

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment
LWCF Park Conversion
James J. Braddock Park
North Bergen Township, Hudson County, NJ

Project Description:

The Township of North Bergen and the County of Hudson have requested the transfer of a National Park Service (NPS) encumbrance on approximately 1.25 acres of parkland (Block 437.02, Lot 2 in North Bergen, Hudson County) to properties located at Block 27, Lot 27 on Paterson Plank Rd in North Bergen and Block 437, Lots 2.01 & 2.02 on River Road in North Bergen. The parkland property is administered by the County and Township as part of James J. Braddock Park (hereafter Braddock Park).

Recreational improvements at the Braddock Park site were funded in part using an NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant. As a condition of the federal funding, this site is protected under Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, P.L. 88-579; U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq. Its use is limited to public outdoor recreation use, in perpetuity, unless the NPS approves the conversion of the site and the transfer of the federal restriction to a replacement property. The conversion application process requires the preparation of an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321-4347) and the LWCF Act.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program (NJDEP) administers the LWCF program in New Jersey on behalf of NPS. At the request of the County and Township, Green Acres submitted an application to NPS for this conversion on February 19, 2019. The conversion application was triggered by the use of a portion of the LWCF-funded site for trailers to house North Bergen's preschool program. The proposed replacement sites will include passive and active recreation opportunities, including open space to match or exceed those uses that were displaced on the conversion site.

This notice invites public input regarding this proposed action and its potential effect on the community. The Township of North Bergen, the County of Hudson and NJDEP are issuing this public notice on behalf of the NPS and encourage a 30-day public review and a 30-day public comment period on the Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment will be available from February 18, 2020 to March 18, 2020 at www.hudsoncountynj.org and at www.northbergen.org. If you are unable to access the Environmental Assessment online, please contact the Buildings and Ground Department in the Township of North Bergen to make arrangements to review the printed copy they have on file. Written comments may be submitted by email at buildingsandgrounds@northbergen.org or regular mail at Buildings and Grounds Township of North Bergen, 4233 Kennedy Boulevard, North Bergen, NJ 07047 until April 18, 2020.

All substantial comments received will be addressed by the Township and then forwarded to the State, County and federal authorities for consideration. All comments and responses to

substantive issues will be sent to NPS for review and comment as part of the LWCF conversion application.