

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM
2024 PARK DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

COUNT BASIE PARK
BLOCK 97.01 LOT 41

Red Bank Borough, Monmouth County,
New Jersey

Prepared by:



CONSULTING AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS

1460 Route 9 South, Howell NJ, 07731

June 2021
Revised November 2023

File: HRB00003.01



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INTRODUCTION

As required by the NJDEP Green Acres Program application, an environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with the required outline of topics to review pertinent environmental information necessary to ascertain the suitability of the site for the proposed development.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

Count Basie Park is a 14.5 acres public recreation area owned by the Borough of Red Bank, Monmouth County. It is located between the New Jersey Transit railroad tracks to the east, and South Pearl Street to the west. The main entrance to Count Basie Park is located off of Henry Street, and leads to the public parking lot. Public parking consists of both regular and ADA accessible parking stalls, approximately 103 stalls in total. Overall park amenities consist of five baseball fields, two soccer fields, two basketball courts, one football field, track and field sports areas, a small playground, bleachers for both home and away teams, and a public parking lot.

Red Bank Borough is proposing the installation of a new press box and set of bleachers at Count Basie Park. These improvements will consist of the removal of the existing bleachers and press box structure and construction of new bleachers and press box in its place. No expansion of any other park amenities such as parking areas, sports fields, walking trails, or playground equipment is proposed under this project. The project will be constructed in a single phase; however, implementation can be phased depending on available funding.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Count Basie Park exists within a suburban/urban neighborhood in the Borough of Red Bank. The park environment consist of a parking lot, basketball courts, baseball fields, soccer fields, a football field and track, and small playground



area. No wetlands, wetlands transition areas, streams, riparian zones, or flood hazard areas exist within the park.

Vegetation

Onsite vegetation is minimal and consists only of maintained grass lawn and few trees. The bleachers and press box are located on an area of paved impervious surface. Removal of the existing bleachers and press box, and installation of the new structure will not cause any impacts to vegetation.

Wildlife

The property hosts a variety of general urban/suburban wildlife species. Potential mammal species found on or near the site include white tail deer, small rodent species, gray squirrels, skunks, raccoons, and opossums. Bird species found in the area include waterfowl such as mallard ducks and Canada geese; raptors such as ospreys, and other hawk species. Additionally various migratory birds can also be seen during different seasons. These species include but are not limited to robins, grackles, tufted titmice, nuthatches, and various sparrow species. The NJGeoWeb GIS database does not identify any area of the park as habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

Geology, Topography, and Soils

The topography of the site has a gradient that slopes from west to east across the site from the park's frontage on Henry Street toward the rail road tracks. The site is completely underlain by Shrewsbury Member bedrock geology. This geological formation is comprised of fine-to-coarse grained quartz sand. Surficial geology on site is the Cape May Formation, which consists of sand, pebble gravel, minor silt, clay, peat, and cobble gravel. Typical colors associated with this soil series are very pale brown, yellow, reddish yellow, white, olive yellow,



and grey. These soils can be as much as 200 feet thick on the Cape May peninsula, but are generally less than 50 feet thick elsewhere in the State.

The Freehold-Urban Land Complex is the single soil series within the site. The Freehold-Urban Land Complex consists of well drained sandy loam soils. It is not rated as a hydric soil, and is not prone to ponding or flooding. A Soil Survey Map is provided in the appendix of this report.

Water Resources/Hydrology

There are no water sources within the park. Mohawk Pond is the nearest water source to the Park, and is located immediately to the southwest of the southern parking lot. As discussed above, the Freehold-Urban Land Complex consists of well drained soils. These soils are classified as Hydrologic Soil Group "B", which indicates that the soils have a high infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted. Even further to the west of the site, about 0.6 miles, is the Swimming River.

Historic Archeological Resources

A review of the NJ GeoWeb GIS Database did not identify any known areas of historic preservation within the proposed project site. The project site is not located within any archaeological grid, historic property, or historic district.

