



# Building Community Through Parks

## A Master Plan for Parks and Recreation

Randolph Township, New Jersey

July, 2016



# A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

## **BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS RANDOLPH, NEW JERSEY**

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Randolph Township, founded in 1805, is located in northern New Jersey, approximately 40 miles northwest of New York City, in central Morris County. At the beginning of the 20th century, Randolph became a popular vacation destination and resort community for people from nearby urban areas. As a result, a series of hotels and bungalow colonies were developed along Sussex, Brookside, and Calais Roads.

The Township began to experience rapid growth starting in 1960, after the end of the resort era, when the population, according to the U.S. Census, was 7,295. The population increased to 13,296 by 1970 and continued to grow steadily, reaching 24,847 in 2000. The level of growth in Randolph has since leveled off, reaching 25,877 in 2014. The composition of these residents has also changed, however, as the Township has seen growth in populations over age 65 and a decrease in residents under age 18. Additionally, the Township has seen substantial growth in minority populations which is projected to continue into the future.

Changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Randolph Township. Recognizing that the needs of the population should be reassessed, the Township Council and staff of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community over the next 10 years, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan. The theme, *Building Community Through Parks*, was integral to the planning process and is the title of this Master Plan.

### EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN RANDOLPH

For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks provide a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A recent study titled, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, included a section on the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicated that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere.

In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that homebuyers desire when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy*, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created \$140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

Parks and recreation services are currently provided primarily by the Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department which provides maintenance and programming for Township parks and open space properties. Randolph has both a Parks Advisory Committee and a Recreation Advisory Committee which together provide advice on parks, recreation, and open space policies. Randolph has four large Community Parks, three Neighborhood Parks, and three Mini Parks.

In addition to the Community, Neighborhood, and Mini Parks, Randolph has a substantial amount of open space. In total these open space properties cover over 1,400 acres of land that, combined with the Township park properties, yield over 2,000 acres of open space. Many of these properties were acquired through the Township's Open Space Trust Fund, intended to preserve the rural character of the Township.

In addition to the facilities offered by Randolph Township, the school district (Randolph Township Schools) provides playgrounds, athletic fields, and courts at four locations that can be used by the public when schools are not in session. Additionally, several county parks (Morris County Park Commission) are located near or adjacent to Randolph Township. Private organizations also provide recreational facilities for use by the public.

### A CITIZEN DRIVEN PLAN

As the purpose of this plan is to address the needs of the community, a primary focus of the master planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Randolph residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The public was involved in the process through the following methods:

1. A public workshop that functioned as a kick-off for the process (over 25 attendees)

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. A statistically valid Community Interest and Opinion Survey conducted by ETC/Leisure Vision that was completed by 520 households
3. A web-based and handout survey that was completed by 606 residents
4. An active Parks and Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee
5. Meetings with nearly 40 stakeholder groups representing:
  - Township Council and Mayor
  - Parks/Recreation Advisory Boards
  - Other Township boards and committees
  - Athletic groups (baseball, softball, lacrosse, track, cross country, football, soccer, cheerleading, wrestling, basketball)
  - Randolph High School students
  - Township staff (Parks and Recreation, Planning, Police, Public Works)
  - Cultural organizations (Brundage Park Theater and Artworks program staff)
  - Community service organizations (Kiwans, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers)
  - Businesses/sponsors (The Goddard School, John Herold Jewelers, Randolph Pain Relief and Wellness Center)
  - Other recreation providers (Randolph YMCA, Indoor Sports Pavilion)
6. Preliminary presentations of the public input findings

## WHAT RANDOLPH RESIDENTS SAID

The information gathered from the various public input methods was used to identify the needs of Randolph residents. A brief summary of the findings and needs as communicated in the various public input methods is described below.

### Statistically Valid Mail Survey

1. Eighty-seven (87%) of residents visited a park in Randolph over the past year (98% for the Web Survey), and 49% of these residents visited parks more than 20 times.
2. Freedom Park was the most visited park (71% reporting visiting), followed by Brundage Park – Carrel Road (63%). Forty-five percent (45%) of households reported using trails.
3. The top reasons for not using parks more often included:
  - Do not know what is offered (25%)
  - Use private clubs/gyms (23%)
  - Program or facility not offered (21%)
4. The improvements households would most like

to see to existing parks included:

- Improve/add restrooms (35%)
- Drinking fountains (31%)
- Bike trails & bike lanes (28%)
- Expand trails (26%)

5. Seventy-one percent (71%) of households are either “very supportive” or “somewhat supportive” of Township actions to upgrade older parks and recreation facilities. Other actions with very high levels of support included:

- Purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas (66%)
- Develop new recreational trails and connect existing trails (60%)

Web Survey respondents were generally more supportive of all improvement actions.

6. The most needed parks and recreation facilities for households were:

- Walking and hiking trails (71%)
- Large Community Parks (54%)
- Natural areas/nature parks (54%)
- Paved bike trails (49%)
- Indoor exercise and fitness facilities (44%)

The largest number of households had unmet needs for the following facilities: indoor exercise and fitness facilities, paved bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, and an outdoor fitness circuit.

The most needed parks and recreation programs for households were:

- Adult fitness and wellness (42%)
- Concerts (38%)
- 50+ programs (35%)
- Adult learning (30%)
- Youth sports programs (28%)

The largest number of households had unmet needs for the following programs: adult fitness and wellness, concerts, 50+ programs, adult learning, and nature programs.

7. Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 among different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Randolph. The top responses ranked as follows:

- Improve/maintain existing parks
- Develop new walking and biking trails
- Develop new indoor recreation facility

### Building Community Through Parks Website (powered by MindMixer)

1. Walking, running, or hiking was by far the highest ranked option for how respondents utilize the parks (65% selected this response).
2. The top features users included in a vision of the future were:

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Trail system connections
- A town pool
- Artificial turf fields

## Public Workshop and Stakeholder Groups

Reoccurring themes included:

- More artificial turf fields
- Park developed at the 90 Acres site (variety of facilities) as a community gathering area
- Recreation center
- Interconnected trails with parking and signage
- ADA improvements
- Improvements to Brundage Playhouse, Artworks Studio, and VFW Hall
- Improvements to fields (including drainage)
- Improved Randolph Lake
- More events

The input gathered from all of the methods yielded similar results. Several common themes appeared in all methods of public input. Residents would like to see upgrades to existing facilities (including athletic fields), more trails, and more opportunities for community interaction (including program offerings).

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN RANDOLPH

### Vision for the Future

The vision for Randolph Township is to provide a wide range of park and recreational services that are fun, connected, and accessible for all residents and visitors. These services will promote community enrichment through the provision of excellent facilities and programs that are equitable and accessible to all residents. Services and facilities will be further enhanced through a focus on sustainability (environmental and financial) and cooperation.

### Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide and direct priorities, actions, and investments. These principles will help the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department work in concert with other Township departments and other potential partners to ensure that Randolph accomplishes its vision and maintains the qualities that make it such a desirable place to live and visit.

#### 1. Fun: Excitement and Community Enrichment through Parks and Programs

Randolph Township will explore a wide variety of opportunities for fun and excitement at parks. To facilitate these opportunities, Randolph parks will provide an inclusive environment for social activities, relaxation, and entertainment for families and individuals of all ages. These trendsetting parks and recreational facilities will be utilized to enrich the community

through a variety of athletic, educational, and cultural arts programs. Criteria for determining improvements will focus on the value added to the community as a result of the development.

#### 2. Compatibility: Flexibility, Adaptability, and Sustainability of the Park System

Parks and Recreation in Randolph Township will be adaptable to trends through an emphasis on durable multi-purpose facilities. Facilities will be compatible with a wide variety of programs with design that is well planned and engineered. These quality facilities will promote sustainability, both economically through cost-effective development decisions that consider revenue opportunities, and environmentally through protracted use.

This flexibility will extend to nature as efforts will be made to ensure development is non-disruptive to the environment through the preservation of open space and the use of green (or eco-friendly) materials and practices. Efforts will be made to ensure that adjacent uses are complementary. Facilities and programs will be encouraged to utilize the character of the natural environment for educational and passive uses as well as wildlife management.

#### 3. Connectivity: Building Community Connections

Randolph Township will facilitate connectivity of the community through parks and programs, helping to inspire pride and community identity through shared experiences. Parks will provide venues for members of the community to gather and connect with nature and each other socially through events as well as daily usage. These connections will help to further enrich the community by encouraging interaction between users of all ages and providing motivation for healthy activities. Trails will be utilized to provide opportunities for health and fitness and to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places. The Township will connect residents through the programming of events which will be publicized electronically and accessible online.

#### 4. Accessibility: Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Park Services

Accessibility in Randolph will encompass considerations of geographic location (both of parks and of facilities within parks), the availability of (and access to) facilities and programs for those with disabilities, and the provision of facilities that meet the needs of a diverse population, including users of all ages. As part of this effort, Randolph Township will provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to enrich the lives of community members with consideration to the



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

opportunities provided by (and the sensitivity of) the local climate, ensuring continued access for future users.

## 5. Cooperation: Expansion of Facility and Program Offerings through Partnerships

Randolph Township will pursue partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors to the community. Potential partners for both capital improvements and operations will include: schools, business groups, non-profits, land trusts, the Morris County Park Commission, the State of New Jersey, community service groups, clubs, the YMCA, private recreation providers, and more. These efforts will extend to improving awareness of all activities in Randolph, including those offered by these other agencies or organizations, through strategies such as cross promotion of events and programs.

## 6. Excellence: Exemplary Facilities, Programs, and Services that Ensure Safety of Users

Randolph Township will strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation. High standards will be expected for facilities, programs, and services. These expectations will extend to staff, coaches, and volunteers and will require ongoing training. This excellence will allow Randolph to serve as a model for parks and recreation delivery.

Furthermore, Randolph parks will ensure a safe environment through proactive maintenance of its high quality facilities and regulatory compliance. Parks will have adequate lighting and will be equipped with necessary emergency equipment in order to maintain adequate security. Parks and facilities will have sufficient supervision to assure safety of users and security of facilities.

### Proposed Mission Statement for Parks and Recreation

*The mission of Randolph Parks and Recreation is to build community and enrich lives through the provision of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities that encourage residents to enjoy life and have fun.*

## PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

The *Building Community Through Parks* plan includes six Goals that were each derived from one of the Guiding Principles of the Vision. Objectives describe how to meet those Goals, and Strategies further describe how to meet each Objective. Timeframes for the completion of each strategy (0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, or over 10 years) are also suggested to help set priorities for improvements. Twenty-six (26) Objectives and 149

Strategies describe in detail how to meet each of the six goals (see Section IX Action Plan for details on each of the Objectives and Strategies). The following list broadly represents a summary of the primary recommendations for parks and recreation in Randolph Township which represent a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities.

1. Develop the 90 Acres site as a Community Park with a focus on facilities that encourage residents to gather and interact.



2. Ensure that the development of the 90 Acres site includes the following amenities: trails, outdoor fitness equipment, an outdoor stage (or bandshell), a community garden, an all-access playground, game courts (pickleball and bocce), and picnic shelters.



3. Develop all-purpose perimeter trails at Freedom, Heistein, Brundage Sussex, and all future parks.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

4. Develop nature trails to take advantage of existing natural resources at the 90 Acres site and other open space properties where conditions allow.
5. Develop a Trail System Master Plan that includes sidewalk improvements, new trail segments, and the prioritization of existing segment connections.
6. Replace field lighting at Heistein, Brundage Carrell, and Brundage Sussex Parks, and add lighting to additional fields at Heistein, Freedom, and Randolph Parks.
7. Replace the existing artificial turf at Freedom Park and add turf to the second lower field at Freedom Park and the field at Brundage Sussex to increase the availability of fields and reduce the frequency of rainouts.



8. Ensure the availability of program offerings for all residents regardless of age or disability.
9. Seek partnerships to mitigate both capital and operating costs for new facilities, particularly for high cost project.
10. Provide paved walkways to all facilities and spectator areas to improve access and meet ADA guidelines.
11. Ensure the availability of support facilities, including restrooms, signage, and drinking fountains at parks in Randolph.
12. Provide Wi-Fi hotspots in Community and Neighborhood Parks and install additional lighting at all parks as needed to improve safety and security.
13. Encourage the creation of a Friends of Randolph Parks foundation to recruit and organize volunteers, raise funds, and work toward the implementation of this plan.
14. Pursue CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years.

## INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are provided for each park (and other sites) in Randolph. A concept plan was

developed for the new 90 Acres site which can be seen at the end of this Executive Summary. Section VIII of this Master Plan includes cost estimates for the outlined improvements. A summary of the key recommendations for each park is provided in the following text. Support facilities, signage, and walkway enhancements are needed at all parks and, therefore, not included in these lists.

### 1. 90 Acres

- All-access playground (nature themed)
- Bandshell with event lawn
- Picnic shelters (one with restrooms)
- Walking track with lighting
- Nature trails (2 loops) - 0.5 miles each
- Walking trails with connection to Heistein Park and adjacent neighborhoods
- Mountain bike trails
- Community garden
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Pickleball courts (2)
- Bocce courts
- Shuffleboard courts
- Chess tables/multi-use tables (2)

### 2. Brundage Park (Carrell)

- Field lighting replacement
- Sprayground
- Brundage Park Playhouse improvements
- Playground replacement (large all-access)
- Bungalow improvements (ADA to one, façade to all)
- Trail around diamond fields (complete loop)

### 3. Freedom Park

- Artificial turf (lower field #2)
- Replacement artificial turf (lower field #1)
- Softball field lighting
- Perimeter trail (around turf fields) - 0.6 miles with lighting
- Playground improvements (edging, accessible features)

### 4. Heistein Park

- New lighting (fields #3 and #4)
- Replacement lighting (fields #1 and #2)
- Field improvements (irrigation, drainage, fencing)
- Playground replacement (expanded size)
- Medium picnic shelter (at pond)
- Perimeter trail (around central rectangular fields) - 0.4 miles

### 5. Randolph Park

- Field lighting
- Medium picnic shelter
- Spray park improvements

### 6. Brundage Park (Sussex)

- Artificial turf field
- Field lighting replacement
- Parking lot paving
- Restroom building

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Medium picnic shelter
- Trail around field with connection to trail system - 0.25 acres

## 7. Brundage Preserve

- Picnic shelter
- Trail around pond (complete loop)

## 8. Rosenfarb Park

- Playground
- Gazebo
- Basketball court improvement (replace/reduce slab)

## PROJECT FUNDING

Randolph Township has an existing funding source that can be utilized for the funding of the capital project recommendations proposed in this plan. The Open Space Trust Fund balance will allow the implementation of the improvements in this plan over the next ten years utilizing tax revenue from this existing source.

The Township has prepared an estimated capital improvement budget to fund projects in this plan over the next 10 years (see Section VIII). The projections are based on several assumptions, including the estimated project costs. Additionally, as part of the budgeting process, conservative interest rates were assumed for borrowing, but those numbers are also estimates, although the Township has an excellent bond rating that will provide favorable rates. Finally, *Building Community Through Parks* represents a plan for the future with recommendations to realize the vision for parks and recreation in Randolph; however, the decision to appropriate funds will ultimately be made by the Township Council, the Mayor, and other Township representatives, thereby determining the scope and timeline for these projects.



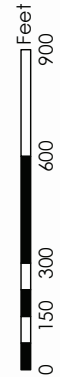
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Randolph Township, New Jersey



Township of  
**Randolph**  
Morris County, New Jersey



## 90 Acres Site Concept



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

<b>I. INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
THE NEED FOR A PLAN	1
THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS	1
MASTER PLAN PROCESS	2
<b>II. PLANNING CONTEXT</b>	<b>7</b>
INTRODUCTION	7
POPULATION TRENDS	7
DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP	8
<b>III. FACILITY AND PROGRAM INVENTORY</b>	<b>13</b>
INTRODUCTION	13
PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM	13
OVERVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN RANDOLPH	14
COMMUNITY PARKS	15
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	18
MINI PARKS	19
OPEN SPACE	19
SPECIAL USE PARKS	20
COUNTY PARKS	24
SCHOOL SITES	24
PROGRAMS ANALYSIS	25
<b>IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS</b>	<b>29</b>
INTRODUCTION	29
PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEEDS BY PARK TYPE	29
FACILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS	30
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS AND FACILITIES	31
GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES	31
PRORAGIS BENCHMARKING SURVEY	41
FUTURE TRENDS ANALYSIS	48
<b>V. PUBLIC INPUT</b>	<b>57</b>
INTRODUCTION	57
PUBLIC WORKSHOPS	57
STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	57
COMMON THEMES FROM FIRST PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (NOT IN ORDER)	58
DOLLAR VOTING	58
PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS	59
BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS WEB-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	85
<b>VI. STRATEGIC PLAN, GOALS, AND OBSERVATIONS</b>	<b>89</b>
INTRODUCTION	89
VISION STATEMENT	89
MISSION STATEMENT	90
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	91
OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSES, AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS	92
<b>VII. SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>105</b>
INTRODUCTION	105
OPERATIONS AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS	105
FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS	107
ATHLETIC FIELDS	113

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

OUTDOOR AQUATICS	114
SIGNAGE	115
<b>VIII. INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>117</b>
INTRODUCTION	117
COMMUNITY PARKS	117
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	118
MINI PARKS	119
OPEN SPACE/NATURE PARKS	119
OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND STUDIES	120
TOTAL PARK IMPROVEMENT COSTS	121
ORDER OF MAGNITUDE CAPITAL PROJECT ESTIMATES	121
PROJECT FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION	121
<b>IX. ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>127</b>
ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES	127
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RANKING	127
<b>APPENDICES</b> (In Separate Document)	
A. Existing Plans	
B. Existing Park Aerials	
C. Public Input Meeting Summaries	
D. Core Program Guidelines	
E. Community Interest and Opinion Survey Summary	
F. Qualitative Parks Assessment Forms	
<b>List of Tables</b>	
Table II-1: Randolph, New Jersey Population History and Projections (1970 - 2020)	7
Table II-2: Randolph, New Jersey Household Size (2000-2020)	7
Table II-3: Median Age (200-2020)	8
Table II-4: Population Age 65 and over (2000-2020)	8
Table II-5: Population Under Age 18 (2000-2020)	8
Table II-6: Household Makeup	10
Table II-7: Median Household Income	10
Table II-8: Educational Attainment (Residents Age 25 and Older)	10
Table II-9: Educational Attainment (Residents Age 25 and Older)	11
Table III-1: Classification System for Parks and Recreation Areas	13
Table III-2: Randolph Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory	21
Table III-3: 5-Year participation by Season (2009-2014)	26
Table III-4: Sports Participation (2014)	26
Table III-5: Other Program Participation (2014)	27
Table IV-1: Level of Service Standards by Park Type	29
Table IV-2: Existing Developed Parkland and Population Distribution by Region (East/West)	30
Table IV-3: Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type and Region	30
Table IV-4: Facility Level of Service Goals	30
Table IV-5: Benchmark Jurisdictions	41
Table IV-6: PRORAGIS Benchmarking Comparisons	44

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S

Table IV-7: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation	55
Table V-1: Dollar Voting Park Improvement Allocations	58
Table V-2: Dollar Voting Other Park Improvements	59
Table V-3: Visioning Ideas	85
Table V-4: Making One Change Ideas	86
Table V-5: Focus of the Master Plan	86
Table VIII-1: Capital Project Estimates	123
Table VIII-2: Estimated 10 Year Open Space Trust fund Budget	126
Table IX-1: Action Plan	128
Table IX-2: Capital Improvement Priority Ranking	137
<b>List of Figures</b>	
Figure II-1: Population by Age and Sex, Randolph – Left/USA – Right (Females-Blue/Males-Red)	9
Figure II-2: Change in Population by Age from 2000 to 2010	9
Figure III-1: Existing Parks and Trails	23
Figure IV-1: Park Service Areas	32
Figure IV-2: Picnic Pavilion Locations and Service Areas	33
Figure IV-3: Playground Locations and Service Areas	34
Figure IV-4: Baseball/Softball Diamond Locations and Service Areas	35
Figure IV-5: Rectangular Field Locations and Service Areas	36
Figure IV-6: Tennis Court Locations and Service Areas	37
Figure IV-7: Outdoor Basketball Court Locations and Service Areas	38
Figure IV-8: Trail System Service Area	39
Figure IV-9: Participation Rates by Generation	54
Figure V-1: Visitation to Parks in Randolph	60
Figure V-2: Number of Visits to Parks in the Last Year	61
Figure V-3: Most Visited Parks	62
Figure V-4: Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities	63
Figure V-5: Participation in Recreational Programs	64
Figure V-6: Quality of Programs	65
Figure V-7: How Households Learn about Recreation or Activities in Randolph	66
Figure V-8: Improvements to Existing Parks Households Would Most Like to See	67
Figure V-9: Drive Time for Parks and Programs	68
Figure V-10: Support for Parks and Recreation Improvements	69
Figure V-11: Need for Parks and Recreations Facilities (Mail Survey)	71
Figure V-12: Households with Facility Needs Met by 50% or Less (Mail Survey)	72
Figure V-13: Facilities Most Needed by Households (Web Survey)	73
Figure V-14: Most Important Facilities to Households	74
Figure V-15: Need Recreation Programs	76
Figure V-16: Households with Program Needs Met by 50% or Less	77
Figure V-17: Programs Most Needed by Households (Web Survey)	78

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B  
L  
E  
  
O  
F  
  
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O  
N  
T  
E  
N  
T  
S**

Figure V-18: Level of Support for Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation Services	80
Figure V-19: Most Important Action to Households (Top Three)	81
Figure V-20: \$100 Allocation for Park Improvements	82
Figure V-21: Word Cloud of Open-Ended Comments	83
Figure V-22: Survey Household Demographics	84
Figure V-23: Park Activities	87
Figure VII-1: Existing Trail System Including Proposed Trails	108
Figure VIII-1: 90 Acres Site Concept	122

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# I. INTRODUCTION

## THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Randolph Township, founded in 1805, is located in northern New Jersey, approximately 40 miles northwest of New York City, in central Morris County. At the beginning of the 20th century, Randolph became a popular vacation destination and resort community for people from nearby urban areas. As a result, a series of hotels and bungalow colonies were developed along Sussex, Brookside, and Calais Roads. These resort communities prospered through the end of World War II when the New York Thruway and Garden State Parkway opened making more of the state accessible to vacationers.<sup>1</sup>

As the resort era ended, the Township began to experience rapid growth starting in 1960 when the population, according to the U.S. Census, was 7,295. The population increased to 13,296 by 1970 and continued to grow steadily, reaching 24,847 in 2000. The level of growth in Randolph has since leveled off, reaching 25,734 in 2010 but increasing only slightly to 25,877 in 2014.<sup>2</sup> The composition of these residents has also changed, however, as the Township has seen growth in populations over age 65 and a decrease in residents under age 18. Additionally, the Township, while still predominantly white, has seen a substantial growth in minority populations which is projected to continue into the future. More information about demographics can be found in Section II.

Parks and recreation services are currently provided primarily by the Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department which provides maintenance and programming for Township parks and open space properties. Randolph has both a Parks Advisory Committee and a Recreation Advisory Committee which together provide advice on parks, recreation, and open space policies. Randolph has four large parks or Community Parks: Brundage Park, Freedom Park, Heistein Park, and Randolph Park. The Township also offers three Neighborhood Parks: Brundage Park (Sussex), Brundage Preserve, and Tamarack Field. Finally, Randolph operates three Mini Parks: Kiwanis Park, Rosenfarb Park, and Timber Lane Park.

In addition to the Community, Neighborhood, and Mini Parks, Randolph has a substantial amount of open space. In total these open space properties cover over 1,400 acres of land that, combined with the Township park properties, yield over 2,000 acres of open space. Many of these properties were acquired through the Township's Open Space Trust Fund, intended to preserve the rural character of the Township.

In addition to the facilities offered by Randolph Township, the school district (Randolph Township Schools) provides playgrounds, athletic fields, and courts that can be used by the public when schools are not in session at four locations. Additionally, several county parks (Morris County Park Commission), including Hedden County Park and James Andrews Memorial County Park, are located near or adjacent to Randolph Township. Private organizations also provide recreational facilities for use by the public.

Changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Randolph Township. Recognizing that the needs of the population should be reassessed, the Township Council and staff of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community over the next 10 years, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan. The Township appointed a Steering Committee to guide the planning process and to develop a theme for the process. This theme, *Building Community Through Parks*, was integral to the planning process and is the title of this Master Plan.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS

This master planning effort, which will help determine the future of parks and recreation in Randolph, is important because parks provide a number of benefits and services to the community. Additionally, local agencies have the responsibility to manage parkland in an efficient manner that is consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and *Building Community Through Parks* is intended to assist and direct the management of these lands and facilities. For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks provide a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall

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<sup>1</sup> Randolph Township website "Our Grand Hotels," [http://www.randolphnj.org/about\\_randolph/grand\\_hotels](http://www.randolphnj.org/about_randolph/grand_hotels).

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey 5-year estimates (2009-2014)



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quality of life. A recent study titled, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, included a section on the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicated that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere. In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that a home buyer desire when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy*, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created \$140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

The residents and the leadership of Randolph Township place a high value on parks and recreation services. Based on the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, 71% of residents support upgrading older parks and facilities and 66% support purchasing land to preserve open space (See Section V for more information). Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and help to provide a positive community identity for Randolph.

## **MASTER PLAN PROCESS**

The Master Plan process consisted of several different phases with frequent meetings between representatives of Randolph Township and the Consultant. Each phase concluded with the submittal of a report and a presentation of findings to that point of the process. A summary of the process and details of each phase are outlined below.

### **Planning Context**

The first phase of the Master Plan process launched with meetings with Randolph Township representatives, the gathering of information on Township demographics and a review of existing data.

#### **1. Master Plan Steering Committee**

The Township appointed a Master Plan Steering Committee to work with the Consultants throughout the process. The Consultants met regularly with the Steering Committee with updates of findings, from which the Committee assisted in establishing the future vision, goals, objectives, and priorities.

#### **2. Demographic Analysis**

Using information provided by Randolph Township and other sources, the Consultant performed an analysis of the demographic and population characteristics of Randolph. Demographic and land use trends and characteristics within the Township limits were gathered from various sources. Information included:

- Demographic characteristics (quantity, ages, race, etc.)
- Five year population projections
- Household size
- Average or median household income and per capita income

#### **3. Review of Previous Studies**

Previous studies related to the delivery of parks, recreation and leisure services were reviewed to determine the existing conditions leading up to the start of the Master Plan process. These previous studies included: comprehensive plans, policies, use agreements, brochures, and other planning studies. A summary of the key findings of the Township's 2006 Master Plan as well as other relevant Township and Morris County plans are included in Appendix A of this plan.

### **Existing Parks, Facilities, and Programs Analysis and Needs Assessment**

This phase of the Master Plan process consisted of an analysis of existing parks, facilities, and programs in their current form. This analysis was important in order to assess current conditions to compare against the desires of Township residents as expressed in the following needs assessment phase.

#### **1. Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Inventory**

This process entailed an inventory of all existing parks and recreation facilities offered in and adjacent to Randolph Township, including parks and facilities operated by others such as the Morris County Park Commission, Randolph Township Schools, and private organizations. Visits were made to all Randolph

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Township facilities to identify the existing conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. A Qualitative Assessment form was completed for each Township-owned park. These forms are included in this report as Appendix E.

## **2. Trails Inventory**

The trails inventory process entailed the identification and mapping of park trails in addition to existing and planned trails throughout Randolph Township.

## **3. Township-Wide Park and Recreation Facilities Map**

A map was prepared using GIS software to illustrate all of the Township-owned parks and recreation facilities as well as those of the Morris County Park Commission, Randolph Township Schools, and other providers in the area.

## **4. Public Workshops**

The initial public workshop and kick-off event was held at the Randolph Community Center to identify the public perception of park facilities and programming needs. The purpose of this public workshop was to solicit input from citizens and users regarding their concerns and opinions about existing facilities and programs and to determine their desires for future facilities and programs. The workshop was interactive and involved all participants in a variety of methods.

A second public workshop was held at the Community Center to present the findings and results from all of the public input, including the statistically valid surveys, handout/web survey, dollar voting, and the initial public workshop. Maps of parks and facility service areas were also presented at this workshop.

## **5. Staff Input**

Meetings and interviews were conducted with Randolph Township staff members regarding their perceptions of the public's needs and concerns, the potential for improved services, facilities, programs, and public access. Staff input was gathered from the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and the Division of Planning/Zoning Administration/GIS.

## **6. Stakeholder Groups**

Meetings and round table discussions were conducted with many stakeholder groups representing a large variety of community and government organizations. These groups included: sports groups, cultural and community service organizations, and businesses/sponsors. Randolph Township provided invitations and meeting space for these meetings. Questions were prepared in advance and were approved by the Steering Committee. The questions were sent to the stakeholder group participants in advance for discussions with their organizations prior to the meeting with each focus group.

## **7. Benchmarking Comparisons to Similar Systems**

Benchmarking comparisons of similar park systems were compiled for comparisons to similar parks and recreation systems. Comparison between these park systems consisted of a number of criteria such as: park acreage (developed and undeveloped), per capita budgets, capital improvement expenditures, types of facilities offered, and other relevant characteristics. Twenty-six similar systems throughout New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania were identified for comparison. The analysis used the NRPA PRORAGIS program to compare facilities, programs, and operating procedures with other like agencies.

## **8. Community Interest and Opinion Survey**

A statistically valid mail survey (Mail Survey) was conducted by ETC/Leisure Vision with 520 responses from residents of Randolph. Surveys were mailed to 3,000 households. The survey was used to identify:

- Current satisfaction levels with programs and facilities
- Participation and satisfaction with current programs
- Parks currently used
- Needs for various facilities and programs
- Most needed facilities
- Primary functions that should be performed by Randolph Township regarding parks, recreation, open space, trail linkages, programs, and facilities

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## 9. Web-Based Survey

Additionally, a web-based survey (Web Survey) was conducted that asked similar questions to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey. Where the statistically valid mail survey reached a selected, random sample of residents, the goal of the Web Survey was to engage as many residents as possible. A total of 606 local residents completed the survey. Questions were approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee. Randolph Township promoted the use of the Web Survey through email blasts, newsletter announcements, placement on their web page, and other methods. A handout version of the survey was also created and completed by residents at the public workshops and other public events. The results of the survey were then analyzed and compared to the Mail Survey.

## 10. Geographic Distribution – Service Gap Analysis

An analysis was conducted to determine current service gaps by mapping the locations of current facilities with a defined service area and overlaying those areas with population density dots to compare the household locations to the facility locations. Individual maps were prepared for picnic shelters, playgrounds, rectangular fields, baseball/softball diamonds, tennis courts, basketball courts, and the trail system to identify the distribution of these facilities throughout the community.

## 11. Level of Service Guidelines

Level of Service Guidelines were developed based on public input, benchmarking comparison surveys, and standards and guidelines developed by the Consultant through previous experience. These guidelines were presented and approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee.

### Vision, Goals and Objectives

The Master Plan Steering Committee and the Consultant produced a vision for the future of parks and recreation services in Randolph Township. Using the findings of this Master Plan process, a series of goals and objectives were identified with the Master Plan Steering Committee.

### Physical Planning, Program, and Services Recommendations

Using the data collected throughout the Master Plan process, a series of recommendations were formulated to meet the needs and expectations of Township Staff and residents of Randolph Township. The recommendations were separated into the following five categories.

#### 1. Township-Wide Park, Program, and Facility Improvement Recommendations

System-wide improvements for facilities, programs, and operations, including the establishment of a Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, were provided to direct parks and recreation over the next ten years and beyond. A Township-wide map was produced to illustrate the proposed general locations of new parks.

#### 2. Individual Park Recommendations and Costs

Specific potential improvements were identified at each park or recreation facility with an estimate of probable construction cost for each recommended capital improvement.

#### 3. Park Concept Plans

A park concept plan was developed for the 90 Acres site to illustrate the recommendations for this property which would represent a new park for the Township.

#### 4. Capital Improvement Priorities

Randolph Township staff and the Master Plan Steering Committee, with the assistance of the Consultant, prioritized each of the capital improvements and acquisitions. This process helped identify the timeframe for each recommendation.

### Action Plan

The final phase of the process consisted the creation of an Action Plan, a phased implementation plan, providing strategies for the implementation of the recommendations.

The Action Plan provided specific strategies for:

- Parks, trails, and open space
- Facility recommendations

- 
- Park and facility operations
  - Programs and services

This process identified action steps for recommendations in the short-term (0-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years or 6-10 years), and long-term (beyond 10 years), and the process also identified the responsible party and potential funding sources.

### **Master Plan Document**

A draft of the Master Plan, *Building Community Through Parks*, was presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee and submitted to the Parks Advisory Board and Recreation Advisory Board in March and April 2016. The final version of the plan was delivered to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and the Township Council in July 2016.



## II. PLANNING CONTEXT

### INTRODUCTION

The Planning Context is a summary of the historical factors and trends that may influence the delivery of parks and recreation services throughout Randolph Township. This section provides a summary of the population and demographic trends in Randolph.

### POPULATION TRENDS

An overall understanding of the population trends of Randolph is necessary to identify the present and to anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Needs vary between demographic groups, and these needs also change over time.

Table II-1 illustrates the population trends for the Township from 1970 to 2020. This table uses U.S. Census Bureau data for historic figures and ESRI Business Analyst Solutions projections for 2015 and 2020 numbers. Trends indicate that the Township experienced steady population growth through 2000. However, growth has since slowed, and Randolph is expected to have limited population growth in the future. The population of Randolph grew by only 3.6% from 2000 to 2010 after growing by 24% over the previous decade, and the population of Randolph is projected to decrease by 1.2% by 2020.

**Table II-1: Randolph, New Jersey Population History and Projections (1970 - 2020)**

	Census					Projections	
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020
Township of Randolph	13,296	17,828	19,974	24,847	25,734	25,451	25,437
10 Year Growth %		34.1%	12.0%	24.4%	3.6%		-1.2%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau. ESRI Business Analyst for 2015 and 2020.

### Households

Table II-2 shows the number of households in 2010 and household size from 2000 to 2020. The table indicates that in Randolph Township, the average household size dropped very slightly from 2000 to 2010, and a similarly small decrease is expected through 2020. In 2015, the average household size for residents in Randolph Township was larger than that of Morris County which was similar to the New Jersey average. The State had a larger average household size than the nation. The 2015 average household size in Randolph of 2.84 was substantially higher than for Morris County (2.67) and has decreased at a much slower rate since 2000.

**Table II-2: Randolph, New Jersey Household Size (2000-2020)**

	Households	Average Household Size			
		2000 <sup>1</sup>	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>2</sup>	2020 <sup>2</sup>
USA	120,746,349	2.59	2.58	2.57	2.57
New Jersey	3,264,698	2.68	2.68	2.67	2.67
Morris County	183,601	2.72	2.68	2.67	2.66
Township of Randolph	8,959	2.86	2.85	2.84	2.83
1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau					
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast					

### Median Age

Table II-3 shows the median age for Randolph, Morris County, the State of New Jersey, and the USA from 2000 through 2020. The median age in Randolph increased substantially between 2000 and 2010 (from 36.5 to 40.1). The median age has continued to increase through 2015 to 40.9. The increase mirrors the other geographic levels which have steadily increased since 2000. However, in 2015, the median age in Randolph was lower than that of Morris County but higher than the national and statewide medians. The age of residents is important because Randolph needs to plan for the appropriate age groups that it will be serving. The median age is projected to continue to increase through 2020.

**Table II-3: Median Age (200-2020)**

	2000 <sup>1</sup>	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2015 <sup>2</sup>	2020 <sup>2</sup>
USA	35.3	37.1	37.9	38.6
New Jersey	36.7	38.9	39.7	40.4
Morris County	37.8	41.2	42.4	43.4
Township of Randolph	36.5	40.1	40.9	42.1
1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau				
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast				

## Seniors

Table II-4 displays the population age 65 and over from 2000 to 2020 and shows that this age group increased greatly in population over this time period and is expected to continue to do so through 2020. A similar trend is apparent at all four geographic levels. In 2015, Randolph had a smaller percentage of the population in this age cohort at 11.6% than all comparison geographies. In contrast, the percentage of residents age 65 and over was 15.9% in Morris County, 15.3% in New Jersey, and 14.7% in the USA. These figures indicate that the demand for facilities and services for seniors will increase in the future, and while Randolph has a lower percentage of residents in this age group, comparatively, this population is growing rapidly. The projected 2020 senior population would represent an increase of over 100% above the 2000 numbers.

**Table II-4: Population Age 65 and over (2000-2020)**

	2000 <sup>1</sup>		2010 <sup>1</sup>		2015 <sup>2</sup>		2020 <sup>2</sup>	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	34,991,753	12.4%	40,267,984	13.0%	46,968,183	14.7%	55,232,457	16.7%
New Jersey	1,113,136	13.2%	1,185,993	13.5%	1,360,567	15.3%	1,564,572	17.2%
Morris County	54,530	11.6%	68,155	13.8%	79,324	15.9%	91,730	18.1%
Township of Randolph	1,817	7.3%	2,377	9.2%	2,948	11.6%	3,684	14.5%
1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau								
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast								

## Children

Table II-5 presents the population under age 18 from 2000 to 2020. The table indicates, that in Randolph Township, the percentage of children decreased from 29.7% in 2000 to 28% in 2010. The percentage of the population under age 18 in Randolph Township was higher than for the County, the State, and the nation at all time frames. In 2015, the Township of Randolph had 26.2% of the population within this age cohort, compared to 22.7% for Morris County, 22.3% for New Jersey, and 22.8% nationwide. The proportion of the population under 18, while greater than the comparison geographies, is expected to decline at a faster rate than the other geographies.

All of this information indicates that the population of Randolph has higher percentages of children and lower percentage of seniors than Morris County. However, the Township is experiencing some of the same trends as seen throughout the U.S. (an increasing median age and greater proportion of seniors).

**Table II-5: Population Under Age 18 (2000-2020)**

	2000 <sup>1</sup>		2010 <sup>1</sup>		2015 <sup>2</sup>		2020 <sup>2</sup>	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	72,293,812	25.7%	74,181,467	24.0%	72,578,577	22.8%	73,837,675	22.3%
New Jersey	2,087,558	24.8%	2,065,214	23.5%	1,990,679	22.3%	1,930,184	21.2%
Morris County	116,838	24.8%	117,695	23.9%	113,119	22.7%	107,324	21.2%
Township of Randolph	7,378	29.7%	7,207	28.0%	6,675	26.2%	6,172	24.3%
1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau								
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast								

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP

The aging and diversification of the population is apparent through the following trends. Each of these themes highlights particular changes in Randolph, but the trends discussed below are linked and will collectively shape the future of the Township.

### Shifting of Age Demographics of the Population

As described in the preceding text, the changes in age demographics in Randolph have followed a similar pattern as seen in both New Jersey and the United States as a whole. Figure II-1 shows population



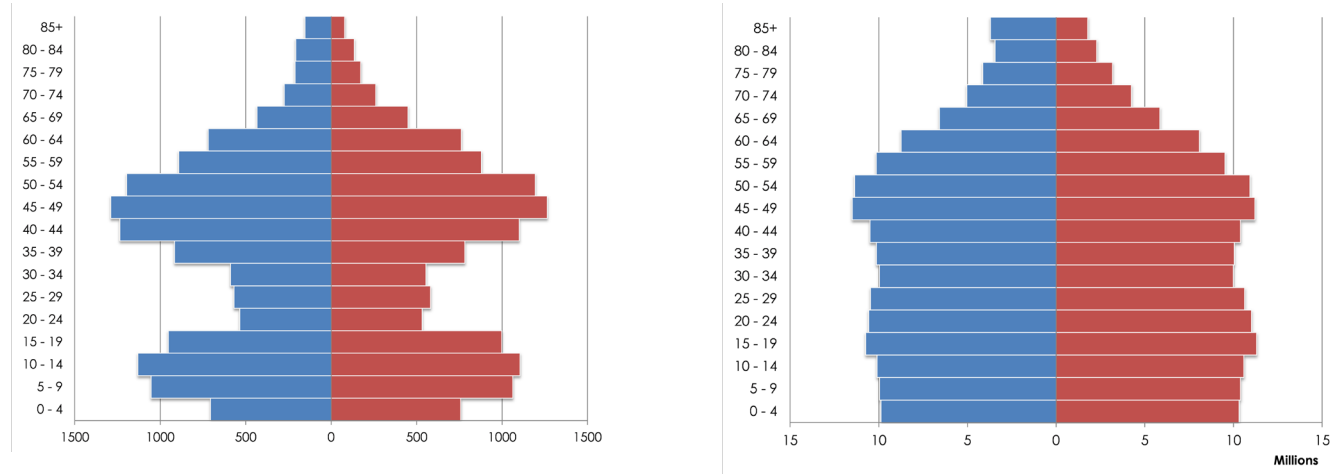
by age group by sex for Randolph and for the nation as a whole. From this figure, it is clear that a big drop in residents occurs at the 20-24 age range which continues through the 30-34 range before increasing again starting at the 35-39 age range. Randolph clearly has the largest number of residents in the age ranges from 40-54, but also has a large number of residents age 5-19. This younger group (5-19) represents the children of the older population group (40-54). It is also clear from this chart more seniors are female.

This population in Randolph contrasts significantly with the national population. The national population is much more evenly distributed by age group with slight peaks at the 45-54 and 15-19 age ranges. Randolph Township clearly has a smaller population age 20-39 than is seen nationally, as well as smaller numbers in the oldest age groups. These findings are consistent with previous data suggesting that Randolph is experiencing the same trends seen in other geographies, although on a slightly delayed timeframe.

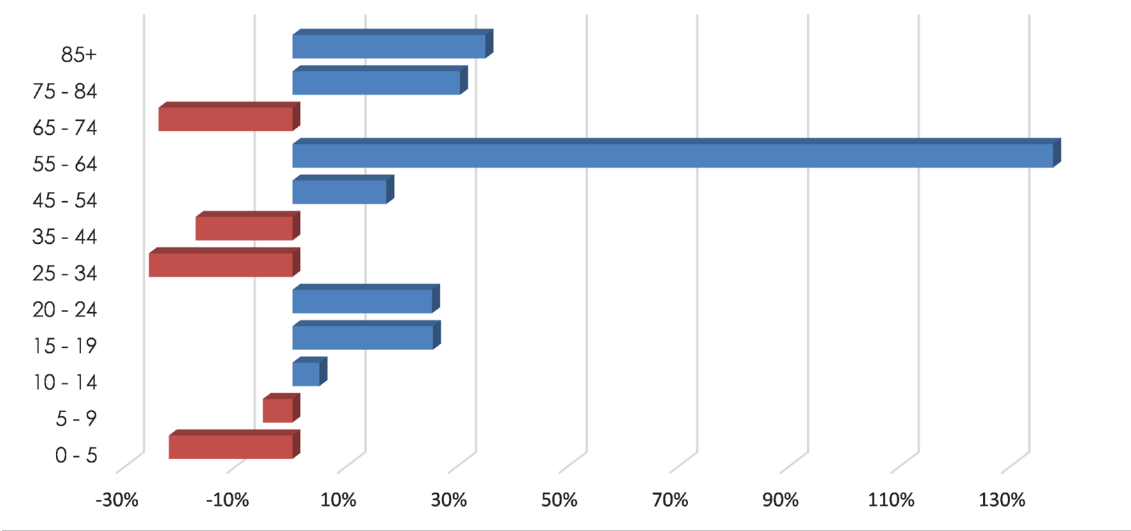
Like the rest of the State and the US, Randolph saw a substantial increase in the older demographic cohorts between 2000 and 2010. Figure II-2 demonstrates the changes in population for each age group from 2000 to 2010. The largest percentage increase over this 10 year period (by a large margin) was seen in the 55-64 age range. These residents will age up to the 65-74 age range by 2020. The largest decrease in population was in the 25-34 age range, followed by the 0-5 and 65-74 age ranges. The decrease in the 65-74 age range is notable as the groups both preceding and following this age range both experienced population growth.

Addressing the needs of the older members of the community will be of great importance to Randolph Township, but the needs of other age ranges, nonetheless, will also be quite significant. Randolph faces a future of substantial needs for both children and senior services.

**Figure II-1: Population by Age and Sex, Randolph – Left/USA – Right (Females-Blue/Males-Red)**



**Figure II-2: Change in Population by Age from 2000 to 2010**



## Changes in Household Makeup

The proportion of households made up of families stayed approximately the same in Randolph Township from 2000 to 2010 (78.4% to 78.5%). While the proportion of family households remained the same in Randolph, this proportion was higher than Morris County (71.6%) and New Jersey (69.0%), both of which have seen a decrease in families since 2000 (see Table II-6). The proportion of households with children under age 18 dropped slightly between 2000 and 2010 from 45.3% to 43.7%, and the proportion of households with seniors over 65 increased substantially between 2000 and 2010 from 15.5% to 19.3%. While the proportion of seniors was much lower in Randolph than Morris County, the State, and the nation, only the County saw a larger increase of this type of household.

Family households represent a higher percentage of the population in Randolph than in the County, the State of New Jersey, and the USA, and this percentage did not decrease from 2000 to 2010. Households with children have decreased as a percentage (consistent with trends at other levels) but still represented nearly 44% of households in 2010, much higher than County, State, and national proportions. The percentage of households consisting of families has remained the same, but based on this information, the makeup of those families is changing. The parks and recreation needs of these families which are becoming less likely to have children and more likely to have seniors must be assessed to best determine the needs for the future of Randolph Township.

**Table II-6: Household Makeup**

	Households	Family Households			Households with Children			Households with Seniors		
	2010 <sup>1</sup>	2000	2010	Change	2000	2010	Change	2000	2010	Change
USA	116,716,292	68.1%	66.4%	-1.7%	36.0%	33.4%	-2.6%	23.4%	24.9%	1.5%
New Jersey	3,214,360	70.3%	69.0%	-1.3%	36.6%	35.0%	-1.6%	25.9%	26.9%	1.0%
Morris County	180,534	73.6%	71.6%	-2.0%	37.3%	35.7%	-1.6%	22.3%	26.7%	4.4%
Township of Randolph	9,013	78.4%	78.5%	0.1%	45.3%	43.7%	-1.6%	15.5%	19.3%	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Income and Education Growth

The Township of Randolph has experienced growth of income and educational attainment (Tables II-7 and II-8). Since 2000, the median household income has increased from \$97,589 in 2000 to \$123,578 in 2013. After adjusting for inflation, the median household income has decreased slightly in Randolph from \$132,021<sup>3</sup> (in 2013 dollars) in 2000 to \$123,578 in 2013, as well as for the County, the State, and the nation.<sup>4</sup> The median income in Randolph is higher than Morris County (\$98,633) and the statewide median (\$71,629). Randolph's median income was more than double the national median (at both timeframes). Additionally, the unemployment rate (as of 2013) in Randolph Township (3.3%) was less than half of that of the State of New Jersey (6.7%).<sup>5</sup>

**Table II-7: Median Household Income**

	2000	2013	Annual Growth
USA	\$41,994	\$53,046	1.8%
New Jersey	\$55,146	\$71,629	2.0%
Morris County	\$77,340	\$98,633	1.9%
Township of Randolph	\$97,589	\$123,578	1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

**Table II-8: Educational Attainment (Residents Age 25 and Older)**

	No High School Diploma	High School/GED	Some College/ Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree or Above
2000	4.3%	16.4%	19.9%	33.7%	25.8%
2013	3.4%	13.3%	16.8%	37.6%	29.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<sup>3</sup> 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

<sup>4</sup> Using Bureau of Labor Statistics Inflation Calculator

<sup>5</sup> 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Educational attainment has also increased in Randolph since 2000 (Table II-8). As of 2013, 37.6% of residents age 25 and older had a Bachelor's Degree. This number increased since 2000 from 33.7%. The percentage of residents age 25 and older with a Master's Degree or above increased over that time period from 25.8% to 29%. Two thirds (66.5%) of Randolph residents have a Bachelor's Degree or above. The educational attainment numbers for Morris County were 50% for Bachelor's Degree and above. Morris County and Randolph Township have higher proportions of college graduates<sup>6</sup> than New Jersey (41.5%), while New Jersey has a greater proportion of college graduates than the nation (28.8%).

Randolph has a comparatively high median household income and a high level of educational attainment. High incomes and educational growth provide opportunities for the Township and may impact the needs of residents. The challenge for the Township is to ascertain and meet the desires of these residents.

### Growth of Ethnic Populations

Randolph Township has experienced an increase in ethnic and racial diversity which is demonstrated in Figure II-9. The Township has had a reduction in the proportion of the population consisting of White residents while all other minority populations have increased. In 2010, the White population, while still a large majority, had declined to 82.4% percent, compared to 85.7% percent in 2000. Additionally, over the same time period, the minority population grew steadily. The Hispanic community had the largest increase as a percentage (over 100%) and in absolute numbers (354) over this time period. The Other Race Alone category had the second highest increase as a percentage (78%), and the Asian population has the second highest increase in absolute numbers (419).

**Table II-9: Educational Attainment (Residents Age 25 and Older)**

	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		Asian Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2000	24,847	21,293	85.7%	572	2.3%	2,272	9.1%	346	1.4%	364	1.5%	1,208	4.9%
2010	25,734	21,215	82.4%	690	2.7%	2,691	10.5%	615	2.4%	523	2.0%	2,616	10.2%
# Change	887	-78		118		419		269		159		1,408	
% Change	3.6%	-0.4%		20.6%		18.4%		77.7%		43.7%		116.6%	

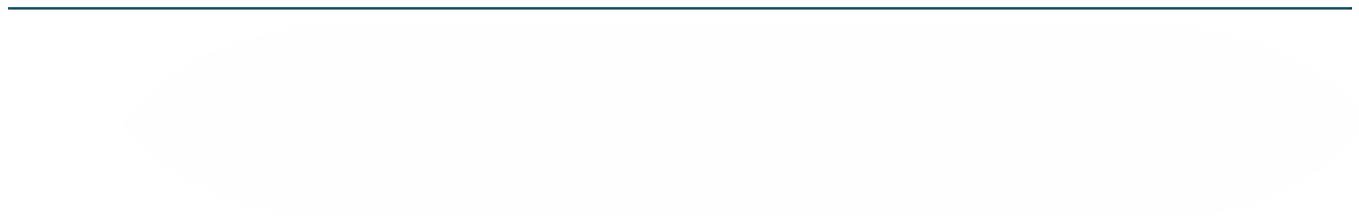
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The proportion of the population represented by minorities in Randolph Township (24.7%) was similar to Morris County (24.9%) but lower than New Jersey (40.7%). However, the White population actually decreased slightly from 2000 to 2010 in absolute numbers, not just as a percentage of the population. While the minority population is still fairly small in Randolph, its growth will likely continue and will have substantial impacts on the Township's future service needs as these residents may have different facility and program needs.

### Conclusion

Randolph's strong economy and growing diversity provide many opportunities for the future of the Township, while the aging of the population and limited projected population growth will certainly guide the direction of the Township. Randolph also has a young and highly educated population, compared to Morris County, New Jersey, and the USA. The direction chosen by the Township for parks and recreation facilities will provide opportunities to meet the specific needs of its residents and to enrich their quality of life for years to come.

<sup>6</sup> Bachelor's Degree or Above



### III. FACILITY AND PROGRAM INVENTORY

#### INTRODUCTION

This section of the Master Plan identifies existing conditions of parks and recreation facilities and programs in Randolph. The section begins with a description of park type classifications to provide an understanding of the functions of the various park types. An inventory of parks in Randolph (and nearby) follows, including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations. Finally, parks and recreation program availability and participation rates are analyzed.

#### PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The purpose of developing a parks and recreation classification system for a community is to evaluate the total recreation opportunities that are being made available to the public. Too often, a community will "meet the standard" in terms of acreage, but this provision may be met through only a single park that does not provide for the entire community. Therefore, a system of parks should be developed that provides a combination of local space such as Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks and support by county, regional, and state parks.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in this section identifies each park by its park type category and also lists the specific facilities that are located within each park. Table III-1 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served by each park, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. The categories and descriptions were adapted from the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines which was published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995.

A park system is generally reviewed and analyzed as a composite of recreation areas, each existing to meet a particular public need. Based on a review of national and regional standards, a parks and recreation area classification system has been developed to reflect the actual conditions and opportunities for Randolph Township.

**Table III-1: Classification System for Parks and Recreation Areas**

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Local Space				
Mini-Park (MP) or Pocket Park	+/- 1 Acre 1/8 – 1/4 Mile Service Radius 5 minute walk	0.25 Acre/1,000	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Often provided in association with school facilities.  May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where children do not have adequate yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NP)	5-15 Acres ½-1.0 mile service radius. To serve a population up to 5,000	2.0 Acres/1,000	Suited for intense development.  Typical facilities include field games, court games, playground apparatus, small pools, small neighborhood centers, drinking fountains, and restrooms.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance).  May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility.  May not be needed in areas served locally by "community", "county" or "regional" parks.
Community Park (CmP)	25-50+ Acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000+.	5.0 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or court game complex, major recreation or community center, etc.  May be an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc.	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas.  Park should ideally be located at or near a school.  May meet needs of a neighborhood park for users within a 1-mile radius.

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Linear Park (LP)	N/A	N/A	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.). May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnic areas, etc.	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.).  May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnic areas, etc.
Special Use-Local (SUL)	Serves community-wide area	N/A	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, plazas in commercial areas, major pools, riverfront park areas, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the special needs of the intended use.
<b>Regional Space</b>				
County Park (CoP)	100 + Acres 5-6 mile service radius To serve most of the County.  Located in rural areas but readily accessible to most of the city population.  Travel time within 20 minutes.	5.0 Acres/1,000	Large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features.  Target size of 100 or more acres with 50% developed for active recreation.  Should be located off of major roads.  Destination-oriented parks.  Should connect to linear park system.	Capable of providing a range of specific recreational facilities.  Should include unique natural areas of ecological interest.  May meet needs of neighborhood and/or community park for users within a 2-mile radius.
Nature Parks (NaP)	Size as needed to protect the resource	N/A	Majority of park to remain in its natural state.  Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities" and should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, interpretive signage, parking and restrooms.  The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.	Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest.  Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency.

## OVERVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN RANDOLPH

The residents of Randolph, New Jersey are offered a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The community's needs are currently being met by the Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Morris County Parks, school facilities, and other facilities within the Township. Table III-2 provides a summary of the parks, recreation areas, and facilities within Randolph Township and also indicates the park type category for each existing park. Figure III-1, Existing Parks and Trails, shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas in Randolph. The following text provides a detailed narrative summary of the parks and recreation facilities offered in Randolph. Qualitative assessment forms that detail conditions and site amenities can be found in Appendix F, and aerial photos of the existing Randolph parks are provided in Appendix B.



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## COMMUNITY PARKS

### Brundage Park (Carrell) – 85.0 acres

#### 1. Site Location

Brundage Park (Carrell) is located in central Randolph, and the parking for the park can be accessed from Carrell Road to the northeast. The park can also be accessed from the east through a trail that connects to Brundage Preserve.

#### 2. Existing Facilities

The park is one of the four Community Parks in Randolph Township with approximately 15 acres of parkland developed for recreational purposes. The park offers a wide variety of amenities, including diamond fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, a playground, and a skate park. This park is also the home of the Brundage Park Playhouse which offers theater productions as well as camps and classes for Randolph residents. The park also offers support facilities such as picnic shelters, restrooms, and trails. A series of bungalows and maintenance buildings are located along the southwestern edge of the park.

The park offers four lighted diamond fields that share an open center which can also be used as a rectangular field. A batting cage serves these fields. Bleachers, some of which are accessible, provide spectator access, and concessions are located nearby, adjacent to the Brundage Park Playhouse, to serve these fields.

Facilities of this park include:

- Four baseball/softball diamonds (small skinned fields) – lighted
- Six tennis courts – lighted
- Two outdoor basketball courts – lighted
- One playground with gazebo
- Walking trails (0.4 miles)
- One large picnic shelter with restrooms
- A skate park
- The Brundage Park Playhouse

#### 3. Facility Issues

- Trails lack connectivity to some features
- Limited accessibility of some facilities and seating areas
- Minimal accessibility of playground
- Field lighting in need of replacement
- Limited visibility of skate park
- Bungalows in need of repair
- Small structures in need of demolition



### Freedom Park – 186.7 acres

#### 1. Site Location

Freedom Park is located on the eastern side of Randolph Township, and the parking for this park is accessed from Millbrook Avenue which runs along the western edge of the property. The park can also be accessed from the north and south via trail connections.



## 2. Existing Facilities

Freedom Park is the largest of the four Community Parks in Randolph, in both total and developed acreage, and has a large concentration of athletic fields, including the only artificial turf field offered by Randolph Township. The park also offers a sand volleyball court, two basketball courts, and a playground. A series of trails run throughout the site which also offers a large picnic shelter, restrooms (at two concessions buildings), and the Randolph Museum. A maintenance building is also located near the rectangular fields.

The park has four full-sized rectangular fields, including the artificial turf field, located along the eastern edge of the developed portion of the park. Three of the four fields are lighted, and two of the fields have accessible walkway to the seating areas. A press box with restrooms, concessions, and a meeting room serves the artificial turf field.

The park also offers three diamond fields of varying sizes with outfield fences. The largest, a Babe Ruth baseball diamond, is located at the northwestern edge of the park and is served by a batting cage, seating with walkways, and a restroom/concession building. The remaining two fields, a Little League baseball field and a softball field, are located at the southern portion of the park. A batting cage and a concessions building serve these fields, and the Little League field is lighted.

Facilities of this park include:

- Four rectangular fields (one artificial turf) – three lighted
- Three diamond fields (Babe Ruth – lighted, Little League – lighted, softball)
- Three concession buildings (two with restrooms)
- One playground
- One picnic shelter
- Two basketball courts
- One sand volleyball court
- Walking trails (1.5 miles)
- Randolph Museum

## 3. Park Issues

- Replacements turf needed at artificial turf field
- Poor drainage at Babe Ruth field
- Trails lack connectivity to some features
- Limited accessibility of some facilities and seating areas (two rectangular fields, Little League baseball field (and concessions), picnic shelter)
- Minimal accessibility of playground
- Insufficient parking, safety of crossing to overflow parking





## Heistein Park – 42.7 acres

### 1. Site Location

Heistein Park is located on the southwestern portion of Randolph between Doby and South Roads. Parking for the park can be accessed from each of these roads, and a trail connection (Patriots Path) leads to the park from the west.

### 2. Existing Facilities

The primary features of this Community Park are athletic fields, both rectangular and diamond fields, and a pond. The park also offers walking trails, one of which encircles the pond. Additionally, the pond can be utilized for boating, fishing, and ice skating.

The diamond fields are located at the northwestern and southwestern edges of the park, and all have outfield fences. Two batting cages serve these fields but are located on the opposite end of the park (the southeast). Four large rectangular fields are located in the central portion of the park, two of which have lighting. The remaining two rectangular fields (one large and one small) are located in the northern portion of the park. A centrally located restroom/concessions building serves all of the athletic fields.

Facilities of this park include:

- Four diamond fields (three skinned, one grass infield)
- Five large and one small rectangular fields
- Pond (fishing, boating, ice skating access)
- Small playground
- Walking trails (0.5 miles)
- Restroom/concessions building (also serves as small shelter)

### 3. Park Issues

- Field lighting in need of replacement
- Trails lack connectivity to some features
- Limited trails and walkways
- Limited accessibility of all facilities including seating areas
- Small playground for a large park



## Randolph Park – 58.4 acres

### 1. Site Location

Randolph Park is located at the northwestern edge of Randolph Township off of Route 10. The parking can be accessed via Green Lane, leading from Route 10.

### 2. Existing Facilities

Randolph Park is the least developed of the Township's Community Park because the Randolph Lake encompasses most of the site. The



park houses Randolph's only public swimming facility, the Randolph Park Beach, which utilizes this lake. This aquatic facility has a number of amenities including: lap swimming docks, a beach area, a sprayground, a bathhouse, and canoe rentals. The lake can also be utilized for fishing. The park has a large baseball diamond with a skinned infield and a batting cage.

