

**FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE  
CROTON WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
AT THE EASTVIEW SITE**

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## **5.5. OPEN SPACE**

### **5.5.1. Introduction**

Open space can be privately or publicly owned land that is accessible to the public for leisure, play, sport, or that has been dedicated to protecting the natural environment of an area. The purpose of the open space analysis for the proposed Croton Water Treatment Plant project (Croton project) is to characterize existing open space conditions and to evaluate both quantitative and qualitative impacts upon open space resources during construction and operation. The Eastview Site is owned by the City of New York, and was purchased in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in anticipation of water treatment needs for the City's Water Supply System. Furthermore, the site is not open to the public and has not been designated for recreational or environmental purposes. Therefore, an analysis of direct impacts on open space is not necessary. The methodology used to prepare an Open Space analysis is presented in Section 4.5, Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Open Space.

In addition, the proposed project is not anticipated to have an indirect impact on open space (i.e., increasing the demand) due to the industrial nature of the proposed project and the number and types of employees it would generate on both a short-term construction basis and long-term operational basis. Construction workers would not be anticipated to utilize open spaces during their workday. They would typically spend their lunch breaks on the construction site. Operation of the proposed project would not generate a substantial number of employees. Furthermore, since the proposed plant would provide an employee lunchroom, employees would most likely eat their meals on the site as opposed to spending time in a nearby park. Moreover, the closest parks, such as the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, are not within walking distance, further minimizing the likelihood that project-generated employees would create new demand for open space.

Other NYCDEP projects proposed for the Eastview Site include a police precinct, the Catskill/Delaware Ultraviolet Light (UV) Facility (Cat/Del UV Facility), possibly a NYCDEP East-of-Hudson administration building and the Kensico-City Tunnel (KCT) project. The police precinct is planned to be constructed by 2006. The construction period for the proposed Croton project would overlap with that of the Cat/Del UV Facility if the Eastview Site is chosen as the preferred location for the proposed water treatment plant. In addition, the operation year for the Cat/Del UV Facility is anticipated for 2009. Construction of the KCT project is planned to start in 2009 and could extend fifteen or more years. It is likely that the Eastview Site could be a staging area for this project.

Workers associated with these NYCDEP projects would also be anticipated to spend their lunch breaks on the site, even though a substantial number of employees are anticipated for these NYCDEP projects. As noted above, since the closest parks are not within walking distance, it is unlikely that employees or construction workers generated by other NYCDEP project would create new demand for open space.