

SAMPLE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (Active) SECTION I

1. The purpose of the proposed project is to complete the development of a Master Plan consisting of \pm 40 acres, 10 of which are owned by the City of Orlando.

The City's portion of the project includes an existing community center. The community has grown and the Community Center master plan calls for the building to be expanded, a pool and bath house, and a playground is to be built.

School facilities will also be developed in future. Plans include one new softball ballfield, one baseball field soccer field, a track, multipurpose court and 4 basketball courts.

The property is located in the southeast quadrant of the City in a residential neighborhood. Currently, there are two schools on the 40 acres, Englewood Elementary and Stonewall Jackson Middle School.

2. The City has accepted competitive bids for the playground project and construction has been partially completed. Final completion of the playground is planned for March, 1999.
3. The major benefit will be a completely new playground facility designed for children of all ages, and pavilion areas for adults and seniors. Minor benefit would be completion of neighborhood beautification.
4. Further development on the site will include partnerships with Orange County Public Schools to renovate fields, etc. as discussed previously.

SECTION II

1. Land Use – zoned for public use \pm 40 acres. Current facilities include two schools and one community center, along with athletic fields, a small asphalt track, 4 combination basketball/tennis courts and a ballfield. There is no potential use for another building on the site; only athletic areas.
2. Topography – level land elevation; neighborhood park area; no water features or natural features other than vegetation.
3. Fish and Wildlife – no fish or water bodies. Wildlife includes song birds and squirrels. No endangered species known. Project will not affect local wildlife habitat as no demolition of site; only athletic areas.

4. Vegetation – Palms, oaks and pine trees along with palmetto bushes border the site to the east. Some trees exist in playgrounds and are providing shade. Rest of site is grass and adjoins ballfield open areas.
5. Geology and Soil – sandy soil commonly found in Florida, land is level.
6. Mineral Resources – none known or apparent.
7. Air and Water Quality – Good quality due to neighborhood setting located approximately ½ from closest major thoroughfare.
8. Noise – Neighborhood site. Low noise levels from local traffic.
9. Water Resource/Hydrology – no known natural water resources on site. Not flood prone, in flood plain or wetland.
10. Historic/Archaeological/Cultural Resources – none known. Have forwarded search letter to SHPO in Tallahassee for site review. (See Exhibit XI)
11. Transportation Access – a proposed bicycle route is planned for this area which will originate at La Costa Street, go north on Alicante Avenue, to Stonewall Jackson Road. Ample bicycle parking areas are provided in the master plan. A public bus route is located approximately 3 blocks from the park. All neighborhood streets are paved and curbed.
12. Socio-Economic Characteristics – Local area is primarily built out and is home to a mixed population, approximately 66% minority groups. Estimated 1996 households, 9847; average household income \$40,127; projected population 2001 is 25,143; population by race is: White 19,591, Black 1,938, Asian/PI 606, other 3008, and Hispanic 7,382. Projected households in year 2001 is 10,945 and projected income is \$50,096. Current 1996 population density is 5,590 person/sq. mile. Population by age in 1996 for ages 0-20 years is 6149; age 21-44 is 10,179 and ages 45 to 85 is over 5,687.

SECTION III

1. Land Use – Project is compatible with surrounding land use and will cause a positive conversion of the land. There are no potential health or safety problems.
2. Topography – Site is suitable for intended use and is currently being used in that manner as a picnic area.
3. Fish & Wildlife – no fish exist on site. Squirrels and birds are present. No endangered species are found.

4. Vegetation – no are vegetation exists – Palms, Oaks, and Pines, as well as Palmettos are present. There will be no impact on these plants as this site is already open for the proposed purpose.
5. Geology & Soils – sandy soil, well percolated. No rock formations, underground wiring or waste disposal exists.
6. Mineral Resources – no impact exists on mineral resources. There are no reserved mineral rights on site.
7. Air and Water Quality – there will be no effect on air and water quality.
8. Noise – project will not increase noise levels as park will not be lighted at night. Project should not increase traffic on neighborhood roads as most users walk or ride bikes to park.
9. Water Resources/Hydrology – there are no water resources present. Project will involve constructing playground equipment, shelters and tot lot with minimal disruption to soil. No DER/DEP permits are required for affected area.
10. Historic/Archaeological/Culture Resources – letter has been sent to State Historic Preservation Office for review of the site. None of the above resources are apparent on the site.
11. Transportation – there should be no negative affect on local transportation system. Present street system is sufficient.
12. Socio-Economic Characteristics – no competitive situation with private enterprise will be created. Socio-economic factors are addressed in the narrative section and include a 1996 average family income of \$40,127 and a population of 25,143 within one mile of the park. Sixty-six percent of the population are minorities (Black, Asian/PI, Other & Hispanic).

SECTION IV

The grant would be the most beneficial use for the site as it will assist the city, schools and community is finalizing the master plan for recreational facilities and park amenities in the area.