Facilities of this park include:

- Randolph Park Beach
- Large diamond field

### 3. Park Issues

- Limited accessibility at diamond field
- Improvements needed to bathhouse

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

### Brundage Park (Sussex) – 84.7 acres

#### 1. Site Location

Brundage Park (Sussex) is located in central Randolph on Sussex Turnpike. The parking for the site is unpaved and can be accessed from the south. A Township trail travels through the Brundage property to the northwest of the facilities at Brundage Sussex.

#### 2. Existing Facilities

This Neighborhood Park offers a full-sized, lighted rectangular field that can be configured to accommodate two small-sided fields. The park also includes a backstop and infield for use as a diamond field.

Facilities of this park include:

- One rectangular field – lighted
- One infield with backstop

#### 3. Park Issues

- Field lighting in need of replacement
- Limited connectivity to trail network
- Limited accessibility of facilities



### Brundage Preserve – 90.4 acres

#### 1. Site Location

Brundage Preserve is located adjacent to Brundage Park (Carrell) and offers a separate parking lot accessed from Carrell Road. The property can also be accessed via trail linkages from the west, south, northeast, and northwest (Brundage Park).

#### 2. Existing Facilities

This Neighborhood Park has a full-sized rectangular field, a pond, and walking trails. The pond can be utilized for fishing and ice skating. The park also functions as a trailhead for Township trails in several directions.

Facilities of this park include:

- One rectangular field
- Walking trails (1.2 miles)





- Pond (fishing, ice skating)
- Sled hill

#### **Tamarack Field – 9.8 acres**

##### **1. Site Location**

Tamarack Field is located on Park Avenue in northwestern Randolph.

##### **2. Existing Facilities**

This site is maintained by the operators of the adjacent Tamarack Day Camp, but the facilities are available for use by Randolph residents in the evenings when not in use by the camp operators. The property has three t-ball fields and a lacrosse rink.

#### **MINI PARKS**

#### **Kiwanis Park – 2.6 acres**

##### **1. Site Location**

Kiwanis Park is located north of Route 10 on Calumet Road. Parking is available on the street.

##### **2. Existing Facilities**

This Mini Park primarily serves residents in the adjacent neighborhood. The playground at the park is fairly new, and the park also offers an open playfield.

#### **Rosenfarb Park – 0.7 acres**

##### **1. Site Location**

Rosenfarb Park is located at the corner of South Salem Street and Franklin Road, at the northeastern edge of Randolph Township. The park does not provide parking, so any visitors arriving by car must park on the street in the adjoining neighborhood. No sidewalks currently run along Franklin Road leading to the park, but a trail is planned to link the park to this neighborhood.

##### **2. Existing Facilities**

The park provides an oversized half basketball court and an open grass area.

##### **3. Park Issues**

- Limited site amenities
- No walkways or sidewalks

#### **Timber Lane Park – 0.4 acres**

##### **1. Site Location**

Timber Lane Park is located at the eastern edge of Randolph on Timber Lane, within a residential neighborhood. The park is part of The Glen at Shongum open space.

##### **2. Existing Facilities**

Timber Lane Park is a Mini Park that currently offers a small playground and a small grass area. The swings at the playground are attached to the slide structure which is not in compliance with current code requirements, so this playground will need to be removed.

#### **OPEN SPACE**

Randolph has a considerable amount of Township-owned open space in addition to the park properties. These properties consist of over 1,400 acres of land that, combined with the Township's park properties, provide over 2,000 acres of public open space throughout the Township. Most of the properties are undeveloped and offer limited access. The Township allows access to portions of the properties for educational uses as well as to licensed hunters at specified times of the year. Specific properties provide additional amenities, primarily trails, which are described below.

#### **Clyde Potts Open Space – 348.1 acres**

Clyde Potts Open Space is located in southern Randolph along the border with Mendham Township. Over two miles of trails (Patriots Path) cross this property, 0.6 miles paved and 1.5 miles unpaved. These

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trails can be accessed from trailheads (with parking) at the intersection of Combs Hollow and Doby Roads and on Old Brookside Road. The trails can also be accessed at the end of Dolly Bridge Road.

#### **Cohn Farm Park – 96.5 acres**

Cohn Farm is located adjacent to Freedom Park, across Millbrook Avenue. Approximately 0.3 miles of paved trails and 0.8 miles of unpaved trails crisscross this property. The trails can be access from several locations. Trailheads with parking are located on Center Grove Road, Millbrook Road (grass), and Brundage Preserve. Additionally, the trails can be accessed at the ends of Lamalfa Road and Melanie Lane.

#### **Combs Hollow – 186.4 acres**

Combs Hollow is located in the southwestern edge of Randolph, adjacent to Clyde Potts Open Space. Over two miles of trails travel through this property, including 0.4 miles of paved trails and 1.7 miles of unpaved trails. These trails can be accessed from the trailhead at the intersection of Combs Hollow and Doby Roads and at the end of Dolly Bridge Road. The trails can also be accessed on Combs Hollow Road near Waterfall Drive. These trails continue into Clyde Potts Open Space to the east and into Mendham Township to the south.

#### **Hidden Valley Park – 50.2 acres**

Hidden Valley Park is located in central-eastern Randolph Township and shares its southern border with James Andrews Park (Morris County Park Commission). Approximately 0.5 miles of trails run through the park (0.2 miles paved, 0.3 miles unpaved). A small pond is located on the property that can be utilized for fishing. The site also offers a sled hill. Access to the park is available on Everdale Road or via two trails leading into James Andrews Park.

#### **Millbrook Valley Park – 340.0 acres**

Millbrook Valley Park is a collection of large properties in the northeastern portion of Randolph Township. Most of the acreage is undeveloped, although 0.7 acres of trails (0.1 paved) are located in the park, mostly on the largest property. The trail running through the largest portion travels form Mountainside Drive to Red Oak Lane.

#### **90 Acres – 92.9 acres**

The 90 Acres property is located in the southwestern portion of Randolph Township between Calais and Doby Roads, just north of Heistein Park. Although much of the site is characterized by wetlands and stream buffers, the property provides the best opportunity of any of the open space properties for development for recreational uses. Approximately 12 acres of the property is already cleared of vegetation as a result of previous usage as farmland.

#### **Old Brookside Park – 91.1 acres**

Old Brookside Park is located to the northeast of Clyde Potts Open Space in southern Randolph. The park, and its 0.6 miles of trails (0.1 paved), can be accessed from the north at the trailhead on Old Brookside Road or a trail connecting to Sussex Turnpike (and on to Cohn Farm). The park can also be accessed from the south via the trail connecting the property to Clyde Potts (Patriots Path).

#### **Other Open Space Properties**

In addition to the open space properties listed in the preceding text, Randolph Township has approximately 200 acres of open space throughout Randolph most of which is undeveloped. Approximately 0.6 miles of trails currently traverse these properties.

### **SPECIAL USE PARKS**

#### **Community Center – 9.9 acres**

##### **1. Site Location**

The Community Center is located on Calais Road in the southern portion of Randolph and shares a site with the Randolph Public Library.

##### **2. Existing Facilities**

The Community Center offers meeting rooms, including the Senior Room, and the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department offices are also located in this building. The Randolph Public



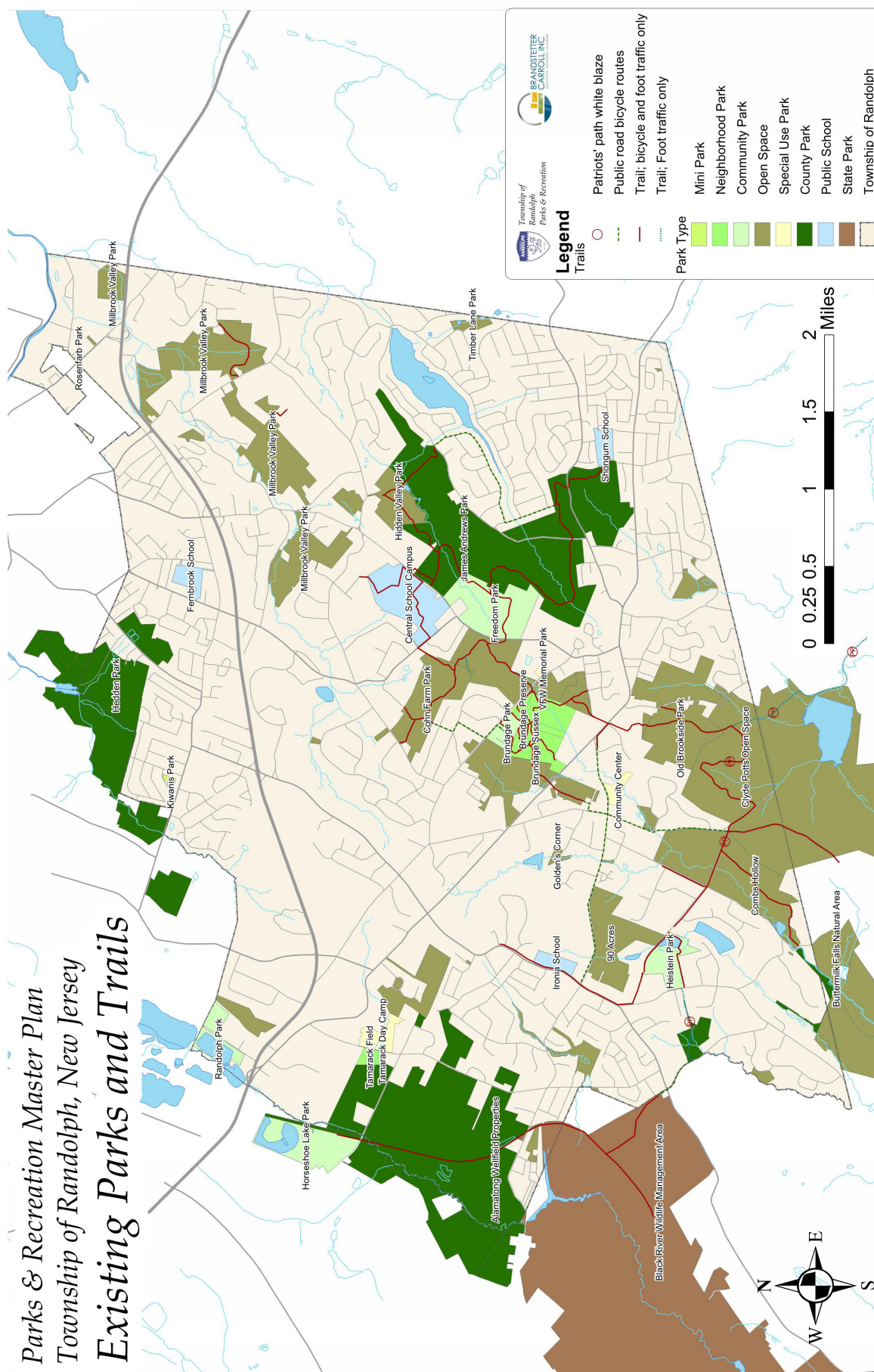
Table III-2: Randolph Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Facility Name	Park Type	Acreage		Baseball/Softball <sup>3</sup>					Fields <sup>4</sup>				Courts		Lake Features				Trails (Miles)		Shelters		Support		Other Comments			
		Developed <sup>1</sup>	Total <sup>2</sup>	Small Grass Infield	Small Skinned Infield	Large Grass Infield	Large Skinned Infield	Batting Cages	Playfield	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Artificial Turf	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playgrounds	Skate Park	Swimming	Ice Skating	Boating	Fishing	Paved	Unpaved	Large Pavilion		Small Pavilion/ Gazebo	Restrooms	Parking
TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH																												
Township Parks																												
Brundage Park (Carrell Road)	Community	15.4	85.0		4			1					6	2	1	1					0.4		1	1	1	211		
Brundage Park (Sussex Turnpike)	Neighborhood	3.2	84.7								1										0.6	0.5				50	Backstop and skinned infield	
Brundage Preserve	Neighborhood	7.3	90.4								1							1		1	0.8	0.4				50	Sled hill	
Freedom Park	Community	32.8	186.7	1	1	1		2			3	1	1		2	1					0.7	0.8	1		2	271		
Heistein Park	Community	30.5	42.7	1	3			2		1	5					1			1	1	1	0.5		1		1	190	
Kiwanis Park	Mini Park	1.4	2.6						1							1										0		
Randolph Park	Community	7.4	58.4				1	1										1		1	1				1	127		
Rosenfarb Park	Mini Park	0.7	0.7											0.5												0		
Tamarack Field	Neighborhood	4.9	9.8		1				3																	N/A	Lacrosse rink, T-ball fields (3)	
Timber Lane Park	Mini Park	0.4	0.4												1											0		
Subtotal - Randolph Township Parks		104.0	561.3	2	9	1	1	6	4	1	10	1	1	6	4.5	5	1	1	2	2	3	3.0	1.8	3	1	5	899	
Special Use Parks																												
Community Center	Community Center	2.1	9.9												1									1	1	132		
Tamarack Day Camp	Day Camp	3.8	21.5										2	1												N/A		
VFW Memorial Park	Special Use	0.8	2.8																						1	50		
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		6.7	34.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	2	182	
Open Space																												
Clyde Potts Open Space	Nature	0.0	348.1																		0.6	1.5				0		
Cohn Farm Park	Open Space	0.0	96.5																		0.3	0.8				X		
Combs Hollow	Nature	0.0	186.4																		0.4	1.7				X		
The Glen at Shongum	Undeveloped	0.0	9.4																							0		
Golden's Corner	Undeveloped	0.0	4.5																							0		
Hidden Valley Park	Nature	0.0	50.2																	1	0.2	0.3				X	Camping	
Millbrook Valley Park	Undeveloped	0.0	340.0																		0.1	0.6				X		
90 Acres Site	Undeveloped	0.0	92.9																							0		
Old Brookside Park	Undeveloped	0.0	91.1																		0.1	0.5				X		
Other Open Space	Undeveloped	0.0	189.1																			0.6				0		
Subtotal - Open Space		0.0	1408.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.7	6.0	0	0	0	0	
Other Randolph Township Trails	Linear	N/A	N/A																		2.1						Trails along roads	
TOTAL - Randolph Township		110.6	2003.7	2	9	1	1	6	4	1	10	1	1	8	5.5	6	1	1	2	2	4	6.8	7.7	3	2	7	1081	

Facility Name	Park Type	Acreage		Small Grass Infield	Small Skinned Infield	Large Grass Infield	Large Skinned Infield	Batting Cages	Playfield	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Artificial Turf	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playgrounds	Skate Park	Swimming	Ice Skating	Boating	Fishing	Paved	Unpaved	Large Pavilion	Small Pavilion/ Gazebo	Restrooms	Parking	Other Comments	
		Developed¹	Total²																										
County and State Parks																													
Alamatong Wellfield Properties	Open Space	0.0	483.3																				1.4				0		
Hedden County Park	County	0.7	139.3																			0.2	0.0				N/A		
James Andrews Memorial County Park	County	0.0	552.1																			0.7	2.0				0		
Other County Trails	Linear	N/A	N/A																				0.5				0		
Subtotal - County and State Parks		0.7	1174.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.9	3.9	0	0	0	0		
School Parks																													
Center Grove Elementary	School	6.4	6.4		2						1					2						0.3					N/A		
Fernbrook Elementary	School	6.1	6.1		2				1						1	2											N/A	Basketball 2 half courts (2 goals)	
Ironia Elementary	School	4.7	4.7		2				1							1											N/A		
Randolph Middle	School	7.6	7.6			1	1				0.5											0.6					N/A		
Shongum Elementary	School	2.3	2.3		1				1						2	1											N/A		
Randolph High	School	16.1	16.1								1	2										0.2					N/A	Running track	
Subtotal - School Parks		43.2	43.2	0	7	1	1	0	3	0	2.5	2	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	1.1	0.0	0	0	0	N/A		
Subtotal - Public Facilities		49.9	3817.2	2	16	2	2	6	7	1	13	3	1	8	9	12	1	1	2	2	4	8.8	11.6	3	2	7	N/A		
Private Facilities																													
Aspen Ice	Private	15.2	15.2																								N/A		
Clubhouse Golf Center	Private	10.8	10.8																								N/A		
Indoor Sports Pavilion	Private	6.2	6.2									2															N/A	300'x108' Indoor fields (2), batting cages	
Kozak Sports Center	Private	2.6	2.6									2															N/A	120'x90' Indoor fields (2)	
Mt. Freedom Golf	Private	15.2	34.8																								N/A	Disc golf	
Randolph YMCA	Private	9.0	20.0																								N/A	Indoor pool, gym, fitness center	
Subtotal - Private Facilities		58.9	89.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	N/A		
TOTAL - RANDOLPH FACILITIES		108.8	3906.7	2	16	2	2	6	7	1	13	7	1	8	9	12	1	1	2	2	4	8.8	11.6	3	2	7	N/A		
OUTSIDE OF RANDOLPH																													
Other Municipal, County, and State Parks																													
Black River Wildlife Management Area	State Park	0.0	3020.0																	1	1	X					N/A		
Buttermilk Falls Natural Area	Mendham Township Park	25.6	265.0															1				X					N/A		
Central Park of Morris County	County Park	85.0	117.9	1	1						4		2			1						X	X				N/A	Dog park, amphitheater, 5k cross country course	
Heddon County Park	County Park	4.2	102.2		2											1						X		1			N/A		
Horseshoe Lake Park	Roxbury Township Park	57.1	86.5			1				1	6		2		2	1	1	1				2.2		1	1		N/A		
Subtotal - Nearby Public Parks		171.9	3591.6	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	10	0	4	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	2.2	0.0	2	1	0	N/A		
TOTAL - NEARBY FACILITIES		171.9	3591.6	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	10	0	4	0	2	3	1	2	0	1	1	2.2	0.0	2	1	0	N/A		

1. Developed Acres are estimated based on GIS measurements using aerial photography.
2. Total school acres includes only portion of property developed for recreational use.
3. Small grass or skinned infields can accommodate 60 ft. or shorter baselines, while large grass infields can accommodate 90 ft. baselines, and large skinned infields can accommodate 75 ft. baselines.
4. Large rectangular fields measure at least 300 x 200 ft., and small rectangle fields measure 200 x 150 ft. or smaller.

### Figure III-1: Existing Parks and Trails



Library is located on the same property, and a playground and small gazebo are located in the open space behind these buildings.

### **Tamarack Day Camp – 21.5 acres**

Tamarack Day Camp is located on the eastern side of Park Avenue, across from Tamarack Field. The Township leases the property to the private organization that offers summer day camp services to children from preschool through ninth grade. The organization also provides maintenance for the adjacent Tamarack Field property.

### **VFW Memorial Park – 2.8 acres**

#### **1. Site Location**

VFW Memorial Park is located on Carrell Road, just south of Brundage Park.

#### **2. Existing Facilities**

In addition to the VFW Hall located on the lower level of this building, a large open area with a stage is located on the second floor.

#### **3. Facility Issues**

Accessibility improvements are needed to upper levels and restrooms and these improvements are currently being implemented.



## **COUNTY PARKS**

### **Alamatong Wellfield Properties – 483.3 acres (within Randolph)**

The Alamatong Wellfield Properties are owned by the Morris County Municipal Authority (MUA) and are located at the western edge of Randolph Township, continuing into Roxbury Township. The West Morris Greenway travels through this property connecting to Horseshoe Lake Park to the north and the Black River Wildlife Management Area to the south.

### **Hedden County Park – 139.3 acres (within Randolph)**

Hedden County Park is located at the north end of Randolph Township, extending into Dover and Mine Hill Township. Most of the recreational facilities at this park are located outside of Randolph, although 0.2 miles of trails are located within the Township. Outside of the Township, Hedden County Park offers two diamond fields, a playground, additional trails, and a large picnic shelter. The parking for the park can be reached via Hawthorne Avenue off of Reservoir Avenue in Randolph.

### **James Andrews Memorial County Park – 552.1 acres**

James Andrews Memorial County Park is located in the southeastern portion of Randolph Township, bordering Freedom Park to the west, Hidden Valley Park to the east, the Central School Campus (Randolph Township Schools) to the northwest, and Shongum Elementary to the southeast. Parking for these trails can be utilized at any of these properties. Trails in this park connect and provide linkages between these properties. In total, the park offers 2.7 miles of trails, 0.7 miles of which are paved.

## **SCHOOL SITES**

School sites typically have outdoor recreation areas for students that function as parks for nearby residents when schools are not in session. Schools in the Township of Randolph are operated by Randolph Township Schools.

Elementary school properties are more likely to provide an experience similar to what might be expected at a public park, for they offer facilities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and open play areas that are typically found in a Neighborhood Park. Middle and high school recreation facilities, in contrast, tend to be limited to baseball/softball diamonds, rectangle fields, and tennis courts developed specifically for school sports teams and are often locked or otherwise closed for public use. These school parks are more accurately classified as Special Use Parks.



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### **Center Grove Elementary – 6.4 acres**

#### **1. Site Location**

Center Grove Elementary School is part of the Central School Campus that also includes Randolph Middle School and Randolph High School. The campus is located on Millbrook Avenue in central Randolph, across from the town hall, and can also be access via trail connections from the north and west.

#### **2. Existing Facilities**

Center Grove Elementary, a Neighborhood Park, offers two playgrounds, two small diamond fields, a large rectangular field, and a paved walking trail (0.3 miles).

### **Fernbrook Elementary – 6.1 acres**

#### **1. Site Location**

Fernbrook Elementary School is located in the norther portion of Randolph, north of Route 10, on Center Grove Road.

#### **2. Existing Facilities**

This school (or Neighborhood Park) offers a playground and a tot lot, in separate locations. The site also offers two basketball goals (half courts), two small diamond fields, and a playfield with a backstop.

### **Ironia Elementary – 4.7 acres**

#### **1. Site Location**

Ironia Elementary School is located on Dover Chester Road in the western portion of Randolph, just north of the intersection with Calais Road.

#### **2. Existing Facilities**

Ironia Elementary offers two small diamond fields, a playground, and an open grass area or playfield.

### **Shongum Elementary – 2.3 acres**

#### **1. Site Location**

Shongum Elementary School is located in southeastern Randolph Township on Arrow Place, off of West Hanover Avenue. The school can also be accessed via the sidewalk connecting the site to Deepdale Drive to the east as well as from the trail connecting the school to James Andrews Park to the west.

#### **2. Existing Facilities**

Shongum Elementary offers a playground, a small diamond field, two basketball courts (four goals), and an open grass play area (playfield).

### **Middle Schools and High Schools**

One high school and one middle school are located in Randolph Township. These schools offer a substantial number of athletic fields which may be available, possibly for a fee, to the public if not in use by the school teams. The following list outlines the facilities at each school.

#### **1. Randolph High**

- Three rectangular fields (two artificial turf – lighted)
- Running track
- Walk trails (0.2 miles)

#### **2. Randolph Middle**

- Two diamond fields
- Practice football field (0.5 field)
- Walking trails (0.6 miles)

### **PROGRAMS ANALYSIS**

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a healthy community. As citizens of all ages seek to enrich their lives with productive use of leisure time, the availability of a diverse range of



recreational activities becomes increasingly vital. Quality recreational programs also reinforce societal values such as a community's attractiveness to parents and business leaders and civic spirit/pride.

A wide variety of recreational programming is available in Randolph Township in the form of athletic programs, camps, before and after school programs, special events, senior programs, programs for special populations, and more. The Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department provides and schedules the facilities for these programs (including rental of private facilities); however, many of the programs and leagues are managed by other agencies or organizations.

These programs are widely used with 55,012 program participants and 310,564 total program visits. Randolph categorizes participation by "season." Table III-3 shows the number of participants for each season over the five-year period from 2009 to 2014. In addition to Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer which include athletics and other programs for those seasons, "Year Round" indicates the totals for programs offered all year. The "Randolph Park" headlining provides usage rates for the Randolph Park Beach and associated programs, including swim lessons and swim teams. "Special Events" include festivals and other one-time programs. Finally, "Senior Events" consist of a variety of programs for seniors, comprised of parties, shopping programs, picnics, and meals on wheels.

The trend of most programs in the summer session is downward in terms of participation; however, participation in special events and senior activities have increased, mitigating the decline in other categories. The participation trend is similar for fall, winter, spring, and year round participation. The large decline in summer program participation is almost entirely explained by the change in 2014 accounting methods. Additionally, the participation at Randolph Park fluctuated significantly over this five year period, likely due to weather conditions which have a considerable impact on attendance at aquatic facilities.

**Table III-3: 5-Year participation by Season (2009-2014)**

Program Season	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Trend
Fall	2,932	2,772	2,723	2,638	2,513	2,460	<b>-16.1%</b>
Winter	2,964	2,769	2,631	2,536	2,484	2,395	<b>-19.2%</b>
Spring	5,445	5,471	5,362	5,287	4,660	4,360	<b>-19.9%</b>
Summer	11,575	11,690	10,153	10,258	10,144	3,504	<b>-69.7%</b>
Year Round	1,553	1,598	1,305	1,312	1,290	1,145	<b>-26.3%</b>
Randolph Park	12,831	12,747	13,494	15,295	9,223	11,046	<b>-13.9%</b>
Special Events	19,531	21,418	21,142	22,998	21,209	22,699	<b>16.2%</b>
Senior Activities	1,020	852	692	527	1,185	7,403	<b>625.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,851</b>	<b>59,317</b>	<b>57,502</b>	<b>60,851</b>	<b>52,708</b>	<b>55,012</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>

## Athletics

Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department offers an extensive assortment of athletic programs throughout the year for both youth and adult residents. Table III-4 shows the participation levels for 2014 for Randolph athletic programs. Based on these figures, basketball has the most participants of winter sports and overall, while soccer has the most participants of fall sports (second overall). Baseball and softball programs are the most popular spring sports, but lacrosse and track and field programs are not far behind.

**Table III-4: Sports Participation (2014)**

Category	Participants	Programs
<b>Spring Sports</b>		
Baseball (Youth)	843	Little League (Majors, Minors, Ratings, International), Jr Babe Ruth (Travel, Rec), T-Ball
Lacrosse (Boys and Girls)	498	Boys, Girls, Little Styx
Softball (Adult)	80	
Softball (Girls)	508	Ratings, Recreational, T-Ball
Tennis	37	
Track and Field	432	Recreational
<b>Spring and Summer Sports</b>		
Baseball (Men)	300	Masters
<b>Fall Sports</b>		
Cross Country	124	

Cheerleading	169	
Football	199	Flag, Recreational
Soccer (Adult)	48	
Soccer (Youth)	1,019	Recreational
Tennis	33	
<b>Fall and Spring Sports</b>		
Softball (Girls)	60	Travel
Soccer (Youth)	600	Travel
<b>Fall and Winter Sports</b>		
Volleyball (Adult)	60	League
<b>Winter Sports</b>		
Basketball (Boys)	1,238	Ratings, Recreational, Travel
Basketball (Girls)	657	Ratings, Recreational, Travel
Hockey	82	Recreational, Travel
Wrestling	87	Recreational
<b>Other</b>		
Camps and Clinics	3,468	
Tournaments	420	

## Other Programs

In addition to athletics, Randolph offers an array of programs for residents, including camps, art programs, and educational classes. Table III-5 presents the participation rates of some of those program offerings. Randolph Township also offers a series of senior programs and special events and described previously.

**Table III-5: Other Program Participation (2014)**

Category	Participants
<b>Camps</b>	
Arts Camps	276
Day Camps	1,157
Teen Camps	102
<b>Creative Arts</b>	
Artworks and Art Programs	660
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	
Yoga	40
Swim Lessons	52
<b>Performing Arts</b>	
Brundage Playhouse - Theater	699
Ballet Lessons	28
<b>Education</b>	
Tot Programs	80

## CORE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The core program concept provides direction in the planning, scheduling, and coordination of community-based recreational activities. The guidelines are general, and emphasis must be given to the involvement of Randolph community representatives, parents, participants, and advisory groups in the planning and development programs to meet these core guidelines. An expanded description of the broad program categories (component six) can be found in Appendix D. These descriptions detail program formats, primary values served by the activity, and provide a list of specific program examples.

## Core Program Components

### 1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels. Target groups for programs include:

- Preschool
- Elementary School Age
- Teens
- Adults
- Seniors

- 
- Intergenerational
  - Multiple Ages
  - Special Needs

## **2. Administratively Feasible**

Activities should be administratively feasible and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements
- Safety
- Cost vs. Benefits
- Specialized Instruction Requirements

## **3. Coordination**

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

## **4. Variety of Settings**

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Examples include:

- Instructional Classes
- Progressive Skill Levels
- Drop-In
- Special Events
- Special Interest Clubs
- Leagues and/or Tournaments
- Outings and Field Trips

## **5. Constructive Nature**

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

## **6. Diverse Range of Activities**

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Athletics
- Creative Arts
- Games
- Health and Wellness Education
- Outdoor/Nature Education
- Performing Arts
- Education and Seminars
- Special Events

## **Programs Component Analysis**

Based on the program offerings described in the preceding text, between the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and various other organizations offering programming, Randolph is currently meeting each of the six components to some degree.

Programs are available for a variety of groups from preschool age children through seniors and those with disabilities. Programs are offered in a variety of settings, and coordination is required since programs needs are met by a number of different organizations. Finally, a diverse range of activities are available with offerings in all of the program categories.

Programs offerings that serve multiple groups (e.g. intergenerational) appear to be limited as are programs for healthy seniors. Improved coordination between the various organization and agencies offering programming would improve awareness and participation rates. See Section IV for public input regarding specific program needs and deficiencies. Administrative feasibility will be an important consideration when determining any future program offerings, including those resulting from this Master Plan.

## IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS

### INTRODUCTION

The Needs Analysis consists of the following elements:

1. A discussion of the parks and recreation needs by park type
2. Facilities Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards formulated using accepted standards, guidelines, and past experience of the Consultant, and approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee
3. A discussion of the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities
4. The summary of the PRORAGIS benchmark survey of New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania communities
5. A discussion of recent trends in parks, recreation, and leisure service

### PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEEDS BY PARK TYPE

The parks and recreation area classifications were described in Section III, followed by a description of each facility in Randolph, and these classifications are consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines. Level of Service Standards (acres per thousand population) for each park type in Randolph were established by the Master Plan Steering Committee with the assistance of the Consultant. These goals are consistent with communities throughout New Jersey and the nation in addition to recent plans completed by the Consultant. Table IV-1, Level of Service Standards by Park Type, provides a breakdown of the needs for each type of park in Randolph Township. This table includes parks that are part of elementary school sites, because they serve some of the park needs for nearby residents.

This table identifies the current park acreage for Randolph Township and estimates the future needs through 2020. The population of Randolph Township is expected to remain steady into the near future. The values include developed parkland that is owned by Randolph Township or Randolph Township Schools. The figure identifies a current deficit of 58.9 acres of developed parkland in 2015 which will remain steady through 2020.

**Table IV-1: Level of Service Standards by Park Type**

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres	Recommended Acres/1000 Population	2015 Recommended Acres <sup>1</sup>	2015 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Recommended Acres <sup>1</sup>	2020 Surplus(+) Deficit(-)
Mini Park	2.5	0.25	6.4	-3.9	6.4	-3.9
Neighborhood <sup>2</sup>	37.0	2	50.9	-13.9	50.9	-13.9
Community	86.1	5	127.3	-41.2	127.2	-41.1
Total	125.6	7.25	184.5	-58.9	184.4	-58.8

1. See Section II of this Master Plan for population projections.

2. Neighborhood Parks include 19.5 acres at school sites.

The 2015 deficit of parkland would be greater if not for the availability of recreation land at schools in Randolph. Just over half (53%) of Neighborhood Park acreage is located on school properties. The Township has a deficit of acreage of all three park types with the largest deficit, 41.2 acres for Community Parks. The deficit of Mini Parks was 3.9 acres, while the deficit in Neighborhood Park acreage was 13.9.

For the purpose of this analysis, the Township is divided into two regions: East and West. To define these two regions, the Township was divided vertically at the Randolph Township boundary in Hedden Park. Table IV-2 identifies the parkland and population distribution in the two regions. The numbers in this table indicate that the current population per developed park acre varies significantly between the two regions of the Township. The regions are similar in physical size but very substantially in population and population density. The East Region has a much higher population per developed park acre at 272, compared to 131 for the West Region. The East Region also has a much higher density at 2.70 compared to 1.14 residents per acre. Based on these figures, on a per developed acre bases, the West Region is better served by parks.

**Table IV-2: Existing Developed Parkland and Population Distribution by Region (East/West)**

City Region	2015 Population	% of Population <sup>1</sup>	Total Planning Area Acres	Density (Population / Acre)	2015 Developed Park Acres	Population per Developed Park Acre
East	17,309	68%	6,401	2.70	63.6	272
West	8,142	32%	7,141	1.14	62.0	131
Total	25,451	100%	13,542	1.88	125.6	203

1. Based on 2010 Census Data

Table IV-3 identifies the parks and recreation needs by park type for the two regions. These numbers indicate that the East Region currently has a deficit of 61.9 acres of developed parkland, while the West Region has a slight surplus of 3.0 acres. The East Region contains the largest Community Park in Randolph Township, Freedom Park, but has few other active parks. Two Mini Parks are located in the East Region as well as three elementary schools, which make up most of the Neighborhood Park acreage in this half of the Township. Brundage Park is divided between the two regions.

The West Region contains two Community Parks, Heistein and Randolph Parks. This region has one elementary school, the Community Center, and a Mini Park, Kiwanis Park. Both regions offer large amounts of open space, including Morris County Park properties. Overall, parkland is fairly evenly distributed throughout the township; however, a much higher proportion of the population lives in the East. Because most of the Neighborhood Parks in the East Region are located at schools (67%), park options may be more limited during school hours.

**Table IV-3: Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type and Region**

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres	Recommended Acres per 1000 Population	2015 Recommended Acres	2015 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Recommended Acres <sup>5</sup>	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
<b>East Region</b>						
Mini Park	1.1	0.25	4.3	-3.2	4.3	-3.2
Neighborhood <sup>2</sup>	22.1	2	34.6	-12.5	34.6	-12.5
Community	40.4	5	86.5	-46.2	86.5	-46.1
Total <sup>4</sup>	63.6	7.25	125.5	-61.9	125.4	-61.9
<b>West Region</b>						
Mini Park	1.4	0.25	2.0	-0.6	2.0	-0.6
Neighborhood <sup>3</sup>	14.9	2	16.3	-1.4	16.3	-1.4
Community	45.7	5	40.7	5.0	40.7	5.1
Total <sup>4</sup>	62.0	7.25	59.0	3.0	59.0	3.0

1. See Section II of this Master Plan for population projections.

2. Includes 14.8 acres at school sites.

3. Includes 4.7 acres at school sites.

4. Assumes unchanged population distribution from 2013 ACS.

## FACILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Similar to the recommendations for parkland described previously, Table IV-4 details the facilities by type with the available supply compared to the needed supply to meet the goals established in this Master Plan. These goals were developed using a combination of existing standards and guidelines, desires of the Steering Committee, public input, and the past experience of the Consultant. This table includes many facilities that are located on school sites because they serve some of the needs for residents. However, facilities at middle and high schools are not included, because, while some may be available at certain times for a rental fee, the facilities primarily serve the school sports programs, rather than the public as a whole.

**Table IV-4: Facility Level of Service Goals**

Facility	Population Goal (1 Per)	2015 Existing Supply <sup>2</sup>	2015 Required <sup>1</sup>	2015 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Required <sup>1</sup>	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)		
<b>Outdoor Areas</b>								
Picnic Shelter	3000	3	8.5	-5.5	8.5	-5.5		
Playground	2500	12	10.2	1.8	10.2	1.8		
Paved Trails (miles)	2000	8.8	12.7	-3.9	12.7	-3.9		
Unpaved Trails (miles)	2000	11.6	12.7	-1.1	12.7	-1.1		



Facility	Population Goal (1 Per)	2015 Existing Supply <sup>2</sup>	2015 Required <sup>1</sup>	2015 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Required <sup>1</sup>	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)		
Swimming Pool	30000	0	0.8	-0.8	0.8	-0.8		
Outdoor Theater	30000	0	0.8	-0.8	0.8	-0.8		
<b>Outdoor Fields &amp; Court Areas</b>								
Small Diamonds (50-65' bases)	1500	17	17.0	0.0	17.0	0.0		
Large Diamond (90' bases)	12500	2	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0		
Rectangular Fields <sup>3</sup>	1750	11	14.5	-3.5	14.5	-3.5		
Artificial Turf Fields	7500	1	3.4	-2.4	3.4	-2.4		
Basketball Courts	3000	9	8.5	0.5	8.5	0.5		
Tennis Courts	3500	8	7.3	0.7	7.3	0.7		
Volleyball Courts	10000	1	2.5	-1.5	2.5	-1.5		
<b>Indoor Areas/Specialized Facilities</b>								
Indoor Pool	60000	0	0.4	-0.4	0.4	-0.4		
Game Court/Gym	15000	0	1.7	-1.7	1.7	-1.7		
Recreation/Community Center	15000	0	1.7	-1.7	1.7	-1.7		

1. See Section II of this Master Plan for population projections.

2. All city or county owned/leased facilities and facilities at schools that are accessible to the public are included.

3. Soccer/football/lacrosse. Small-sided fields counted as 0.5 fields.

The values in the table above indicate a need for various additional facilities. Based on these numbers, the most significant facility needs are for additional paved trails, rectangular fields, and picnic shelters. Randolph currently has a large amount of paved trails but residents would like to see more and better connectivity between the trails. The Township also has substantial deficits in the number of picnic shelters (-5.5), rectangular fields (-3.5), and artificial turf fields (-2.4). Randolph has no outdoor theater or amphitheater, but many residents would like to see one developed in the Township. Finally, the indoor recreational facilities in Randolph are generally filled by private organizations.

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS AND FACILITIES

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Randolph Township is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. Figure IV-1, Park Service Areas, indicates an inventory of the existing parks and schools with service areas for each of the various types of parks. The map also includes dots to show the location of residents in Randolph, providing a visual representation of the density of the area.

The brown areas show a quarter mile range of a Mini Park, Neighborhood Park, or Community Park. The green areas represent a half mile range of a Neighborhood Park or Community Park. The yellow indicates areas within one mile of a Community Park.<sup>7</sup> The blue areas show portions of the Township within a half mile of a school neighborhood park. This map serves to indicate the gaps where neighborhoods are not served very well by parks.

The southern portion of Randolph has the largest number of parks, and much of the area lies within the half mile range of a park. The northern portion of the Township, north of Route 10, is less well served by parks, although most of the area is within the service areas displayed in Figure IV-1. A large portion of this area is served only by school facilities at Fernbrook Elementary School. This area is close to Hedden Park, a Morris County Park, which meets some of the areas recreation needs. Most of the Township is within a mile of a Community Park, with the notable exceptions including the same area to the north of Route 10 and the eastern most edge of the Township.

The map contains dots representing 25 people to demonstrate the density of the various areas throughout the Township. Based on the location of these dots in relation to the service areas, no notable high density areas appear to be without access to a park, although some areas are only near a school Neighborhood Park (the areas near Fernbrook and Shongum Elementary Schools).

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES

Another portion of the needs analysis consists of a review of the geographic distribution of specific types of facilities provided to residents. Service areas for these key facilities are indicated in Figure IV-1 through Figure IV-8. These maps present areas of Randolph Township that are located within a half mile of parks or

<sup>7</sup> These schools have parks with facilities similar to what is found in a typical Neighborhood Park.



[illegible]



Figure IV-3: Playground Locations and Service Areas

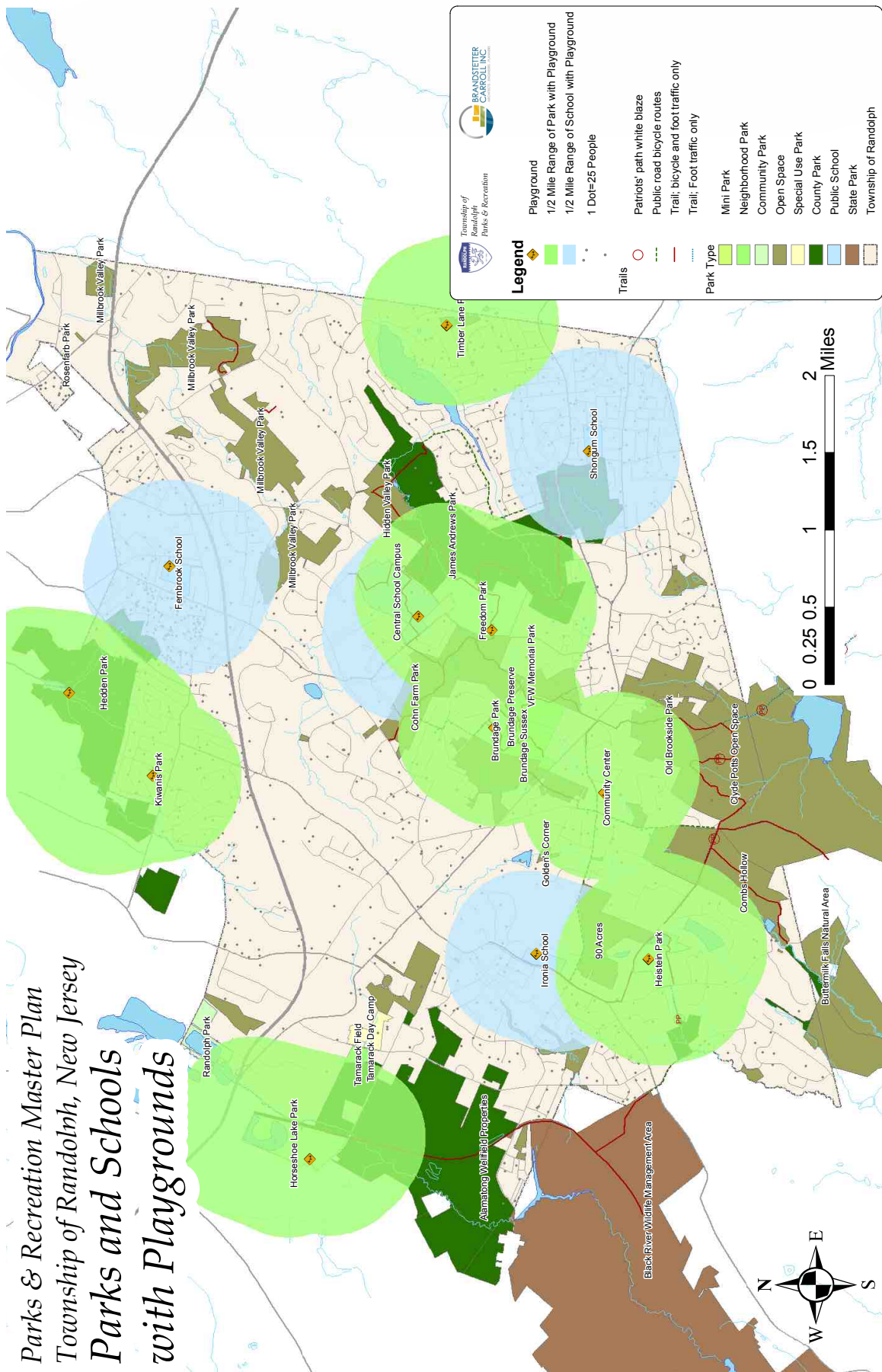
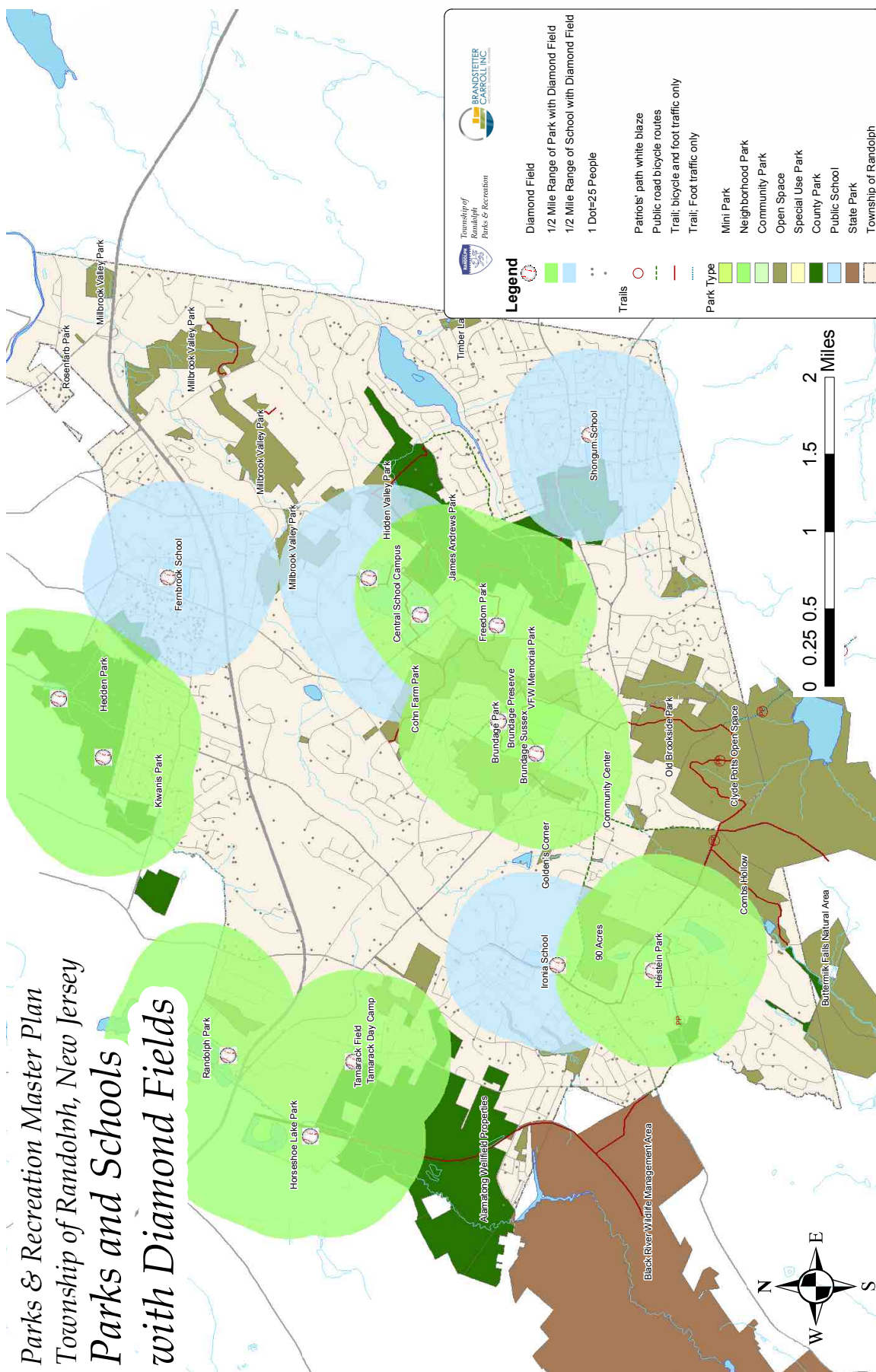


Figure IV-4: Baseball/Softball Diamond Locations and Service Areas





[illegible]

*Parks & Recreation Master Plan  
Township of Randolph, New Jersey  
Parks and Schools  
with Tennis Courts*





**Parks & Recreation Master Plan**  
**Township of Randolph, New Jersey**  
**Parks and Schools with Outdoor Basketball Courts**

**Legend**

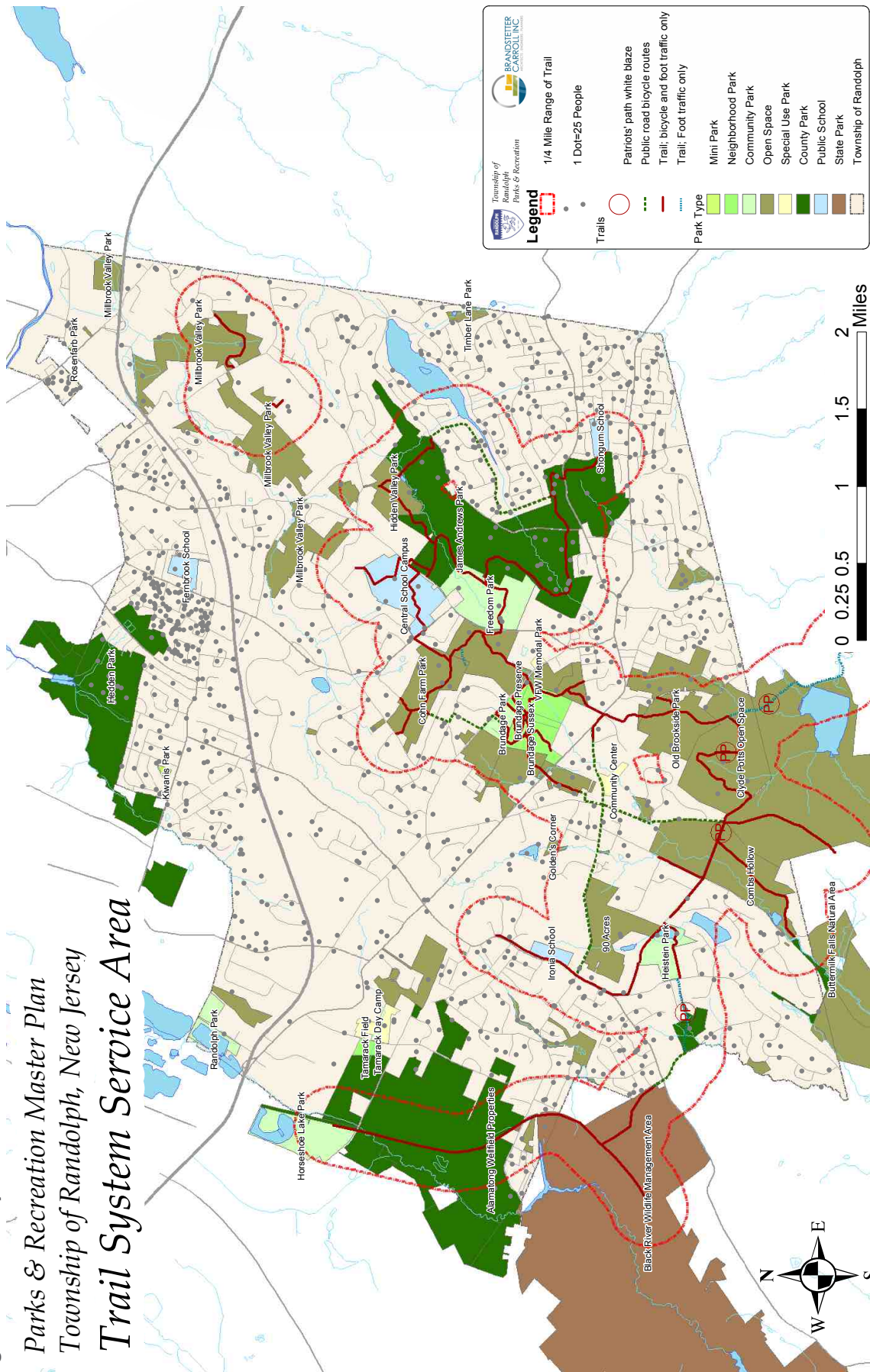
- Basketball Court**
  - 1/2 Mile Range of Park with Basketball Court
  - 1/2 Mile Range of School with Basketball Court
  - 1 Dot=25 People
- Trails**
  - Patriots' path white blaze
  - Public road bicycle routes
  - Trail: bicycle and foot traffic only
  - Trail: Foot traffic only
- Park Type**
  - Mini Park
  - Neighborhood Park
  - Community Park
  - Open Space
  - Special Use Park
  - County Park
  - Public School
  - State Park
  - Township of Randolph

**Scale:** 0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

**North Arrow:** N, E, S, W

**Map Labels:** Horseshoe Lake Park, Tamarack Field, Tamarack Day Camp, Randolph Park, Keweenaw Park, Haddon Park, Fentbrook School, Millbrook Valley Park, Hidden Valley Park, Central School Campus, James Andrews Park, Freedom Park, Brundage Park, Brundage Preserve, Brundage Sussex, VFW Memorial Park, Cohn Farm Park, Shorgrim School, Golden's Corner, Ironta School, 60 Acres, Community Center, Old Brookside Park, Clyde Potts Open Space, Concha Hollow, Buttermilk Falls Natural Area, Black River Wildlife Management Area.

**Figure IV-8: Trail System Service Area**  
*Parks & Recreation Master Plan*  
*Township of Randolph, New Jersey*  
*Trail System Service Area*





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schools with these facilities. Facilities at parks are signified by green service areas, and facilities at schools are signified by blue service areas. Only facilities that are open to the public are included in the following analysis. Density dots are included in each Figure to show the location of residents. The service areas for picnic shelters, playgrounds, baseball/softball diamonds, rectangular fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, and trails are discussed in the ensuing text.

### **Picnic Shelters**

Service areas for picnic shelters are depicted in Figure IV-2, showing the portions of Randolph Township that are within a half mile of picnic shelters. Small shelters with few tables are excluded from this analysis as they are not suitable for planned events. Two (2) Randolph Parks have reservable pavilions, Brundage Park (Carroll) and Freedom Park. Heistein Park also has a pavilion attached to the concessions and restroom building, but this facility is not reservable. Hedden Park (Morris County Park Commission) offers a shelter at the north end of the Township, and Horseshoe Lake Park, just outside of Randolph, has a large shelter. Both of these facilities are reservable.

The most notable area outside of the half mile service areas for picnic shelters is the southeast most portion of Randolph. Another notable area more than a half mile from a shelter is the area to the north of Route 10 and to the east of Hedden Park. These two areas have substantial populations, which is evident by the dots on the map. The remainder of the Township area that is outside of the service areas consists of relatively low density populations.

### **Playgrounds**

Figure IV-3 identifies the half mile service area of playgrounds throughout Randolph which are fairly well distributed. Most of the Township is well-served by playgrounds with much of the population living within a half mile range of a playground. Five parks and four schools have playgrounds in Randolph Township, and Hedden Park and Horseshoe Lake Park have playgrounds just outside of the Township.

While most of the high density areas of Randolph are within a half mile range of a playground, a few areas are outside of this range. No playgrounds are located in the northeast most portion of the Township, the northwest portion of the Township (south of Kiwanis Park and east of Tamarack Field), and the southernmost portion of the Township (south of James Andrews Park). These areas are, however, relatively low density, and all but the northeastern area are within a mile of a playground.

### **Baseball/Softball Diamonds**

A half mile service area for baseball/softball diamonds in Randolph is presented in Figure IV-4. This map indicates that diamonds are fairly well distributed throughout the Township. The largest concentration of these fields can be found in the central part of Randolph. Five parks and four school locations offer diamond fields. Hedden Park and Horseshoe Lake Park also offer diamond fields just outside of the Township.

Three notable areas in Randolph are more than a half mile from a diamond field. First, no fields are located in the eastern most part of the Township, north of Shongum Elementary School. An area to the south of Hedden Park and to the east of Tamarack has no diamond fields but is fairly lightly populated. The final area is a small portion of the Township to the south of James Andrews Park.

### **Rectangular Fields**

Figure IV-5 displays the half mile service areas for rectangular fields in Randolph Township. Rectangular fields are located at four (4) parks and two schools in Randolph (Center Grove Elementary and Randolph High), plus Horseshoe Lake Park in neighboring Roxbury Township. Much of the Township lies outside of the half mile range of a rectangular field, including the whole eastern edge and most of the area north of Route 10.

### **Tennis Courts**

Only one park in Randolph has tennis courts, Brundage Park. As a result, the whole Township, outside of the area immediately surrounding Brundage Park, is outside of the one half mile range of a tennis court (Figure IV-6).

### **Outdoor Basketball Courts**

Service areas representing a one half mile range for outdoor basketball courts are displayed in Figure IV-7. Three (3) Randolph parks (Brundage, Freedom, and Rosenfarb) provide outdoor basketball courts, and

two (2) schools (Fernbrook and Shongum) provide this facility. Horseshoe Lake Park also has basketball courts. The areas beyond the half mile range of basketball courts include the reoccurring area in the east as well as most of the southern and western portions of the Township.

### Trail System

Service areas representing a one quarter mile range of a trail in Randolph Township can be seen in Figure IV-8. This map shows that the majority of trails in Randolph are located in the southern portion of the Township. The most notable area outside of this quarter mile range is the portion of the Township north of Route 10, as no trail areas are located in this part of the Township.

### PRORAGIS BENCHMARKING SURVEY

One method of evaluating the park and recreation services offered in the community is to use benchmarking comparisons to other communities. For comparisons to Randolph Township, this analysis uses averages and medians from jurisdictions participating in the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Parks and Recreation Operating Ratio and GIS (PRORAGIS) Program. Communities for comparison are limited to 26 comparable municipalities located in New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania that participated in the PRORAGIS program (regional and large city or county systems are excluded).

Randolph Township is not a participant in the PRORAGIS program, so figures for these comparisons are derived from a variety of sources including budgets, annual reports, and department records. Because the data for other park systems is limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by Randolph Township are included in this analysis (school facilities and Morris

**Table IV-5: Benchmark Jurisdictions**

Jurisdiction	Population
<b>New Jersey</b>	
Bernards Township Parks & Recreation	26,770
Byram Township Parks and Recreation	8,850
Clifton Recreation Department	85,390
Eatontown Recreation	12,709
Englewood Parks and Recreation	27,147
Franklin Township Department of Parks & Recreation	63,274
Lawrence Township Recreation Department	31,500
Morris Township Department of Parks & Recreation	23,500
Neptune Township Recreation	28,000
North Wildwood Recreation Department	4,013
Township of Warren (Somerset County)	15,885
<b>New York</b>	
Town of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation	33,656
Clarkstown Parks Board and Recreation Commission	85,000
City of Middletown Recreation & Parks	25,000
Poughkeepsie Recreation Department	44,000
Rye Recreation Department	15,000
Union Vale Parks & Recreation	4,877
White Plains Recreation and Parks Department	56,853
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	
Abington Township Parks and Recreation	56,000
Allentown Department of Parks and Recreation	118,974
Lower Macungie Township Parks & Recreation	31,000
Silver Spring Township Parks & Recreation	13,657
Upper Merion Township Parks and Recreation	27,000
Upper Providence Township	20,000
Warminster Township Parks & Recreation	37,489
Worcester Township	9,500

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County Parks were not included). The figures used in this analysis for Randolph Township are for the 2015 fiscal year, and the figures for the comparison municipalities are for the latest available year between 2010 and 2014. Table IV-5 provides a list of the jurisdictions included in this benchmark comparison.

The Benchmarking Comparisons table follows this text (Table IV-6) and provides tabular data for all of the information discussed in this text. The analysis of comparisons are organized into the following categories.

1. Parkland Information
2. Department Functions
3. Staffing
4. Operating and Capital Budget
5. Facilities

The following text details the findings of these analyses. Note that the figures used in these comparisons are those which were reported to PRORAGIS by the municipalities and may vary from the actual budgets.

### **Parkland Information**

The analysis indicates that Randolph Township provides 49.4 acres of parkland per thousand population. This number is much higher than the median of benchmark communities of 10.1 acres and also higher than the upper quartile value of 20.0 acres. Even if the comparison is limited to only active parks in Randolph, the number for the Township, 22.0, is much higher than the comparison communities. Parks in Randolph Township are larger than other communities. Randolph's parks average 78.4 acres per park, much higher than the median of 26.1 acres as well as the upper quartile of 31.6 acres for comparable jurisdictions. These figures suggest that Randolph Township offers larger parks than other municipalities.

A look at the percentage of parkland that is developed for parks and recreation purposes indicates that only 8.5% of Randolph's parkland is developed, compared to the median of 75% for the other municipalities. The percentage of developed parkland is lower than the lower quartile of 46.8%. This difference is due in part to the large amount of open space in Randolph; however, considering only active parks increases the developed percentage to 18.5%, still much lower than the comparison communities.

