Section 4(f) Initial Assessment Form

May 29, 2015

Project Name	Project Number
Ralston Viaduct	NH-85-2(111)
Control Number	**Date Completed**
22203	March 11, 2016
Project Location *(Town, County)*	**Name of Preparer**
City of Ralston, Douglas County	Quinn Damgaard (HDR)

The following form was developed as an initial assessment of potential Section 4(f) properties within a project area. The number of each question block corresponds directly to the NDOR Section 4(f) Guidance section with the same number. **One Initial Assessment Form per PROJECT must be included as an attachment to the CE Form or incorporated into the appropriate chapter in the EA/EIS.**

NOTE: At the time the Section 4(f) Initial Assessment Form is filled out, the Section 106 process must be sufficiently complete that historic properties have been identified. A Section 106 Finding of Effect *(No Adverse Effect, Adverse Effect)* must be completed prior to determining whether the project results in a 'use' of an historic property. All Section 106 determinations and findings must be made and documented by NDOR Professionally Qualified Staff (PQS).

1. Identification of Section 4(f) Properties

A. *For historic properties*, based on the NDOR Section 106 Tier Review Form, are there properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A (Section 106 Tier I)

If Yes, provide the name, Finding of Effect, and any other pertinent information from the Section 106 review for each identified property.

N/A

B. Are there existing or planned parks, recreation areas, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges present within a ¼ mile of the project area?

☒ Yes ☐ No

C. In consultation with the online resources identified in the Section 4(f) Guidance, list the **resources** used to determine if parks, recreation areas, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges are present.

Google Earth Pro; NGPC Interactive Mapping Application; Nebraska Water Trails Guide; NGPC State Trails Plan; NGPC State Parks Map; USFWS Wildlife Refuges; USFWS Wilderness Areas, USFWS Waterfowl Production Areas; City of Ralston Website (http://www.cityofralston.com/parks.html), Douglas County GIS (http://www.dogis.org/Html5Viewer/?viewer=dogis)

D. Identify all potential Section 4(f) parks, recreation areas, and wildlife/waterfowl refuges *(include property name(s)*, *location(s) along project, etc.)*.

If No parks, recreation areas, or wildlife/waterfowl refuges are present, AND no historic properties need consideration from 1.A., indicate in the box below that no potential Section 4(f) properties are present. DOCUMENTATION IS COMPLETE.

The Ralston Connector Trail is an approximately 1.30 mile long, 10-foot-wide, paved, pedestrian/bicycle trail that crosses beneath the viaduct to be improved, immediately south of BNSF Railway. Wildewood Park is located immediately east of the southern project terminus. It extends six blocks east to South 78th Street and the entirety of the park is north of Ralston Avenue. Approximately 0.40 mile of the Ralston Connector Trail is located within Wildewood Park. Wildewood Park is accessed from Ralston Avenue and the Ralston Connector Trail. Ralston Soccer Complex is located approximately 0.15 mile east of the project, south of BNSF Railway, and north of Serum Avenue. The complex is accessed from Serum Avenue. Orval Smith Park is located immediately east of the northern project terminus. It extends nearly six blocks east and is bound by Park Avenue on the north and BNSF Railway on the south. The park is accessed from Park Avenue. Wildewood Elementary School is located approximately 0.30 mile southeast of the southern project terminus, along Ralston Avenue. School grounds include playground equipment, a hard surface recreation area/basketball court, and greenspace. The school is accessed from Ralston Avenue on the east and South 81st Street on the west. Ralston High School is located approximately 0.25 mile west of the project, or immediately southeast of the intersection of Park Drive and South 90th Street. School grounds include a football field, track, baseball diamond, greenspace, and six tennis courts. The school is accessed from Park Drive on the north and South 90th Street on the west.

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2. Applicability Criteria for Section 4(f) Parks, Recreation Areas, and Wildlife/Waterfowl Refuges (not Historic Properties)

A. List all properties from 1.D. that are (1) NOT publicly owned, or (2) NOT privately owned and leased to a public entity, for a Section 4(f) protected purpose, and how this was determined.

N/A

B. List all properties from 1.D. that are NOT open to the public, and how this was determined. (This does NOT apply to wildlife/waterfowl refuges.)

N/A

C. List all properties from 1.D. that are considered multiple-use properties, and what those uses are.

N/A

D. List all properties from 1.D. that were NOT called-out in 2.A. or 2.B.; **these properties will be carried forward in the Section 4(f) process. Also be sure to carry forward any multiple-use properties from 2.C. or historic properties from 1.A. that have temporary or permanent right-of-way acquisition or vibratory effects.** If no properties are carried forward, note below and DOCUMENTATION IS COMPLETE.

Wildewood Park, Ralston Connector Trail, Ralston Soccer Complex, and Orval Smith Park

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3. Determination of Section 4(f) Use

A. Is there a potential *use* of the Section 4(f) applicable properties from 2.D. above? Will the properties be impacted by the project, including access restrictions? (See Guidance Section 3 for definition of *use*.)

☒ Yes ☐ No Is there a potential *permanent* use?

☒ Yes ☐ No Is there a potential *temporary* use (including exceptions)?

☐ Yes ☒ No Is there a potential *constructive* use?

Any Yes: complete the appropriate Section 4(f) analysis for each impacted property

No: state impact avoidance measures below, then DOCUMENTATION IS COMPLETE

B. List impact avoidance measures (for "No" answer only). If justification is needed to support a "No" answer in 3.A., describe below.

With the exception of the Ralston Connector Trail, the project would in no way impair the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the other identified properties for protection under Section 4(f). Specific to Orval Smith Park, NDOR implemented a MSE (retaining) wall into the embankment design on the northeast side of the viaduct. Wall implementation avoided the potential taking of 4,000 square feet of parkland that would have been subject to both Sections 4(f) and 6(f).

In order to accommodate project construction and to ensure the safety of the public, approximately 1,400 feet (0.27 mile) of the Ralston Connector Trail, located between the western edge of Wildewood Park and the northern terminus of the 84th Street Frontage Road, would be temporarily closed during construction. In addition, a portion of the trail underneath the South 84th Street viaduct would be reconstructed a few feet north of its existing location to accommodate expanded viaduct embankment. The permanent trail realignment, temporary trail closing, and associated avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures are detailed in the Section 4(f) De Minimis Form.

NDOR Reviewer Approval Signature: Date:

Digitally signed by Carrie Wencel
DN: cn=Carrie Wencel, o=Nebraska Department of Roads, ou=Highway Environmental Biologist/ NEPA Specialist, email=carrie.wencel@nebraska.gov, c=US
Date: 2016.03.14 16:10:41 -05'00'

FHWA Environmental Signature: Date:

FHWA signature is only required in the following circumstances:

- If the property is leased
- If the property is considered multiple-use
- If the Official(s) with Jurisdiction claims that the property is NOT significant