Appendix 16

Parks, Open Space, Recreation

There are twenty (20) designated State forests and one (1) Federal Forest in Puerto Rico: Aguirre, Boquerón, Carite, Cambalache, Ceiba, Cerrillos, Guajataca, Guánica, Guilarte, Los Tres Picachos, Maricao, Monte Choca, National Caribbean Forest - El Yunque, Piñones, Pueblo, Río Abajo, San Patricio, Susúa, Toro Negro, New Millenium Urban and Vega. None of the Build Alternatives run across or in the vicinity of these designated State or Federal forests. Also, none of the Build Alternatives run across or in the vicinity of the areas designated in 2014 as part of the Model Forest.

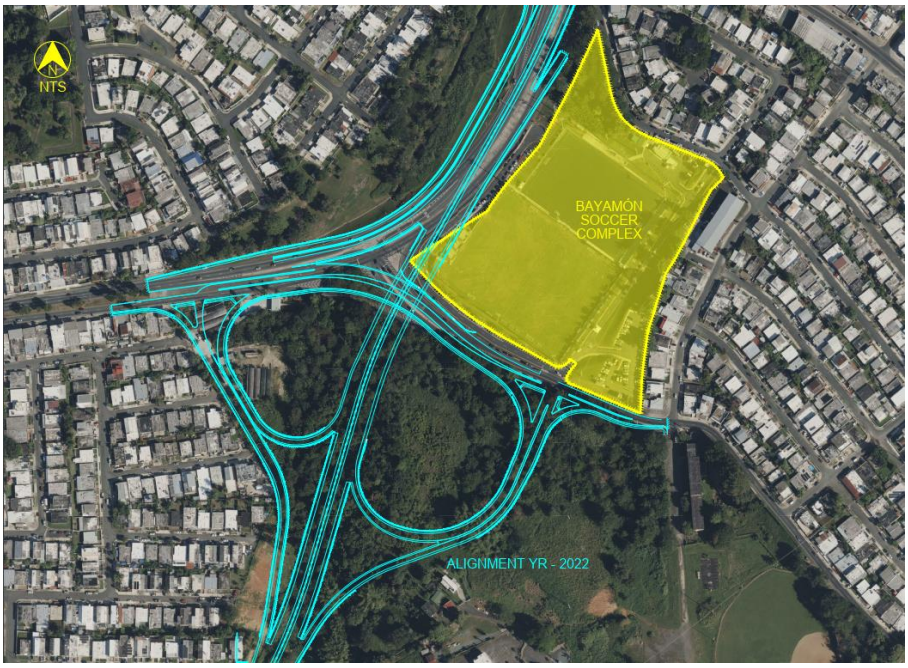
However, there is one (1) publicly owned recreational facility identified within the area of impact of Build Alternatives. The area consisted in a soccer field complex with about 46,630.205 square meters (11.8640 cuerdas) is located at state roads PR-199/PR-5 intersection, Santa Juanita Urbanization, Cerro Gordo Ward in the municipality of Bayamón, within the area of impact of Build the selected alternative. This facility is owned by the municipality of Bayamón. It is estimated that 1,431.7344 square meters (0.3643 cuerdas) equivalent to 3.07% of the soccer complex parcel will be acquired for the PRHTA project. The affected area is where movable bleachers and a dead-end street are located. To mitigate this impact, the Puerto Rico Highway and Transportation Authority (PRHTA) coordinated with the municipality of Bayamón a compensatory payment for the acquired land and the impacted bleachers. See figure below.



Potential impact on this soccer complex was minimized and mitigated through the implementation of the following measures:

- The impact of YR-2003 was minimized with a revised road geometry on YR-2022, which allowed the Soccer Complex to remain in its current location without changes to its existing use. The construction of road geometry in addition to minimizing the impact on the recreational facility, improves its access and keeps the community cohesion. See Figures below.





- For the unavoidable impact area, the PRHTA coordinates with the Municipality a compensatory payment for the acquired land and the impacted bleachers, thus allowing for the redistribution and realignment of the facilities within the same location while minimizing changes to the facilities and keeping their existing use. In addition, the construction of a wall is proposed along the side of the site that faces the proposed road, to mitigate potential noise impacts.

As indicated above:

1) no part of the Bayamon Soccer complex will be permanently incorporated into the transportation project, and although a portion of the site where the Bayamón facility will be incorporated into the transportation project, site is large enough to allow for the redistribution and realignment of the existing facilities to maintain its current activities, features or attributes;
2) any temporary occupancy of the land will not be adverse to the park current use; and
3) the project's proximity will not pose an impact so severely on the park that their current activities, features or attributes are substantially impaired.

Therefore, it can be concluded at this point that through minimization and mitigation the activities, features and attributes the park will not be adversely affected.

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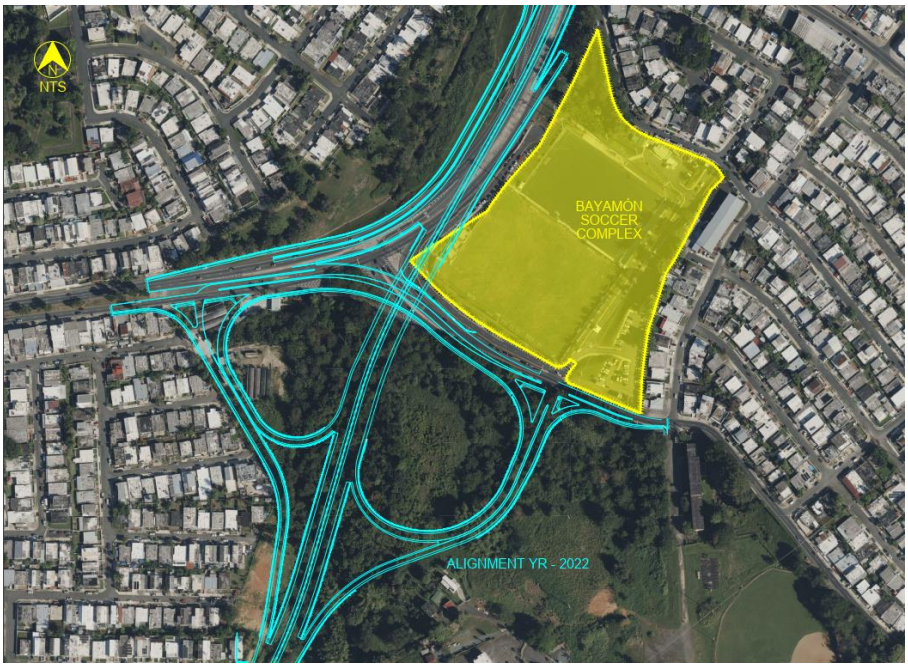

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