitat: The project does not affect wildlife habitat.
  - b. Impact on Threatened and Endangered Plants or Animal Species: The project does not affect threatened or endangered plants or animal species or critical habitat.
  - c. Impacts to Trees: The project does not impact any trees.
- E. Social and Economic**
- a. Affects on Historic, Archaeological or Cultural Resources: The project does not affect any historic, archaeological, or cultural resource.
  - b. Affects on Public Access and Public Recreation Facilities: The current use of the site has only beneficial social and economic impacts.
  - c. How Environmental Justice was Considered: The project does not have environmental justice impacts.
  - d. Solid Waste: Solid waste is collected routinely by the North Bergen Department of Public Works.
- F. Aesthetics:** The structure and surrounding area will continue to be maintained by the Township of North Bergen and North Bergen EMS South personnel.
- G. Sustainability:** There are no anticipated negative environmental impacts that would result from the continued operation of the site.
- H. Cumulative Effects:** Cumulative effects are the continuation of increased emergency services and community outreach in densely populated and highly congested North Bergen .

**IV. METHODS OF PROMOTING APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND METHODS OF MITIGATING ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DISPOSAL OR DIVERSION**

There are no known or anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

**V. AVOIDANCE OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

There are no known or anticipated adverse environmental impacts.

