

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Prepared to address the

## NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM JAKE'S LAW PLAYGROUND FUNDING APPLICATION

For The

### CARTERET PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

**Block: 4701, Lot: 1  
Borough of Carteret  
Middlesex County, New Jersey**

For

**The Borough of Carteret  
61 Cooke Avenue  
Carteret, NJ 07008**

*Prepared by:*



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A Bazuk".

Austin Bazuk, Associate Project Manager

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

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APPENDIX A: Map Graphics



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This environmental impact assessment has been prepared as part of the Green Acres Program: Jake's Law Playground Funding 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. The new Inclusive Playground is to be installed within the existing Carteret Park located along Cypress Street in the Borough of Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Currently, Carteret Park has not been constructed with a dedicated Inclusive Playground which meets current ADA Accessible standards. The proposed construction will take place at the open field southeast of Carteret Park's Children's Park. The project will consist of the installation of a new 4,000 SF Inclusive Playground with corresponding equipment, ADA Accessible Sidewalks, synthetic turf play surface, a 4' chain-link fence and gates, a 2-unit prefabricated family restroom building, and a shade sail structure.
- b. The objective of the project is to install a new ADA Accessible Inclusive playground. The residents of Carteret Borough will be provided with upgraded, inclusive park features 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 entirely of recreational land. The project area is currently functioning as a recreational area. The project site also includes a walking path which runs along its southeastern side, some additional playground equipment, and trees. All vegetation disturbed will be maintained grass lawn.

### 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 Lockatong formation. The lithology of the Lockatong formation consists of dolomitic argillite, 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, cobbles, and few boulders. Reddish brown, reddish yellow, yellowish brown, and/or brown in color. As much as 100 feet thick, 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). Description of the soil profile is provided below:

Haledon-Urban land complex – 0 to 3 percent slopes and an unranked 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.

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 to 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 (EI 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 GIS Database revealed the project site is not located within any archaeological 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 construction of an inclusive playground within the developed area of an existing park. The project aims to increase recreational use and access to the playground 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 or resources. No trees are proposed to be removed at the project site with the current plans.

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 playground and a temporary increase in noise and traffic levels to the playground during construction. No long-term impacts are anticipated.

c. Recreation/Site-use

It is anticipated that site-use will increase over time with the addition of an inclusive playground. Recreational opportunities for the local community will expand with the park improvements and encourage further use and enjoyment of the park.

d. Affected Environmental Features

There will be no adverse impacts to adjacent environmental features. The new inclusive playground will be located within the Flood Hazard Area however, and will require a permit from the State.



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.

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<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and results are expected on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 small scope of the project and the location of the project improvements within a previously developed area of the park, no real alternatives exist for this project. Another location on site was considered for the playground, however due to the scope of the work and location of the existing playgrounds, the current location was most feasible. 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 inclusive recreational opportunities 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.

### **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.

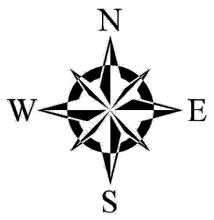
### **AUTHOR(S) AND QUALIFICATIONS**

- Rachel Boyce, Associate Scientist, CME Associates
- Austin Bazuk, Associate Project Manager, CME Associates