Transportation and site access

Count Basie Park can be accessed by way of Henry Street or Park Place. Access to the public parking lot for this park is located off of Henry Street, and from this location the public can easily access all sports fields, walking trails, and the playground. The existing public parking lot has approximately 71 regular parking spaces, and 3 ADA accessible parking spaces. The project improvements do not propose to expand the amount of parking, or impervious surface at Count Basie Park.

Adjacent Land Uses and Surrounding Neighborhood

The project site is located in the suburban neighborhood of Red Bank Borough. To assess the land types for this section, the land use/land cover 2015 layer of the NJ GeoWeb database was consulted. According to NJ GeoWeb, the park lot is classified as recreational land. The lots that border to the north and south are classified as commercial services and urban land. These parcels host several commercial businesses such as a car dealership and food and beverage retailers. The parcels to the west are classified as residential, high density or multiple use dwellings. To the immediate east are railroads that are part of the NJ Transit system, and beyond that are more commercial businesses.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Proposed Actions:

1. Removal of existing bleacher structure;
2. Construct new homeside bleachers, consisting of 1985 seats;
3. Construct new press box, approximately 8 FT deep by 30 FT wide;
4. Electrical upgrades;

a,b) Project Impacts: All impacts that are proposed under this project will take place within previously disturbed areas. Due to the highly developed condition of the project site, no new impacts will occur to the regulated areas such as riparian zone, wetlands or wetlands transition area. The nature of the proposed activities is such that it will not cause adverse secondary impacts to the area in and around the project site. No trees will need to be cleared from the site to construct the new bleachers. The natural overland flow of stormwater onsite will not be disturbed by the construction of the new bleachers.



c) Site Use: Currently the project site exists as a well-developed public park, and is categorized as recreational land. The park consists of five baseball fields, two soccer fields, two basketball courts, one football field, track and field sports areas, a small playground, bleachers for both home and away teams, and a public parking lot.

d) Significant Environmental Features: The closest significant environmental feature to the project site is the Mohawk Pond. No regulated areas are located within the project site. No wetlands, wetlands transition areas, riparian zones or flood hazard areas are located on the project site. Count Basie Park is also located outside of the NJDEP CAFRA regulatory zone. Finally, the park is not classified as habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

e) Permits required for this project include:

1. Freehold Soil Conservation District Certification;
2. Construction permits as required under UCC;
3. No NJDEP permitting is required for this project;

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Under other circumstances the Borough would reviewed several alternative options and locations for the construction of a project. However, due to the very limited nature of the project improvements and the absence of NJDEP regulated areas within or near the project site, no real alternatives for this project exist for consideration. The urban area surrounding the site and well developed condition of the park allow for the proposed park improvements to be constructed without any impacts outside of previously disturbed areas, in addition to no NJDEP regulated areas being located onsite. The project will not create any increase in the amount of impervious surface onsite, or change the ground cover onsite in a way that would affect the way stormwater accumulates on or leaves the site.



Replacement of the bleachers and press box will have no adverse effects on the human environment, nor will it adversely affect any wildlife species. With these considerations it was assessed that there are no alternative means and methods to construct the proposed improvements that would create less environmental impacts, because this project will not cause any measurable environmental impact.

MITIGATING MEASURES

- a) The proposed improvements will not trigger the need for wetlands or riparian zone mitigation as all work is proposed within previously disturbed areas of the park and is outside of any regulated areas.
- b) No trees will be cleared for the removal of the existing structure or the installation of the new structure.
- c) Any additional lighting to be installed will be equipped with shielding to prevent light spillage outside the area of the fields and be placed on timers to ensure energy conservation and limited adverse impacts to neighboring residents.
- d) Park rules and hours would be clearly posted and enforced to maintain a good quality of life for adjacent residents.