The comparison of total miles of greenways and trails managed by the agency identifies Randolph Township with 14.5 miles of trails (separated from roads), compared to the average of the other municipalities of 14.2 miles, giving Randolph slightly more total trail mileage than the comparison municipalities. However, if all trails, including those not managed by the Township are included, the total comes to 20.4 miles, well above the average of the other municipalities. Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile is a measurement that controls for differences in the physical size of comparative municipalities. Randolph has 0.69 miles of trails per square mile of the Township, slightly below the comparison community average of 0.80. Counting all trails, Randolph's value for trails per jurisdiction square mile is 0.97, higher than the comparison municipalities.

### **Department Functions**

A comparison of the services that are offered by the various park and recreation departments in the benchmarking comparison demonstrates that the Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department manages most of the services that are most commonly offered by other agencies. Services managed by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department that are also managed by a majority of comparison jurisdictions include: providing recreation and programming services, operating parks and facilities, managing open space, and conducting major jurisdiction wide special events.

No services are managed by a majority for the comparison departments but not managed by the Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Notable services offered by 30% or more of the comparison municipalities but not managed (or offered) by the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department are manage a major aquatic complex and administer community garden. Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department manages an indoor performing arts center, the Brundage Park Playhouse, a service managed by only 4.5% of the comparison departments.

### **Staffing**

The Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department employs 16 full-time employees and a total of 26 part-time and seasonal employees. Including these part-time employees, the department employs a total of 20.1 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. This total is above the median for the comparison departments but below the upper quartile value of 24.

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Considering acres of parkland maintained per full-time equivalent (FTE), Randolph Township employs one Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department employee per 62.4 acres of parkland, much higher than the comparison median of one employee per 26.7 acres. However, limiting the acreage to include only active parks reduced the Randolph value to 27.9, in line with the comparison communities. Randolph Township's lower ratio of employees to parkland indicate that Randolph Township staff are responsible for more acreage than staff of other communities (although much of that additional acreage is comprised of open space). Analysis of the population served per FTE indicates that Randolph employs a staff member for every 1,266 people, which is lower than the median (1,739).

Limiting the analysis to maintenance staff only, Randolph employs one maintenance FTE per 125.5 acres, while the median of the other communities is one FTE per 62.9 acres. The Randolph number is much higher than the comparison median but is lower than the upper quartile value of 199.5. If only active parks are included in the analysis, Randolph employees one maintenance employee per 56.1 acres, similar to the median value for the benchmark communities. Each maintenance employee is responsible for a larger number of acres, based on the 125.5 number, than the comparative municipalities.

### **Operating Budget**

The total Department Operating Budget (including all park and recreation administration, programs, maintenance, and services) for the 2015 fiscal year for Randolph Township (from the Township Budget) was \$2,232,134 which is substantially higher than the \$948,945 million median of the comparison municipalities as well as the upper quartile value of \$1,401,874. The per capita operating expenditures for Randolph Township are \$87.70, compared to the median of \$31.58 for other departments. These numbers indicate that the expenditures by the Randolph Township are considerably higher both in terms of total budget and on a per capita basis than the other comparison municipalities.

A look at the revenue for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department indicates that these additional expenditures are generally coming from revenue generated by the department. The total non-tax revenue for the Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is \$1,359,198 which is much higher than the comparison municipalities' median of \$350,000 and more than three times upper quartile value of \$425,000. These numbers indicate that the additional operating expenditures by Randolph, compared to the other communities, are almost completely recovered through revenue, most of which (79.6%) comes from program and class fees.

The revenue per capita for Randolph is nearly five times the median value for the comparison communities at \$53.40, compared to \$10.75. These figures further suggest that Randolph Township is able to reduce the financial impact of Parks and Recreation services on the Township Operating Budget through the use of fees for services.

The breakdown of sources of funding for operating expenditures confirms that Randolph parks and recreation services are funded by fees and charges to a much higher degree than the comparison departments. Randolph receives far more of their funding from fees than at 56.8% of expenditures, compared to only 20.4% for the comparison municipalities. Only 39.1% of funding in Randolph comes from the general fund, compared to 62.3% for the comparison departments.

The total operating expenditure per acre of land managed or maintained is \$1,778 for Randolph Township (\$3,977 for active parks only). This figure is lower than the median of \$2,709 and higher than the lower quartile of \$1,075. The active parks only value is between the comparison median and the upper quartile value. These numbers indicate the large amount of open space in Randolph and, based on the active parks value, suggest that Randolph Township operates more expensive facilities on a per acre basis or are maintaining those facilities to a higher level than the comparison departments.

### **Capital Budget**

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department capital budget was \$180,900 for 2015 which is nearly the same as the comparison department median of \$180,000. The capital cost per capita is also similar to the median for the other communities at \$7.11, compared to \$6.15. These numbers suggest that Randolph spends a similar amount to the comparison municipalities on annual improvements to their park facilities.

The capital needs for parks and recreation facilities in Randolph were derived from the department's capital plan. The Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department has identified capital need (both new and renovation) totaling \$1.91 million. This number is higher than the median for



comparison communities of \$1.16 million but much lower than the upper quartile value of \$4.94 million. This Master Plan is intended in part to update these values.

## Facilities

A comparison between Randolph Township and benchmark communities for population per facility provides a way to evaluate the existing quantity of each type of facility. This comparison with other municipalities will help to identify which facilities the Township might want to add in the future. This analysis looks at five types of facilities: playgrounds, tennis courts (outdoor), basketball courts (outdoor), and baseball diamonds (large and small).

Randolph Township has five playgrounds at five parks throughout the Township. The resulting population per playground is 5,090 which is higher than the median of the comparison communities (3,575). The upper quartile for these other communities is 4,621, lower than the Randolph number, indicating that Randolph has fewer playgrounds compared to these other communities.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department in Randolph offers six tennis courts, all at Brundage Park. These six courts lead to a value of 4,242 residents per court. This number is higher than the median of 3,280 and just below the upper quartile value of 4,375. The Township offers fewer tennis courts, compared to its population, than other municipalities.

Randolph Township, similarly, has a higher population per basketball court than the benchmark communities. The 4.5 courts in three locations produce a population per court of 5,656, which is greater than the comparison communities' median of 4,425 but lower than the upper quartile value. Randolph offers a lower number of basketball courts compared to these municipalities.

Randolph has two small baseball diamonds (with mound) at four different parks, yielding a value of 12,726 residents per field. This number is higher than the median for the other communities of 5,215 as well as the upper quartile value of 7,100. These numbers suggest that Randolph has a smaller supply of these fields than the comparison communities. However, Randolph has nine skinned diamonds without mounds, which can potentially be used for baseball and the comparison communities may have counted such fields. The value for large baseball fields with 90 foot base paths in Randolph is one for every 12,726 residents, based on the two fields at Freedom and Randolph Parks. This value is similar to the comparison median of 11,955.

Randolph Township provides 11 rectangular fields (used for soccer, football, and lacrosse) at four parks giving the Township a population per facility of 2,314 which is much lower than the comparison median of 6,355 as well as the lower quartile value of 4,000. These numbers indicate that Randolph provides many more rectangular fields than the other communities.

**Table IV-6: PRORAGIS Benchmarking Comparisons**

PARKLAND INFORMATION <sup>3</sup>		Randolph	Benchmark
<b>Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Population</b>			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		7.0
Median	22.0	49.4	10.1
Upper Quartile			20.0
<b>Acres per Park</b>			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		18.9
Median	56.1	78.4	26.1
Upper Quartile			31.6
<b>Acres of Parkland Managed or Maintained per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.</b>			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		17.9
Median	26.7	59.7	19.4
Upper Quartile			35.7
<b>What percent of your acreage is developed for parks and recreation purposes?</b>			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		46.8%
Median	18.5%	8.5%	75.0%
Upper Quartile			83.0%

What is the total mileage of greenways and trails managed by your agency?			
Number of Responses			8 <sup>3</sup>
	All Trails		
a. Multi-purpose - No Equestrian	19.7	14.3	4.8
b. Multi-purpose - Equestrian permitted			6.9
c. Hiking/walking only	0.7	0.2	2.6
d. Bicycling only			0.0
e. Equestrian only			0.0
f. Other			0.0
Total	20.4	14.5	14.2
Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile	0.97	0.69	0.80

DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS	Randolph	Benchmark
Does your department...		
Number of Responses		22
a. Provide recreation programming and services	X	100.0%
b. Operate parks and facilities	X	95.5%
c. Maintain street trees and medians		31.8%
d. Actively manage open space	X	72.7%
e. Maintain public school grounds and recreational facilities		18.2%
f. Maintain jurisdiction public areas	X	36.4%
g. Manage major aquatic complex		36.4%
h. Manage or maintain public cemeteries		4.5%
i. Manage or maintain fairgrounds		0.0%
j. Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center	X	4.5%
k. Manage historic properties	X	22.7%
l. Administer or manage farmer's markets		13.6%
m. Administer community gardens		31.8%
n. Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters		18.2%
o. Administer or manage Professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack		0.0%
p. Administer or manage Tournament/Event quality Indoor Sports Complexes		4.5%
q. Administer or manage Tournament/Event quality Outdoor Sports Complexes	X	40.9%
r. Conduct major Jurisdiction wide special events	X	72.7%
s. Have snow plowing responsibility other than in the parks		22.7%
t. Provide environmental education or natural history interpretive programs		22.7%

STAFFING <sup>4</sup>	Randolph	Benchmark
Number of Full-Time Employees		
Number of Responses		15 <sup>6</sup>
a. Department's top executives and related staff	1	1.6
b. Administrative (Human Resources, Finance, Accounting, etc.)	2	1.3
c. Operations (staffing and operating facilities)	4	0.3
d. Programs (programming classes and all events)		0.6
e. Maintenance (buildings, grounds, structures, and fleet)	9	3.0
f. Planning and Development		0.2
g. Other		0.2
Total	16	9.9

Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff		
Number of Responses		9
Lower Quartile		8.0
Median	20.1	16.0
Upper Quartile		24.0

Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Maintenance Staff		
Number of Responses		7 <sup>7</sup>
Lower Quartile		2.0
Median	10.0	4.9
Upper Quartile		11.1

Population Served per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)			
Number of Responses			13
Lower Quartile			237
Median	1,266		1,739
Upper Quartile			3,737
Acres of Parkland Maintained per FTE			
Number of Responses			6
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		22.7
Median	27.9	62.4	26.7
Upper Quartile			36.2
Acres of Parkland Maintained per Maintenance FTE			
Number of Responses			4
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		38.5
Median	56.1	125.5	62.9
Upper Quartile			199.5
OPERATING BUDGET		Randolph	Benchmark
What are your department's TOTAL operating expenditures for your fiscal year?			
Number of Responses			12
Lower Quartile			\$430,000
Median		\$2,232,134	\$948,945
Upper Quartile			\$1,401,874
What are your department's TOTAL non-tax revenue for your fiscal year?			
Number of Responses			5
Lower Quartile			\$333,136
Median		\$1,359,198	\$350,000
Upper Quartile			\$425,000
What percentage of your total operating expenditures are in the following categories?			
Number of Responses			10 <sup>6</sup>
a. Personnel Services (expenditures for all salaries, wages and benefits)	53.4%		62.5%
b. Operations (expenditures for all functions of the Department)	42.3%		32.8%
c. Capital (Paid from operating funds.)	4.3%		4.7%
d. Other	0.0%		0.0%
What percentage of your total operating expenditures came from the following sources?			
Number of Responses			7 <sup>6</sup>
a. Jurisdiction general fund	39.1%		62.3%
b. Agency fees and charges	60.9%		20.4%
c. Tax levy (specific parks and recreation)	0.0%		5.7%
d. School District Taxes	0.0%		0.0%
e. Foundation Grants	0.0%		3.6%
f. Sponsorships, please describe:	0.0%		0.9%
g. Endowment, please describe:	0.0%		0.0%
h. Special use taxes, please describe:	0.0%		0.0%
i. State Grants	0.0%		1.9%
j. Federal Grants	0.0%		0.0%
k. Other	0.0%		5.3%
What percentage of your total operating expenditures was dedicated to the following functions?			
Number of Responses			8 <sup>6</sup>
a. Department's Top Executives and related staff.	7.5%		26.6%
b. Administrative (Human Resources, Finance, Accounting, etc.)	3.7%		7.0%
c. Operations (expenditures associated with staffing and operating facilities)	12.0%		16.6%
d. Programs (expenditures associated with programming classes and all events)	46.5%		25.1%
e. Maintenance (expenditures associated with maintaining, buildings grounds structure)	24.2%		18.3%
f. Planning and Development (acquisition, planning, design, development management)	0.0%		5.1%
g. Debt service	0.0%		0.0%
h. Other	6.1%		1.3%

What percentage of your annual non-tax revenues came from the following sources?			
Number of Responses			6 <sup>6</sup>
a. Facility entry fees/memberships	5.7%		9.4%
b. Programs and class fees and charges	79.6%		76.5%
c. Facility Rentals	13.7%		7.0%
d. Facility, property or ROW leases	0.0%		0.0%
e. Concessions, resale items	0.0%		0.0%
f. Sale of real property	0.0%		0.0%
g. Other	1.0%		8.7%
Operating Expenditures per Capita			
Number of Responses			11
Lower Quartile			\$16.59
Median	\$87.70		\$31.58
Upper Quartile			\$42.17
Operating Expenditures per Acre of Land Managed			
Number of Responses			7
Lower Quartile	Active Parks		\$1,075
Median	\$3,977	\$1,778	\$2,709
Upper Quartile			\$6,889
Revenue per Capita			
Number of Responses			5
Lower Quartile			\$6.72
Median	\$53.40		\$10.75
Upper Quartile			\$11.11
CAPITAL BUDGET <sup>5</sup>		Randolph	Benchmark
Department's TOTAL capital budget?			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile			\$89,109
Median	\$180,900		\$180,000
Upper Quartile			\$303,000
Total Capital Costs per Capita			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile			\$1.98
Median	\$7.11		\$6.15
Upper Quartile			\$17.22
Department's amount of capital and renovation need?			
Number of Responses			5
Lower Quartile			\$192,500
Median	\$1,911,500		\$1,162,500
Upper Quartile			\$4,943,750
POPULATION PER FACILITY		Randolph	Benchmark
Playgrounds			
Number of Responses			10
Lower Quartile			2,736
Median	5,090		3,575
Upper Quartile			4,621
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile			1,901
Median	4,242		3,280
Upper Quartile			4,375



<b>Basketball Courts (Outdoor)</b>			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile			3,749
Median	5,656		4,425
Upper Quartile			7,000
<b>Diamond Fields - Baseball with 50-65 ft base paths and mound</b>			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile			4,669
Median	12,726		5,215
Upper Quartile			7,100
<b>Diamond Fields - Baseball with 90 ft base paths</b>			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile			7,888
Median	12,726		11,955
Upper Quartile			15,681
<b>Rectangular Fields</b>			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile			4,000
Median	2,314		6,355
Upper Quartile			13,574

Notes:

1. Figures obtained through the Randolph Township Parks and Recreation Department and Randolph Township Annual Operating Budget (Fiscal Year 2015). Population estimates used for 2015, provided by ESRI Business Analyst.
2. Based on medians (or averages) of 26 communities that were located in New Jersey, New York, or Pennsylvania and participated in the NRPA PRORAGIS Program. Median values were used unless otherwise noted.
3. For the purpose of this analysis, park acreage numbers include Active Parks (Mini, Neighborhood, and Community Parks), Special Use Parks (not including Tamarack Day Camp), and Open Spaces identified as parks (Clyde Potts, Cohn Farm, Hidden Valley, and Combs Hollow). These properties yield a total of 16 parks or 10 Active Parks.
4. The Parks and Recreation Department has 16 year-round full-time employees plus 26 part-time and seasonal employees. These 26 employees were converted to FTEs for the determination of these figures.
5. Five year average 2011-2015 used for capital budget numbers. Capital and renovation numbers include projects proposed for 2016-2020.
6. Average values used.
7. Communities that did not report any full-time or part-time maintenance staff were excluded from this analysis.

## FUTURE TRENDS ANALYSIS

### The Aging Population

Throughout the country, and in Randolph, the average age of the population is increasing. The number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data indicates that the percentage of Randolph Township population age 65 and older was 7% in 2000 and is expected to increase to 15% by 2020. This small but significant increase as a percentage is exemplified by a 103% increase in total population of this age group from just under 2,000 to over 3,600 over this time period. As indicated earlier in the Planning Context (Section II), the median age will rise to 42.1 by 2020, up from 36.5 in 2000.

The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before and the activities they desire are more active than in the past. Senior citizens centers where seniors play cards and participate in more sedentary activities are being replaced and incorporated into larger, more active, community and recreation



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centers where individuals participate in fitness programs, walking, cardiovascular exercises, aerobics, and many other more active pursuits.

This aging trend encourages parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for the older population. This graying of America also generates demand for more paved walking trails, fishing areas, garden, cultural and nature education, as well as other activities that are in demand for multiple age groups.

This data points clearly to the growing need to provide quality facilities and programs for this growing population in Randolph Township. The Community Interest and Opinion Survey, as well as all forms of the public engagement process (see Section V), indicated support from the community for providing additional programs and facilities for seniors.

### **Universal Access**

Many park systems are developing unique facilities, (especially playgrounds) that are designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act. By creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, park system administrators are setting the best example for other organizations to follow. In the case of playgrounds, accessibility results in facilities with several ground level activities, multiple ramps providing access to the decks, and the use of poured-in-place rubber surfacing. Randolph Township does not currently have any fully accessible playgrounds.



While it may not be cost effective to develop this level of universal access at every playground facility, forward thinking recreation departments may desire some destination facilities with this level of access. Textured edging on trails can help to make the facilities more accessible to the visually impaired. Fragrant plants and sensory garden, interactive displays that allow a hands-on approach to education have also been developed to promote a better experience for special populations.

Universal access applies to much more than playgrounds; it also applies to aquatic facilities, interpretive facilities, trails, access into buildings and access to all programs and facilities offered by the community. The strategies in this plan will help to identify recommendations for more barrier-free parks.

### **Trails and Interconnectivity**

The demand for increased availability of trails and trail linkages between parks and open spaces (and other popular destinations) has been growing in many communities, including Randolph. A high level of demand for these facilities is identified in nearly every community where surveys have been conducted. Even communities with extensive trail systems, like Randolph, still have a strong desire to continually connect and link the trails to neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, and other community facilities.



Communities with extensive, connected trail systems are very livable communities where residents report a high quality of life. The need for trails for both transportation and recreational use was conveyed very clearly and strongly in all forms of the public input process. Trails and trail improvements represented three of the top five potential improvements to parks in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, and 60% of respondents indicated they were very or somewhat supportive of trails development. Walking and hiking trails ranked highest among facilities for which households have a need at 71% and similarly ranked as the most needed facility to households.



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## Dog Parks

The dog parks are an ongoing trend that have been increasing in popularity. The development of these fence enclosed areas where dogs can run leash free can be a positive addition to a community. Dog parks are good for improving the social interaction skills of dogs and are a very good social attraction for the dog owners. Quality dog parks need careful planning and a fairly extensive operating budget for maintenance and upkeep.

A typical dog park will provide three areas of at least an acre each: one for large dogs, one for small dogs, and an area unused to allow for regeneration of turf. Shade, sitting areas, water, and restrooms are typical amenities at these parks. Some communities have developed small dog parks in dense urban areas to supplement parks in larger parks. The dog park at the town hall provides a water fountain for dogs and a climbing ramp in a small fenced area without separation between large and small dogs.



## Extreme Parks/Skate Parks

Due in part to the increased exposure to extreme sports in the media, interest in extreme sports activities has increased dramatically, especially for teenagers. For example, nearly every community that does not have a skate park has a very large contingent of teens and young adults that are strong advocates for the development of such a facility.

Other types of active pursuits in an extreme park might include: BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, and climbing walls. These activities appeal to a demographic that often does not take advantage of traditional parks and recreation programming activities.

Communities, including Randolph, with skate parks are able to utilize the facilities as places for teens to gather. These skate parks are construed as teen oriented parks and should be supplemented with other facilities, such as basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, shade shelters, and snack bars. Randolph Township currently has a skate park at Brundage Park and some residents would like to see improvements to the facility. However, this type of facility ranked low with respondents in the surveys.



## Disc Golf

Disc golf, formalized 1970s, is similar to traditional golf in many ways. The disc, or Frisbee, is thrown from a tee toward a hole which is most commonly in the form of a "Pole Hole." The player makes consecutive throws from the location of the landing of the previous throw until the disc lands in the basket or Pole Hole. Disc golf differs from traditional golf in some important ways: green fees are rarely required and only an inexpensive flying disc is needed to play. Disc golf appeals to a wide range of participants of all ages as well as those with disabilities, and the game can be played year-round. Courses also requires much less land than traditional golf (as little as five acres for a nine-hole course).

The sport continues to grow in popularity and courses are available at many parks around the country. Randolph does not currently offer a disc golf course, and the surveys did not ask respondents whether they support the development of disc golf courses. Because these facilities can be developed through natural areas, a course could be developed with relative ease at an existing park or open space in the future.

## Revenue Generation

With the tightened budgets throughout the country, facilities that generate revenue have become increasingly popular due to their ability to offset some of the operating costs. Most notably, the increased presence of concessions in parks and at other locations has improved the ability of the public sector

to raise money. Multi-field complexes, in addition to miniature golf courses, carousels, paddle boats and canoe rentals, and other creative applications, have enhanced the community experience while lessening the tax burden by providing services for a fee. Summer camp programs and before and after school programs can also be a source of income for departments.

Randolph Township currently recovers over 60% of its parks and recreation operating costs through fees, primarily for program. This figure is well above the average of benchmark communities of 20%, based on the PRORAGIS benchmarking survey. Possibilities in Randolph to increase revenue generation can be found in potential increased rental use, sponsorships, and upgrades to athletic complexes to increase tournament use.

### **Economic Impact of Sports Tournaments**

Tournaments can be a revenue generator by exacting entrance fees and promoting concession sales. Developing tournament level facilities is a trend aimed to attract better teams and better tournaments to the facilities. These high quality facilities are an asset to local leagues and activities when not being used for tournaments. A balance does need to exist between local league use and use for tournaments.

Facilities must be designed to accommodate tournaments which will require larger parking lots and an arrangement of fields in a cluster for easy accessibility, such as a wagon wheel configuration for baseball and softball fields. Quality restroom facilities are necessary, and concessions, shade, and other amenities should be available throughout the park that make it a desirable place to spend the day or a weekend. Randolph currently has large athletic complexes at Freedom and Heistein Parks, primarily for rectangular field sports, which could be improved to encourage tournament use.



### **Artificial Turf Athletic Fields**

Many parks systems and school districts, including Randolph Township, are developing artificial turf fields to meet the ever increasing demand for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other athletic pursuits. These artificial turf fields have a higher initial cost; however, the ability to play on the fields continuously (without the need to water, fertilize, mow, stripe, etc.) results in a maintenance savings to the community. The fields can be developed to be flat and can accommodate substantial rains without damage to the surface. The fields are safer than overused grass fields. The main benefits of synthetic turf fields include:

1. Lower operating costs per event
2. Safer surfaces for athletes
3. Ability to schedule significantly more events on the same area compared to natural grass fields
4. Ability to extend the season by allowing use earlier in spring and later in fall without damaging turf
5. Fewer rain outs
6. In communities with limited fields available, synthetic turf fields allow the maximum use on the same area
7. No need for watering, mowing, fertilizing, or striping



Communities must consider the long term need to replace the carpet every 8 to 15 years, based upon the use of the field. Thirty-six percent (36%) of respondents to the Mail Survey (62% for Web Survey) indicated support for the development of additional multi-use artificial turf fields in Randolph, and a vocal contingent of residents and athletic leagues would like to see additional artificial turf fields at Freedom Park, which would also promote tournament usage.



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## Outdoor Family Oriented Aquatics

The older rectangle and L-shaped swimming pools have a very limited appeal. The desire to have 3 ½ foot depths of water for flip turns, or competition swimming, dictated a deeper water depth of the pool which resulted in a lack of shallow water. As a result, younger children were relegated to a “baby” pool, which really only appeals to babies and toddlers. Inadequate amenities for 4-10 year olds limit the draw of these older pools.

The newer family aquatic centers are geared toward the entire family with zero depth access, shallow water, interactive water spray activities, along with the traditional competition lanes and diving boards. Newer aquatic facilities are often incorporating lazy rivers, which are popular with people of all ages. The newer facilities also provide large water slides. These elements, along with shade structures, larger grass beach areas, and quality concessions, have resulted in a complete turnaround in the net operating costs to municipalities for aquatic facilities.

Where the older pools were a drain on the budget, newer facilities are often able to generate funds for the operations cost, and some have even shown a budget surplus, which can be used to pay off some of the debt service for the capital construction.

Randolph does not currently offer any outdoor aquatic facilities, although the Randolph Park Beach does meet some the Township's aquatic needs. Residents wishing to use modern aquatic facilities must travel to neighboring communities to utilize those facilities.

Another new concept that is sweeping the country is the development of splash pads or spraygrounds. These facilities have replaced wading pools at many aquatic facilities but are also developed as standalone wet playgrounds in other park areas. The development of a standalone sprayground as an alternative to a pool can provide some aquatic opportunities for residents at a much lower cost. In most instances, they recirculate water, but because there is no standing water, lifeguards are not needed, leading to operating costs that are considerably lower than for a swimming facility. Randolph Township has a single sprayground located within the Randolph Park Beach but currently has no standalone facilities.

Although the development of an outdoor aquatic center has some vocal supporters, many of whom participated in the public input process, only 43% of residents reported support (very or somewhat supportive) of the development of such a facility in the Mail Survey (65% of Web Survey respondents). The development of a pool in Randolph has been considered in the past and was met with opposition from voters in the Township. As a result, the Township may be hesitant to pursue the development of this type facility in the future despite the need identified through the public input process. The Township could seek opportunities for partnerships to help reduce the capital and operating costs of an outdoor pool. Alternatively, the Township could pursue the development of a sprayground to meet some of the unmet need for outdoor aquatic facilities at a lower capital and operating cost, despite the lower level of support demonstrated through the surveys. A potential location for a sprayground could be at Brundage Park or another Community Park.

## Indoor Recreation

The typical recreation centers that includes gymnasium space, locker rooms, and a few other attractions are being replaced by much larger, multi-generational facilities.

The newer facilities have a much stronger emphasis on fitness, with aerobics rooms, free weights, exercise machines, cardiovascular areas, walking tracks, indoor swimming pools for both family oriented and lap swimming, lounges, concessions, and climbing walls, along with the traditional basketball and volleyball



gymnasiums. These facilities may also include multipurpose rooms, which are used for a wide variety of indoor programming, such as arts and crafts, dance classes, and other community education programs.

Randolph provides some indoor recreation opportunities at the Community Center and its Senior Room. The Township utilizes the gymnasiums at the schools for programming, including basketball and wrestling leagues. The Township also rents space from private organizations for use for programs, including athletic teams. These private organizations, including the YMCA, also offer programming in addition to their facilities to members and other private users. Partnerships with these organizations could be expanded to increase the availability of indoor recreational opportunities in Randolph.



### Fitness and Wellness

A strong emphasis has been placed at the state and the federal levels to improve the fitness of individuals throughout the United States. Local parks and recreation departments are often building upon this message. These departments are in a good position to make an impact on the overall fitness of the community through programs, promotions, and facilities that are available to local residents.

Fitness facilities do not need to be confined to indoor spaces as modern equipment can now be provided in outdoor environments that are similar to those seen typically in fitness centers. Such facilities can serve as an alternative to the old fitness and par-course trails.

Respondents to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey) indicated adult fitness and wellness as the most needed type of program with 42% of households reporting a need. Additionally, an outdoor fitness circuit ranked as one of the top five unmet facilities for households. Community Parks provide ideal locations for these type of activities due to their high levels of usage. Additionally, many communities partner with health providers to offer fitness facilities and programs.



### Environmental Education

The success of environmental education centers throughout the country and the strong desire for nature education demonstrated in both the Mail and Web Surveys suggest an interest by the public for better education regarding natural processes, resource management, and other nature education activities. These programs work well in conjunction with school systems to supplement the science curriculum.

This environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces (including those owned and managed by municipalities). Many park departments and commissions take an outreach approach by providing environmental curriculum to schools in the form of nature center classes and activities. This tactic provides a method for promoting more use and appreciation of parks. These programs also provide an opportunity for county park systems and universities to work closely with municipal parks and recreation departments to provide a level of programming that the municipalities could not perform on their own.



The need for nature programs ranked highly in both surveys, with over 2,000 households having an unmet need for nature programs, the fifth highest of unmet program needs. Partnerships opportunities could be explored with Morris County Parks, Randolph Township Schools, and the County College of Morris for this type of program, possibly at Randolph Township parks or open spaces or at one of the County Parks in Randolph.

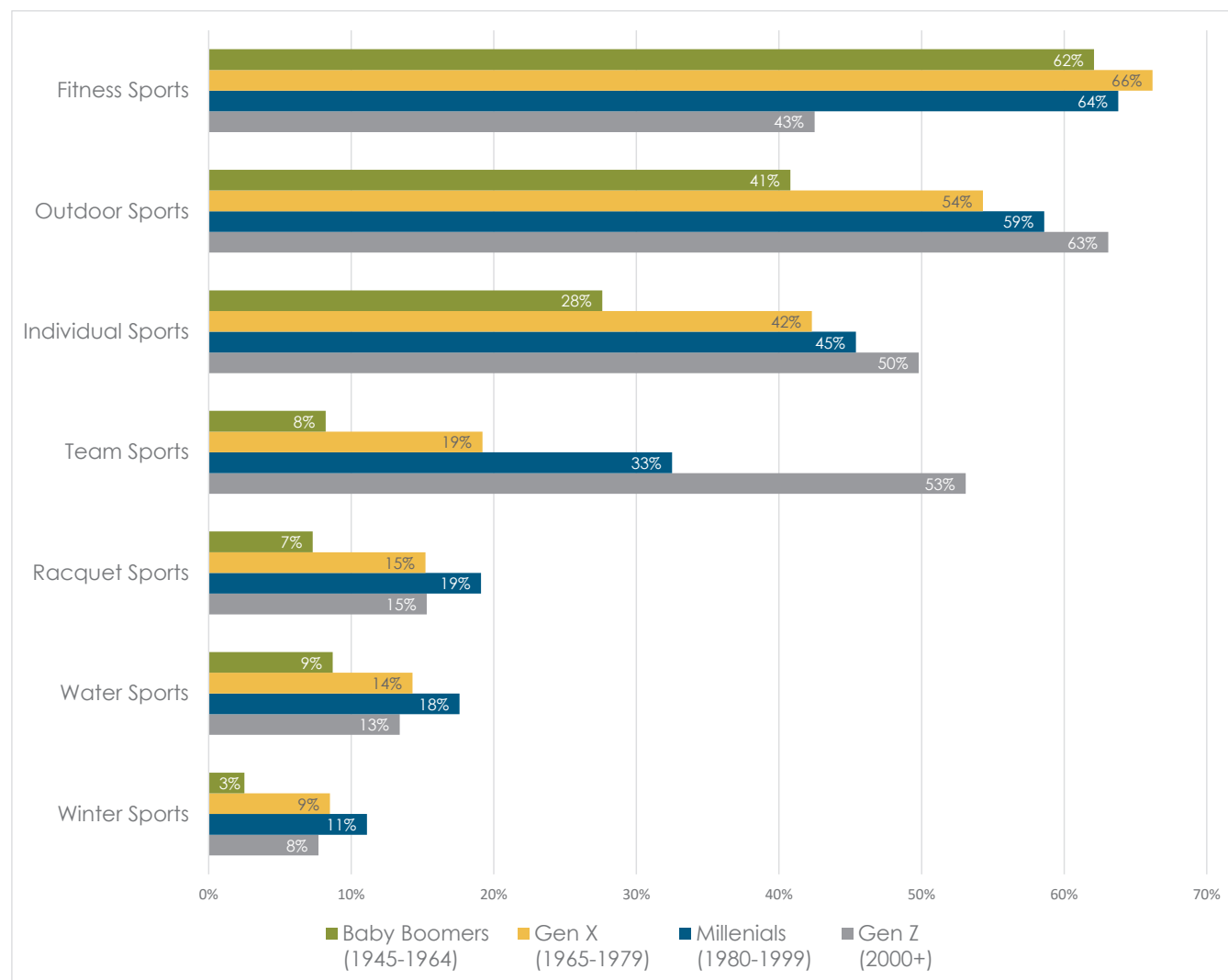
### Trends in Sports and Fitness Participation

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts an annual survey of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities. The 2013 sample consisted of 42,356 online interviews (15,770 individuals and 26,593 households) intend to serve as representation of US population ages 6 and older. The following tables were generated using data from the SFIA report.

Figure IV-9 shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. The youngest generation had the highest participation rates for Individual Sports, Team Sports, and Outdoor Sports. Participation rates dropped for these three types of sports with each older generation. The youngest group also had the lowest participation in Fitness Sports, while the other three generational groups had similar participation rates for this type of sport. The remaining three types of sports (Racquet, Winter, and Water Sports) have similar trends with Millennials representing the highest level of participation.

The high demand for fitness sports programs in Randolph Township is consistent with these findings in Figure IV-9. With the high percentage of residents in the older two generations, this type of program is likely to increase in demand into the future. Despite decreasing in popularity with age, outdoor sports are still popular with all age groups. Individual and team sports are most popular with the youngest generation.

**Figure IV-9: Participation Rates by Generation**





The availability of these facilities and programs will be an important consideration for families with children when choosing to live in Randolph.

Table IV-7 displays the 5-year participation rates for 26 different sports and fitness activities. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate as well as rankings for these sports based on growth in participation (Growth Rate Rank) and absolute numbers (Participant Rank). Based on these figures, the fastest growing sport is lacrosse at 8.9% annually, although the overall number of users is still fairly low. Aerobics (high impact), trail running, ice hockey, and running/jogging are also growing at rates of nearly 5% or higher. Walking for fitness has the greatest number of participants by a large margin at well over 100 million participants, with running/jogging coming in second at over 50 million participants. Hand weights had the third most users, followed by bicycling and hiking. With four of the top five activities (based on Participant Rank) using trails, it is no surprise these facilities are in such high demand. Residents of Randolph have similarly expressed a strong interest in these type of trail-based activities, leading to a need for more of these facilities.

The Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department may need to expand partnerships with private recreation providers in order to meet the needs for quickly growing high impact aerobics needs and high participant levels for free weights, and low impact aerobics. Randolph Township is generally well positioned to meet the growing recreation needs of residents through the provision of a wider variety of programs that utilize both public and private facilities.

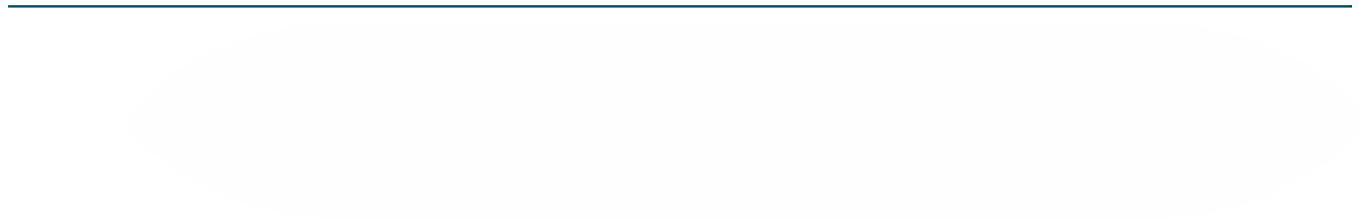
**Table IV-7: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation**

Sport/Fitness Activity	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth	Growth Rate Rank <sup>2</sup>	Participant Rank <sup>2</sup>
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Aerobics (High impact)	11,287	11,780	12,771	14,567	15,755	16,178	7.5%	<b>2</b>	10
Aerobics (Low impact)	22,397	23,283	24,927	26,431	25,950	25,707	2.9%	8	6
Archery	5,950	6,180	6,368	6,323	6,471	7,173	3.9%	6	15
Baseball	16,058	15,539	14,429	14,198	13,561	12,976	-4.2%	21	11
Basketball	25,961	26,108	25,131	25,156	24,790	23,708	-1.8%	20	7
Bicycling (Road/paved surface)	38,940	38,527	39,127	39,730	39,834	39,790	0.1%	15	<b>4</b>
Cheerleading	3,279	3,192	3,070	3,134	3,049	3,244	-0.1%	16	24
Football (Tackle)	7,939	7,816	7,243	6,850	6,448	6,220	-4.7%	22	19
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	43,821	43,409	44,466	45,928	46,944	46,564	1.2%	12	<b>3</b>
Hiking (Day)	29,965	31,238	32,542	32,534	33,494	34,519	2.9%	9	<b>5</b>
Ice Hockey	1,840	1,871	2,018	2,140	2,131	2,363	5.2%	<b>4</b>	26
Ice Skating	11,430	11,215	10,964	11,477	11,626	11,214	-0.3%	17	13
Lacrosse	1,058	1,092	1,162	1,423	1,501	1,607	8.9%	<b>1</b>	27
Martial Arts	6,865	6,818	6,643	6,002	5,037	5,075	-5.6%	24	21
Roller Skating (Inline wheels)	10,814	10,211	8,942	8,128	7,451	6,647	-9.2%	26	16
Running/Jogging	41,064	41,097	42,511	46,650	50,061	51,450	4.7%	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
Skateboarding	8,429	8,118	7,580	7,080	6,318	6,227	-5.8%	25	18
Soccer (Indoor)	4,237	4,487	4,825	4,920	4,631	4,617	1.8%	11	22
Soccer (Outdoor)	13,708	13,966	13,957	13,883	13,667	12,944	-1.1%	18	12
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,345	2,331	2,476	2,513	2,400	2,624	2.4%	10	25
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	9,485	9,660	9,180	8,477	7,809	7,411	-4.8%	23	14
Swimming for Fitness <sup>1</sup>					21,517	23,216	N/A	N/A	8
Tennis	16,940	17,749	18,546	18,719	17,772	17,020	0.2%	14	9
Trail Running	4,216	4,537	4,845	4,985	5,373	5,806	6.6%	<b>3</b>	20
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	3,878	4,025	4,324	4,752	4,451	4,505	3.2%	7	23
Volleyball (Court)	6,986	7,588	7,737	7,315	6,662	6,384	-1.6%	19	17
Walking for Fitness	108,740	110,204	110,882	112,082	112,715	114,029	1.0%	13	<b>1</b>

1. SFIA started collecting numbers for Swimming for Fitness in 2011.

2. Rank of these selected sports and fitness activities. Top 5 in Bold.





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## V. PUBLIC INPUT

### INTRODUCTION

The Public Input section consists of the following elements:

1. A summary of the public workshops and focus groups.
2. A summary of the pertinent portions of the ETC/Leisure Vision Community Attitude and Interest Survey for Randolph Township with a comparison to the web-based survey promoted and distributed by Randolph Township.
3. A review of the usage and findings of the Building Community Through Parks website, powered by MindMixer, which provided opportunities for engagement throughout the Master Plan process.

### PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

#### Kick-Off Event – March 18, 2015

The kick-off event at the Community Center in Randolph was a success with over 25 residents in attendance. Twenty-five people used play money to vote on their preferred park improvements in Randolph.

#### Second Public Workshop – September 21, 2015

The findings and results from all of the public input, including the statistically valid surveys, handout/web survey, stakeholder group meetings, dollar voting, and the first public workshop, were presented to the public at this meeting. Maps showing parks and facility service areas were also presented at this workshop. Additionally, the findings of demographic analysis and benchmark comparisons were presented. Attendees of the workshop generally reacted favorably to the information as presented.

### STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The Consultant, BCI, met with Stakeholder Groups between March 18 and 19. Complete summaries of the meeting with each of these groups can be found in Appendix B.

#### Officials and Boards

- Township Council and Mayor
- Parks/Recreation Advisory Boards
- High School Athletics
- Board of Education
- Board of Adjustment
- Economic Development Committee

#### Sports Groups

##### 1. Spring Sports

- Babe Ruth Baseball – Recreational and Travel Leagues
- Little League Baseball
- Girls Softball
- Girls Lacrosse
- Boys Lacrosse
- Track

##### 2. Fall Sports

- Cross Country
- Football
- Soccer – Recreational and Travel Leagues
- Cheerleading

##### 3. Winter Sports

- Wrestling
- Boys Basketball

## Focus Groups

### 1. Public Groups

- Randolph High School Students
- Parks and Recreation Staff
- Parks Maintenance Staff
- Township Planning Staff
- Township Police
- Township Public Works Staff
- Senior Club

### 2. Cultural Organizations

- Brundage Park Theater
- Artworks Program Staff

### 3. Community Service Organizations

- Kiwanis
- Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey
- Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venturers
- Randolph YMCA

### 4. Businesses/sponsors

- The Goddard School
- Indoor Sports Pavilion
- John Herold Jewelers
- Randolph Pain Relief and Wellness Center

## COMMON THEMES FROM FIRST PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (NOT IN ORDER)

- More artificial turf fields
- Park developed at the 90 Acres site (variety of facilities) as a community gathering area
- Recreation center
- Interconnected trails with parking and signage
- ADA improvements
- Improvements to Brundage Playhouse, Artworks Studio, and VFW Hall
- Improvements to fields (including drainage)
- Improved Randolph Lake
- More events

## DOLLAR VOTING

Participants at the kick-off event at Community Center and at the Wellness Fair were given \$1,000 in play money to distribute how they felt the Township should allocate funds for various aspects of parks, recreation, trails, and open space. The following table (Table V-5) shows the totals for the various categories. Participants could also purchase "Other" cards to request specific items not provided on one of the provided boxes. The combined results for the 91 participants at the events are listed below with the dollars for each park improvement option and the percentage of the total allocated for the improvement.

**Table V-1: Dollar Voting Park Improvement Allocations**

Park Improvement	Total	%
Develop a community vegetable garden on existing open space or park property	\$18,000	20%
Develop new walking and biking trails	\$14,600	16%
Develop outdoor facilities for fitness and wellness activities (walking track, fitness stations, etc.)	\$11,900	13%
Develop new indoor recreation facility with game courts, fitness areas, and walking track	\$11,200	12%
Improve or expand the Brundage Park Playhouse	\$11,100	12%
Improve/maintain existing parks, playgrounds, game courts, and picnic areas	\$9,700	11%
Construct new parks	\$3,300	4%
Construct new athletic fields (softball, soccer, baseball, football, etc.)	\$3,000	3%
Improve the Artworks Studio	\$2,300	3%
Other park improvements	\$5,900	6%
Total	\$91,000	100%

Of the options provided, the largest allocation was given to the development of a community vegetable garden with 20% of the funding allocations or \$18,000. The development of new walking and biking trails received the second largest allocation of these options (16%), followed by the development of outdoor facilities for fitness and wellness (13%).

The development of "Other park improvements" (Table V-2) received a total allocation at \$5,900 or 6% of the allocated dollars. The most popular "Other" option was an outdoor pool or aquatic center which received an allocation of \$2,900. The development of artificial turf fields received the second largest allocation of "Other" dollars.

**Table V-2: Dollar Voting Other Park Improvements**

<b>Other Park Improvements</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
Outdoor pool/aquatic center	\$2,900	49%
Artificial turf fields	\$1,200	20%
Running Track	\$1,000	17%
Indoor soccer field	\$200	3%
Gymnastics field	\$200	3%
Outdoor facilities	\$200	3%
Loop trails	\$200	3%
Total	\$5,900	100%

## **PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS**

### **Statistically Valid Survey - Overview and Methodology**

The Consultants subcontracted with ETC/Leisure Vision to conduct a Community Attitude and Interest Survey (Mail Survey) in the summer of 2015 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout Randolph Township. The survey was administered by mail, web, and phone.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team and Leisure Vision worked with Randolph Township officials on the development of the survey questionnaire. This collaboration allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks system.

The six page survey was mailed to a random sample of 3,000 households throughout Randolph Township. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, ETC/Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone. Those who had indicated they had not returned the survey were then given the option of completing it by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 300 completed surveys. ETC/Leisure Vision exceeded that goal with a total of 520 surveys completed. Based on this random sample of 520 households, this survey has a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/- 4.3%.

### **Web Survey**

In addition to the Mail Survey, the Randolph Township Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and Brandstetter Carroll Inc. prepared a handout and web-based survey (Web Survey), powered by Survey Monkey. A total of 606 local residents completed this survey. Ninety-eight percent (98%) of the responses were from Randolph residents (14% from Fernbrook, 28% from Ironia, 14% from Mt. Freedom, 29% from Shongum, and 12% from other parts of Randolph Township). Many of the surveys were completed on handout versions, available at the public workshops, stakeholder meetings, and park facilities throughout the community, which were manually entered into the survey database. In the tables on the following pages, the results of the Web Survey and the Mail Survey were combined into one figure where possible for comparison of the results.

### **National Benchmarking**

Since 1998, Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute) has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 45 states across the country.



The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled database of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and, therefore, provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.” The National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix E. Selected information is included on the charts in this section.

**Survey Results**

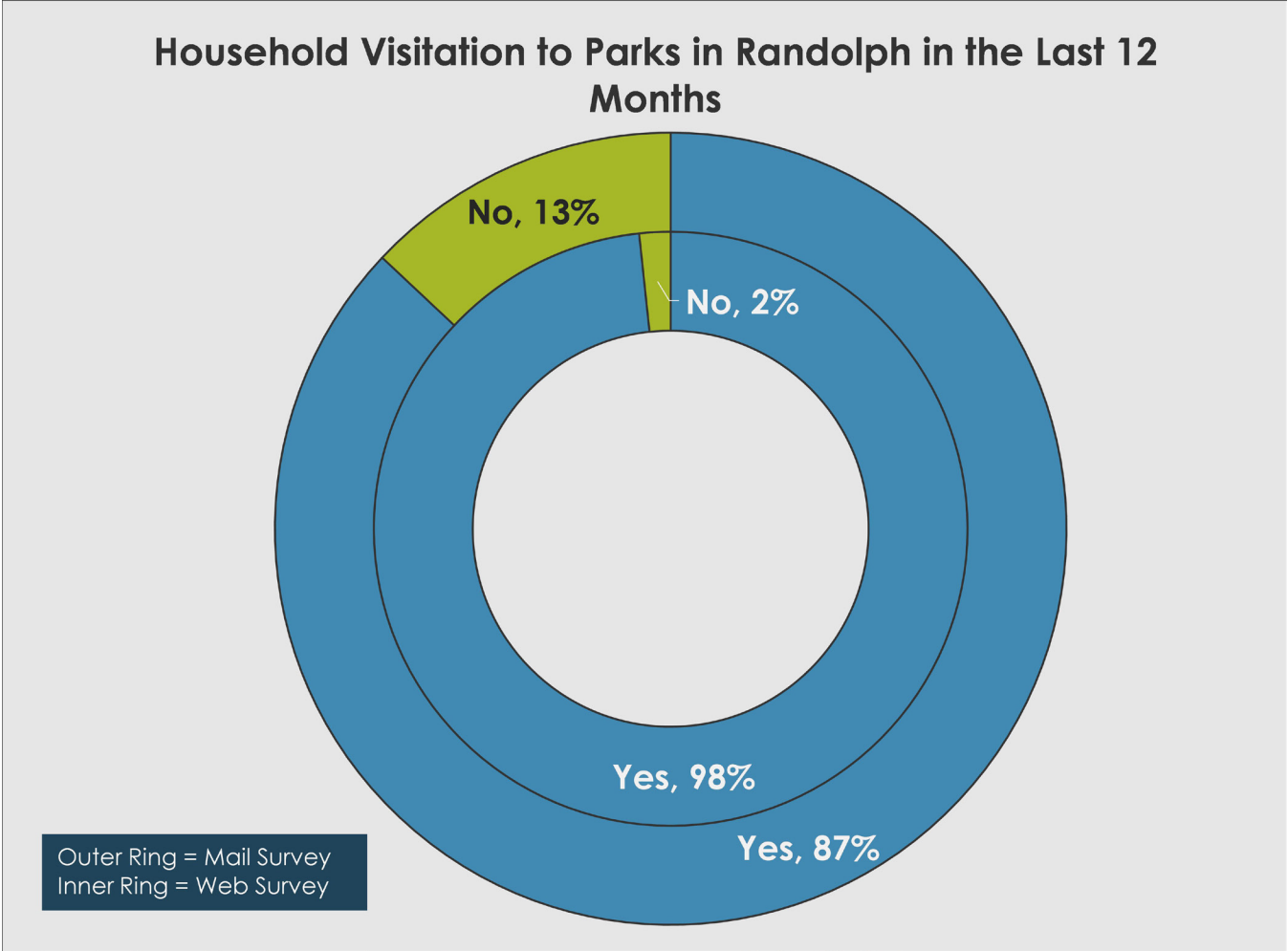
The following pages summarize the major survey findings. The results of both surveys are presented in this text for comparison. Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a statistically valid random sample, the results are intended to represent the residents of Randolph as a whole, both users and non-users. The Web Survey was available to be completed by any resident who chose to be involved in the process. As a result, the Web Survey responses reflected the motivated members of the community, including users of the facilities. The figures summarizing survey responses below were sorted based on the results of the Mail Survey.

**1. Visitation of Parks and Facilities in Randolph**

Respondents to both surveys were asked about their visitation to parks and recreation facilities in Randolph in the last 12 months. Figure V-1 shows the proportion of respondents for both surveys that reported that a member of their household visited a park or recreation facility in the last 12 months.

According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, eighty-seven percent (87%) of Randolph households visited parks or recreation facilities in Randolph over the past 12 months. In comparison, 98% of Web Survey respondents reported that members of their households visited parks or recreation facilities in Randolph over the past 12 months. The national average for park visitation is 80%. Accordingly, residents in Randolph were slightly more likely than residents of other communities to visit parks.

**Figure V-1: Visitation to Parks in Randolph**



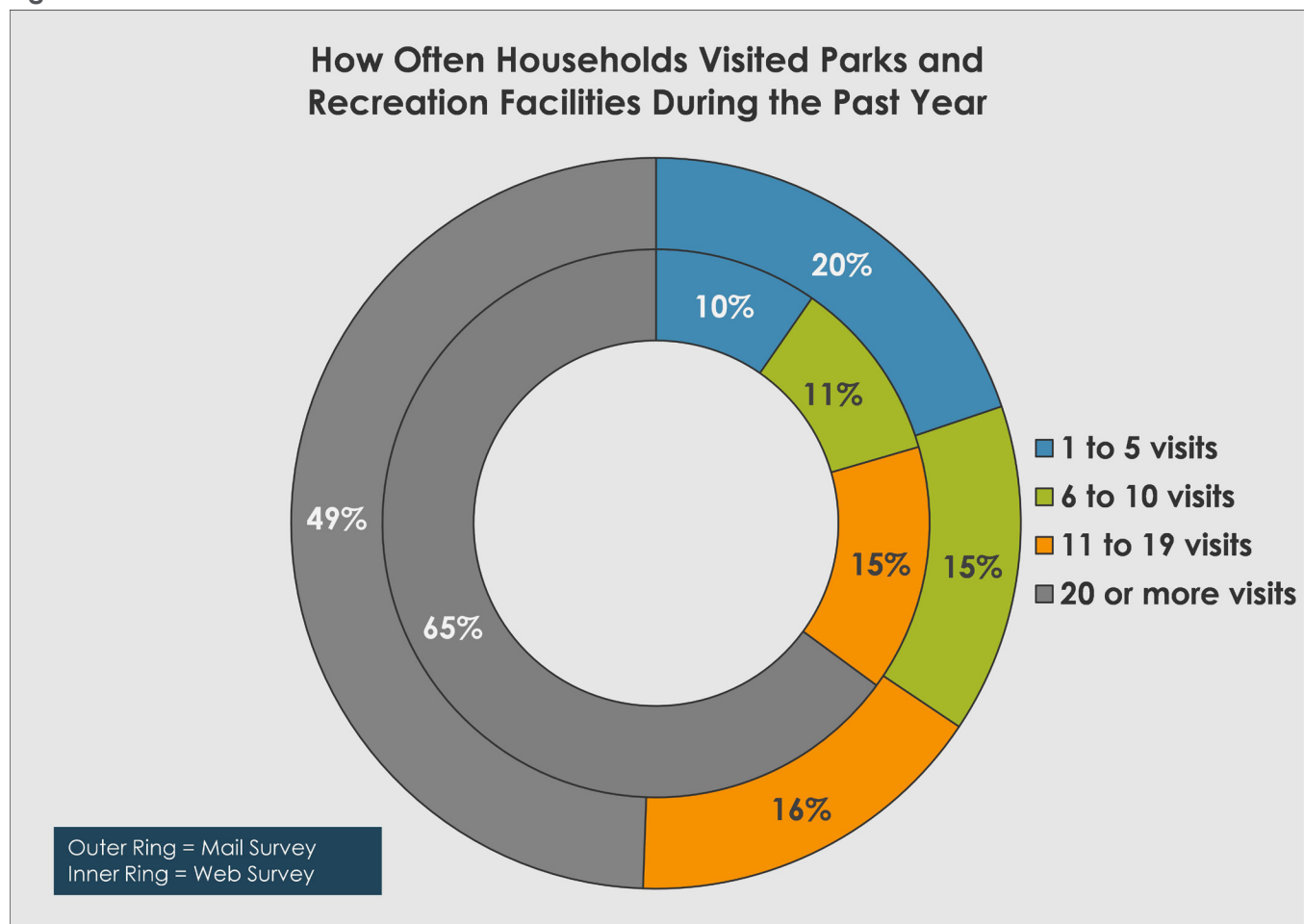
## 2. Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in Randolph

Respondent households that have visited parks and recreation facilities in the Township of Randolph during the last 12 months were asked to indicate how often they have visited those facilities during that time. The results are presented in Figure V-2.

According to the Mail Survey, Randolph households who visited parks or recreation facilities over the last 12 months were likely visited numerous times. Forty-nine percent (49%) reported visiting facilities 20 or more times over the last year. Results for the other visitation levels were: 1-5 times (20%), 6 to 10 times (15%), and 11 to 19 times (16%).

The numbers for the Web Survey indicated a higher level of usage. Sixty-five percent (65%) of respondent households reported visiting parks and recreation facilities 20 or more times over the previous year. Only 10% reported visiting 5 or fewer times. Eleven percent (11%) of households reported visiting facilities 6 to 10 times, and 15% reported visiting 11 to 19 times. Looking at the responses cumulatively, 80% of these households visited parks 11 or more times, and 90% visited parks six or more times.

**Figure V-2: Number of Visits to Parks in the Last Year**



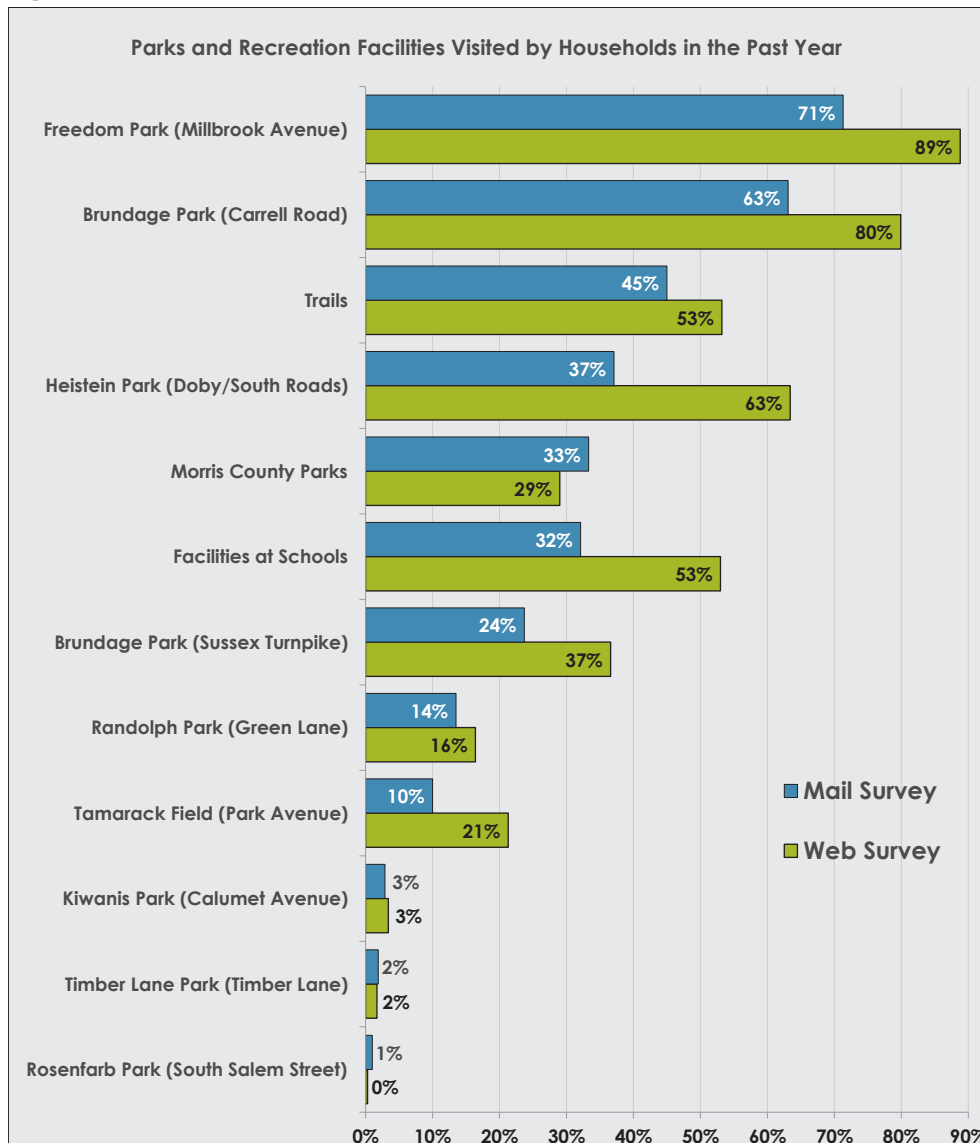
### 3. Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited in the Past 12 Months

Respondents to the surveys were asked to indicate all of the parks and recreation facilities their households had visited over the past 12 months. The list included the nine parks and recreation facilities offered by Randolph Township as well as trails in the Township. Respondents were also provided with options for school facilities and Morris County parks. Figure V-3 shows the percentage of respondents whose households used each facility in the past 12 months.

According to the Mail Survey, 71% of Randolph households visited Freedom Park and 63% visited Brundage Park (Carrell Road) over the past 12 months. These two parks rank highly for respondents to the Web Survey as well at 89% and 80% respectively. These two community parks represent those with the widest variety of facilities in Randolph. A large percentage (63%) of Web Survey respondents also reported using Heistein Park, compared to Mail Survey respondents. This result is consistent with the previous findings indicating that Web Survey respondents were more interested in parks and also suggests that these households are more likely to participate in athletic programs as Heistein Park is primarily an athletic field complex.

Forty-five percent of households reported using trails, according to the Mail Survey, only slightly lower usage than that reported by Web Survey respondents (53%). Similarly, 33% of Mail Survey respondents reported using Morris County parks, compared to 29% of Web Survey respondents. Facilities at schools were used by Web Survey respondents at a much higher rate than reported by Mail Survey respondents.