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## Appendix A: Map Graphics



Project Location

**LOCATION MAP**

Carteret Park Inclusive Playground

**LOCATION:** Cypress Street and Carteret Avenue

**MUNICIPALITY:** Carteret Borough

**BLOCK:** 4701 **LOT:** 1

**COUNTY:** Middlesex County

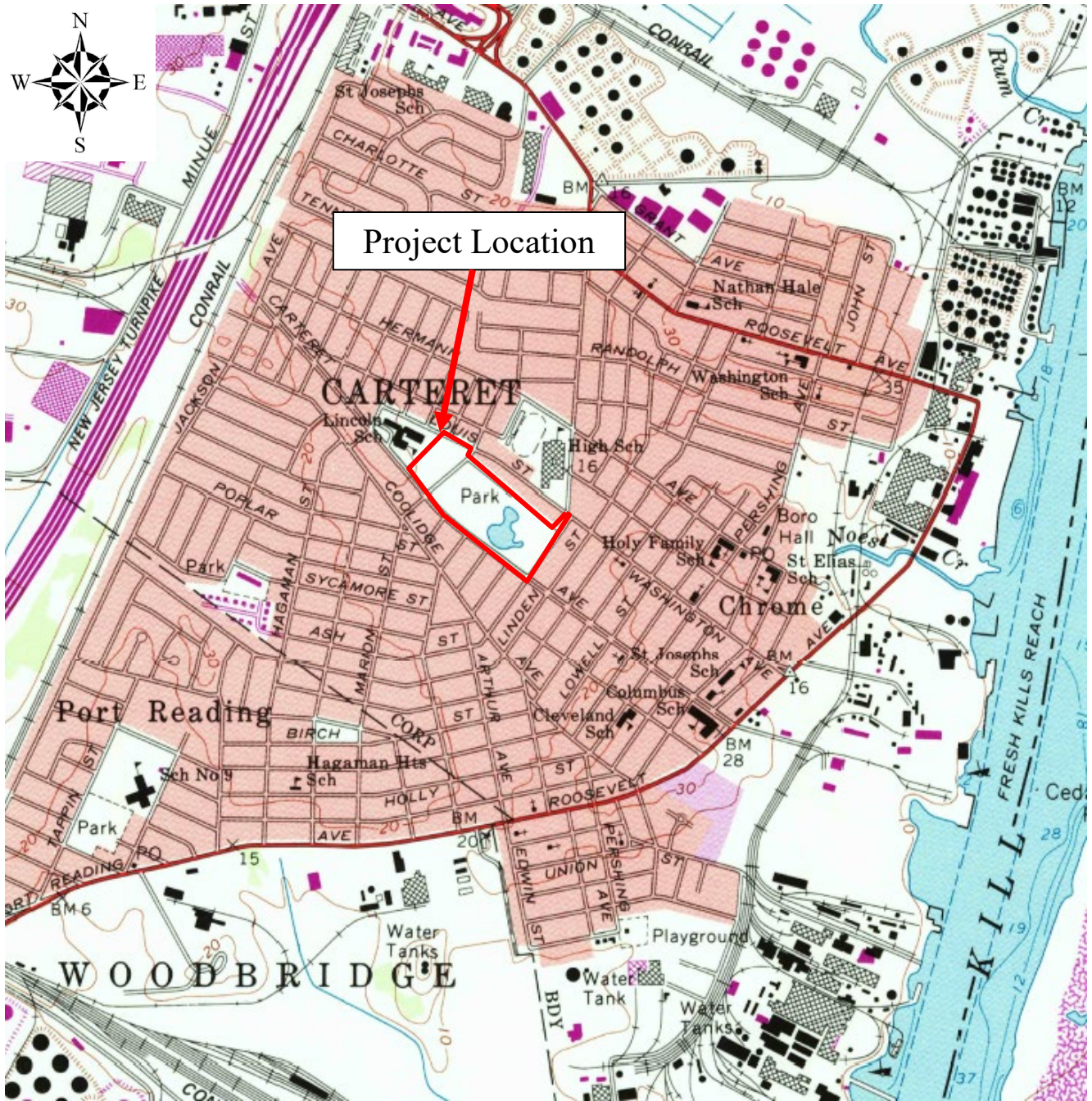
**FILE NO:** 115.CA02024.P00



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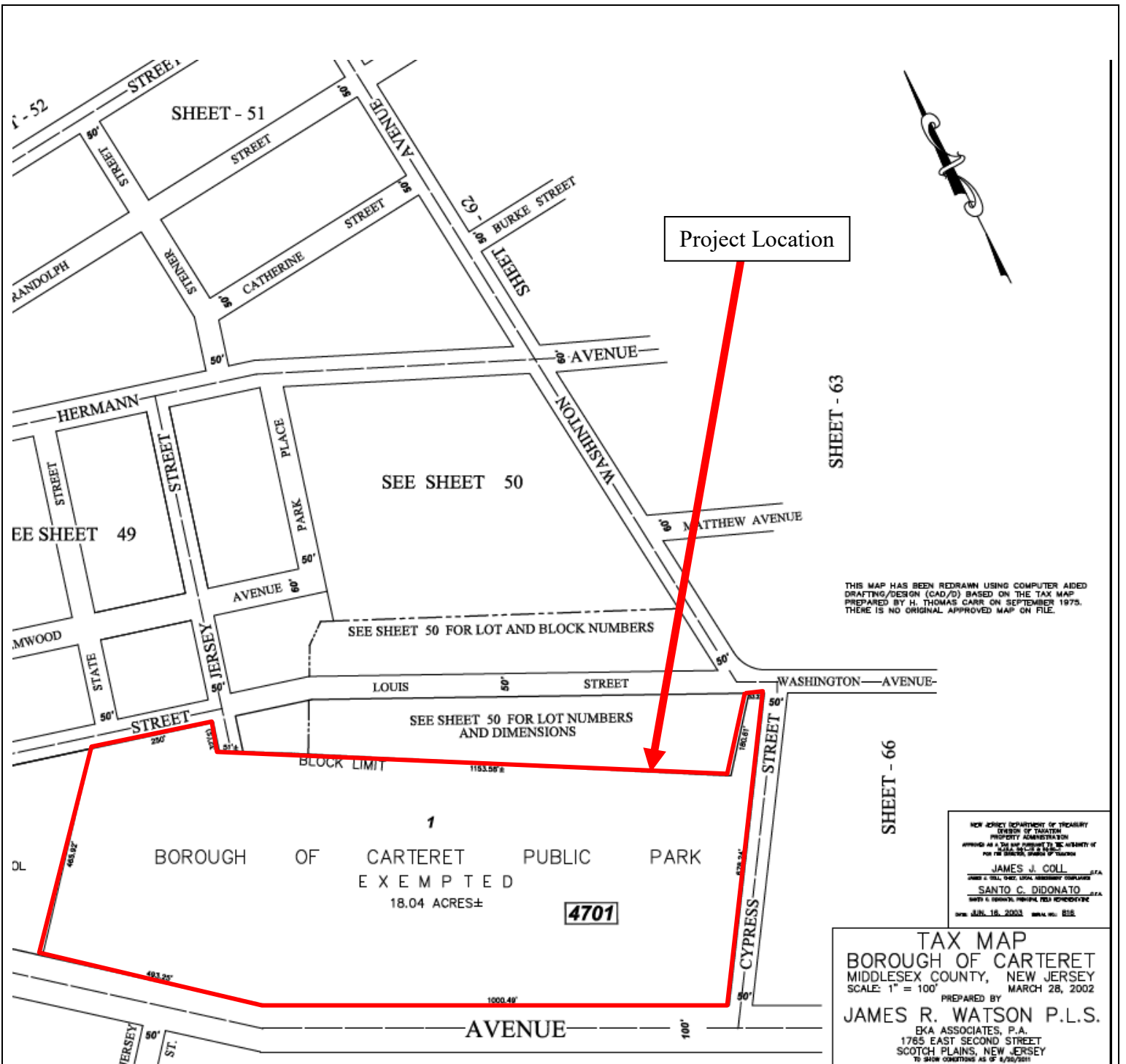
***U.S.G.S. QUAD MAP***  
Carteret Park Inclusive Playground

**SHEET:** Arthur Kill, N.Y – N.J.  
**LOCATION:** Cypress Street and Carteret Avenue  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Carteret Borough  
**BLOCK:** 4701 **LOT:** 1  
**COUNTY:** Middlesex County  
**FILE NO:** 115.CA02024.P00



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Project Location

THIS MAP HAS BEEN REDRAWN USING COMPUTER AIDED DRAFTING/DESIGN (CAD/D) BASED ON THE TAX MAP PREPARED BY H. THOMAS CARR ON SEPTEMBER 1975. THERE IS NO ORIGINAL APPROVED MAP ON FILE.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY  
 DIVISION OF TAXATION  
 PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION  
 APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL RECORD OF TAXATION  
 JAMES J. COLL, STATE TAX ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER  
 SANTO C. DIDONATO, STATE TAX ASSISTANT COMPTROLLER  
