

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**for**  
**GREEN ACRES SUBMISSION**

**ELMWOOD DRIVE PARK**  
**BOROUGH OF ELMWOOD PARK**  
**BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

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## 1. Description of The Proposed Action

### a. Project Development

The Borough of Elmwood Park, within the County of Bergen, operates Elmwood Drive Park. The property is shown on the Borough Tax Maps as Block 211, Lot 5 and currently provides a playground and open grass areas for use by the residents. The Borough is proposing to enhance the property with features more fitting for outdoor gatherings. As part of the project, the property will be supplemented with a sheltered picnic area, a designated area for lawn games, and barbeque facilities. A proposed masonry utility building is proposed in support of the facilities needed to operate and maintain the park. Along with these additions are picnic benches with sun shelters to be placed near the existing playground area and a parking lot to provide off-street parking.

### b. Project Objectives

The objective of this project is to bring new use to the existing Elmwood Drive Park. The Borough is attempting to bring a new resource to residents, by providing a space for families and large groups alike to have outdoor gatherings with enough space for barbeque and other activities.

### c. Phased Projects

The proposed additions come as a single-phase project. Upgrades such as the parking lot, picnic shelter, utility building, barbeque area, picnic benches, and lawn sport area would all be completed in a single phase.

## 2. Description of The Environment

### a. Vegetation & Wildlife

The subject property is approximately 1.98 acres. The majority of the property consists of a large lawn area with adjacent large trees. According to the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection Natural Heritage Priority Sites, there are no endangered or threatened species in the location of the project site.

### b. Geology, Topography, and Soils

The Bedrock underneath the site is identified as Conglomeratic Sandstone. According to NJ GeoWeb, the soil on site is classified as Late Wisconsinan Glacial Delta Deposits, a sandy soil with pebble to cobble gravel, minor silt, yellowish brown, reddish brown, and light gray color. This soil can be as much as 150 feet thick. This site also features a small piece of Rahway Till, a clayey silt to sandy silt soil with some to many pebbles and cobbles and few boulders.

### c. Water Resources/Hydrology

The site is located within the Passaic River Lower (Saddle to Pompton) watershed. The area is not located within a regulated flood plain. There are no known rivers or brooks flowing nearby the site. The site reportedly has a ground water recharge area of 11 to 15 in/yr.

### d. Historic/Archeological Resources

The site is located on the Piedmont province. The Piedmont province has historically been a source of kyanite, granite, granite-gneiss, marble, and most significantly coal and gold. The site itself has no historical significance and is not located nearby any historical landmarks.

#### e. Transportation/Access to Site

The site is surrounded by sidewalk on three sides making it easy for pedestrians to access the site. The bus route along nearby Mola Boulevard makes the site accessible for people lacking automobile transportation. A paved parking area is proposed in the northwest corner of the site for visitors. Street parking is available around the entire park.

#### f. Adjacent Land Uses/Description of the Surrounding Neighborhood

The site is located within the R-9 Residential District. The district holds a principal use of single-family housing on properties which have a minimum 5,000 square feet in lot area.

### 3. Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action

#### a. Long-Term Impacts

##### Stormwater Runoff

The stormwater management facilities for the park will be designed in accordance with the Elmwood Park Ordinances. The project will not disturb more than 0.25 acre of new impervious surface, nor will it disturb more than one acre of disturbance. This project will have no negative impact on flooding.

##### Reduction in Vegetation

There is no significant reduction in vegetation. The majority of the open grass space on this lot will be maintained. However, the project includes re-grading, fertilizing and over-seed to enhance the health of the vegetation.

##### Traffic

The addition to the picnic shelter on site would bring a small difference to the traffic that can already be seen moving through this neighborhood and visiting this park. Being that the picnic shelter will likely be designed to only have about 6 tables, the maximum amount of people using the park for larger events is not expected to cause any issue regarding traffic. It is anticipated that the majority of those using the park will be within walking distance.

