

## Foreword<sup>1</sup>

---

This document is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) Richard Gilder Center for Science, Education, and Innovation project. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) issued a Notice of Completion for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on May 18th, 2017. NYC Parks held a duly noticed public hearing on the DEIS on June 15th, 2017, at 6:00 PM, at the American Museum of Natural History, LeFrak Theater, Columbus Avenue and West 79th Street, New York, New York, 10024. Public comments were accepted at that hearing and throughout the comment period, which remained open until 5:00 PM on June 26th, 2017.

This FEIS addresses all substantive comments made on the DEIS, during the public hearing and subsequent comment period. Those comments are summarized and responded to in Chapter 21, “Response to Comments on the DEIS.” In response to these comments, changes to the text and graphics from the DEIS were made in this FEIS, and additional information has been provided in appendices to the FEIS.

In addition to Chapter 21, the principal changes between the DEIS and FEIS include the following:

- Chapter 1, “Project Description,” has been revised to include additional figures showing: the existing and proposed campus plan, including public and non-public entrances; buildings proposed to be demolished or renovated; and campus circulation. In addition, the description of the 77th Street entrance to the Museum has been modified, the description of the Research Library and Learning Center has been updated, and a new commitment by AMNH to provide funding for management and maintenance of Theodore Roosevelt Park has been noted.
- Appendix D has been added for Chapter 1, including: the AMNH lease and 1876 statute; AMNH capital and space planning memorandum; AMNH attendance and utilization memorandum; and AMNH science and education memoranda.
- Chapter 3, “Open Space,” has been updated to note a new commitment by AMNH to provide funding for management and maintenance of Theodore Roosevelt Park.
- The graphics in Chapter 4, “Shadows,” have been updated to identify the dog run in Theodore Roosevelt Park.
- Chapter 8, “Hazardous Materials” has been updated to reflect an updated version of the Phase II Subsurface Investigation Report, dated July 2017, and to reflect agency approval of the proposed project’s Remedial Action Plan and Construction Health and Safety Plan.
- Appendix E has been added for Chapter 8, including: the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment; Phase II Work Plan; Phase II Subsurface Investigation Report; Remedial

---

<sup>1</sup> This Foreword is new to the FEIS.

Action Plan and Construction Health and Safety Plan; the Museum’s Asbestos Management Plan; and agency correspondence.

- Chapter 9, “Transportation” has been updated to reflect analysis of two additional intersections. In addition, an assessment of traffic and pedestrian conditions for the Sunday peak hour during the weekly GrowNYC Greenmarket Farmers’ Market operations has been added to the chapter.
- Appendix F has been added for correspondence with the New York City Department of Transportation and Appendix G has been added for comments on the DEIS.
- Chapter 13, “Public Health” has been updated to reflect the revised findings of the construction-related noise analysis.
- Chapter 15, “Construction” has been updated to reflect the refined construction schedule, logistics plan, and commitments AMNH has made to further construction noise controls. Based on the changes to the construction program, an updated construction noise analysis for the FEIS predicted lower noise levels throughout the latter 2 years of construction than the DEIS, and a reduction in the duration of the worst-case construction noise. Based on the new construction noise control commitments and refined schedule and logistics, while construction noise would still be noticeable and potentially intrusive at times, the FEIS finds that there would not be any nearby receptors at which the duration and magnitude of construction noise would constitute a significant adverse impact. Chapter 15 has also been updated to incorporate consideration of a separate NYC Parks project to reconstruct and upgrade Theodore Roosevelt Park’s Bull Moose Dog Run that could occur during the proposed project’s construction period.
- Chapter 16, “Alternatives,” has been updated to provide additional information and graphics on crowding.
- Chapter 17, “Mitigation,” has been updated to reflect the revised findings of the construction-related noise analysis.

Substantive text changes or additions to the FEIS are indicated by double-underlining. Text that has been removed for the FEIS has been identified by ~~strikethroughs~~. However, neither underlining nor strikethroughs are used for chapters presented for the first time in this FEIS, such as this Foreword and Chapter 21, “Response to Comments on the DEIS.” For the sake of clarity, underlining and strikethroughs are also not used in tables with extensive changes; such changes are identified using footnotes. \*