

George Latimer County Executive

July 28, 2021

Westchester County Board of Legislators 800 Michaelian Office Building White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is an amended Bond Act ("Amended Bond Act") which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to revise the scope of work authorized under Bond Act No. 142-2016 ("Act 142-2016") to include paving of an existing earth path, rehabilitation of existing pathways, masonry rehabilitation and associated work in connection with the following capital project:

RBR02 - Bronx River Reservation - Scout Field ("RBR02").

Act 142-2016 authorized the County to issue bonds in the amount of up to \$1,932,000 to finance the construction of improvements to the Scout Field area, including conducting earthwork and grading, placement of topsoil, installation of sub-surface drainage, installation of irrigation systems and other incidental work required to create a turf soccer field. The Budget Department has advised that \$141,797 has already been sold.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("Department") has advised that the scope of RBR02 has evolved over time, and the Department now seeks to expand the scope of work permitted under Act 142-2016 so that the remaining bonding authorization may be used to finance additional improvements.

Accordingly, the Amended Bond Act, in the total amount of \$1,932,000 would finance the cost of construction of improvements to the County's Scout Field, including conducting earthwork and grading, placement of topsoil, and additional site improvements, including but not limited to grubbing, installation of new pathways, rehabilitation of existing pathway, masonry rehabilitation, landscaping and associated work.

It should be noted that the Amended Bond Act would only change the scope of work authorized under Act 142-2016; the \$1,932,000 financing authorization amount does not represent an increase over the amount authorized by Act 142-2016.

The Department has advised that Scout Field is heavily used by the surrounding communities for both organized sports, as well as passive recreation opportunities. It is imperative that these facilities, and access thereto, be improved to meet the high demand for all users.

Office of the County Executive

Design is currently being undertaken by in-house staff and is expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2021. It is estimated that construction will take three to six months to complete and will begin after award and execution of construction contracts.

The Planning Department has advised that based on its review, RBR02 has been classified as an "Unlisted" action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR"). A Resolution, and proposed Negative Declaration, along with a Short Environmental Assessment Form, prepared by the Planning Department, are attached to assist your Honorable Board in complying with SEQR. Should your Honorable Board conclude that the proposed action will not have any significant impact on the environment; it must approve the Resolution adopting the Negative Declaration prior to enacting the aforementioned Amended Bond Act. As you know, your Honorable Board may use such expert advice to reach its own conclusion.

Based on the importance of this project to the County, favorable action on the proposed Amended Bond Act is respectfully requested.

Sincerely,

George Latimer County Executive

Attachments

HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK

Your Committee is in receipt of an amended bond act ("Amended Bond Act") which, if adopted, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County") to revise the scope of work authorized under Bond Act No. 142-2016 ("Act 142-2016") Capital Project RBR02 – Bronx River Reservation – Scout Field ("RBR02").

Act 142-2016 authorized the County to issue bonds in the amount of up to \$1,932,000 to finance the construction of improvements to the Scout Field area, including conducting earthwork and grading, placement of topsoil, installation of sub-surface drainage, installation of irrigation systems and other incidental work required to create a turf soccer field. The Budget Department has advised that \$141,797 has already been sold.

The Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("Department") has advised that the scope of RBR02 has evolved over time, and the Department now seeks to expand the scope of work permitted under Act 142-2016 so that the remaining bonding authorization may be used to finance additional improvements.

Accordingly, the Amended Bond Act, in the total amount of \$1,932,000, which was prepared by the law firm Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, would finance the cost of construction of improvements to the County's Scout Field, including conducting earthwork and grading, placement of topsoil, and additional site improvements, including but not limited to grubbing, installation of new pathways, rehabilitation of existing pathway, masonry rehabilitation, landscaping and associated work.

It should be noted that the Amended Bond Act would only change the scope of work authorized under Act 142-2016; the \$1,932,000 financing authorization amount does not represent an increase over the amount authorized by Act 142-2016.

The Department has advised that Scout Field is heavily used by the surrounding communities for both organized sports, as well as passive recreation opportunities. It is imperative that these facilities, and access thereto, be improved to meet the high demand for all users. Design is currently being undertaken by in-house staff and is expected to be completed during the third quarter of 2021. It is estimated that construction will take three to six months to complete and will begin after award and execution of construction contracts.

The Planning Department has advised your Committee that based on its review, RBR02 has been classified as an "Unlisted" action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR"). A Resolution, and proposed Negative Declaration, along with a Short Environmental Assessment Form, prepared by the Planning Department, are attached to assist your Honorable Board in complying with SEQR. Should your Honorable Board conclude that the proposed action will not have any significant impact on the environment; it must approve the Resolution adopting the Negative Declaration prior to enacting the aforementioned Amended Bond Act.