##### Noise

When increasing the amount of people using the park, it can be assumed that noise will increase as a result. The park is not intended to be used after dusk, allowing for the Borough to regulate the time when nearby residents should expect more noise and foot traffic. The property will be used in conformance with the noise restrictions set forth in Elmwood Park's Municipal Code Section 3-1.

#### b. Short-term Project Impacts

##### Traffic

The portion of the park under construction will be closed. The existing playground may continue to stay open. With small construction involved for the entrance to the street, the Elmwood Park Police Department will be consulted to provide traffic safety on that portion of the road.

## Noise

The park will be closed during construction. The nature of the noise from the park will be different, changing from primarily voices during games to construction vehicles. The construction will be in conformance with the noise restrictions of the Elmwood Park Borough Code.

## Soil Erosion/Sedimentation/Dust

Construction activities increase the potential for soil erosion, sedimentation, and dust. The project will be designed and implemented in accordance with the Standards for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control as enforced by the Bergen County Soil Conservation District.

### c. Recreational Use

This project will increase the opportunities for recreational use and overall use of the site over time. The plans to store sports equipment for the residents to use when they utilize the park is bringing an opportunity to them that the Borough has never had.

### d. Adjacent Environmental Features

During construction, the appropriate Soil Erosion and Sediment Control measures will be taken to minimize the impact of soil moving and reseeded on adjacent properties.

### e. Permits

- Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Permit: Bergen County Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification.
- Borough of Elmwood Park Construction and Building Code Review.

### f. Endangered Wildlife

The project does not propose to impact undisturbed portions of the project site. According to NJ GeoWeb, there is no indication of endangered species or wildlife on or near the project site.

### g. Impacts of Sea Level Rise

The site is not proximate to tidal areas that would be impacted by sea level rise. The site is located approximately 50 feet above sea level.

## 4. Alternatives to The Proposed Action

Acknowledging that the Borough's goal is to provide a park suitable for barbeque gatherings and recreational activities, the following alternatives are offered:

- Construct a new park in a different location: The Borough does not currently control land suitable for a new park, so substantially more taxpayer money would be spent if any are found to be available. In addition, the proposed site is already cleared and is available to be graded for this use. Bringing a new location to this condition would likely require considerably more clearing, land disturbance and construction activity, also at the expense of the taxpayer.
- Use a different existing park to provide these upgrades for: There are very few parks in town suited for these kinds of renovations. Birchwood Park, being the only similar park, is already enhanced

with a basketball court, and can be utilized to host sporting events. Elmwood Drive Park is relatively undeveloped with open space appropriate to install a picnic shelter and expect people to host gatherings there.

