

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

6.12.	HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	1
6.12.1.	Introduction.....	1
6.12.2.	Baseline Conditions .....	1
6.12.2.1.	Existing Conditions.....	1
6.12.2.2.	Future Without the Project.....	3
6.12.3.	Potential Impacts.....	4
6.12.3.1.	Potential Project Impacts .....	4
6.12.3.2.	Potential Construction Impacts.....	5

## **6.12. HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

### **6.12.1. Introduction**

In historic and archaeological resource analysis evaluates an action's affects on an area that has been reported to potentially possess an historical importance and/or has not been disturbed due to construction activities. Resources encompass buildings, structures, and objects of historical, aesthetic, cultural and archaeological (subsurface) importance. In an archaeological analysis, data must be gathered from the surrounding area to predict the likelihood of resources existing in the project area.

For the purpose of this analysis, a study area of one-mile radius from the periphery of the Mosholu Site has been established a description of the City-owned property is presented in Section 6.2, Land Use, Zoning and Public Policy). The methodology used to prepare this analysis is presented in [Section 4.12](#), Data Collection and Impact Methodologies, Historic and Archaeological Resources. Supporting documentation is included in Appendix D.

### **6.12.2. Baseline Conditions**

#### **6.12.2.1. Existing Conditions**

##### ***6.12.2.1.1. Historic Resources***

The proposed plant would be located to the east of the New Croton Aqueduct (NCA) and the Mosholu Parkway within the Mosholu Golf Course and Driving Range (ca. 1914). The documented NCA, a National Register-eligible property, is a functioning component of the City's Water Supply System. The golf course, of note in the historical development of municipal golf courses, is an important feature within Van Cortlandt Park. While no landmarked buildings/structures are located on the water treatment plant site, the Mosholu Golf Course clubhouse is present. Although probably not eligible for listing on the National Register as an individual structure, this building is of historical note. The structure is reminiscent, on a small scale, of the grand clubhouse erected at private suburban golf courses. The building is a Colonial Revival structure built of brick with a wood trim. The most notable features of the building are the entrance portico, with its eight Roman Doric columns, and the gables, which are pierced by Palladian windows. Plans from the Olmsted Center archives (New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYCDPR), Map Division) indicate that the original club house was built in 1928. However, additional plans from 1971 indicate that major structural additions were made to three of the facades, including the front elevations. Several interior renovations were completed in recent times. It would be very difficult to capture any of the remaining look and feel of the 1920s clubhouse due to the substantial 1971 enhancements to the front and sides of the building.

The main body of the Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park (1888) is located to the west of Jerome Avenue. On the east side of Jerome Avenue is Woodlawn Cemetery. This historic cemetery has numerous extravagant mausoleums, memorials, and tombstones; several affluent citizens of New

York are interred there. Woodlawn is also noted for its elaborately groomed grounds and manicured lawns. Jerome Avenue serves as a buffer, physically separating the cemetery and the Golf Course.

The water treatment plant site is also visually and physically separated from the known historic structures in Van Cortlandt Park (Park), such as the Van Cortlandt Mansion, which is located approximately 3/4 mile to the west. In addition, Van Cortlandt Park itself is historically important; no formal process has been undertaken to definitively determine its eligibility for landmark status.

#### ***6.12.2.1.2. Archaeological Resources***

Documentary research found that the water treatment plant site is in an area of sensitivity for prehistoric resources. The water treatment plant site file search and assessment of sensitivity conducted at the New York State Museum (NYSM) and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP) reported eight known prehistoric sites within a two-mile radius of the water treatment plant site. The well-documented presence of a nearby native pathway and the permanent village of *Keskeskick* within the park indicates that the village site may have been extensive and/or occupied over a long period of time<sup>1,2</sup>. The physiographic characteristics of the Park, together with the information extracted from the documentary record and the number of prehistoric sites explored archaeologically, suggests that Native American peoples also likely utilized the water treatment plant site.