**Figure V-3: Most Visited Parks**

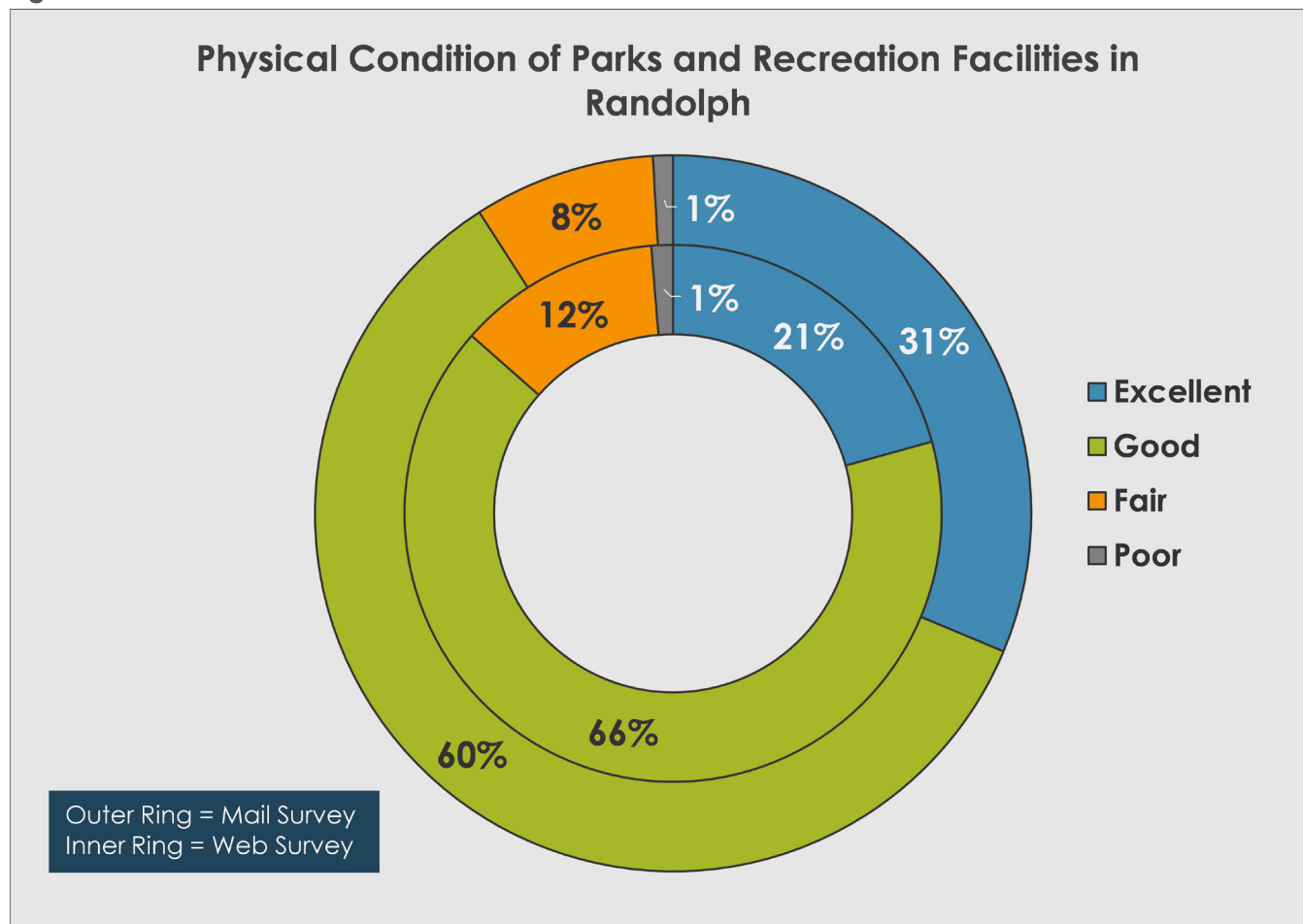


#### 4. Physical Condition of Parks and Facilities Visited

Respondent households that have visited parks and recreation facilities in Randolph Township during the past 12 months were asked to rate the physical condition of those Township parks and facilities. Figure V-4 shows respondents ratings of the condition of parks and recreation facilities in Randolph.

According to the Mail Survey, 60% households who visited facilities over the past 12 months rated the condition of those facilities as good, 31% rated the condition of the facilities as excellent, and 8% rated the condition as fair. Less than 1% rated facilities as poor. Web Survey respondents were more critical of Randolph parks with more rating facilities as fair (12%) and fewer rating facilities as excellent (21%).

**Figure V-4: Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities**

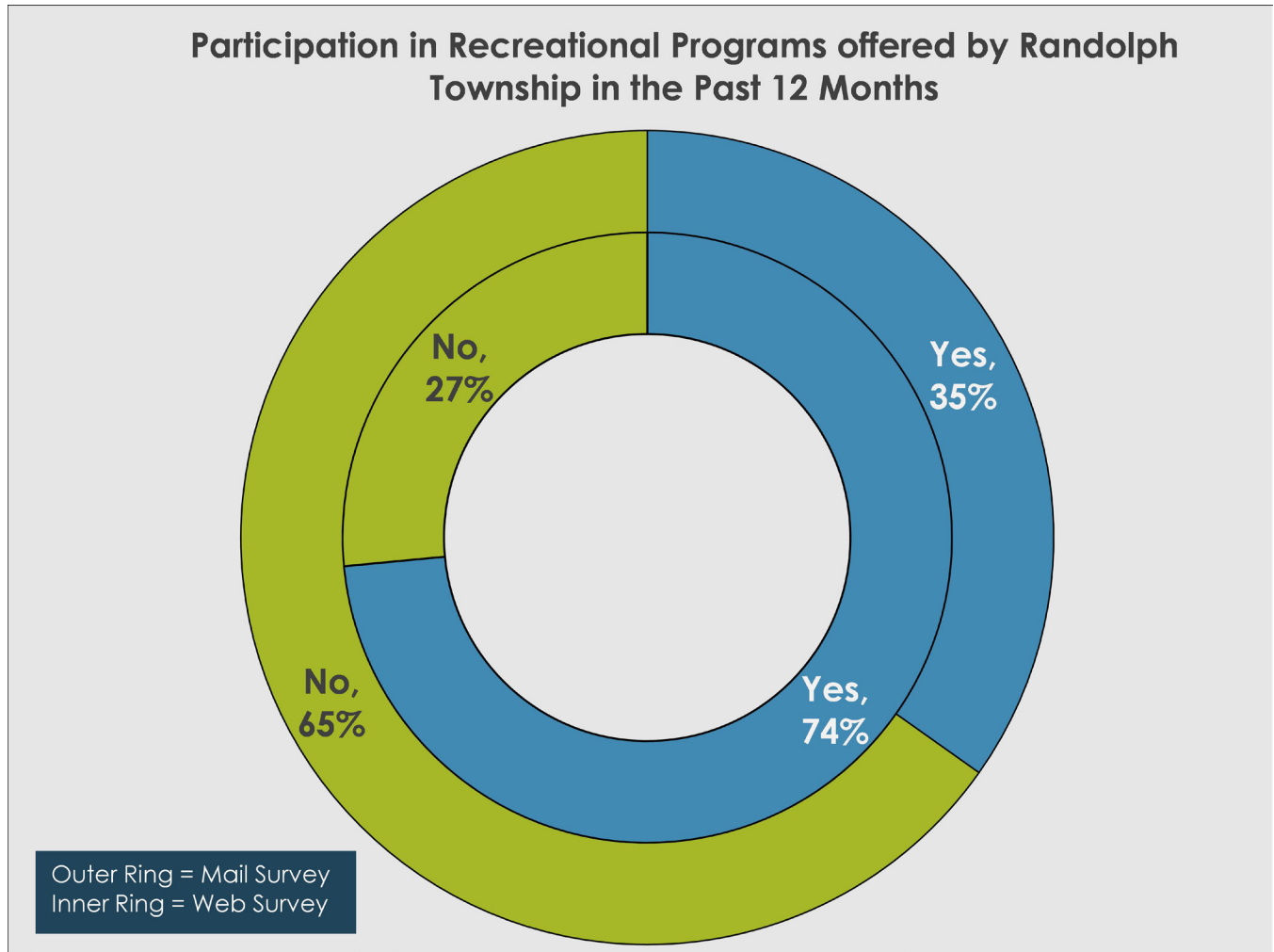




## 5. Participation in Recreation Programs Offered by Randolph Over the Past 12 Months

Respondents were asked if any members of their households participated in recreational programs offered by Randolph Township over the past 12 months. These results can be seen in Figure V-5 below. According to the Mail Survey, approximately one third (35%) of Randolph households participated in recreation programs offered by Randolph Township over the past 12 months and 65% did not. In contrast, nearly three quarters (74%) of Web Survey respondent households participated in programs and 27% did not.

**Figure V-5: Participation in Recreational Programs**

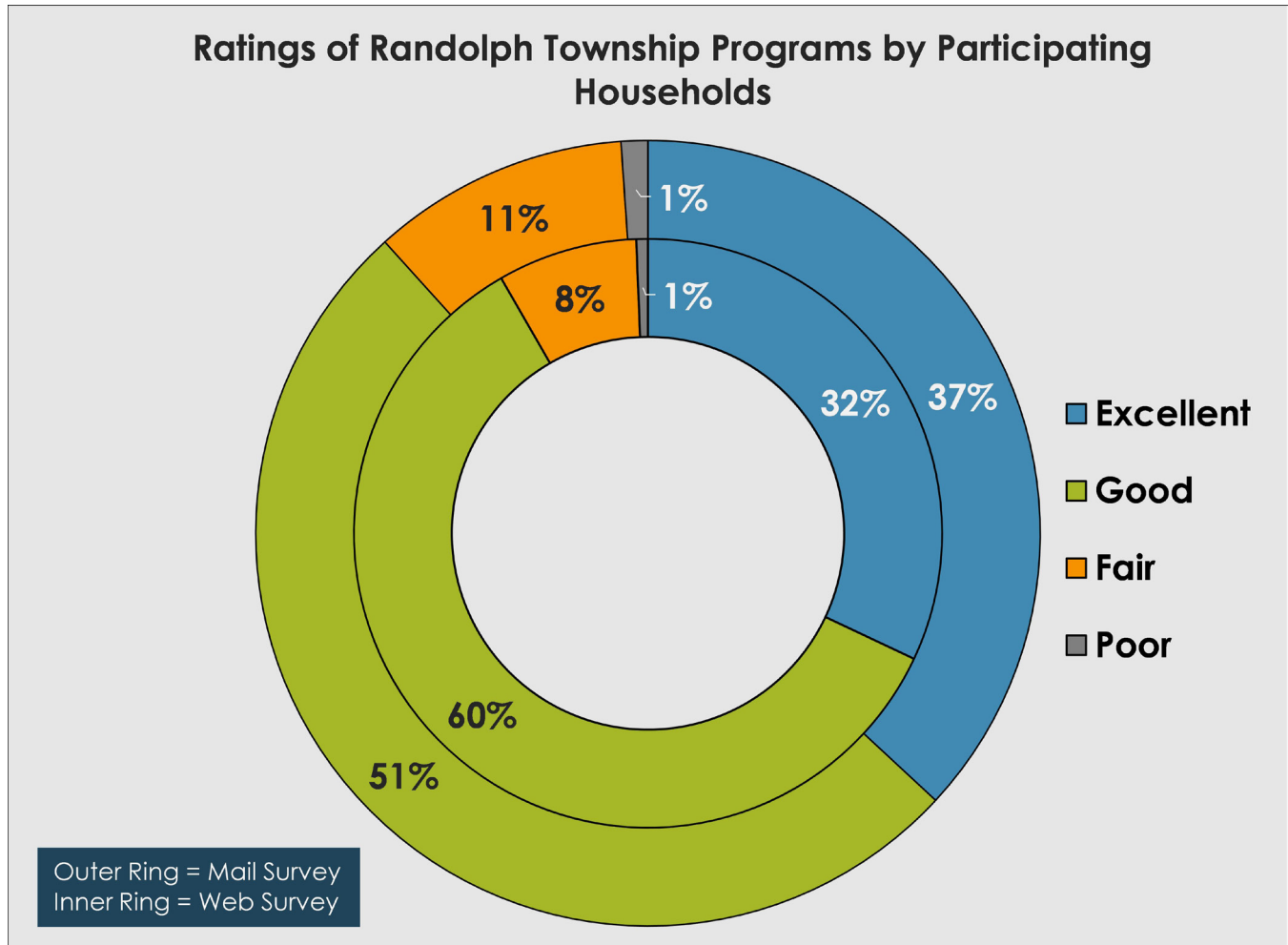


## 6. Quality of Recreational Programs

Respondents who participated in recreational programs offered by Randolph Township over the past 12 months were asked to rate the quality of those programs. Figure V-6 shows the results for household ratings of programs in Randolph.

According to the Mail Survey, 51% of households who participated in programs over the past 12 months rated those programs as good. Thirty-seven percent (37%) rated programs as excellent, 11% rated programs as fair, and less than 1% rated programs as poor. The results of the Web Survey were similar, although slightly more critical, with 60% of participants rating programs as good, 32% rating programs as excellent, 8% rating programs as fair, and less than 1% rating programs as poor. Overall, these numbers indicate that participants are satisfied with the quality of recreation programs in Randolph, but a small number see room for improvement.

**Figure V-6: Quality of Programs**

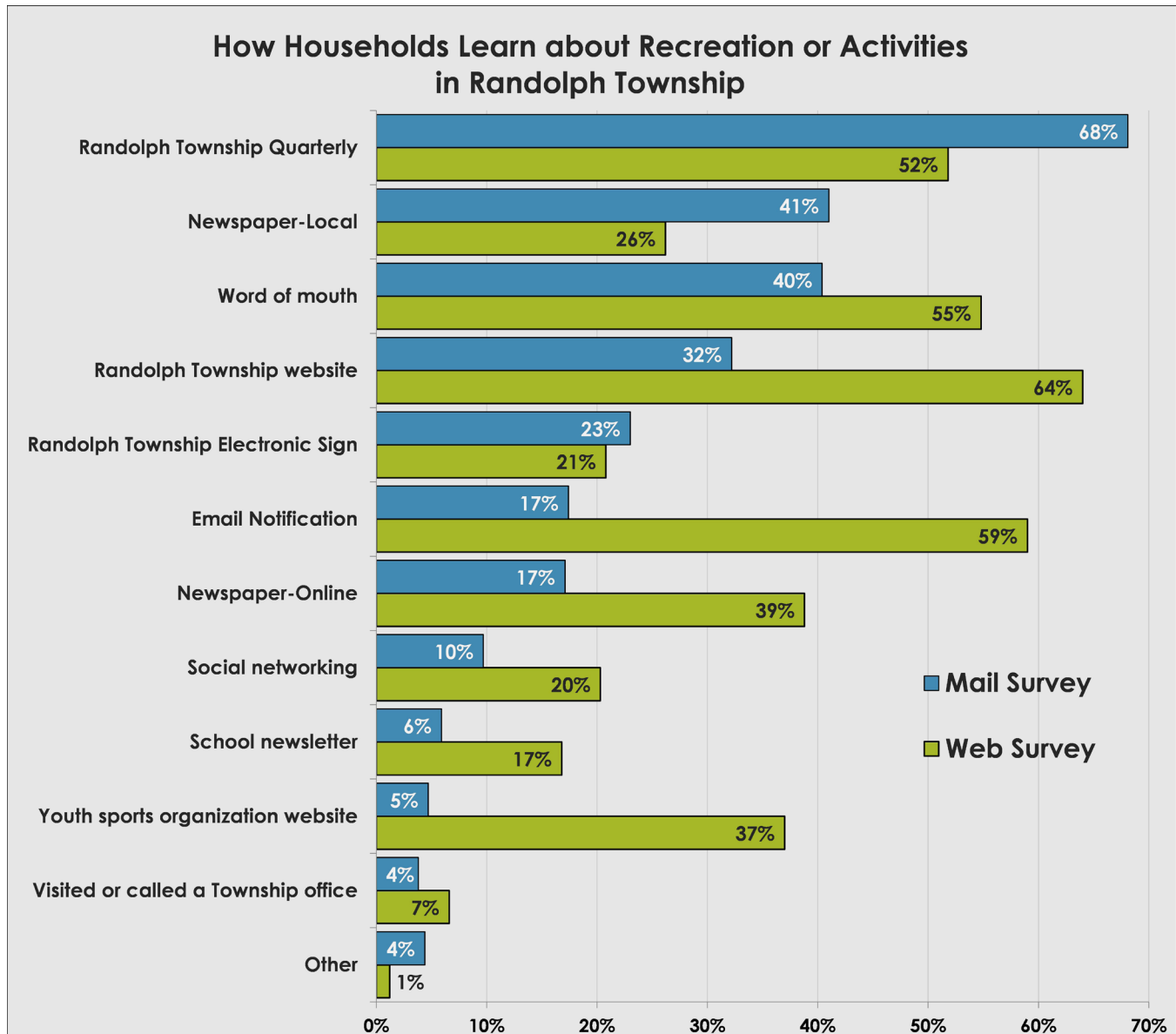


## 7. Learning about Recreation or Activities in Randolph

Both surveys asked respondents to identify (from a list) all of the ways from which they learn about recreation or activities in Randolph. The results can be seen in Figure V-7. Respondents to each survey varied significantly in their responses. Mail Survey respondents were more likely to learn recreational activities through print newspaper or word of mouth, while Web Survey respondents were more likely to receive information electronically.

Mail Survey respondents were most likely, by a fair amount, to learn about activities through the Randolph Township Quarterly at 68%, followed by newspaper-local (41%) and word of mouth (40%). Just under a third 32% reported learning of activities through the Randolph Township website. In contrast, Web Survey respondents were most likely to learn about activities at the Randolph Township website (64%), followed closely by email notification (59%) and word of mouth (55%). Web Survey respondents were also much more likely you use a youth sports organization website, newspaper-online, and social networking than Mail Survey respondents.

**Figure V-7: How Households Learn about Recreation or Activities in Randolph**



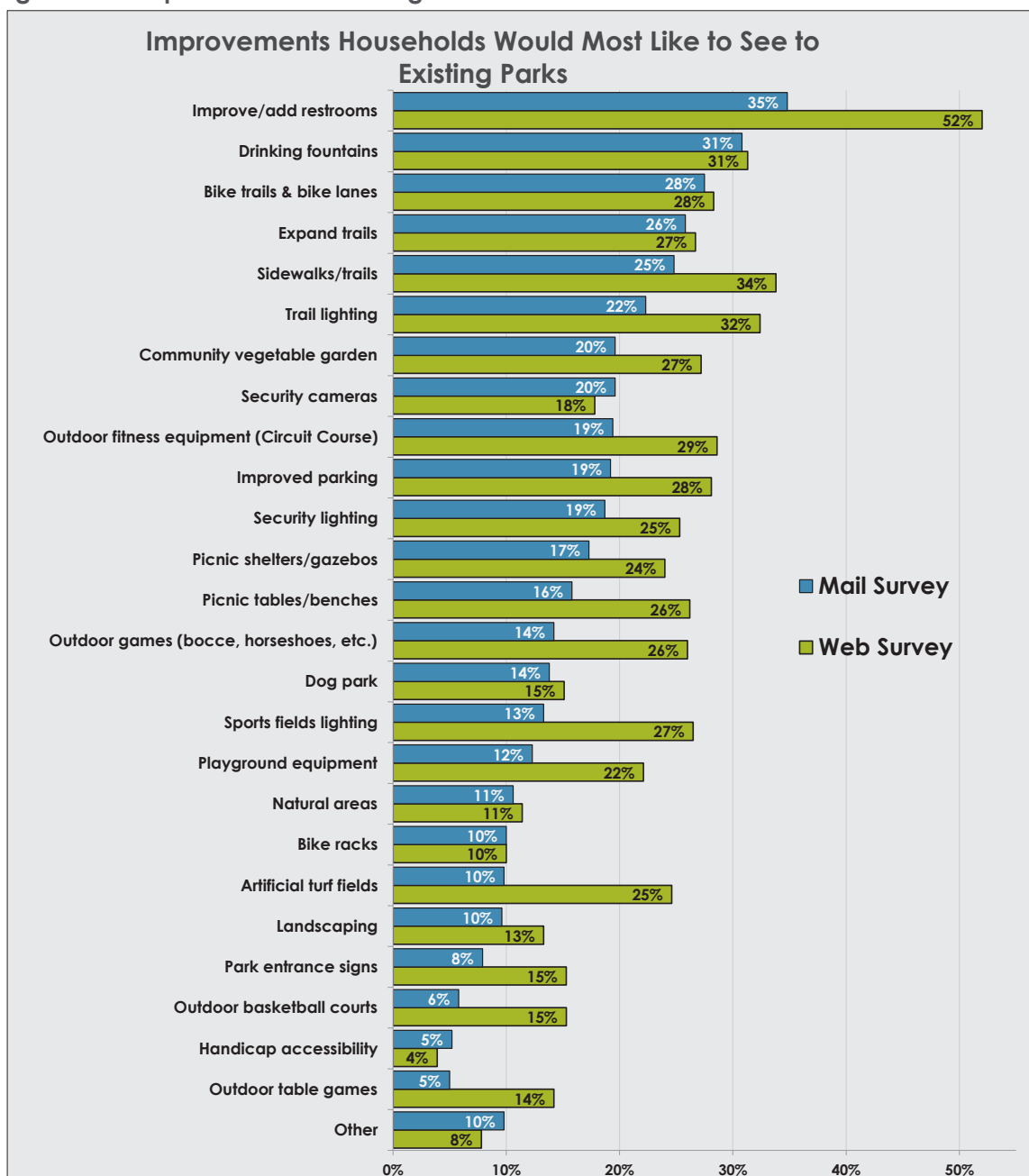
## 8. Improvements to Existing Parks

Respondents to both surveys were asked to identify all of the improvements their household would like to see to existing parks, and the responses from both surveys can be seen in Figure V-8. In general, Web Survey respondents were more supportive of improvements than Mail Survey respondents.

Improve/add restrooms was the top response for the both the Mail Survey and the Web Survey at 35% of residents. Drinking fountains ranked second in the Mail Survey, followed by bike trails & bike lanes (28%), expand trails (26%), and sidewalks/trails (25%). While drinking fountains was the top response for the Web Survey at 50%. The results for the Web Survey were similar, although the order of the items varied somewhat. Web Survey respondents were more supportive of nearly all improvements. Mail Survey respondents were more supportive than Web Survey respondents of only two improvements: security cameras and handicap accessibility.

Respondents to both surveys were given the option to choose "Other" improvements not listed in the survey. Frequent "Other" responses to the Mail Survey included a pool and more paved trails. "Other" responses in the Web Survey also requested a pool as well as artificial turf fields and indoor facilities.

**Figure V-8: Improvements to Existing Parks Households Would Most Like to See**



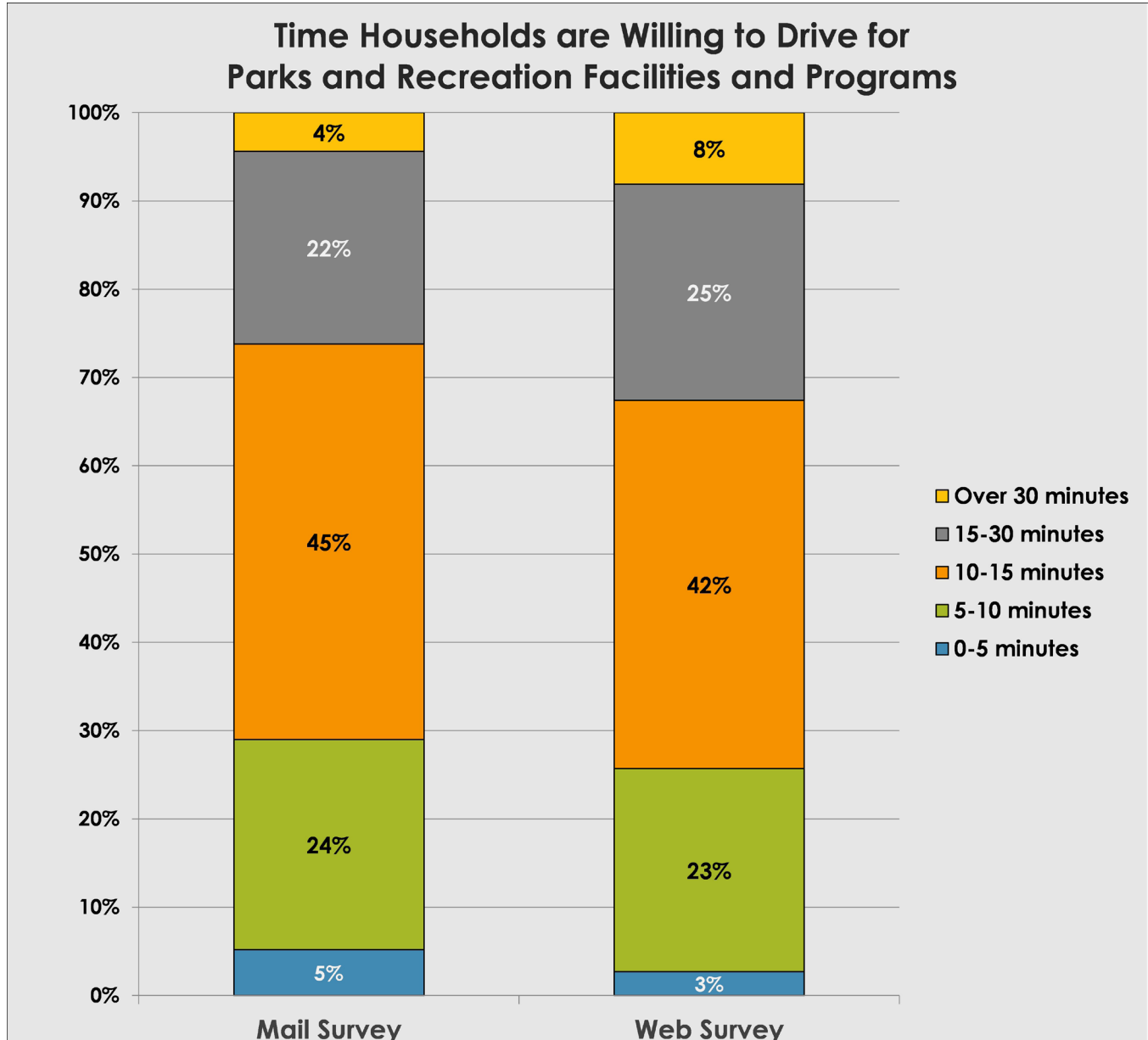


## 9. Drive Time for Parks and Programs

Survey respondents were asked how long they would be willing to drive to visit parks and attend programs. Figure V-9 presents the results of this question and shows that Web Survey respondents were generally willing to drive longer for parks and programs than Mail Survey respondents. Three percent (3%) of Web Survey respondents were willing to drive only 5 minutes or less to parks and programs, while 5% of Mail Survey respondents reported a willingness to drive only up to 5 minutes.

Similarly, 26% (23% + 3%) of Web Survey respondents claimed 10 minutes was the limit to how long they would drive, compared to 29% (24% + 5%) of Mail Survey respondents. Finally, 33% (25% + 8%) of Web Survey respondents were willing to drive 15 minutes or more, compared to 26% (22% + 4%) of Mail Survey respondents. These results are consistent with previous findings with Web Survey results showing a high level of interest in park facilities.

**Figure V-9: Drive Time for Parks and Programs**



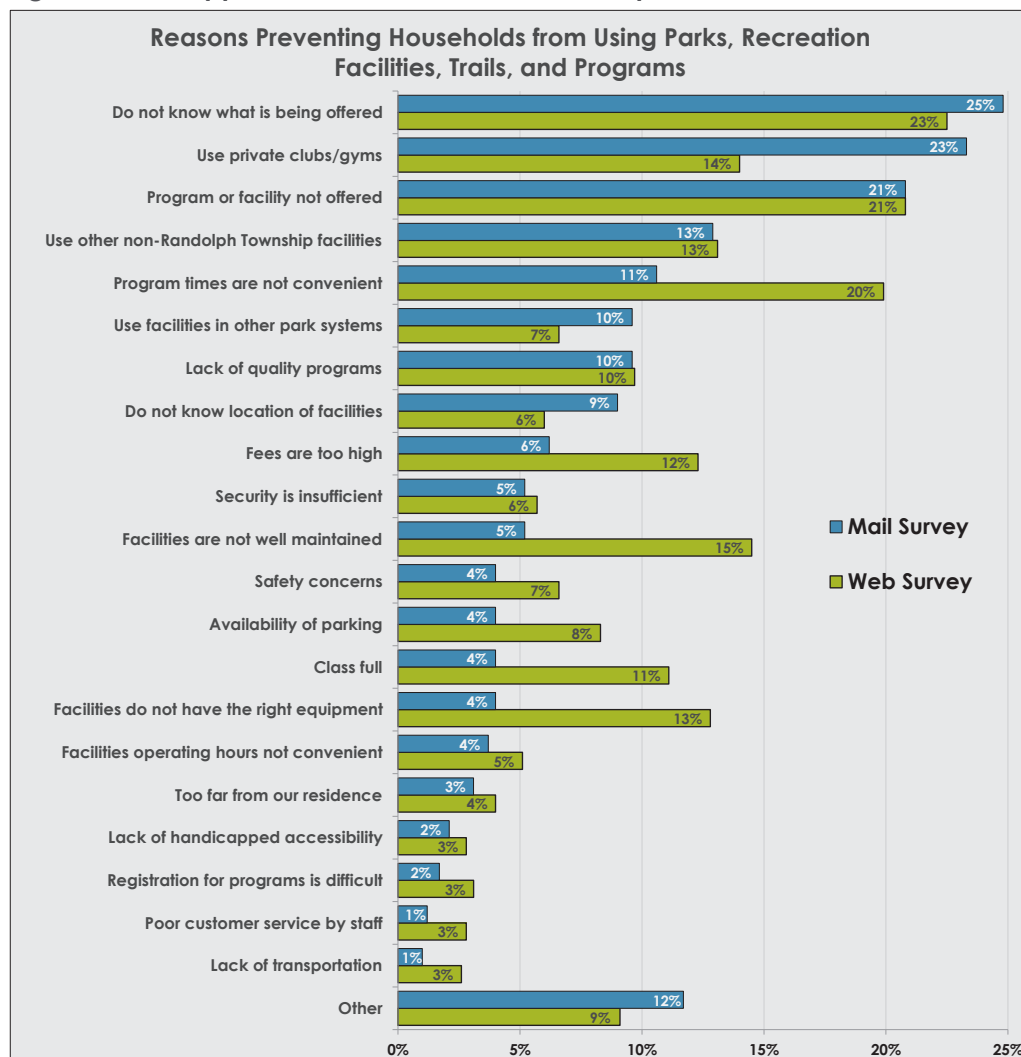
## 10. Reasons Preventing Use of Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Programs More Often

Respondents of both surveys were asked to select all barriers to their households' use of parks and recreation facilities from a list of 21 options. Figure V-10 shows these results. The number one reason for not using these facilities in both surveys was that households do not know what is being offered. Based on the results of the Mail Survey, a quarter (25%) of Randolph residents did not use parks or attended programs because they did not have enough information. According to the National Benchmarking, this reason is often at the top of the list, indicating the challenge departments face when trying to reach residents.

The next most common reason Mail Survey respondents provided for not using parks and programs was that they use private clubs/gyms (23%). For Web Survey respondents, program or facility not offered was the second most common reason for non-participation at 21% (third for Mail Survey respondents). Web Survey respondents were much more likely to report not using parks and programs because program times are not convenient, fees are too high and facilities are not well maintained, while Mail Survey respondents were more likely to indicate that they do not know the location of facilities. Respondents were allowed to choose "Other" to enter a reason not included in the list in both surveys, and the responses generally referred to safety concerns, lack of connectivity to trails from neighborhoods, and lack of time for recreation.

The responses to this question indicate that Randolph could address the many cited reasons preventing Randolph residents from using parks and recreation. Randolph could increase usage of parks through efforts to improve awareness of available opportunities. Additionally, usage of parks and recreation in Randolph could likely be increased significantly if the Township offered a wider variety of amenities at the parks.

**Figure V-10: Support for Parks and Recreation Improvements**



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## 11. Need For Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 29 various parks and recreation facilities, respondents (Mail Survey only) were asked to indicate which facilities for which they or members of their household had a need. Figure V-11 shows the results as well as the national average for each facility.<sup>8</sup> The national averages are shown in red to indicate Randolph's need at 5% or more below the national number and in blue to indicate Randolph's need at 5% or more above the national number. Black indicates within 5% (above or below) the national average or that comparison numbers are not available.

According to the Mail Survey, the greatest percentage of Randolph (71%) residents had a need for *walking and hiking trails*, followed closely by *large community parks* (54%). *Natural areas/nature parks* ranked third at 54%. *Paved bike trails* and *indoor exercise and fitness facilities* were needed by 40% or more of Randolph residents.

Compared to the National Benchmarks, Randolph Township responses to the Mail Survey showed a greater than average need for baseball and softball diamonds. Responses indicated a lower than average need for 12 different facilities, including *small neighborhood parks*, *outdoor swimming pools*, *picnic shelters*, and *playgrounds*.

The Mail Survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation facilities and then estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less. Figure V-12 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

The order of the items in Figure V-12 is quite different than the list of needed facilities (Figure V-11). However, two facilities appear in the top five for both needed facilities and unmet facilities: *paved bike trails* and *indoor exercise and fitness facilities*. These two facilities also represent the top two unmet needs with nearly 3,000 households indicating unmet needs for these facilities. *Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers* had approximately 2,500 households (3rd most) with needs met at 50% or less, despite ranking as the seventh most needed facility. Similarly, outdoor fitness circuit had approximately 2,100 households (4th most) with needs met at 50% or less, despite ranking as the 13th most needed facility. These numbers indicate that a smaller percentage of residents had a need for these facilities, but a larger percentage of those needs were unmet.

Other facilities with high numbers of households (over 1,500) with unmet need included:

- *Indoor gymnasium space/game courts*
- *Golf courses/driving range/training facilities*
- *Community vegetable gardens*
- *Off-leash dog parks*

Web Survey respondents were asked a slightly different question regarding their need for facilities. These respondents were asked to select up to four facilities that were not currently meeting their needs. The results of this question can be seen in Figure V-13. The top option, *outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers* at 38%, ranked much lower (7th) in the Mail Survey but similar in terms of unmet needs. *Paved bike trails* ranked as the second most needed and *indoor exercise and fitness facilities* ranked fourth, similar to the unmet needs in the Mail Survey.

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<sup>8</sup> Provided by Leisure Vision (see Appendix C).

Figure V-11: Need for Parks and Recreations Facilities (Mail Survey)

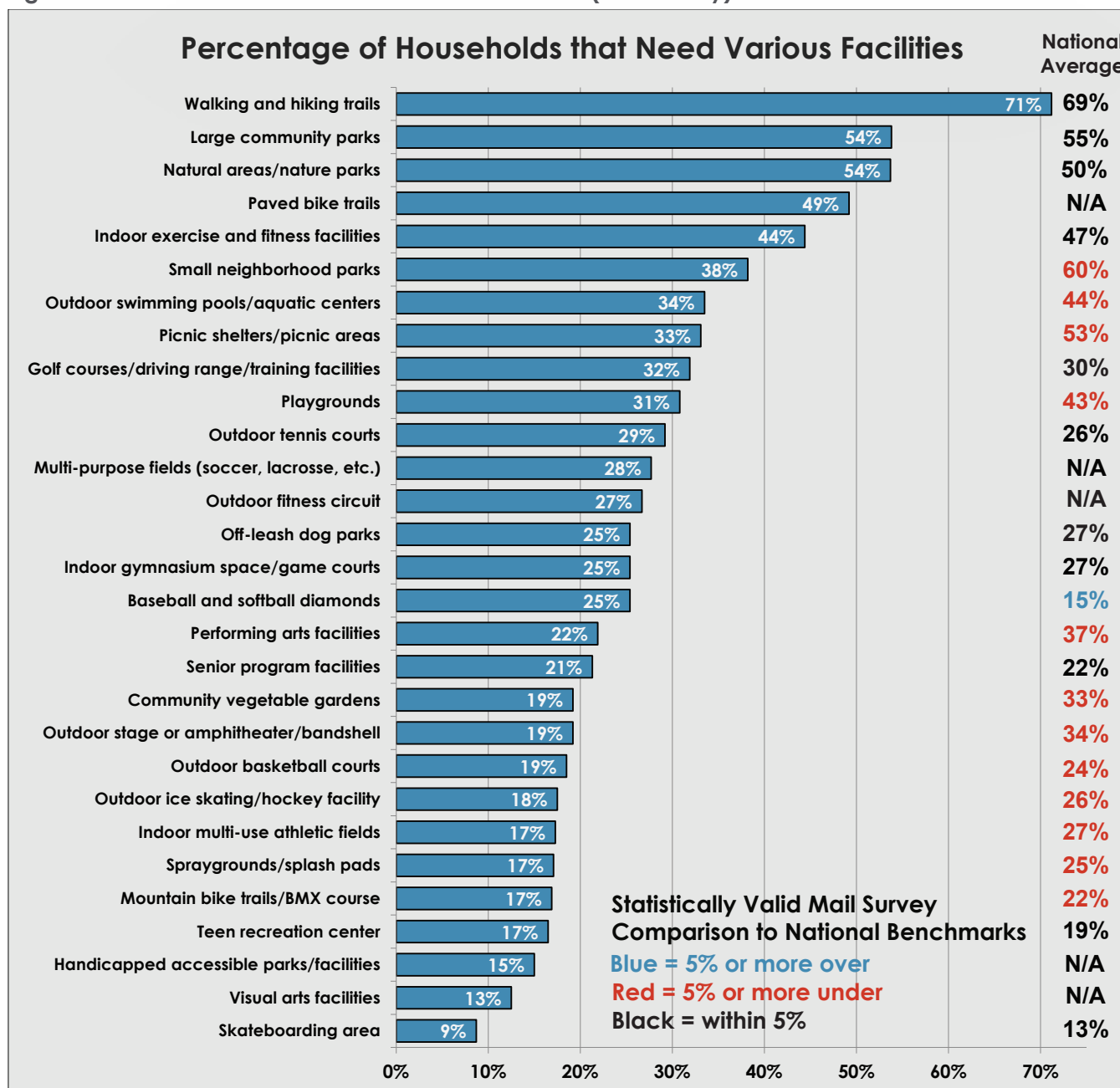




Figure V-12: Households with Facility Needs Met by 50% or Less (Mail Survey)

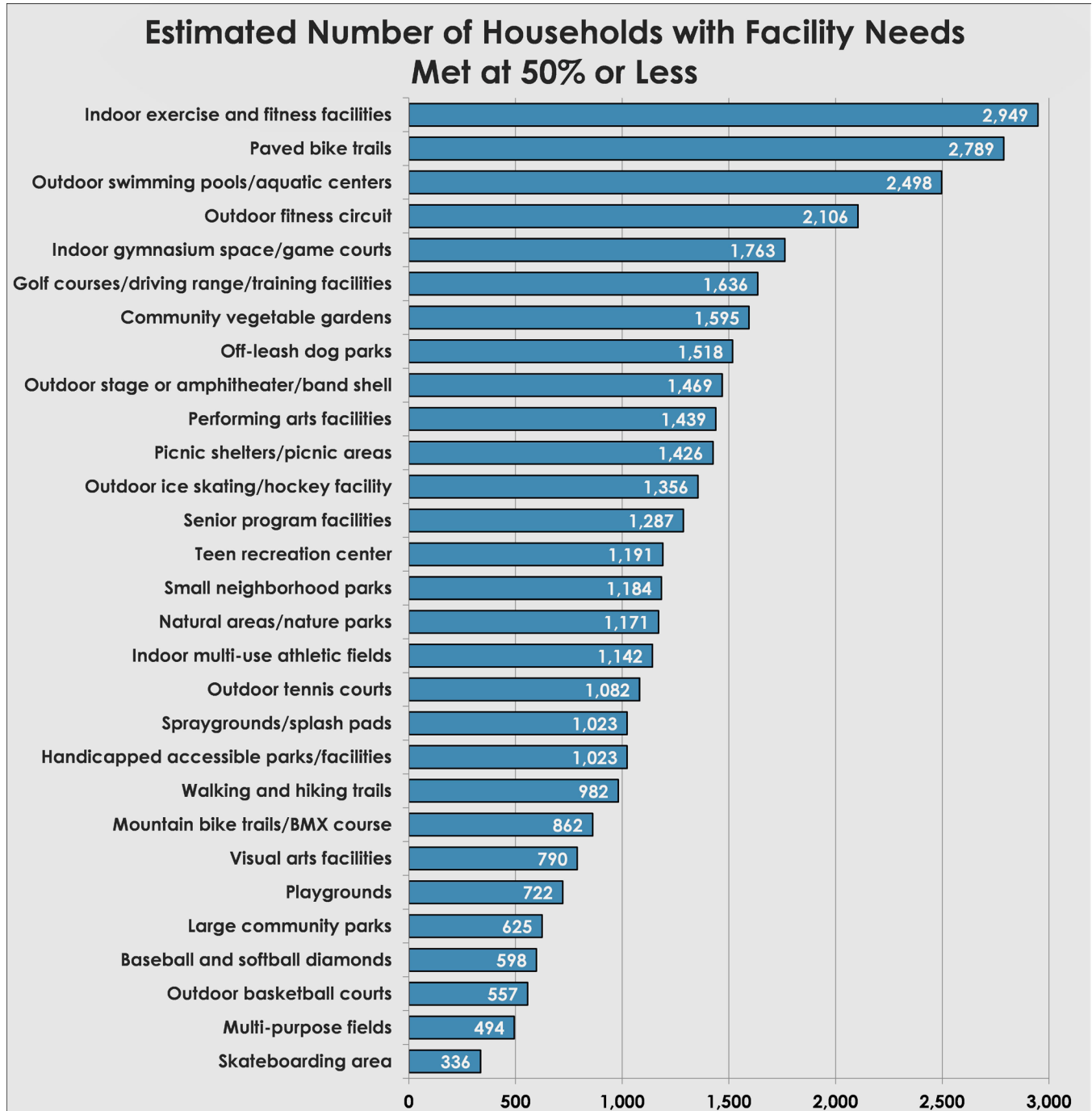
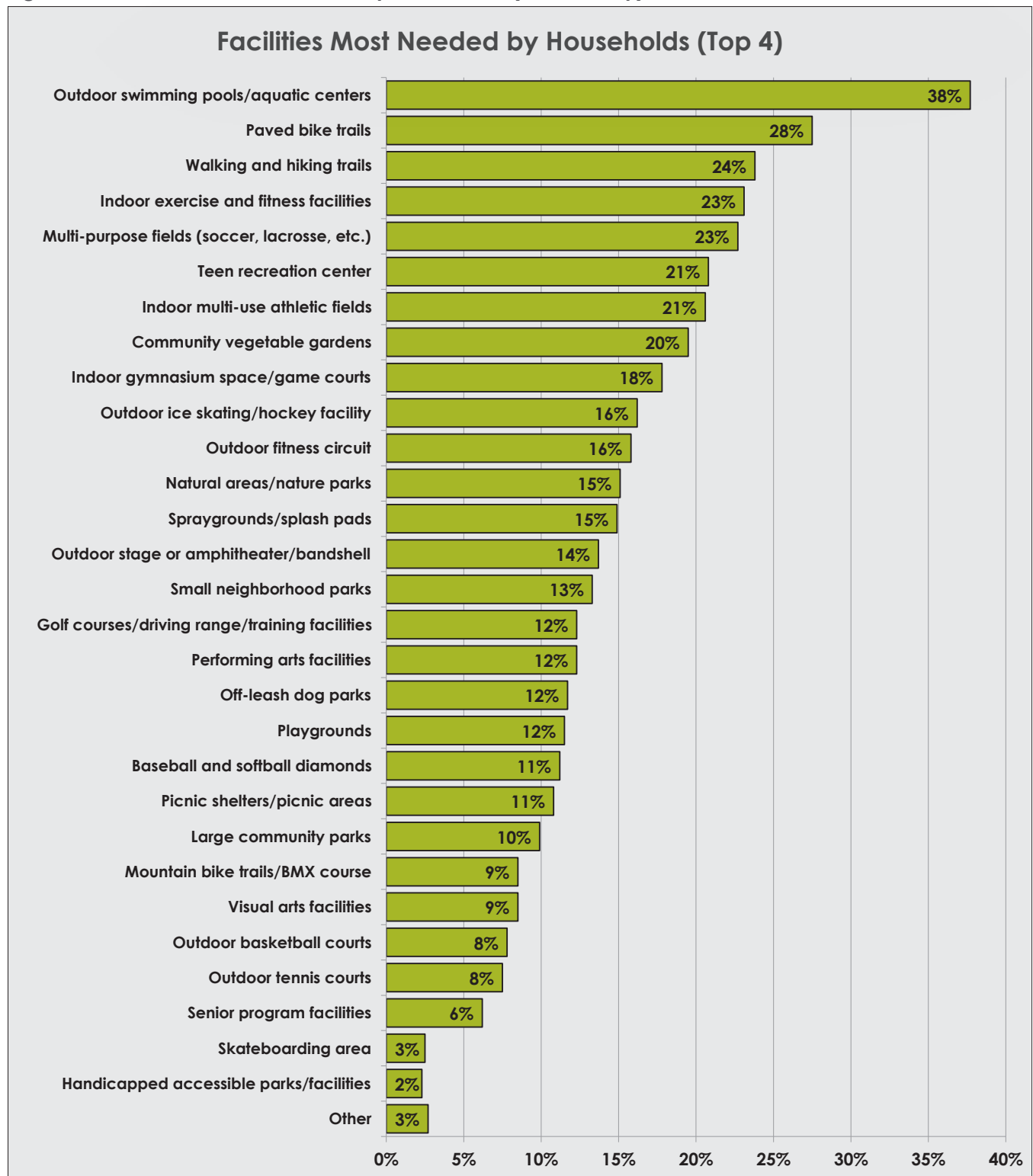


Figure V-13: Facilities Most Needed by Households (Web Survey)

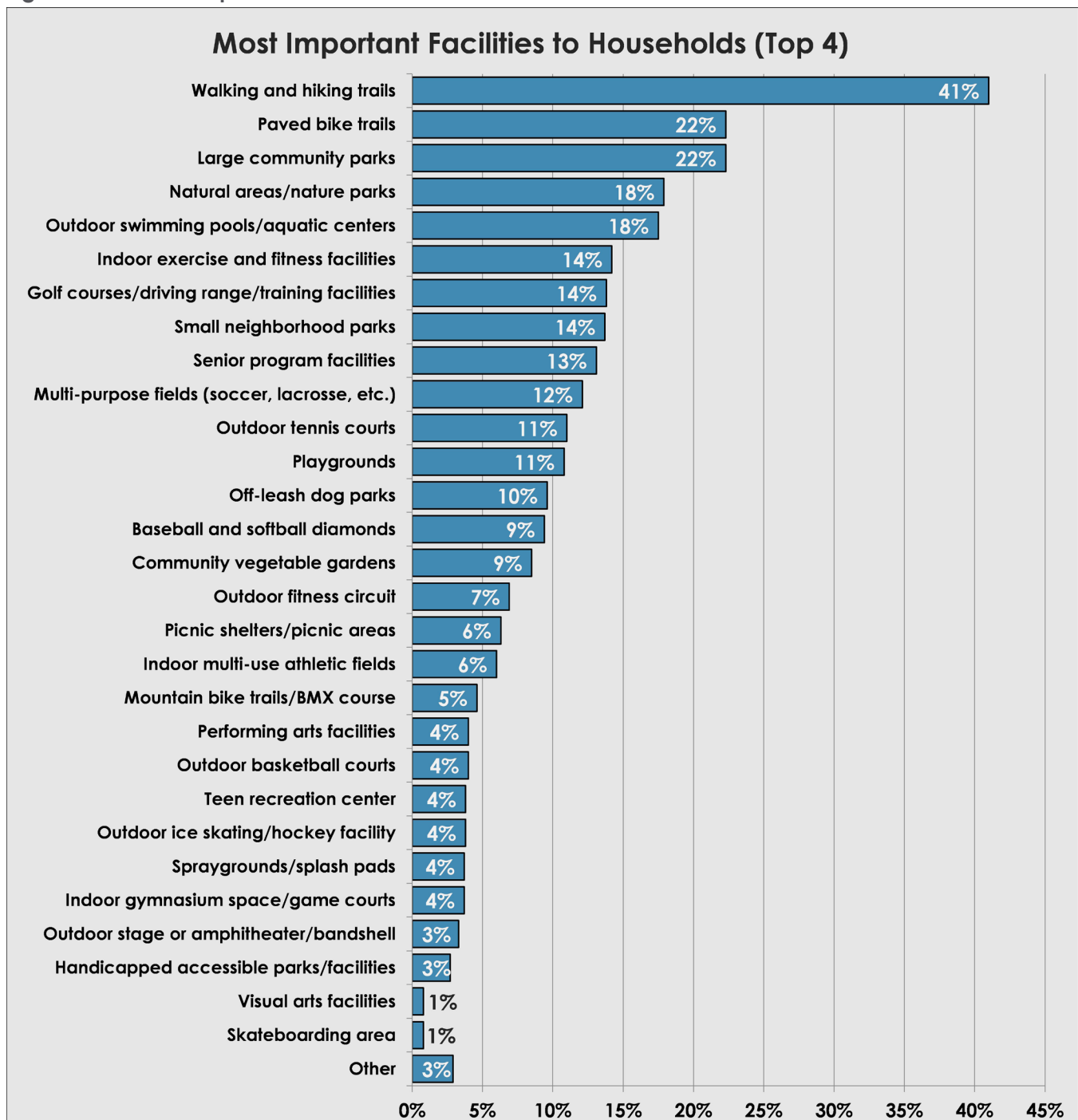


## 12. Most Important Facilities

As a follow up to the question of needed facilities, respondents of the Mail Survey were asked to select the four most important facilities to their households, in contrast to the previous question where respondents could select any or all options. Figure V-14 shows the importance of programs limited to households' top four choices.

The top four responses to this question in the Mail Survey were the same as the most needed facilities (walking and hiking trails, paved bike trails, large community parks, and natural areas/nature parks), but the order of the results varied substantially after that point. Most notably, senior program facilities ranked as the ninth most important despite ranking as the 27th most needed in Table V-13.

Figure V-14: Most Important Facilities to Households



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### 13. Need For Recreation Programs

From a list of 20 types of recreation programs, respondents were asked to indicate which programs for which they or members of their household had a need. Figure V-15 shows the results for both the Mail and Web Surveys as well as the national average for each program.<sup>9</sup> As indicated previously for facilities, the national averages are shown in red to indicate Randolph's need at 5% or more below the national number and in blue to indicate Randolph's need at 5% or more above the national number, and black indicates within 5% (above or below) the national average or that comparison numbers are not available.

According to the Mail Survey, adult fitness and wellness programs at 42% were the most needed recreation programs by Randolph residents. Concerts and 50+ programs also had high levels of need in Randolph, with over 35% of respondent households reporting a need.

Compared to the National Benchmarks, Township of Randolph responses to the Mail Survey showed a greater than average need for 50+ programs, adult learning (cultural/educational), and adult sports programs. Responses indicated a lower than average need for eight types of programs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, special events, water fitness programs and youth learn to swim programs. Survey results were within 5% or unavailable for the other categories.

The Mail Survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation programs and estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less. Figure V-16 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

The order of the items in Figure V-16 is quite similar to the list of needed programs in Figure V-15 with the exception of youth sports programs which were the fifth most needed, compared to the 17th ranked unmet need. These results are unsurprising since Randolph Township offers a wide range of youth sports programs but does not offer some of the other recreational programs listed. Over 3,000 households had unmet needs for adult fitness and wellness programs and concerts. Age 50+ programs, adult learning, nature programs, and adult sports programs were the next four highest unmet needs, all by more than 2,000 households.

The Web Survey, which asked respondents to choose their top four unmet program needs, provided some different results (Figure V-17) from the Mail Survey. The greatest unmet program need according to this survey was, similarly, adult fitness and wellness at 36% of respondents, and concerts ranked second at 31%. The most notable difference from the Mail Survey was for teen programs, which ranked third in the Web Survey, compared to ninth for unmet needs and 14th for needed programs.

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<sup>9</sup> Provided by Leisure Vision (see Appendix C).



Figure V-15: Need Recreation Programs

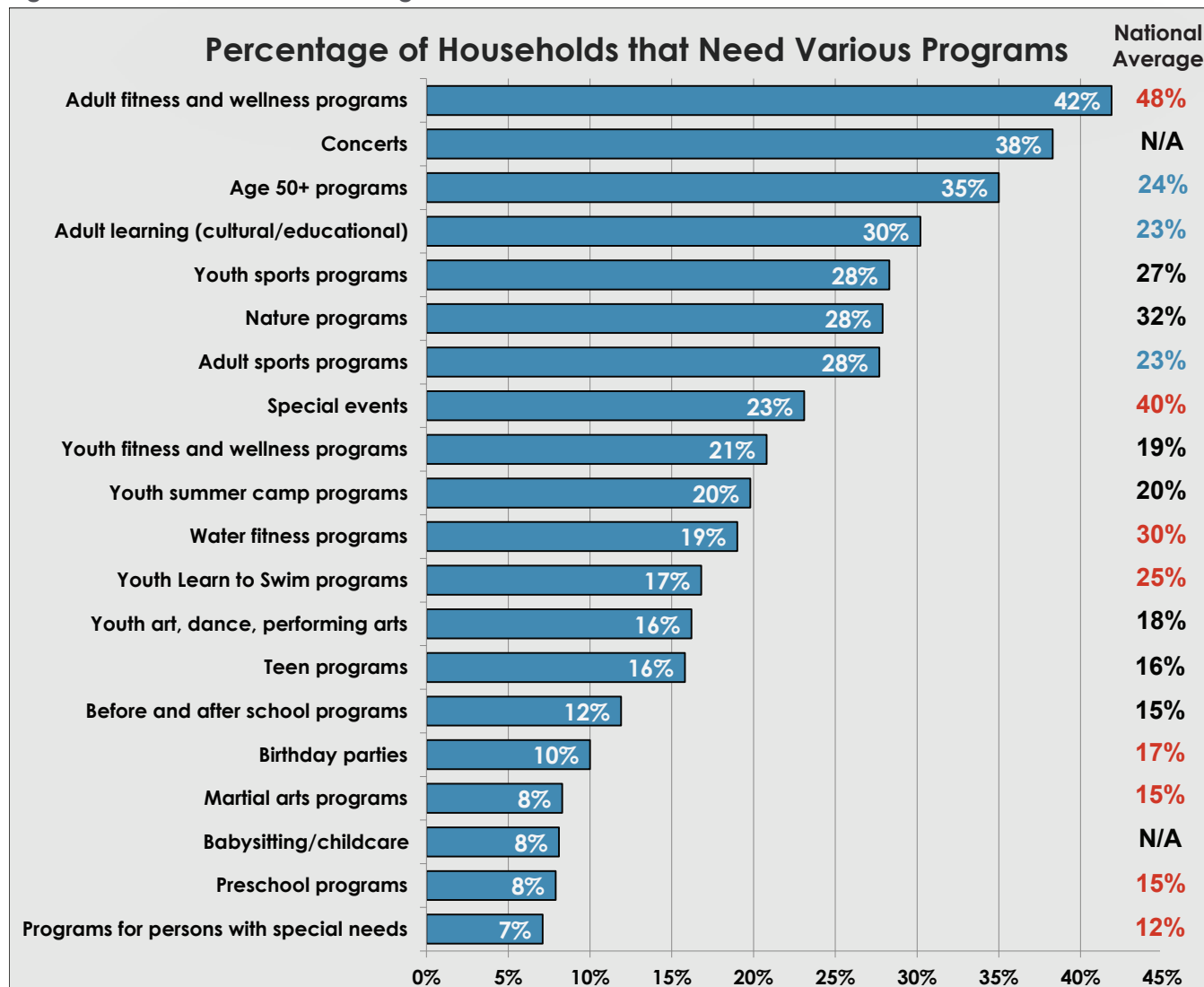


Figure V-16: Households with Program Needs Met by 50% or Less

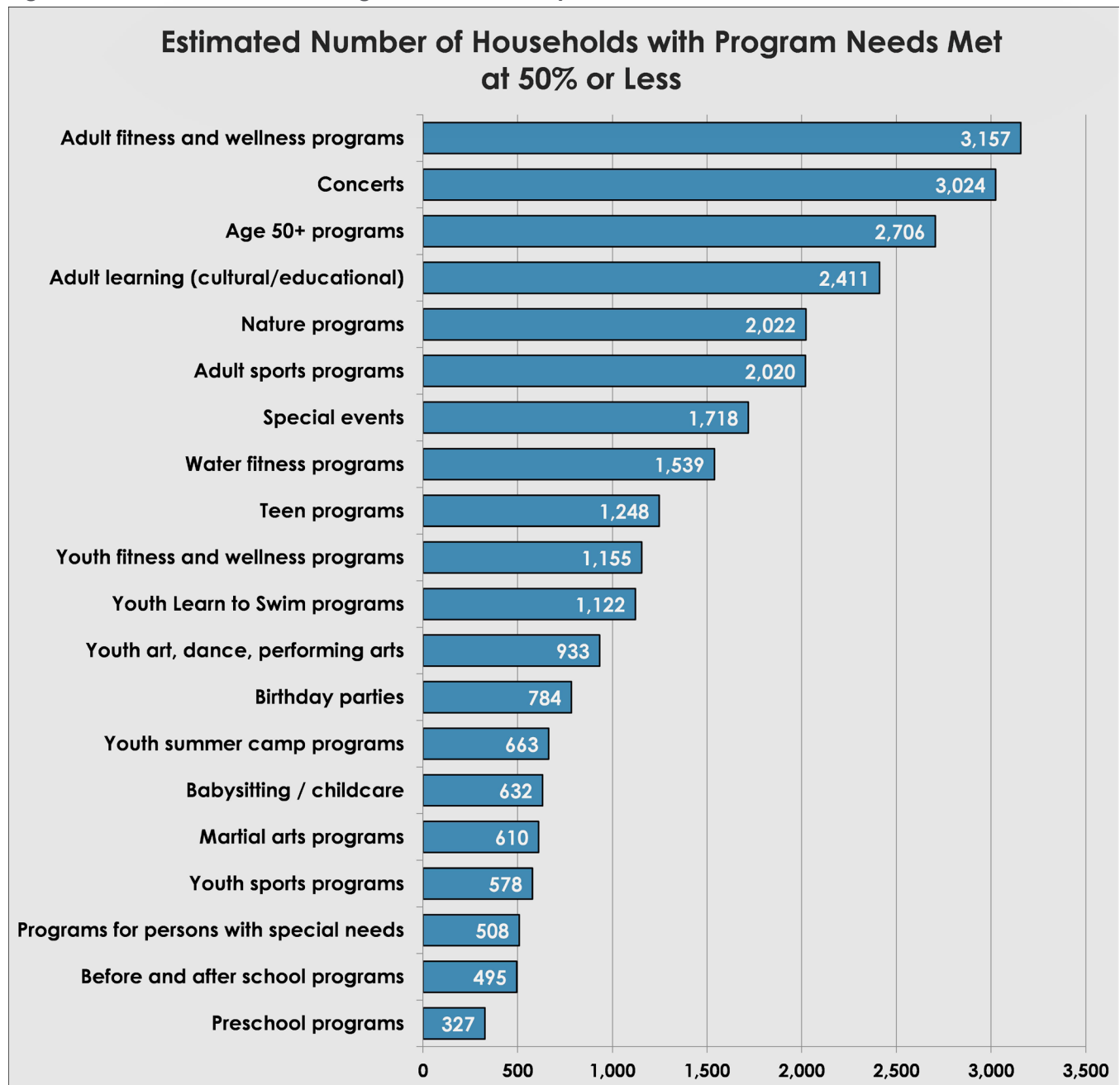
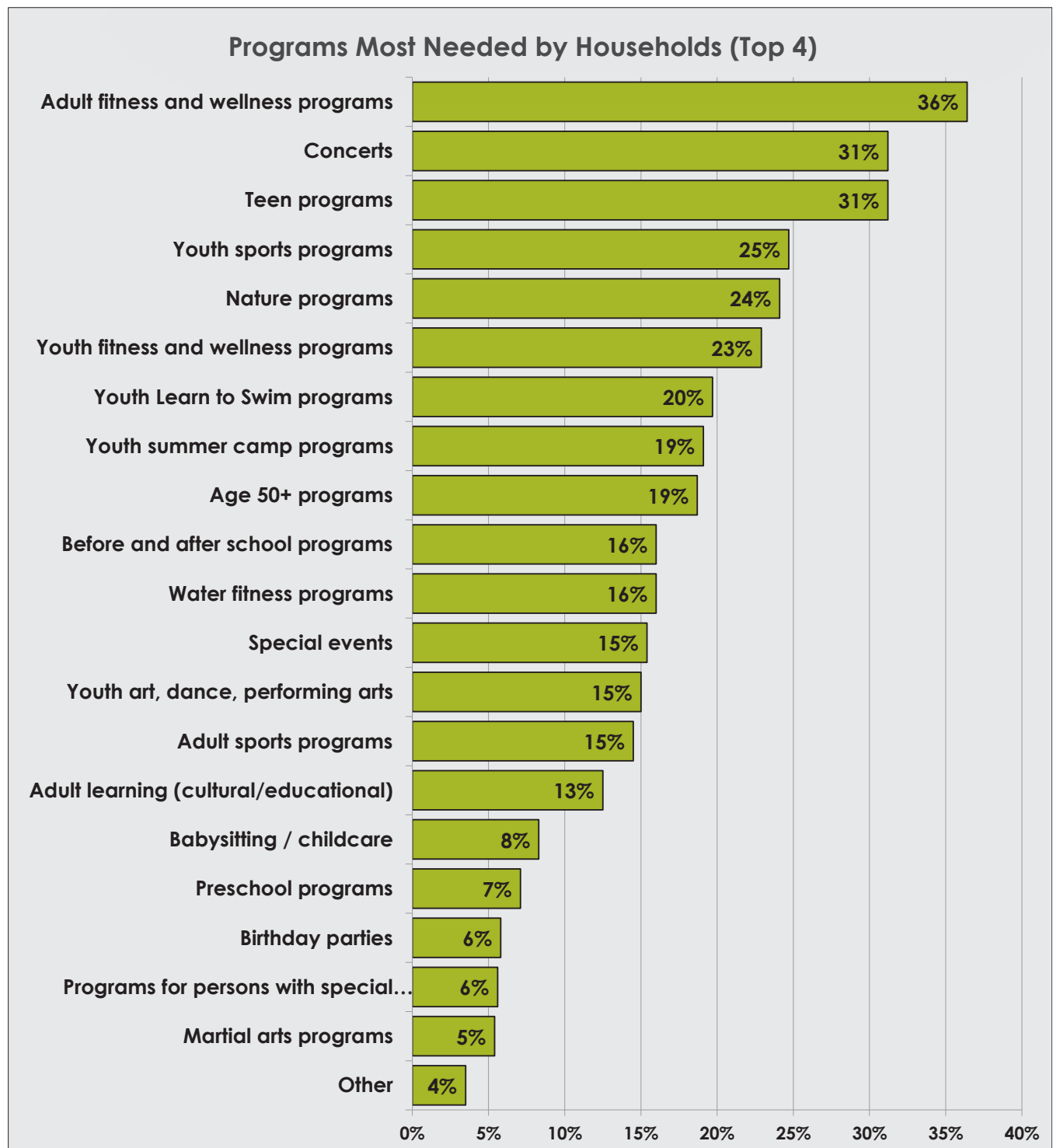


Figure V-17: Programs Most Needed by Households (Web Survey)



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## 14. Support for Park Improvements

Respondents to both surveys were asked to indicate whether they were very supportive, somewhat supportive, not supportive, or not sure to 15 actions Randolph could take to improve parks and recreation services. The results for both surveys can be seen in Figure V-19 with Mail Survey in darker shades, above the Web Survey results. The results were sorted based on the combined total of very supportive and somewhat supportive responses for the Mail Survey.

