

**NJDEP Green Acres – Jake’s Law Application  
Village of Ridgefield Park  
Fellowship Park - Completely Inclusive Playground Project  
Environmental Impact Assessment**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

**a. Briefly describe the total development project**

With the requested funding, the Village of Ridgefield Park aims to construct a completely inclusive playground at Fellowship Park. The proposed playground will follow all requirements set forth in the NJDEP Green Acres guidelines, including the recommendations from the NJDCA. The playground will replace an existing, non-inclusive playground so as to provide recreational amenities for all residents.

**b. State objectives of the project**

The objective of this project is to construct a completely inclusive playground that can be utilized by residents of all abilities, regardless of any disability. This project will increase access to recreational opportunities in the Village and across Bergen County.

**c. Fully describe multi-phase projects**

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

**2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Describe existing environmental features:**

**a. Vegetation**

This project has been designed for construction in an existing park so as to minimize and limit the need to clear any trees and vegetation. The existing park has no notable vegetation that would present any environmental concerns.

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

As an existing park in a developed area, the wildlife primarily consists of small animals such as birds, squirrels, or rabbits. This project will pose no danger, risk, or threat to endangered species or critical habitats.

**c. Geology, topography, and soils**

The topography of the area is generally flat and can accommodate a playground area, especially considering there is an existing playground at the project site. There are no significant geological or soil features to note in or around the project limits.

**d. Water resources/hydrology**

The proposed project will not disrupt any water resources, as there are no water resources within or directly adjacent to the park limits. The Hackensack River is located approximately 1,025 feet from the project, but there is no anticipation that the project will affect the river.

**e. Historic/archeological resources**

According to the NJ Historic Preservation Office's LUCY mapping tool, Fellowship Park is a property that is identified as part of the Euclid Avenue Cultural Landscape historic district. As an existing park space with a number of existing recreational amenities, including a playground, it is not anticipated that the construction of this playground will disrupt any historic resources.

**f. Transportation/access to site**

Fellowship Park is accessible by vehicle, public transportation, and pedestrian access. There is ample street parking on the adjacent roadways of Bergen Avenue and Hobart Street. The closest bus stops are approximately one street block away at Main Street and Hobart Street (83, 155, 168) and Main Street and Christie Street (83, 155, 168). The park is surrounded by sidewalks on both Bergen Avenue and Hobart Street, and there is a walking path that runs diagonally through the park that provides additional pedestrian access.

**g. Adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood**

Fellowship Park is located in a majority residential neighborhood in the Village of Ridgely Park. The park currently hosts a playground, tennis courts, and passive recreational amenities such as walking path and benches. The park is in close proximity to the Ridgely Park Public Library, as well as some small businesses.

**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 replacement of the existing playground at Fellowship Park will not have any long-term impacts on any environmental resources. There is currently a park and playground at the project site, and there are no anticipated negative impacts to the environment.

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

Through replacement of a playground at Fellowship Park, anticipated short-term impacts include soil disturbance during the removal and installation of the playground equipment and resurfacing process. There are no long-term impacts resulting from the project.

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

The proposed completely inclusive playground to be installed at Fellowship Park will provide wider recreational opportunities and access, especially for individuals with disabilities. This project will increase opportunities for all residents in Ridgely Park and those in neighboring municipalities.

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

The Village does not anticipate that any adjacent environmental features will be affected by this proposal.

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

The project does not require any major permits.

- 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.**

This is not applicable; the proposed project will not impact any undisturbed portions of the project site.

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

It is not anticipated that this project will be impacted by sea level rise due to its location.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

- a. **Identify alternate sites**

No alternative sites have been identified for this project. This project will be completed within an existing developed park to ensure the facilities are appropriately updated and that there are limited environmental impacts on the site. Fellowship Park's existing playground is antiquated and non-inclusive, so it must be replaced to ensure that residents of all abilities have appropriate access.

- b. **Discuss alternate levels and types of development**

No alternative levels or types of development have been identified for the proposed project.

- c. **Compare environmental impacts of each alternative**

No alternatives have been identified for the proposed project, so this criterion is not applicable. There are no environmental impacts resulting from this project.

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

##### **Describe the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate adverse impacts**

To prepare for this project, the Village of Ridgely Park has prepared a concept plan and preliminary design that will mitigate any adverse impacts. The Village will provide maintenance for the project site as part of its current routine. The Village is dedicated to ensuring that all environmental and cultural impacts are considered for the project, and has worked hard to ensure that any adverse impacts to Fellowship Park are mitigated.

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

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