

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

January 2025

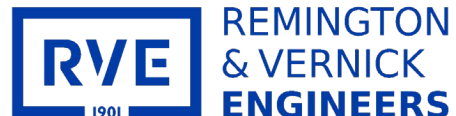
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**Owens Park Amphitheater, Monroe Township, NJ – Green Acres Grant  
Application  
Portion of Block 13001, Lot 16**

Prepared For

**Monroe Township**

**Prepared by:**  
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RVE Project Number: 0811G018



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As part of the Green Acres funding proposal, each applicant must collect, evaluate, and present pertinent environmental information necessary to ascertain the suitability of the site for the activities proposed. Please review and consider the applicable Landscape Project maps and reports, developed by the DEP's Division of Fish and Wildlife, during the preparation of the environmental assessment. Information about the Landscape Project can be found at [www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape/index.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensp/landscape/index.htm) or by emailing the Division at [www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/contactform.htm](http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/contactform.htm).

### OUTLINE

#### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

**a. Briefly describe the total development project:**

Monroe Township proposes completing the following improvements as part of the Owens Park project:

- Construction of an amphitheater.
- Construction of 4,575 square yard parking lot, including the construction of ADA parking stalls.
- Construction of asphalt walking/circulation paths.
- Construction of an aboveground stormwater basin.

**b. State objectives of the project:**

The main objective of the project is to improve the park with the construction of an amphitheater. This improvement to the park will help to promote entertainment for the surrounding community and to allow multiple age groups to enjoy the activities. The construction proposed is expected to have a minimal impact on the environment.

**c. Fully describe multi-phase projects:**

The construction of the improvements is proposed to be completed in one phase.

#### 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**a. Vegetation:** According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Division of Fish and Wildlife, Owens Park is located in the "Pinelands" Landscape" region of New Jersey. Owens Park is comprised of varying landscapes including wooded, wetland, and mowed lawn areas. The project area consists of a former developed agricultural property. No trees are present in proximity to the proposed amphitheater. The project area is bordered by grass lawn areas to the north, south, east, and west.

**b. Wildlife:** According to the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Owens Park is located within the "Piedmont Plains" Landscape region and there are no species of protected wildlife indicated at, or within 50-feet of, the site.

- b. Geology, topography and soils:** According to the NJDEP Division of Fish and Wildlife, Monroe Township is located in the southwestern section of the “Piedmont Plains Landscape” landscape region of New Jersey, with the “Pinelands Landscape” located to the south and southeast of the landscape region.

The site is underlain by the Bridgeton Formation which consists of sand, clayey sand, pebble gravel, minor silt and cobble gravel; reddish-yellow, red, yellow, white, very pale brown. Sand commonly includes weathered feldspar. As much as 40 feet thick.

The project area is relatively flat, located at approximately one (150) feet above mean sea level, and is located in an area of Block 13001, Lot 16 that generally slopes to the east southeast toward Hospitality Creek.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Conservation Service, the project area soils consist of “Woodstown-Glassboro Complex sandy loam (WokA),” 0 to 2 percent slopes. The capacity of the most limiting layer to transmit water is Moderately high to high (0.60 to 6.00 in/hr.).

Typical Woodstown-Glassboro Complex sandy loam (WokA) profile:

- Ap – 0 to 8 inches: sandy loam
- Bt1 – 8 to 26 inches: sandy loam
- B2 – 26 to 30 inches: sandy loam
- B3 – 30 to 36 inches: sandy loam
- C – 36 to 80 inches: loamy sand

- d. Water resources/hydrology:** According to NJDEP’s NJ-GeoWeb, Owens Amphitheater is located over the Kirkwood-Cohansey (kcas) aquifer system, a “B-A”-ranked aquifer (median yield of 250 to 500 gpm) composed of underground, water-saturated layers of sand, fine gravel and some clay-like material. The Kirkwood-Cohansey aquifer is highly permeable with water that is typically fresh, acidic, highly corrosive, and low in dissolved solids. Because it is so shallow, it is easily polluted by fertilizers and other chemical sprays or spilled on the ground surface.

Monroe (Williamstown) Township averages approximately 48 inches of rain and 20 inches of snow annually, which flows to Hospitality Creek and eventually to Great Egg Harbor.

- e. Historic/archeological resources:** According to NJDEP’s NJ-GeoWeb, the proposed project area is not located in a Historic Archaeological Site area.

- f. Transportation/access to site:** Ingress and Egress into the proposed amphitheater area is from Clayton Road and into a driveway.