It should be noted that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of your Honorable Board is required in order to adopt the Amended Bond Act. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the proposed Amended Bond Act.

Dated: , 20____. White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

| CAPITAL PROJECT | #: | X NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED | |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|
| SECTION A - CAPITAL BUDGET IMPACT To Be Completed by Budget | | | |
| GENERAL FUN | | SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND | |
| | Source of County Funds (check one): | Current Appropriations | |
| Change in Cases O | -1. | Capital Budget Amendment | |
| Change in Scope Or | niy | | |
| | SECTION B - BONDING AU To Be Completed by | | |
| Total Principal | PPU | Anticipated Interest Rate | |
| Anticipated A | nnual Cost (Principal and Interest): | | |
| Total Debt Ser | vice (Annual Cost x Term): | \$ - | |
| Finance Depar | tment: | | |
| S | SECTION C - IMPACT ON OPERATING BUD | | |
| | To Be Completed by Submitting Departme | ent and Reviewed by Budget | |
| Potential Relat | ted Expenses (Annual): \$ | • | |
| Potential Relat | ted Revenues (Annual): \$ | - | |
| | vings to County and/or impact of department | ment operations | |
| (describe in detail for current and next four years): | | | |
| - | | | |
| | | | |
| SECTION D - EMPLOYMENT As per federal guidelines, each \$92,000 of appropriation funds one FTE Job | | | |
| Number of Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs Funded: | | | |
| SECTION E - EXPECTED DESIGN WORK PROVIDER | | | |
| X County Staff | Consultant | Not Applicable | |
| Prepared by: | Ken Uhle | 2-11 | |
| Title: | Prog. Coodinator (Cap. Planning) | Reviewed By: M.T. | |
| Department: | Public Works & Transportation | Deputy Budget Director | |
| Date: | 7/27/21 | Date: $\frac{7/27/21}{}$ | |

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, there is pending before this Honorable Board an amended bond act ("Amended Bond Act") in connection with capital project RBR02 – Bronx River Reservation – Scout Field ("RBR02"); and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has determined that RBR02 would constitute an action under Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law, known as the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQR"); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to SEQR and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617), this project is classified as an "Unlisted action," which requires this Honorable Board to make a determination as to whether the proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

WHEREAS, the County of Westchester is the only involved agency for this action and, therefore, is assuming the role of Lead Agency; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with SEQR and its implementing regulations, a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared to assist this Honorable Board in its environmental assessment of this proposed action; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Board has carefully considered the proposed action and has reviewed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form and the criteria set forth in Section 617.7 of the implementing regulations and has identified the relevant areas of environmental concern, as described in the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form, to determine if this proposed action will have a significant impact on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the County Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester, State of New York, as follows:

RESOLVED, that based upon the Honorable Board's review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and for the reasons set forth therein, this Board finds that there will be no significant adverse impact on the environment from RBR02; and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the Clerk of the Board of Legislators is authorized and directed to sign the "Determination of Significance" in the Short Environmental Assessment Form, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, as the "Responsible Officer in Lead Agency"; to issue this "Negative Declaration" on behalf of this Board in satisfaction of SEQR and its implementing regulations; and to immediately transmit same to the Commissioner of Planning to be filed, published and made available pursuant to the requirements of Part 617 of 6 NYCRR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 - Project Information

Instructions for Completing

Part 1 – Project Information. The applicant or project sponsor is responsible for the completion of Part 1. Responses become part of the application for approval or funding, are subject to public review, and may be subject to further verification. Complete Part 1 based on information currently available. If additional research or investigation would be needed to fully respond to any item, please answer as thoroughly as possible based on current information.

Complete all items in Part 1. You may also provide any additional information which you believe will be needed by or useful to the lead agency; attach additional pages as necessary to supplement any item.

Part 1 - Project and Sponsor Information

Name of Action or Project:

Scout Field Pathway Improvements (RBR02)

Project Location (describe, and attach a location map):

Scout Field, northwest of Gramatan Avenue, along the northwest border of the City of Mount Vernon, Westchester County, New York

Brief Description of Proposed Action:

The installation of approximately 1,055 linear feet of 5-foot wide asphalt pathway along the south edge of Scout Field, on the east side of the Bronx River, leading to Gramatan Avenue. The Improvements will follow an existing dirt pathway, connecting an existing paved pathway to Gramatan Avenue, that has been created by frequent pedestrian use. Work for the project includes mechanical grubbing, installation of the new pathway, rehabilitation of existing masonry associated with the stairs and stone walls at Gramatan Avenue, and general landscaping restoration.