The earliest archaeological exploration within Van Cortlandt Park was conducted in 1890 by J. B. James, who recovered pottery, fire pits, lithic material, burials, and other traces of the long-term occupation of this locale<sup>3,4,5</sup>. Additional material has been recovered from sites all over the Park including storage pits, pottery fragments, shell middens, burials, and lithic material<sup>6,7,8</sup>.

More recent investigations within Van Cortlandt Park (NYSM #2387, #2823, #4057, and #7727) have identified a village, shell midden, and campsite in locales throughout the park. During the early 1990s, several archaeological investigations were conducted in the park. Archaeologists Arthur Bankoff and Fred Winter recovered a storage pit containing shell, ash, and lithic material<sup>9</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> Bolton, R.P. 1972. *Indian Life Long Ago in the City of New York*. Enlarged edition. Harmony Books. NY.

<sup>2</sup> Anderson, M.O. 1991. *Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay Parks: Native Americans*. Administrator's Office, Van Cortandt & Pelham Bay Parks. NY.

<sup>3</sup> Bolton. 1972.

<sup>4</sup> Anderson. 1991.

<sup>5</sup> Storch Associates. 1986. *Van Cortlandt Park, Borough of the Bronx: Restoration Master Plan for the City of New York*. Volumes I and II on file at New York City Landmark Preservation Commission. Storch and Associates.

<sup>6</sup> Bolton, R.P. 1934. *Early History and Indian Remains on the Throgs Neck*. Borough of Bronx, City of New York. Bronx Society of Arts and Sciences.

<sup>7</sup> Tieck, W.A. 1968. *Riverdale, Kingsbridge, and Spuyten Duyvil, New York City*. Fleming H. Revell Co. Old Tappan, NJ.

<sup>8</sup> Skinner, A. 1915. *The Indians of Manhattan Island and Vicinity*. 1691 Reprint. Ira J. Friedman, Inc. Port Washington, NY.

<sup>9</sup> Bankoff, H.S., F.A. Winter. 1991. *Van Cortlandt House Excavations, 1990 and 1991*. Brooklyn College CUNY. Brooklyn, NY.

The archaeological examination of the Chapel Farm site near 254th Street in the Bronx (A005-01-00079, NYSM #7729) identified a prehistoric lithic workshop<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, a quartz quarry site was identified nearby. Arthur C. Parker describes the two sites closest to the current water treatment plant site, NYSM #7727 within Van Cortlandt Park, and NYSM #2837 east of the Park and the Major Deegan Expressway, as prehistoric campsites<sup>11</sup>.

The historic Van Cortlandt Mansion, now a museum operated by the National Society of Colonial Dames, and Vault Hill are in the southwestern section of the Park and; therefore, well outside of the water treatment plant site. When this area was part of Philipsburgh Manor and Van Cortlandt Manor, large portions of these estates, including the park property, were leased to tenant farmers. Small farmhouses with their associated outbuildings and cultivated fields were likely present until the Revolutionary War. Most of these dwellings were probably located in the southern portion of the manor or in the vicinity of Tibbetts Brook, where the terrain is less hilly and more suited for agricultural pursuits. Some of these dwellings may have been situated in the northeastern section of the park near the former native planting grounds. The woodland in the northern area of the park would have provided timber and possibly small game for the inhabitants of the manor. However, no dwellings, barns, or other historical structures were depicted in the location of the Mosholu Golf Course on any of the historical maps reviewed.

Van Cortlandt Park was used as farmland and later parkland during the nineteenth century. With the introduction of the two aqueducts, railroad tracks with associated bridges, and paved roads and/or paths many areas within the park have been transformed. At the time the park was established, one of the most popular recreation activities was golf. The first municipal golf course, the Van Cortlandt Golf Links was created in the west side of the park in 1895<sup>12</sup>. As the popularity of the sport increased, a new course, the Mosholu Links, was built on the proposed site in 1914<sup>13</sup>. The introduction of the golf course with the associated extensive topographic alterations and land manipulation changed the physical appearance of the proposed site considerably.

#### **6.12.2.2. *Future Without the Project***

The Future Without the Project conditions were developed for the anticipated peak year of construction (2010) and the anticipated year of operation (2011) for the proposed project. The anticipated peak year of construction is based on peak truck traffic and the peak number of workers.

The Lew Rudin Youth Golf Center is still evolving and there would be continued need for improvements and space allocated on the golf course for these new golfers to learn and play. As for future developments, there is a future plan to construct a new structure that will offer golf instructional programs year round.

---

<sup>10</sup> Kahn Associates. 1991. Cultural Resource Investigations, Stage II, Chapel Farm II. Bronx, New York. Kahn Associates. New York, NY.

<sup>11</sup> Parker, A.C. 1920. The Archaeological History of New York, Bulletin #235 & #236. New York State Museum. NY.

<sup>12</sup> Storch Associates. 1986.

<sup>13</sup> Storch Associates. 1986.

As noted in **Section 6.2**, Land Use Zoning, and Public Policy, there are numerous projects and proposals within the study area.

### **6.12.3. Potential Impacts**

#### **6.12.3.1. Potential Project Impacts**

The anticipated year of operation for the proposed plant is 2011. Therefore, comparing the Future With the Project conditions against the Future Without the Project conditions for the year 2011 has assessed potential project impacts.

##### **6.12.3.1.1. Historic Resources**

The land that now comprises Van Cortlandt Park was acquired by New York City as parkland in 1888. The Park may be eligible for landmark status. Today, the Park is one of the City's largest and most heavily used, and is a significant component of the extensive park system in the Borough of the Bronx. Starting in 1895, when the first municipal golf course was created, Van Cortlandt Park has been the home to several distinguished golf facilities. The Mosholu Golf Course, of note in the historical development of municipal golf courses, was created ca. 1914.

The proposed plant would be visually and physically separated from any historic and/or landmarked structures within the Park or the surrounding area (e.g., Van Cortlandt Mansion, Vault Hill). Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to existing historic resources are anticipated. Because the water treatment plant site is located west of Jerome Avenue and the facilities would be substantially below existing grade, operation of the proposed plant would not significantly visually impact the surrounding area.

##### **6.12.3.1.2. Archaeological Resources**

The creation and current usage of the golf course, a continuously evolving recreational landscape, has made the possibility of intact belowground archaeological resources remote. However, comments on the Draft SEIS received from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission, and several members of the public have raised the question that archaeological resources could be on the site. An examination of well logs conducted on site was not able to preclude the presence of some undisturbed soils on site. Therefore, the potential exists for archaeological resources to exist on the site. Consequently, prior to any ground disturbance for the construction of the proposed facility, a thorough subsurface investigation will be conducted by a pre-qualified specialist in accordance with the New York Archaeological Council's *Standards* (1994) adopted by the NY SHPO. If this investigation yields archaeological resources, they would be recovered and documented as required by SHPO protocols. The testing and commitment to mitigate resources prior to any ground disturbance on the site would avoid any significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources.

### **6.12.3.2. Potential Construction Impacts**

The anticipated year of peak construction for the proposed plant is 2010. Therefore, potential construction impacts have been assessed by comparing the Future With the Project conditions against the Future Without the Project conditions for the year 2010.

#### **6.12.3.2.1. Historic Resources**

During construction years a temporary clubhouse and reconfiguration of the golf course would be done. The location of the temporary facilities would be adjacent to the existing golf course and driving range in the Allen Shandler Recreation Area. This would avoid interruptions in the operation of the Mosholu Golf Course. Although not a landmarked structure, the Mosholu Golf Course clubhouse would also be dismantled. Though this structure is of historic note, it is not eligible for listing on the National or State Registers as a historic structure; therefore, its loss would not be considered a potential significant impact. Section 8, Off-Site Facilities, examines the potential impacts to the NCA under the proposed project.

#### **6.12.3.2.2. Archaeological Resources**

As discussed above in [Section 6.12.3.1.2](#), subsurface archaeological investigations would be conducted prior to any ground disturbance. These investigations and the subsequent mitigation of any findings would avoid any significant adverse impacts to archaeological resources.

Based on the analyses presented above, the proposed Croton project at the Mosholu Site would have no significant adverse impacts on Historic and Archaeological Resources. For comparison purposes, this is true of the Eastview and Harlem River sites as well.