

**Borough of Bergenfield – Green Acres Park Development Application
Vivyen Field Turf Development at Twin Boro Field/Park**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OUTLINE

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

a. Briefly Describe the total development project

The proposal entails improving the use of the active recreation-centric park owned by the Borough of Bergenfield. Proposed improvements include additions of synthetic turf fields and lighting to allow for prolonged, safe play in an area that can currently not facilitate this.

b. State objectives of the project

Due to the increase in soccer as a recreational activity, the current volume of soccer fields is limited. While Vivyen Field currently provides dual softball and baseball outlets, and includes enough space for two full-sized soccer fields, it is not lined nor laid out to facilitate this amount of play simultaneously. Similarly, the fields are insufficient for use following rainstorm events; the fields do not drain effectively and thus restrict play for days following most rainstorm events.

The proposal's inclusion of two full sized soccer fields (one exclusive to soccer, the other a multi-purpose field whose primary use will be soccer), and to maintain the parameters of current baseball/softball dual-use fields meets the objective to increase recreation field capacity of the Borough. Further, the proposal's inclusion of additional sport lighting will also meet an objective to increase the amount of hours that individuals and teams/groups can utilize this field each day.

c. Fully describe multi-phase projects

While it is not the intent of the Borough that this project be completed in phases, the Borough is willing to phase the project should it be in the financial interest of Green Acres (i.e. that the full request cannot be granted at this time). If this is necessary, the Borough will likely defer the lighting improvements until a future round of funding becomes available.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Describe existing environmental features:

- a. vegetation*
- b. wildlife*
- 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*

**Borough of Bergenfield – Green Acres Park Development Application
Vivyen Field Turf Development at Twin Boro Field/Park**

Vivyen Field is a multi-acre park consisting of wooded areas, a community pool, a street hockey rink, and a fenced-in multi-field active recreational space. Vivyen Field is owned and maintained exclusively by the Borough of Bergenfield, though it is located within Twin Boro Park/Field (shared property between Bergenfield and the Borough of Dumont).

The vegetation consists of trees and underbrush within the wooded areas. The wildlife consists of a variety of birds and small animals.

The topography of the park is vast. There is a wooden section of the park on the western portion that is considerably elevated from the remaining portion of the park, but the active recreational uses and the community pool are generally at the same grade. Generally the soils are Rahway Till; clayey silt to sandy silt with some to many pebbles and cobbles and few boulders.

There is a stream that divides the ball fields and the community pool/street hockey rink.

The main form of transportation is via personal vehicles. However, directly perpendicular to the south of the recreational field are three (3) residential streets, and three (3) other streets within walking distance of the overall park. Directly one-quarter mile north of the field are two (2) NJ Transit Bus Stations so that the park can be accessed via public transportation. The main access point by vehicle is from Twinboro Lane, where it terminates into a parking lot serving the entirety of Twin Boro Park/Field.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

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

There will be little to no affected resources with the proposed improvement. The resource that will be affected is significant increase in water recharge. The turf will allow the water to instantly begin to recharge.

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

The short-term impact will be noticeable during the 120-day construction when two (2) existing ball fields will not be available for play and the leagues will be required to reorganize on the remaining fields to accommodate the additional games/practices. Upon completion of the turf, maintenance required by the local government will be greatly reduced, thus decreasing current maintenance cost.

The long-term impact will allow the soccer club, who has recently seen an increase in participation, to expand its programming. This will allow for more teams in the league, providing a greater opportunity for youth to participate. Further, this will allow the same baseball and softball teams to utilize an enhanced field space for their current activities. In addition, sports lighting will increase

**Borough of Bergenfield – Green Acres Park Development Application
Vivyen Field Turf Development at Twin Boro Field/Park**

playtime for the leagues, allowing them to schedule activities beyond day light hours.

- c. Discuss anticipated increase in recreation and overall use of site over time*
Increased special capacity of the fields to host baseball, softball, and more soccer activity will increase recreational activity overall. Further, increasing the time-related capacity by adding lighting for post-day light hours will also increase the amount of recreational activity that takes place at Vivyen Field.
- d. Identify adjacent environmental features that may be affected by the proposal*
It is anticipated that all proposed improvements will take place within the existing fenced-in area that encompasses the current natural grass fields. The only exception may be if light poles need to exist outside of this space. Regardless, there are no significant environmental features that would be affected through the proposed scope of work.
- e. List any permits required for project and brief status*
At this time, the only anticipated permit will be for soil erosion and sediment control. The Borough and its engineer are experienced in the process and paperwork necessary to obtain this permit. Soil samples will be taken in the preliminary stages; should they reveal any concern about soil health, other environmental permits may be warranted. This is not anticipated.
- f. For development that would impact an undisturbed portion of the project site, the local government unit must submit a Natural Heritage Data Request Form.*
There will be no disturbance beyond the existing fenced in ball fields, and thus no Natural Heritage Data Request will be required.

4. ALTERNATIVES TO PROPOSED ACTION

- a. Identify alternate site.*
There are no alternate sites in the Borough large enough to provide additional soccer fields in order to expand capacity and programming of local soccer clubs.
- b. Discuss alternate levels and types of development.*
There are no alternate levels nor alternative types of development discussed at this time. The only alternative would be to acquire additional properties and in the long-term with the possibility to construct additional soccer fields. However, this is not a priority of the Borough, as Vivyen Field does practically have the amount of space necessary to expand the number of the Borough's soccer fields.
- c. Compare environmental impacts of each alternative.*
The alternative option would require deforestation and/or demolition of other sites in order to develop soccer fields. This is not a viable alternative in an already densely populated Borough.

**Borough of Bergenfield – Green Acres Park Development Application
Vivyen Field Turf Development at Twin Boro Field/Park**

5. MITIGATING MEASURES

Should the proposed improvements require soil remediation, the turf system will act as a remediation cap and all future improvements to the area will be designed to limit the environmental impact during construction.