



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

January 27, 2012

Planning and Environmental Branch

Dear Madam or Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Forest Ridge Park, Falls Lake, Wake County, North Carolina, dated January 2012. The FONSI has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(33 CFR 230), as amended.

Based on the information contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Forest Ridge Park and comments received during the 30-day review period for the EA, we have determined that the proposed Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This completes the NEPA process for this action.

If you have any questions concerning Forest Ridge Park, please contact Ms. Carol Banaitis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Falls Lake, 11405 Falls of Neuse Road, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-9599; e-mail: [carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil](mailto:carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil); telephone: (919) 846-9332, extension 226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Baker".

Steven A. Baker  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

Enclosure



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

January 27, 2012

Planning and Environmental Branch

Ms. Valerie McMillan  
Environmental Policy Act Coordinator  
N.C. Dept of Administration – State Clearinghouse  
1301 Mail Service Center  
Post Office Box 1000  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1301

Dear Ms. McMillan:

Enclosed are 16 copies (2 hard copies, 14 CDs) of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Forest Ridge Park, Falls Lake, Wake County, North Carolina, dated January 2012. The FONSI has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(33 CFR 230), as amended.

Based on the information contained in the Environmental Assessment (EA), we believe that the selected action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. This completes the NEPA process for this action.

If you have any questions concerning Forest Ridge Park, please contact Ms. Carol Banaitis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Falls Lake, 11405 Falls of Neuse Road, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-9599; e-mail: [carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil](mailto:carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil); telephone: (919) 846-9332, extension 226.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SAB", written over a horizontal line.

Steven A. Baker  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

Enclosures

**Department of the Army  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403**

**January 27, 2012**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**FOREST RIDGE PARK at FALLS LAKE**  
**WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**  
**JANUARY 2012**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared, which discusses and responds to comments received during the 30-day review of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for Forest Ridge Park, Falls Lake, dated October 2011. The EA addressed the environmental impacts associated with the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed Forest Ridge Park at Falls Lake in Wake County, North Carolina. The FONSI has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(33 CFR 230), as amended.

The proposed amenities of Forest Ridge Park would be phased in over time, and the proposed park elements to be included in each phase would be determined as the park develops. The full extent of the planned Forest Ridge Park amenities would include:

Welcome Center – This would be an environmental education facility and the park's main information center. It would also have a conference room in the first phase of the park and later that room would transition into the caretaker's cottage.

Lakeside Center – This center would consist of a structure with a boathouse, restroom, rental office and wet classroom. In addition to the structure, this center would include a series of docks for water related activities including a canoe/kayak launch area. Facilities near the center would be picnicking facilities, a fishing pier, sand volleyball courts and a small playground. Dependent upon future regulations concerning swimming in this area of Falls Lake, the center may also include a swimming area.

Camping Areas – Two types of camping would be available. Group camping would be located at or near the Lakeside Center and would be conducive to individual and organized group camping by providing five campsites with nearby parking, campfire and

restroom/shower facilities. The other type of camping is primitive or water-accessed camping and would only be offered under the leadership of a trained outdoor educator. This primitive camping would only be accessible by canoe or kayak and no cleared campsites, shelter, water or power would be provided.

Overnight Lodge – This would be a retreat facility with sleep accommodations, common space and dining facilities. A caretaker’s residence and staff quarters for group activity leaders would be housed in this facility.

Waterfront Conference and Adventure Center – This would be a multi-faceted facility overlooking the lake and would be a hub for the adventure programs offered at the park. The building would feature conference facilities for large groups or informal gatherings. A variety of activities could occur immediately around this center such as map interpretation/running sports, orienteering, climbing expositions or passive recreation, such as birding or plant identification along interpretive trails.

Ropes Course – The course would be located within walking distance of the Welcome Center and would be comprised of a series of ropes and platforms with varying skill levels. The course would be led by a trained and certified instructor and would be closed to the general public at all other times. This course would also include a restroom and picnic facility.

Disc Golf Course – The 18-hole disc golf course would be integrated into the existing forest setting to create a challenging course with limited built interventions.

Multi-use Activity Areas – Two areas proposed in existing, relatively flat portions of the site would serve as the location for multi-use fields with a combination of picnic shelters and restrooms at each area. One of the multi-use activity areas would incorporate a playground adjacent to the multi-use field and picnic shelter/restroom.

Green Amphitheater – This facility would include a small performance and seating area that is built into the natural topography of the site; thereby, reducing the need for construction of seating and stage components.

Trail Network – The proposed trail network would be composed of 5 unique trail types to accommodate a variety of users in a safe way. Trail types would be located to minimize impact to the site and may be shared when conditions would be compatible. However, trail types would generally be separated to avoid conflict between user groups. Trail types include:

- Two types of paved trails -
  - Greenway trail - a 10-foot-wide multi-use accessible path.
  - Multi-use trail - an 8-foot-wide multi-use trail connection serving as a secondary trail to provide access to scenic vistas, park amenities and for secondary loops off the primary greenway.
- Three types of unpaved trails -
  - Single track bike trail - a 1.5-foot-wide mountain bike trail.
  - Wilderness trail - a 2-foot-wide side hiking trail to provide pedestrian only hiking that winds through the site.

- Combination trail - in narrow strips of land or steep areas, a 2-foot-wide multi-use mountain biking and hiking trail would be combined for short stretches to access areas where the uses could be separated.

This Notice of Availability is being distributed to notify all known interested persons of the availability of the FONSI. This completes the NEPA process for this action. The FONSI may be accessed online at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/falls/index.htm>.

If you have questions regarding Forest Ridge Park, please contact Ms. Carol Banaitis, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Falls Lake, 11405 Falls of Neuse Road, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-9599; e-mail: [carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil](mailto:carol.m.banaitis@usace.army.mil); telephone: (919) 846-9332, extension 226.



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