## 5. Mitigating Measures

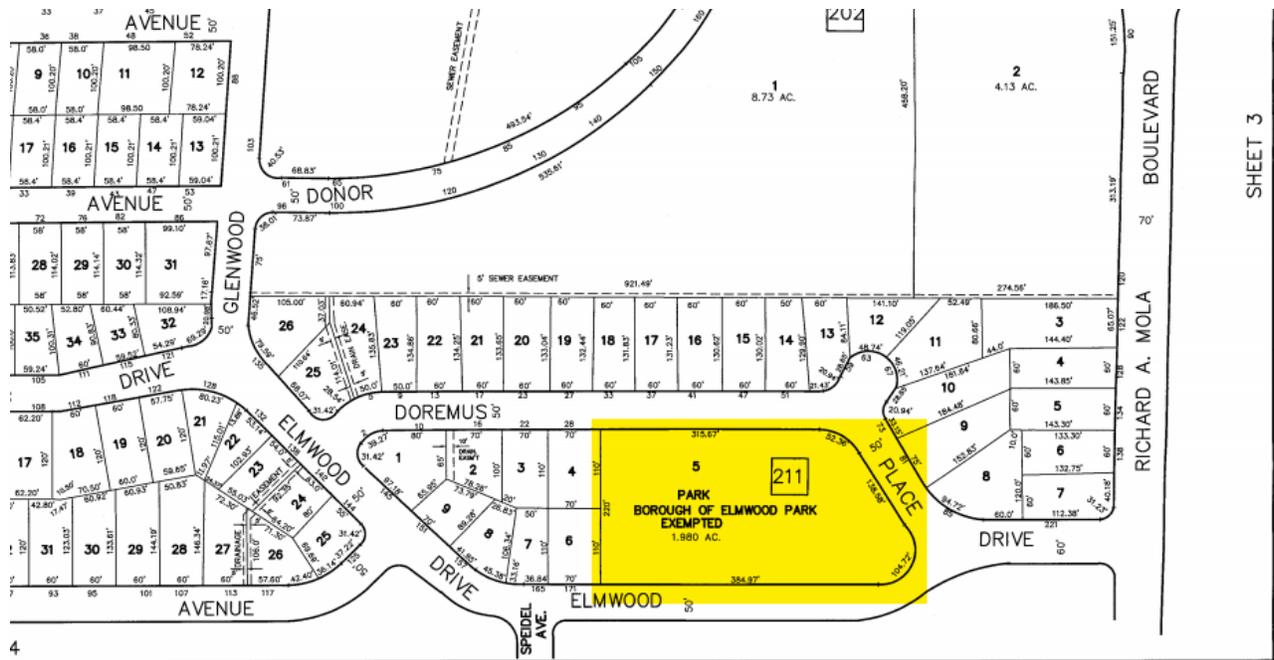
Although some trees plan on being removed as part of this project, special care will be taken during construction to protect the trees to remain.

Soil erosion and sediment control measures, such as the use of silt fences and gravel construction pads at entrances of the site, will be used to minimize sediment transport off site. The construction plans will be accompanied by a Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, certified by Bergen County Soil Conservation District.

Facilities will be provided to mitigate the increase impervious surfaces related to the improvements.

Contractors will maintain a consistent construction schedule and operate within the approved construction hours. All construction equipment will be required to meet current noise and emission standards.

# APPENDIX A



SHEET 3

03-20-17

Figure 1: Borough of Elmwood Park – Tax Map Sheet 2



Figure 2: FEMA Flood Map (partial 1 of 2)

