

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

FOR

**NJDEP GREEN ACRES PROGRAM  
EVERETT PARK PLAYGROUND  
BLOCK 707 – LOT 10  
CITY OF VERONA  
ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

PROJECT NO.: VEROMUN23.010  
DATE: JANUARY 3, 2024



NEGLIA GROUP  
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Table of Contents	Page No.
INTRODUCTION	3
DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION	3
DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT	3
Vegetation	3
Wildlife	3
Geology, Topography, and Soils	3
Water Resources/Hydrology	4
Historic Archeological Resources	4
Transportation and Site Access	4
Adjacent Land Uses and Surrounding Neighborhood	4
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS	4
ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION	5
MITIGATING MEASURES	5
CONCLUSION	5

#### **LIST OF APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A	FEMA Map
	Tax Map
	County Roads Map
	USGS Quad Map
	Soil Survey Map
	Photo Location Map / Photographs

## **INTRODUCTION**

This report addresses the pertinent environmental information associated with the proposed ADA inclusive playground at Everett Field in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Outline for the NJDEP Green Acres Program Application to ascertain the suitability of the site.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The Everett Park site is a 2.89-acre public recreation area owned by the Township of Verona. It is located along Bloomfield Avenue between Elmwood Road and Westview Road. The main entrance of the park is located off Elmwood Road and leads to a deteriorated gravel area utilized as a parking area. The current park has a grass baseball field, storage building, block bleachers, dugouts, and existing field lighting.

The Township of Verona is planning to completely reconstruct the existing park in which an ADA inclusive playground will be proposed. While the Township plans to add and improve other amenities on the Everett Park site, the proposed ADA inclusive playground will be endorsed for the Green Acres Funding grant. The playground will be located in the southeast region of the site near Westview Road. The project will be constructed in a single phase; however, implementation can be phased depending on available funding.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

The Everett Park site is located in a suburban neighborhood in the Township of Verona. The site is surrounded by residential and commercial properties. The park environment consists of a grass baseball field, bleachers, press box, sports lighting, and gravel parking area. No wetlands, wetland transition areas, streams, riparian zones or flood hazard areas exist within the park.

### **Vegetation**

Vegetation within the site is minimal, consisting of maintained grass lawn and trees located at the rear of the property. The designated area for which the proposed ADA inclusive playground will be constructed is made up solely of maintained lawn.

### **Wildlife**

The site accommodates a variety of general suburban wildlife species. Potential mammal species found on or near the site include white tail deer, small rodent species, grey squirrels, raccoons, and opossums. Potential bird species found in the area include waterfowl such as ducks and Canada geese; raptors such as ospreys, and other hawk species. Additionally various migratory birds can be seen during different seasons. These species include but are not limited to robins, grackles, tuft titmice, nuthatches and various sparrow species. The NJGeoWeb GIS database does not identify any area of the park as habitat for any threatened or endangered species.

### **Geology, Topography, and Soils**

The topography of the Everett Park site slopes from northeast to southwest across the site towards Bloomfield Avenue. The site is completely underlain by Orange Mountain Basalt bedrock geology. This geological formation is comprised of

medium-to-fine grained basalt. The surficial geology of the site is classified as Rahway Till, which consists of a clayey silt to sandy silt with some to many pebbles, cobbles, and few boulders. The typical colors associated with this soil series are reddish brown, reddish yellow, and yellowish brown. These soils can be as much as 100 feet thick but are generally less than 40 feet thick.

Soil series classification of the site is Boonton – Urban Land, Boonton Substratum Complex. This soil series consists of well drained coarse-loamy basal till. It is not rated as a hydric soil, it is not prone to ponding or flooding. A Soil Survey Map is provided in the appendix of this report.

