

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Green Acres- Park Development

Monte Irvin Park

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

a. Briefly describe the total development project

The Essex County Parks Foundation is requesting funding to make improvements to Monte Irvin Orange Park in the City of Orange Township, including the rehabilitation of the existing playground and ballfields within the park. The proposed scope of work includes installing updated and safe playground equipment, resurfacing the existing ball fields with synthetic turf, and installing walkways, landscaping, drainage, and associated field equipment, such as dugouts, bleachers, bases, and fencing.

b. State objectives of the project

The intent of this project is to create a safer environment for the many children, youth, and families that play at and visit Monte Irvin Park regularly. Through upgrades to the playground equipment and ballfields, the children will have safer facilities to play on and enjoy, and the many park visitors will have a greater experience visiting the park as a result of the upgraded facilities.

c. Fully describe multi-phase projects

Not applicable as this is not a multi-phase project.

d. Synthetic Turf Addendum

Due Diligence:

- 1. Synthetic turf field drainage systems must be well-designed and properly maintained to avoid increased run-off from synthetic turf fields. Successful applicants whose projects include a synthetic turf field should design their projects in conformance with the requirements of the NJDEP Stormwater Management rules, even if the project is otherwise exempt.*

The Essex County Parks Foundation recognizes the importance of well-designed and properly maintained turf field drainage systems and will work in conjunction with consulting engineers throughout the construction design process to minimize run-off and comply with NJDEP Stormwater Management guidance. The project only proposes to use synthetic turf on the infields of the ballfields that will be renovated, which will drain to natural grass outfields that already exist at the site.

- 2. Turf type should be evaluated to address potential ecosystem contamination.*

To ensure protection of the natural and present ecosystem and mitigate contamination, the Essex County Parks Foundation will work with and consult with consulting engineers to evaluate turf types to find the best match for the park and environment.

3. *Synthetic turf fields can increase the ambient temperature of the neighborhood, especially in highly developed areas.*

The two infields are located in the middle of Monte Irvin Orange Park, are located within the park's 47.5 acres that is heavily shaded and has an existing tree canopy. As a result of the natural environment where the turf will be installed, there are no anticipated impacts that will increase the ambient temperature of the neighborhood at this time.

4. *Synthetic turf fields have been shown to have elevated surface temperatures, which can increase the risk of heat-related injuries, especially in children. Applicants are strongly encouraged to design projects so that adjacent shade trees are preserved whenever possible, additional shade trees are planted, and/or shade structures are provided to mitigate this risk.*

No tree removal is proposed under the scope of work, as existing the infields at Monte Irvin Orange Park will be replaced with synthetic turf.

5. *The industry standard for synthetic turf field warranties is eight years, though properly maintained fields may last up to fifteen years. Applicants should ensure that the individuals responsible for field maintenance adopt best management practices to maximize the life of the field. End-of-life recycling for the turf carpet and infill is available and should be explored. When budgeting for a synthetic field, applicants should keep in mind the anticipated life of the facility, cost and frequency of replacement, and Green Acres' policy to not re-fund facilities for at least 20 years.*

The Essex County Parks Department will be responsible for the park maintenance and is prepared, and able to do so. The installation of the turf will dramatically decrease the amount of time the field must be tended to by Essex County Parks Department maintenance. Proper care in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines will be provided to the field, maximizing its use and lifespan. The department will also ensure that there is proper end-of-life recycling for the turf carpet.

Alternative: *Discuss in the Environmental Impact Assessment Alternatives to the Proposed Actions section why synthetic turf is a necessary or preferable alternative to natural turf.*

1. *Because of the significant increase in regular maintenance needs and cost to maintain the current type of surfacing (grass and sand field), it is not ideal and poses issues.*

Communication: *Discuss the potential benefits and risks, including the Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action and Alternatives to the Proposed Actions sections of the Environmental Impact Assessment, during the required public hearing for the project application.*

Not Applicable. The Essex County Parks Foundation is a nonprofit organization and is not required to hold a public hearing.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Describe existing environmental features:

a. vegetation

Monte Irvin Orange Park maintains a wide range of vegetation, including many within the park's 47.5 acres. Within the park, the trees are of a variety of types, including Oak, Walnut, Birch, and Maple that provide ample shading and breeze, which is particularly enjoyable during the summer months. In addition to large trees, the park is landscaped with natural shrubbery, plants, and flowers that blossom and remain native to the area. Although the park is well groomed, the vegetation is able to grow without unnecessary tending or clipping. Monte Irvin Park is flat with minimal hills or increases of elevation.

