

Figure CP-4 is a copy of the N.J.D.E.P. Fresh Water Wetlands Map of Gloucester City. This map identifies that there are no wetlands along the Little Timber Creek edge between PSE&G right-of-way and Route 130. East of Route 130, the entire water's edge area has been mapped as a Palustrine Forested Wetlands Area. The presence or absence of wetlands strictly affects the future usability.

Since the City-owned lands are mapped as wetlands, it is this area that should be maintained as a forested nature preserve. The City should consider the creation of trails through this area with interpretative signage to identify habitat areas or individual specimen species of trees or other forms of vegetation.

The undeveloped land owned by the Board of Education, located between the PSE&G right-of-way and Broadway, provide an excellent opportunity to maintain a greenbelt along the edge of the waterway, while providing for appropriate forms of development on the remainder of the parcel. As identified above, the entirety of this approximately 14-acre wooded area has been mapped by N.J.D.E.P. as an upland area unencumbered by fresh water wetlands.

School officials have advised that this wooded area has been "banked" by the Board of Education for the future development of additional athletic facilities if needed, either as a result of building expansion or through increased student demand. As shown in Figure CP-5, the recent construction of the Cold Springs School has resulted in a residual area between these two facilities which could potentially address the need for additional athletic facilities. The potential use of the area between the two school facilities and future uses of the wooded area adjacent to Little Timber Creek should be jointly evaluated by the City and Board of Education officials.

In the event that this review determines that the wooded area could be developed for uses other than athletic facilities, it is recommended that the City preserve a perimeter greenbelt along the water's edge of this site. The area within this greenbelt could be used by the City to create wetlands mitigation sites as well as nature and interpretive pathways which would be available for use not only by school students, but all members of the community.