### **Water Resources/Hydrology**

The Everett Park site does not contain any water sources. The nearest water sources to the park is the Verona Lake and the Peckman River, both located southwest of the park. As discussed above, the Boonton – Urban Land, Boonton Substratum Complex consists of well-drained soils. These soils are classified as Hydrologic Soil Group “C”, which indicates that the soils have low infiltration rated when thoroughly wetted.

### **Historic Archeological Resources**

As per the NJ Geo Web GIS Database, no known areas of historic preservation were identified within the Everett Park site and the site is not located within any historic archeological site grid or, historic district or historic property.

### **Transportation and Site Access**

The entrance to the Everett Park site is currently located off Elmwood Road and leads to a deteriorated public parking area. The current public parking area is made up of gravel and grass with no designated parking stalls. Independent of the proposed ADA inclusive playground, The Township of Verona plans to improve upon this by constructing a parking lot with an entrance at Elmwood Road and an exit at Westview Road. The parking lot will have 52 parking spaces, including 2 ADA accessible parking spaces closest to the playground and an additional 2 ADA spaces by the main field entrance. The Township also plans to improve accessibility to the playground by constructing an ADA accessible path from the proposed parking lot to the playground.

### **Adjacent Land Uses and Surrounding Neighborhood**

The project site is located in the suburban neighborhood of Verona Township. The NJGeoWeb database was utilized to access the land types for this section. According to the Land Use 2020 layer, the Everett Park site is classified as recreational land. The lots that border the site to the north, east and west are classified as residential, single unit, medium density. The lots to the south side are classified as commercial services, of which includes a car dealership, mechanic, volunteer fire department, and salon.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

### **Proposed Actions**

1. Construction of concrete flush header curb around the perimeter of the playground;
2. Construction of the proposed ADA inclusive playground equipment;
3. Installation of safety surface and underdrain system;
4. Installation of perimeter fencing.

- a-b) Project Impacts: all impacts that are proposed under this project will take place within the previously disturbed lawn area. No trees will need to be removed from the site to construct the ADA inclusive playground. The site does not impact any regulated areas like riparian zones, wetlands, or wetland transition areas. The proposed activities will not cause any adverse secondary impacts to the area in or around the project. The natural overland flow of stormwater onsite will not be disturbed by the construction of the playground.
- c) Site Use: The project currently exists as a public field and is categorized as recreational land. The site consists of a baseball field, bleachers, a press box, sports lighting, and a public parking area.
- d) Significant Environmental Features: No significant regulated features or areas are located within the project site. The closest significant environmental features to the project site is the Verona Lake and the Peckman River. There are no riparian zones, wetlands, wetland transition areas or flood hazard areas located within the site. The Everett Park site is also located outside of the NJDEP CAFRA regulatory zone. Lastly, the park is not classified for inhabiting any threatened or endangered species.
- e) Permits required for this project include:
  - 1. Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District Certification;
  - 2. Construction permits as required under Verona Construction Code;
  - 3. No NJDEP permitting is required for this project

## **ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION**

Typically, the Township of Verona reviews several alternative options and locations for the construction of a project. Due to the very limited nature of project improvements and the absence of NJDEP regulated areas within or near the project site, there are no considerable alternatives for this project. The suburban area surrounding the site and the lack of significant environmental site features allows for the proposed ADA inclusive playground to be constructed without any adverse impacts to the surrounding area or the NJDEP regulated areas. The addition of the proposed playground will have no adverse impacts on the existing wildlife or the surrounding community. It is determined that because the proposed project will not cause any measurable environmental impacts, there are no alternative means or methods to construct the proposed improvements with less environmental impacts.

## **MITIGATION MEASURES**

- a) The proposed playground will not trigger the need for wetlands or riparian zone mitigation as all work is proposed within previously disturbed areas of the park and is outside of any regulated areas.
- b) No trees will be cleared for the construction of the playground.
- c) Playground rules and hours will be clearly posted and enforced to maintain a good quality of life for adjacent residents.