CONCLUSION

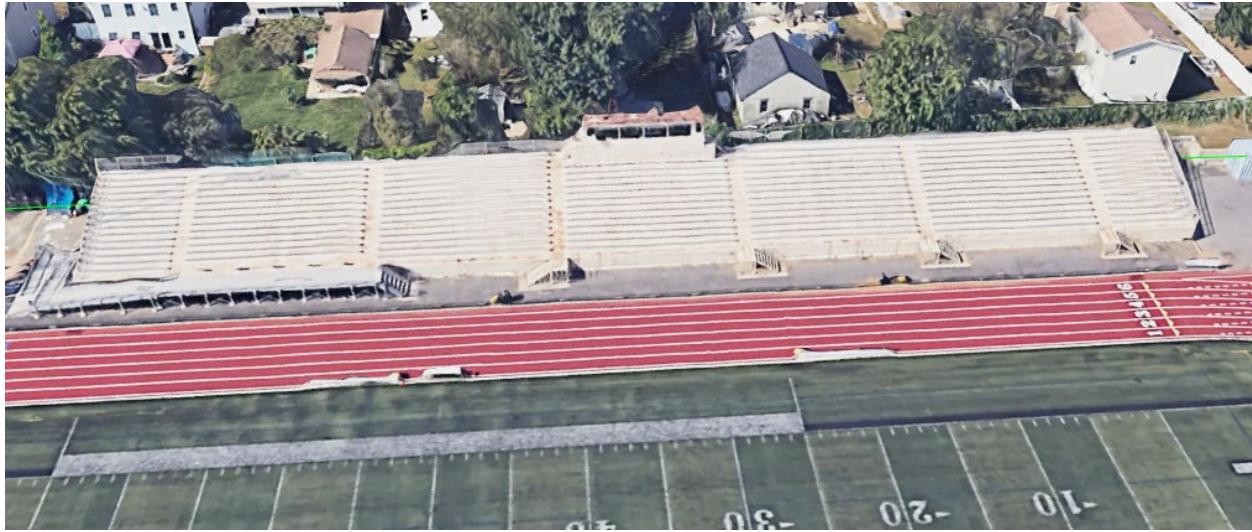
This Environmental Assessment has been prepared as part of the Borough's 2024 application to the Green Acres Program for park improvements at Count Basie Park. A review and assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed development has led the Borough to select the proposed improvement actions to offer an enhanced recreational facility to its Borough's residents. Environmental impacts to local wildlife, environmentally sensitive areas, and the community are virtually non-existent due to the developed



Green Acres 2024 Park Development Application

condition the site and location of the new bleachers within and area of existing impervious surface.

