

Environmental Impact Assessment

Harlan Joseph Peace Park

Part of Green Acres Park Development Grant Application, 2026

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 DEP Fish and Wildlife, during the preparation of the environmental assessment. The following sections must be included in the EIA:

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

- a. Briefly describe the total development project – This park development project will improve vacant, grass-turf lots to include seating, walking paths, gardens, shade trees, and children’s playground equipment.
- b. State objectives of the project – The objective is to change an unimproved area into something the community can use for play, community events, and outdoor relaxation.
- c. Fully describe multi-phase projects – This project will produce a complete park in one phase. There may be opportunities to improve or enhance the park in future years/phases, but those are not currently planned for.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT - Describe existing environmental features:

- a. Vegetation – The area consists of open, turfgrass lawn. There are a few trees along the backyard of homes that face Southard Street, and they will not be removed for this project.
- b. Wildlife, including State and federal threatened and endangered species and critical habitats – Based on the Piedmont Habitat layer of the Landscape Project, this project area is not ranked as habitat specific requirement, species of special concern, state threatened, state endangered, nor federally listed species. It also does not contain any streams so there is no freshwater habitat in the project area, nor any vernal pools or vernal pool habitat.
- c. Geology, topography, and soils – Per a Preliminary Assessment Report/ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted by BRS, Inc. in 2024, “The subject property is located at an approximate elevation of 52 feet (ft) above mean sea level and is generally level. The surrounding topography slopes gently to the east southeast... Soil at the site is classified by the United States Department of Agriculture as Urban Land. This unit is characterized by uncategorized heterogeneous materials. Surficial geology underlying the site is part of the Late Wisconsinan Glaciofluvial Deposits formation. This formation is characterized by yellowish-brown to reddish-brown sand and pebble-to-cobble gravel, minor silt measuring as much as 50 feet in thickness. Bedrock underlying the site is part of the Gneiss granofels and Migmatite facies. This formation is characterized by heterogeneous felsic, intermediate and mafic rocks, graphitic schist, and minor marble. The NJDEP Division of Water Supply and GeoScience has mapped suspected historic fill areas throughout the state. Historic fill is not mapped on the site, however numerous areas

within a quarter-mile of the Site and associated with Shipetauken Creek (north) and Assunpink Creek (south) are mapped with historic fill.”

- d. Water resources/hydrology - No surface water bodies are located on the site. The site is located in Flood Zone X, an area defined as an area of minimal flood hazard. According to the NJDEP’s online database, NJ-GeoWeb, wetlands are not present on or adjacent to the site. The closest mapped wetland is located approximately 0.8 miles northwest of the site.
 - e. Historic/archeological resources – The project area is part of an eligible historic district, the Ewing-Carroll Historic District. The Historic Property Features of the northern portion of the site is “Not Assessed_Unknown”, and the southern portion shows no features. Per the Preliminary Assessment Report/ASTM Phase I Environmental Site Assessment conducted by BRS, Inc. in 2024, “The site has been developed as residential since at least the late 1890s until the 1990s and early 2000s. Sanborn maps indicated a store for 104 Ewing Street in 1955 and 7 Ogden Street in 1967. There are no indications of commercial and industrial operations at the Site. Records for 90-100 Ewing Street (Block 1101 Lot 23, 24, 25, 26, 26.01) and 7 Ogden Street (Block 1101 Lot 29) indicated that the existing buildings were demolished between 1991 and 2001.”
 - f. Transportation/access to site – The streets around this area have on-street parking. The site is also less than a half-mile from the Trenton Train Station.
 - g. Adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood – The land surrounding this project area is a mix of residential homes, parking lots, unimproved lots, the Rescue Mission’s facilities, churches, and the Grant Intermediate School.
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.). Provide the information listed below for both the construction period and the operation of the site once the project is complete. Synthetic turf project EIAs must include long-term anticipated impacts, referencing the 2025 DSR review, and note the expected useful life of the facility. Proposed tree removal must be discussed in this section.
- a. Discuss all affected resources and the significance of each impact - There will be disturbance to the soil during construction; all regulations stipulated by the soil conservation district will be followed. There may also be some noise pollution during the construction phase.
 - b. Discuss short-term and long-term project impacts – In the short-term, the vacant areas will look less attractive while the park is being built, and the neighbors may experience increased noise and traffic from construction vehicles. In the long-term, the neighborhood will have an attractive community space for walking, playing, and holding community events. The area will be kept better maintained by the Rescue Mission, and there will be increased shade during the day and lights at night.

- c. Discuss anticipated increase in recreation and overall use of site over time – The space is expected to see higher daily foot traffic and will have the infrastructure to host community events.
 - d. Identify adjacent environmental features that may be affected by the proposal – No significant negative effects are expected of the neighboring environments.
 - e. List any permits and administrative approvals required for project and brief status (i.e., waterfront development) – Any permits required for electric service, water service, and soil disturbance will be secured by Mercer County.
 - 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. – No area of this site is undisturbed, the property used to contain residential homes.
 - g. Discuss if/how the project may be impacted by sea level rise and any related design considerations. – The project site is approximately 1,000 feet from the Delaware and Raritan Canal and approximately 1,500 feet from the Assunpink. Neither is expected to influence the site via sea level rise.
4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION
- a. Identify alternate sites – The inspiration of this project and its success relies on the Rescue Mission's willingness and interest in maintaining a park that is contiguous to their current property and facility. There are no other large vacant areas contiguous with the Rescue Mission's property.
 - b. Discuss alternate levels and types of development – The scope of the project could be scaled down to not improve the entirety of the vacant lots, leaving them partially available for uses other than a park, however, there are vacant lots nearby that could be used for alternative uses.
 - c. Compare environmental impacts of each alternative – Alternatives to the current plan would not have any effect on the environmental impacts. This site is already disturbed and lacking in shade trees.
5. MITIGATING MEASURES - Describe the measures that will be undertaken to mitigate adverse impacts
- a. Erosion control measures will be implemented during construction.
 - b. Construction will be limited to daylight hours, in an effort to control noise pollution.
 - c. Ongoing maintenance by the Rescue Mission to ensure playground safety and aesthetic appeal.
6. AUTHOR(S) AND QUALIFICATIONS (IN BRIEF) - Preparation by an environmental professional is recommended but not required.
- a. This assessment was written by Mercer County staff Cindy Taylor, Land Preservation Coordinator and Environmental Specialist III. Cindy holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Ursinus College and a Master of Science from The University of Alabama. The

Preliminary Assessment Report by BRS Inc. that is referenced in this document was prepared by BRS staff Abigail Doris and reviewed by Alicia Flammia. Alicia has a Master of Science degree in Resource Management and Administration from Antioch University New England.