- g. Adjacent land uses/description of the surrounding neighborhood:** According to NJDEP’s NJ-GeoWeb and NJPropertyFax, Block 13001, Lot 16 has a classification designated as “Class: 15-C – Public Property with the owner identified as the “125 Virginia Ave. (Township Offices) Owens Park is located in a mixed-use residential, recreational, institutional, rural, and forested areas not in proximity to the proposed amphitheater. There are schools and forested areas to the north, forested land and residential developments to the east, a mix of forested land, wetlands, and single-family residential dwellings and commercial to the south. A dog park and Owens Park Field 2 improved with athletic fields is located to the west.

### 3. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

- a. **Discuss all affected resources and the significance of each impact:** The new amphitheater will be impervious and built on an existing area currently comprised of sandy loam that will not require tree clearing, thus no natural resources are expected to be impacted.
- b. **Discuss short-term and long-term project impacts:** Short-term impacts to the environment from installing an amphitheater not expected since construction will be taking place on an undeveloped portion of land.  
  
Long-term impacts include an increase in usage of the amphitheater by residents of all ages for recreational purposes, another expected impact. The park is currently undeveloped. The park will be opened to a range of times which will be decided in the future.
- c. **Discuss anticipated increase in recreation and overall use of site over time:** Currently, the park is undeveloped. Once the amphitheater is constructed it should begin to see controlled use by the Township and its residents.
- d. **Identify adjacent environmental features that may be affected by the proposal:** There are no adjacent environmental features that will be affected by the proposed amphitheater. The area surrounding the proposed amphitheater is located in a mixed-use residential, recreational, rural, and sporadic wooded areas of Monroe Township, surrounded by multi-family residential developments and institutional uses.
- e. **List any permits required for project and brief status**  
Gloucester County Soil Conservation District Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Permit.
- f. **National Heritage Data Request Forms:** The proposed amphitheater area will be built on previously developed lands. The construction will not impact on any undisturbed portions of the property.
- g. **Discuss if/ how the project may be impacted by sea level rise and any related design considerations:** The project area is not expected to be impacted by sea level rise. The project area is located at approximately one hundred-fifty (150) feet above mean sea level and is located in a mixed residential, recreational, rural, and forested area of Washington Township. The project area is located in an area of Monroe Township that generally slopes to the east/southeast towards Hospitality Creek.

According to review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Panel 34015C0217E, effective 01/20/2010 for Monroe Township the project area is not located within a flood hazard area, but Zone A flood plains present at the southeast portion of the property. Zone A chance of flooding is 1% annually. The proposed amphitheater is approximately 0.1-mile northwest of the Zone A designation.

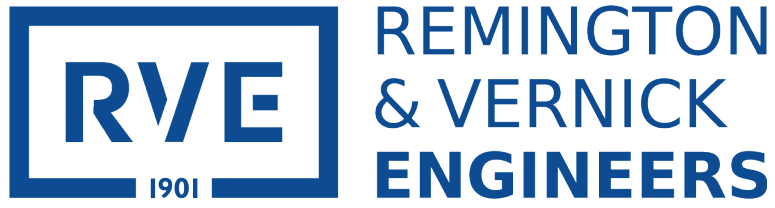
#### 4. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

- a. **Identify alternate sites:** While the Township owns several other properties where construction could take place, no location has the necessary space, access, etc. to be better suited for the construction of an amphitheater.
- b. **Discuss alternate levels and types of development:** Alternative materials to cover the ground surface are possible but they need to utilize materials that conform with the American with Disability Act (ADA). There are some materials like porous pavement that could provide some limited infiltration and still be ADA compliant (i.e. porous pavement). Outside the ADA areas it may be possible to use gravel, sand or shredded materials.
- c. **Compare the environmental impacts of each alternative:** Installing sand, pea gravel, or wood mulch/chip on surface would create a more pervious surface to drain stormwater runoff and excess would be directed towards the basin. There are other materials that could achieve infiltration and are ADA compliant.

Environmentally, the installation of a gravel parking lot would be more conducive to stormwater infiltration but would cost more to maintain due to rutting from turning movements within the drop-off area. ADA compliant materials would need to be utilized in the parking areas. Stormwater that does not infiltrate would be directed to the basin.

#### 5. MITIGATING MEASURES

No adverse impacts are anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required for this project. However, operation and maintenance manuals will be produced for this site to ensure that future adverse environmental impacts are avoided or minimized. Additionally, any disturbed areas will be restored as soon as possible and practically.



**END OF REPORT**