BLEACHER REPLACEMENT PROJECT – COUNT BASIE PARK, RED BANK, NJ



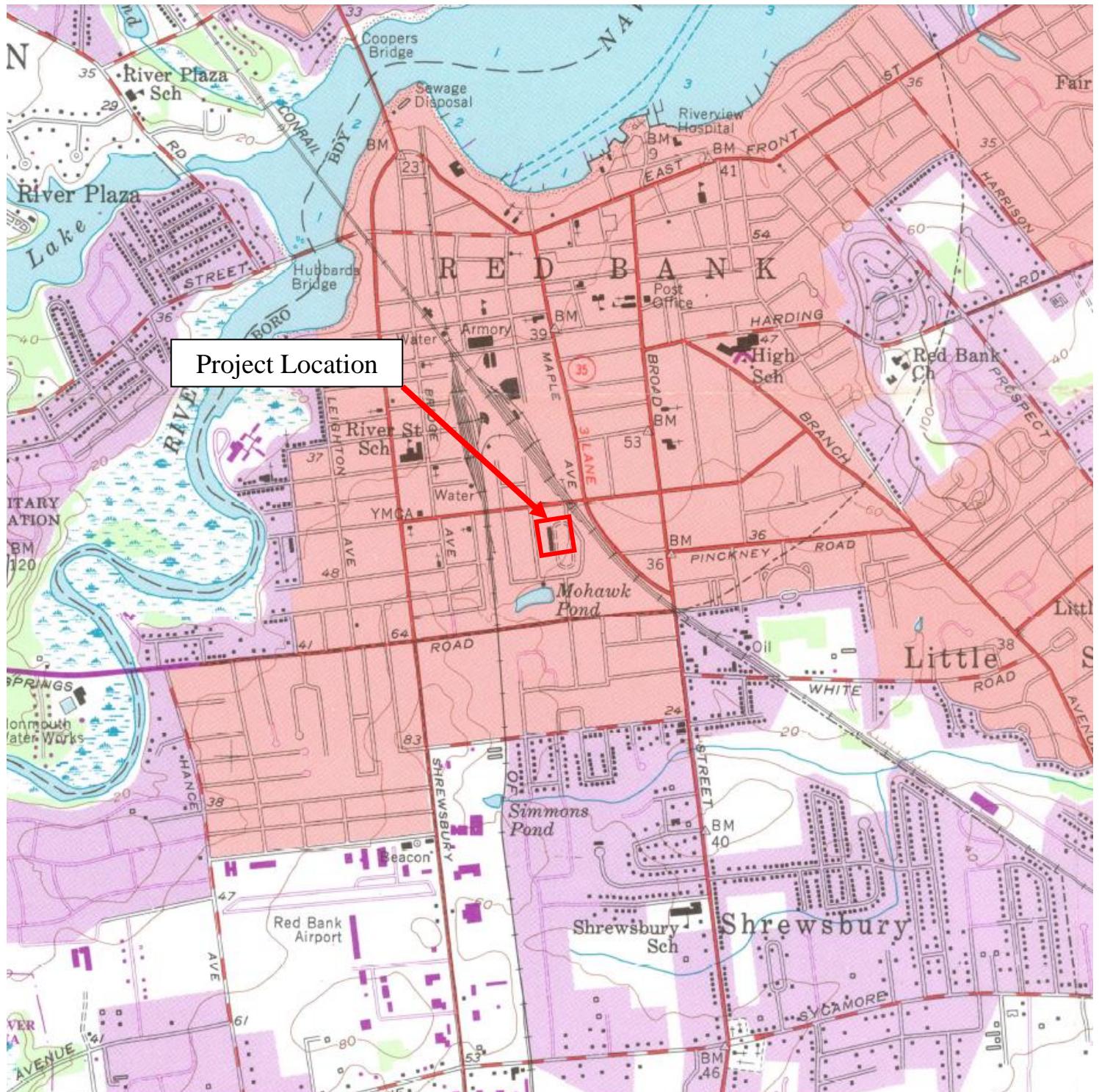
LARGE BLEACHER SECTION 270' X 40'



SMALL BLEACHER SECTION 120' X 15'



PROJECT LOCATION



U.S.G.S. QUAD MAP
Count Basie Park

SHEET: Long Branch Quadrangle
LOCATION: Count Basie Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank Borough
COUNTY: Monmouth County
BLOCK: 97.01 **LOT:** 41
FILE NO: HRB00003.01



CONSULTING AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS
 3141 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, PARLIN, NEW JERSEY 08859 — 1460 ROUTE 9 SOUTH, HOWELL, NEW JERSEY 07731

610000 FT

JOINS PANEL 0177

74°03'45"
40°20'3



FEMA MAP
Count Basie Park

PANEL: 0179F (effective September 25, 2009)

LOCATION: Count Basie Park

MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank Borough

COUNTY: Monmouth County

BLOCK: 97.01 **LOT:** 41

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3141 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, PARLIN, NEW JERSEY 08859 — 1460 ROUTE 9 SOUTH, HOWELL, NEW JERSEY 07731



