

Chapter 26: Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Under the proposed project, both natural and man-made resources would be expended in the construction and operation of the proposed park. These resources include the building materials used during construction; energy in the form of gas and electricity consumed during construction and operation of the park; and the human effort (time and labor) required to develop, construct, and operate various elements of the proposed park. These are considered irretrievably committed because their reuse for some purpose other than the proposed project would be highly unlikely. The land use changes associated with the development of the proposed project site may also be considered a resource loss. The proposed project constitutes an irreversible and irretrievable commitment of the site as a land resource, thereby rendering land use for other purposes infeasible. However, reuse of the Fresh Kills Landfill is a positive impact of the project.

The construction that would take place under the proposed project would also require the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of energy, construction materials, human effort, and funds. The proposed project would also result in increased energy consumption over the No Build condition (see Chapter 15, "Energy"). This, however, is not considered significant energy consumption or a significant impact, and the project is also committed to implementing sustainability goals.

These commitments of land resources and materials are weighed against the public purpose and benefits of the proposed park, which would provide a new open space with public access to the waterfront. It is noted that public funds committed to the design, construction, and operation of the proposed park would not be available for other projects. However, this is not a significant adverse fiscal impact or significant adverse impact on City resources. *