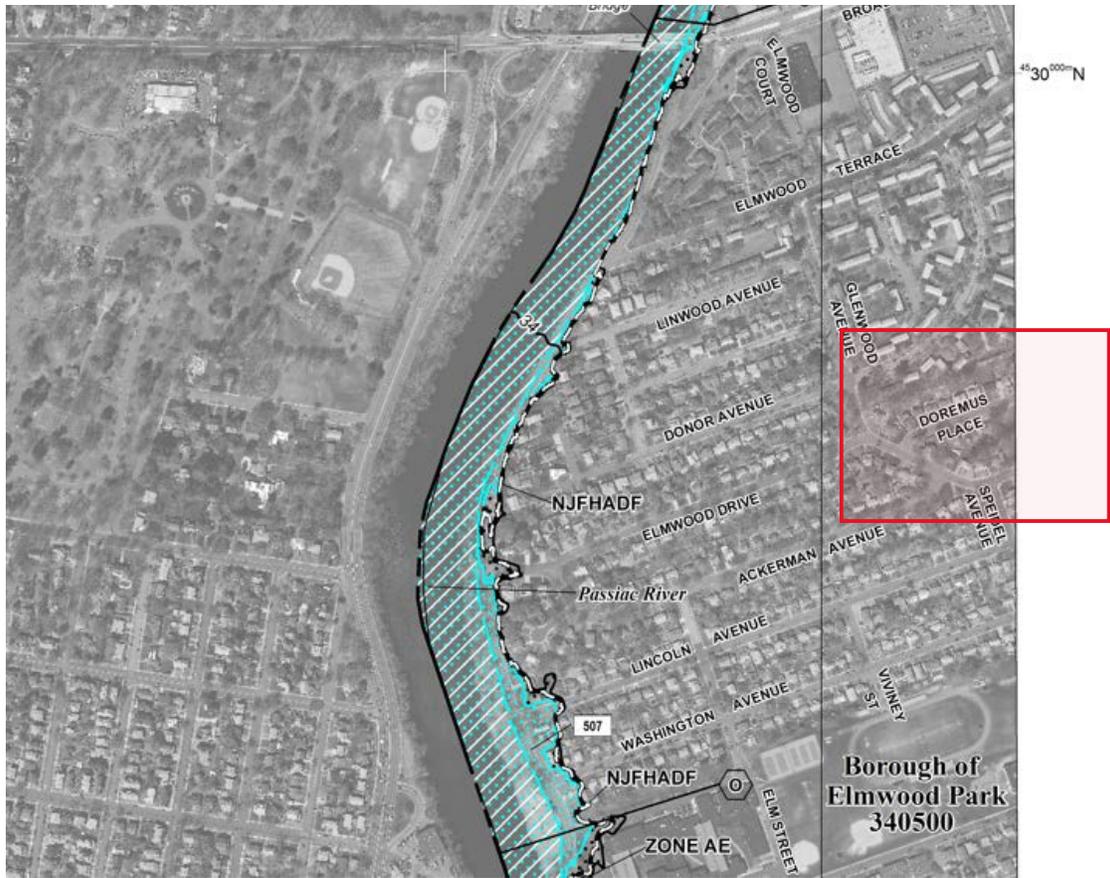


Figure 3: FEMA Flood Map (partial 2 of 2)