The highest level of support was given, in both surveys, to upgrade older parks and recreation facilities with 71% of Mail Survey respondents supporting this action (34% very supportive). Purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas ranked second in the Mail Survey with 66% of respondents supporting this action, including 42% very supportive, the most of any action. A majority of Mail Survey respondents were supportive (very or somewhat) of the top five options, to varying degrees, while Web Survey respondents were supportive for all but one action, expand the Brundage Park Skate Park. Web Survey respondents were much more supportive of develop an outdoor family aquatic facility at 46% very supportive, compared to 28% for the Mail Survey. Many survey respondents provided "Other" actions they would support with trail improvements appearing most frequently.

When forced to select the three most important actions (Figure V-19), purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas ranked as number one at 36%, followed by upgrade older parks and recreation facilities and develop new recreational trails and connect existing trails, both at 26%. Develop an outdoor aquatic facility ranked fourth (20%), despite ranking 11th in Figure V-18.



Figure V-18: Level of Support for Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation Services

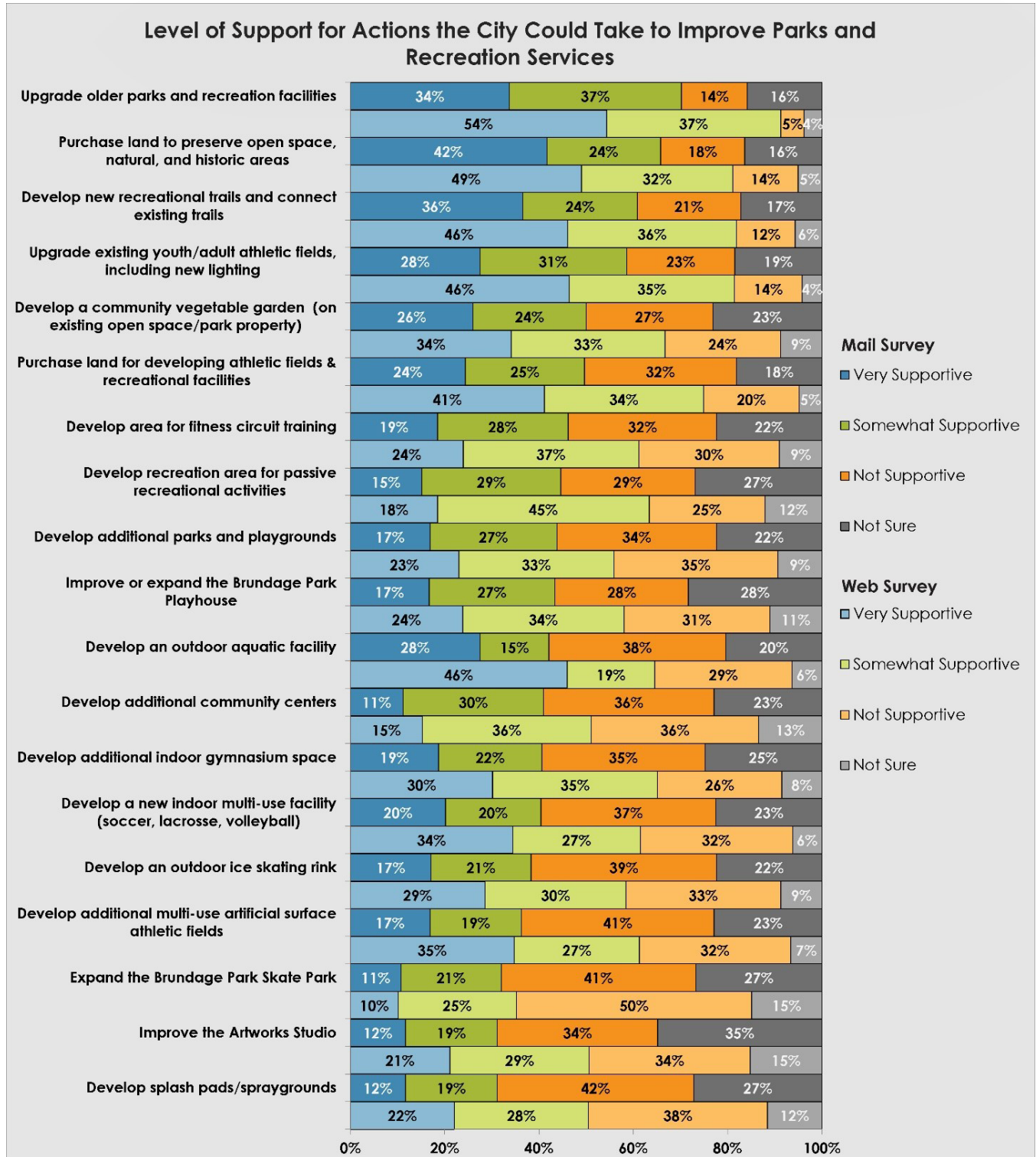
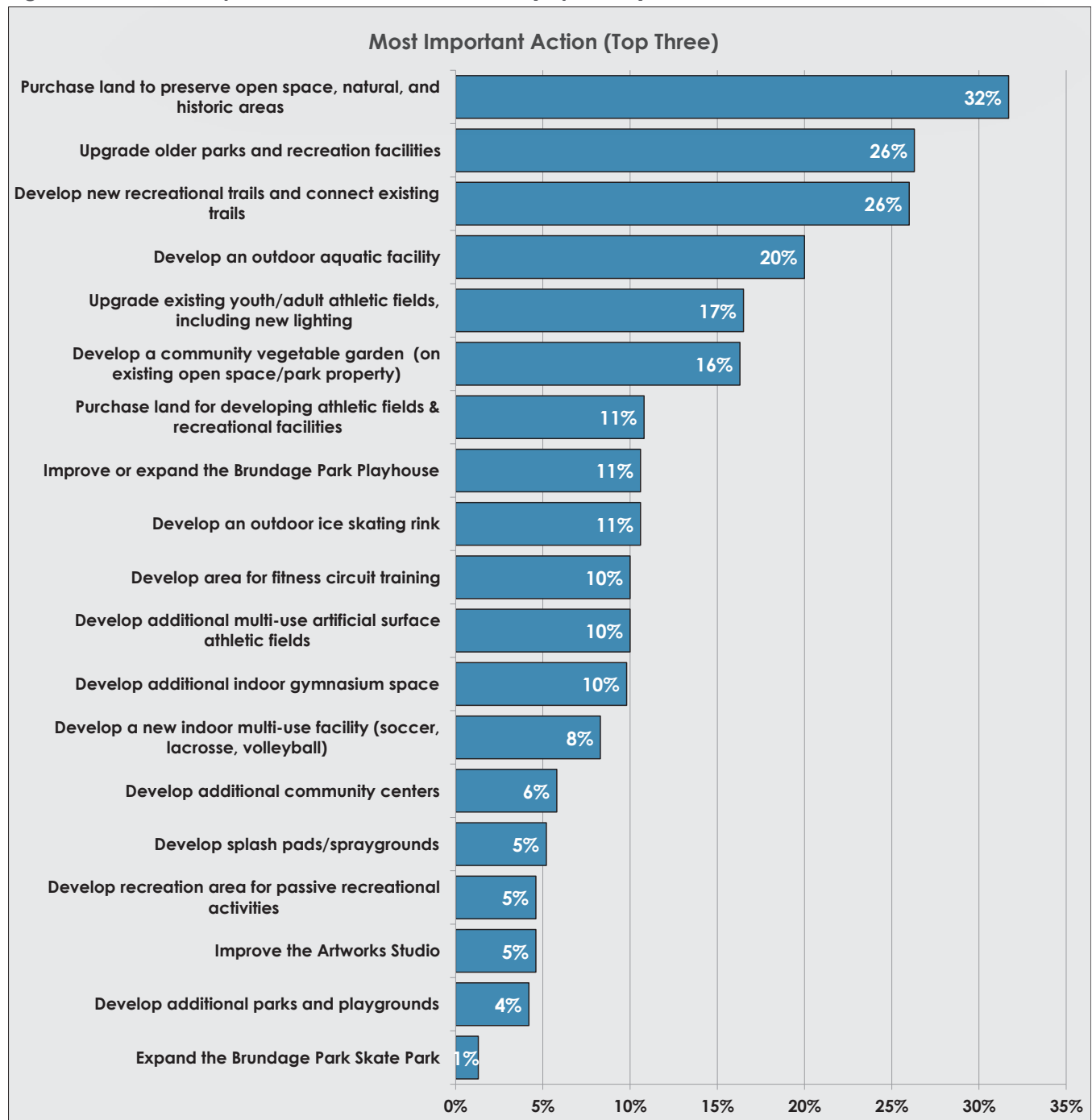


Figure V-19: Most Important Action to Households (Top Three)

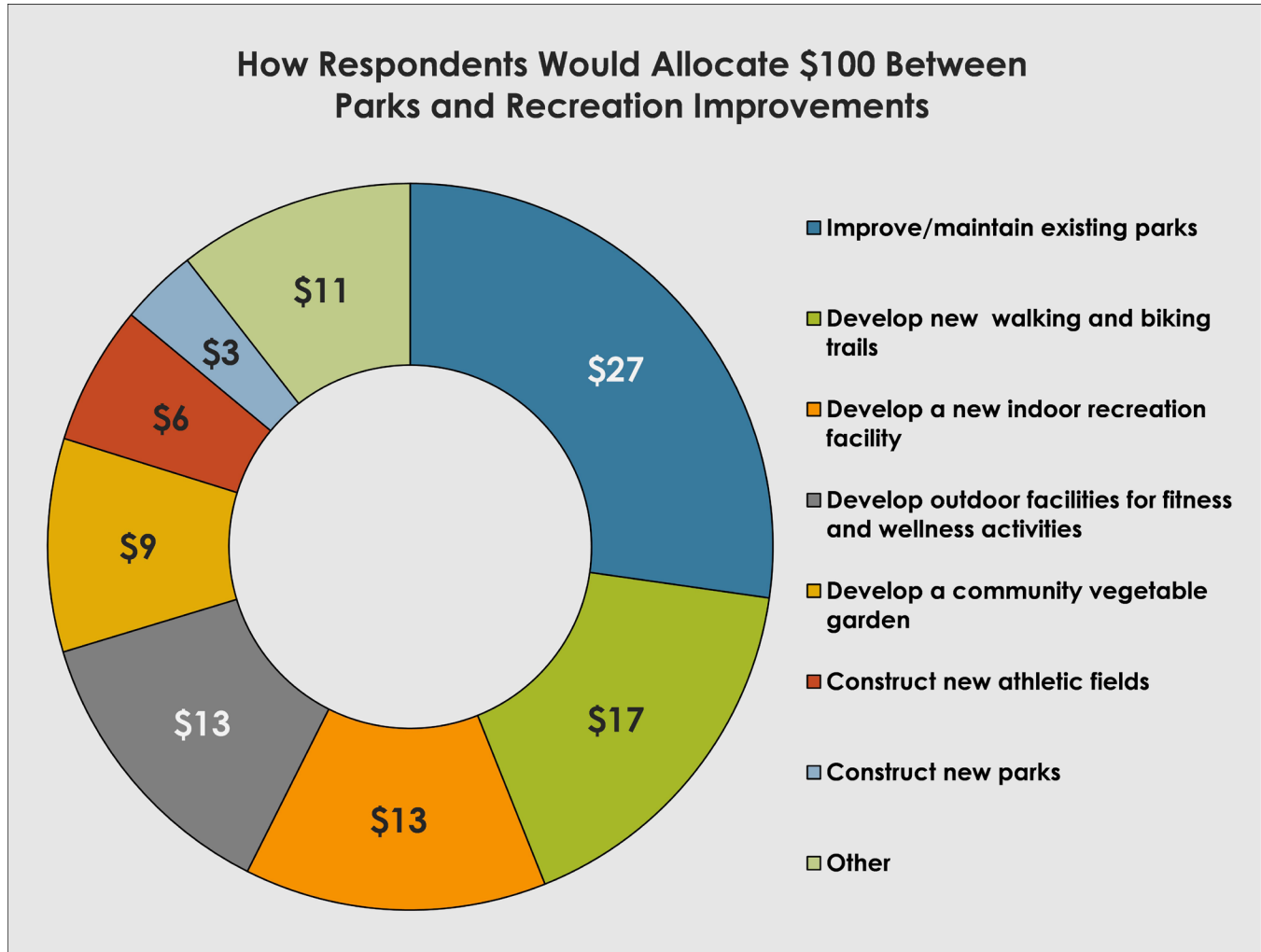


## 15. Allocation of \$100 Between Parks and Recreation Improvements

Mail Survey respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 between eight different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Randolph Township. According to these results (Figure V-20), residents would allocate \$27, the largest allotment of funds, toward improve/maintain existing parks, \$17 toward develop new walking and biking trails, and \$13 for develop new indoor recreation facility.

Develop outdoor facilities for fitness and wellness activities ranked fourth, also with \$13, and develop a community vegetable garden was fifth with \$9. An "Other" allocation was also included as an option, and the most frequent allocation was for a pool. Overall, the results were consistent with previous findings showing a preference for existing facilities and trails.

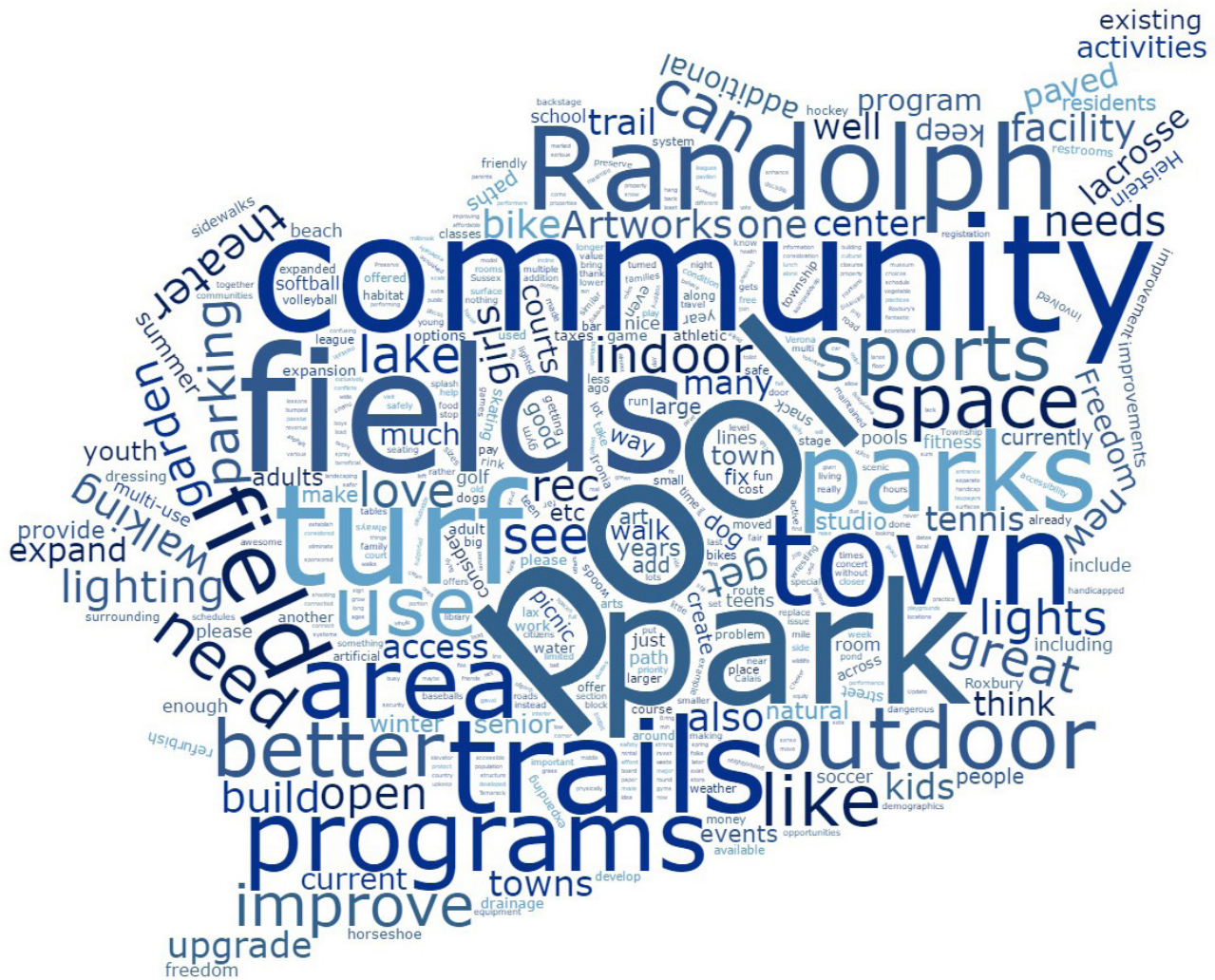
**Figure V-20: \$100 Allocation for Park Improvements**



## 16. Other Suggestions for Randolph to Consider (Web Survey)

The final question in the Web Survey was an open ended question that allowed respondents to make recommendations for the Township of Randolph to consider for parks and recreation. One way of looking at these open-ended comments is to use a word cloud to visually represent the occurrences of individual words in the comments. The results, which can be seen in Figure IV-21, show the most common words in these comments. From this figure, the most prominent ideas are related to a pool, fields, and community, although turf and trails are also prominent.

**Figure V-21: Word Cloud of Open-Ended Comments**



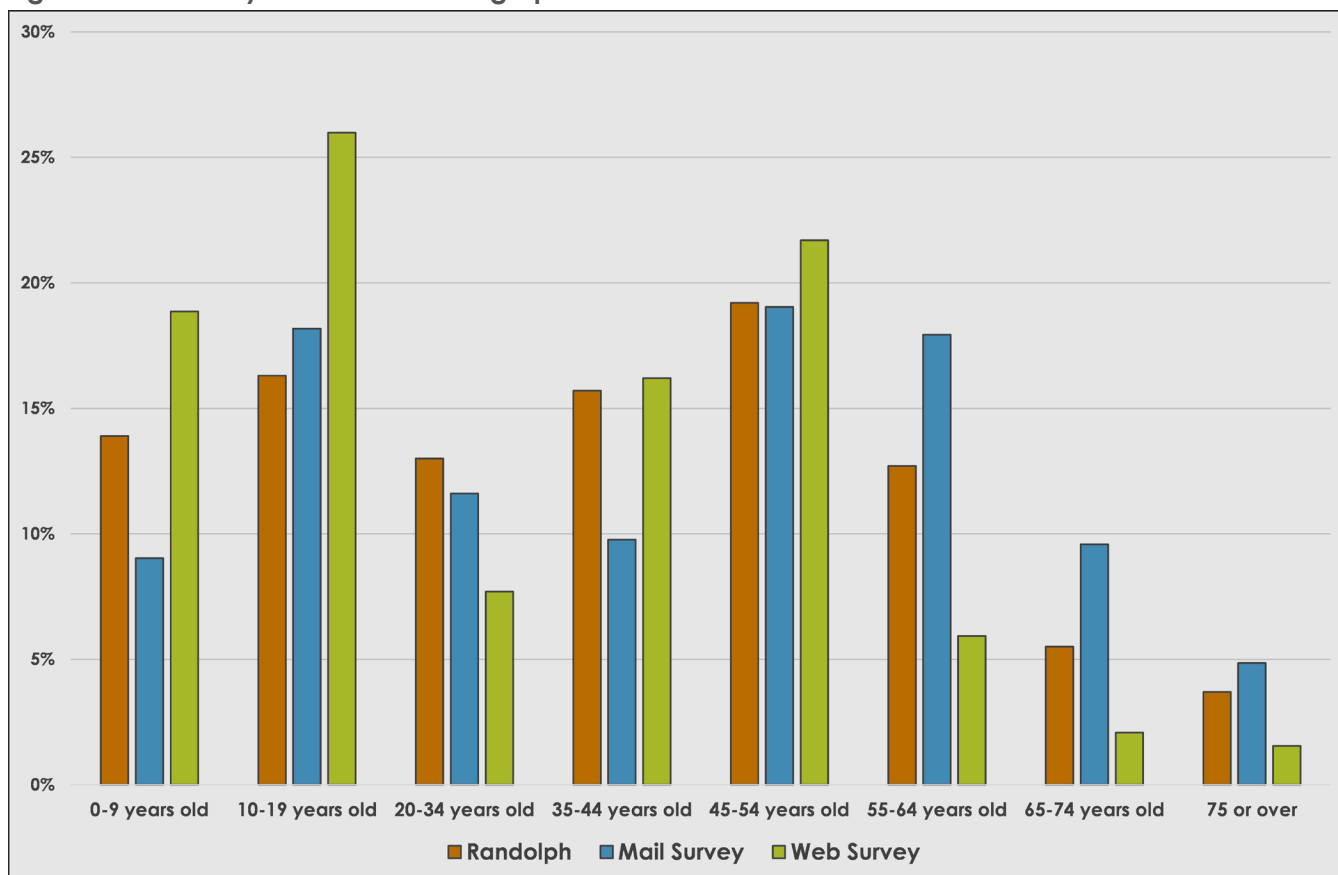


## 17. Survey Household Demographics

In an effort to compare the demographic representation of the survey responses with that of the population of Randolph Township, the distribution of age groups of respondent households was compared to the most recent population estimates.<sup>10</sup> Figure V-22 shows the representation by age group of survey respondent households as well as the Randolph population of each group.

Based on this comparison, the respondents of the Mail Survey fairly closely aligned with the age demographics of the Randolph population. The Web Survey had an overrepresentation of the younger age ranges (other than 20-34) and an underrepresentation of resident 45 and older. The Mail Survey had an overrepresentation of respondents 55 years old and older.

**Figure V-22: Survey Household Demographics**



<sup>10</sup> 2010-2014 ACS 5-year estimates

## BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PARKS WEB-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to engage all Township residents, the Township utilized an online civic engagement tool, powered by Mindmixer, that enabled residents to provide input regardless of their location or the time of day and in more than 75 languages. The site, Building Community Through Parks, was designed explicitly for Randolph Township and provided a forum for residents to submit ideas and recommendations, react to potential solutions, provide input on priorities, engage in conversation with Township leaders and others, and stay up-to-date on the planning process. The website was managed and updated by the planning consultants and staff.

Two different types of topics were posted on this website: Instant Polls and Idea Submissions. Instant Poll results are presented in charts, while Idea Submissions are presented in table form. The results for Idea Submission question are measured in points. These points are determined by website user ratings of each response: "I Love It!" (3 points), "I Like It" (2 points), and "It's Okay" (1 point). Additionally, duplicate ideas (and their points) are combined, and submissions with multiple ideas and separated and listed individually. Comments and Ideas with no points are assigned one point and added to the totals accordingly.

### Visioning Randolph Parks and Recreation

When asked to envision the future of parks and recreation in Randolph Township, respondents provided the ideas presented in Table V-3 below. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of "points" received for a particular item. The ideas receiving more than three points are included in the table. The most preferred idea for envisioning the future of parks in Randolph was the expansion of trail system connections with 44 points. The second highest ranked idea (32 points) was a town pool. The addition of artificial turf fields, with lining for girls' lacrosse, ranked third.

**Table V-3: Visioning Ideas**

Idea	Points
Trail system connections (parks, open space, schools, town center, open space)	44
Town pool	32
Artificial turf (include girls lacrosse)	31
Outdoor ice rink	15
Town center (shops, restaurants, outdoor seating)	13
Upgrade Brundage Playhouse	13
Improve existing fields (better drainage, etc.)	10
Concert/community event space	9
Improve Artworks Studio (including kiln, furniture, Wi-Fi)	9
Improved program/event scheduling/communication	9
Lighted bike trails	6
Better trail signage	6
Activities for all ages	6
More small sided soccer fields	5
Indoor soccer/lacrosse facility	5
More bike lanes	4
Replace/renovate community theater	3
Improve restrooms	3
Outdoor fitness equipment	3
Scenic bike trails	3
Permaculture	3
Tennis courts	3
Fenced playground	3
More open space	3

## Making One Change

Website visitors were asked to comment or “vote” on “If you had a magic wand, what one change would you make to improve Randolph Parks and Recreation?” The responses are displayed in Table V-4. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of “points” received for a particular item. The “One Change” idea with the most support was to develop an “outdoor swimming pool” with 12 points. The idea receiving the second most points (9) was for the Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department upgrade the Brundage Playhouse.

**Table V-4: Making One Change Ideas**

Idea	Points
Outdoor swimming pool	12
Upgrade Brundage Playhouse	9
Improve field drainage	5
Artificial turf (including girls lacrosse)	5
Lighted trails	3
Improve Artworks Studio (add ceramics, Wi-Fi)	3
Permaculture	3
Improve communication	3

## Focus of the Master Plan

Website visitors were asked to comment or “vote” on “Where should the Township focus its efforts to improve parks and recreation services?” The responses are displayed in Table V-5. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of “points” received for a particular item. The ideas that received three or more votes are listed below. The highest rated idea was for Randolph to offer “activities for all ages,” followed by “improve Brundage Playhouse,” and adding more “artificial turf fields.”

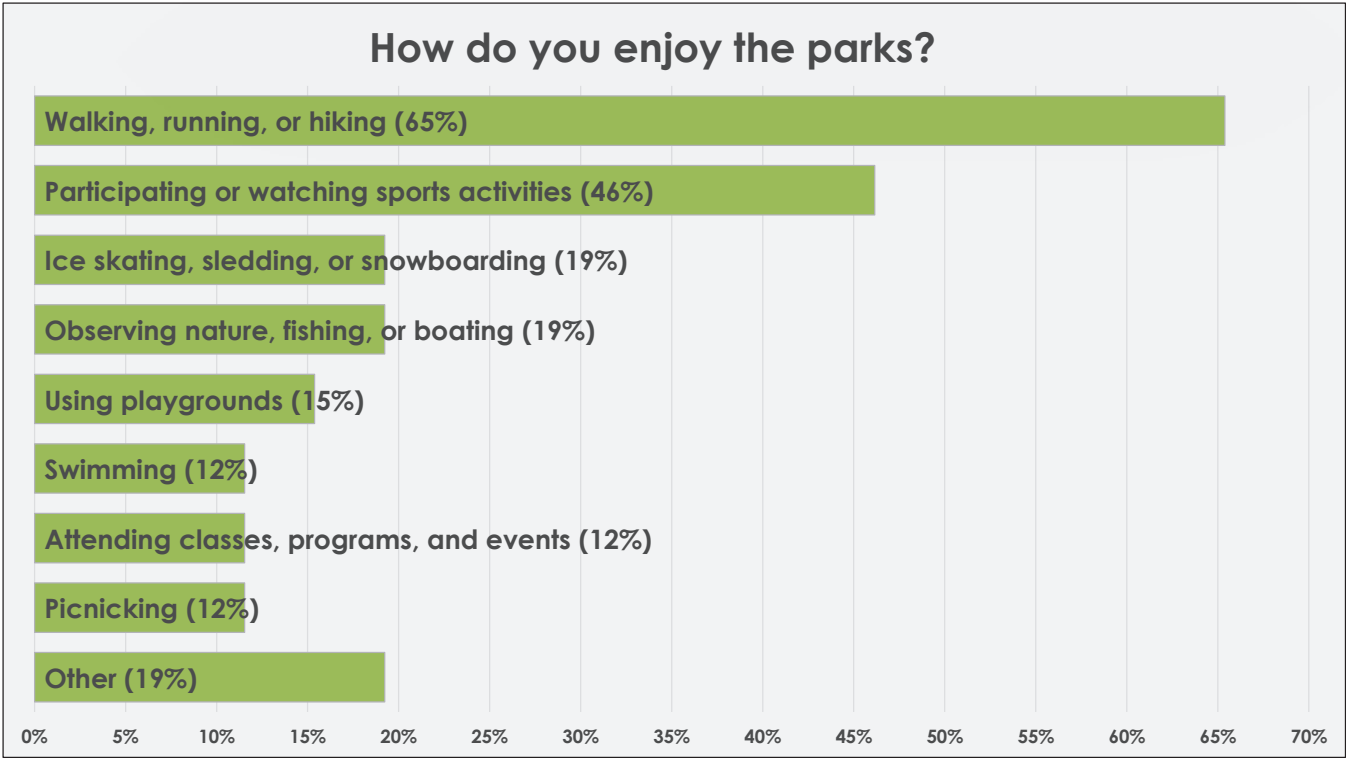
**Table V-5: Focus of the Master Plan**

Idea	Points
Activities for all ages	6
Improve Brundage Playhouse	4
Artificial turf fields	4
Sports schedules before sign-up	3
Bike lanes	3
Wayfinding/bulletin boards	3
Paved multi-use trails	3
Tennis courts	3
Fenced playground	3
More open space	3
Town center	3
Connect parks using trails	3

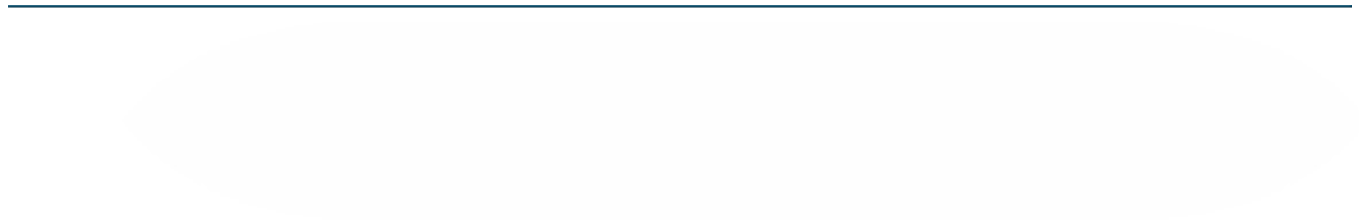
## Favorite Park Activities

The figure below shows the responses or “votes” received in response to the question, “How do you enjoy our parks?” The total number of votes for this question was 26. Users could select all of the activity in which they participated. Figure V-23 shows the results of this Instant Poll. The option with the most votes was “Walking, running, or hiking,” with 65% reporting participating in these activities at the parks. “Participating or watching sports activities” ranked second at 46%.

Figure V-23: Park Activities







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## VI. STRATEGIC PLAN, GOALS, AND OBSERVATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

*Building Community Through Parks* represents the collective vision for parks, recreation, and trails for Randolph Township. This cohesive vision for continually improving parks and recreation opportunities represents a culmination of the engagement process. The vision (with guiding principles) and the mission statement outlined below will guide implementation of this Master Plan and the future of parks, recreation, and trails in Randolph Township. The vision and mission statement lead directly to a series of goals and objectives to help realize this vision. Finally, a series of observations and potential solutions are described as possible ways to achieve these goals.

### VISION STATEMENT

The vision for Randolph Township is to provide a wide range of park and recreational services that are fun, connected, and accessible for all residents and visitors. These services will promote community enrichment through the provision of excellent facilities and programs that are equitable and accessible to all residents. Services and facilities will be further enhanced through a focus on sustainability (environmental and financial) and cooperation.

### Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide and direct priorities, actions, and investments. These principles will help the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department work in concert with other Township departments and other potential partners to ensure that Randolph accomplishes its vision and maintains the qualities that make it such a desirable place to live and visit. Residents and visitors will encounter the following characteristics in Randolph Township facilities, programs, and interactions with staff.

#### 1. Fun: Excitement and Community Enrichment through Parks and Programs

Randolph Township will explore a wide variety of opportunities for fun and excitement at parks. To facilitate these opportunities, Randolph parks will provide an inclusive environment for social activities, relaxation, and entertainment for families and individuals of all ages. These trendsetting parks and recreational facilities will be utilized to enrich the community through a variety of athletic, educational, and cultural arts programs. Criteria for determining improvements will focus on the value added to the community as a result of the development.

#### 2. Compatibility: Flexibility, Adaptability, and Sustainability of the Park System

Parks and Recreation in Randolph Township will be adaptable to trends through an emphasis on durable multi-purpose facilities. Facilities will be compatible with a wide variety of programs with design that is well planned and engineered. These quality facilities will promote sustainability, both economically through cost-effective development decisions that consider revenue opportunities, and environmentally through protracted use.

This flexibility will extend to nature as efforts will be made to ensure development is non-disruptive to the environment through the preservation of open space and the use of green (or eco-friendly) materials and practices. Efforts will be made to ensure that adjacent uses are complementary. Facilities and programs will be encouraged to utilize the character of the natural environment for educational and passive uses as well as wildlife management.

#### 3. Connectivity: Building Community Connections

Randolph Township will facilitate connectivity of the community through parks and programs, helping to inspire pride and community identity through shared experiences. Parks will provide venues for members of the community to gather and connect with nature and each other socially through events as well as daily usage. These connections will help to further enrich the community by encouraging interaction between users of all ages and providing motivation for healthy activities. Trails will be utilized to provide opportunities for health and fitness and to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places. The Township will connect residents through the programming of events which will be publicized electronically and accessible online.

#### 4. Accessibility: Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Park Services

Accessibility in Randolph will encompass considerations of geographic location (both of parks and of facilities within parks), the availability of (and access to) facilities and programs for those with

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disabilities, and the provision of facilities that meet the needs of a diverse population, including users of all ages. As part of this effort, Randolph Township will provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to enrich the lives of community members with consideration to the opportunities provided by (and the sensitivity of) the local climate, ensuring continued access for future users.

#### **5. Cooperation: Expansion of Facility and Program Offerings through Partnerships**

Randolph Township will pursue partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors to the community. Potential partners for both capital improvements and operations will include: schools, business groups, non-profits, land trusts, the Morris County Park Commission, the State of New Jersey, community service groups, clubs, the YMCA, private recreation providers, and more. These efforts will extend to improving awareness of all activities in Randolph, including those offered by these other agencies or organizations, through strategies such as cross promotion of events and programs.

#### **6. Excellence: Exemplary Facilities, Programs, and Services that Ensure Safety of Users**

Randolph Township will strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation. High standards will be expected for facilities, programs, and services. These expectations will extend to staff, coaches, and volunteers and will require ongoing training. This excellence will allow Randolph to serve as a model for parks and recreation delivery.

Furthermore, Randolph parks will ensure a safe environment through proactive maintenance of its high quality facilities and regulatory compliance. Parks will have adequate lighting and will be equipped with necessary emergency equipment in order to maintain adequate security. Parks and facilities will have sufficient supervision to assure safety of users and security of facilities.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The existing mission statement of Randolph Township is provided below, followed by the existing Parks and Recreation mission statement with operating philosophy which was developed by the Randolph Recreation Committee in 2002. This existing mission statement is used internally and does not appear on the Township website. The description of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department from the Township website is included in the ensuing text as well. The proposed new mission statement for Parks and Recreation follows this collection of existing statements.

#### **Current Township Mission Statement**

*The Randolph Township municipal organization strives to make the Township of Randolph the best it can be by providing effective governance, enhanced customer services and excellent community facilities.*

#### **Existing Parks and Recreation Mission Statement and Operating Philosophy (2002)**

##### **Mission Statement:**

*Provide diverse leisure services and facilities that will enhance the quality of life of our residents. Recognized elements necessary include cultural, athletic and educational pursuits provided in a safe equitable fashion.*

##### **Operating Philosophy:**

*The general philosophy of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is to provide recreation and leisure pursuits for all ages to meet the needs of the community. Broad participation is the main goal and purpose for all programs. If we offer a well-organized and balanced program we will be successful. Each program should strive to be the best program it can possibly be without compromising other programs and activities in achieving that goal.*

#### **Department Description (From Township Website)**

*The Randolph Township Department of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to enhancing the quality of family life, the feeling of neighborliness and the sense of community throughout the township for a diverse and growing population.*

#### **New Proposed Mission Statement (for Parks and Recreation)**

*The mission of Randolph Parks and Recreation is to build community and enrich lives through the provision of recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities that encourage residents to enjoy life and have fun.*

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## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Six goals represent areas of strategic priority for action over the next five to ten years. Objectives further describe specific areas of emphasis for each goal area, to which Randolph Township will invest time, energy, and resources over this time period. Strategies represent the concrete, specific actions the Township will take to accomplish each of these objectives. These actions follow directly from the vision, in accordance with the mission statement of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, and represent a culmination of all previous steps of the master planning process.

The following section outlines the six goals and 26 objectives included in *Building Community Through Parks*. A detailed, consolidated table of these goals and objectives plus 149 strategies with corresponding timelines, funding sources, and responsible parties is located in Section IX, Action Plan.

### Goal 1: Promote Fun, Excitement, and Community Enrichment through Parks and Programs

Strategically plan short- and long-term investments in parks, facilities, and programs that promote the enrichment of the community.

Objectives:

- 1.1. Explore a wide variety of opportunities for fun and excitement at parks.
- 1.2. Provide an inclusive environment for social activities, relaxation, and entertainment for families and individuals of all ages.
- 1.3. Utilize trendsetting parks and recreational facilities to enrich the community through a variety of athletic, educational, and cultural arts programs.
- 1.4. Focus on the value added to the community as a result of any proposed development.

### Goal 2: Maintain Compatibility, Flexibility, Adaptability, and Sustainability of the Park System

Place emphasis on multi-purpose facilities that are durable with consideration to the suitability and characteristics of the chosen location.

Objectives:

- 2.1. Ensure that facilities are compatible with a wide variety of programs and adaptable to future needs.
- 2.2. Promote financial sustainability through cost-effective development decisions that consider revenue opportunities.
- 2.3. Ensure development is environmentally sustainable and non-disruptive to the environment through the preservation of open space, the use of green (or eco-friendly) materials and practices, and by ensuring development is suitable for protracted use.
- 2.4. Ensure that adjacent uses are complementary.
- 2.5. Utilize the natural environment for educational and passive uses as well as wildlife management.

### Goal 3: Utilize Connectivity to Build Community and Improve Health

Improve connectivity to promote community interaction, health, and awareness of opportunities for parks, trails, programs, and events.

Objectives:

- 3.1. Facilitate community connectivity with parks and programs to inspire pride and community identity through shared experiences.
- 3.2. Provide venues for the community to gather and connect with each other, and with nature, through both events and daily usage.
- 3.3. Further enrich the community by encouraging interaction between users of all ages and by providing motivation for healthy activities.
- 3.4. Utilize trails to provide opportunities for health and fitness and to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places.
- 3.5. Encourage community connectivity by increasing awareness of available parks, programs, and events (existing and new as available) through online publication, promotion, and registration.

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#### **Goal 4: Ensure Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Park Services**

Strive to ensure accessibility of park facilities and programs to provide equitable access for all present and the future users.

Objectives:

- 4.1. Ensure accessibility in terms of the geographic location of parks as well as the location of individual facilities within parks.
- 4.2. Provide facilities and programs to meet the needs of a diverse population, including users of all ages and those with disabilities.
- 4.3. Provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to enrich the lives of community members.
- 4.4. Consider the opportunities provided by (and the sensitivity of) the local climate to ensure continued access for future users.

#### **Goal 5: Explore Opportunities for Cooperation to Expand Facility and Program Offerings**

Collaborate with local organizations, including school districts, business groups, non-profits, land trusts, the Morris County Park Commission, the State of New Jersey, community service groups, clubs, the YMCA, private recreation providers, and more to increase the availability of opportunities for parks and recreation.

Objectives:

- 5.1. Pursue partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors to the community.
- 5.2. Consider partnerships for operations of those improvements to reduce ongoing costs to Randolph Township residents.
- 5.3. Improve awareness of all activities in Randolph, including those offered by other agencies or organizations.

#### **Goal 6: Maintain Exemplary Facilities, Programs, and Services that Ensure the Safety of Users**

Strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation with an emphasis on safety and security to meet and encourage high standards for facilities, programs, and services.

Objectives:

- 6.1. Ensure continued excellence and a safe environment through proactive maintenance and regulatory compliance to inspire and uphold community confidence in the excellence of the parks system.
- 6.2. Utilize ongoing training to ensure highly proficient and passionate staff, coaches, and volunteers, consistent with the community expectation of excellence for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.
- 6.3. Encourage volunteerism to help build community interest and to ensure the continuation of quality parks and programs.
- 6.4. Instill and maintain a perception of safety and security through design that is well planned and engineered and by ensuring sufficient supervision at parks and facilities.
- 6.5. Set a standard for excellence and serve as a model for parks and recreation service delivery.

#### **OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSES, AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

The following are a series of observations, findings, and information gained from the focus groups, workshops and surveys, along with the Consultant's analyses. Throughout the planning process, potential solutions were identified which will later become the recommendations after discussions with the Steering Committee and Township staff.

#### **Existing Park Improvements**

##### **1. Observations and Analysis**

- The highest level of support was given, in both surveys, to upgrading older parks and recreation facilities with 71% of Mail Survey respondents supporting this action (91% of Web Survey respondents). Similarly, upgrading older parks and recreation facilities ranked as the second most important action for Randolph to pursue in the Mail Survey.



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- According to the Mail Survey, 87% of Randolph residents visited parks in the Township over the past year, and of those residents, half of those visited over 20 times.
  - The most visited park, Freedom Park, was visited by over 70% of Randolph residents. The second most visited park, Brundage Park, was visited by over 60% of residents. The other parks were used at substantially lower rates, likely due to a combination of more limited facilities and park locations.
  - According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate \$27 (of \$100), the largest allotment of funds, toward improvements/maintenance of existing parks.
  - The improvement or addition of restrooms was the number one potential improvement to existing parks at 35% of respondents, according to the Mail Survey.
  - The addition of drinking fountains at existing parks also received strong support (second highest rated potential improvement in the Mail Survey). Many Randolph Parks currently provide insufficient access to drinking fountains.
  - Community garden and outdoor fitness equipment ranked in the top 10 improvements households would like to see to existing parks.
  - Randolph Township does not currently have any fully accessible playgrounds. Additionally, many playgrounds are in need of renovation.
  - Randolph offers fewer playgrounds per capita than other communities, according to the benchmark comparison. Randolph also had fewer tennis courts and basketball courts than the comparison communities.
  - According to the Mail Survey, the third highest ranked reason for not using parks, facilities, or programs was because the preferred program or facilities is not offered (21% of respondents).
  - Randolph has few picnic shelters, and all located in the central portion of the Township. All of Randolph's tennis courts are located at one location, Brundage Park.
  - According to the stakeholder groups, additional security is needed at the parks to protect Township investments and to reduce vandalism.
  - Some stakeholder groups indicated support for removing the skate park at Brundage Park in favor of needed recreational facilities.
  - Security cameras and trail lighting both ranked in the top 10 for improvements households would like to see to existing parks (Mail Survey).
  - The Township has already installed security cameras at Brundage, Freedom, and Heistein Parks. These are at locations where power was available on the existing buildings.
  - Much of the Township is more than a half mile from a basketball court.
  - Parking is insufficient at Freedom Park, and users do not cross safely when using overflow parking across the street.
  - The Americans with Disabilities Act established new requirements as of March 2012 which required an assessment of the accessibility of all facilities, programs, and communications. Accessibility of facilities and seating areas is limited at many parks.
  - Stakeholder groups were supportive of ADA improvements.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Initial focus should be directed toward improvements to existing, key facilities such as trails, playgrounds, game courts, picnic shelters, and athletic fields.
- The addition of needed support facilities, including trails, restrooms, signage, and drinking fountains should be part of any park improvement.
- The playground at Brundage Park should be redeveloped as a large, all-access, destination playground with a theme matching the character of the area.
- Look for partnerships for the development of larger playgrounds.
- Opportunities for additional picnic shelters should be considered at existing parks.
- Provide an accessible route to all athletic fields and spectator areas.
- The Township should choose between three options for the Brundage Skate Park:

- improve/replace in its current location with improved security lighting,
- Remove and redevelop the facility in a more visible location, or
- Eliminate the facility entirely.

If the skate park is relocated or eliminated, the existing space should be utilized for other park improvements.

- Parking and the crossing for the overflow parking should be improved at Freedom Park.
- Install security cameras (and additional lighting as needed) to all Community and Neighborhood Parks to encourage a safe atmosphere and to prevent damage to park property, starting with the most used parks or those perceived as most in need of such improvements.
- Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications. This assessment could be accomplished by trained staff or an outside consultant.
- Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines, measure progress, update priorities, and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations.

## Trails

### 1. Observations and Analyses

- Based on input from the public workshop and stakeholder groups, residents want more trails with better connectivity, improved safety, better signage and parking, and more access for walking, biking, and running.
- The Morris County Park Commission has developed several miles of trails in Randolph, including portions of Patriots' Path that run through the Township. Portions of these County trails will be utilized in the September 11th National Memorial Trail.
- Randolph has an extensive trail system, but many of the trails are not well connected to each other or to adjacent neighborhoods or parks. Trails are lacking in the area north of Route 10 and in the northwestern and eastern portions of the Township.
- The development of new walking and biking trails received the highest allotment of funds in the dollar voting exercise at the public meetings.
- Developing new and connecting existing trails ranked as the third most important action for Randolph to pursue in the Mail Survey.
- Residents would allocate \$17 (of \$100), the second highest allotment, toward development of new walking and biking trails (Mail Survey).
- A portion of the Township's Trust Fund is dedicated to parks and trail improvements.
- Trails improvements were a reoccurring topic at all stages of public engagement and were the second highest choice in the dollar voting exercise at the public workshop.
- Trails were consistently the most requested facility and might be potentially part of any park improvement. Trails represented three of the top five improvements for existing parks with trail lighting ranking as number six.
- Seniors in the community indicated a need for a flat and highly visible walking/running track.
- Trails were the highest rated idea on the *Building Community Through Parks* website.
- Trails, sidewalks, and trail improvements, including lighting, represented four of the top six potential improvements to existing parks in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, and 60% of respondents indicated they were very or somewhat supportive of recreational trail development.
- According to the Mail Survey, walking and hiking trails were the most needed facility (71% reported a need) in Randolph, and paved bike trails were the second highest unmet need. Web Survey respondents also rated paved bike trails as the second highest unmet need. Walking and hiking trails were third.
- Stakeholder groups would like to see call boxes installed along trails to improve the perception of safety for trail users and to allow for emergency calls if accidents happen during trail use.
- Some parks provide limited connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods (no walkways or connecting trails despite adjacency).

- Parking is lacking for many of the trails in the Township. Additionally, signage and wayfinding at trailheads is limited.
- Bicycle parking is generally insufficient at the parks.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Develop a Trail System Master Plan (possibly as part of an update to the Township transportation plan). This plan should include sidewalk improvements, new trail segments, and the prioritization of existing segment connections.
- Connections should be developed between parks and existing trails located nearby. Additionally, parks should be better connected to the other parks in the Township, especially those adjacent or connected by Township-owned open space.
- The Township should continue to coordinate with the Morris County Park Commission as part of long-term trail planning.
- Increase the availability of bicycle parking at all parks, focusing first on those with existing bicycle access.
- Trail improvements should include call boxes, signage with wayfinding including lighting at trailheads, and parking improvements.
- Develop a system of trail ambassadors to patrol the trail areas.
- Provide GPS locators on the trails.
- Develop criteria to determine whether trails should be paved versus unpaved trails.
- Provide maps, both printed, on the web, and on display boards at the trailheads that identify the routes with difficulty level.
- Provide trail markers with color for the trail route and mileage for reporting to emergency services and security purposes. Signage and wayfinding should include this color coding, difficulty levels, trail lengths, and type of surface (paved or unpaved).
- Add walking trails to parks currently lacking those facilities (particularly trail loops) and improve connectivity within parks through added walkways and connecting paths.
- Develop one or more walking/running track that is flat and highly visible. At least one trail loop or walking/running track should be lighted.

## **New Park and Facilities Development**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- Three notable areas in Randolph are more than a half mile from a playground (the northeastern, southern, and northwestern portions of the Township).
- Randolph Township has a deficiency of Community Park acreage (41 acres) and Neighborhood Parks (14 acres). These deficits are more pronounced in the eastern half of the Township than the western half. More parks are located on the western side while more residents live on the eastern side of the Township. Similarly, park opportunities are limited in the portion of the Township to the north of Route 10.
- The population of Randolph is expected to remain stable into the future, but the population is aging. The number (and percentage) of children is decreasing, and the number (and percentage) of seniors is increasing.
- Attendees of the public workshop expressed a desire for a Community Park at the 90 acres site with a variety of facilities.
- Community service organizations indicated a need for community garden and an amphitheater.
- The development of a community garden received the highest allotment of funds (20%) in the dollar voting exercise at the public meetings.
- Outdoor facilities for fitness and wellness received the third largest allotment in the dollar voting exercise.

- Randolph Township currently only has two reservable picnic shelters, one at Freedom Park and one at Brundage Park (Carrell).
- Facilities for seniors ranked as the eighth most important facility to households in the Mail Survey, and 67% of households with a need for these facilities reported their needs were not met (met at 50% or less).
- Some residential areas in Randolph are more than a half mile from a park or key park facilities.
- For Web Survey respondents, the second most cited reason for not participating more in parks and recreation activities was that their desired program or facility was not offered (number three for the Mail Survey).
- Randolph currently has a large amount of undeveloped parkland and open space, some of which could be developed into new active and passive park facilities. A small percentage of Randolph's parkland is developed for recreational purposes, compared to the benchmark communities (9% compared to a median of 75%).
- Many of the needed facilities for existing parks could be incorporated into new parks, including trails, courts, fields, indoor facilities, and picnic pavilions.
- Randolph Township currently has no event space or amphitheater/bandshell. A substantial number of residents have an unmet need for this facility for summer concerts and other events. Concerts ranked as the second most needed and second highest unmet need for programs in the Mail Survey. Special events also ranked in the top 10 for both needs and unmet needs in the Mail Survey. Some events are currently held at the gazebo at the Community Center, but the structure is in need of repairs and is not designed for this use.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Randolph Township should develop an amphitheater or bandshell, possibly at the 90 Acres Site. Additionally, the gazebo at the Community Center should be replaced with a new structure better suited for the events held there.
- The Township should investigate opportunities to develop parkland at existing Township-owned properties for additional Neighborhood Parks in select areas.
- New park development should include playgrounds and reservable picnic shelters whenever possible.
- New parks should also consider the need for a variety of facilities, particularly those preferred by the local community.
- Develop the 90 Acres Site as a Community Park with a focus of facilities that encourage residents to gather and interact.
- Community garden could be developed at an existing park or open space.
- Community garden, picnic shelters, and an amphitheater/bandshell should be included as part of the development of the 90 Acres Site.
- Playgrounds and basketball courts are needed outside of school properties in the northern and southeastern portions of Randolph.
- Outdoor fitness equipment should be installed at select parks to provide an opportunity for improved fitness for residents, including seniors.
- Consider unmet facility needs as part of any new park development.
- Develop pickleball courts to provide a needed facility for seniors and an opportunity for intergenerational activity.

## **Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- Despite the existing amount of open space in Randolph Township, 66% of residents support purchasing land for the preservation of open space, according to the Mail Survey (81% support in Web Survey). Similarly, this action ranked as the most important for Randolph to pursue.

- Nature programs were the sixth most needed program and the fifth highest unmet need according to the Mail Survey.
- Nature Parks were in the third most needed and fourth most important facilities, according to the Mail Survey.
- The open space properties are not well integrated into the parks system.
- Community service organizations indicated that they would like to see an outdoor education center.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Partnerships opportunities should be explored with the Morris County Park Commission, Randolph Township Schools, and, possibly the Community College of Morris for nature programs at Township parks or open space properties or at one of the Morris County parks.
- Connections between the parks and open spaces could be improved using trails. Additionally, open space properties could be utilized for a variety of nature based programs. Trailheads at the open space properties could include picnic areas, and interpretive signage (combined with wayfinding and online promotions) along trails could provide additional educational opportunities.
- Continue to examine opportunities for the acquisition of open space, giving priority to land that is contiguous to existing open space or parks, needed for trail connections, or in portions of the Township currently underserved by parks and open space.
- Consider the implementation of nature based and passive recreational opportunities at existing open space properties, including improved signage, wayfinding, and picnicking opportunities.
- Some of the potential solutions on this project could be Eagle Scout Projects.
- The development of the 90 Acres Site should carefully balance the passive recreation uses with the desire to preserve much of the property in its natural state for wildlife habitat, stormwater management, and other benefits of open space.
- Efforts should be made to maximize the utility of natural resources for recreational opportunities and enhancement of quality of life in Randolph.

## **Outdoor Athletic Fields**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- Randolph currently has one artificial turf field at Freedom Park, which will soon need to have the turf replaced. An artificial turf field was a common request at the public workshop and in meetings with stakeholder groups, particularly sports groups. These fields help meet the ever increasing demand for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other athletic pursuits.
- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of residents (based on the Mail Survey results) support upgrading or improving existing fields, including lighting (Mail Survey). Eighty-two percent (82%) of Web Survey respondents supported these improvements.
- The Township currently has a need for more rectangular fields which may increase as program offerings are expanded.
- The feedback from the public workshops and stakeholder meetings indicated support for more artificial turf fields.
- The girls' lacrosse program reports growth but are limited by the availability of facilities.
- Similarly, the boys' lacrosse program reported limitations to growth resulting from the lack of available facilities.
- Rectangular fields #1 and #2 at Heistein Park are currently lighted, but the lighting needs to be replaced. The lighting is only allowed to be used four nights per week and only for games.
- The lighting at Brundage Park fields need to be upgraded.
- The soccer groups reported a need for additional fields and problems with rainouts.
- Many fields in Randolph lack scoreboards.



- The Babe Ruth field at Freedom Park has poor drainage making it frequently unusable, and the field at Randolph Park lacks lighting.
- Artificial turf fields were the third highest rated idea on the *Building Community Through Parks* website, and these comments included requests for the inclusion of lines for girls' lacrosse.
- Randolph Township Schools have two artificial turf fields, but availability by Parks and Recreation is minimal.

## 2. Potential Solutions

- Replace lighting at Heistein Park fields #1 and #2 and add lighting to fields #3 and #4. Use new lighting technology with sharper cut-off fixtures to limit spill light and glare. The reduced risk of light pollution to the surrounding neighborhood might make it possible to change the resolution that limits the use to four nights.
- Prioritize the lighting improvements at fields #1 and #2 and use those improvements to demonstrate the quality of the newer lighting systems. Lighting should also be added to the field at Brundage Sussex.
- Lighting and artificial turf at existing fields would help solve some for the problems with rainouts and field availability without the need to develop new fields.
- Scoreboards should be added at fields that are used for games and currently lack this feature.
- Add artificial turf to one or two rectangular fields at Freedom Park and later at the Brundage Sussex field. These fields should include lining for multiple sports, including soccer (small-sided and full-sized), football, and lacrosse (boys' and girls').
- If an artificial turf field is developed at the second field of Freedom Park, consider adding bleachers and how they would impact the adjacent field.
- Replace the turf at the existing artificial turf field at Freedom Park to ensure this heavily used facility remains available to athletic groups.
- Add lighting at Randolph Park diamond field and improve drainage at the Freedom Park Babe Ruth field.
- Opportunities should be considered to develop additional rectangular fields at existing parks or at future parks with consideration given to providing areas for unstructured play.

## Indoor Recreation

### 1. Observations and Analyses

- Indoor exercise and fitness facilities ranked as the top unmet need according to the Mail Survey, with nearly 3,000 households having this need met at 50% or less. These facilities also ranked as the sixth most important to households.
- The development of a new indoor recreation facility received the third highest allocation in the Mail Survey when respondents were asked how they would spend \$100. Similarly, this type of facility received the fourth highest allotment in the dollar voting exercise (12% of total allotment).
- The wrestling team currently uses the middle school cafeteria for practices but would like a more permanent location. If possible, they would like to use the high school auxiliary gym which has the mats they need.
- The YMCA and several private businesses offer indoor recreational facilities and programs, and the Township does not want to compete with these offerings.
- VFW Memorial Hall offers meeting rooms but lacks accessibility. Stakeholder groups were in favor of improvements to the VFW Hall.
- The gyms at Randolph Township Schools are used for programs offered by the Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.
- Some stakeholder groups indicated a need for a teen center.
- For Web Survey respondents, the second most cited reason for not participating more in parks and recreation activities was that their desired program or facility was not offered (number three for the

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Mail Survey). The most desired (and not currently offered) facilities were indoor fitness facilities and outdoor pools.