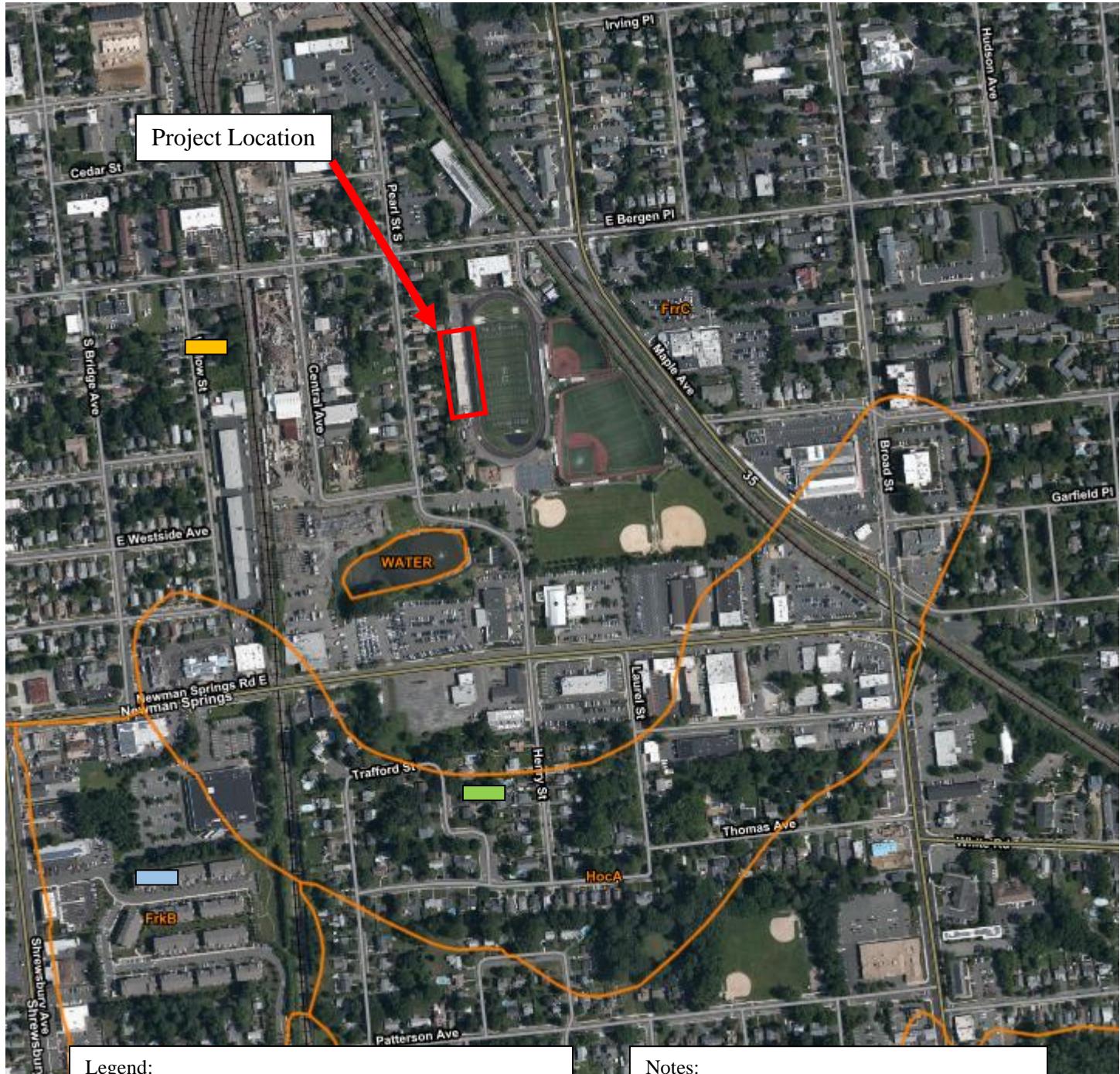
LOCATION MAP
Count Basie Park

LOCATION: Count Basie Park
MUNICIPALITY: Red Bank Borough
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SOIL SURVEY MAP

