ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared to address the

NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM
URBAN PARKS APPLICATION

For The

CARTERET PARK AND SULLIVAN FIELD IMPROVEMENTS

Block: 4701, Lots: 1 & 2
Borough of Carteret
Middlesex County, New Jersey

For

The Borough of Carteret
61 Cooke Avenue
Carteret, NJ 07008

Prepared by:

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January 2025
CME File No.: 115.CA02024.P00

TABLE OF CONTENTS PAGE

APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

This environmental impact assessment has been prepared as part of the Green Acres Program: Urban Parks Application submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. This assessment has been prepared in accordance with the requirements as found at N.J.A.C. 7:36 to review environmental conditions onsite necessary to determine the suitability of the project site for the proposed development.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

a. Carteret Park is an approximately 18-acre park located at the intersection of Carteret Avenue and Cypress Street in the Borough of Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The park consists of tennis courts, basketball courts, two softball fields, one baseball field, a soccer field, a pond, a playground and a bandstand. The project proposes the reconstruction and expansion of the two softball fields, the removal and replacement of the existing synthetic turf multipurpose field known as Sullivan Field ((1) 300' x 165' soccer field and (1) 300' baseball field), the installation of a prefabricated ADA-accessible restroom building between the sports fields, and the construction of a September 11th remembrance memorial on the western side of Carteret Pond.

b. The objective of the project is to enhance the recreational experience and capacity of residents using the park. The residents of Carteret will be provided with upgraded sports fields to allow for present and future enjoyment. Environmental impacts will be minimized to the greatest extent possible.

c. This project is not a multi-phase project.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

a. Vegetation
The vegetation of the project site consists of maintained lawn and mature trees. The project area currently functions as existing sports fields and will take place within previously developed park.

b. Wildlife
Wildlife onsite consists of typical species in the urban/suburban regions of New Jersey including white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, rabbits, racoons, foxes, small rodent species, and a variety of avian species among others. According to a review of the NJDEP's GeoWeb Online GIS Resource, there is foraging habitat for black-crowned night-heron and yellow-crowned night-heron located within the proposed project site. Project improvements will not impact habitat for this species as all proposed work is located within

previously developed park. A Natural Heritage Database Search for the project site was requested on January 15, 2025 and is anticipated by February 15, 2025. The results will be submitted once received.

c. Geology, Topography, and Soils

The project site is underlain by the Passaic Formation and Lockatong Formation. The lithology of the Passaic Formation consists of siltstone and shale and the lithology of the Lockatong Formation consists of dolomitic or silty argillite, mudstone, sandstone, siltstone, and minor silty limestone. The surficial geology consists of Rahway Till with a lithology of clayey silt to sandy silt with some to many pebbles and cobbles and few boulders. Colors range from reddish brown, reddish yellow, yellowish brown, and brown. Layers can be as much as 100 feet thick but are generally less than 40 feet thick.

The USDA Websoil Survey online resource shows the proposed work area to be within an area overlain by Haledon-Urban land complex (HasA) and Boonton-Urban land complex (BouB). Descriptions of the soil profiles are provided below:

Haledon – Urban land complex – 0 to 3 percent slopes and no hydric soil rating. A typical profile consists of 0 to 24 inches of silt loam, 24 to 60 inches of sandy loam, and 60 to 70 inches of gravelly sandy loam.

Boonton – Urban land complex – 0 to 8 percent slopes and no hydric soil rating. A typical profile consists of 0 to 5 inches of loam, 5 to 30 inches of silt loam, 30 to 40 inches of gravelly fine sandy loam, 40 to 47 inches of fine sandy loam, and 47 to 72 inches of loamy sand.

d. Water Resources/Hydrology

The Arthur Kill is located about 1 mile east of the project site and the Woodbridge Creek Tributary is located about ¾ mile west of the project site according the NJDEP's GeoWeb Online GIS Resource. These waterways are designated as SE3 and FW2-NT/SE3 waterways respectively. The project activities will take place within the FEMA Zone AE (El 12). Additionally, Carteret pond is located on the project site. The project site is located within the Arthur Kill Watershed Management Area, the Rahway River/Woodbridge Creek Watershed, and the Arthur Kill waterfront (below Grasselli) sub-watershed.

e. Historic Archaeological Resources

A review of the NJDEP's GeoWeb Online GIS Resource revealed the project site is not located within any archaeological site grid, historic district, or historic property. There will be no impacts to historic resources.