| Name of Applicant or Sponsor: | | Telephone: 914- | Telephone: 914-995-4400 | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--------------|-----|--|--|
| County of Westch | nester | | E-Mail: dsk2@w | E-Mail: dsk2@westchestergov.com | | | | |
| Address: | | | | | - | 17. | | |
| 148 Martine Aver | ue | | | | | | | |
| City/PO: | | -998 - 13 - | State: | Zip | Code: | | | |
| White Plains | | | NY | 1060 | | | | |
| Does the p administration | proposed action only involve the tive rule, or regulation? | legislative adoption of | f a plan, local law, ordinance, | | NO | YES | | |
| may be affecte | a narrative description of the inte d in the municipality and procee | d to Part 2. If no, cont | tinue to question 2. | | | | | |
| 2. Does the p | proposed action require a permit, | approval or funding fi | rom any other government Age | ency? | NO | YES | | |
| | ncy(s) name and permit or appro | | | | \checkmark | | | |
| b. Total ac c. Total ac | reage of the site of the proposed reage to be physically disturbed reage (project site and any conti trolled by the applicant or proje | ? guous properties) own | 10 acres <u>< 0.25</u> acres ed <u>807</u> acres | | · . | | | |
| Check all I □ Urban □ Forest ☑ Parkla | Agriculture | ning or near the propos | ed action: Commercial 🗹 Residential Other(Specify): | l (suburban) | | | | |

| 5. Is the proposed action, | NO | YES | N/A |
|--|----------|--------------|--------------|
| a. A permitted use under the zoning regulations? | | | IN/A |
| | | | |
| b. Consistent with the adopted comprehensive plan? | | | \checkmark |
| 6. Is the proposed action consistent with the predominant character of the existing built or natural landscape? | | NO | YES |
| | | | |
| Is the site of the proposed action located in, or does it adjoin, a state listed Critical Environmental Area? Name County & State Park Lands, Reason Exceptional or unique character, Agency:Westchester County, I If Yes, identify: 31-90 | Date:1- | NO | YES |
| | | | |
| 8. a. Will the proposed action result in a substantial increase in traffic above present levels? | | NO | YES |
| b. Are public transportation services available at or near the site of the proposed action? | | | 员 |
| c. Are any pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes available on or near the site of the proposed action? | | | |
| 9. Does the proposed action meet or exceed the state energy code requirements? | | NO | YES |
| If the proposed action will exceed requirements, describe design features and technologies: | | | |
| The project involves only the installation of a pathway. The project is not required to comply with state energy code requirement | <u>s</u> | \checkmark | |
| 10. Will the proposed action connect to an existing public/private water supply? | | NO | YES |
| If No, describe method for providing potable water: | ľ | | |
| Potable water is not needed for this project. | | \checkmark | |
| 11. Will the proposed action connect to existing wastewater utilities? | | NO | YES |
| If No, describe method for providing wastewater treatment: | | | |
| Wastewater treatment is not needed for this project. | | \checkmark | |
| 12. a. Does the project site contain, or is it substantially contiguous to, a building, archaeological site, or district | | NO | YES |
| which is listed on the National or State Register of Historic Places, or that has been determined by the Commissioner of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to be eligible for listing on the | | | |
| State Register of Historic Places? | ŀ | | |
| b. Is the project site, or any portion of it, located in or adjacent to an area designated as sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) archaeological site inventory? | | | |
| 13. a. Does any portion of the site of the proposed action, or lands adjoining the proposed action, contain wetlands or other waterbodies regulated by a federal, state or local agency? | | NO | YES |
| b. Would the proposed action physically alter, or encroach into, any existing wetland or waterbody? | ł | | |
| If Yes, identify the wetland or waterbody and extent of alterations in square feet or acres: | | | |
| The pathway will be between 10 feet to 30 feet from the north side of Laurel Brook, which is a perennial stream. Laurel Brook is a identified as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland (PEO1A) on the National Wetlands Inventory. | ilso | | |
| | | | |