Count Basie Park

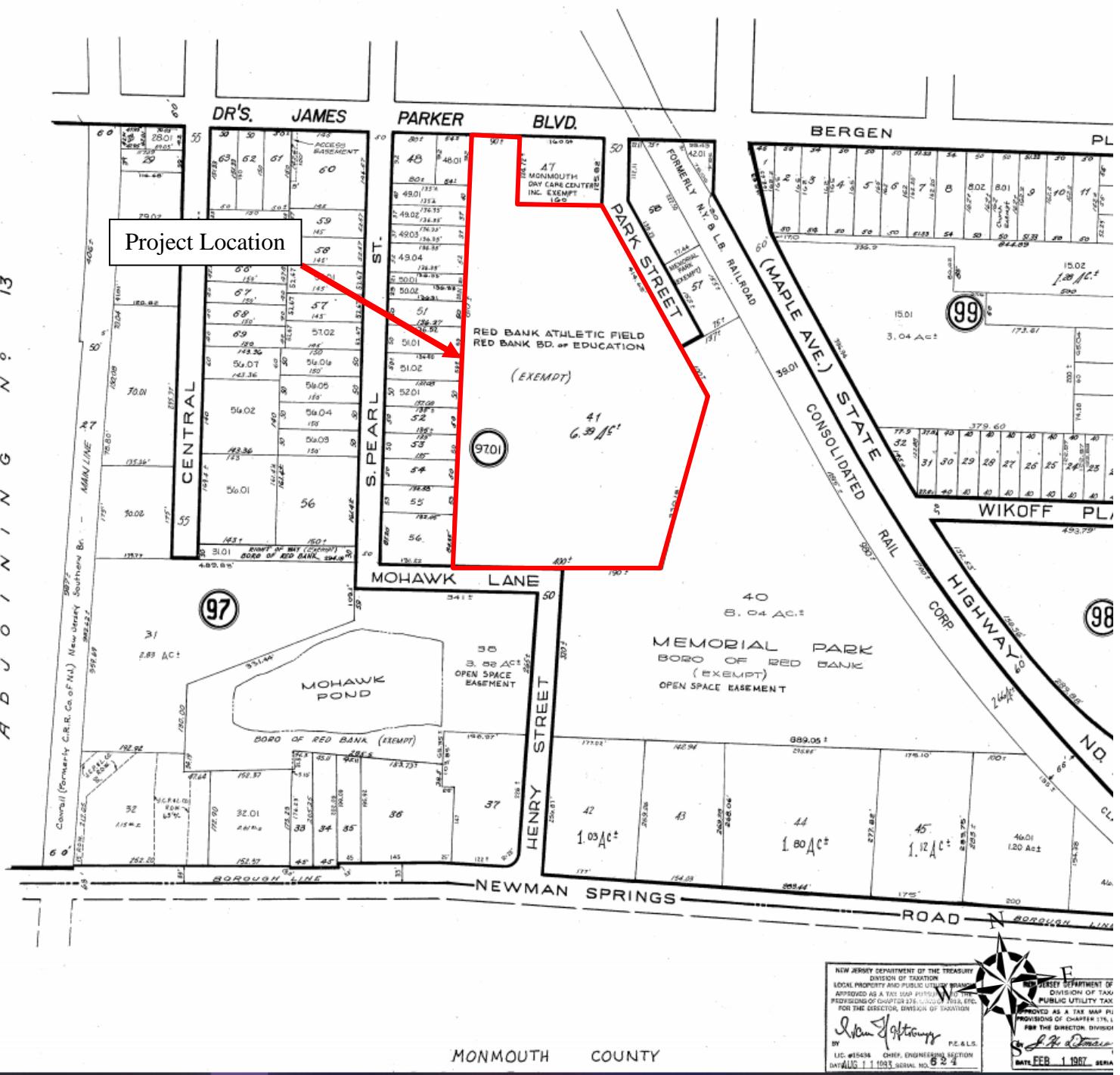
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LOCATION TAX MAP
Count Basie Park

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