f. Transportation and Site Access

Carteret Park can be accessed from Carteret Avenue, Cypress Street, Louis Street, and Jersey Street. There are parking areas along Carteret Avenue, Louis Street, and where Cypress Street meets Jersey Street. The proposed park improvements will only impact site access during construction.

g. Adjacent Land Uses and Surrounding Neighborhood

The project site is located within the suburban neighborhood of Carteret Borough. Land use on the project site consists of previously developed recreational land and athletic fields (schools) with existing sports fields, a playground, bandstand, and artificial pond. According to NJ GeoWeb's Land Use Layer, the areas immediately surrounding the park consist of residential, single unit medium density and high density or multiple dwelling housing and commercial/services land use. Carteret Middle School is located adjacent to the project site on the west and Carteret High School is located about 400 ft north of the project site. Five parks exist within a mile of Carteret Park including Shorecrest Park about 0.3 miles to the southwest, Salem Avenue Park about ½ mile to the southeast, Waterfront Park about 0.8 miles to the southeast, Civic Center Park about ½ mile to the east, and John Street Soccer Park about ¾ mile to the northeast.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED ACTION

a. Affected Resources

Proposed improvements on site include the reconstruction and expansion of two softball fields, the removal and replacement of the existing synthetic turf multipurpose field, the construction of an ADA-accessible restroom building, and the construction of a September 11th Remembrance Memorial. The project aims to increase the overall recreational use and capacity of the park for the surrounding community. Due to the location of the proposed improvements in a previously developed portion of the park, there are no anticipated impacts to the surrounding area, however some tree removal may be required. Tree removal will be avoided as much as possible and will be the minimum amount necessary to conduct the project activities.

The proposed improvements are located within the Flood Hazard Area FEMA Zone AE (EL 12). The flood hazard area is regulated by the NJDEP and construction within this area will require compliance with State regulations.

b. Short-term and Long-term Impacts

Short-term impacts will include those associated with the temporary construction efforts that will occur as a result of project improvements. This includes limited/restricted access to the park and a temporary increase in noise and traffic levels to the project site during construction. No long-term impacts are anticipated.

c. Recreation/Site-use
It is anticipated that site-use will increase over time with the proposed improvements. Recreational opportunities and capacity for the local community will expand with the park improvements and encourage further use and enjoyment of the park.

d. Affected Environmental Features
As previously stated, the environmental features that will be impacted by the proposed park improvements will include the flood hazard area.

e. Permits
No permits have been applied for or obtained as of the date of this assessment; however, a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit appears to be necessary for the proposed activities. The reconstruction of the baseball fields will result in over an acre of disturbance, making it a major development and therefore requiring a Flood Hazard Area Individual Permit.

f. Natural Heritage Database Request
The proposed project will not impact any undisturbed portion of the project site. A Natural Heritage Database Search for the project site was requested on January 15, 2025 and results are expected by February 15, 2025. The results will be submitted once received.

g. Sea-level Rise Impacts
This project is not anticipated to be impacted by sea-level rise, however design considerations will be undertaken to mitigate impacts.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

a. Due to the location of the project improvements within a previously developed area of the park and the need for increased capacity for recreational opportunities for the surrounding community, no real alternatives exist for this project. The scope of the work and location of the improvements exists within the current location of the sports fields. Land use of the site will not change and improvements will enhance the recreational opportunities of the park.

b. The “no-build” alternative for the proposed improvements would not meet the goals of the project to provide an increase in recreational opportunities and capacity for the surrounding community.

MITIGATING MEASURES

All necessary best management measures will be taken to mitigate any potential adverse impacts to the project site and surrounding area. Some tree removal may be required; however, tree removal will be avoided as much as possible and will be the minimum amount necessary to conduct the project activities.

FINDINGS

The project will not result in a significant adverse impact to the environment. The proposed improvements will enhance recreational opportunities for the local population.