## **CONCLUSION**

This Environmental Assessment has been prepared as a part of the Township of Verona's 2024 application to the Green Acres program for park improvements at the Everett Park site. It is determined that there are no environmental impacts to local wildlife, environmentally sensitive areas, or the surrounding community.

# **APPENDIX A**

**FEMA Map**

**Tax Map**

**County Roads Map**

**USGS Quad Map**

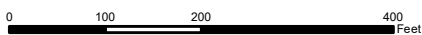
**Soil Survey Map**

**Photo Location Map / Photographs**





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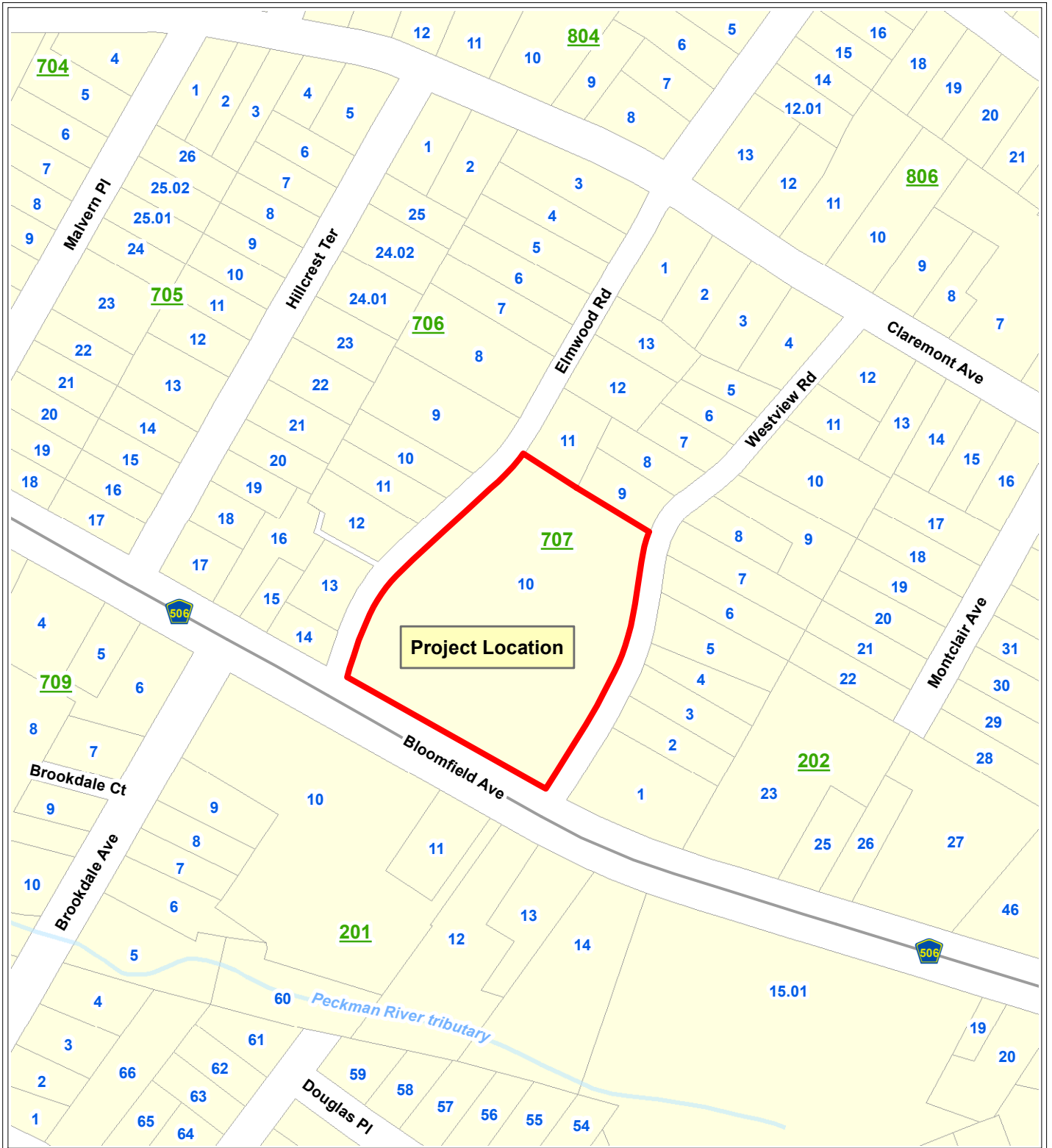
**FEMA Flood Hazard Areas**  
**Block 707 Lot 10**  
**Everett Park**  
**Township of Verona**  
**Essex County, NJ**

