

## **5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter describes the potential adverse impacts to public recreational and park spaces that could occur for the Modified Design, in comparison to those described for Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway in the 2004 FEIS. For projects requiring federal funding or approval from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), including its subsidiaries (such as the Federal Transit Administration, FTA), parks and recreation areas are also protected by Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966. A Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Modified Design is included in Chapter 17 of this Supplemental EA.

The 2004 FEIS concluded that temporary adverse impacts would occur to public open spaces during construction along the Phase 2 alignment. The 2004 FEIS did not identify any permanent adverse impacts once the Project is complete and operational. The Modified Design would not change the conclusions of the 2004 FEIS. Elimination of the potential storage tracks along Second Avenue to 129th Street with the Modified Design eliminates potential temporary construction impacts to open space resources in that area.

## **5.2 FEIS FINDINGS**

### **5.2.1 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS**

The 2004 FEIS identified six public parks and open space areas between 105th and 125th Streets adjacent to or in construction areas that would have the potential to be affected by construction activities during Phase 2. An additional five parks were identified within one block of the project area for Phase 2. Construction activities were not planned to occur within any parks, but the 2004 FEIS described that parks close to surface construction activities could experience adverse impacts resulting from access limitations or construction disturbances (such as increased noise and dust) and increased visual disturbances related to construction equipment and activities. Potential temporary noise impacts were identified at the Wagner Houses Playground, Wagner Houses Pool, Crack is Wack Playground, Harlem River Drive Park, and Triboro Plaza, where construction noise levels might exceed FTA's construction noise criteria with the 2004 FEIS Design.

The 2004 FEIS committed to measures to reduce the construction impacts on adjacent parklands. It noted that park space would not be used for construction activities in East Harlem and barrier walls were to be erected between construction areas and adjacent sensitive uses. In addition, the 2004 FEIS described that MTA would construct light screens, employ best management practices to control dust, and use specially quieted construction equipment wherever practicable to separate parks from construction activities.

Despite efforts to screen adjacent parks from construction activities, the Wagner Houses Playground located along the alignment was expected to experience increased noise and dust because of its location near surface construction activities. Extensive efforts were to be made to keep this park free of construction debris and excessive dust during construction. The Harlem

## **Second Avenue Subway Phase 2 Supplemental Environmental Assessment**

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River Drive Park, Crack is Wack Playground, and Wagner Houses Pool located adjacent to proposed construction were not expected to be adversely affected because these facilities do not depend on a quiet setting.

Trees in both active and passive recreational spaces adjacent to construction were identified as potentially experiencing stress from dust or soil settlement resulting from underground construction. The health of all trees in parks adjacent to construction were to be monitored and (to the extent practicable) maintained, and ongoing coordination with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) was to continue throughout the construction phase.

The 2004 FEIS also identified a Greenstreet along 127th Street and Second Avenue that could be affected because of the construction of the proposed storage tracks north of 125th Street in Phase 2. To the extent that this occurred, such closures would be considered a temporary adverse impact.

### **5.2.2 PERMANENT IMPACTS**

The 2004 FEIS did not identify any permanent impacts to recreational or parkland resources along the Phase 2 alignment once the Second Avenue Subway is operational. Any parks affected by construction would be restored in coordination with NYC Parks.

## **5.3 UPDATE OF BACKGROUND CONDITIONS**

As shown in **Figure 5-1**, one new recreation area and five community gardens have been identified within one block from the proposed Phase 2 alignment since the 2004 FEIS. None of these open space resources are immediately adjacent to the Phase 2 alignment.

## **5.4 PHASE 2 MODIFIED DESIGN—CHANGES IN IMPACTS**

### **5.4.1 CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS**

Construction activities would not occur within any of the newly identified open space resources, but as described in the 2004 FEIS, open space resources in proximity to construction activities may experience temporary adverse impacts resulting from access limitations or construction disturbances (such as increased noise and dust) and increased visual disturbances related to the construction equipment and activities. Similar to Phase 1 construction, work zone fences would be wrapped with noise blankets to reduce noise levels.

With the elimination of the potential storage tracks along Second Avenue to 129th Street under the Modified Design, previously identified impacts on the Harlem River Drive Park, Crack is Wack Playground, Triboro Plaza, and Greenstreet along 127th Street are also eliminated. **Figure 5-1** depicts the parks that were previously, but are no longer, anticipated to be affected.

### **5.4.2 PERMANENT IMPACTS**

The Modified Design would not result in any new permanent adverse impacts to recreational or parkland resources. Parks affected during construction would be restored to their previous condition, in coordination with NYC Parks.



1. Each One Teach One Park
2. Crack Is Wack Playground
3. Harlem River Park
4. Triboro Park
5. Wagner Houses Pool
6. Carver Community Garden
7. 335 East 111th Street Recreation Area
8. Alice Kornegay Triangle
9. Diamante Garden
10. Humacao Community Garden
11. La Casita Community Garden
12. Neighbors Of Vega Baja
13. Papo's Garden
14. Un Sitio Feliz
15. Wagner Houses Recreation Areas
16. Wagner Houses Playground
17. Dream Street Park
18. Marcus Garvey Memorial Park
19. Poor Richard's Playground
20. PS 155 Playground

|                            |                                      |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| SAS Phase 2 Alignment      | New Since 2004                       |
| Proposed Station Locations | Original FEIS and No Longer Affected |
| Open Space Resources       |                                      |

0 800 FEET



## 5.5 CONCLUSIONS

The Modified Design would result in temporary construction impacts on fewer parks along the Phase 2 alignment than was predicted in the 2004 FEIS. MTA would continue to implement the mitigation measures outlined in the 2004 FEIS at any parks adjacent to the construction zones, and would continue to coordinate with NYC Parks, as was done during construction of Phase 1. The Phase 2 Modified Design would not result in any new or different significant adverse impacts to public open spaces not previously identified in the 2004 FEIS and ROD. \*