 DATE: JUN 16, 2003 10:44 AM EST

**TAX MAP**  
 BOROUGH OF CARTERET  
 MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
 SCALE: 1" = 100' MARCH 28, 2002  
 PREPARED BY  
**JAMES R. WATSON P.L.S.**  
 EKA ASSOCIATES, P.A.  
 1765 EAST SECOND STREET  
 SCOTCH PLAINS, NEW JERSEY  
 TO SHOW CORRECTIONS AS OF 4/26/2011

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**TAX MAP**  
 Carteret Park Inclusive Playground

**LOCATION:** Cypress Street and Carteret Avenue  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Carteret Borough  
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**COUNTY:** Middlesex County  
**FILE NO:** 115.CA02024.P00



**FEMA MAP**

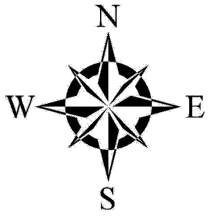
Carteret Park Inclusive Playground

**PANEL:** 078G  
**LOCATION:** Cypress Street and Carteret Avenue  
**MUNICIPALITY:** Carteret Borough  
**BLOCK:** 4701 **LOT:** 1  
**COUNTY:** Middlesex County  
**FILE NO:** 115.CA02024.P00



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**Legend:**

- Boonton-Urban land complex (BouB)
- Haledon-Urban land complex (HasA)

**Notes:**

- 0 to 8 percent slopes
- 0 to 3 percent slopes

**SOIL SURVEY MAP**

Carteret Park Inclusive Playground

**LOCATION:** Cypress Street and Carteret Avenue

**MUNICIPALITY:** Carteret Borough

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