**Legend**

-  Zone X, 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Area
-  Project Location

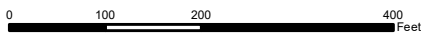


Drawn By: M.T.	Checked By: R.K.C.	Project No:	Sheet No:	Map References:
Designed By: R.K.C.	Page:	VEROMUN23.010	Figure 01	NJOGIS, NJDEP, FEMA NFHL
Field Book No:	Date: December 2023			Essex County 09/2020



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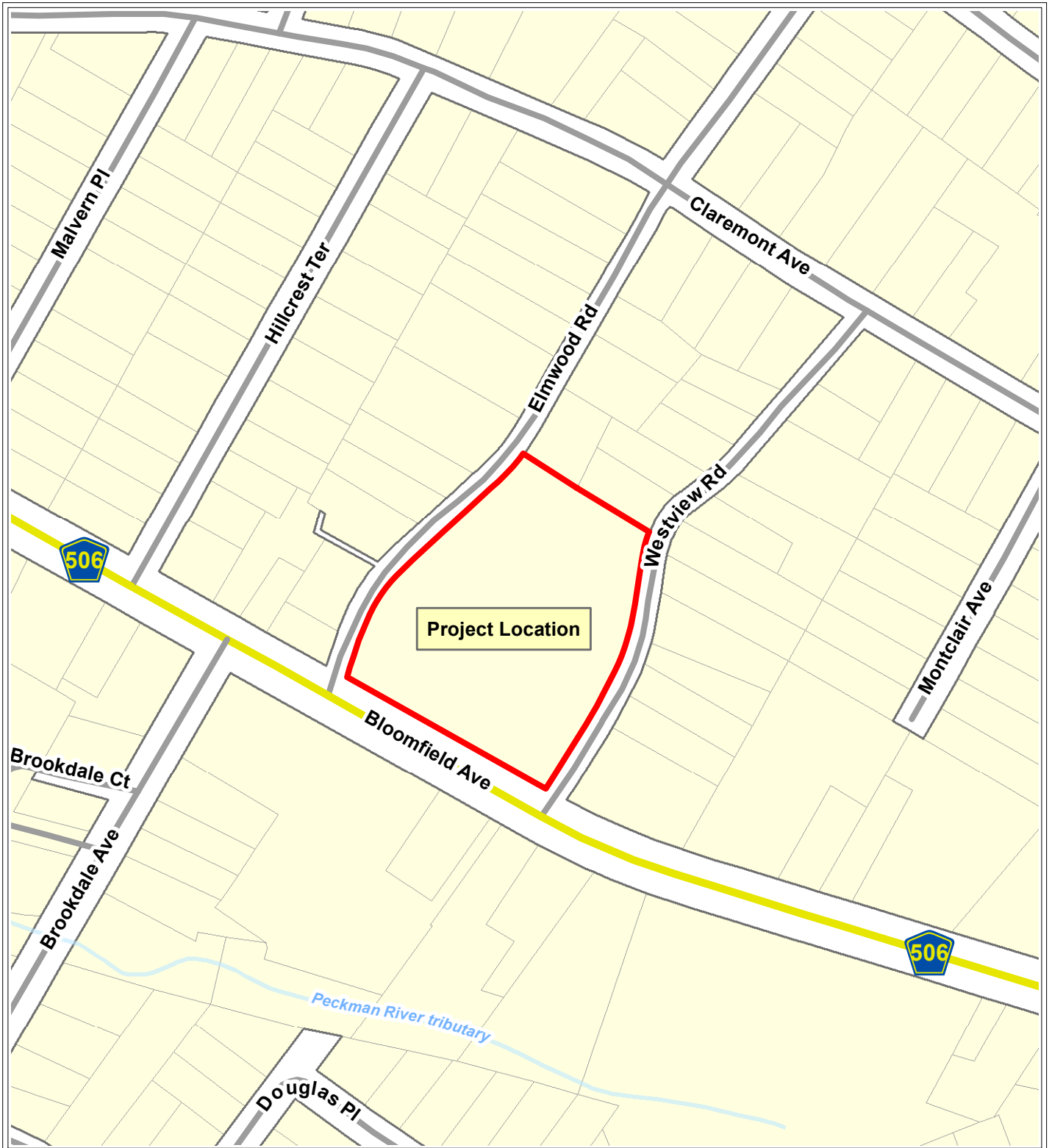


