
Environmental Assessment dated December 30, 2016:

The City of Hartsville proposes to remove federal protection from all of the land comprising the Lee Street Ballfields and the North Hartsville Athletic Fields, existing Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) parcels, to allow for the construction of a Public Works Complex at the former and private ownership and maintenance at the later. The City of Hartsville proposes to mitigate this impact with acquisition and development of a dog park in a more central area of the city.

The Lee Street Ballfields (Park A) are located beyond the city limits in an unincorporated area of Darlington County, on the west side of South Leesburg Street. (See Figure 1). The North Hartsville Athletic Fields (Park B) are located at 1214 Old Ruby Road, also outside the city limits in an unincorporated area of the county. (See Figure 2).

A new dog park (Park C) will be located at the intersection of Railroad and Coker Avenues in the downtown district near numerous residential developments and the hub of economic and retail activity. (See Figure 3).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been requested by the National Park Service to help evaluate the environmental consequences of the proposed action on the human environment and allow the affected public to understand the context for the proposed action. Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the City of Hartsville is requesting that the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism forward a recommendation to the National Park Service (NPS) to approve the proposed conversion and replacement.

The public comment period was from November 31, 2017 until January 19, 2018. No public comments were received.

PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO THE ORIGINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A modification to the original EA is needed since the EA dated December 30, 2016, the city determined that creating a dog park at Byerly Park would be more advantageous than creating it at the intersection of Railroad and Coker Avenues in downtown Hartsville. The modification only changes the use of the property. The city created the Dog Park at Byerly Park. The land at Railroad and Coker Avenue in the downtown Canal District will create a small lake with benches and walking paths with open spaces for the public to enjoy.

All of the Environmental Impact factors for Park C have been re-reviewed and the change of use does not trigger any new environmental impact conditions. These are discussed in the original EA and are found on the next page.

CONCLUSION

The City of Hartsville has concluded that the change of use for the replacement property from a dog park to a small lake with benches, walking paths and open spaces still meets the intent of the December 30, 2016 Environmental Assessment in conserving land to be used for outdoor activities for the public. This conversion modification does not have a negative effect on the environment or reduction in land conserved for outdoor activities.