| 14. Identify the typical habitat types that occur on, or are likely to be found on the project site. Check all that apply: | | | |
|--|-------|--------------|--|
| Shoreline 🗹 Forest 🗌 Agricultural/grasslands 🗹 Early mid-successional | | | |
| Wetland Urban Suburban | | | |
| 15. Does the site of the proposed action contain any species of animal, or associated habitats, listed by the State or Federal government as threatened or endangered? | NO | YES | |
| | | | |
| 16. Is the project site located in the 100-year flood plan? | NO | YES | |
| | | \checkmark | |
| 17. Will the proposed action create storm water discharge, either from point or non-point sources? If Yes, | NO | YES | |
| | | | |
| a. Will storm water discharges flow to adjacent properties? | | | |
| b. Will storm water discharges be directed to established conveyance systems (runoff and storm drains)? If Yes, briefly describe: | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 18. Does the proposed action include construction or other activities that would result in the impoundment of water | NO | YES | |
| or other liquids (e.g., retention pond, waste lagoon, dam)? If Yes, explain the purpose and size of the impoundment: | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| 19. Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the location of an active or closed solid waste management facility? | NO | YES | |
| If Yes, describe: | | | |
| | | | |
| 20.Has the site of the proposed action or an adjoining property been the subject of remediation (ongoing or | NO | YES | |
| completed) for hazardous waste? If Yes, describe: | | | |
| No nearby remediation sites were found. The nearby property at 812 Gramatan Ave is associated with a 2009 spill number (0812211) | | \checkmark | |
| for the failure of a tank test. The spill incident has since been closed. | | | |
| I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS TRUE AND ACCURATE TO THE BE MY KNOWLEDGE | ST OF | | |
| Applicant/sponsor/name: County of Westchester Date: July 23, 2021 | | | |
| Signature: | | | |
| | | | |

EAF Mapper Summary Report

| 5.5327:56 1.1-7003-100 1/9-9300-401-95006:1 5.5320-4 5.5327:29301 5.5320-4 5.532 | Disclaimer: The EAF Mapper is a screening tool intended to assist project sponsors and reviewing agencies in preparing an environmental assessment form (EAF). Not all questions asked in the EAF are answered by the EAF Mapper. Additional information on any EAF question can be obtained by consulting the EAF Workbooks. Although the EAF Mapper provides the most up-to-date digital data available to DEC, you may also need to contact local or other data sources in order to obtain data not provided by the Mapper. Digital data is not a substitute for agency determinations. |
|--|---|
| 19-9502-219-9500-12 19-9502-219-9500-12 19-9502-219-9500-12 5-5265-200 11.137003-110 159-62-1001-3 6-1/49-6-E/3/13 5-5265-200 11.137003-110 159-62-1001-3 159-63-2001-1 5-5265-200 11.137003-110 159-62-1001-3 159-70-2001-4 5-5266-13 159-70-1002-4 159-70-2001-4 5-5267-1 1.127003-1001-9-9005-50 159-70-1002-12 1.127003-1001-9-9005-50 159-70-1002-12 Wood | Teronto |
| 5:5267-3 5:5267-3 5:5267-3 5:5267-9151 5:5267-9152 5:5267-9151 5:5267-9152 5:5267-9152 5:5267-9151 5:5267-9152 5 | Cleveland Cleveland Pennsylvania Pittaburgh Event P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METT, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri s(gn@penStreet.Nap contributors, and the GIS User Comm unity |

| Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area] | Yes | |
|---|---|--|
| Part 1 / Question 7 [Critical Environmental Area - Identify] | Name:County & State Park Lands, Reason:Exceptional or unique character, Agency:Westchester County, Date:1-31-90 | |
| Part 1 / Question 12a [National or State Register of Historic Places or State Eligible Sites] | Yes | |
| Part 1 / Question 12b [Archeological Sites] | Yes | |
| Part 1 / Question 13a [Wetlands or Other Regulated Waterbodies] | Yes - Digital mapping information on local and federal wetlands and waterbodies is known to be incomplete. Refer to EAF Workbook. | |
| Part 1 / Question 15 [Threatened or Endangered Animal] | No | |
| Part 1 / Question 16 [100 Year Flood Plain] | Yes | |
| Part 1 / Question 20 [Remediation Site] | Yes | |

Agency Use Only [If applicable]

Project: RBR02 Scout Field Pathway Improvements

Date:

July 2021

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 2 - Impact Assessment

Part 2 is to be completed by the Lead Agency.