**Tax Parcel Map**  
**Block 707 Lot 10**  
**Everett Park**  
**Township of Verona**  
**Essex County, NJ**

- Legend**
- Project Location
  - Block and Lot

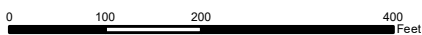
Drawn By: A.E.R	Checked By: R.K.C.	Project No:	Sheet No:	Map References:
Designed By: R.K.C.	Page:	VEROMUN23.010	Figure 02	NJGIS, NJDEP
Field Book No:	Date: December 2023			





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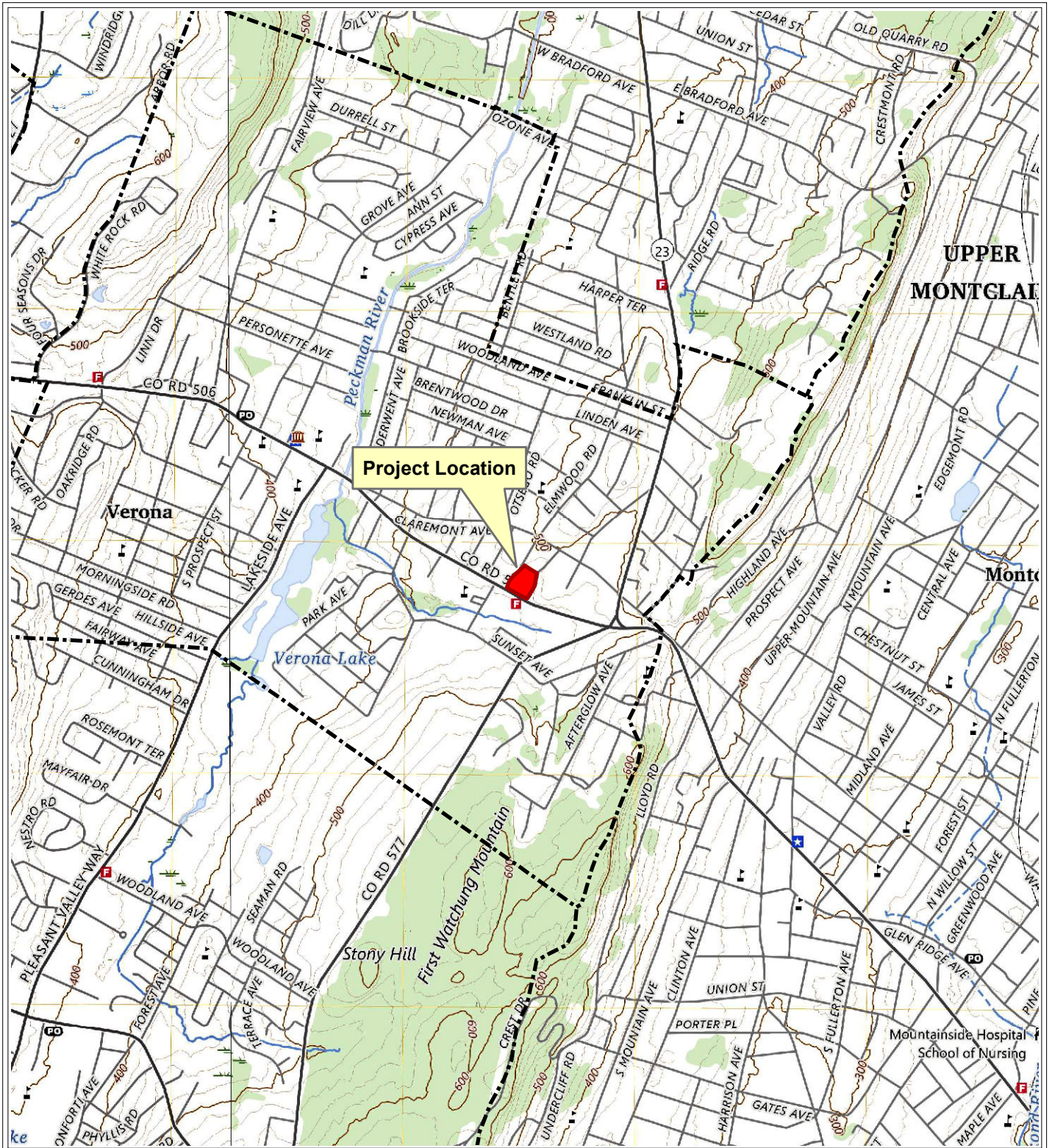


**County Roads Map**  
**Block 707 Lot 10**  
**Everett Park**  
**Township of Verona**  
**Essex County, NJ**

- Legend**
- Project Location
  - Local Road
  - County Route

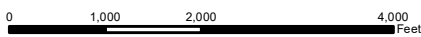
Drawn By: M.T.	Checked By: R.K.C.	Project No:	Sheet No:	Map References:
Designed By: R.K.C.	Page:	VEROMUN23.010	Figure 03	NJGIS, NJDEP, NJDOT
Field Book No:	Date: December 2023			





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**USGS Quadrangle Map**  
**Block 707 Lot 10**  
**Everett Park**  
**Township of Verona**  
**Essex County, NJ**

**Legend**

- Project Location
- Municipal Boundary



Drawn By: A.E.R	Checked By: R.K.C.	Project No:	Sheet No:	Map References: NJGIS, NJDEP, United States Geologic Survey (USGS) 2023 Quadrangle Map for Caldwell and Orange, NJ
Designed By: R.K.C.	Page:	VEROMUN23.010	Figure 04	
Field Book No:	Date: December 2023			





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### Soils Map Block 707 Lot 10 Everett Park Township of Verona Essex County, NJ

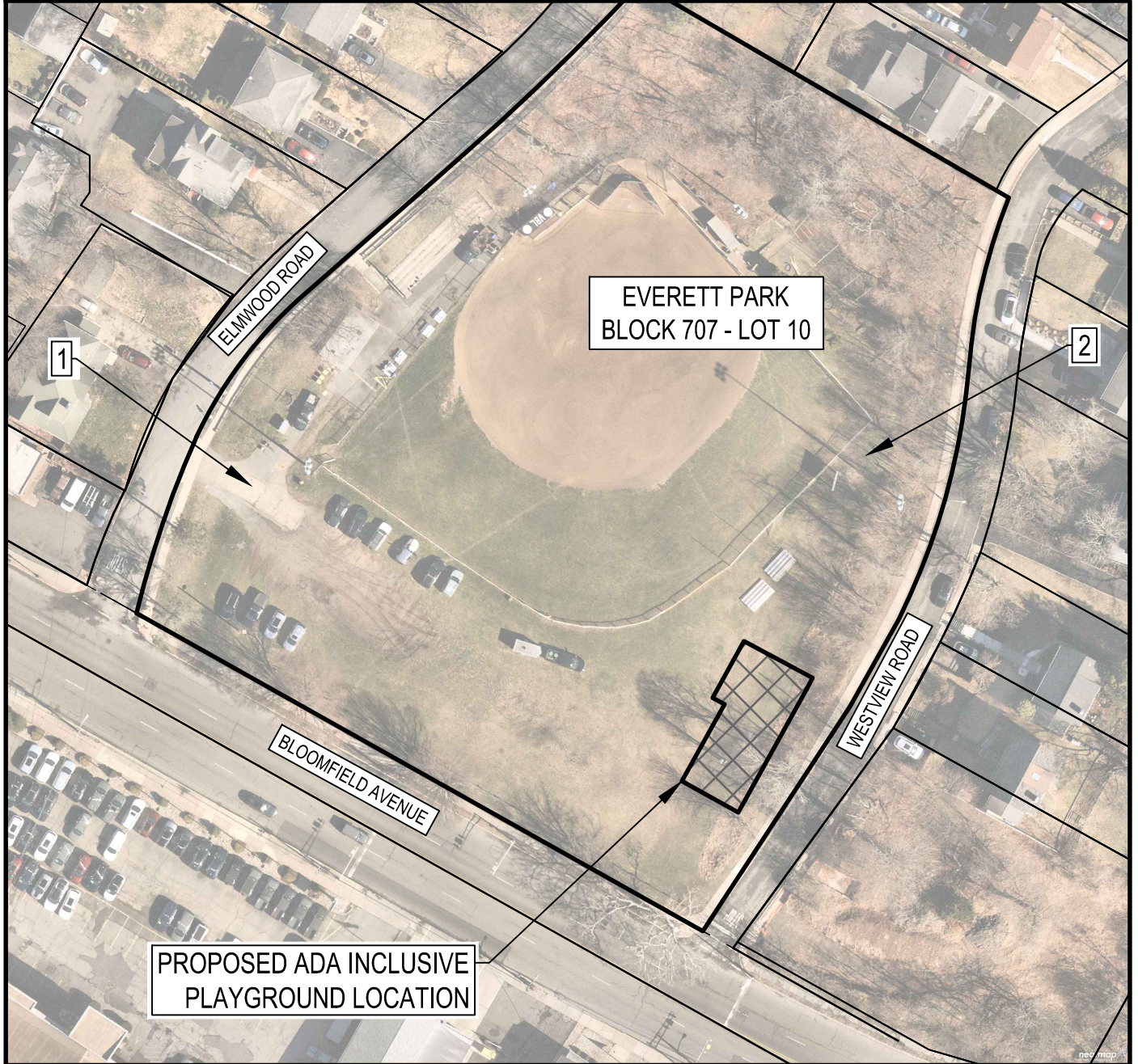
**Legend**

- Project Location
- Soil Type**
- BouB
- BouC
- URBONB
- Block and Lot

Drawn By: M.T.	Checked By: R.K.C.	Project No: VEROMUN23.010	Sheet No: Figure 05
Designed By: R.K.C.	Page:		Map References: NJOGIS, NJDEP, USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey for Essex County, 08/29/2023
Field Book No:	Date: December 2023		



GOOGLE MAPS



MAP REFERENCE: GOOGLE MAPS

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**PHOTO LOCATION MAP  
BLOCK 707 - LOT 10  
TOWNSHIP OF VERONA  
ESSEX COUNTY NEW JERSEY**

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DESIGNED BY:	SCALE: N.T.S.	VEROMUN23.010	Figure 06
FIELD BOOK NO.:	PAGE:		DATE: JANUARY 3, 2024

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**Photograph #1:** Existing site public parking area



**Photograph #2:** Location of proposed ADA inclusive playground