- According to attendees of the public workshop, some residents would like to see a recreation center developed on the 90 Acres Site. This facility would be part of a large community-based park.
- The basketball program uses seven different gyms at five different schools in Randolph and reports difficulty getting enough court time.
- The cheerleading program has trouble finding space where they can practice with needed safety mats. They also use Freedom Park, but it lacks the needed sound system.
- Randolph currently has limited programming and facilities for healthy seniors. However, the need for senior (50+) programs is substantial and increasing.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Continue to collaborate with the Randolph Township Schools to maximize use of existing indoor facilities. The YMCA could be another partner for indoor recreation space.
- The elevator at the VFW building (in progress) will allow that building to be better utilized for programming. The restrooms should also be improved to provide ADA accessibility.

## **Outdoor Aquatics**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- An outdoor pool was the third highest facility with household needs met at 50% or less (approximately 2,500 households), according to the Mail Survey. This type of facility also rated in the top five most important facilities to households in the Mail Survey.
- Outdoor swimming pools or aquatic centers ranked as the top unmet need in the Web Survey. Similarly, outdoor pools were one of the most desired (and not currently offered) facilities in the Mail Survey.
- Residents would like to see improvements to Randolph Lake (according to stakeholder groups and the public workshop).
- A town pool ranked as the second most supported idea on the *Building Community Through Parks* website.
- Developing an outdoor aquatic facility ranked as the fourth most important action for Randolph to pursue in the Mail Survey.
- The Township currently has swimming opportunities at Randolph Lake but does not have an outdoor pool. The bathhouse at Randolph Lake needs improvement.
- Although spraygrounds did not rank as a top priority for respondents of the surveys, households with a need for this facility reported that need was not met (76% reported met at 50% or less). Additionally, this type of facility has low capital and operating costs compared to an outdoor pool or aquatic center.

### **2. Potential Solutions**

- Improvements should be made to the Randolph Lake bathhouse.
- Consider development of a sprayground in an existing park to expand the Township's offerings for outdoor recreation with minimal impact to the department's operating budget.
- Opportunities for the development and operation of an outdoor pool should be investigated, possibly as a partnership with the YMCA or another private developer.

## **Cultural Arts**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- Common themes at the public meetings (public workshop and stakeholder groups) included support for improvements to both the Brundage Park Playhouse and Artworks Studio.
- Improvements to the Brundage Park Playhouse received the fifth largest allotment (12%) in the dollar voting exercise.

- The trailer used for dressing rooms at Brundage Park Playhouse is not heated, and water is disconnected during the winter to avoid freezing pipes. Additionally, the cover between the main structure and the dressing room trailer provides minimal weather protection.
- The theater at Brundage Park Playhouse is not accessible, and the group would also like to see improvements to the seating, railing, and carpet as well as new paint.
- The Playhouse also uses some of the old bungalows along the southern edge of the park which are also in need of improvements.
- The Randolph Museum at Freedom Park is in need of some improvements.
- The Artworks Studio reported having difficulty communicating the availability of their programs to residents. Some programs are also offered at the schools, competing with the Artworks programs. However, the programs have a high rate of returning users. The organization would also like to see more participation in events, including parades and festivals.
- The Artworks building is in need a variety of repairs. Some of these repairs include: new trim, flooring, gutters, and roof in addition to repainting of many areas. The building also lacks internet access or a working phone. Security is also a concern due to the building's location at the back of the municipal building property.
- Artworks generates enough revenue to cover its operating costs. However, the programs are in need of better equipment (easels, brushes, a kiln, printing supplies) in order to better compete with some of the other art instruction programs in the area.

## 2. Potential Solutions

- The Brundage Park Playhouse should be renovated and expanded or replaced to address the issues with the current structure.
- The bungalows at Brundage Park are also in need of improvements and ADA accessibility.
- The Artworks Studio should receive the needed improvements to the existing building, and additional programs supplies should be provided by the Township, including computer and Wi-Fi access. Funding should also be sought from partners and sponsors.
- Artworks could relocate to the second floor of the VFW building.
- Investigate the potential of a new Brundage Theater and Artworks facility site which could be developed in conjunction with donors. It should not use tax dollars for its development. Also, consider potential use of the County College where possible. The Township may participate in the development of a theater through the use of Township-owned land and by providing seed money for planning and design services, but it should be a privately funded facility, as has been accomplished in other communities.
- A plan for improvements should be developed for the Randolph Museum to ensure that necessary improvements are made to the facility.

## Programming

### 1. Observations and Analyses

- Randolph residents would like to see more events (according to the stakeholder groups).
- The number one needed program (and the number one unmet need for programs) was for adult fitness and wellness, according to the Mail Survey. These programs also ranked as the number one unmet program in the Web Survey.
- The second highest ranked program need in both surveys was for concerts. Based on the Mail Survey, these programs were the third most important program to households in Randolph.
- Residents (according to the Mail Survey) were also in need of nature programs (#6 needed program and #5 unmet need).
- According to the Mail Survey, the third highest ranked reason for not using parks, facilities, or programs was because the preferred program or facility is not offered (21% of respondents).
- Randolph Little League currently has two charters, but registration is declining, so they may want to combine into one charter in the future.

- The percentage of the Randolph population age 65 and older was 7.3% in 2000 and is expected to increase to 14.5% by 2020. The median age will rise to 42.1 by 2020, up from 36.5 in 2000.
- The track and cross country program reported a difficulty in finding practice time at the high school track due to conflicts with the use of the field inside the track.
- If a walking/running track is developed in Randolph, the facility could be utilized by track and cross country programs.
- Senior (50+) programs were the third most needed programs (second most important) and represented the third most households with unmet needs. Specifically, programs appear to be limited for healthy seniors.
- Community service, business, and sponsor groups all recognized the need for expanded senior programming.
- Several stakeholder groups indicated support for wellness and fitness programs.
- Randolph Township has limited intergenerational programming. Stakeholder groups reported that they would like to see more family oriented programming.
- Teen programs ranked as the third highest unmet need in the Web Survey, and these programs ranked in the top 10 for programs meeting household needs at 50% or less.
- Youth fitness and wellness programs ranked in the top 10 for most important programs and for programs not meeting household needs (meeting needs at 50% or less).

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Establish a pickleball program in conjunction with the construction of the associated facility. The program should include offerings, including classes and tournaments, for both seniors only and multi-generational participants.
- Expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors. A Silver Sneakers program would offer a series of fitness programs for seniors in the Township. Possibly the space in the second floor of the VFW building could be utilized for these programs.
- Nature programs could be established to take advantage of existing trails and open space properties.
- Seek additional opportunities for multigenerational and intergenerational programming. Intergenerational programming could include nature-based activities outdoors (fishing, gardening, bird watching) and arts and crafts activities indoors (music, painting, cooking). Programs can be offered simultaneously so parents can participate in one program, while their children participate in another.
- If an amphitheater and event space is developed at the 90 Acres Site, the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department should utilize the facilities for a series of events, including concerts, throughout the year. Additionally, these facilities should be available for rental use by other groups for additional events.
- Programs could be developed to maximize utilization of any future facility.
- Continuously examine program satisfaction levels and monitor suggestions, attendance, and trends to ensure program offerings match the needs of the community.
- The Recreation Advisory Committee should continuously review program offerings and add or delete programs to keep up with the desires of the residents, trends, and customer satisfaction comments.
- Fitness and wellness programs should be expanded for all ages, and partnerships with healthcare providers could be utilized to increase the availability of these programs. Indoor programs could take advantage of partnerships for shared use of existing facilities, or space at the VFW hall.

## **Maintenance**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- The maintenance facility at Freedom Park lacks running water and restrooms.
- Several parking lots need paving or repaving (Brundage Sussex, Heistein at pond).

- Randolph Township provides a large amount of parks and open space for residents, and, as a result, the Randolph Parks and Community Services Department is responsible for more acreage per staff member than in comparison jurisdictions.
- Some improvements are needed to Little League fields at the edge of the infields.
- Other communities have established adopt-a-trail programs to keep the trails free of litter.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Improvements should be made as needed to athletic field surfaces to provide for optimal playing experiences and to maintain safety for users.
- Establish a program to recruit and organize volunteers to adopt sections of trails in Randolph, including paved trails, unpaved trails and nature trails.
- Prioritize short term maintenance of existing parks and facilities over long term capital improvements.
- Employ parks as models for sustainable practices. Parks should be utilized to exemplify Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater runoff, recycling, etc.).
- Upgrade the Parks and Recreation maintenance facility in Freedom Park to include running water (in progress).

## **Partnerships and Sponsorships**

### **1. 1. Observations and Analyses**

- Partnerships and sponsorships can provide opportunities to reduce upfront capital costs as well as operating costs.
- Residents frequently requested better communication and more collaboration/ partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations) throughout the public input process.
- The Soccer Club has indicated a willingness to contribute to the cost of lighting at Heistein Park fields.
- The playground at Kiwanis Park was developed through a partnership with Kiwanis Club of Randolph Township. The organization also has a youth sponsorship program,
- The Randolph YMCA offers a variety of programs and facilities intended to compliment the offerings by Randolph Township. Their facility has two pools (a warm water pool and a lap pool), a walking track, a gym, and a fitness area. Some of these facilities are in need of improvement.

### **2. Potential Solutions**

- A partnership with the Soccer Club could be pursued to reduce the cost of lighting at Heistein Park fields.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with other organizations to improve the number and variety of program offerings and to help fill program deficiencies. Work with these other agencies and organizations to improve awareness of programming opportunities and to coordinate offerings to avoid duplication of services.
- Continue to explore partnerships with Randolph Township Schools for the use of artificial turf fields and gym space.
- Establish partnerships for both the securement of funding for capital improvements and for the operation of new facilities, particularly for high cost projects. Partnerships should require detailed documentation of funding sources and operating strategies (pro-forma).
- Collaborate with law enforcement to increase presence in the parks and an improved perception of safety for park users.
- Partnerships with the YMCA could help reduce the capital and operating costs of an outdoor pool.
- Maintain existing relationships with private recreation providers.

## **Budget**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- Randolph Township currently recovers over half of its parks and recreation operating costs through fees.



- The percentage of funding from user fees is higher than most of the comparison communities. Fees are charged to swim at Randolph Lake and for programs, including athletics and cultural arts.
- Randolph has a dedicated source of funding for acquisition of and improvements to parkland. This fund has a balance that could be used to finance some of the park improvements identified in this Master Plan.
- Additional artificial turf fields could help draw more tournaments to the area, particularly if the fields could accommodate multiple sports.
- A small percentage of respondents (6%) reporting that their households do not use parks and recreation facilities and programs more often because fees are too high.

## **2. Potential Solutions**

- Investigate new and inventive funding sources for parks and recreation improvements.
- Pursue grants for development and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Develop an adopt-a-trail program to assist in the maintenance and funding for trail improvements and maintenance.
- Develop additional artificial turf fields to support multiple sports which would increase the opportunities for tournaments and draw visitors (and economic activity) to Randolph.
- The Township should encourage the creation of a Friends of Randolph Parks foundation to recruit and organize volunteers, to raise funds and apply for grants, and to work toward the implementation of improvements outlined in this Master Plan.
- Consider selling naming rights to facilities to help mitigate capital and operating costs. Rights could be sold to whole facilities (community or aquatic center) or to areas within a facility (meeting rooms, fields, courts).
- A scholarships program for program and facility fees could be established for those that cannot afford to pay.

## **Communications**

### **1. Observations and Analyses**

- About a fourth (25%) of residents reported that they do not participate in programs because they do not know what is being offered (Mail Survey).
- According to the Mail Survey, the largest proportion of residents learn of recreation opportunities through the Randolph Township Quarterly (68%), followed by local newspapers (41%). In contrast, Web Survey respondents reported the Randolph Township website (64%) as the most used method of learning of activities. Email notification, at 59%, was the second most common way of learning of programs and activities for Web Survey respondents, but only 17% of Mail Survey respondents used this method. Only a small percentage (10% for Mail Survey, 20% for Web Survey) learned of opportunities through social media.
- Stakeholder groups requested a better program for rescheduling events when postponed due to rain.
- Stakeholder groups indicated support for a community fitness app.
- Residents frequently requested better communication and more collaboration/ partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations) throughout the public input process.

### **2. Potential Solutions**

- Cooperate with other agencies and organizations toward the creation and promotion of a common calendar for activities and events in Randolph, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism. Cross promotion of events should also be part of such an agreement. This calendar could be utilized in conjunction with a program to reschedule events postponed due to rain.
- A conveniently located community bulletin board for the promotion of events and programs would help to improve awareness of programming opportunities.

- The Department should periodically solicit feedback from users to ensure new and changing needs are met.
- Actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available.
- Develop, promote, and regularly update a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences (event information, park/trail maps). This app could be utilized to encourage fitness in the community and to connect park users interested in gathering for exercise. This app could also connect to a master schedule for athletic events, including those rescheduled because of rain.
- Provide Wi-Fi in all Neighborhood and Community Parks with initial focus on the most used parks (Brundage, Freedom, and Heistein).
- Utilize social media to promote programs and events to residents and visitors.
- Utilize the existing "Tap into Randolph" online neighborhood news website to promote programs and improve awareness of facilities offered by Randolph Township.
- The program offerings of the Artworks Studio and the Brundage Park Playhouse should be included in all efforts to increase awareness of program offerings in Randolph.

## Standards of Excellence

### 1. Observations and Analyses

- Ninety-one percent (91%) of residents rated the physical condition of parks and recreation facilities in Randolph as good (60%) or excellent (31%). Similarly, 88% of program participants rated Randolph programs as good (51%) or excellent (37%).
- The Department would like to attract more volunteers, and many groups indicated a desire to improve volunteer and fundraising opportunities.
- The Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department has a well established reputation for quality programs and facilities and regular maintenance. The public input throughout this Master Plan process has demonstrated a desire for the continuation of this high level of service. Randolph resident's desire excellence in Parks and Recreation, and the resulting quality of life benefits, will direct the Department's future.
- The National Recreation and Park Association has established a procedure for the accreditation of park and recreation agencies. The agency that administers this program is the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This process is a self-assessment and peer review procedure. The guidelines can be found in the agency's Self-Assessment Report and Visitation Report.
- The goal of this process is to develop and maintain an agency that is efficient, effective, and professional in its operational system and which delivers quality services. Agencies accredited by these standards have demonstrated not only that they meet the standards of quality operation, but also that they have the professional competence and the community support to complete the extensive process.

### 2. Potential Solutions

- Train leadership staff to become experts in their respective fields.
- Continuously train staff and emphasize customer service.
- Create and implement professional and career development plans for all staff. Management level staff should attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations.
- The Department should pursue CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years.
- Review and update this Master Plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities.
- Establish a program for internal benchmarking of program offerings and facility maintenance.
- The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department should annually review the results of the internal benchmarking, as well as feedback from user groups.

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## VII. SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

The System-Wide Recommendations section describes the overall recommendations which are based on the Strategic Plan and Goals described in Section VI. This section describes the recommendations for Parks and Recreation in Randolph and provides details of recommended changes to operations, programs, and facilities in the Township. The major facilities include design criteria intended to further define the recommendations and to provide general guidelines to consider in follow-up planning and design. Images of sample facilities are included to illustrate the concepts discussed. See Section VIII for detailed information for each park and Section IX for the Action Plan with specific strategies and timeframes for attaining each of the goals and recommendations in *Building Community Through Parks*.

### OPERATIONS AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Randolph Township offers ten parks with recreational facilities, over 1,400 acres of open space, and a wide variety of programs. The public input process of this Master Plan indicated support for the development of additional recreational programming in Randolph. Substantial opportunities exist at existing parks, utilizing both existing facilities as well as future facilities at these locations. A number of other efforts could improve the overall operation of the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

#### Operations Recommendations

The recommendations for parks and recreation operations and policy changes are focused on efforts to increase volunteer opportunities, improve communication of program and facility availability in Randolph, generate additional revenue, and to enhance the already excellent Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department.

An important effort in order to promote volunteer opportunities would be encourage the creation of a Friends of Randolph Parks foundation to recruit and organize volunteers, to raise funds and apply for grants, and to work toward the implementation of improvements outlined in this Master Plan. The establishment of a program to utilize these volunteers to assist with park maintenance through efforts such as the adoption of sections of trails in Randolph. An adopt-a-trail program could also assist in the acquisition of funding for trail improvements.

Randolph Township should also continuously investigate new and inventive funding sources for parks and recreation improvements. These efforts should include the pursuit of grants for the development and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs. Another potential source of revenue could be the selling of naming rights to facilities which could help to mitigate both the capital and operating costs. Rights could be sold to whole facilities, such as a community center or park, or to areas within a facility (meeting rooms, fields, courts).

The Township should seek partnerships to mitigate both capital and operating costs for new facilities, particularly for high cost projects. These partnerships should require detailed documentation of funding sources and operating strategies (pro-forma). A partnership with the Soccer Club to reduce the cost of lighting at Heistein Park fields is an example of this type of partnership.

Randolph should seek opportunities for collaboration with private organizations and other public agencies to improve the number and variety of program offerings, fill program deficiencies, avoid duplication of services, as some program and facility needs can be met by other providers. As part of these collaborative efforts, the Township should maintain existing relationships with private recreation providers and collaborate with law enforcement to increase presence in the parks and an improved perception of safety for park users.

The Township should work with these other agencies and organizations to improve awareness of programming opportunities. One important effort toward this end would be the creation and promotion of a common calendar for activities and events in Randolph, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism. This calendar could be utilized in conjunction with a program to reschedule events postponed due to rain and as part of an effort for the cross promotion of events. A conveniently located community bulletin board for the promotion of events and programs would provide another opportunity to improve awareness of programming opportunities. The Township should also utilize social media as well as the existing "Tap into Randolph" online neighborhood news website to promote programs and events to residents and visitors.

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Another method to improve awareness would be through the development, promotion, and regularly updating of a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences. This app could provide event information, including a master schedule, and maps of park facility and trail locations. The app could also be utilized to encourage fitness in the community and to connect park users interested in gathering for exercise.

Randolph Township should train leadership staff to become experts in their respective fields and continuously train staff with an emphasis on customer service. Part of this effort should include implementation of professional and career development plans for all staff. The Township should establish a program for internal benchmarking of program offerings and facility maintenance which should be annually reviewed by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. Finally, the Department should pursue CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years.

Randolph Township should continue to review and update this Master Plan at five year intervals and should actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available. The Department should periodically solicit feedback from users to ensure new and changing needs are met.

### **Expansion of Program Offerings**

The Randolph Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department offers a wide variety of programs (as outlined in Section III). As a result of changing demographics and parks and recreation trends, some additional programs should be developed. Program offerings should be available for all residents regardless of age or disability. Additionally, programs should also be designed to maximize opportunities for participation by providing convenient locations, a variety of starting times, and by providing opportunities for multiple generations.

Adult fitness and wellness programs were identified as the most needed program based on the surveys (see Section V) as well as the largest unmet program need. Opportunities should be investigated to develop additional fitness programs to meet this need. Fitness and wellness programs should be expanded for all ages, and partnerships with healthcare providers could be utilized to increase the availability of these programs.

Indoor programs could take advantage of partnerships for shared use of existing facilities, or space at the VFW hall. The Randolph Township Department of Parks and Community Services should continue to collaborate with the Randolph Township Schools to maximize use of existing indoor facilities. The YMCA could be another partner for indoor recreation space.

The need for additional programming for seniors was a reoccurring theme throughout the process (third highest unmet and second most important program need). Accordingly, the Township should expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors. The SilverSneakers organization provides a series of guidelines for programs designed specifically for older residents. The organization also provides reimbursement to organizations that offer these programs to their residents. Possibly the space in the second floor of the VFW building could be utilized for these programs. Additionally Randolph Township should establish a pickleball program in conjunction with the construction of the associated facility. The program should include offerings, including classes and tournaments, for both seniors only and multi-generational participants. Additional intergenerational programming could include nature-based activities outdoors (fishing, gardening, bird watching) and arts and crafts activities indoors (music, painting, cooking). Programs can be offered simultaneously so parents can participate in one program, while their children participate in another.

Nature programs were the fifth highest unmet program need, which can be met through a variety of methods. First, partnerships should be explored with the Morris County Park Commission, Randolph Township Schools, and, possibly the Community College of Morris for nature programs at Township parks or open space properties or at one of the Morris County parks. Randolph has natural areas in several parks and many open spaces, including the 90 Acres site, that should be utilized for this type of programming which should include guided hikes and educational opportunities.

Randolph residents would also like to see more special events, including concerts (second ranked unmet need), offered throughout the year. The proposed amphitheater and event lawn (see the ensuing text and Section VIII) at the 90 Acres site would provide opportunities for many events throughout the year offered by the Township, and the facility could be rented to other organizations for additional events.

New programs should be developed to take advantage of any new facilities that are developed in Randolph. The next portion of this section describes a number of new facilities, all of which should have

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accompanying programs developed to maximize the benefits of facility development. Additionally, the Township should continuously examine program satisfaction levels and monitor suggestions, attendance, and trends to ensure program offerings match the needs of the community. Finally, a scholarship program for program and facility fees could be established for those that cannot afford to pay.

## **FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

While the Parks of Randolph offer a variety of amenities, some park features are in need of improvement, and additional facilities will improve service levels and help meet the needs of changing demographics. In general, public input indicates that priority should be given to maintenance of and improvements to existing facilities, including the addition of support facilities at existing parks. However, many desired park improvements were identified and are outlined in the following text.

These improvements range from small improvements, such as restrooms and drinking fountains, to large capital projects, requiring significant budgets and extensive planning. The next section of this Master Plan, Section VIII: Individual Park Recommendations, provides greater detail on specific improvements to each park.

## **New Park Locations**

Randolph's parks are distributed throughout the Township; however, some of the facilities desired by residents will require additional parkland as existing parks do not have sufficient available land for these improvements. Fortunately, Randolph Township has a substantial amount of open space that could potentially be utilized for additional park amenities.

One particular property, the 90 Acres site, provides an opportunity for the development of a wide variety of facilities with an emphasis on amenities that encourage community gathering. The development of the 90 Acres site should carefully balance the passive recreation uses with the desire to preserve much of the property in its natural state for wildlife habitat, stormwater management, and other benefits of open space as well as educational opportunities. More information on the facilities to be included in this new park (as well as the existing parks) can be found in the ensuing text, and a description of each park development can be found in Section VIII.

Although Randolph currently has a large amount of open space, residents rated the acquisition of land to preserve natural and historic areas as the most important action for the Township to pursue. As a result, Randolph should continue to examine opportunities for the acquisition of open space, giving priority to land that is contiguous to existing open space or parks, needed for trail connections, or in portions of the Township currently underserved by parks and open space. Efforts should be made to maximize the utility of natural resources of existing parks and open space properties for recreational opportunities and enhancement of quality of life in Randolph, and the Township should consider the implementation of nature based and passive recreational opportunities at existing open space properties, including improved signage, wayfinding, and picnicking opportunities.

## **Trails**

Walking and hiking trails (both paved and unpaved) and bike trails were among the top activities that residents would use more if facilities were provided. The Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey) results showed the largest number of households in Randolph with unmet needs for paved bike trails (nearly 3,000 households). Seventy-one percent (71%) of households reported that they had a need for walking and hiking trails, and 49% reported a need for paved bike trails. Additionally, despite over twenty miles of trails in the Township, residents reported that these needs were not currently met, particularly for paved bike trails. These results represent a very strong desire for more trails in parks and a system of integrated trails in Randolph.

### **1. Township-wide Trail System**

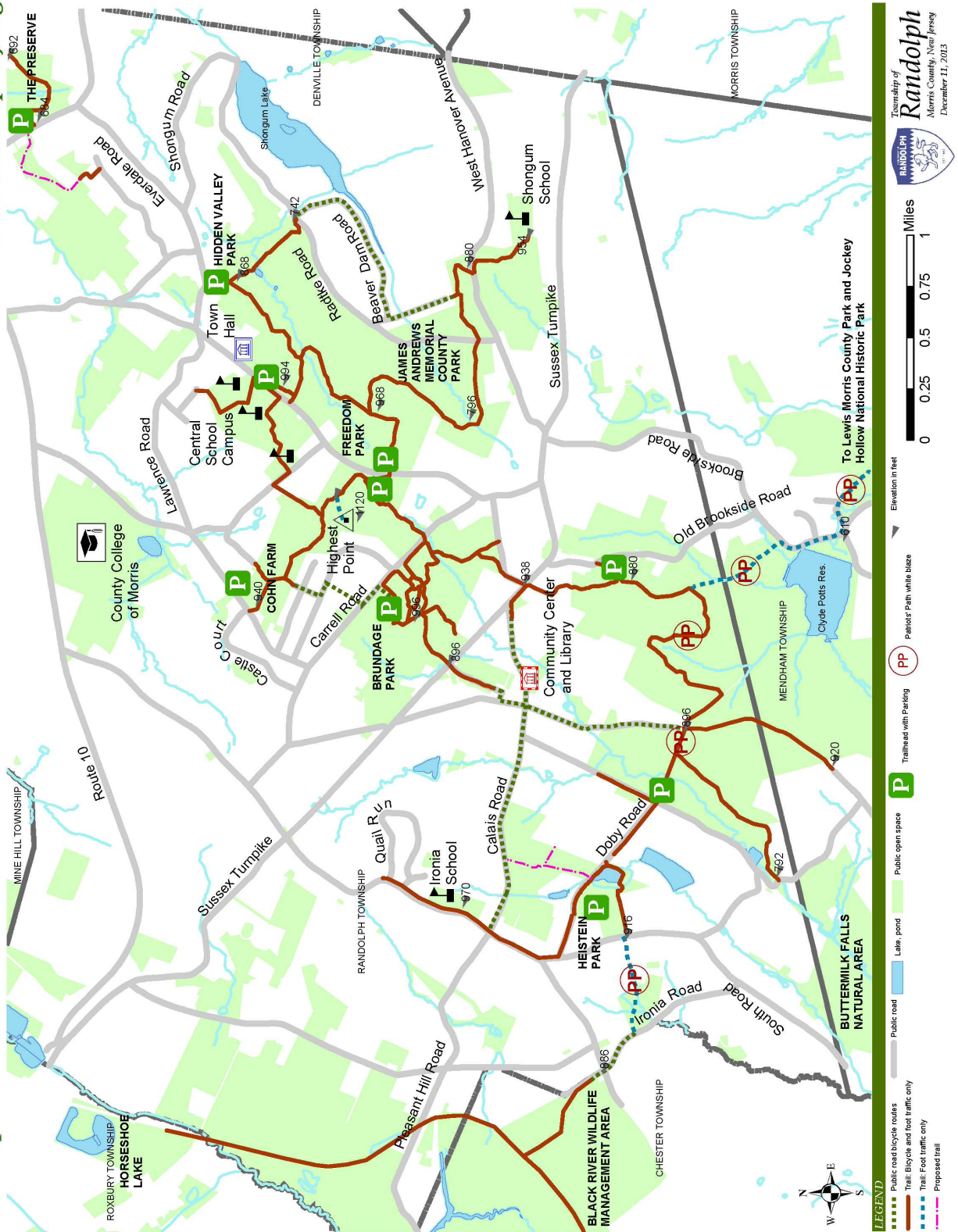
While Randolph has a substantial amount of trails in the community, the Township has not yet developed a long-term plan for the trail system. The existing trail system, including previously proposed trails, can be seen in Figure VII-1. It is recommended that Randolph Township develop a Trail System Master Plan to determine the alignment (and prioritization) for major routes, shorter connecting trails, sidewalk improvements, and on-road elements. The goal of the plan should be to provide a system of interconnected trails in Randolph with a priority placed on linking existing trails as well as schools, recreations areas, neighborhoods, and other destinations.



Figure VII-1: Existing Trail System Including Proposed Trails

## Randolph Trails

www.randolphnj.org



The Trail System Master Plan, which could be part of an update to the Township Transportation Plan, should also include continued coordination with the Morris County Park Commission. As part of this plan, criteria should be developed to determine whether trails should be paved or unpaved.

## 2. Recommended Park Trails

Additional trails are recommended at several parks in Randolph. All-purpose perimeter trails are recommended at Freedom Park, Heistein Park, Brundage Sussex, and the 90 Acres site. These all-purpose perimeter trails should be 10' to 12' wide to allow for all types of uses, including walking, running, inline skating, and biking. Shorter paved walking and connecting paths are recommended for many parks which should be six to eight feet wide. Portions of the trails at the 90 Acres site and Freedom Park should be lighted for extended use.

Nature trails, which should have natural or wood chipped surfaces, are recommended for the 90 Acres site and potentially at open space properties in the future to offer opportunities for exercise, interaction with nature, and educational opportunities.

Special effort should be made to connect park trails with the surrounding neighborhoods to encourage use of the trails and to improve access to the parks. Randolph should also attempt to link the proposed park perimeter trails to the existing (and proposed) trail system. When possible, park trails should be incorporated into the trail system, which might allow them to qualify for trail grants (most require trails to provide transportation routes). Additionally, existing (and future) parks with trails should be utilized as trailheads for the trail system, and the availability of bicycle parking at all parks should be increased, focusing first on those with existing bicycle access.



## 3. Trail Design Criteria

According to survey results, the recommended trails would be heavily used for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Therefore, the most heavily used trails, as noted previously, should be 10' to 12' wide and paved to provide ample room for a wide variety of potential users to minimize conflict. Initial phases could include natural, wood chip, or gravel type trails to allow pedestrian access only, but these trails would not allow for the maximum use of the proposed facilities.

The Trail System Master Plan should include a description of trail types as well as guidelines for signage, surfaces, pavement markings, and bicycle parking. Trails should be developed, at a minimum, to the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards which represent widely used design guidelines and were most recently updated in the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012.

Hike and bikeways routes under these guidelines follow a three tiered system.

### ▪ Hikeways

- Class One: Hiking only
- Class Two: Hike and bikeway combined
- Class Three: Hikeway on the berm of a vehicle right-of-way

### ▪ Bikeways

- Class One: Bikeway only
- Class Two: Hike and bikeway combined
- Class Three: Bikeway shared with vehicles, without a barrier but with marked off lanes and signs indicating bike lane.

In this Master Plan, park trails should be developed under Class One or Class Two guidelines. The perimeter trails designed for multiple uses, for example, would be characterized as Class Two trails, and walking and hiking only trails would be considered Class One trails. Where necessary to connect



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destinations in developed areas such as some of the Township's neighborhoods, Class Three trails may be required and should be further investigated as part of the Trail System Master Plan.

## Playgrounds

Playgrounds are typically developed at nearly every Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and County Park. Playgrounds should be designed for the age specific group for which they are intended. At larger community parks and some neighborhood parks, separate areas should be designated for preschool and school-aged children.

A variety of experiences should be provided at each playground. Safe and durable materials such as plastic components, plastic coated steel decks, steel posts, and similar materials should also be used. The overall design of the playground in each facility should meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines. Proper safety surfacing should be provided under all equipment. Universal design and accessibility is a major issue, which must be considered in the design of each existing and future playground.

At Community Parks, larger and very creative destination playgrounds should be developed since these parks typically have the infrastructure to handle larger groups of people. These large community parks tend to have the capacity to attract regional populations. All playgrounds must meet minimum ADA requirements, but a higher level of universal access is desirable and should be provided at all Community Parks as well as some Neighborhood Parks.

The most used parks in Randolph should have large destination playgrounds. These playgrounds should be fully accessible with a wide variety of attractions. All playgrounds should have edging. Concrete edging is preferred, which would be 12" wide, and wood timber edging could be used in more natural areas.

Randolph has playgrounds in five locations, and playgrounds at Brundage Park (Carrell) and Heistein Park will need to be replaced in the next ten years. The Brundage playground should be replaced with a large playground with universal access. While the playground at Heistein Park should be expanded, space is not available for a large destination playground. The new playground should, however, incorporate some accessible features. A small playground should also be developed at Rosenfarb Park. When playgrounds are developed or replaced, efforts should be made to develop themes consistent with the overall park as well as the character of the surrounding area.



A nature-themed all-access playground is recommended for the 90 Acres site. The playground should feature an accessible surface for much of the equipment. The equipment, which should include a climbing play area, should be constructed using natural materials, such as wood and stone. This playground should have a variety features, providing a unique attraction different from what is found anywhere else in the Randolph or nearby in Morris County. Additionally, this feature should interface smoothly with other passive recreational amenities at the site.

## Game Courts

Randolph offers three types of game courts at three different parks. These offerings include volleyball courts, tennis courts, and basketball courts. Tennis courts and basketball courts are also available for use at several schools in Randolph.

### 1. Basketball Courts

Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the United States. Based on the trends in sports participation portion of this document (Section IV),



basketball was the seventh most popular sport and the most popular team sport in the US. Randolph Township currently has two outdoor courts at each of Freedom and Brundage (Carrell) Parks and a half court at Rosenfarb Park. Shongum and Fernbrook Elementary Schools also have courts.

The basketball courts at Freedom and Rosenfarb Parks are in need of repairs including resurfacing. New basketball courts are not currently recommended at any parks in the Township, but needs should be reevaluated in the future. A full-sized basketball court requires a pad approximately 90' by 60' feet to accommodate the 84' by 50' playing area.

## **2. Volleyball Courts**

Volleyball courts can have either hard (asphalt) or sand surfaces. A court size of 80' by 50' is required to accommodate a 30' by 60' playing area. Randolph Township currently has a sand volleyball court at Freedom Park. No new volleyball courts are recommended at this time; however, Parks and Recreation staff should monitor the needs for these facilities and develop at an existing park if demand arises, possible at the 90 Acres site.

## **3. Tennis Courts**

Randolph Township has six tennis courts at Brundage Parks. Because tennis courts did not rank highly for unmet needs for residents, no tennis courts are recommended for existing parks at this time; however, the Township should reevaluate the need for these facilities in the future if demand increases.

## **4. Pickleball Courts**

Pickleball courts can be constructed as a new facility but are often developed through a tennis court conversion, which can be temporary or permanent. A pickleball court is 20' by 44' with a 36" net (34" at the center).<sup>11</sup> These facilities are popular with seniors, as described in Section IV, none are recommended at this time since public input did not indicate a strong need for these facilities. The public input did indicate a desire for age 50+ programming, and the pickleball courts would provide a great opportunity to meet these needs. This Master Plan recommends the development of two pickleball courts at the 90 Acres site. Additional courts could be developed in the future if the initial two courts, and the associated program, is successful and additional courts are needed.



## **Picnic Areas**

The development of picnic areas and picnic shelters were high on the list of needed items identified in the surveys. Picnic areas are best if developed in a natural setting and should be developed in every Neighborhood, Community, and Mini-Park as well as in passive parks such as nature parks. Community parks provide better opportunities for the development of large shelters (group reservable picnic shelters). These facilities could be used for events such as company picnics, family reunions, church outings, etc. The best group rental facilities are developed in conjunction with playgrounds, game courts, walking trails, or open fields for games. Shelters should be located in close proximity to parking and restrooms. The most used shelters are located in a natural setting. The most inviting natural settings for picnic areas include: wooded areas, open fields, lakes for fishing, and natural stream corridors.

The vicinity of athletic complexes also provide potential locations for picnic shelters. Families often spend many hours at the ball fields on game days, and these shelters provide a place to get out of the sun and a place for teams to meet.

Most major park facility developments should include picnic shelters. Additional picnic shelters are recommended for most of the parks in Randolph. New reservable shelters are recommended at Randolph Park, Heistein Park, and the 90 Acres site. Small picnic shelters or gazebos are recommended at smaller parks, including Rosenfarb Park, Brundage Preserve, and Brundage Park (Sussex), and as support facilities at larger parks. Additional picnic areas are also recommended as space is available.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>11</sup> USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) website (<http://www.usapa.org/>)

<sup>12</sup> See Section VIII for specific park recommendations.



## Outdoor Fitness Equipment

As described in the Trends portion of Section IV, the installation and use of outdoor fitness equipment has been growing in the United States due in part to the aging of the community. These facilities include equipment such as elliptical and arm press equipment and are also referred to as outdoor or open-air gyms. The facilities are free to use and can include wheelchair accessible equipment.<sup>13</sup>



The equipment does need regular maintenance to remain functioning properly. Equipment can be located along trails, at playgrounds, or as a separate facility. Randolph currently has no facilities of this type, but with the high demand for adult fitness and wellness, such facilities should be very popular.

One initial location is recommended for outdoor fitness equipment, the 90 Acres site. It is recommended that the equipment be installed in one location to maximize accessibility, community interaction, and programming opportunities. If these facilities are successful, additional facilities should be considered at Brundage Park (Carrell) and Freedom Park.

## Community Garden

Community garden allow residents to sign-up to maintain a plot on shared open space to grow both edible and inedible plants. Plots can vary in size. Community garden provide a number of benefits to communities including quality-of-life, social opportunities, nutritious food, resource conservation, and educational opportunities.

Randolph Township does not yet offer community garden plots; however, plots offered by other park systems are generally very popular and sell out quickly. The best potential site for community garden in Randolph is at the 90 Acres site. Gardens provide a great opportunity to utilize the space available at this property, and the property should have good soil as it was previously farmland.

The plots recommended at the 90 Acres site consist of 24 30' by 30' plots which could be divided into 96 15' by 15' plots, or any combination of those two plot sizes. Additionally, the garden could be developed in phases, if necessary, based on the amount of interest. The garden should offer water access and storage and should be fenced to keep out pests.



## Amphitheater/Covered Stage

The development of an amphitheater, or bandshell, with a covered stage at a park in Randolph Township would provide additional opportunities for a variety of cultural arts programs, concerts, and other presentations that are of value to the community. These structures should be designed to accommodate the types of performances for which the programs would be planned. The image here indicates a typical type of successful that has been used in other communities.



<sup>13</sup> Haya El Nasser, "Fitness parks' catch on in cities," USA Today, December 14, 2012.



These facilities should be supported by the presence of restrooms, drinking fountains, parking areas, and paved walkways for access. The best possibility is to include an amphitheater or bandshell as part of the development of the 90 Acres site, due to the availability of land and its relatively central location.

## Support Facilities

### 1. Walkways and Connecting Trails

Additional walkways and connecting trails are needed at all parks in Randolph to improve overall connectivity within the parks as well as to provide accessibility for disabled park users. All park facilities, including playgrounds, game courts, shelters, athletic fields, and spectator areas should be connected through paved walkways. To assure that all portions of parks meet accessibility requirements, Randolph Township should conduct an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications.

### 2. Restrooms

One of the most requested improvements to existing parks was the addition of restrooms. The desire for such facilities is common in most surveys completed by the Consultant. Residents desire restrooms with running water, flush toilets, and sinks for hand washing. They should be developed of masonry materials, be easy to clean, and should be designed to withstand heavy use and frequent cleaning.

Prefab restroom buildings can come preassembled or can be assembled on-site and can include additional amenities such as concessions, picnic shelters, or storage. Restrooms can be attractive buildings that match the rest of the park and can also be heated to allow for year-round use. Parks in Randolph that would benefit from restrooms include: Brundage Park (Sussex) and the 90 Acres site.



### 3. Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains should be provided at all parks and should be placed throughout the site to allow easy access. Most parks in Randolph would benefit from additional drinking fountains. It is also recommended that drinking fountains include a spigot to allow for hose attachments, pet watering, and bottle filling.

## Athletic Fields

The demand for athletic fields is ever increasing as population and participation grows. It is ideal for these facilities to be developed in complexes rather than in single fields scattered throughout the Township for several reasons, including tournament use (see Section IV, Needs Analysis, under the heading of Parks and Recreation Trends Analysis).

## Synthetic Turf Fields

The Township should develop additional artificial turf fields to support multiple sports which would increase the opportunities for tournaments and draw visitors (and economic activity) to Randolph. Additionally, these fields can be used earlier in the year, later in the year, and more often during the playing seasons than natural grass fields. Additionally, these fields may provide safer playing surfaces. The long term costs are



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higher for the development, replacement, and maintenance, but these costs are offset by the greater number of events that can take place on the fields.

Randolph currently offers a single artificial turf field at Freedom Park, and this field will need replacement turf in the near future. The need for additional artificial turf fields was a reoccurring request by athletic groups throughout the public input process. A second field at Freedom Park is the best possibility for an additional artificial turf field, but Brundage Park (Sussex) also provides a good location for an artificial turf field. The fields should provide lining for many sports, including girls lacrosse, although all markings are not necessary at all fields.

### **Natural Grass Fields**

Fields for soccer, baseball, and lacrosse should be irrigated if possible to provide better rejuvenation of the lawn. Also, rectangular fields, such as soccer fields, can be rotated in different directions for various seasons, or keep some fields out of use each year, to allow for better revitalization of the grass in the most heavily used area. The seasons for soccer are typically in the spring and fall, which are also the prime growing seasons for grass, leading to challenges to maintaining a good lawn at a heavily used field.

Based on the input for various athletic groups, Randolph Township is in need of additional rectangular fields. The existing parks in Randolph Township have little available space for additional rectangular fields; however, the field needs may be met through the development of additional artificial turf fields, as described above. Additionally, the fields at Heistein Park are in need of irrigation and drainage improvements.

An additional open field could be located at the 90 Acres site in the area to be used as overflow parking during events. The field could be used for unprogrammed play, which would offer an additional field for Randolph residents, particularly adult sports (support facilities would not be necessary at this field as it is primarily intended to be used for pick-up games, practices, and, potentially, as an extra field when all others are unavailable).

### **Baseball Infields**

A variety of admixtures are available for improving infields of ball fields. Fields should contain primarily soil mixture with admixtures to improve the playing surface if they are used for multiple age groups or girls' softball. In cases where organizations desire grass infields, which require more maintenance, then the organization should be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of those fields.

The baseball and softball groups indicated that their needs were currently unmet; however, those needs could generally be met through field improvements rather than through the construction of new fields. The large field at Freedom Park needs drainage improvements, and the field at Randolph Park lacks lighting. Improvements to these fields would meet the needs for the largest field size. Additionally, the softball field at Freedom Park is the only ballfield at that park without lighting, and lights at that field would allow for extended use reducing the need for more fields.

### **Recommended Support Facilities**

- Bleacher/stadium seating, ideally with shade cover
- Parking for at least 60 vehicles per field
- Restroom and concession facilities
- Paved accessible path to fields and spectator seating areas
- Lighting to extend use where consistent with the Zoning Code

## **OUTDOOR AQUATICS**

Randolph Township does not currently operate any pools, but the Township does offer swimming at Randolph Lake. Some neighborhood associations offer swimming pools, but no public outdoor pools are available to residents within the Township. Randolph residents wanting to use modern family aquatic facilities must travel to neighboring communities.

### **Outdoor Family Aquatic Centers**

Outdoor swimming pools or aquatic centers ranked as number three for unmet facilities needs in the Mail Survey, and Web Survey respondents rated outdoor swimming pools or aquatic centers as the most needed facility in Randolph. Outdoor family aquatic centers come with a high capital cost as well as ongoing operating budgets, and previous efforts to develop this type of facility in Randolph have been

met with substantial opposition. A partnership with a private organization, such as the YMCA or a private developer, could help reduce the capital and operating costs of an outdoor pool, and Randolph should continue to monitor the need for outdoor aquatics and seek opportunities to work with potential partners to meet the aquatic needs of residents.

The Master Plan Steering Committee discussed the issue of developing an aquatic center to some length. The reasoning for not including a family aquatic center as a priority for Township funds included the following:

1. The prospect of developing an aquatic center has been a very divisive issue in the Township in the past, with many residents strongly against this use of Township funds. The issue was voted down twice by Township residents.
2. A site would need to be found which has major utilities available. The current Township-owned open space properties are not appropriate for this type of use or do not have access to the major water and sewer lines necessary.
3. The 90 Acres site, which is recommended as a community gathering park, includes a variety of features and activities which complement each other. A family aquatic center would place a large demand on the need for parking and take up much of the developable space on the property. Sewer service is unavailable at this site.
4. The Committee placed higher emphasis on the use of Township funds on other features and facilities from the public engagement.

However, as noted previously, the township has indicated a willingness to work with a developer if one would propose to design, build, and operate an aquatic facility.

### **Spraygrounds**

The development of spraygrounds, or water playgrounds, has become very popular among communities for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they are less costly to both develop and operate than an outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center, and they do not require lifeguards. They do, however, require pumps, filtration system, chemical feeders, and systems similar to swimming pools to recirculate and reuse the water. Additionally, they must be located near restrooms and showers.

These facilities are usually available earlier and later in the season than pools and aquatic centers, especially if they are separate facilities. Because they are much less expensive to operate than an outdoor pool or aquatic center, spraygrounds offer an option for cities to expand the availability of aquatic facilities, particularly in areas or parks where the operation of an outdoor pool is not feasible. Randolph Township currently operates a sprayground as part of the Randolph Lake facility, but spraygrounds are not available in any other locations in Randolph.

As described in the preceding text, public input ranked outdoor aquatics as a need in Randolph, and, while sprayground did not rank as one of the most needed park improvements, such a facility would help to meet some of the unmet need for aquatics in Randolph at a much lower cost than what would be associated with a pool or aquatic center. The best potential location for a sprayground in Randolph is at Brundage Park (Carrell), possibly as part of the renovation of the playground. The facility should provide a variety of opportunities for interactive elements such as those pictured below. Support facilities for a sprayground area include: seating areas with shade, restrooms, and parking.





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## SIGNAGE

Proper signage is a key factor to allowing the community to find and relate the parks to a quality of life asset provided by Randolph Township. Each park should have a quality and consistent sign identifying the facility, and a series of coordinated wayfinding signs to provide directions to other parks and directions to amenities within the park. These signs should also be coordinated with educational signage, Department of Parks and Recreation documentation, and sign boards/kiosks providing park program information with information detailing where to sign up or learn more about the offerings. Wayfinding signage should include lighting at trailheads with maps showing route locations with color coding, difficulty levels, trail lengths, and type of surface (paved or unpaved). Additionally, trail markers should be provided along trails with color for the trail route and mileage indicators for reporting to emergency and security services.

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## VIII. INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

This section details recommendations for improvements to the existing parks, including proposed new facilities. A site concept plan is included in this section for the 90 Acres site to illustrate a possible configuration of proposed facilities, due to its high priority for improvements. Concept plans should be developed for the parks with substantial recommendations for new and improved facilities to better determine potential configurations of the facilities. The recommendations in this section should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks. Further investigation of these parks is required to determine their capability to support the desired facilities and to identify the precise arrangement of facilities. See Section VII for a more detailed description of each type of improvement.

The total costs associated with support facilities (bike racks, drinking fountains, security cameras, and Wi-Fi hotspots), as seen in the cost estimates later in this text, reflect the number of locations needed for each of these improvements and are largely dependent on the size of the park. In general, these facilities should be located at or adjacent to shelters, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Recommendations for these support facilities can be found in the cost estimates for each park (Table VIII-1), located at end of this section. Additionally, landscape improvements are recommended for most parks and should be considered as part of any improvement. These estimates also include costs associated with other planning and Township-wide recommendations.

### COMMUNITY PARKS

#### Brundage Park (Carrell)

Brundage Park (Carrell) is the second largest Community Park and the second most visited park in Randolph, but this park is in need of some improvements. The improvements to this park are intended to enhance the ability for the park to continue to serve a wide variety of users.

The existing playground will need replacement in approximately six to ten years. At this time, the playground should be redeveloped as a large all-access playground to meet the needs of all potential users in Randolph. A theme related to the park, or possibly the adjacent playhouse, could be incorporated into the design. A sprayground could be developed adjacent to the new facility to provide an opportunity for residents to cool off during the summer months and would provide a major attraction to the park.

Brundage Park Playhouse lacks ADA accessibility to the theatre, and the existing dressing rooms are located in a trailer that lacks heat. Improvements should be made to the structure to provide ADA access to theater, and an addition should be constructed to provide heated dressing rooms and performer restrooms so that performances can be held year-round. The bungalows on the south side of the property need improvements to the façades, and the one used by the Playhouse for programs needs ADA access.

The lighting at the four diamond fields is in need of replacement, and the completion of the trail around the fields would provide better access to the seating areas as well as a walking trail for other users. Connecting sidewalks are needed throughout the property to improve accessibility and for ADA compliance. These walkways will also provide better access for spectators at the existing diamond fields. A long-term improvement could include outdoor fitness equipment to provide an opportunity for residents to exercise and improve their health, dependent of future needs and success in other locations.

#### Freedom Park

Freedom Park is the home of many of the Township's athletic fields, both diamond and rectangular fields. This park is the most used and largest Community Park in Randolph. The proposed improvements should improve the park experience for both athletic team users and everyday recreational users.

The existing artificial turf field needs replacement turf, and public input has indicated a need for additional turf fields. To meet this need, Randolph Township should replace the turf at the existing field and convert the adjacent field to artificial turf as well with bleachers. Other needed field improvements include improved drainage at the Babe Ruth field and lighting at the softball field.

Additional walkways are needed for ADA access to various park amenities.

Some existing facilities need improvements, including resurfacing of the basketball courts and edging and improve accessibility at the playground. Additionally, the parking at this park is insufficient for the



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number of fields available, and visitors are often required to use overflow parking on the other side of Millbrook Avenue. This parking needs improvement, and the crossing from this parking is not located at the intersection. The existing entrance should be widened to allow for two exit lanes.

### **Heistein Park**

Heistein Park is the home of many of Randolph's rectangular fields in addition to four baseball/softball diamonds, and these fields and the park as a whole are in need of some improvements. The recommendations for this park should improve the conditions for athletic users while providing more opportunities for other users.

Two of the existing rectangular fields (fields #1 and #2) have lighting which are in need of replacement. The existing lighting has use restrictions based on agreements with the neighboring residents. The lighting at these fields should be replaced to ensure that these fields continue to meet the needs of athletic teams in Randolph. Because of advancements in lighting technology, the spill light and glare can be greatly reduced compared to the existing lighting.

The replacement lighting should utilize these new advancements in lighting, and Randolph should work with the adjoining neighborhoods to update the resolution to allow for the use of the field lighting on more than the existing four nights per week, once these residents are able to see the quality of the new lighting systems. If a new agreement is established, lighting should also be added to the adjacent two fields (#3 and #4) to expand the availability of athletic fields without the need to develop additional parkland. Additionally, these fields are in need of improvements including irrigation, drainage, and fencing (previously recommended in the Township's Comprehensive Plan).

Other than activities at Heistein Pond, amenities for users other than athletic teams are fairly limited. The playground at this park is very small for a park of this size and should be replaced with a larger feature. The park also lacks connectivity between the elements as well as ADA accessibility. A perimeter trail surrounding the main four rectangular fields combined with a series of walkways would provide better connectivity and a much better experience for park users. The park also needs parking improvements and additional picnic shelters.

### **Randolph Park**

Randolph Park offers a large baseball/softball diamond and Randolph Lake. Residents utilize the lake for boating, fishing, and swimming at Randolph Park Beach. The swimming facility also offers a water spray feature or sprayground. Limited space is available for development of new facilities, but these existing features would benefit from some improvements.

The large ballfield lacks lighting to allow for extended use. In order to maximize the utility of this field and to reduce the need for additional fields in the future, the Township should add lighting to this facility. A picnic shelter at this park would provide additional opportunities for gathering in the community. The bath house at Randolph Park Beach is currently undergoing renovations. The guard house roof will also need to be replaced in the near future, and the sprayground would benefit from some improvements. Finally, the park needs some walkway improvements for ADA accessibility, and a portion of the parking lot needs to be repaved.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS**

### **Brundage Park (Sussex)**

Brundage Park (Sussex) provides an excellent opportunity for park improvements due to its central location. The park currently offers a single full-sized rectangular field with an infield and backstop. The field has lighting which will need replacement within the next ten years. Additionally, the addition of artificial turf to this field would greatly increase its utility for athletic teams, and its location provides minimal conflict with neighboring residents for extended use.

A number of additional enhancements should be completed to support and complement the field improvements. Bleachers will be needed adjacent to the field as the improved facility could host more events. A trail around the perimeter of the field will provide access to all sides of the facility as well as an opportunity for residents to exercise or for teams to train. A picnic shelter would provide a place for teams to gather for meetings and a location for visitors to rest. A restroom should also be included to support teams as well as spectators, and the parking lot should be paved and may need to be expanded to support the increased traffic at the site.

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## Brundage Preserve

Brundage Preserve would benefit from some minor improvements to promote gathering and connectivity of the property. The natural features of the site, including the pond, provide a welcoming environment for visitors, and a picnic shelter could provide an attractive meeting place for residents of the Township. Additionally, many of the amenities at this park lack walkways for accessibility, and the existing trail encircles most but not all of the pond.

## MINI PARKS

Randolph Township has three Mini Park: Kiwanis, Rosefarb, and Timber Lane. No new Mini Parks are recommended, consistent with the 2006 Township Master Plan, but some improvements are needed at the existing parks. Rosenfarb Park is the most in need of improvements, as it currently has little to offer and is located away from the other Township parks. The park has only a half basketball court with an oversized slab, but the park would better serve the community if the slab was reduced and a small playground and gazebo were added. Both Kiwanis and Rosenfarb need some walkways for ADA access.

## OPEN SPACE/NATURE PARKS

Randolph Township has several open space properties totaling over 1,400 acres of land. One property in particular, the 90 Acres site, provides a great opportunity for the development of a new Community Park. Limited improvements are recommended for some of the other open space properties in Randolph.

## 90 Acres Site

The 90 Acres site, if developed as presented in the concept plan (Figure VIII-1), would offer a unique experience consisting of a variety of active and passive recreational facilities. Much of the property is located within wetlands or stream buffers. As a result, the area currently cleared of most vegetation provides the best opportunity for recreational development.

### 1. Paved Trails

A series of trails are recommenced throughout the site. A western loop would surround the community garden and other amenities in that portion of the site. This loop would connect to other trails connecting various facilities at the site as well at the walking track and a trail connecting the property to Heistein Park (to the south). Collectively, these trails would provide opportunities for users to walk loops of varying lengths, ranging from one fourth to two thirds of a mile. The most direct route from Calais Road to Heistein Park should be a shared-use trail between 10' and 12' wide. The remainder of the trails should be approximately 8' wide.

### 2. Nature and Mountain Biking Trails

A system of nature trails and mountain bike trails could be developed to utilize some of the portions of the property located in stream buffer or wetland areas. Two nature trail loops (approximately 0.5 miles in length combined) could be located in the northeastern portion of the property (if conditions allow) and a second nature trail could be located to the southwest of the community garden and court area. The mountain biking trails (approximately one mile in length), which could also function as nature hiking trails, would be located in the southern portion of the site which has less established vegetation. Local sponsors should be utilized as part of the development of these mountain biking trails, mitigating the construction costs.

### 3. Bandshell, Event Lawn, and Walking Track

The central portion of the site, near Calais Road, should be utilized for a bandshell (or covered stage) with a lawn for large events and festivals. A track around the lawn would provide a place for event participants to setup booths during events and would function as a walking track during unprogrammed times. This track would also provide vehicular access to the bandshell. Lighting for this track would allow for use for exercise after dark and would provide lighting during events at the amphitheater and event lawn.

### 4. Nature-Themed Playground (All-Access)

A nature-themed playground is recommended for this park to provide an all-access play opportunity for children in Randolph. The area should be developed with a variety of play features and climbing opportunities and should be constructed out of natural materials when possible (or materials with a natural appearance). This theme will allow the playground to fit seamlessly with the natural conditions of the site.

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## 5. Community Garden

Community garden should be established, as previously proposed, on the western side of the cleared portion of the site. This location has previously been tested and has good soil for these gardens. The garden should be also be fenced. The concept plan shows 24 (30' by 30') plots which could be further subdivided into up to 96 (15' by 15') plots. These plots could also be developed in phases. Finally, water access should also be provided for these plots.

## 6. Pickleball, Bocce, and Shuffleboard Courts

Facilities for seniors were a common theme throughout the public engagement process, and this site provides a great location for such facilities. Pickleball is popular with seniors and was requested during the public input process of this Master Plan. Additionally, both bocce and shuffleboard (not presented in the concept) courts could be developed to enhance the availability of offerings for these users.

## 7. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment will provide an opportunity for residents to exercise and improve their health. The location of the equipment, adjacent to the pickleball courts and other facilities popular with seniors, will be convenient for those users and users of the perimeter trail around that area.

## 8. Picnic Shelters and Restrooms

A series of picnic shelters should be offered throughout the park. At least two shelters should be large and reservable (the largest shelter inside the walking track and the shelter adjacent to the playground). These locations would provide desirable destinations for gatherings and events. The second shelter near the walking track (and parking) should include restrooms. The restroom is important to allow for users to spend extended time at the park. A medium-sized shelter is shown near the pickleball courts, and a small shelter is included within the community garden area.

## 9. Parking and Entrance Road

An entrance road with parking will be required to provide access to the park for visitors. The road alignment in the concept plan follows the existing access path used by maintenance staff and minimizes the need to clear vegetation. The main parking area (near the walking track) would offer 90 spaces, including those near the playground, to serve the walking trail, playground, and shelters. A secondary parking lot would offer 65 spaces to serve the community garden, game courts, and fitness equipment which could also provide access to the trails. The area to the south of the walking track and to the west of the playground is designated for overflow parking during larger events at the amphitheater and event lawn. This grass area should be reinforced with a stabilizing grid systems to prevent compaction.

## 10. Other Improvements

Landscaping and signage will be required throughout the site. Utilities will also be required for the shelters, particularly the one that includes restrooms. The fields designated for overflow parking could be utilized and an open field for exercise or for pickup games. Chess tables could be provided near the high traffic areas to provide another activity to community users, and these tables could also be utilized for other activities.

## Other Open Space Properties

As noted previously, Randolph Township has a large amount of open space. However, public access is generally limited to trailheads which are in need of improved signage. Cohn Farm also provides a great opportunity for a bird blind, but walkways should be added to provide better access for users entering from Center Grove Road.

## OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND STUDIES

Some recommendations are more general or are planning related and are not included in the list of capital improvements for each facility. These items are included at the bottom in the cost estimate table. For example, a development plans is necessary to better determine the orientation of the features at the 90 Acres site, based on more detailed site analysis. Concept development is also needed at the larger parks, including Heistein, Brundage, and Freedom Parks, to more clearly define improvements prior to development.

Randolph Township should also conduct an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications. This assessment could be conducted by trained staff or an outside consultant and could extend beyond parks and recreation. Additionally, lighted signage with wayfinding should be installed at all trailheads which should display color coding, difficulty levels, trail lengths, and type of surface (paved or unpaved). Trail markers should be installed along all trails with colors coding for trail routes and mileage information. Finally, a Township-wide Trail System Master Plan is recommended to determine needed sidewalk improvements, new trail segments, and the prioritization of connections between existing segments.

**TOTAL PARK IMPROVEMENT COSTS**

The total cost for all improvements will depend on which of the recommendations are ultimately implemented. However, the total cost for the projects described above comes to approximately \$12.4 million. Grant opportunities exist, and should be explored, for many of these improvements, helping to reduce the required contributions by Randolph Township. Additionally, partnerships, including fundraising by interest groups or the sale of naming rights, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

**ORDER OF MAGNITUDE CAPITAL PROJECT ESTIMATES**

The following project costs are order-of-magnitude cost estimates for the improvements described previously in this section of the Master Plan. The provided concept plans are general, and final designs should be coordinated with neighborhoods and park users through a more formal park design process. As described at the beginning of this section, the illustrations show possible park configurations and how proposed facilities could potentially fit on each site. The estimated project costs below are presented in order of descending cost. For a full list of project priorities, see the Action Plan in Section IX. The cost estimates provided below were determined using actual cost from previous projects, in conjunction with RSMMeans Site Work & Landscape Cost Data.<sup>14</sup>

**PROJECT FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION**

Randolph Township, fortunately, has an existing funding source that can be utilized for the funding of the capital project recommendations proposed in this plan. The Open Space Trust Fund is projected to have annual balances over the next 10 years in amounts sufficient to allow for the funding of most of the recommendations within this timeframe. More importantly, the Open Space Trust Fund will allow the implementation of these improvements without any additional cost to Randolph residents (no additional taxes).