b. wildlife, including State and federal threatened and endangered species and critical habitats

The park was designed by the Olmsted family, who remain noteworthy for their design of New York City's Central Park. Their mission was to design a natural landscape that is inviting to the local birds, woodland animals, and mammalian quadrupeds that are typically within the existing residential and commercial development within northern New Jersey area.

c. geology, topography, and soils

There is no notable geology or topography to note in the park.

d. water resources/hydrology

There are no water resources in the park.

e. historic/archeological resources

There are no known historic or archeological resources in the park.

f. transportation/access to site

Monte Irvin Orange Park is easily accessible by various modes of transportation. The City of Orange NJ Transit train stop is located 1 mile Northwest of the park and less than a 25-minute walk. Within a 2-block radius of the park in all directions, there are 11 public transportation bus stops, run by NJ Transit (buses 24 and 44). Also, at the park entrance on the corner of Hickory Street and Central Ave, there is a bike rack and a large parking lot, accessible to park visitors who can park their vehicle or bicycle there. The park is easily accessible via car, bus, train, and bicycle.

- g. *adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood*

The surrounding neighborhood is a densely populated urban area with residential and commercial buildings.

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.).

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

The rehabilitation of the existing ballfield diamonds and playground within the existing and developed Monte Irvin Park is not anticipated to affect any environmental resources. While minor landscaping may be done at the site, no trees are expected to be removed or impacted by the proposed improvements. The scope of work will increase the safety and quality of the facilities, without compromising or impacting nearby structures, facilities, or resources.

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

The short-term impacts of Monte Irvin Orange Field include the replacement of existing playground, as well as the replacement of the current ballfield amenities, including installing turf and related landscaping, as well as other important aspects including dugouts, fencing, and bleachers. As a result of the scope of work, there is little maintenance required of these areas, and will have no long-term impacts. This project will be widely beneficial for the community, as it will provide updated and safe areas for children, youth, families, and individuals to play, exercise, and have fun.

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

Essex County Parks Foundation anticipates a significant increase in recreation and overall site use, not only immediately after project completion, but also over many years. The introduction of synthetic turf will increase playable hours at the ballfields. Improvements to this park, which remains an important park to the community, will create additional opportunities for recreation and leisure among different populations. For example, as children grow up, they will have a perfect place to play after school, in the summer, in teams, or for personal exercise with the updated ballfields and playground. The City of Orange Township is densely populated and has limited opportunities for additional park development. For this reason, the residents recognize the value in the existing Monte Irvin Orange Park, recognize its value, and appreciate improvements made.

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

No adjacent environment features will be affected by the project.

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

A Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Permit is needed to complete the project.

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 at the 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.

Not Applicable

g. Discuss if/how the project may be impacted by sea level rise and any related design considerations.

The project is not anticipated to be impacted by sea level rise.

4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

a. Identify alternate sites

As the project proposes improvements to an existing park, alternative sites for the proposed improvements do not exist.

b. Discuss alternate levels and types of development

Not applicable, as the proposed improvements are to be completed within an already existing developed park.

c. Compare environmental impacts of each alternative

As noted, because there are no alternatives, there are no environmental impacts to compare.

