



U.S. Department of Homeland Security
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

Washington, D.C. 20223

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

**Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the James J. Rowley
Training Center 2023 Master Plan Update**

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): FONSI for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the James J. Rowley Training Center 2023 Master Plan Update

AGENCY: United States Secret Service (USSS)

ACTION: FONSI

SUMMARY: Pursuant to NEPA of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA [40 CFR 1500-1508 (1986)], and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Directive 023-01, Rev 01, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, Rev 01., the USSS has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and 2023 Rowley Training Center (RTC) Master Plan Update to its 2017 RTC Master Plan Update published on May 9, 2018.

PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is the implementation of the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update which reflects future and preliminary development projects within identified areas located within the boundaries of the existing James J. RTC in Prince George County, Laurel, Maryland.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The USSS prepared a SEA to analyze the environmental impacts that could result from the implementation of the proposed 2023 RTC Master Plan Update. The proposed 2023 RTC Master Plan Update seeks to concentrate development in the campus core. It provides consolidated training areas for ranges, driver training, canine, in-service training, physical training, and training venues, all of which encircle the core. With this configuration, all the training areas are within a ten-minute walk to the core, promoting walkability on campus.

The proposed RTC 2023 Master Plan Update identifies 13 USSS projects for the next twenty years. This Master Plan provides:

- 129,235 square feet of Defense Training Facility
- 918,543 square feet of facilities including 111,296 existing, 52,696 renovated, and 754,541 square feet new facilities
- 45 classrooms
- 15 training venues (216,736 square feet) including an Expanded Tactical Village, Raid

Houses, and East Judgmental Range

- 156 indoor firing range lanes including 60 - 50-yard (YD) lanes, 24 – 75 YD lanes, and 72 – 100 YD lanes
- 841 parking spaces including 60 spaces for government owned vehicles and 781 spaces for privately owned vehicles and vans; To be both economically and environmentally frugal, the plan only provides new parking in the campus core to allow personnel to park there and walk during the day

The 2023 Master Plan Update meets the critical mission and quality of life needs of the campus and its tenants and is the preferred action for the projected staff and student population growth.

PURPOSE AND NEED: The purpose of the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update is to evaluate existing infrastructure against operational requirements, sequence a capital improvement program that closes capability gaps, outline a program for consolidating and collocating facilities to improve the operational environment and mission accomplishment, accommodate external and internal-campus transportation, and develop projects, probably costs, and phasing to create a facility program. The RTC 2023 Master Plan Update is needed in order to accommodate the renovations of existing structures and newly proposed specialized training facilities that would support the agency’s current mission, projected population growth, and goal to create a functional, consolidated campus.

ALTERNATIVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED: In accordance with NEPA and DHS policy, USSS evaluated alternatives to the Project to determine whether they would be reasonable and environmentally preferable to the Proposed Action. USSS identified the No-Action Alternative and the Preferred Action also known as the Proposed Action Alternative to adopt and implement the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update as described. Under the No-Action Alternative, USSS would not implement the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update and would continue to implement the 2017 RTC Master Plan. The 2017 RTC Master Plan sought to accommodate the expanded training program at the RTC through the proposed addition of facilities, consolidation of existing facilities into precincts, and security upgrades. However, the 2017 Master Plan Update does not reflect current needs of the RTC which forecasts an increase in personnel and students, need for additional training venues, and identification of different venues and ranges needed for different training experiences. Impacts identified within the SEA from the Proposed Action Alternative would be equal to or less than impacts identified in the No-Action Alternative. Therefore, the No-Action Alternative does not fully support the USSS mission for a consolidated campus and does not meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The SEA contains the results of an impact analysis of the proposed action and alternative on the affected environment, including the following:

1. Land Use and Planning Policies
2. Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Protection of Children

3. Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources
4. Roadways and Traffic Patterns
5. Parking
6. Public Transit
7. Topography, Drainage, and Soils
8. Water Resources
9. Vegetation
10. Wildlife
11. Noise
12. Air Quality
13. Utilities
14. Stormwater Management
15. Sustainability
16. Hazardous Materials
17. Coastal Zone Management

No significant impacts on the environment have been identified for the implementation of the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update and no significant cumulative impacts are expected. RTC conducted a survey of the RTC buildings and grounds as well as a survey of the USSS RTC history. USSS found that although the campus has historic significance, it is not eligible for the National Register Criteria because the campus lacks integrity when reviewing RTC in the historic context for Maryland architecture, federal law enforcement training, and community planning and development. As such, the USSS has determined that RTC does not meet National Register Criteria A, B, C, or D, and the property is ineligible for listing. USSS RTC sent a Determination of Eligibility letter to the MHT, the Maryland SHPO, stating that USSS RTC did not find the USSS RTC Campus eligible. In June 2023, the MHT agreed with that finding.