Answer all of the following questions in Part 2 using the information contained in Part 1 and other materials submitted by the project sponsor or otherwise available to the reviewer. When answering the questions the reviewer should be guided by the concept "Have my responses been reasonable considering the scale and context of the proposed action?"

| | | No, or small impact may occur | Moderate to large impact may occur |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 1. | Will the proposed action create a material conflict with an adopted land use plan or zoning regulations? | \checkmark | |
| 2. | Will the proposed action result in a change in the use or intensity of use of land? | \checkmark | |
| 3. | Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of the existing community? | | |
| 4. | Will the proposed action have an impact on the environmental characteristics that caused the establishment of a Critical Environmental Area (CEA)? | | |
| 5. | Will the proposed action result in an adverse change in the existing level of traffic or affect existing infrastructure for mass transit, biking or walkway? | \checkmark | |
| 6. | Will the proposed action cause an increase in the use of energy and it fails to incorporate reasonably available energy conservation or renewable energy opportunities? | | |
| 7. | Will the proposed action impact existing: a. public / private water supplies? | | |
| 12 | b. public / private wastewater treatment utilities? | | |
| 8. | Will the proposed action impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources? | \checkmark | |
| 9. | Will the proposed action result in an adverse change to natural resources (e.g., wetlands, waterbodies, groundwater, air quality, flora and fauna)? | | |
| 10. | Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding or drainage problems? | \checkmark | |
| 11. | Will the proposed action create a hazard to environmental resources or human health? | \checkmark | |

Project: RBR02 Scout Field Pathway Improvements Date: July 2021

Short Environmental Assessment Form Part 3 Determination of Significance

For every question in Part 2 that was answered "moderate to large impact may occur", or if there is a need to explain why a particular element of the proposed action may or will not result in a significant adverse environmental impact, please complete Part 3. Part 3 should, in sufficient detail, identify the impact, including any measures or design elements that have been included by the project sponsor to avoid or reduce impacts. Part 3 should also explain how the lead agency determined that the impact may or will not be significant. Each potential impact should be assessed considering its setting, probability of occurring, duration, irreversibility, geographic scope and magnitude. Also consider the potential for short-term, long-term and cumulative impacts.

The project will pave and formalize an existing dirt pathway that is currently being used by the public to access Gramatan Ave. The informal pathway runs parallel to Laurel Brook and connects the existing western pathway to Gramatan Ave via a prefabricated footbridge and masonry stairway. The footbridge is not involved in any project activities. Access to the site will be by way of the existing western pathway. Any damage done to this pathway will be repaired or replaced as necessary. Ancillary work will include rehabilitation of the stairway and associated stone wall, mechanical grubbing, and general landscaping.

The project lies within the 100 year floodplain. Soils present at the site include frequently flooded Fluvaquents-Udifluvents complexes, which are poorty drained in this location. As the project involves only the paving of a 5-foot wide pathway with no changes to grading, flood flows will not be altered in any way. The project will have no significant impact to the floodplain.

The project is adjacent to the Laurel Brook, which is a small perennial stream and classified as PFO1A on the National Wetlands Inventory. The project does not involve any work within the stream bed or banks and will not involve the application of any pesticides or herbicides. The conversion of the existing dirt pathway to paved asphalt and the additional landscaping as part of the project will reduce the potential for erosion. Silt fencing and erosion controls will be implemented to protect the stream during construction. As such, and because the project will not alter stormwater flows, the project will have no significant impact on the wetlands or the stream.

Scout Field is included in the Westchester County Parks CEA, which was designated to protect the many valuable characteristics of parks from the negative impacts of nearby development. As the project includes only improvements to the park which will improve accessibility, the project will have no significant adverse impact on the characteristics of the CEA.

The northern portion of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, Scout Field is located outside of the designated area. Scout Field was also labeled as moderately sensitive to archaeological findings in a 2007 Phase 1 report conducted for the Bronx River Parkway Reservation. However, as the project involves only superficial ground disturbance necessary for the installation of a pedestrian pathway and the in-kind rehabilitation of an existing paved pathway, the project will not disturb site archaeology and will have no significant impact on historic or archaeological resources.

The site was flagged by the EAF Mapper as being proximate to a remediation site. However, no remediation sites were identified at or adjacent to the project location. One spill report from 2009 was identified, involving a failed tank test. The spill incident has since been closed. The project will involve only superficial ground disturbance necessary for the installation of pathways, and will not involve the disturbance of any contaminated soils or water. As there are no nearby remediation sites and the project involves only minimal ground disturbance in areas with clean soil, the project will have no significant impact on human health and safety.

Because of the lack of significant impacts associated with this project to the subjects listed in this assessment, this project will result in no significant adverse impacts to the environment.

Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action may result in one or more potentially large or significant adverse impacts and an environmental impact statement is required.
 Check this box if you have determined, based on the information and analysis above, and any supporting documentation, that the proposed action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.
 County of Westchester
 Name of Lead Agency

| Name of Lead Agency | Date | |
|--|---|--|
| Malika Vanderberg | Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators | |
| Print or Type Name of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency | Title of Responsible Officer | |
| Signature of Responsible Officer in Lead Agency | Signature of Preparer (if different from Responsible Officer) | |