



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Recreation Field Improvements Naval Support Activity Bethesda Montgomery County, Maryland	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7478
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of Defense Department of the Navy	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 3101.30(70.00)43750
	ACTION TAKEN Preliminary and final approval of site and building plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Advisory per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The U.S. Department of the Navy has requested preliminary and final approval of site and building plans for recreational field improvements at the Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSA Bethesda). The project will improve existing recreational facilities at the installation and add new recreational facilities, which will be located within the footprints of the existing facilities.

The project location, near the eastern edge of the installation, is the only area at NSA Bethesda with consolidated outdoor recreation facilities. These facilities provide rehabilitation opportunities for the installation's wounded and recovering population as well as a place for the installation's staff and residents to recreate. Currently, these facilities include an exercise track, a baseball field, two pavilions, and an informal play field. Also located within the recreational area are two sites with parking that serve the recreational uses (one minimally improved with asphalt and one with gravel) as well as a few storage sheds.

The project includes upgrades to the existing track, baseball field, and two pavilions as well as the construction of a multi-purpose synthetic turf field to replace the informal play field. In addition, a sand volleyball court, a horseshoe pitching area, a multi-purpose hard court, a children's play area, and 12 fitness stations will be added within the recreational area. New bicycle parking areas will also be constructed and the existing parking sites will be improved with new asphalt (and include multiple marked handicap spaces). Further, the storage sheds will be replaced with a new storage facility, and two new restrooms structures will be added (one on the north side and one on the south side of the recreational area). New asphalt and concrete pathways will be provided throughout the project as well as other amenities, including benches, drinking fountains, trash/recycling receptacles, and fencing where needed (at specific recreational facilities such as at the baseball diamond backstop). New deciduous trees will also be placed to provide shade near the pavilions and children's play area.

As the facility will provide rehabilitation opportunities for the installation's wounded and recovering population, all the improvements are designed in compliance with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act (the current facilities do not

comply with these requirements). Construction will also comply with requirements of Anti-Terrorism / Force Protection (ATFP).

The project site consists of 8.42 acres. Currently impervious surface coverage of the site is minimal, and the project will increase the impervious surface area to 3.37 acres or 40 percent of the project site (although the majority of this is due to the multi-purpose synthetic turf field which does contain a stone sub-base and under-drains that pretreat stormwater). Although there will be an increase of impervious surface coverage of the site with the project, the stormwater management system is designed to address the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Erosion and Sediment and Stormwater Management permit requirements as well as the requirements of the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA), and be designed in accordance with Low Impact Design (LID) and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) guidance. Stormwater quantity and quality for the project site will be addressed using best management practices (BMP) including a bio-retention area and a submerged gravel wetland. These BMPs will improve the site runoff conditions and meet Maryland's Environmental Site Design (ESD) requirements.

As noted above, the location for the project is a current recreational area. This area was identified for recreational uses within the 2008 Master Plan Update for National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, which was reviewed and approved by the Commission at its February 5, 2009 meeting. Proposed improvements to the recreational facilities at this location are included in the 2012 Draft Installation Master Plan for the NSA Bethesda, which was recently reviewed by the Commission on November 1, 2012.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act the proposed project has been reviewed by the Navy, and on March 22, 2013 the Navy determined that the new construction meets the Navy's criteria for a Categorical Exclusion per the OPNAVINST 5090.1 C, Environmental Readiness Program Manual, July 18 2011, of section 5-2.2 (b) numbers 34 and 35, and can be excluded from further documentation under NEPA. Number 34 includes "New construction that is similar to existing land use and, when completed, the use or operation of which complies with existing regulatory requirements" and number 35 includes "Demolition, disposal, or improvements involving buildings or structures when done in accordance with applicable regulations including those regulations applying to removal of asbestos, PCBs, and other hazardous materials." Per the Navy, two Categorical Exclusion references are allowed to be used in this case as the scope of work requires minor demolition prior to the construction of the recreational facilities.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Navy consulted with the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT), as the State Historic Preservation Office. On August 9, 2012 the MHT indicated the project would not require a determination that the proposed construction would have no adverse effect on historical resources. The MHT noted that the project is an upgrade of existing recreation facilities located outside of the National Naval Medical Center Historic District and that the project would have no effect on listed or eligible resources at NSA Bethesda.

Given the project's location at NSA Bethesda, which is outside the District of Columbia, NCPC does not have independent responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act or the National Historic Preservation Act.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. §8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the recreational field improvements at the Naval Support Activity Bethesda in Montgomery County, Maryland.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

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