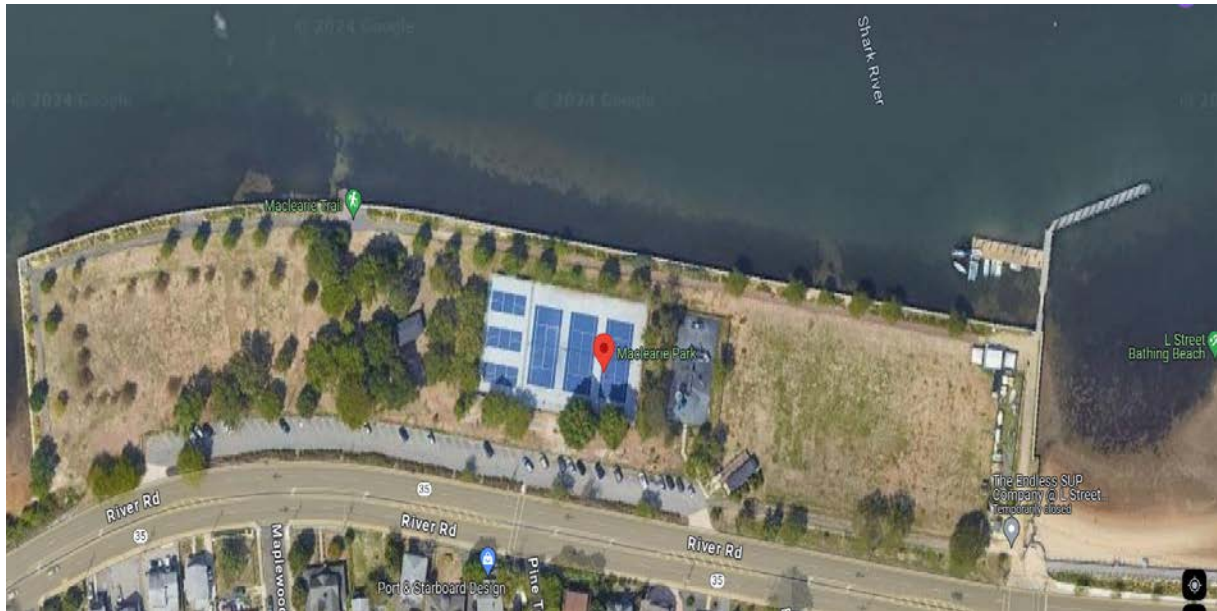


**Environmental Impact Assessment
Maclearie Park
Proposed Pickleball Courts and Waterfront Boardwalk
Block 225 Lot 1**

**Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County, New Jersey
NJDEP Green Acres Park Development Application
January 22, 2024**

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Project Description:

The project site is currently known as Maclearie Park, known as Block 225 Lot 1, situated along the Shark River, Fronting on River Road (Route 35), in the Borough of Belmar, Monmouth County NJ. The current park amenities include waterfront access to the Shark River, a playground, three tennis courts, three pickleball courts, a pavilion, a boardwalk along the riverfront, and traprock screening stone path along the waterfront. The site is mostly cleared with a few trees located along the walking paths and in the pavilion area. There are also ADA Compliant restroom facilities at the site along with the off-street parking.

The proposed project is to construct three new pickleball courts in the vicinity of the existing three pickleball courts. The pickleball court locations was selected to best accommodate the proposed use and expand the existing pickleball use. We do expect that some of the trees in the area of the pickleball courts will need to be removed and we expect to replace these trees in the same general vicinity, adjacent to the existing pavilion. In addition, the application includes the installation of boardwalk style walkway along the waterfront to replace the existing stone pathway. The Borough feels that the boardwalk walkway is more in keeping with the maritime theme and waterfront access.

The objective of this project is to expand the current recreation opportunities at Maclearie Park and improve the waterfront experience at the park. The project is expected to be completed in one phase.

Existing Environmental Conditions:

The existing environmental conditions are such that the park is currently fully developed. On the east side of the site, there is a passive recreation area that is utilized for various sports, and general enjoyment for the views and vistas. In the center of the site, there is a playground, tennis courts, and a pavilion. On the west side of the site, there is more passive recreation area for general enjoyment of the waterfront and views. There is also an ADA Complaint restroom facility. Along the waterfront there is a seawall, boardwalk and stone path.

The site is generally landscape with some trees but is predominantly cleared and improved with the aforementioned facilities. The surface cover is predominantly natural grass turf. The site is located in the Atlantic Coastal Landscape Region 1 as shown on the NJDEP Landscape Layers.

From the NJDEP Landscape Viewer

- The site is located in the sewer service area.
- The site is recognized as a recreational land use.
- The land cover is Urban.
- The site is located in the CAFRA Zone.
- The site is on the Natural Heritage Grid Map
 - The site may be home to Small Waterwort, Death-Camus, Parker's Pipewort and Coast Flat Sedge

While not specifically mapped on the Landscape project, the site is home to various wildlife typically to the shore area, such as migratory birds, common squirrels, rabbits, geese, etc.,. To the best of our knowledge, the site is not home to critical or endangered species.

The site is generally flat with well-drained soil. The soil on site consists of oh historic fill type soils. There are no wetlands or vernal pools on the site.

To the north, east and west, the site is bounded by the Shark River. To the south is River Road (Route 35) and a residential area, making this a residential community park.

Environmental Impact Analysis of the proposed Park

The project site is a fully developed park. The development of the three pickleball courts and walking trail will have little to no impact on the environmental features at the site. The pickleball courts will be approximately 7500 sf (0.17 acres) of impervious coverage, less than the definition of major development associated with storm water management. The construction of the courts will be such that surface runoff will be directed to grass areas where natural inflation can occur. No stormwater will be directed to the Shark River. It is expected that the courts will require the removal of three to four scrub pines and four deciduous trees. There will be tree replacements of similar size and type as a part of this project. No other impacts are expected.



Where the boardwalk is proposed, there will be no disturbance beyond the boardwalk footprint and the new walkway will be secured to resist floatation.

The project is not expected to increase the number of parking spaces required as sufficient parking is available and the park is a community park with many people choosing to walk to the site.

Permits that may be required include:
Local planning board courtesy review
Monmouth County Soil District
NJDEP CAFRA

Alternatives to the Proposed Project:

The project is an expansion of the current recreation opportunities that currently exist at Maclearie Park. The park is a very successful and highly utilized recreation facility within the Borough of Belmar. Belmar did evaluate other possible locations for pickleball, and this site was selected in part to complement the existing three pickleball courts, but also to complement the other activities such as tennis courts, playgrounds, and passive recreation. The impacts of the proposed development are very minor in nature. The remaining passive recreation areas will be more than sufficient area for the park. The proposed boardwalk will complement the existing boardwalk and enhance the maritime experience and waterfront access.

Mitigation Measures:

The mitigation measures proposed are limited to the replacement of the seven trees expected to be lost to accommodate the court installation. No other mitigation measures are proposed. All disturbed areas will be established with native grass ground cover.