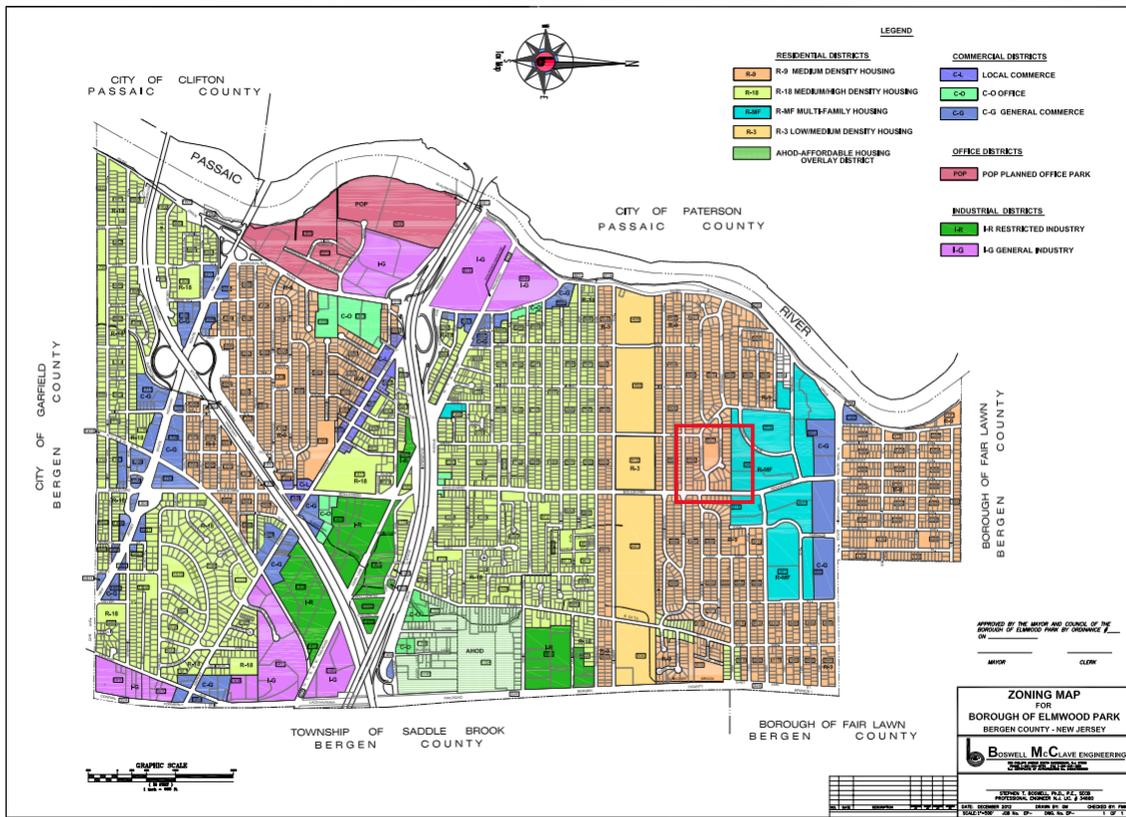


Figure 4: Borough of Woodland Park – Zoning Map



Figure 5: Soils Map (Excerpt taken from NJ GeoWeb)

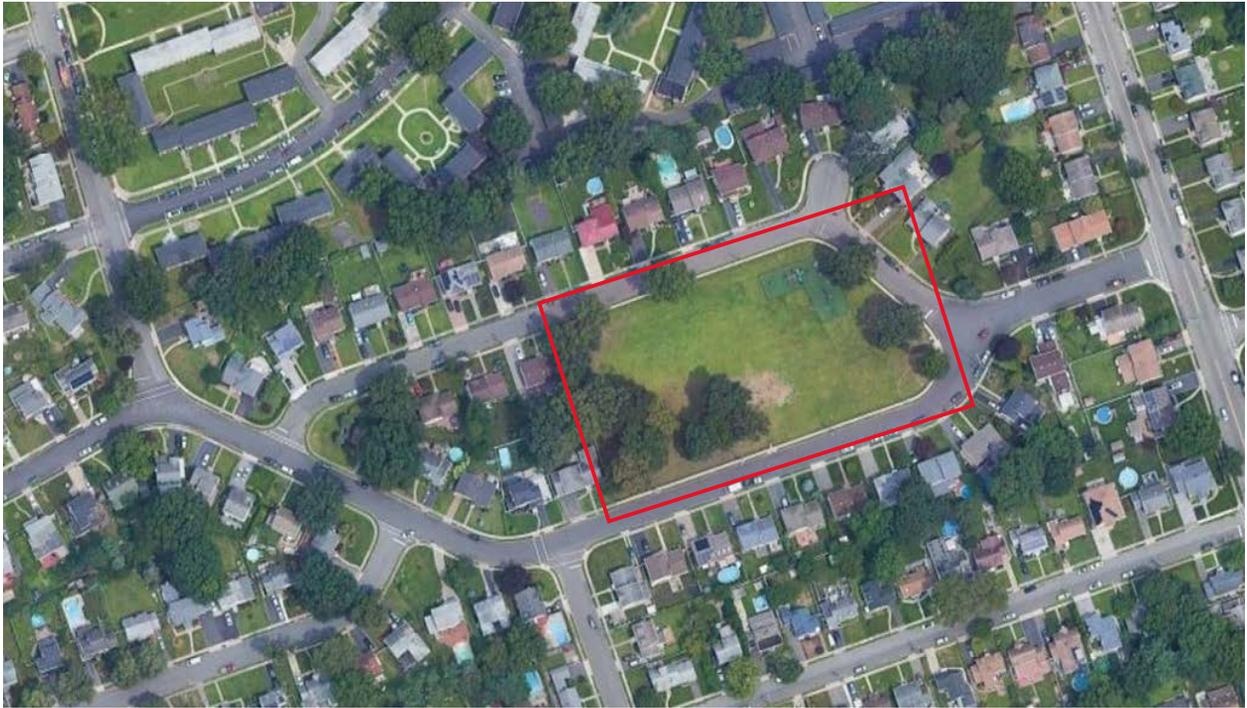


Figure 6: Aerial Map – Elmwood Drive Park