



Engineering  
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# Environmental Impact Assessment

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## Burnham Park, Morristown, NJ: Green Acres Grant Application

Colliers Engineering & Design Project Number: 23002565P

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Prepared by:

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## Environmental Impact Assessment Outline

### 1. Description of the Proposed Project

- a. **Brief Description:** The Town of Morristown plans to hydro-rake the Lower Pond of Burnham Park. A temporary construction entrance will be installed near the south side of the pond off of Burnham Parkway to provide access to the existing landing. Approximately 4 to 8 feet of vegetation from the bottom of the pond will be removed. After the debris from the bottom of the pond has been removed, it will be hauled off and properly disposed.
- b. **Objective:** The intent of hydro-raking is to remove nuisance and rooted vegetation at the bottom of the pond. Removing the vegetation will improve water quality issues in the pond, reduce odor, and reduce nuisance algae blooms. Hydro-raking the pond is desired routine maintenance because this method has minimal environmental impacts, does not require drainage of the pond, and will prevent or prolong the need for future dredging.
- c. **Phases:** For this application, the Town of Morristown intends to hydro-rake only the Lower Pond of Burnham Park due to anticipated funding restraints. Morristown plans to hydro-rake the Lower Pond of Burnham Park at a later date.

### 2. Description of the environment

- a. **Vegetation:** Vegetation around the pond includes: Red Maple (*Acer rubrum*), River Birch (*Betula nigra*), and Tall Ironweed (*Vernonia gigantea*).
- b. **Wildlife:** Threatened and endangered wildlife in the area includes: Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Tricolored bat (*perimyotis subflavus*), and Bog Turtle (*Glyptemys muhlenbergii*). There are no critical habitats at this location.
- c. **Soils/topography:** The Project Area is mostly flat urban land with two (2) ponds. Soils in the surrounding areas include:
  - PawE: Parker-Rock outcrop complex, 25 to 45 percent slopes
  - USGKAC: Urban land-Gladstone complex, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- d. **Water resources/Hydrology:** The following table identifies water resources within Burnham Park, in the immediate vicinity of the Project.

Wetland Type	Cowardin Classification Code*	Count	Acreage
Freshwater Pond	PUBHx	1	3.25
	PUBHx	1	4.24
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1C	1	0.61
Riverine	R5UBH	2	0.03

e. **Historic/archeological:** A background review was conducted and consisted of a cultural resources and literature review of the Project area. A qualified archaeologist consulted with the New Jersey State Museum to review data for any previously recorded surveys, historic or prehistoric sites, and cemeteries located in or near the Project area. Additionally, New Jersey's cultural resources GIS online map viewer (LUCY), a public online database, was viewed to identify publicly available information on historic structures, historic districts, and NRHP-listed properties located in or near the Project.

Based on the review, there are no cultural resources or known surveys documented within or adjacent (within 300 feet [91.4 meters]) to the Lower Pond of Burnham, nor the entire park. However, an extension of the Morristown historic district is 0.3 mile (0.48 kilometer [km]) southwest of the Project area and the Millville Historic and Archaeological District is 0.23-mile (0.37 km) west of the Project area.

f. **Site access:** The site is located in a developed urban park area, accessible by car through Burnham Pkwy to the south of the ponds. The area is also pedestrian and bike accessible via existing paths and trails.

g. **Adjacent land:** The Project is within a developed sub-urban and park area surrounded by recreational and residential areas.

### 3. Environmental Impact Analysis of Proposed Action

a. **Discuss all affected resources and the significance of each impact:** Affected resources will be limited to the Lower pond and its immediate vegetative order. The impact of the pond includes removal of invasive vegetation which will eventually grow back, but the intent of the Project is to improve aeration, water levels, water quality, etc. of the pond for the benefit of the public. Because there are no cultural resources in the immediate vicinity, there will be no impacts to historic properties.

b. **Discuss short-term and long-term project impacts:** Short term impacts will include: removal of invasive species within the pond and potential placement of stone paving for vehicle and equipment access that will be removed after Project completion and all areas returned to their pre-disturbance level of maintenance. There are no anticipated adverse long term Project impacts, only efforts to improve water quality, drainage, and public use.

c. **Discuss anticipated increase in recreation and overall use of site over time:** Once the Project is complete, it is anticipated that there will be increased recreation including fishing, boating, and other water activities and thus more overall use of the park by the public.

d. **Identify adjacent environmental features that may be affected by the proposal:** No adjacent environmental features will be affected by the Project.

e. **List any permits required for project and brief status:** No permit is required for the proposed Project.

f. **National Heritage Data Request Forms:** N/A

g. **Discuss if/how the project may be impacted by sea level rise and any related design considerations:** N/A

#### 4. Alternatives to the Proposed Action

a. **Identify alternate sites:** N/A

b. **Discuss alternate levels and types of development:** N/A

c. **Compare environmental impacts of each alternative:** N/A

#### 5. Mitigating Measures

As no adverse impacts are anticipated, there are no needed mitigation measures for this Project.

#### 6. Monitoring, Evaluation and Long-Term Maintenance (For Restoration/Enhancement Projects)

a. **Identify specific and measurable outcomes:** the outcomes from this project will be removal of invasive species within the Lower pond to improve water quality issues in the pond, reduce odor, and reduce nuisance algae blooms.

b. **Long-term maintenance:** The applicant will monitor invasive vegetation growth to ensure that the improved water quality, aeration and public use of the pond are maintained.

#### 7. Authors and Qualifications:

Lauren Maas, M.A., RPA

- Secretary of the Interior's Standards (SOI) qualified archaeology; cultural resource specialist

Kristi Bodine, M.S.

- SOI qualified architectural history

Logan Smart

- Botany/Wetland scientist

Alex Ramirez

- Threatened and Endangered Species specialist

Donte Martinez

- Environmental Technician



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