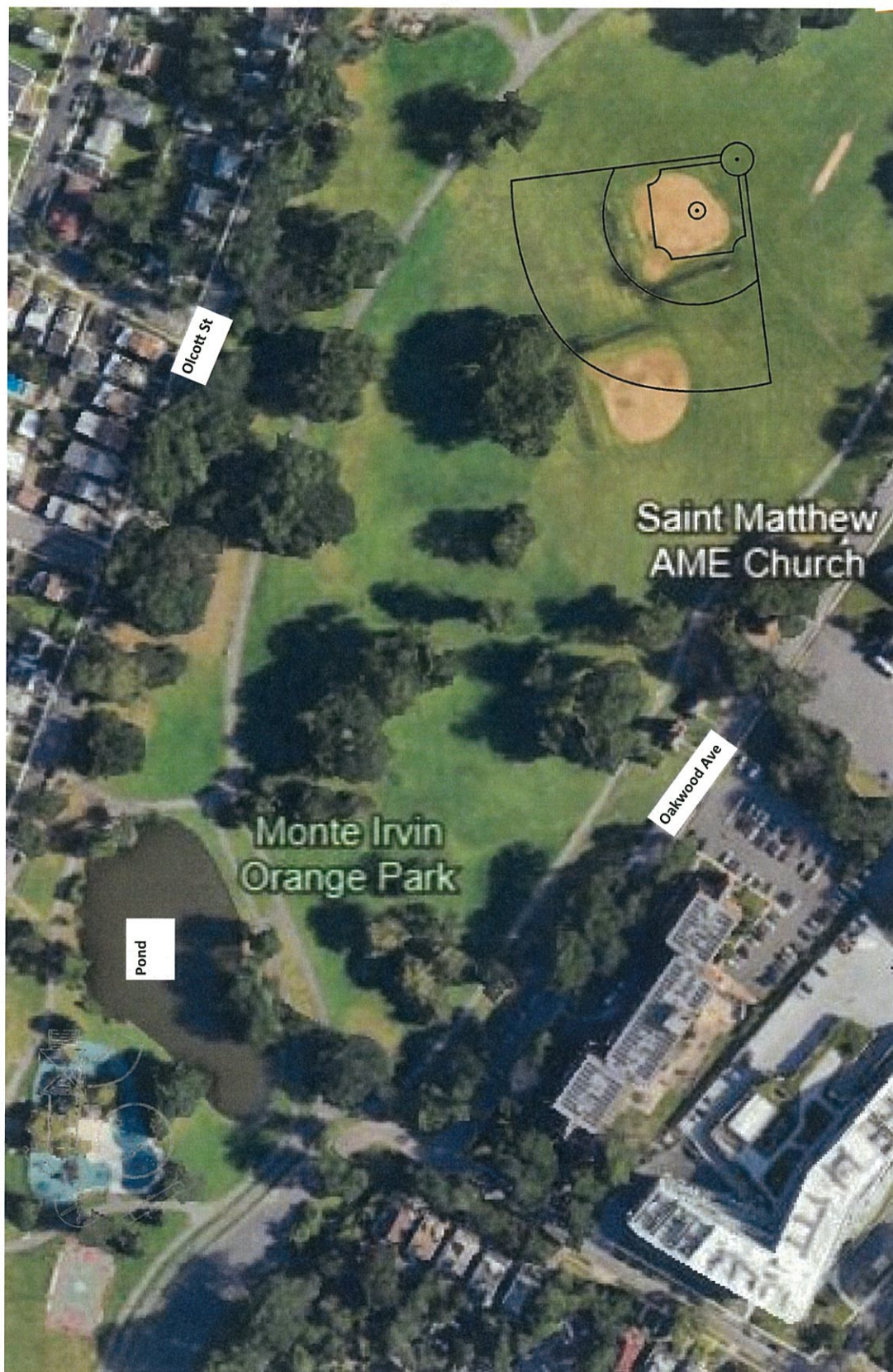
5. MITIGATING MEASURES

Describe the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate adverse impacts

The proposed improvements are to be completed within Monte Irvin Orange Park, and will have limited impact on any current facilities, environments, or resources. All rules and regulations will be adhered to, and any necessary permits will be obtained. For these reasons, mitigation measures are not necessary, and there will be limited adverse impacts to this project.

6. AUTHOR(S) AND QUALIFICATIONS

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Monte Irvin Orange Park

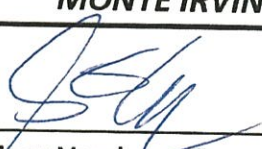
Orange, NJ

Block 4401, Lot 1

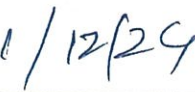
2024 GREEN ACRES
County of Essex
MONTE IRVIN ORANGE PARK - PLAYGROUND AND BALLFIELD
IMPROVEMENTS

Cost Estimate

MONTE IRVIN PARK - PLAYGROUND AND BALL FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	
Site Demolition	\$275,000.00
Site Preparation and Earthwork	\$325,000.00
Synthetic Turf Surface System Ball Fields	\$600,000.00
Dugouts, Backstop, Bleachers, bases	\$450,000.00
Playground Improvements	\$200,000.00
Concrete and HMA Walkway	\$180,000.00
Chain Link Fence and Gates	\$130,000.00
Miscellaneous Drainage	\$150,000.00
Landscaping, trimming, irrigation	\$250,000.00
Park appurtenances	\$150,000.00
SUBTOTAL	\$2,710,000.00
Professional Services @ 13%	\$352,300.00
Contingency @20%	\$542,000.00
MONTE IRVIN ORANGE PARK - TOTAL BUDGET	\$3,604,300.00



Sanjeev Varghese, Essex County Engineer
Essex County Department of Public Works



Date