AUTHOR(S) AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Haley Wilmot, Associate Scientist, CME Associates
- Austin Bazuk, Associate Project Manager, CME Associates

Appendix A: Map Graphics

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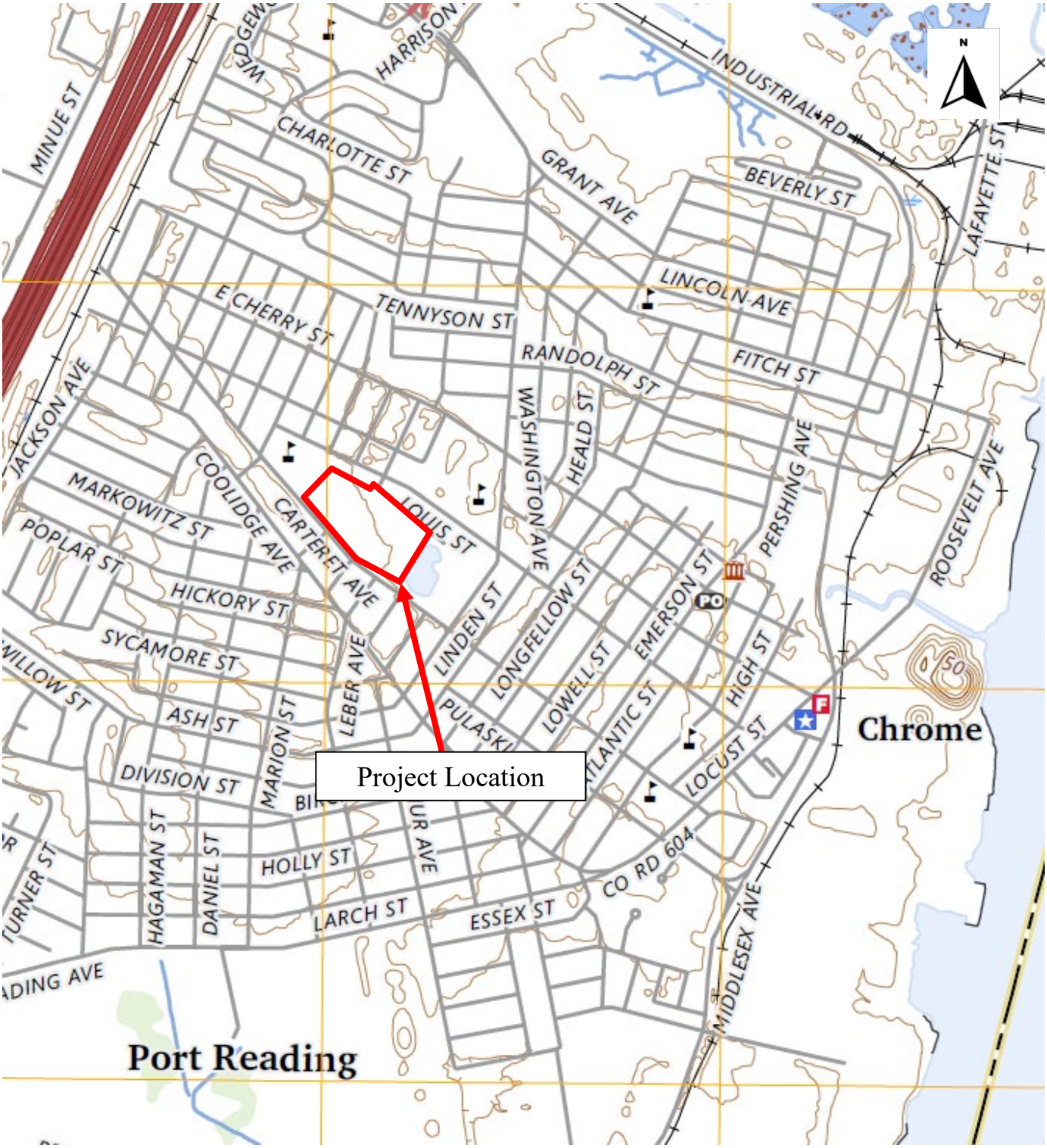
3141 BORDENTOWN AVENUE, PARLIN, NEW JERSEY 08859 — 1460 ROUTE 9 SOUTH, HOWELL, NEW JERSEY 07731

LOCATION MAP

Carteret Park and Sullivan Field Improvements

LOCATION: Cypress Street & Carteret Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Carteret
BLOCK: 4701 **LOTS:** 1 & 2
COUNTY: Middlesex County
FILE NO: 115.CA02024.P00



U.S.G.S. QUAD MAP

Carteret Park and Sullivan Field Improvements

SHEET: Arthur Kill Quadrangle
LOCATION: Cypress Street & Carteret Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Carteret
BLOCK: 4701 **LOTS:** 1 & 2
COUNTY: Middlesex County
FILE NO: 115.CA02024.P00

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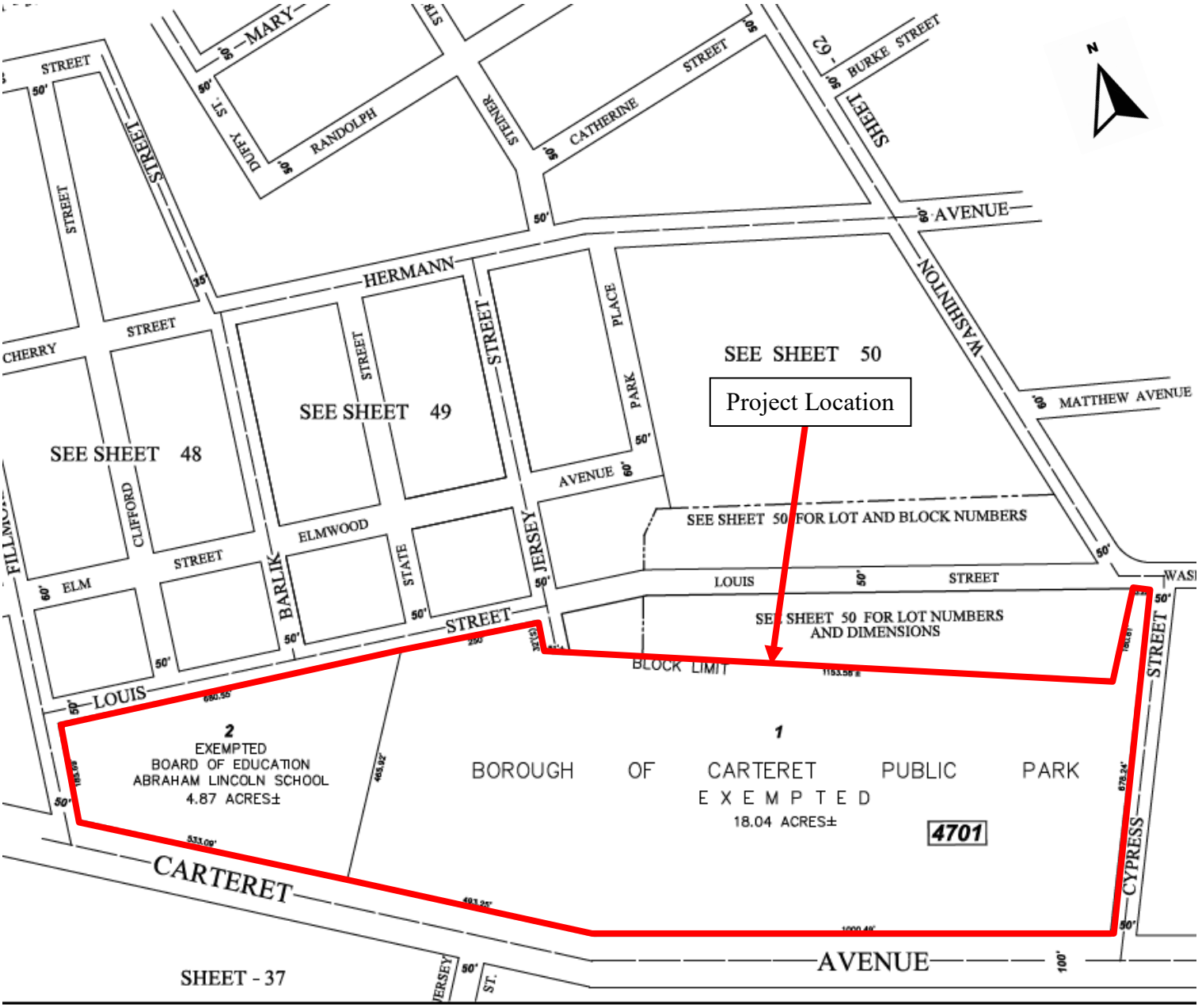

TAX MAP

Carteret Park and Sullivan Field Improvements

SHEET: 47
LOCATION: Cypress Street & Carteret Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Carteret
BLOCK: 4701 **LOTS:** 1 & 2
COUNTY: Middlesex County
FILE NO: 115.CA02024.P00

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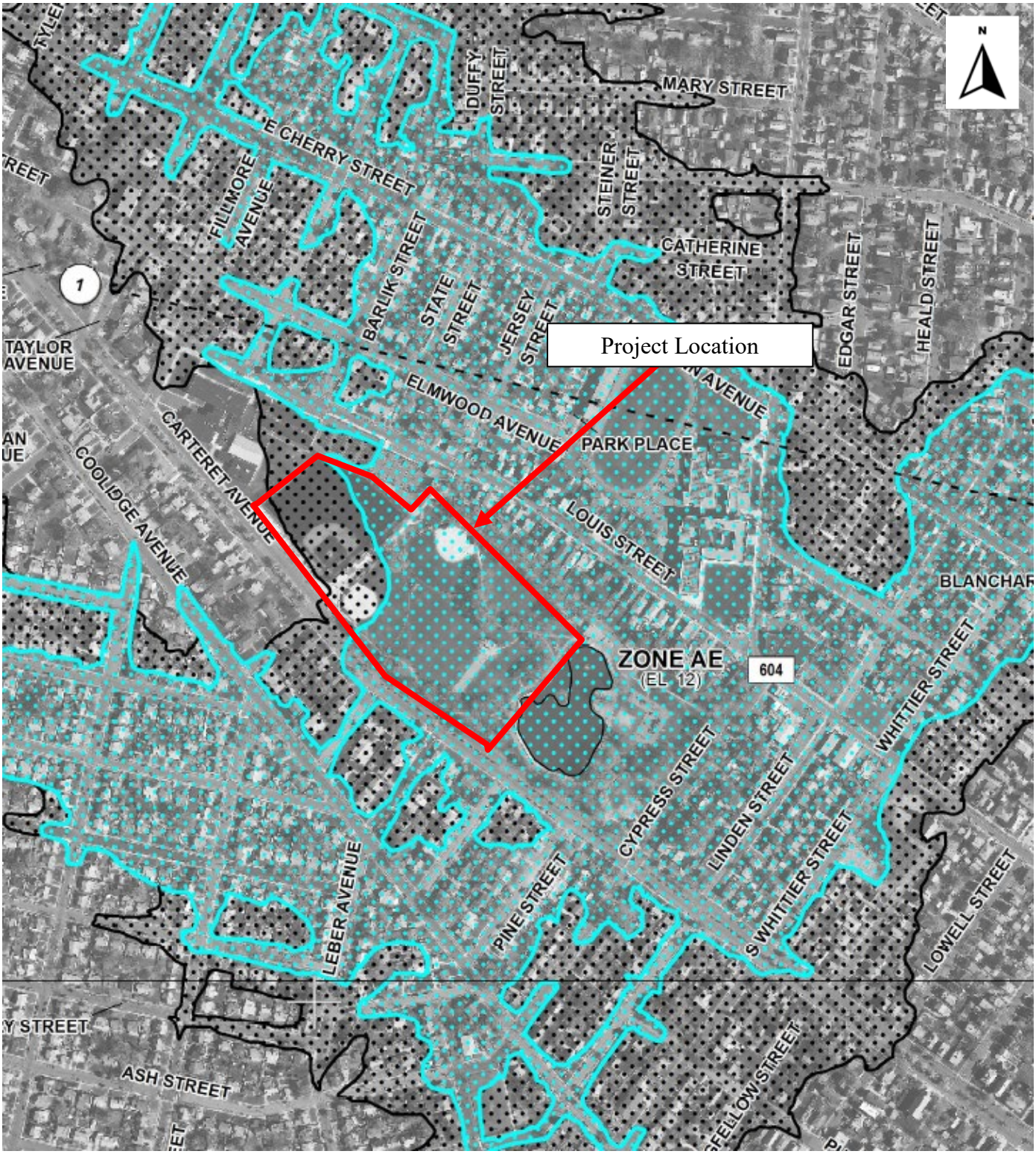

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FEMA MAP

Carteret Park and Sullivan Field Improvements

PANEL: 078G
LOCATION: Cypress Street & Carteret Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Carteret
BLOCK: 4701 **LOTS:** 1 & 2
COUNTY: Middlesex County
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SOIL SURVEY MAP

Carteret Park and Sullivan Field Improvements

LOCATION: Cypress Street & Carteret Avenue
MUNICIPALITY: Borough of Carteret
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FILE NO: 115.CA02024.P00