IMPACT MINIMIZATION MEASURES: To avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts to the extent practicable, USSS has identified best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures in the SEA that would be applied as applicable, for project-specific activities to ensure the avoidance of significant impacts on resources and alleviate the need for subsequent review. USSS would employ innovative and environmentally friendly BMPs in site and building design and construction practice to reduce erosion and avoid pollution of surface waters, consistent with state and local requirements. The 2023 Master Plan Update would maintain vegetated buffers adjacent to bodies of water, minimize tree cutting and other vegetation removal, preserve existing vegetation, incorporate new trees and vegetation, and use pervious surfaces to reduce stormwater runoff where viable. These measures include bio-retention ponds, vegetated filtration strips, rain gardens, and permeable surface walkways, to reduce erosion and clean and capture stormwater on-site. RTC follows BMPs as outlined in the 2018 NPDES General Discharge Permit No. 13-SF-5501 and the 2021 Stormwater Management Plan. USSS RTC will obtain applicable permits and authorizations necessary prior to commencing construction for the project included in the Master Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The SEA has been coordinated with appropriate stakeholders, including federal agencies and Native American Tribes, having an interest in the Proposed Action.

Scoping for this project began October 2021. The USSS (through The Urban Collaborative/Transystems Team) sent scoping emails and letters to agencies, organizations, and public officials requesting comments or concerns at the start of the planning process. Following the precedent of the 2012 and 2017 Master Plan processes, the planning team sent emails to the following organizations:

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
Council on Environmental Quality
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)
Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)/ Goddard Space Flight Center
National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
National Park Service (NPS)
Other Local, State, and Federal Government Officials
Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources
Prince George's County Department of Public Works and Transportation
Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Management Services (EMS)
Prince George's County Police
Snowden Pond Montpelier Homeowners' Association
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW)
U.S. Geologic Survey Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

The USSS also sent scoping emails to the Delaware Nation of Oklahoma and the Delaware Tribe in Oklahoma and Kansas. No response was received from the tribes.

Representatives from DHS, NCPC, MDP, M-NCPPC, and ACHP attended the Master Plan Workshop Kick-Off virtually and provided input. Initial comments and recommendations included conservation of the tree stand along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to ensure the historic character of the parkway; NEPA considerations regarding the EA process and stakeholder coordination; inclusion of significant USSS history of the site location as part of the NEPA analysis. No buildings were identified as architecturally significant.

As part of their standard process NCPC posted the redacted documents on their website, sent the redacted documents to affected local, state, and federal government agencies for review, and performed an NCPC staff review of the full (non-redacted) documents. NCPC posted a public notice and sent the documents for review in October 2022. The draft project was presented to the NCPC Commission on December 1, 2022 and USSS received approval on December 14, 2022. Below are links for the NCPC posting.

<https://www.ncpc.gov/review/archive/2022/12-01/>
https://www.ncpc.gov/files/projects/2022/MP63_James_J._Rowley_Training_Center_Master_Plan_Draft_Master_Plan_Dec2022.pdf

The USSS staff received comments on the Draft Master Plan V2 through the NCPC process from the NCPC, MDP, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and M-NCPPC. Comments received from the NCPC included reference to the NCPC Tree Preservation Policy and creation of a Tree Replacement Plan; the NCPC Wetland Mitigation Policy wetland mitigation requirements; recommendations regarding solar arrays; and addressing local and state government comments. The MDP provided comments regarding future construction and guidance for above or underground petroleum tanks, solid construction waste, lead paint abatement, brownfield site assessment, borrow fill and emissions. MDE provided comments on anti-degradation of water quality for future projects of the Beaverdam Creek 2 and stormwater projects; green building standards; electric vehicle charging stations; and transportation improvements. All substantive comments were addressed in the draft SEA and Master Plan Update and summarized in the SEA appendices.

On May 19, 2023, USSS conducted a 30-day public comment period on the draft SEA and Master Plan Update. No comments were received.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT: The SEA was prepared according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 *et seq.*); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR §§1500-1508); DHS Directive 023-01 Revision 01, Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act; and other pertinent environmental statutes, regulations, and compliance requirements. The analyses described in the SEA demonstrate that the Proposed Action would result in no significant impact on the environment. As a result, no additional analysis or documentation (i.e., Environmental Impact Statement) is required under NEPA or CEQ's Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. USSS would continue to utilize all practical means to minimize or avoid the potential for adverse impacts to the human and natural environment.

CONCLUSION: Based on the analysis in this SEA, the undersigned finds that the Proposed Federal Action is consistent with the existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in NEPA, and implementation of the RTC 2023 Master Plan Update will not result in a significant effect on the human or natural environment. Applicable Federal, state, and local laws and regulations will be followed.

DATE: This Proposed Action may proceed as of the date of the signature of the Final FONSI.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

DATE

MILTOM D. WILSON
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR,
OFFICE OF TRAINING
US UNITED SECRET SERVICE

DATE

DR. TERESA R. POHLMAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF READINESS SUPPORT OFFICER
US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY