



7.2 Potential Section 4(f) Resources – Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife Refuges

The Section 4(f) evaluation for parks, recreation areas, and wildlife or waterfowl refuges involve the following steps: (1) identifying publicly owned lands that may be protected by Section 4(f) as parks, recreation areas, or wildlife or waterfowl refuges (see Figure 7.2.1); (2) evaluating the applicability of Section 4(f) to those lands; (3) determining whether any of the alternatives would result in a “use” of Section 4(f) protected park, recreation, or wildlife or waterfowl refuge lands; and (4) evaluating avoidance and minimization alternatives for any such lands that would be used by an alternative. The alternatives considered in this evaluation include the Non-Preferred Alternatives Cs, Es, and G-C and the Preferred Alternative G-Es.

The No-Build Alternative would have no impact on these resources.



Figure 7.2.1: Potential Section 4(f) Resources



7.2.1 Pleasant Lake Public Access Site

Description: The Pleasant Lake Public Access Site is located in St. Joseph County, south of Lakeville off US 31. (See Figure 7.2.2) The property is owned by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife. The site covers approximately 106 acres and provides access to Pleasant Lake and Riddles Lake. Fishing is the major recreational use with largemouth bass, bluegill/redear, and crappie being the most common fish caught in the lakes. This site is open to all the public. The major use as a recreation area open to all the public identifies the Pleasant Lake Access Site as a Section 4(f) resource.

Direct Use: Alternatives Cs, Es, G-C, and G-Es avoid this site. None of the alternatives use property from this site.

Constructive Use: The centerline of Alternatives Cs and Es pass approximately 750 feet to the west of Pleasant Lake. The centerline of Alternatives G-C and G-Es pass approximately 1,500 feet to the southeast of Riddles Lake. These lakes are surrounded by forested lands, scattered housing, and the Riddle Lake Subdivision. Existing US 31 abuts land that is part of the Pleasant Lake Public Access Site and the centerline of existing US 31 is approximately 250 from the edge of Pleasant Lake. Given that this site is presently next to the US 31 transportation facility, it appears that there will be no substantial impairment to the use of this public access site from any of the alternatives. Therefore the proximity impact would not constitute a constructive use of this Section 4(f) resource.

Avoidance Alternatives: Not applicable. All of the alternatives avoid this resource.

Measures to Minimize Harm: Not applicable. All of the alternatives avoid this resource.

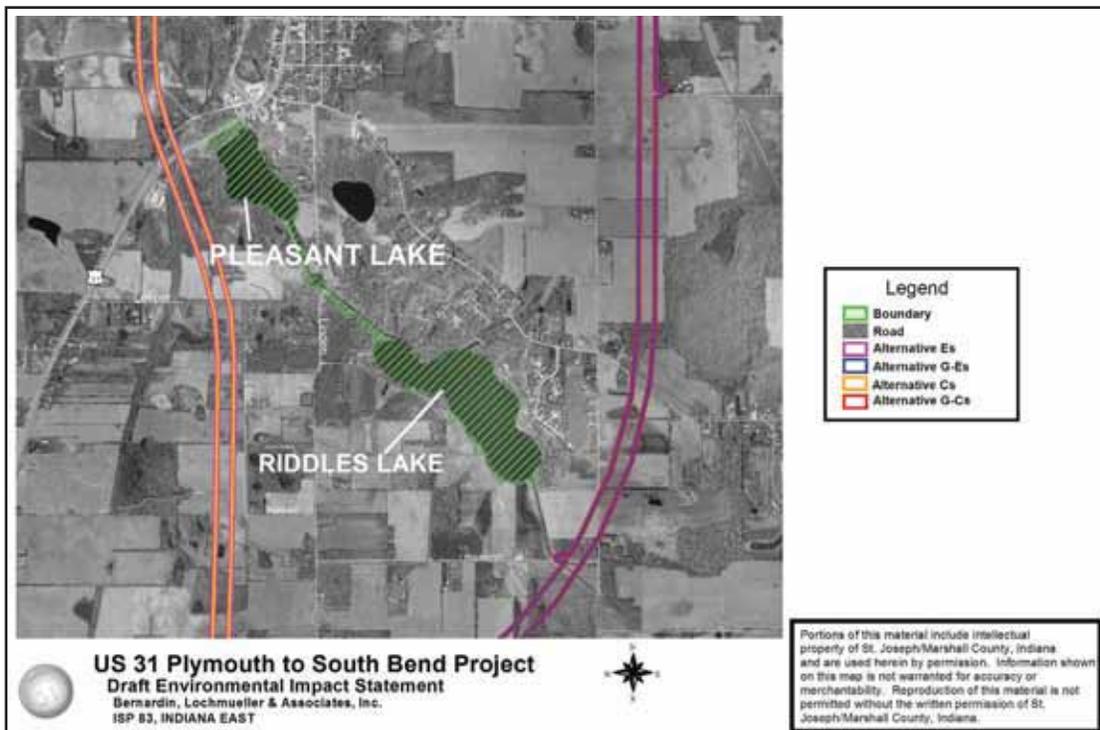


Figure 7.2.2: Pleasant Lake Public Access Site



7.2.2 Newton Park

Description: Newton Park is a privately owned recreational facility located at the corner of US 31 and SR 4 (see Figure 7.2.3). The facility has been recently constructed and offers baseball facilities and other sporting activities. According to the FHWA Section 4(f) Policy Paper, “When parks, recreational areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges are owned by private institutions and individuals, even if such areas are open to the public, Section 4(f) does not apply.” Section 4(f) does not apply to Newton Park.

Direct Use: Alternatives Cs, Es, G-C, and G-Es avoid this site. None of the alternatives use property from this site.

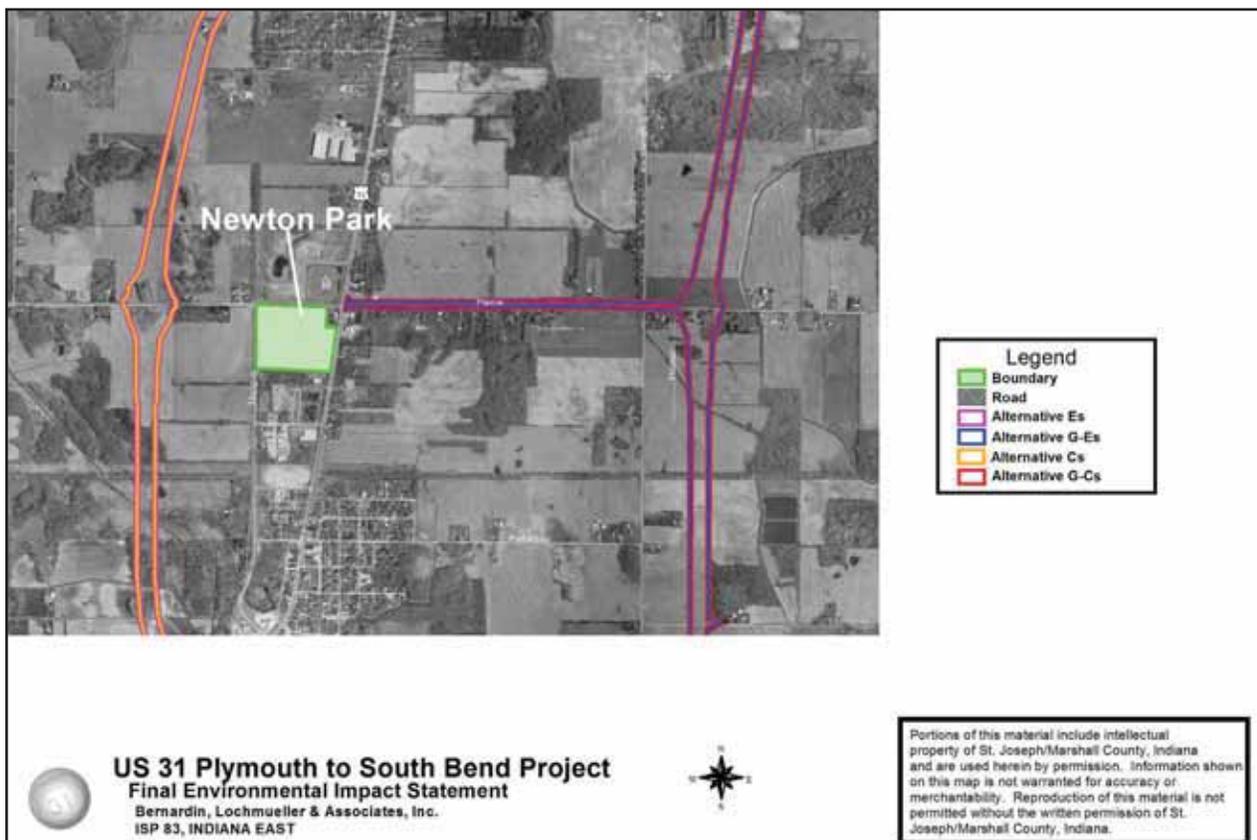


Figure 7.2.3: Newton Park



7.2.3 Erskine Golf Course

Description: The Erskine Golf Course is an 18 hole course located at 4200 Miami Road in South Bend. The property is owned by the South Bend Parks and Recreation Department. The access to the golf course is from Miami Road. The course covers approximately 300 acres and is shown in Figure 7.2.4. This site is open to all the public for a reasonable cost. The major use as a recreation area open to all the public identifies the Erskine Golf Course as a Section 4(f) resource.

Direct Use: Alternatives Cs, Es, G-C, and G-Es avoid this site. None of the alternatives use property from this site.

Constructive Use: Alternatives Cs, Es, G-C, and G-Es all end at an interchange with US 20. As shown in Figure 7.2.4, Alternatives Es and G-Es would require a reconstructed interchange configuration at US 20. The nearest ramps of this reconstructed US 20 interchange would be approximately 1,700 feet southwest of the golf course. As part of the mitigation efforts, Fellows Street would be extended southward over existing US 20 to Jackson Road. Improvements to existing Fellows Street would end at the intersection with Ireland Road (see Figure 7.2.4). At the present time, Ireland Road along the golf course carries 17,685 vehicles per day. The Fellows Street extension will not change the configuration of the intersection with Ireland Road and will not shift the intersection any closer to the golf course. Presently, the nearest point of the golf course is over 500 feet away from the Ireland Road and Fellows Street intersection. There will be no impairment to the use of this golf course from any of the alternatives or from the improvements to Fellows Street. Therefore the proximity impact would not constitute a constructive use of this Section 4(f) resource.

Avoidance Alternatives: Not applicable. All of the alternatives avoid this resource.

Measures to Minimize Harm: Not applicable. All of the alternatives avoid this resource.

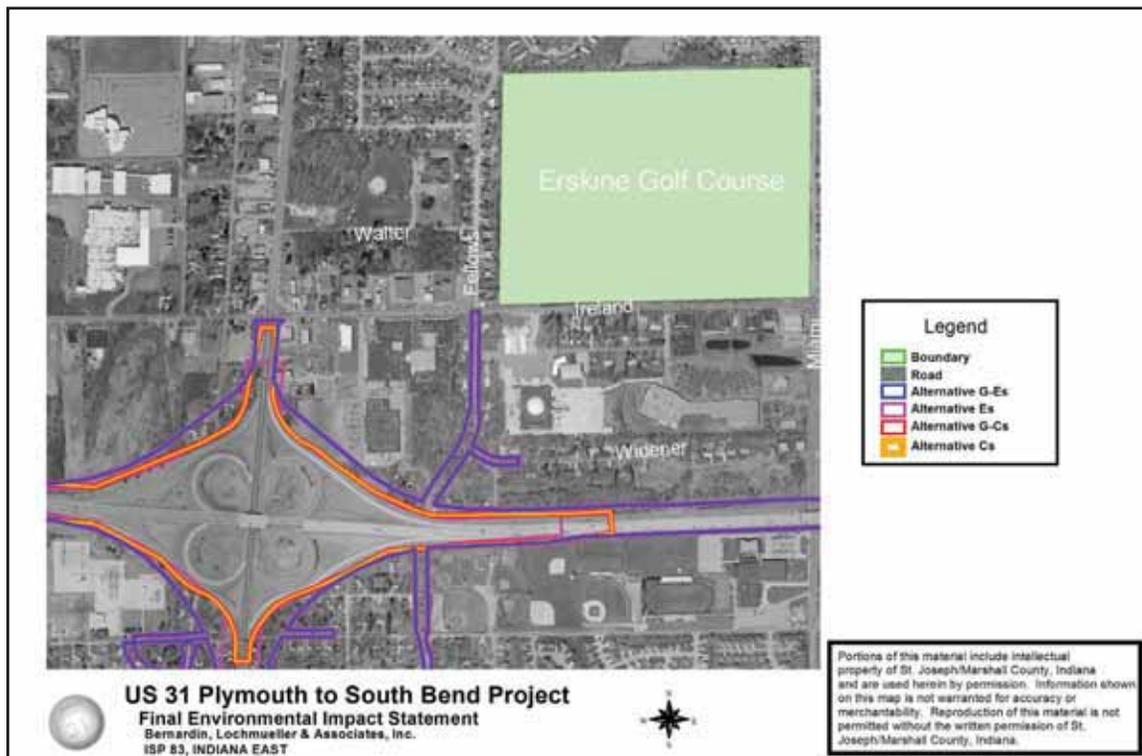


Figure 7.2.4: Erskine Golf Course



7.2.4 Southeast Little League and Jackson Fields

Description: The South Bend Community School Corporation owns 10 baseball fields located just west of the Jackson Middle School. The Southeast Little League South Bend District #11 leases seven fields (5 baseball fields and 2 softball fields) for their games. The remaining three ball fields (2 baseball fields and 1 softball field) are known as Jackson Fields and are managed by the South Bend Community School Corporation. The main entrances to the ball fields are from Jackson Road. Figure 7.2.5 shows the fields. Since the South Bend Community School Corporation leases the fields out to private organizations, the use of these fields is permitted to only select groups and not the entire public. Section 4(f) does not apply to the Southeast Little League and Jackson Fields, and none of the alternatives would require use of this property.

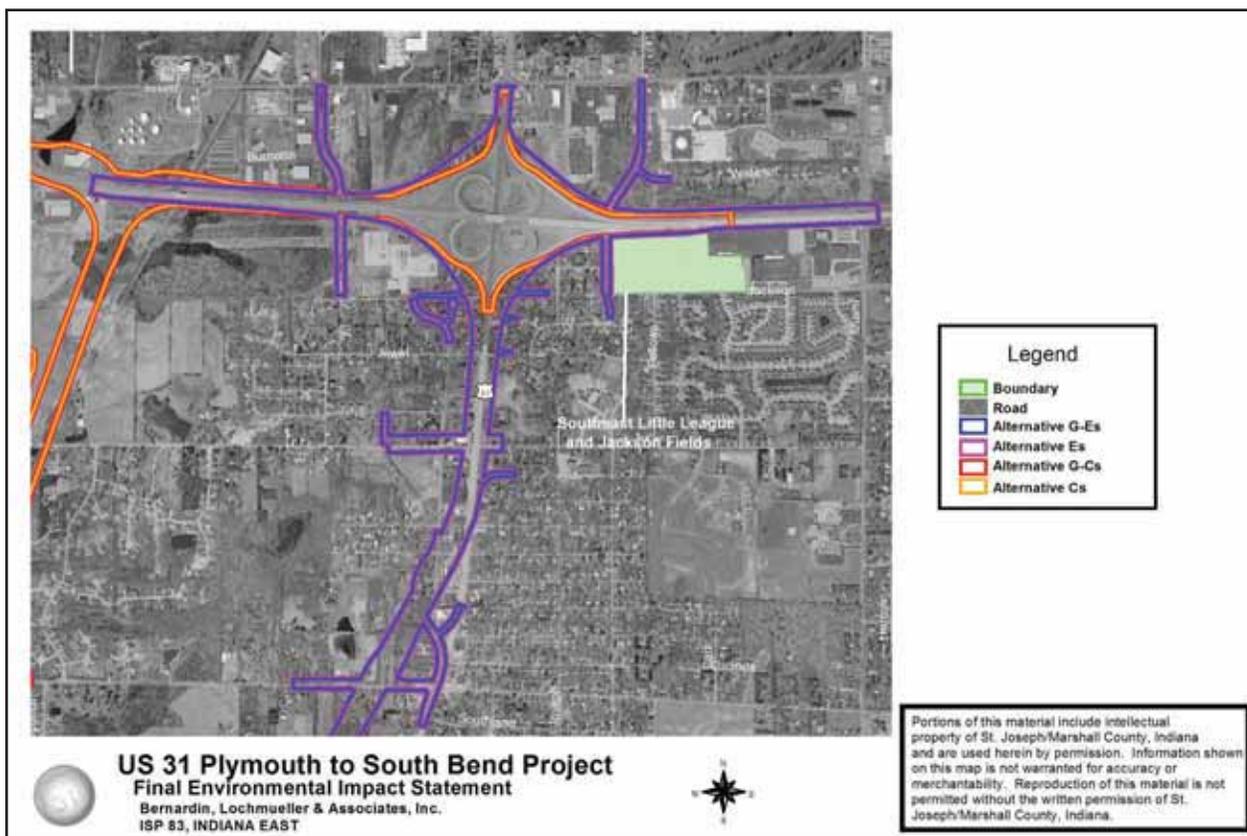


Figure 7.2.5: Southeast Little League and Jackson Fields