The 10-year estimated Open Space Trust Fund balances can be seen in Table VIII-2. The numbers in this table are based on several assumptions, including the estimated project costs (see previous heading). Additionally, as part of the budgeting process, conservative interest rates were assumed for borrowing, but those numbers are also estimates. Finally, Building Community Through Parks represents a plan for the future with recommendations to realize the vision for parks and recreation in Randolph as determined through the master planning process. However, the decision to appropriate funds for projects will ultimately be made by the Township Council, the mayor, and other Township representatives. As a result, the timing and scope of the projects outlined in this plan will not likely be a perfect match to the capital appropriation schedule that is ultimately determined by the governing body over the next decade.

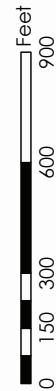
<sup>14</sup> RSMMeans Site Work and Landscape Cost Data. 34th Annual ed. Norwell, MA: RSMMeans, 2014. Print.



Figure VIII-1: 90 Acres Site Concept



## 90 Acres Site Concept



Township of  
**Randolph**  
Morris County, New Jersey

Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Randolph Township, New Jersey





**Table VIII-1: Capital Project Estimates**

Park Name/ Improvement	Timeframe				Total
	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Future	
Community Parks					
Brundage Park (Carrell)					
1 Field lighting replacement	\$550,000				\$550,000
2 Sprayground				\$400,000	\$400,000
3 Brundage Park Playhouse improvements	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$75,000		\$165,000
4 Brundage Park Playhouse dressing rooms and restrooms	\$25,000	\$45,000	\$75,000		\$145,000
5 Playground replacement (large all-access)			\$150,000		\$150,000
6 New storage building				\$35,000	\$35,000
7 Bungalow improvements (ADA to one, façade to all)		\$10,000	\$20,000		\$30,000
8 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$20,000		\$20,000
9 Trail around diamond fields (complete loop)				\$10,000	\$10,000
10 Wi-Fi hotspots			\$10,000		\$10,000
11 Bike racks with concrete pads		\$6,000			\$6,000
12 Demolition of two small structures (south of parking lot)			\$5,000		\$5,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$620,000	\$106,000	\$355,000	\$445,000	\$1,526,000
Contingency (10%)	\$62,000	\$10,600	\$35,500	\$44,500	\$152,600
Construction Total	\$682,000	\$116,600	\$390,500	\$489,500	\$1,678,600
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$81,840	\$13,992	\$46,860	\$58,740	\$201,432
Project Total	\$763,840	\$130,592	\$437,360	\$548,240	\$1,880,032
Freedom Park					
1 Artificial turf (lower field #2)	\$1,000,000				\$1,000,000
2 Replacement artificial turf (lower field #1)	\$630,000				\$630,000
3 Softball field lighting			\$210,000		\$210,000
4 Bleachers and pad for new turf fields	\$125,000				\$125,000
5 Improved drainage (Babe Ruth field)		\$75,000			\$75,000
6 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$45,000		\$45,000
7 Crossing improvements (from overflow parking)	\$10,000	\$15,000			\$25,000
8 Wi-Fi hotspots			\$20,000		\$20,000
9 Playground improvements (edging, accessible features)	\$10,000				\$10,000
10 Garage - water supply and heat	\$10,000				\$10,000
11 Basketball court resurfacing	\$10,000				\$10,000
12 Bike racks with concrete pads	\$6,000				\$6,000
13 Trailhead signage at overflow parking	\$2,000				\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$1,803,000	\$90,000	\$275,000	\$0	\$2,168,000
Contingency (10%)	\$180,300	\$9,000	\$27,500	\$0	\$216,800
Construction Total	\$1,983,300	\$99,000	\$302,500	\$0	\$2,384,800
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$237,996	\$11,880	\$36,300	\$0	\$286,176
Project Total	\$2,221,296	\$110,880	\$338,800	\$0	\$2,670,976
Funded Projects					
Park road/intersection improvements (additional turn lane)					
Heistein Park					
1 New lighting (fields #3 and #4)			\$360,000		\$360,000
2 Replacement lighting (fields #1 and #2)	\$285,000				\$285,000
3 Field improvements (irrigation, drainage, fencing)	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$50,000		\$110,000
4 Playground replacement (expanded size)			\$80,000		\$80,000
5 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$70,000		\$70,000
6 Medium picnic shelter (at pond)			\$60,000		\$60,000
7 Perimeter trail (around central rectangular fields) - 0.4 miles			\$50,000		\$50,000
8 Parking lot paving (at Doby Rd)			\$40,000		\$40,000
9 Pavilion concrete replacement			\$35,000		\$35,000
10 Heater (shop/restrooms)	\$15,000				\$15,000
11 Wi-Fi hotspots			\$15,000		\$15,000
12 Bike racks with concrete pads	\$6,000				\$6,000
13 Parking lot redress paving (at pond)		\$5,000			\$5,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$336,000	\$35,000	\$760,000	\$0	\$1,131,000
Contingency (10%)	\$33,600	\$3,500	\$76,000	\$0	\$113,100
Construction Total	\$369,600	\$38,500	\$836,000	\$0	\$1,244,100
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$44,352	\$4,620	\$100,320	\$0	\$149,292
Project Total	\$413,952	\$43,120	\$936,320	\$0	\$1,393,392

Park Name/ Improvement	Timeframe				Total
	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Future	
Randolph Park					
1 Field lighting			\$285,000		\$285,000
2 Parking lot repaving	\$120,000				\$120,000
3 Medium picnic shelter			\$60,000		\$60,000
4 Spray park improvements			\$25,000		\$25,000
5 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$20,000		\$20,000
6 Roof replacement at guard house		\$20,000			\$20,000
7 Wi-Fi hotspots			\$10,000		\$10,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$120,000	\$20,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$540,000
Contingency (10%)	\$12,000	\$2,000	\$40,000	\$0	\$54,000
Construction Total	\$132,000	\$22,000	\$440,000	\$0	\$594,000
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$15,840	\$2,640	\$52,800	\$0	\$71,280
Project Total	\$147,840	\$24,640	\$492,800	\$0	\$665,280
Neighborhood Parks					
Brundage Park (Sussex)					
1 Artificial turf field			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
2 Field lighting replacement			\$275,000		\$275,000
3 Parking lot paving			\$200,000		\$200,000
4 Restroom building			\$160,000		\$160,000
5 Medium picnic shelter			\$65,000		\$65,000
6 Bleachers and pad for turf field			\$50,000		\$50,000
7 Trail around field with connection to trail system - 0.25 acres				\$35,000	\$35,000
8 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$7,500		\$7,500
9 Wi-Fi hotspot			\$5,000		\$5,000
10 Bike rack with concrete pad		\$2,000			\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$0	\$2,000	\$1,762,500	\$35,000	\$1,799,500
Contingency (10%)	\$0	\$200	\$176,250	\$3,500	\$179,950
Construction Total	\$0	\$2,200	\$1,938,750	\$38,500	\$1,979,450
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$0	\$264	\$232,650	\$4,620	\$237,534
Project Total	\$0	\$2,464	\$2,171,400	\$43,120	\$2,216,984
Brundage Preserve					
1 Picnic shelter			\$50,000		\$50,000
2 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)				\$10,000	\$10,000
3 Trail around pond (complete loop)			\$7,500		\$7,500
4 Wi-Fi hotspot			\$5,000		\$5,000
5 Bike rack with concrete pad	\$2,000				\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$2,000	\$0	\$62,500	\$10,000	\$74,500
Contingency (10%)	\$200	\$0	\$6,250	\$1,000	\$7,450
Construction Total	\$2,200	\$0	\$68,750	\$11,000	\$81,950
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$264	\$0	\$8,250	\$1,320	\$9,834
Project Total	\$2,464	\$0	\$77,000	\$12,320	\$91,784
Mini Parks					
Kiwanis Park					
1 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$3,000		\$3,000
2 Drinking fountain with spigot	\$3,000				\$3,000
3 Bike rack with concrete pad	\$2,000				\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$5,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$8,000
Contingency (10%)	\$500	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$800
Construction Total	\$5,500	\$0	\$3,300	\$0	\$8,800
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$660	\$0	\$396	\$0	\$1,056
Project Total	\$6,160	\$0	\$3,696	\$0	\$9,856
Rosenfarb Park					
1 Playground			\$30,000		\$30,000
2 Gazebo			\$20,000		\$20,000
3 Basketball court improvement (replace/reduce slab)		\$15,000			\$15,000
4 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)	\$3,000				\$3,000
5 Bike rack with concrete pad	\$2,000				\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$70,000
Contingency (10%)	\$500	\$1,500	\$5,000	\$0	\$7,000
Construction Total	\$5,500	\$16,500	\$55,000	\$0	\$77,000
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$660	\$1,980	\$6,600	\$0	\$9,240
Project Total	\$6,160	\$18,480	\$61,600	\$0	\$86,240

Park Name/ Improvement	Timeframe				Total
	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Future	
Open Space					
90 Acres Site					
1 Playground (all-access/nature themed)	\$300,000				\$300,000
2 Bandshell	\$200,000				\$200,000
3 Overflow parking	\$200,000				\$200,000
4 Picnic shelter with restrooms near event lawn/walking track	\$200,000				\$200,000
5 Walking track lighting	\$160,000				\$160,000
6 Parking lot with entrance road	\$150,000				\$150,000
7 Large picnic shelter	\$100,000				\$100,000
8 Utilities and septic system	\$100,000				\$100,000
9 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)	\$80,000				\$80,000
10 Picnic shelter at pickleball/community gardens	\$75,000				\$75,000
11 Community garden with fencing and shelter	\$75,000				\$75,000
12 Outdoor fitness equipment	\$60,000				\$60,000
13 Nature trails (2 loops) - 0.5 miles each	\$60,000				\$60,000
14 Walking track - 0.25 miles	\$55,000				\$55,000
15 Connection to neighborhood (Dover Chester Road)	\$40,000				\$40,000
16 Trail loop around community garden area - 0.4 miles	\$35,000				\$35,000
17 Pickleball courts (2)	\$30,000				\$30,000
18 Connection to neighborhood (Trout Brook Lane)	\$25,000				\$25,000
19 Bocce courts	\$20,000				\$20,000
20 Security lighting	\$20,000				\$20,000
21 Security cameras	\$20,000				\$20,000
22 Trail to Heistein Park (from Calais Road)	\$15,000				\$15,000
23 Wi-Fi hotspots	\$15,000				\$15,000
24 Shuffleboard courts	\$10,000				\$10,000
25 Mountain bike trails - 1 mile (with sponsor groups)	\$10,000				\$10,000
26 Drinking fountains with spigots	\$10,000				\$10,000
27 Bike racks with concrete pads	\$8,000				\$8,000
28 Chess tables/multi-use tables (2)	\$5,000				\$5,000
29 Signage (trailhead/wayfinding, entrance)	\$2,000				\$2,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$2,080,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,080,000
Contingency (10%)	\$208,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$208,000
Construction Total	\$2,288,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,288,000
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$274,560	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$274,560
Project Total	\$2,562,560	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,562,560
Round to:	\$2,600,000				\$2,600,000
Cohn Farm					
1 Walkways (connectivity and ADA)			\$12,000		\$12,000
2 Bird blind (for bird watching)	\$3,000				\$3,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$3,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0	\$15,000
Contingency (10%)	\$300	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,500
Construction Total	\$3,300	\$0	\$13,200	\$0	\$16,500
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$396	\$0	\$1,584	\$0	\$1,980
Project Total	\$3,696	\$0	\$14,784	\$0	\$18,480
Hidden Valley Park					
1 Park improvements			\$25,000		\$25,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Contingency (10%)	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,500
Construction Total	\$0	\$0	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$0	\$0	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300
Project Total	\$0	\$0	\$30,800	\$0	\$30,800
Special Use					
Artworks					
1 Budgeted amount - Options to be explored	\$150,000	\$100,000			\$250,000
Other Improvements					
1 Trail Improvements	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$175,000		\$250,000
2 General park improvements		\$30,000	\$50,000		\$80,000
3 Concept development (Heistein, Brundage, Freedom Parks)	\$40,000				\$40,000
4 Development Plan for 90 Acres Site	\$30,000				\$30,000
5 Trail System Master Plan	\$25,000				\$25,000
6 Trail markers (interpretive, mileage, color coding, difficulty), all trails	\$36,000				\$36,000
7 Security Cameras	\$20,000	\$30,000			\$50,000
8 ADA Accessibility Assessment	\$20,000				\$20,000
Project Totals	\$186,000	\$120,000	\$225,000	\$0	\$531,000
Total (all projects)					
	\$6,501,408	\$550,176	\$4,789,560	\$603,680	\$12,444,824

**Table VIII-2: Estimated 10 Year Open Space Trust Fund Budget**

Year	Annual Tax	Interest Earned	Projects	Debt Services	Reserve for Parks/Trail Improvements	Dedicated Trust Account Balance	Park Improvement Reserve Balance	Total Fund Balance
	Credits		Debits			Balances		
2010						\$528,606		
2011	\$730,288	\$1,456	\$100,000	\$586,159	\$225,000	\$349,191	\$161,000	\$510,191
2012	\$728,139	\$1,090		\$543,917	\$225,000	\$309,503	\$156,500	\$466,003
2013	\$812,844	\$615		\$543,499	\$275,000	\$304,462	\$201,000	\$505,462
2014	\$869,308	\$230,530	\$458	\$527,390	\$335,000	\$541,453	\$253,000	\$794,453
2015	\$872,037	\$1,255		\$399,114	\$0	\$1,015,631	\$155,500	\$1,171,131
2016	\$877,004	\$1,000		\$512,393	\$279,500	\$1,101,742	\$0	\$1,101,742
2017	\$877,004	\$176,000		\$513,634	\$353,000	\$1,288,112	\$0	\$1,288,112
2018	\$877,004	\$126,000		\$767,143	\$325,000	\$1,198,973	\$0	\$1,198,973
2019	\$877,004	\$900		\$775,279	\$385,000	\$916,598	\$0	\$916,598
2020	\$877,004	\$750		\$621,355	\$365,000	\$807,997	\$0	\$807,997
2021	\$877,004	\$750		\$615,245	\$290,000	\$780,506	\$0	\$780,506
2022	\$877,004	\$750		\$608,865	\$375,000	\$674,395	\$0	\$674,395
2023	\$877,004	\$750		\$654,615	\$325,000	\$572,534	\$0	\$572,534
2024	\$877,004	\$750		\$644,775	\$290,000	\$515,513	\$0	\$515,513
2025	\$877,004	\$750		\$635,305	\$207,000	\$550,962	\$0	\$550,962
2026	\$877,004	\$750		\$722,595	\$260,000	\$446,121	\$0	\$446,121



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## IX. ACTION PLAN

### ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES

The table (Table IX-1) on the following pages details the recommendations of this Master Plan and should serve as direction for the Randolph Township Council, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, Parks Advisory Committee, and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding the implementation of this Plan. A total of six goals, 26 objectives, and 148 strategies are outlined in this Action Plan. The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table in columns for "Responsibility" and "Funding Source."

The table identifies each goal, followed by a series of objectives to meet those goals. Strategies further describe how to meet each objective and represent specific actions for the Randolph Township to make. Check marks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy 0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, or over 10 years. Some strategies are indicated as "Ongoing" as they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total for strategies by timeframe can be found at the end of the table.

The three columns at the right of the table provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. "Responsibility" indicates the organization or agency that is should lead implementation of the recommendation. "Category" describes the type of action within the following five options: capital (capital improvements), policy (guidelines for Department of Parks and Community Services and Township Council, possibly including legislation), planning (long-term parks outlook, could include conduction of a study), or operations (Parks and Recreation actions). "Funding Source" indicates how the strategy should be funded or the type of funds used. For example, CP indicates that funds come from a source related to Capital Project Funds, including existing or future revenue sources.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RANKING

The Master Plan Steering Committee and community leaders reviewed the potential solutions and recommendations of the Master Plan and then participated in an exercise to help establish capital priorities for the Action Plan. Committee members were asked to rank each of the potential improvement projects with a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0).

The priority ranking was used to indicate the importance of the improvements and not necessarily the order in which they would be developed. Table IX-2, located after the Action Plan, identifies the capital improvement ranking based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings were used as part of the process for recommending priorities, along with public input and analyses completed throughout this master planning process.

Table IX-1: Action Plan

ACTION PLAN									
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies									
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Category	Agency Responsible	Funding Source	
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations									
Parks = Randolph Township Department of Parks and Recreation									
Township = Township Council, Other Township Departments (Planning/Zoning, Police, Library, etc.)									
OP = Township Operating Budget									
Partners = Other organizations (businesses, civic associations, state/federal grants, etc.)									
Goal 1: Promote Fun, Excitement, and Community Enrichment through Parks and Programs									
Strategically plan short- and long-term investments in parks, facilities, and programs that promote the enrichment of the community.									
Objective 1.1: Explore a wide variety of opportunities for fun and excitement at parks.									
Strategy 1.1.1: Formally recognize this Master Plan as the guiding document for parks and recreation improvements following presentations to the Steering Committee and Township Council.	✓					Policy	Township		
Strategy 1.1.2: Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations.	✓					Planning	Parks, Township		
Strategy 1.1.3: Prepare a more detailed Development Plan for the 90 Acres site to ensure that the improvements meet the long-term needs of Randolph residents.	✓					Planning	Parks, Township	CP, OP	
Strategy 1.1.4: Develop concepts for Heistein, Brundage, and Freedom Parks to more clearly define the needed improvement to those parks.	✓					Planning	Parks, Township	CP, OP	
Strategy 1.1.5: Focus short-term capital improvements on renovation/improvement to existing, key facilities (trails, playgrounds, game courts, picnic shelters, and athletic fields).		Ongoing				Policy	Parks, Township		
Objective 1.2: Provide an inclusive environment for social activities, relaxation, and entertainment for families and individuals of all ages.									
Strategy 1.2.1: Add or improve playgrounds at parks around Randolph that currently offer no or limited play equipment for residents, filling gaps in service for this important recreational facility.		✓		✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.2.2: Ensure that the addition of needed support facilities, including walkways, restrooms, signage, and drinking fountains, are part of any park improvement project.		Ongoing				Policy	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.2.3: Develop a sprayground in an existing park or open space to expand the Township's offerings for outdoor recreation with minimal impact to the department's operating budget.					✓	Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.2.4: Add restroom facilities at needed locations at existing Neighborhood and Community Parks.		Ongoing				Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.2.5: Add drinking fountains as needed at all existing Parks.	✓	✓				Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.2.6: Add parking as facilities are expanded to assure adequate access to facilities is maintained.		Ongoing				Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Objective 1.3: Utilize trendsetting parks and recreational facilities to enrich the community through a variety of athletic, educational, and cultural arts programs.									
Strategy 1.3.1: Replace the turf at the existing artificial turf field at Freedom Park to ensure this heavily used facility remains available to athletic groups.	✓					Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.3.2: Replace lighting at Heistein Park fields #1 and #2 to ensure that these fields continue to meet the needs of athletic teams in Randolph.	✓					Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.3.3: Replace lighting at Brundage Park fields to ensure that these fields remain available to athletic teams in Randolph.	✓					Capital	Parks, Township	CP	
Strategy 1.3.4: Add lighting at Heistein Park fields #3 and #4 to expand the availability of athletic fields in Randolph without the need to develop additional parkland.				✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP	

ACTION PLAN								
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies								
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Category	Agency Responsible	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 1.3.5:</b>	Add lighting at the diamond field at Randolph Park and the softball field at Freedom Park to reduce the demand for additional fields.			✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.3.6:</b>	Replace lighting at the field at Brundage Sussex Park to expand the availability of athletic fields in Randolph without the need to develop additional parkland.		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.3.7:</b>	Add artificial turf with bleachers to the second lower field at Freedom Park and to the field at Brundage Sussex to increase the availability of fields and reduce the frequency of rainouts.	✓		✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.3.8:</b>	Require all new athletic lighting in Randolph to utilize new lighting technology with sharper cut-off fixtures that limit spill light and glare.		Ongoing			Policy	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.3.9:</b>	Utilize these new lighting requirements to update the resolution with the adjoining neighborhoods to allow for the use of the field lighting at Heistein Park on more than four nights per week.	✓				Policy	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.3.10:</b>	Consider the need for a wide variety of facilities, particularly those preferred by the local community, as part of any park improvement process.		Ongoing			Planning	Parks, Township	
<b>Strategy 1.3.11:</b>	Add scoreboards at all fields that are used for games and currently lack this feature.		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Objective 1.4:</b> Focus on the value added to the community as a result of any proposed development.								
<b>Strategy 1.4.1:</b>	Develop a nature-themed destination playground at the 90 Acres site with unique features, unavailable in or near Randolph Township.	✓				Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.4.2:</b>	Consider the development of outdoor fitness equipment at additional parks throughout Randolph, if the feature is successful at the 90 Acres site.				✓	Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.4.3:</b>	Determine whether to improve/replace the Brundage Skate Park at its current location, redevelop the facility in a more visible location, or eliminate the facility entirely.	✓				Planning	Parks, Township	
<b>Strategy 1.4.4:</b>	Add security lighting if the decision is made to maintain the Brundage Skate Park in its current location.		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 1.4.5:</b>	Consider unmet facility needs as part of any new park development.		Ongoing			Planning	Parks, Township	
<b>Goal 2: Maintain Compatibility, Flexibility, Adaptability, and Sustainability of the Park System</b>								
<b>Place emphasis on multi-purpose facilities that are durable with consideration to the suitability and characteristics of the chosen location.</b>								
<b>Objective 2.1:</b> Ensure that facilities are compatible with a wide variety of programs and adaptable to future needs.								
<b>Strategy 2.1.1:</b>	Consider the needs of a variety of user groups and potential future users as part of any park improvement or new facility development.		Ongoing			Planning	Parks, Township	
<b>Strategy 2.1.2:</b>	Include lining for multiple sports at all artificial turf fields, including soccer (small-sided and full-sized), football, and lacrosse (boys' and girls').		Ongoing			Policy	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Objective 2.2:</b> Promote financial sustainability through cost-effective development decisions that consider revenue opportunities.								
<b>Strategy 2.2.1:</b>	Expand rental use of existing facilities to provide additional revenue while ensuring the availability of these facilities for open public use.	✓				Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 2.2.2:</b>	Offer rental opportunities of new facilities as they are developed to maximize use of these facilities and to provide additional revenue for the Township.		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 2.2.3:</b>	Utilize the development of additional artificial turf fields to increase the opportunities for tournaments (for multiple sports) and draw visitors (and economic activity) to Randolph.		✓			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Objective 2.3:</b> Ensure development is environmentally sustainable and non-disruptive to the environment through the preservation of open space, the use of green (or eco-friendly) materials and practices, and by ensuring development is suitable for protracted use.								

ACTION PLAN						
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 2.3.1:</b> Continue to examine opportunities for the acquisition of open space, giving priority to land that is contiguous to existing open space or parks, needed for trail connections, or in portions of the Township currently underserved by parks and open space.			Ongoing			CP
<b>Strategy 2.3.2:</b> Ensure that the development of any open space, including the 90 Acres site, carefully balances passive recreation uses with the desire to preserve property in its natural state for wildlife habitat, stormwater management, and other benefits of open space.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 2.3.3:</b> Utilize parks as examples of Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater detention, recycling, etc.			Ongoing			CP, OP
<b>Objective 2.4:</b> Ensure that adjacent uses are complementary.						
<b>Strategy 2.4.1:</b> Emphasize careful planning of park improvements, including the placement of facilities, to ensure that adjacent park features are complementary.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 2.4.2:</b> Increase availability of bicycle parking at all parks, especially where trails encounter other park facilities, focusing first on those with existing bicycle access.		✓	✓			CP
<b>Objective 2.5:</b> Utilize the natural environment for educational and passive uses as well as wildlife management.						
<b>Strategy 2.5.1:</b> Develop nature trails to take advantage of existing natural resources at the 90 Acres site and other open space properties where conditions allow.		✓	✓			CP
<b>Strategy 2.5.2:</b> Develop nature based programs and events to increase awareness of sensitive resources and to provide educational opportunities for Randolph residents.			✓			CP
<b>Strategy 2.5.3:</b> Maximize the utility of natural resources for recreational opportunities and enhancement of quality of life in Randolph.			Ongoing			
<b>Strategy 2.5.4:</b> Utilize Township-owned open spaces for a variety of nature based programs, such as guided hikes, birdwatching, and nature education programs, if sufficient public interest exists for these programs.			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 2.5.5:</b> Provide interpretive signage at locations of natural resources at parks, open space properties, and along trails.		✓	✓			CP
<b>Goal 3: Utilize Connectivity to Build Community and Improve Health</b>						
<b>Improve connectivity to promote community interaction, health, and awareness of opportunities for parks, trails, programs, and events.</b>						
<b>Objective 3.1:</b> Facilitate community connectivity with parks and programs to inspire pride and community identity through shared experiences.						
<b>Strategy 3.1.1:</b> Develop the 90 Acres site as a Community Park with a focus on facilities that encourage residents to gather and interact.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.1.2:</b> Develop pickleball and bocce courts at the 90 Acres site to provide a needed facility for seniors and an opportunity for intergenerational activity.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.1.3:</b> Develop chess tables to provide additional opportunities for community gathering and interaction.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.1.4:</b> Encourage the use of community bulletin boards at parks for the promotion of events and programs to improve awareness of programming opportunities.		✓				OP
<b>Objective 3.2:</b> Provide venues for the community to gather and connect with each other, and with nature, through both events and daily usage.						
<b>Strategy 3.2.1:</b> Develop an amphitheater/bandshell for community events at the 90 Acres site.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.2.2:</b> Utilize the amphitheater for a series of events, including concerts, throughout the year.			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 3.2.3:</b> Determine a new location for the Artworks Studio either as part of a new structure or utilizing an existing facility.		✓	✓			



ACTION PLAN						
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 3.2.4:</b> Develop a new facility or relocate the Artworks Studio to its new location to ensure the continued availability of these valuable programs.			✓			CP, OP
<b>Strategy 3.2.5:</b> Provide additional program supplies, including computer and Wi-Fi access, to allow for the improvement of program offerings by the Artworks Studio.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.2.6:</b> Renovate and expand the Brundage Park Playhouse to improve ADA accessibility and to provide heated changing rooms and restrooms.			Ongoing			CP
<b>Strategy 3.2.7:</b> Include reservable picnic shelters as part of park improvements where possible, particularly at Neighborhood and Community Parks (Randolph, Heistein, Brundage Preserve) as access to these facilities in Randolph is currently limited.			✓	✓		CP
<b>Objective 3.3:</b> Further enrich the community by encouraging interaction between users of all ages and by providing motivation for healthy activities.						
<b>Strategy 3.3.1:</b> Continuously improve connectivity within parks through the added walkways and connecting paths as needed.			Ongoing			CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.2:</b> Develop all-purpose perimeter trails at Freedom, Heistein, and Brundage Sussex Parks.				✓		CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.3:</b> Develop an all-purpose perimeter trail at the 90 Acres site.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.4:</b> Include all-purpose perimeter trails, and other trails as conditions allow, at all future parks.			Ongoing			CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.5:</b> Develop natural trails in park areas where paved trails are not feasible.			✓			CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.6:</b> Continue trail to the southwest of the diamond fields at Brundage Park to complete loop.				✓		CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.7:</b> Complete trail loop around pond at Brundage Preserve.				✓		CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.8:</b> Ensure that all trailheads are lighted and include signage with wayfinding that displays color coding, difficulty levels, trail lengths, and type of surface (paved or unpaved).	✓					CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.9:</b> Include picnic areas at trailheads where possible to provide a place for users to rest and meeting spaces for groups.			✓			CP
<b>Strategy 3.3.10:</b> Provide maps that identify the routes with difficulty level at all trailheads.		✓				OP
<b>Objective 3.4:</b> Utilize trails to provide opportunities for health and fitness and to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places.						
<b>Strategy 3.4.1:</b> Develop a Trail System Master Plan (possibly as part of an update to the Township Transportation Plan) that includes sidewalk improvements, new trail segments, and the prioritization of existing segment connections.	✓					CP, OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.2:</b> Develop criteria to determine whether trails should be paved versus unpaved trails, possibly as part of a Township Trail System Master Plan.	✓					OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.3:</b> Continue implementation of the Township's Complete Streets policy to ensure accommodation of bicyclists, pedestrians, and automobiles.		Ongoing				OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.4:</b> Continuously monitor trends and make accommodations for new modes of transportation within parks and throughout the Township.		Ongoing				OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.5:</b> Identify and develop trail connections between parks and disconnected but adjacent streets to improve both access to parks and neighborhood connectivity.	✓	✓	✓	✓		CP, OP
<b>Strategy 3.4.6:</b> Identify and develop trail connections between parks, schools, open spaces, neighborhoods, meeting places, and other Township trails to promote both connectivity and tourism activities.	✓	✓	✓	✓		CP, OP

ACTION PLAN						
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 3.4.7:</b> Provide trail markers displaying color coding of trail routes and mileage information.		✓				CP
<b>Objective 3.5:</b> Encourage community connectivity by increasing awareness of available parks, programs, and events (existing and new as available) through online publication, promotion, and registration.						
<b>Strategy 3.5.1:</b> Provide Wi-Fi hotspots in all Neighborhood and Community Parks with initial focus on the most used parks currently lacking this amenity (Brundage, Freedom, and Heistein).			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.2:</b> Develop, promote, and regularly update a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences (event information, park/trail maps).		✓				CP, OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.3:</b> Utilize this app to encourage fitness in the community, to connect park users interested in gathering for exercise, and to connect to a master schedule for athletic events (including those rescheduled because of rain).			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.4:</b> Utilize social media to promote programs and events to residents and visitors.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.5:</b> Utilize the existing "Tap into Randolph" online neighborhood news website to promote programs and improve awareness of facilities offered by Randolph Parks and Recreation.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.6:</b> Actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.7:</b> Provide online maps that identify the routes with difficulty levels of all trails in Randolph.		✓				OP
<b>Strategy 3.5.8:</b> Include the program offerings of the Artworks Studio and the Brundage Park Playhouse in all efforts to increase awareness of program offerings in Randolph.		✓				OP
<b>Goal 4: Ensure Equitable Access to a Wide Variety of Park Services</b>						
<b>Strive to ensure accessibility of park facilities and programs to provide equitable access for all present and the future users.</b>						
<b>Objective 4.1:</b> Ensure accessibility in terms of the geographic location of parks as well as the location of individual facilities within parks.						
<b>Strategy 4.1.1:</b> Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications.		✓				CP, OP
<b>Strategy 4.1.2:</b> Provide an accessible route of travel to all athletic fields and spectator seating areas.		✓	✓			CP
<b>Strategy 4.1.3:</b> Improve the restroom facilities at the VFW building to provide ADA accessibility so that this facility can be fully utilized by the residents of the Township.		✓				CP
<b>Strategy 4.1.4:</b> Utilize the elevator improvements (in progress) to the VFW building to improve the availability of indoor programming opportunities in Randolph Township.		✓				OP
<b>Strategy 4.1.5:</b> Engage underserved populations, including low income, minority, and disabled residents, to improve awareness of recreation opportunities (and to increase participation rates) through collaboration with community leaders and organizations.			Ongoing			OP, Partners
<b>Objective 4.2:</b> Provide facilities and programs to meet the needs of a diverse population, including users of all ages and those with disabilities.						
<b>Strategy 4.2.1:</b> Provide a variety of options at all parks to meet the needs of users with different needs and preferences, including both active and passive recreation.			Ongoing			CP
<b>Strategy 4.2.2:</b> Redevelop the playground at Brundage Park (Carrell) as a large, all-access, destination playground with a theme matching the character of the park and surrounding area.			✓			OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 4.2.3:</b> Develop walking/running tracks that are flat and highly visible at Freedom Park and the 90 Acres site.		✓				CP

ACTION PLAN						
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 4.2.4:</b> Provide lighting at one or both of these tracks, possibly utilizing existing electricity and light poles at Freedom Park.			✓	✓		CP
<b>Objective 4.3:</b> Provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to enrich the lives of community members.						
<b>Strategy 4.3.1:</b> Ensure that existing programs continue to provide opportunities for community members of all ages, skill levels, and those with disabilities.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.2:</b> Establish a Silver Sneakers program, offering a series of fitness programs, to meet the needs of the growing number of healthy seniors in the community.			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.3:</b> Establish a pickleball program in conjunction with the construction of the associated facility that includes classes, tournaments, and potentially leagues for both seniors only and multi-generational participants.			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.4:</b> Develop programs to take advantage of outdoor fitness equipment and to provide additional fitness and wellness programming.				✓		OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.5:</b> Develop gardening seminars and other programming to take advantage of the proposed community gardens at the 90 Acres site.			✓			OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.6:</b> Expand the availability of programs for adults and children running simultaneously, so parents can participate in one program, while their children participate in another.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.7:</b> Seek additional opportunities for multigenerational and intergenerational programming, including nature-based outdoor activities (fishing, gardening, bird watching) and arts and crafts indoor activities (music, painting, cooking).	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 4.3.8:</b> Maintain and expand, as additional facilities are developed, sponsorships for residents who cannot afford to use facilities or participate in programs, including athletics.	Ongoing					OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 4.3.9:</b> Continuously review program offerings and add or delete programs to keep up with the desires of the residents, trends, and customer satisfaction comments.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Objective 4.4:</b> Consider the opportunities provided by (and the sensitivity of) the local climate to ensure continued access for future users.						
<b>Strategy 4.4.1:</b> Incorporate natural resources into any park improvement (or new park development) to maximize the utility of these assets for recreational opportunities and for the enhancement of quality of life.	Ongoing					Parks, Partners
<b>Strategy 4.4.2:</b> Consider the implementation of nature based and passive recreational opportunities at existing open space properties, with a focus on activities appropriate for each site and the local climate.	Ongoing					Parks, Partners
<b>Goal 5: Explore Opportunities for Cooperation to Expand Facility and Program Offerings</b>						
<b>Collaborate with local organizations, including school districts, business groups, non-profits, land trusts, the Morris County Park Commission, the State of New Jersey, community service groups, clubs, the YMCA, private recreation providers, and more to increase the availability of opportunities for parks and recreation.</b>						
<b>Objective 5.1:</b> Pursue partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors to the community.						
<b>Strategy 5.1.1:</b> Maintain existing relationships with private recreation providers.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 5.1.2:</b> Pursue partnerships for both the capital construction costs and the annual operating costs of any facility.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 5.1.3:</b> Pursue grants for development and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 5.1.4:</b> Seek grants from state, federal, and non-profit sources for trail and bikeway improvements.	Ongoing					OP
<b>Strategy 5.1.5:</b> Investigate partnership opportunities for the development of the large all-access playground at Brundage Park.				✓		OP

ACTION PLAN						
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies						
		0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 5.1.6:</b> Seek partnerships with healthcare providers to increase availability of programs related to health and wellness for all ages.		✓				OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.1.7:</b> Continue to explore partnerships with Randolph Township Schools for the use of their artificial turf fields and gymnasium space.			Ongoing			OP, Schools
<b>Strategy 5.1.8:</b> Continue to coordinate with the Morris County Park Commission as part of long-term trail planning.			Ongoing			OP, County
<b>Strategy 5.1.9:</b> Explore partnership opportunities with the Morris County Park Commission, Randolph Township Schools, and, possibly the Community College of Morris for nature programs at Township parks or open space properties (possibly the 90 Acres site) or at one of the Morris County parks.			Ongoing			OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.1.10:</b> Seek partners for the improvements needed to the existing structures of both the Brundage Park Playhouse and the Artworks Studio.		✓	✓			OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.1.11:</b> Investigate the potential of a new Brundage Theater and Artworks facility which could be privately developed in conjunction with donors on Township-owned land as an alternative to improvements to the existing structures.		✓	✓			OP, Partners
<b>Objective 5.2:</b> Consider partnerships for operations of those improvements to reduce ongoing costs to Randolph Township residents.						
<b>Strategy 5.2.1:</b> Consider selling naming rights for to help fund ongoing costs, particularly at new facilities.		✓				Parks, Township
<b>Strategy 5.2.2:</b> Establish policies for selling of naming rights (facilities, rooms, etc.).		✓				OP
<b>Strategy 5.2.3:</b> Establish policies for recognition of naming rights (signage, etc.).		✓				OP
<b>Strategy 5.2.4:</b> Recruit sponsors for larger programs and events to offset costs.			Ongoing			OP
<b>Strategy 5.2.5:</b> Investigate opportunities for the development and operation of an outdoor pool, possibly as a partnership with the YMCA or another private developer.				✓		OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.2.6:</b> Require detailed documentation of funding sources and operating strategies (pro-forma) as part of any facility partnership agreement.			Ongoing			
<b>Strategy 5.2.7:</b> Pursue a partnership with the Randolph Soccer Club to reduce the cost of lighting at Heistein Park fields.		✓	✓			OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.2.8:</b> Utilize partnerships with organizations, such as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, to implement improvements at park and open space properties.			Ongoing			
<b>Objective 5.3:</b> Improve awareness of all activities in Randolph, including those offered by other agencies or organizations.						
<b>Strategy 5.3.1:</b> Collaborate with local agencies and organizations for cross promotion to improve awareness of programming opportunities and to coordinate offerings to avoid duplication of services.			Ongoing			OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 5.3.2:</b> Create and promote a common calendar for activities and events in Randolph, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism.		✓				OP, Partners
<b>Goal 6: Maintain Exemplary Facilities, Programs, and Services that Ensure the Safety of Users</b>						
<b>Strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation with an emphasis on safety and security to meet and encourage high standards for facilities, programs, and services.</b>						
<b>Objective 6.1:</b> Ensure continued excellence and a safe environment through proactive maintenance and regulatory compliance to inspire and uphold community confidence in the excellence of the parks system.						
<b>Strategy 6.1.1:</b> Conduct regular assessments and evaluations of existing parks and facilities for their functionality, accessibility, aesthetics, and ability to meet established standards of service.			Ongoing			OP

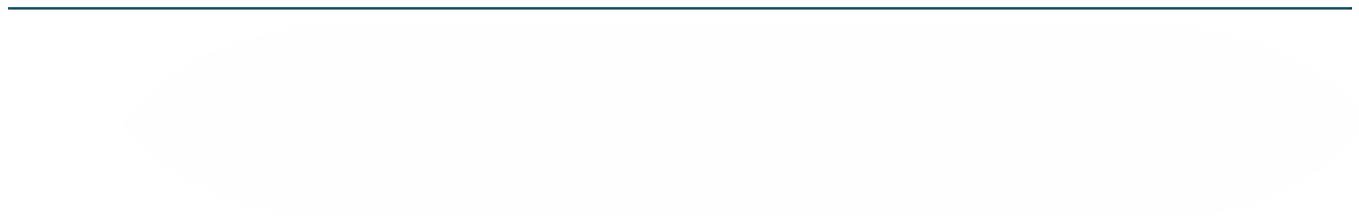


ACTION PLAN							
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies							
	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Category	Agency Responsible	Funding Source
<b>Strategy 6.1.2:</b> Provide necessary safety equipment at all parks, trails, and events.		Ongoing			Capital, Policy	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.3:</b> Improve parking at existing parks and trailheads throughout Randolph.		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.4:</b> Improve fields at Heistein Park to add irrigation, improve drainage, and replace fencing (as previously recommended in the Township's Comprehensive Plan).		✓	✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.5:</b> Improve drainage at the Freedom Park Babe Ruth field to improve the use of this field and to reduce the frequency of rainouts.		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.6:</b> Remove or visually improve concrete platforms in the pond at Heistein Park to increase the appeal of this park feature.			✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.7:</b> Implement the needed improvement to the bungalows at Brundage Park, including ADA improvements to the structures used for programs and façade and roof improvements to all of the structures.			✓		Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.8:</b> Demolish and remove the two small unused structures at Brundage Park (south of the parking lot).		✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.9:</b> Continue to make the needed improvements (in progress) to the Randolph Lake bathhouse.	✓				Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.1.10:</b> Develop a plan for improvements for the Randolph Museum to ensure that necessary improvements are made to the facility.		✓			Planning	Parks, Township	CP, OP
<b>Objective 6.2:</b> Utilize ongoing training to ensure highly proficient and passionate staff, coaches, and volunteers, consistent with the community expectation of excellence for the Parks and Recreation Department.							
<b>Strategy 6.2.1:</b> Train leadership staff to become experts in their respective fields.		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 6.2.2:</b> Create and implement professional and career development plans for all staff.	✓				Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 6.2.3:</b> Encourage management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations.		Ongoing			Operations, Policy	Parks, Township	OP
<b>Strategy 6.2.4:</b> Continuously train staff and emphasize customer service.		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 6.2.5:</b> Establish a program for internal benchmarking of program offerings and facility maintenance.	✓				Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 6.2.6:</b> Annually review the results of the internal benchmarking in conjunction with feedback from user groups.		Ongoing			Operations	Parks	OP
<b>Objective 6.3:</b> Encourage volunteerism to help build community interest and to ensure the continuation of quality parks and programs.							
<b>Strategy 6.3.1:</b> Encourage the creation of a Friends of Randolph Parks foundation to recruit and organize volunteers, work toward the implementation of improvements outlined in this Master Plan, and raise funds for improvements through donations, endowments, bequests, trusts, and grants.	✓				Operations, Policy	Parks	OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 6.3.2:</b> Establish a program (possibly as part of Friends of Randolph Parks) to recruit and organize volunteers to adopt sections of trails, including paved trails, unpaved trails, nature trails, and any other trails developed in the future.	✓				Operations, Policy	Parks	OP, Partners
<b>Strategy 6.3.3:</b> Provide a detailed list of potential volunteer opportunities on the Randolph Township website for individuals and community groups, including upcoming projects.	✓				Operations, Policy	Parks	OP
<b>Strategy 6.3.4:</b> Develop a system of trail ambassadors to patrol trails and trailhead areas.	✓				Operations, Policy	Parks	OP, Partners

ACTION PLAN							
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies							
	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	10+ Years	Category	Agency Responsible	Funding Source
<b>Objective 6.4:</b> Instill and maintain a perception of safety and security through design that is well planned and engineered and by ensuring sufficient supervision at parks and facilities.							
<b>Strategy 6.4.1:</b> Collaborate with law enforcement to increase presence in the parks and an improved perception of safety for park users.		Ongoing			Operations, Policy	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.4.2:</b> Implement the budgeted improvement to the entrance road at Freedom Park, including an additional turn lane.	✓				Policy	Parks, Township	
<b>Strategy 6.4.3:</b> Utilize trail markers (color coding and mileage) for reporting to emergency services and for security purposes.	✓				Operations, Policy	Township	OP
<b>Strategy 6.4.4:</b> Install security cameras to all Community and Neighborhood Parks, like those recently installed at Brundage, Freedom, and Heistein Parks, to encourage a safe atmosphere and to prevent damage to park property.	✓	✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.4.5:</b> Install additional lighting at all parks as needed to improve safety and security, starting with the most used parks or those perceived as most in need of such improvements.		Ongoing			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Strategy 6.4.6:</b> Improve the overflow parking at Freedom Park and improve safety of the crossing between this parking and the park (across Millbrook Avenue).	✓	✓			Capital	Parks, Township	CP
<b>Objective 6.5:</b> Set a standard for excellence and serve as a model for parks and recreation service delivery.							
<b>Strategy 6.5.1:</b> Pursue CAPRA Accreditation.		✓			Operations, Policy	Parks	CP
<b>Strategy 6.5.2:</b> Review and update this Master Plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities.		✓	✓	✓	Policy	Parks, Township	CP, OP
<b>Strategy 6.5.3:</b> Reference this Master Plan in future updates to the Township Comprehensive Plan.		Ongoing			Planning	Township	CP, OP
<b>Totals by Timeframe</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>			
<b>Total Number of Strategies = 148</b>	<b>Ongoing = 53</b>						

**Table IX-2: Capital Improvement Priority Ranking**

Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0).	
Average Rank	Capital Improvement
2.90	90 Acres - Perimeter trails, walking track, connections to Heistein Park/neighborhoods
2.80	90 Acres - Amphitheater/bandshell with event lawn
2.67	Brundage Park - Field lighting replacement
2.60	Freedom Park - Replacement of artificial turf (lower field #1)
2.60	Brundage Park Playhouse improvements (ADA, dressing rooms, restrooms)
2.60	90 Acres - Community Gardens
2.60	Other trail improvements - Signage with wayfinding at parks, trail markers
2.56	Heistein Park - Replacement lighting (fields #1 and #2)
2.50	90 Acres - Sprayground, play area
2.50	90 Acres - Nature trails, mountain biking trails
2.40	All parks - Security cameras/lighting, Wi-Fi, drinking fountains, bike racks, restroom buildings
2.40	Select parks - Perimeter trails, trail extension/completion (Brundage/Freedom/Heistein/Randolph/Brundage Sussex)
2.40	Select parks - Reservable picnic shelters (Heistein/Randolph/Brundage Preserve/90 Acres)
2.30	Freedom Park - Overflow parking and crossing improvements
2.30	Trailhead improvements - Parking, small shelters, signage with wayfinding (Cohn Farm/Hidden Valley/Millbrook Valley/Old Brookside)
2.25	Freedom Park - Softball field lighting
2.22	Brundage Sussex Park - Field lighting
2.22	Freedom Park - Artificial turf with bleachers (lower field #2 and upper field)
2.22	Heistein Park - New lighting (fields #3 and #4)
2.20	Artworks building improvements (new location to be determined)
2.20	All parks - Walkway improvements (connectivity, ADA)
2.20	Select parks - Field improvements - Drainage, irrigation, fencing (Freedom/Heistein)
2.10	90 Acres - Pickleball courts
2.00	Randolph Park - Field lighting
2.00	Select parks - Trail lighting (90 Acres/Freedom Park)
1.89	Brundage Sussex Park - Artificial turf field with bleachers
1.80	Brundage Park - New all-access playground
1.80	Select parks - Playground improvements and replacement (Freedom/Heistein/Randolph)
1.44	Brundage Park - Other improvements (bungalow improvements, demolition of small structures south of parking lot)
1.40	Select parks - Outdoor fitness equipment (Brundage/Heistein/Randolph)
1.20	Kiwanis Park improvements (small shelter, basketball court)
1.20	Rosentarb Park improvements (playground, small shelter, basketball court improvement, gazebo)
1.10	Community Center/Library - New gazebo and restrooms (possibly funded through Library budget)
0.80	Timber Lane Park improvements (playground, small shelter)





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## APPENDIX A - EXISTING PLANS

### INTRODUCTION

The following summaries describe existing plans and studies conducted for the Township of Randolph or in surrounding areas. Special attention is given to findings and recommendations related to parks, recreation, open space, and trails.

### TOWNSHIP OF RANDOLPH 2006 MASTER PLAN

PREPARED BY CLOUGH, HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES

ADOPTED BY THE RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD ON JANUARY 26, 2006

### Introduction

This Master Plan for the Township of Randolph was completed in 2006 to update the 1992 Plan. The Plan incorporates a series of amendments that were completed after the 1992 Plan.

### Goals and Objectives

The Goals and Objectives of this Master Plan are separated into categories that match the 10 elements of the Plan. Notable goals for each element are as follows (copied directly from the Master Plan document):

#### 1. Land Use

- Preserve the diverse character of Randolph by maintaining a variety of land uses and preserving the community's unique neighborhoods.
- Preserve the Township's rural areas and maintain its suburban and rural residential character.
- Permit development in a manner so as to protect environmentally sensitive areas and features.
- Maintain a community identity for the Township that recognizes the diverse nature of Randolph and yet promotes community cohesiveness.
- Maintain a high level of community facilities and services in order to ensure a high quality of life for present and future Township residents.
- Cluster residential development should be encouraged to minimize environmental disturbance and preserve open space.
- Create a village center providing a mix of uses including residential dwellings as well as local retail and service opportunities for residents.
- Concentrate office, retail and service uses in the Village Center and along Route 10 in conjunction with the goals and objectives of the respective technical reports.

#### 2. Community Design

- Preserve and maintain Randolph's suburban/rural residential character.
- Encourage creative planning and development to produce visual harmony and identity, preserve special physiographic features and protect natural resources.
- Promote a sense of Township identity and unity by developing focal centers for community life.
- Preserve the indigenous natural features of the Township such as its rolling wooded hillsides and tree-lined roadways.

#### 3. Housing

- Establish and monitor the Township's growth share projections to ensure that the Township's housing obligations are met to 2014.

#### 4. Circulation

- Pedestrian circulation facilities including sidewalks, bikeways and the Township's trail system serving as connections between community facilities, commercial areas, residential neighborhoods and employment sites should be encouraged as indicated in the Circulation Plan.

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## 5. Utilities

- Protect the Township's critical water supply for future needs, in accordance with the principles of Federal and State laws.

## 6. Community Facilities

- Continue to provide adequate facilities for community groups and cultural activities.
- Coordinate with Randolph School Board of Education for future facility needs.

## 7. Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

- Provide a full range of recreation facilities to meet the needs of all age groups.
- Particular emphasis should be placed on developing recreation facilities that serve the needs of our diverse population.
- Develop new recreation facilities as outlined in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element.
- Provide athletic fields and other recreation facilities to meet the changing needs of Randolph's residents.
- Continue to create as funds allow, non-motorized pathway systems between public open space/recreation areas and greenway connections, as well as major residential areas, schools and the Village Center.
- Preserve and protect open spaces having important environmental, historical and cultural significance.

## 8. Conservation

- Protect environmentally sensitive areas such as stream corridors, steep slopes, flood plains, etc. as passive open space. Prohibit development in environmentally critical areas.
- Provide a continuous network of open space greenways along streams, slopes, scenic areas and critical environmental areas.
- Continue to cluster development and use conservation easements to protect environmentally sensitive areas, to retain open space and to reduce impacts to natural areas.
- Replacement plantings in areas of disturbance should reflect the natural vegetation within these areas.

## 9. Historic Preservation

- Promote the conservation of the Township's historic sites and districts.

## 10. Recycling

- Encourage resource recovery and the continued recycling of recyclable materials.

### Community Design Element

The Community Design Element expands on the goals presented above and provides a series of design guidelines for site design, landscaping, parking, vehicle and pedestrian circulation, signage, architecture, and more. The guidelines encourage integration of natural features into site plans and protection of scenic views. Landscape plans should be prepared by a certified landscape architect, and parking and other service areas should be screened from roads and nearby land uses. The Element states that all site plans should include barrier free walkway systems that connect to schools, recreation areas, neighborhoods, commercial areas, parking, and other public facilities.

### Circulation Element

The Circulation Element focuses on vehicular circulation but also includes a section on pedestrian circulation. The Element proposes a series of additional trails utilizing existing open space to provide linkages with neighborhoods and existing trails. Finally, this element recommends that future development includes interconnectivity for safe and efficient movement of both vehicles and pedestrians with additional emphasis on plans outlined in the Route 10 Corridor Study and the Mount Freedom Village Center Study (these studies are summarized later in this appendix).

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## **Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element**

The Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element describes the existing parks and open space in Randolph, much of which was acquired through the Township's Open Space Trust Fund, the Morris County Open Space Trust Fund, and the New Jersey Green Acres Program. As of this 2006 document, Randolph owned 1037.23 acres of parkland and open space (1745.23 acres including county, state, and public school properties). The Element reports that over half (51%) of the Township-owned parkland is unusable for active recreation due to the presence of steep slopes and wetlands.

The Plan finds that Randolph has more than the minimum acreage needed to satisfy recreation needs through 2025 without acquiring additional land. The Plan determines that, in 2005, one additional artificial turf rectangular field and a golf course were needed. In addition to these facilities, the document estimates that five baseball/softball diamonds, three rectangular fields, one basketball court, three volleyball courts, and a swimming pool may eventually be needed in Randolph. The Plan also recommends focusing on larger playgrounds at regional parks over small neighborhood playgrounds.

The following recommendations for individual parks are included in this document (with timeframes in parentheses):

### **1. General improvements**

- Community Recreation Center renovations and expansion (5-10 years)
- Trail renovations/improvements (5-10 years)
- Minor facility upgrades and improvements to lake/beach area (5-15 years)

### **2. Mini parks**

- Playground upgrades, renovations or removal. Also, no additional mini parks to be built (current-10 years)

### **3. Brundage Park**

- Playhouse building addition (current)
- Demolition of bungalows (current)
- Trail upgrade and repaving (current-5 years)
- Playground and skate park upgrade and renovation (5-10 years)
- Field lighting replacement (5-10 years)
- Tennis Courts reconstruction (5-10 years)
- Playhouse major renovation (10-15 years)
- Maintenance garage upgrade (10-15 years)

### **4. Brundage Sussex**

- Lighting installation (current-5 years)
- Field area expansion (5-10 years)
- Restroom construction/refreshment stand (5-10 years)
- Parking upgrade and renovation (5-10 years)

### **5. Brundage Preserve**

- Parking lot expansion and improvements (current-5 years)
- Open field improvements (5-10 years)

### **6. Heistein Park**

- Parking lot repair and expansion (current-5 years)
- Septic system repair (current-5 years)
- Irrigation system replacement (current-5 years)
- Drainage/field renovation (current-5 years)
- Pond renovation (5-10 years)
- Fencing (5-10 years)

## 7. Randolph Park

- Playground (current-5 years)
- Parking lot repaving (5-10 years)
- Baseball field renovations/upgrades/lighting (5-15 years)

## 8. Freedom Park

- Lighting replacement (5-10 years)
- Parking lot paving and expansion (10-15 years)
- Freedom Park Playground renovation (10-15 years)

## 9. Stony Brook Day Camp

- Improvements through a cooperative agreement with lessee (5-15 years)

## 10. Hidden Valley Park

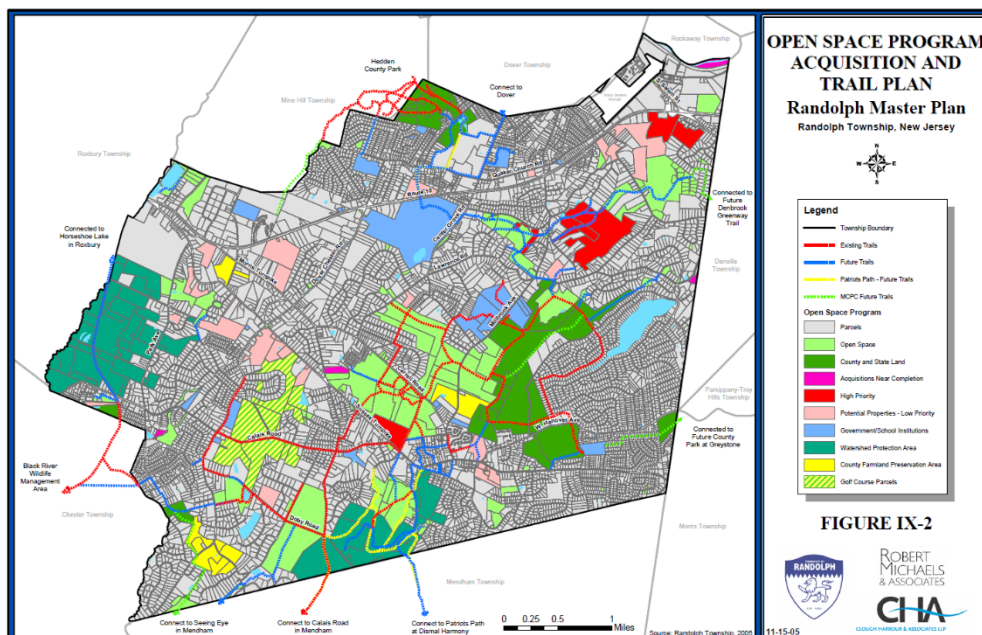
- Parking and access improvements (5-10 years)

This Element provides a list of open space properties with varying levels of priority for acquisitions: near completion, high priority, and low priority. Locations of these potential acquisitions, as well as existing open space, can be seen in Figure A-1. This figure also shows existing and proposed trails as described in the Circulation Element.

The Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Element concludes with some general recommendations:

- The Engineering and Parks and Recreation Departments should continue to work together to identify appropriate lands within the Township that should be purchased and set aside as parkland.
- Linkages in the trail system discussed in the Circulation Element should be completed between existing parks and open space areas in conjunction with other agencies.
- The Township should budget funds and apply for grants to expand its existing inventory of recreation facilities identified above in terms of high, medium, and low priority.
- The development of active recreation facilities should occur within the boundaries of existing parks until the recreation needs of the Township residents are reassessed.
- Active and passive recreation facilities and trail extensions should be constructed in a manner which does not adversely impact sensitive environmental areas or features.

**Figure A-1: Open Space Acquisition and Trail Plan**





**MOUNT FREEDOM VILLAGE CENTER REPORT**  
**PREPARED BY CLOUGH, HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES**

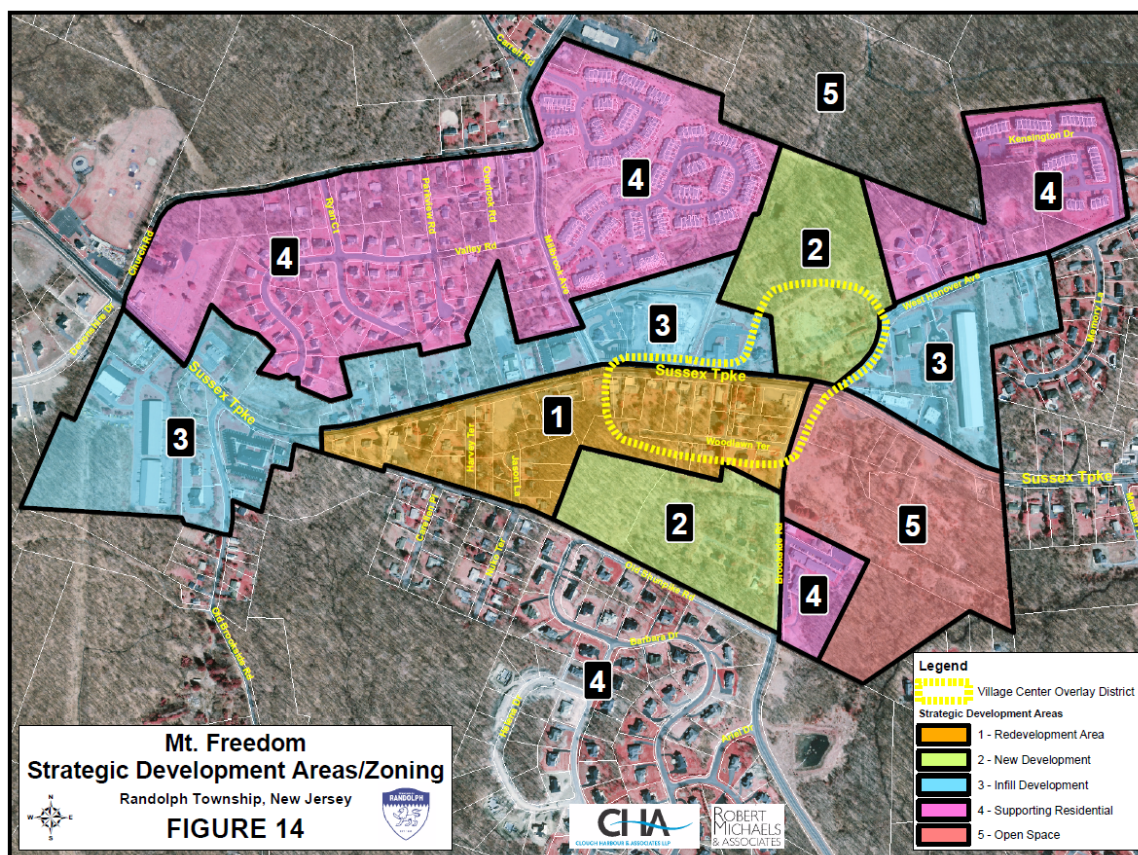
**ADOPTED BY THE RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD ON JANUARY 26, 2006**

A separate study was conducted for the Mount Freedom area of Randolph Township. Mount Freedom dates back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has history as a resort destination. This area had seen numerous projects and was in need of direction for its redevelopment into a village center and a definition of its boundaries. The area defined for this study can be seen in Figure 2.

The circulation section of the document emphasizes the desire for this village center to be pedestrian-oriented, and later the village center overlay district is described as intended to be "completely walkable." The study repeatedly calls to improve pedestrian circulation and to make the area more pedestrian friendly.

