



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

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Commissioner

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Joshua R. Laird
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Planning & Parklands

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TO: Robert Kulikowski, Director
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination

FROM: Joshua Laird, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Parklands

DATE: June 20, 2012

RE: **Notice of Lead Agency Designation; Positive Declaration; Notice of Scoping**
USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project
CEQR No. 12DPR005Q
ULURP No. Pending
Project area: Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens
Surrounding Community Districts #3, 4, 6, 7, 8

In accordance with Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review, found at Title 62, Chapter 5 (CEQR) and the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and its implementing regulations as set forth in NYCRR Part 617, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR) proposes to assume the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the project as described below.

The assumption of lead agency status is consistent with the underlying mandate of CEQR that the appropriate lead agency should be the agency “primarily responsible for carrying out, funding or approving an action,” as well as with the criteria listed in Sections 5-03 (h) and 5-05 of the Rules of Procedure for CEQR. The affected property is park land under the control or jurisdiction of NYCDPR.

NYCDPR is conducting a coordinated environmental review for the proposed project. Your agency has been identified as a potentially involved or interested agency for the review and approval of the proposed action. If you have questions or issues concerning this agency’s assuming lead agency status for this project, please contact us by **Friday, July 6, 2012**. If we do not hear from you by this time, we will assume that you have no objections.

Project Description:

The Billie Jean King NTC Strategic Vision, proposed by USTA National Tennis Center, Incorporated, involves proposed improvements and an expansion to the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC). The 42-acre NTC is one of the world’s largest public recreational

tennis facilities, and is located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens, on park land leased from DPR. For 11 months of the year, NTC facilities are open to the public for indoor and outdoor tennis. The NTC is also host to the US Open tennis tournament, one of the sport's four Grand Slam championship tennis tournaments. The proposed project would improve the NTC site plan, circulation, visitor amenities, and landscaping, and would include construction of two new stadiums to replace the existing Louis Armstrong Stadium in the same location and the Grandstand Stadium in a new location at the southwest corner of the NTC site, improvements to Arthur Ashe Stadium, a temporary stadium on the site of Louis Armstrong Stadium for one US Open tournament during construction, and two new parking garages. The project would add up to 1.02 acres to the NTC site, including up to 0.76 acres of park land that would be alienated, and 0.26 acres of previously-alienated park land that is currently not covered by the NTC lease. Further details about the proposed project are set forth in the attached Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS).

Positive Declaration and Notice of Scoping

Based on the preliminary review of the EAS and its supporting analysis, NYCDPR, as lead agency, has determined that implementation of the above action may have a potential for significant effects on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) must be prepared. Accordingly, NYCDPR has issued a Positive Declaration for CEQR No. 12DPR005Q. A copy of the Positive Declaration is attached to this Notice.

This Positive Declaration is accompanied by the EAS and a Draft Scope of Work for the preparation of a DEIS. A copy of the Scoping Document may be obtained by any member of the public at: <http://www.nycgovparks.org/parks/fmcp>.

A Public Scoping Meeting will be held on **Monday, July 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.** at the:

USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center
Indoor Training Center at David Dinkins Circle
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Flushing, New York 11368
By car: Meridian Road, Parking Lot B
By subway: No. 7 to Mets-Willets Point

Questions or comments regarding the lead agency designation, the Positive Declaration or the proposed project should be directed to:

Joshua Laird, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Parklands
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401
New York, New York 10065
Telephone: 212-360-3402
Fax: 212-360-3453
Email: Joshua.laird@parks.nyc.gov

Oral and written comments on the Draft Scope of Work can be submitted at the Public Scoping Meeting. Written comments can also be sent to NYCDPR at the above address, fax number, or email address. Written comments will be accepted by NYCDPR at the above address or by fax or email through Friday, August 3, 2012.

Attachments:

- Distribution List
- Environmental Assessment Statement
- Positive Declaration
- Draft Scope of Work

Distribution List

Amanda Burden, Chair, New York City Planning Commission
Jackie Snyder, Executive Director, New York City Public Design Commission
Cesar A. Perales, Secretary of State, New York State Department of State
Rose Harvey, Commissioner, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

cc: Helen Marshall, Queens Borough President
Barry Grodenchik, Queens Deputy Borough President
Toby Ann Stavisky, New York State Senator
Jose Peralta, New York State Senator
Michael Simanowitz, Assembly Member
Jeffrion Aubry, Assembly Member
Christine Quinn, Speaker, City Council
Julissa Ferraras, City Council
Leroy Comrie, City Council
Peter Koo, City Council
Karen Koslowitz, City Council
Mark Weprin, City Council
Jim Gennaro, City Council
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Anthony Moreno, Chair, Community Board 4
Joseph Hennessy, Chair, Community Board 6
Eugene T. Kelty, Jr., Chair, Community Board 7
Alvin Warshaviak, Chair, Community Board 8
Nanette Smith, Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Administration
Angela Cavaluzzi, Director, Mayor's Office of Capital Project Development
Haeda Mihaltses, Director, Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Matt Gorton, City Legislative Affairs
Reggie Thomas, City Legislative Affairs
John Young, New York City Department of City Planning
Robert Dobruskin, New York City Department of City Planning
Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
Naim Rasheed, New York City Department of Transportation
Michelle Samuelson, New York City Department of Transportation
Carter Strickland, Commissioner, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Angela Licata, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Terrell Estes, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Amy Ma, New York City Department of Environmental Protection
Kate Levin, Commissioner, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
Alicia West, New York City Public Design Commission
David J. Burney, Commissioner, New York City Department of Design and Construction
Dee Harris, New York City Department of Design and Construction
Eric Macfarlane, New York City Department of Design and Construction
Merrill Hesch, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
George Stafford, Director, New York State Department of State, Coastal Resources