

Chapter 20: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

There are a number of resources, both natural and built, that would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed project. These resources include the materials used in construction; energy in the form of fuel and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the proposed project; and the human effort (i.e., time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various components of the proposed project.

The resources are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The proposed project constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the project site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible, at least in the near term.

These commitments of land resources and materials are weighed against the benefits of the proposed project. As described under “Purpose and Need” in Chapter 1, “Project Description,” the purpose of the proposed project is to sustain the long-term viability of the NTC as a world-class spectator venue and outstanding public recreational facility. It would result in much needed improvements to the visitor experience and provide substantial long-term economic benefits to Queens, New York City, and the region. The proposed project would enable the USTA to accommodate an extra 10,000 daily spectators during the US Open. It is expected that the proposed project would increase attendance at the US Open by up to approximately 100,000 new visitors, positively affecting not only the revenues from the US Open but the local hospitality market as well. It would also create jobs during construction and upon completion.

In addition, the proposed project would result in the expansion of the NTC, an existing use. The proposed project has been designed with the intention of minimizing the amount of park land that would be added to the project site. As discussed in Chapter 3, “Open Space and Recreational Resources,” the 0.94 acres that would be added to the NTC represent approximately 0.10 percent of the overall nearly 900-acre Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and the affected areas are lightly used. In addition, replacement park land would be provided. *