

From: [Keith, Diane J.](#)
To: [Richard Lear](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Thomas Edison Park - GSA Control #D-NJ-440C
Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023 3:25:34 PM

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Hi Rick,

I was talking with Adam Taylor at Green Acres and he said that you were leaving Middlesex?

Congratulations on your new job! Who should I contact in the future?

Thank you for all of your help so far.

Diane

Diane Keith
Program Manager
Federal Lands to Parks / Northeast Region
15 State St. Boston, MA 02109
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pronouns: she/her
hours: 8AM - 5PM M-F

[Federal Lands to Parks](#)
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From: Richard Lear <xxxxxxx.xxxx@xx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 8:35 PM
To: Keith, Diane J. <xxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Thomas Edison Park - GSA Control #D-NJ-440C

Thank you Diane – this is great. I appreciate the outline.

We'll start preparing the ESF and request for a change to the POU. We'll be able to include all of the information you are looking for.

To avoid any confusion, I'll remain as your point of contact. The Office of Parks and Recreation is a part of Middlesex County Government, so you're in the right place.

We'll need a little time to start compiling, but I'll be sure to touch base at least weekly, so we don't lose touch. Likewise, if you need anything in the interim, please reach out at your convenience.

Thank you,
Rick Lear

From: Keith, Diane J. <xxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx>
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 11:14 AM
To: Richard Lear <xxxxxxx.xxxx@xx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Thomas Edison Park - GSA Control #D-NJ-440C

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Middlesex County organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Rick,

I am sending along a couple of examples of previous Amendments to Program of Utilization requests, our Environmental Screening Form (ESF) and information on Concession Agreements.

I previously sent the ESF with my first package a few weeks ago. This form will walk you through the analysis that the National Park Service will need to do to evaluate the changes that you are proposing. As I mentioned in my last letter, Because this property has a federal nexus (i.e. FLP) you will need to go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) <https://www.epa.gov/nepa> before moving forward with the project.

The ESF that I am sending will help us determine what level of NEPA will be required. It will also walk you through the different natural and cultural resources that we will need to evaluate to determine the legal level of NEPA that will be needed. Options include a Categorical Exclusion (CE), an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which is rare in these circumstances.

As far as the Request for an Amendment to the Program of Utilization, we don't have a form or specific format but we do need enough information to understand the need for the change - including socioeconomics, cultural changes, current use of the property and how it benefits the people in Edison, NJ, public and agency support as well as the need and demand for a change to the current use. I am attaching examples of past amendment requests.

Middlesex County was the recipient of the property in 1964 and is responsible for both the request for an Amendment and NEPA. If the ownership has changed and NPS is unaware of that change, please send us that information.

As far as the Agreement with the college, any future Agreements will need to be reviewed and approved by the NPS. We also will need a Concession Agreement for any operation or shared management that will be proposed for the new uses. All funding raised from activities will need to go back into operations, maintenance, and improvements to the Edison, NJ property or other recreational amenities in the community. Funding cannot go into any general funds. I am attaching information about Concession Agreements. An important caveat that needs to be in any Agreement is that the partner understands that there is a potential for reversion of the property by the federal government.

All changes to the property will need to be approved by the National Park Service and the General Services Administration, which has a federal interest in the property in case there is a need for reversion back to the government.

The first document for our review should be any plans that exist for the changes and a request for a change to the POU. Since we haven't had received any reports since 1985, we are unaware of the current use of the property and the need for the changes. The completed ESF can accompany that request, or come later.

I hope this helps to better outline the process and doesn't make it more confusing. In short, we need to know why the changes are needed, the impacts of those changes, and any fiscal changes in the operation and maintenance of the property, and how the change will affect public access to the recreation in the park.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions. I am still unclear on who is the primary contact for the property, so I am assuming that you will be the primary contact and/or that information will be shared with Middlesex County and Edison, NJ as needed.

Thank you for your help.

Diane

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From: Richard Lear <xxxxxxx.xxxx@xx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx>

Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 7:58 PM

To: Keith, Diane J. <xxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thomas Edison Park - GSA Control #D-NJ-440C

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Hello Diane – just a follow up from my message last week – Thank you! Rick

Thank you again for all the information. We would like to provide some additional information on our upcoming project that will expand the recreational opportunities at Thomas Edison Park and provide new amenities that respond to the recreational needs of the community and an ever evolving demographic in Middlesex County. We are excited about these improvements as they meet the changing needs of our community and continues the public recreational use of the property that has been maintained since 1964.

I don't want to overwhelm you with information at this point, but just want to understand the best way to get it to you. Is there a form or format you would like us to present to you that outlines the Program of Utilization? We can pretty much prepare any format that works for you and want to be sure we get you everything you need. So anything you have that we should fill out would be great. Additionally any "checklists" of information that should be in the POU would also be helpful. We can then get a jump on organizing this for you.

Thank you,

Rick Lear

Rick Lear

Director

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