A number of parks and civic spaces are proposed for the Mount Freedom area. A neighborhood park is recommended as part of the village core redevelopment at Millbrook Avenue and Woodlawn Terrace. A redevelopment plan for the Zion Tract (northern green section in Figure 2) recommends a large portion of the site be preserved in its natural state. Both of these developments would have connecting trails to neighboring areas. Finally, civic spaces are recommended on both the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of Sussex Turnpike and West Hanover Avenue. The remainder of the property former property would be preserved as open space (lower right area in Figure A-2. The study also recommends that the Township Open Space plan include areas within the Mount Freedom study area and the trails system be extended into this area.

**Figure A-2: Mt. Freedom Strategic Development Areas/Zoning**





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## **ROUTE 10 CORRIDOR STUDY**

**PREPARED BY CLOUGH, HARBOUR & ASSOCIATES**

**ADOPTED BY THE RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD ON JANUARY 26, 2006**

Another separate study was conducted for the Route 10 Corridor in Randolph. The focus of this corridor study was to guide redevelopment of parcels that front to Route 10. The study also encourages pedestrian linkages between land uses along Route 10 and adjacent residential areas.

## **PATHWAYS TO EXCELLENCE: THE CITIZEN DRIVEN DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE OF THE MORRIS COUNTY PARK SYSTEM**

**PREPARED BY BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.**

**FINAL REPORT ON APRIL 12, 2005**

### **Introduction**

This Plan for the Morris County Park Commission was completed in 2005 to define the mission of the organization and to set long term goals. The recommendations of this document were the result of extensive public input in the form of stakeholder and focus group interviews, public workshops, a statistically valid survey, and a user group survey.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Plan includes 42 objectives and 103 strategies separated into four categories. Some key objectives include:

#### **1. Management**

- Accessibility to all parks and programs
- Balance of conservation, historic preservation, public access, education, passive and active recreation
- Committed Staff that is knowledgeable and competent in their areas of expertise. A commitment to customer satisfaction is engrained in the culture of MCPC staff
- Funding levels sufficient to ensure staffing, operations and capital needs are up to the high quality desired
  - Leadership and collaboration in active and passive recreation, environmental education, horticultural, natural resource management, open space conservation, park planning and maintenance, trails planning and development, wildlife management, and more.
- Quality of life is enhanced through interaction with MCPC

#### **2. Land Stewardship**

- Land acquisition for park expansion, open space, trails and greenways
- Trails link parks, historic sites, schools and communities

#### **3. Operations**

- Infrastructure is repaired, restored and revitalized for now and the future
- Programs are operated in an efficient, secure, responsible and accountable manner
- Parks, facilities and trails are clean, well-used and well maintained
- Partnerships are used to expand the benefits of nature conservation, historic preservation, education and outdoor recreation
- Strong volunteer support base

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## 4. Programs

- Foster better understanding of history, active recreation, natural processes, natural resource management and conservation
- Offer high quality programs that are affordable, convenient, well publicized and responsive to community needs
- Increase public awareness through use and promotion of facilities and programs
- Assist municipalities and other open space and recreation providers to accomplish their missions

**MORRIS COUNTY MASTER PLAN: BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ELEMENT<sup>1</sup>**  
**PREPARED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**  
**ADOPTED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD ON DECEMBER 3, 1998**

### Introduction

Morris County's location in a major metropolitan area, natural beauty, recreational opportunities, available real estate, access to major interstate highways, and high quality of life are factors which have attracted people to the area for residential and commercial purposes. The low density dispersed patterns of development have made the automobile the principal mode of transportation in Morris County. The development of this bicycle and pedestrian element to the Morris County Master Plan enables Morris County and its municipalities to identify facilities and to consider improvements for non-motorized transportation was intended to encourage coordination between the various levels of government and to enhance planning and funding efforts.

An integral component in the development of this document was the formation of the Morris County Bicycle and Public Advisory Committee, also known as the BiPED PAC. The BiPED PAC is comprised of volunteers from the County's 39 municipalities, as well as volunteers from agencies and organizations such as the Morris County Park Commission, Biking is Kind to the Environment, Board of Transportation in Morris County, and the Morris County Rides, Inc. The BiPED PAC identified safety as their primary concern for both bicyclists and pedestrians. Young children are particularly vulnerable to safety factors, as they are more difficult for motorists to see and they may not experience proper judgment in all situations.

### Recommendations

This element provides Municipalities with an opportunity to fill in the gaps in their municipal plans by providing the following guidance and recommendations:

- Individual municipal data sheets containing pertinent information on existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parks and open space, journey to work information and recommendations.
- A county-wide map and detailed regional maps showing existing and proposed facilities.
- Design guidelines and standards for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- Funding information from Federal, State, County and Municipal sources.
- Resources for public education and community outreach.
- Goals, objectives and implementation strategies.
- Identification of liability and safety concerns.

### Goals

Chapter 11 quoted the goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for the Master Plan. The goals include the following:

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<sup>1</sup> Text for this study were reproduced directly from *Pathways to Excellence: The Citizen Driven Direction for the Future of The Morris County Park System*, prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc. in 2005.

- Establish a coordinated bicycle and pedestrian network.
- Develop planning policies and procedures that encourage opportunities for bicycling and walking.
- Developing network of public and private interests that will foster bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Promote public awareness and acceptance of bicycling and walking as alternative modes of transportation.
- Create safe bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

## **MORRIS COUNTY MASTER PLAN OPEN SPACE ELEMENT<sup>2</sup>**

**PREPARED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**ADOPTED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD ON OCTOBER 6, 1988**

### **Open Space Inventory**

Based on the population standards, which compare open space to population, it was found that the Federal Government presently owns sufficient open space in Morris County, but that there was a significant deficit of open space owned by the State. This deficit, in state lands, was estimated at 1,540 acres in 1985 and was projected to be 3,388 acres in the year 2000. County owned open space, as determined by this method, appeared to be more than adequate through the year 2000, but it must be emphasized that the open space to population standards do not take into account lands that may be needed for environmental reasons. Eighty percent of Morris County's municipalities met or exceeded population based standards for open space. The overall total of municipal open space exceeding the standard by more than 4,300 acres.

### **Recommendations**

The plan included ten recommendations which include the following:

1. The Municipalities and the County should develop a natural resources inventory.
2. The acquisition of open space to provide protection for essential Municipal and County needs such as water supply, flood control and storm water management should be actively pursued.
3. Every Municipality should have an Environmental Commission or Committee.
4. In addition to considering its environmental needs, each Municipality should re-examine its recreational needs for open space each time a Master Plan review is made.
5. Municipalities should recognize that in many cases open space objectives can be realized by regulations designed to protect environmentally sensitive areas or through innovative designs of proposed subdivisions or site plans.
6. Privately owned open space and even publicly owned open space not controlled by the Municipality (watershed lands for example) can suddenly disappear from the Municipality's open space inventory if the owner decides to sell the land or put it to some other use. In these cases, the community should take whatever steps are available toward assuring continuation of the open space use.
7. The present efforts toward developing linear parks, open to pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles, should be continued and expanded.
8. Since both the state and federal government's responsibilities for providing open space encompass consideration in areas much larger than Morris County, no specific recommendations are made in this Master Plan for them other than the possibilities of Farney State Park where it is recommended that steps should be taken to ensure that the State has the right of first refusal to acquire the parcels between the two existing Farney tracts if they come up

<sup>2</sup> Text for this study were reproduced directly from *Pathways to Excellence: The Citizen Driven Direction for the Future of The Morris County Park System*, prepared by Brandstetter Carroll Inc. in 2005.

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for sale or ownership and purchase of land around the Berkshire Valley Wildlife Management area.

9. Municipalities and the County should examine their existing and potential sites to see if they are vulnerable to damage from upstream or abuse of adjacent land uses, and determine what measures are needed to prevent or minimize such damage.
10. The County and Municipalities have a need to purchase additional open space to take advantage of all existing federal and state funding programs and monitor any changes in them.

## **HIGHLANDS REGIONAL MASTER PLAN**

### **PREPARED BY THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL**

### **ADOPTED BY THE NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL ON JULY 17, 2008**

## **Introduction**

The Highland Region of New Jersey, located in the northwestern part of the state, includes land in 88 municipalities and seven counties. The Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act designated all of the Highlands Region as either the Preservation Area or the Planning Area. While Randolph is located entirely within the Highlands Region, most of the Township located within the Planning Area with a portion of the western part of the Township (583 acres) located in the Preservation Area. Municipal conformance with this Master Plan is required in the Preservation Area and voluntary in the Planning Area.

Based on the principles of smart growth, this Plan “seeks to evaluate how best to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Highlands Region while striving to accommodate a sustainable economy” and provides a framework for land use decisions to protect resources for the benefit of residents of the Region. The document presents a large amount of data on the resources and characteristics of the Highlands Region (with maps) including (but not limited to): forested areas, watersheds and riparian areas (including values and integrity), steep slopes, and critical habitat.

## **Goals, Policies, and Objectives**

This chapter of the Plan provides standards and direction for the implementation of the goals and requirements of the Highlands Act. The goals are divided into categories for natural resources, water resources, agricultural resources, and other resources (including historical, cultural, archaeological, and scenic resources). Goals are also established for transportation, landowner equity issues (including transfer of development rights), economic development, and air quality.

Selected key goals and objectives:

- To protect, restore, or enhance sensitive environmental resources of the Highlands Region
  - Including but not limited to Forests, Critical Habitat, Highlands Open Waters and their buffers, Riparian Areas, Steep Slopes, Prime Ground Water Recharge Areas, Wellhead Protection Areas, and ARAs.
- Maximize the protection of large areas of contiguous forest
- Require conforming municipalities to address the forestry protection in their master plans and development regulations
- Protect steep slopes from inappropriate development and disturbance
- Protect and enhance critical wildlife habitats, significant natural areas, and vernal pools
- Require conforming municipalities to identify critical habitat and management programs in their master plans and development regulations
- Require conforming municipalities and counties to include an open space preservation and land stewardship element in their master plans
- Protect the value of the region as an “essential source of drinking water, providing clean and plentiful drinking water for one-half of the state’s population”

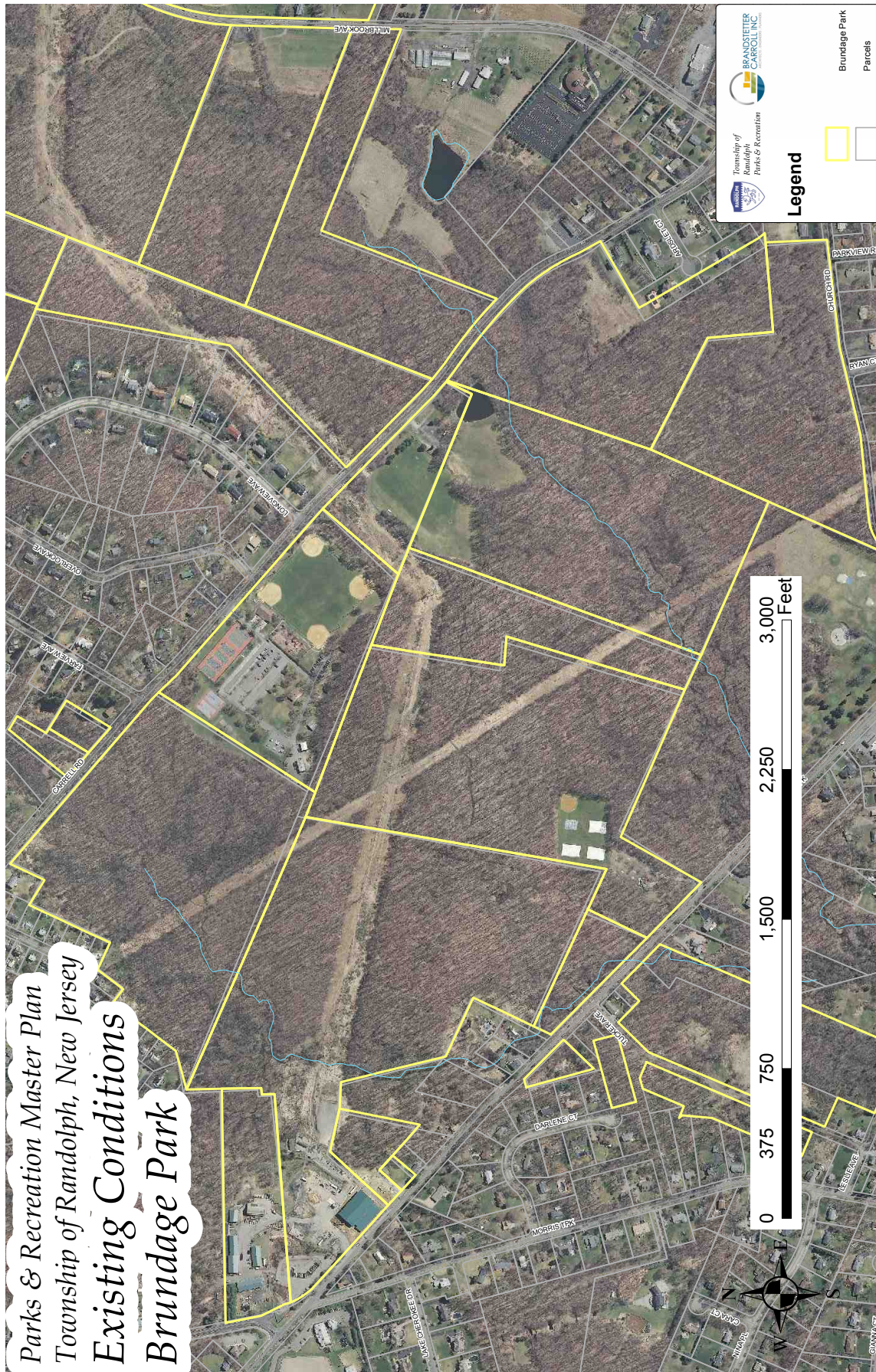
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- Integrate public parks and green spaces into development and redevelopment projects
  - Promote recreation and tourism based economic initiatives, which derive economic benefit from sustainable use of the natural resources of the Highlands Region



# APPENDIX B - EXISTING PARK AERIALS













**Parks & Recreation Master Plan**  
**Township of Randolph, New Jersey**  
**Existing Conditions**  
**Combs Hollow**

Map labels include: DOWNTOWN RD, PATRIOT WAY, YORKSHIRE DR, DAWSON RD, COLSON AVE, RICHARDSON RD, BURNING WOODS LN, RENARD, BURKE WOODS LN, GRAYVELLOR, HENRICH, and others.

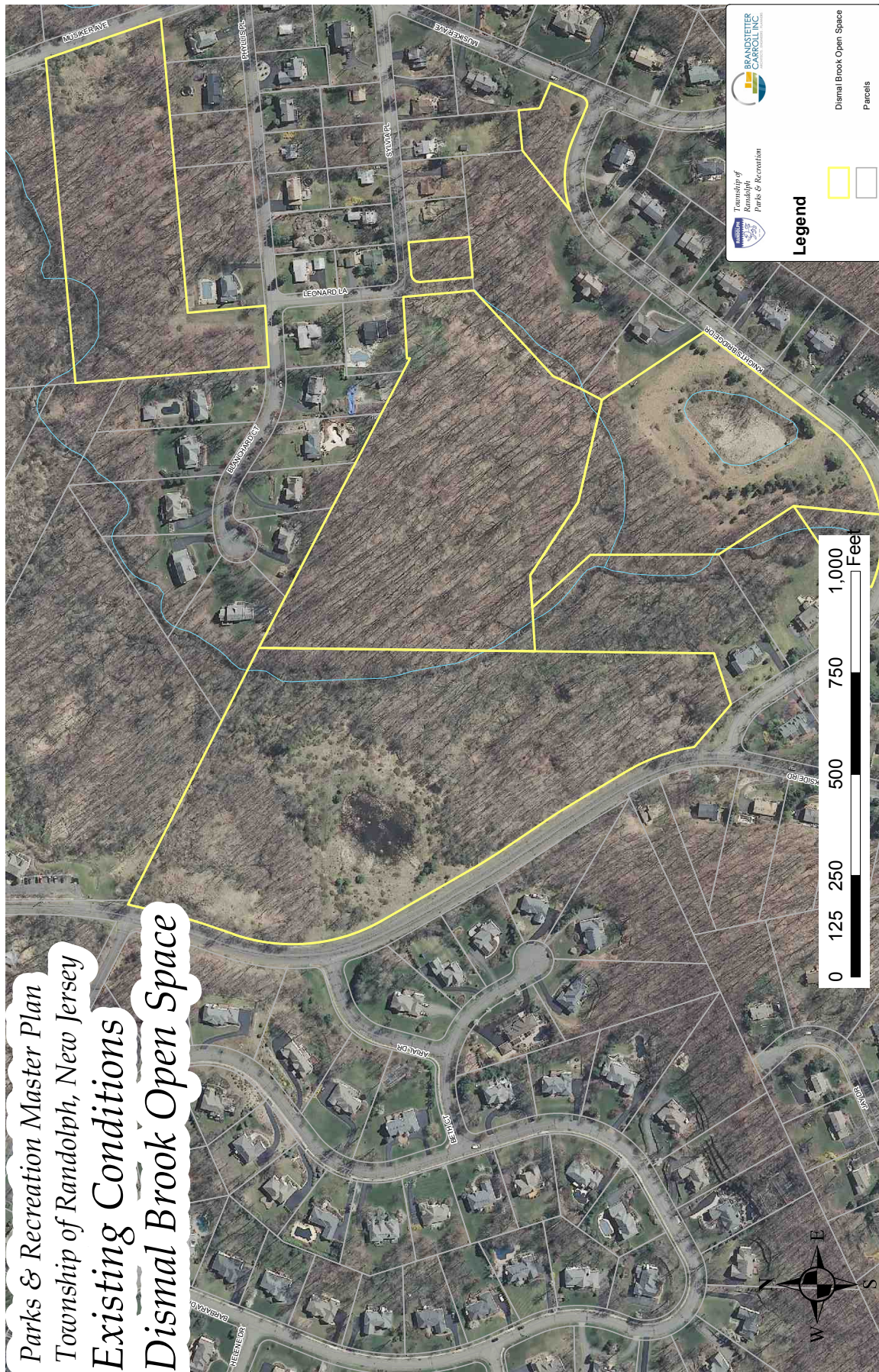
Scale: 0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

Logos: Township of Randolph Parks & Recreation, BRANDSTETER CARROLL LLC





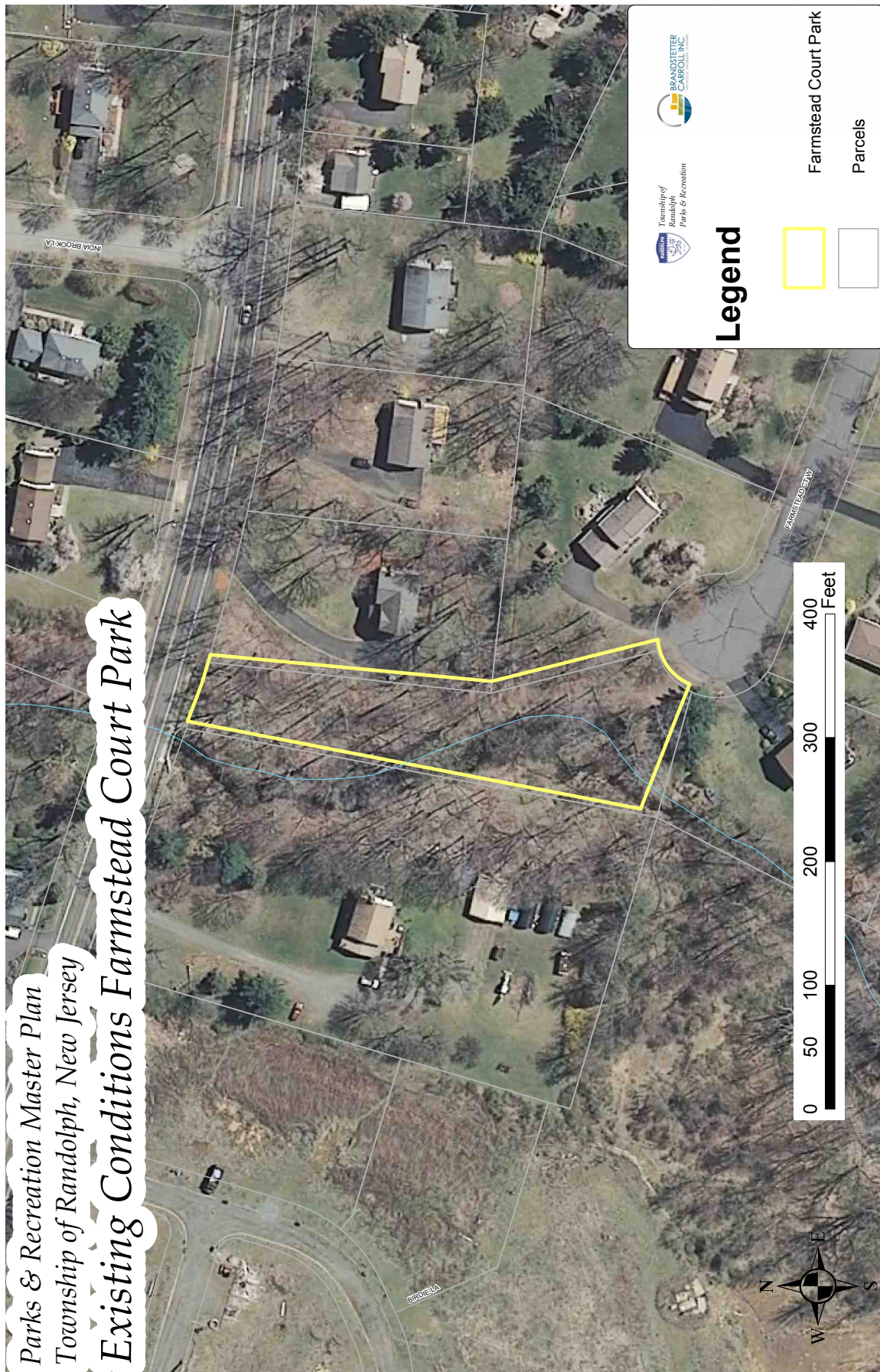








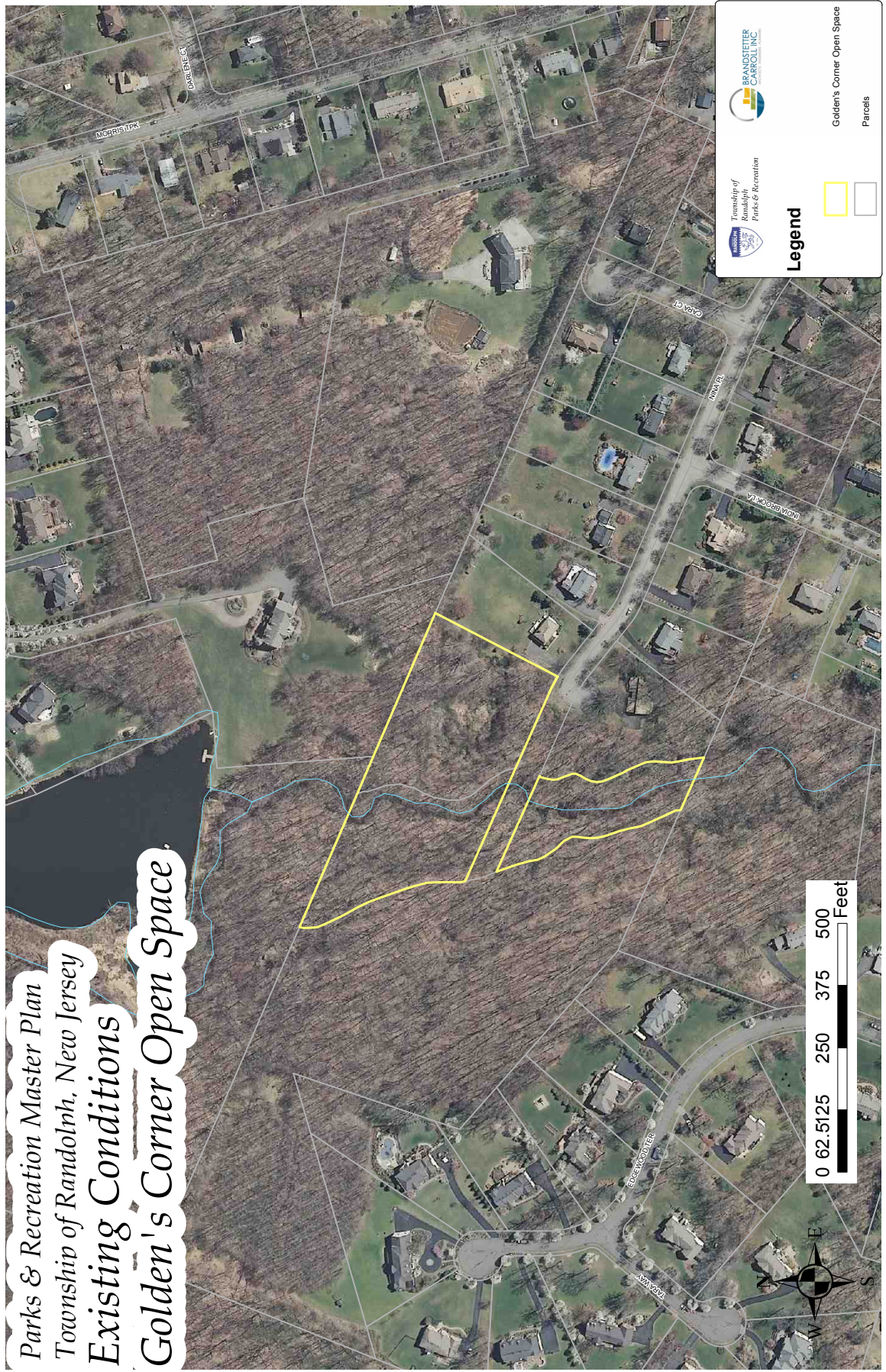








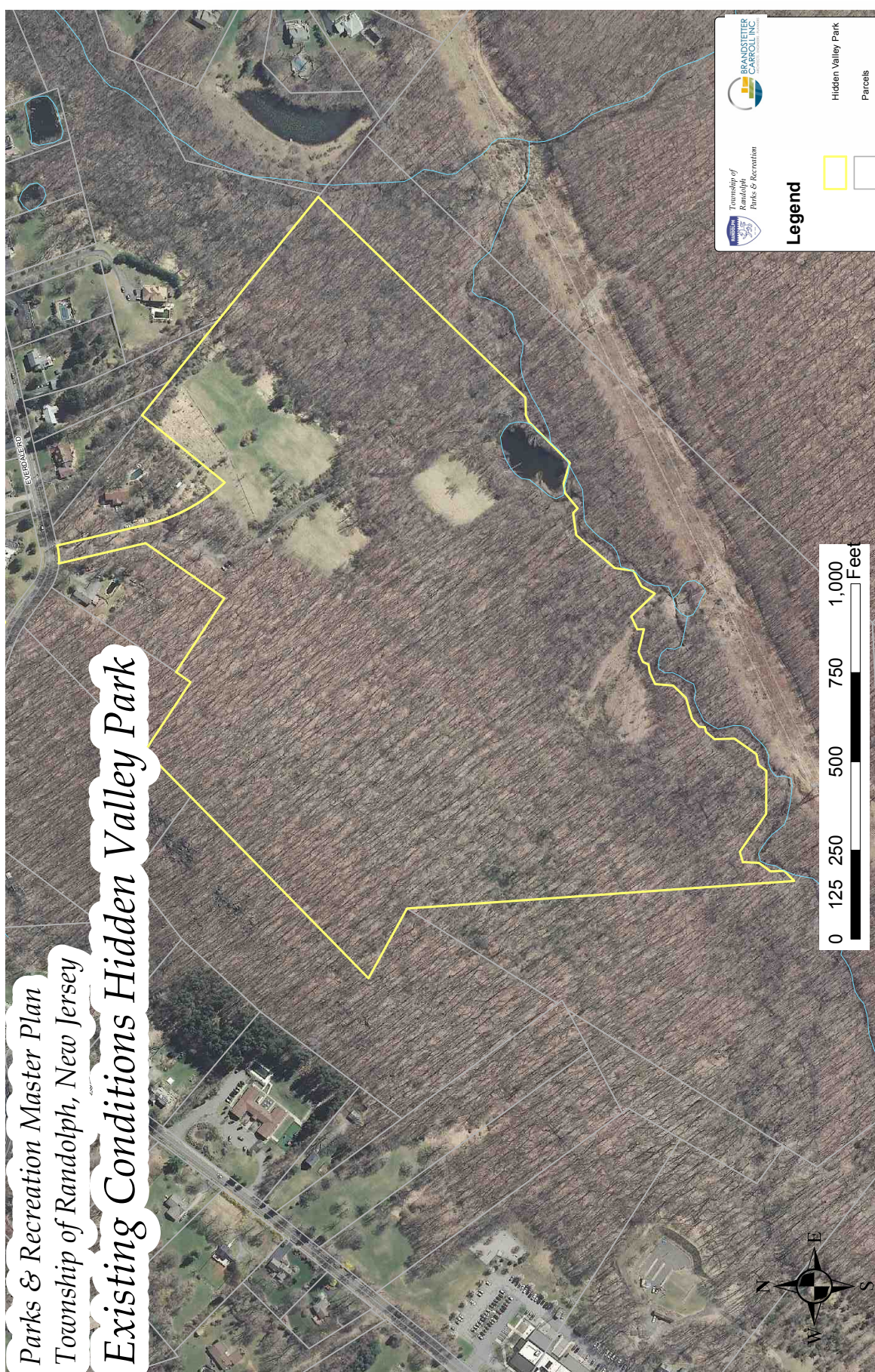








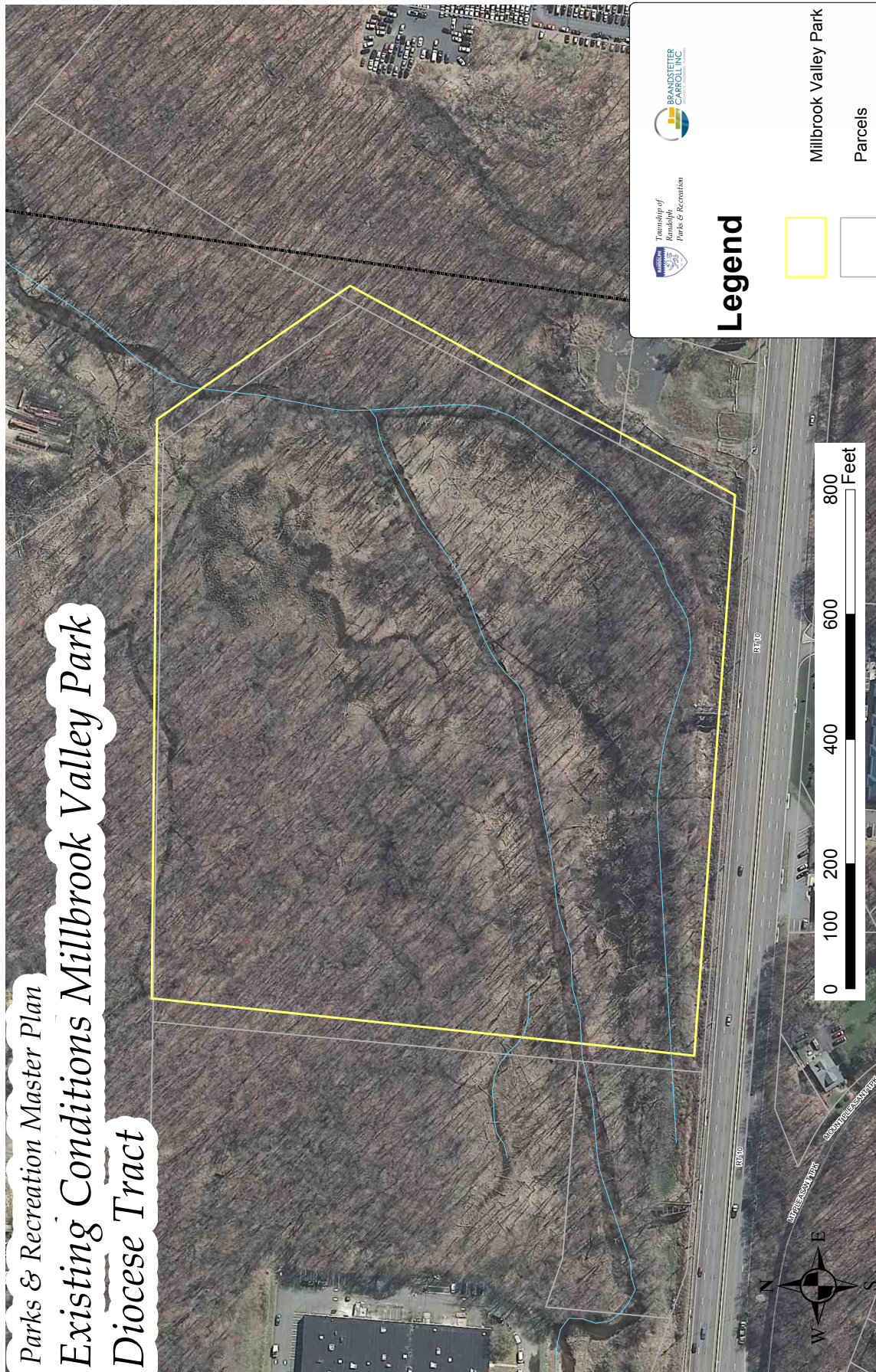




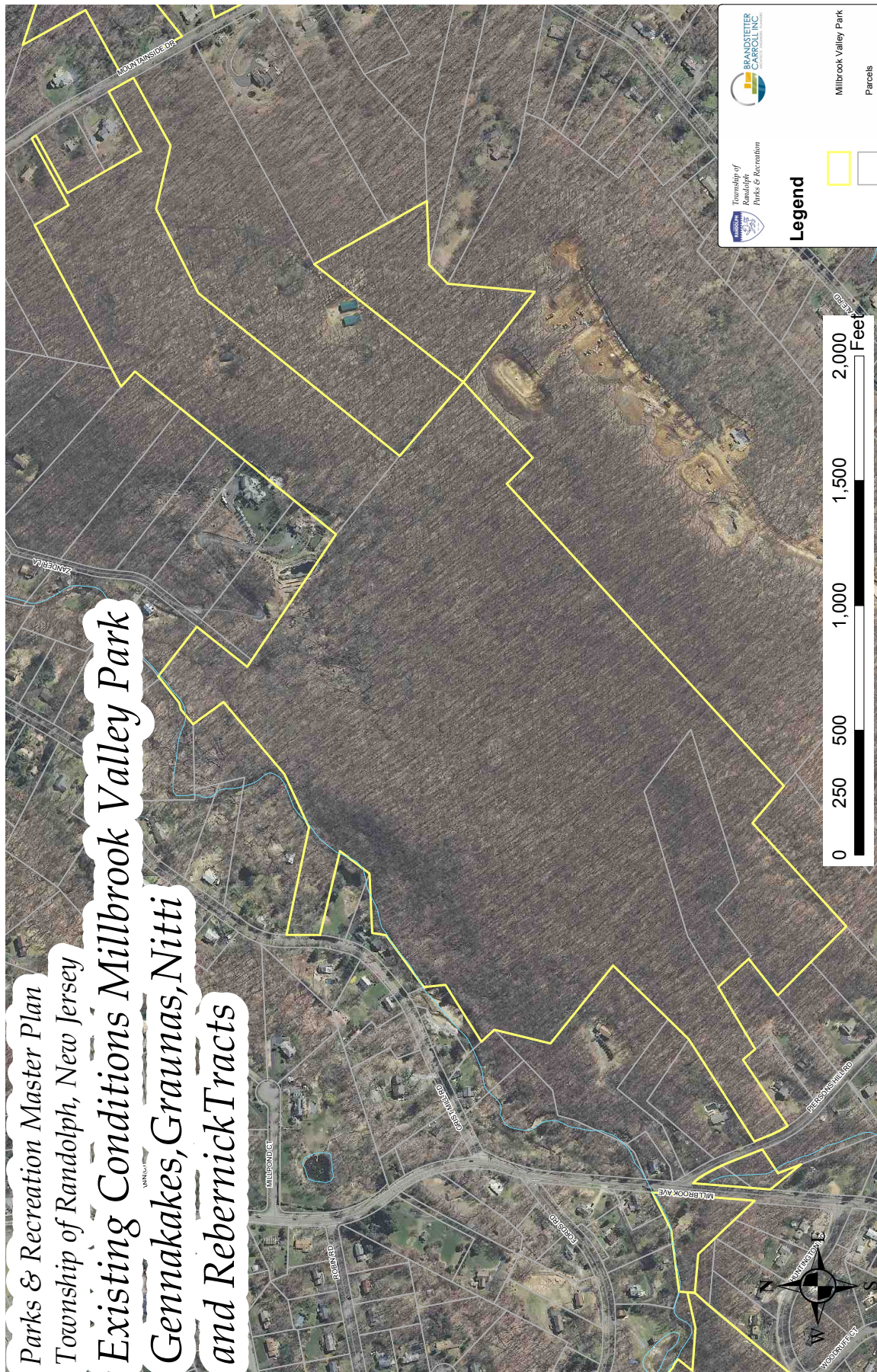


















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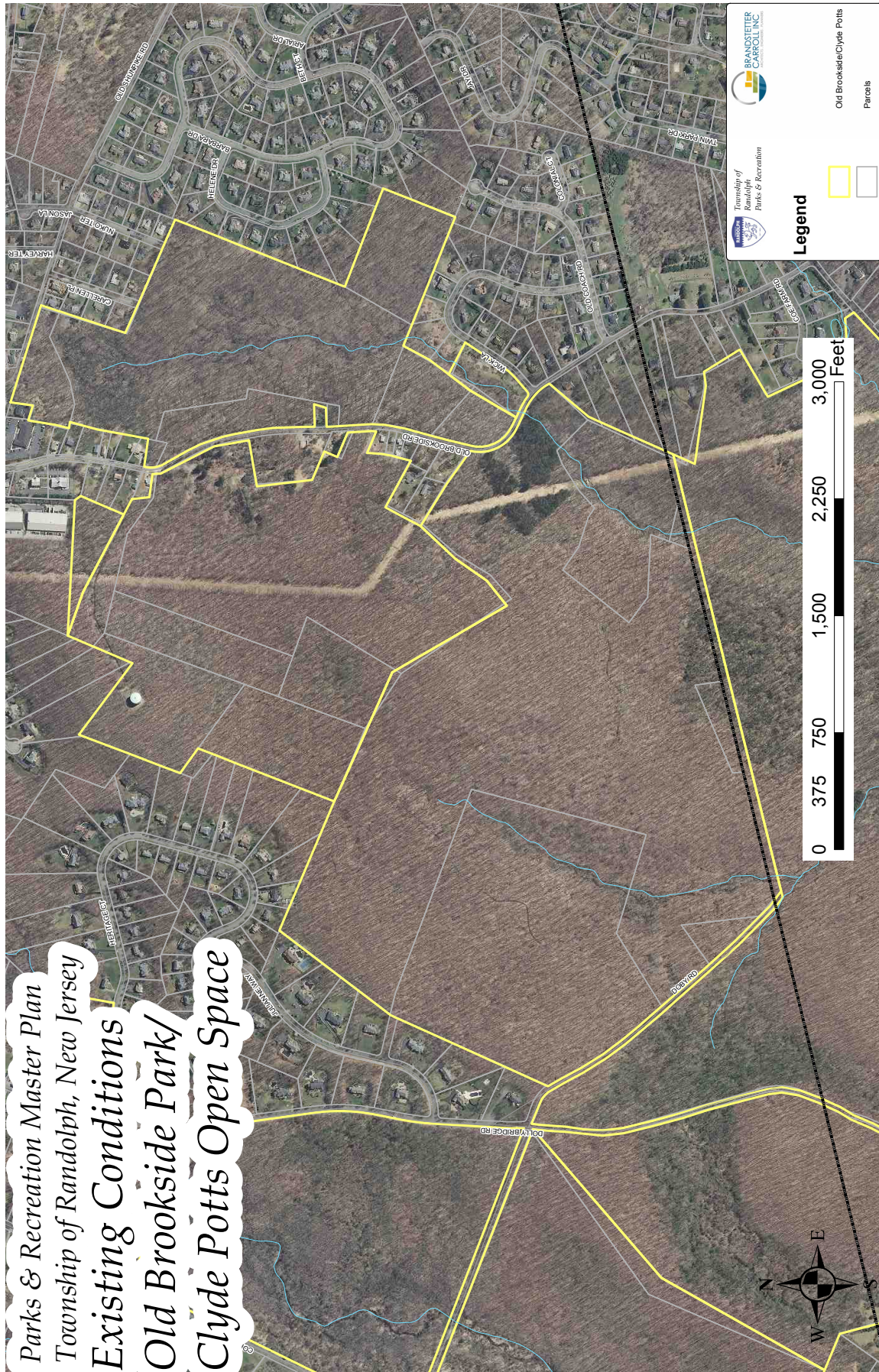
















*Parks & Recreation Master Plan  
Township of Randolph, New Jersey  
Existing Conditions Old Tye Park*































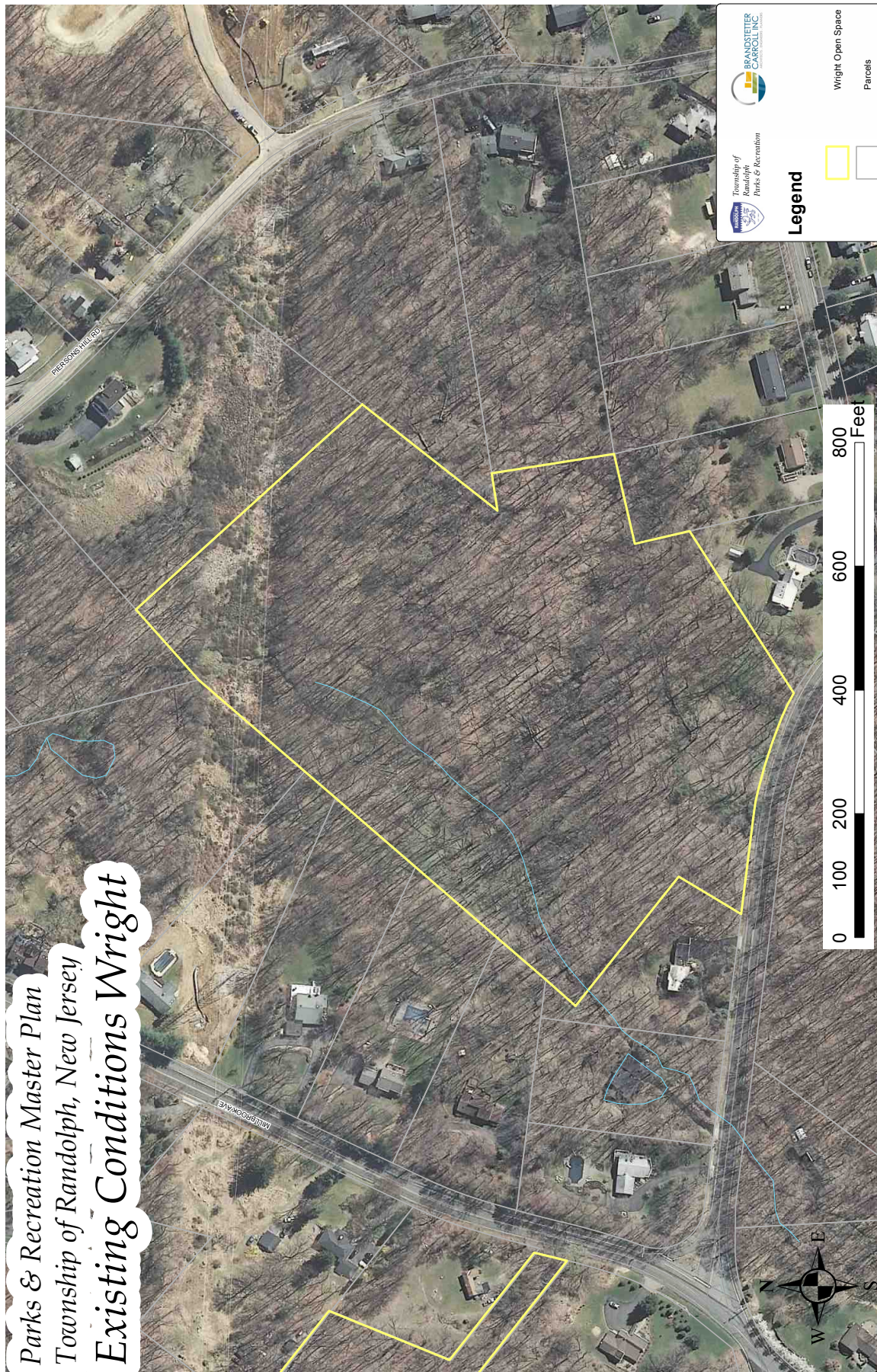














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## APPENDIX C - PUBLIC INPUT MEETING SUMMARIES

CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM  
PUBLIC WORKSHOP SUMMARY  
RANDOLPH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP, NJ  
PROJECT NO. 15024

BY: Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.



March 17, 2015

A public meeting was held on this date and approximately 20 people were in attendance. The participants were asked four main questions, listed below.

1. Where do you currently go for parks and recreation, and what do you do?

- Trails
- Streets
- The Playhouse
- Fields and Courts
- Brundage and Freedom Park Lake
- Lake Randolph
- Artworks
- The flat biking trails outside of Randolph
- The summer camps and the Morris County and Somerset Environmental Centers
- Cross Country Skiing at High Point in Randolph
- High School track and gyms
- Playgrounds
- Sports fields at Greystone
- Imagination Station in Roxbury
- Arboretums
- The YMCA in Randolph
- Heistein Park
- Streeter Pool
- The Chester Pool
- The Stardust Pool

2. What do you like about Parks and Recreation opportunities in Randolph?

- Russ Newman
- Trails are extensive
- The variety of activities
- Open space and trees
- The support for organizations
- The safety of the parks
- The many options at each park
- The pavilions
- The parks are clean
- Convenient locations
- The lake improvements
- Artificial turf field
- The lighting at the fields

3. What don't you like or what is missing from Randolph Parks and Recreation

- Need a pool with a lazy river
- Need ceramics at the studio
- Need another artificial turf field
- Need to serve all residents
- Need parade and fireworks to bring the community together

- 
- Not enough buildings and gazebos
  - Need more restrooms
  - A lack of parking at the trails
  - Want more options
  - More improved trails
  - Need more adult fitness opportunities in the Winter months
  - Trails are not plowed in the Winter
  - Need loop trails
  - Fitness programs are needed
  - Need mile markers on the trails
  - Need more equal lighting in the parks
  - The playhouse needs improvements
  - No place for flyers such as a bulletin board
  - Need more cultural events
  - There is no amphitheater
  - There are no Community gardens
  - There is no slide at the dock in the lake and need new bathhouse

4. The participants were asked to pretend that it is 10 years in the future and they are very pleased with the progress the Township has made resulting from the Master Plan. What has happened to cause the success of the Master Plan and what is the reason the people want to live, work, and play in Randolph Township?


Each person was given three dots on the list where they chose, and the number in parenthesis behind each item are the number of votes.

- A recreation center with a pool, senior facilities, and a trail loop at 90 Acres and also a pavilion (10)
- Community garden with educational opportunities which could be at the 90 Acre Site (7)
- Cultural arts are more visible and integrated with the parks (7)
- Great trails for hiking and cross country (6)
- Sidewalks to trails and inter-connectivity (5)
- Serve as an example for other Communities (3)
- Theater (3)
- Pickle ball courts (3)
- Variety at Artworks (3)
- Improvements to lake (3)
- Artificial turf field (2)
- Maintain open space (1)
- Fiscally responsible (1)
- Outdoor summer camps (1)
- Safe crossing for bike and pedestrians on Route 10 (1)
- Maintain the rural character (1)

Other Items receiving no votes included

- Recreation as a Community and parks as town center
- Better communication of park opportunities
- Great trails for hiking in an area on the golf course
- Golf course

*If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.*



Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

PDH/meg

cc: Russ Newman. KER

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**CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM  
STAKEHOLDER GROUP SUMMARY  
RANDOLPH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP, NJ  
PROJECT NO. 15024**

**BY:** Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.



**May 7, 2015**

The following Stakeholder Group meetings took place on March 17 and 18, and April 21 and 22.

**Artworks and Brundage Park Playhouse**

Met with: Vivian Lenyk, Manager of Brundage Park Playhouse; and Kelly Varga, Director of Artworks on March 17 and with Joanne Veech, Mayor; Vivian Lenyk and Chuck Fegley of Brundage Park Playhouse; Kelly Varga of Artworks on April 21.

**General Discussion**

*Vision for the Future*

**Artworks Vision** – Artworks Studio is having a 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Student Art Show. It is a bustling, vibrant crowd. Invites were designed and printed at the studio because there is internet, a computer, a printer, and a reliable phone line. Floors have been in for the 10 years, but they are all still strong. The outdoor lighting goes on automatically at dusk. The lower level of the building has been converted into a ceramics studio with a kiln, wheels, and a studio space, a change that brought new vitality to the program. There are new easels, a printing press, new lighting, a projector to use in the studio classroom and a sound system. The summer programs are going strong and utilize the outdoor workspace that includes 12 stand up easels and an outdoor sink. Outdoor sculptures and installations made by Artworks Studio students can be seen around town. A new kiosk in town has flyers announcing the many workshops and classes offered at Artworks Studio. There are events held regularly at the studio, the lights are on at night, the parking lot is full on weekends. Every kid in town has attended a birthday party at the studio. The Facebook page has 1,500 followers and contains images of the artistic creations of the many students. Friends of Artworks Studio is enjoying its tenth year and has brought our visual arts community together for many events in Randolph and Morris County, including our own Freedom Festival where our students walk in the parade and have a booth at the festival. Artworks Studio has repeatedly won the “Best in Arts” award for Morris County Arts Association in Morristown. Artworks students participate regularly in Morristown Artwalk, Lantern Festivals in Morristown, and have started their own well attended traditions in Randolph, including a Pumpkin Glow. Bus trips to museums in NYC are popular studio offerings. There are programs offered to our Seniors, and the Rising Stars Program for special needs students is still running strong – working with our High School Mentors. Artworks Studio is looking forward to 2027 when there is a big party for the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Art Show! These are comments from Laurel Clark, Stakeholder and Artworks Studio Instructor.

The comments from Kelly Varga for the year 2025 identified: The building is maintained, the program is popular – lights are on and door opening and closing both a.m. and p.m., weekdays and weekends, and equipment and supplies are sufficient and improved upon, Ceramic Studio, Artwork Studio Program is integrated into other Community offerings, the visual arts are thriving and apparent to visitors and residents of Randolph Township, Community Programs offered by Artworks Studio have reached beyond the walls of the studio.

**Brundage Park Playhouse** identified several improvement projects in their Vision for the Future which included the following:

- A new 100 to 150 seat purpose built theater
- Public awareness and visibility including Township officials
- Attached dressing rooms with all season toilet facilities
- Theater renovation including seats, railing, carpet and painting
- Enlarged sound and lighting booth
- Equip entrance with a weather proof vestibule
- Security lighting
- Evaluate or relocate the electric substation
- Better ADA accessibility



- Permanent dressing room facility which replaces the badly deteriorated two room trailer with no facilities in the winter
- Possible new location for the Brundage Park Playhouse would be remaining in Brundage Park where there is plenty of parking available, but possibly in the location of the Skate Park. The Playhouse needs to take advantage of the old buildings that they use for practices, storage, and Summer Camps

### **Parks Maintenance Employees**

Met with: Michael Muldoon, Anthony Pizzo, Doug Moore, and Don Hart and a second group with: Arti Zepp, Mike Ranucci, and Pat Wesnes

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Turf fields in every park
- Indoor turf field
- The Babe Ruth field at Freedom Park floods and needs better drainage
- The VFW is upgraded upstairs with restrooms and an elevator for accessibility
- Artworks roof and floor are replaced
- Additional parking provided at Freedom Park
- Sussex Park is a potential for an artificial turf field
- There is a second baseball field with lights at Freedom Park
- More artificial turf fields installed which are better use of their time
- There is no skate park
- There is running water at the Maintenance Building at Freedom Park
- A separate restroom facility in the area for the Maintenance Facility
- Their Maintenance Department is very efficient
- There is a real Teen Center in the Community

### **Recreation Office Staff**

Met with: Donna Moser, Sue Seipel, Ann Schoulderman, and Chris Stinson

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Programs are relevant
- Facilities and programs are ADA accessible
- Host new and younger families
- Keep up with the growing needs and the times
- Department is attracting more volunteers
- Trails and Park Maintenance Staff are added to keep up with the demands
- The artificial turf fields at the schools are used more by the recreation programs
- Brundage Sussex Field is improved
- Randolph Lake has an upgraded bathhouse
- ADA improvements are made at Artworks, the Brundage Theater, and the VFW, and there are also upstairs restrooms upgraded at the VFW Hall
- More families are attracted to Randolph Lake because of the improved facilities
- There are Spring and Summer events for families in the Community

### **Staff**

Met with: Barbara Lukavich, Russ Newman, Director, and Jeane Montemarano

#### *Vision for the Future*

- A new Recreation Center
- More programming for 50 to 65 year olds
- More inter-generational programs
- The Library does a Summer Concert Series
- Better marketing of the Department
- Active adult club
- Facilities and programs are ADA accessible
- New programs are provided for aging populations including shuffleboard, bocce, Pickle Ball, and other similar activities
- A Town Center Park is developed with a gym, amphitheater, combined theater, flat walking/running track, and art facilities
- A healthy lifestyle is promoted in the Community

- The Brundage Sussex Park is more heavily used with improved facilities
- A pool is developed in the Community
- A lot of fishing takes place at the lake
- The Brundage Pavilion is upgraded
- A measurable running/walking track on a relatively flat surface is developed
- Turf fields with lights are provided at Freedom and Sussex Parks
- There is a place for concerts
- There is more overflow parking at Freedom Park

### **Township Staff**

Met with: Dave Stokol, Chief of Police; Donna Marie Luciana, Township Clerk; and Mark Montemarano, Public Works Foreman

#### *Vision for the Future*

- A Recreation Center is developed with an art component
- A pool is developed with a Swim Team
- High Point is maintained
- Facilities and programs are family oriented
- Trails are upgraded
- Randolph is a great place to raise a family
- Water is provided at the Maintenance Facility at Freedom Park
- Equipment for maintenance is upgraded such as a backhoe and bucket lift
- There is a surveillance camera system at the entry and exit to each park and at some of the main potential vandalism target areas such as restrooms and the artificial turf fields
- Heistein Park has an artificial turf field and playground
- All infrastructure is upgraded
- Parking for trail access is maximized
- Emergency call boxes are placed along the trails
- Trail entry areas are lighted and there are maps and signage for way finding
- Trails and bridges should be wide enough for patrol vehicles

### **Township Planning Staff**

Met with: Darren Carney, Planner, and Richard Lindsay, Engineering Assistant/Public Works Inspector

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Integrate parks in open space in an environmentally sensitive way
- Asphalt loops are provided in flat areas and also steep areas to avoid erosion
- There is a pedestrian overpass at the County College of Morris (there was a plan in 1998)
- The Township provides a place for the private clubs to play and ideally activities are funded by the clubs
- Trails are developed throughout the Township to connect the parks and neighborhoods
- Ninety Acres site is developed as a Community oriented park
- The VFW is renovated to be more accessible with an elevator
- Artworks facility improved
- The museum is improved

### **Spring Sports**

Met with: Rob Sacco, and Ned Levine of Babe Ruth Baseball, Joe Faranetta and Elisa LaPietra of Girls' Lacrosse, David Kemp and Val Delaney of Girls' Softball, Joseph Nazzaro of Boys' LaCrosse, Anne Standridge of Track, Dave Tamres of Little League.

#### *Vision for the Future*

- An indoor sports facility is developed
- The Brundage Sussex Field is improved with backstops to keep balls from going in the woods
- Improved restrooms and lights
- An artificial turf field
- Brundage Reserve has some support facilities such as restrooms
- Places for organized play are developed
- There is a turf field for Girls' Lacrosse
- Scoreboards are provided at facilities
- Collaboration with the County College of Morris for use of facilities

- 
- Tournaments are hosted to develop additional funding
  - Outfield of Brundage Fields are artificial turf
  - Two turf fields are located at Freedom Park
  - A walking track/running track is available for community use

### **Fall Sports**

Met with: Daniel Limone, Jeff Guevara and Frank Dotro of Football; Jerry Davis of Football and Baseball; Helen Wismierslei of Soccer; Eric Weiss and Andrea Kirshbaum of Recreation Soccer; Anne Strandridge of Cross Country; Rick Carlin and Tammy McConnel of Randolph Soccer Club and Travel Soccer; Debbie Whiting of Cheerleading; and Michael Gentile of Randolph Soccer.

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Soccer indicated their main priorities are for 1 – Lights, 2 – Artificial Turf, and 3 – More Fields
- Design a “Master Program” for rescheduling of rain-out games which can be self-scheduled
- More volunteer coaches
- A bubble for indoor activities
- Cheerleading has an area with the equivalent of two gyms with mats
- Cheerleading needs a sound system at Freedom Park
- Parking is improved at Brundage and Freedom Parks
- Several more artificial turf fields are provided
- Three turf fields at Freedom Park with an announcer booth between Fields 1 and 2
- Updated sound system
- Continued outstanding relationship with the Recreation Department
- Continued coaching and training
- Continued communication with parents
- Continuing the trend of training towards a safer game
- Recreation Soccer – overall improvement would come from additional artificial turf fields, lighting, more practice time, access to field reservations by select personnel, a system to increase volunteerism, and training of coaches
- Other ideas include turf fields and possibly covered fields either via the solar collector method used at County College of Morris, or perhaps the inflatable dome used by many sports teams
- Possible meeting places for teams and coaches near the fields
- Randolph Soccer identified that RSC would have access to multiple turf fields, some small-sided and some full-sided, with lights in Randolph for use for training and games in the fall and spring.

### **Winter Sports**

Met with: Chris Treston and Pat Glory of Wrestling; and Rahim Hulandfel of Boys' Basketball

#### *Vision for the Future*

- The Township has their own gym for better flexibility and use for scheduling indoor activities
- Wrestling would ideally have more time on the mats at the auxiliary gym at the High School

### **Community Service Organizations**

Met with: Mary Ruth Lareau of Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Venture Crew; Howard Gordon, President of Kiwanis; Bonnie Hodge of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey; Bill Lamia of Randolph YMCA; and Joanne Veech, Mayor.

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Affordable meeting spaces for these groups
- Tap into the existing recreation programs for art, performances, tennis, etc.
- The Township allows Girl Scouts to participate in community service projects so they can give back to the community
- Community gardens are developed
- An Outdoor Community Center gathering area is developed with an amphitheater
- The Township has an Outdoor Education Center
- The YMCA mentioned to expand the trail system
- More artificial turf fields
- There is an outdoor pool with the YMCA
- The Township has expanded upon what it does well
- There is an adult park developed
- A gaga pit



- 
- Defibrillators are provided at all fields
  - Archery ranges developed

### **Business and Sponsors Group**

Met with: John Riczko and Jonathan Riczko of the Goddard School; Jeff Wolder of the Indoor Sports Pavilion; John Herold of John Herold Jewelers; David Simon of Randolph Pain Relief and Wellness Center; and Joanne Veech, Mayor.

#### *Vision for the Future*

- Community gardens
- More trails
- Lighting on the pathways
- Outdoor classrooms
- Outdoor education is offered
- A true Community Center like a college with activities
- Randolph is ahead of the game
- Paved flat path for an easy flat walk in the sun
- An amphitheater
- Movies
- Improved community wellness
- The community has a fitness app
- More wellness education
- A Community Weight Loss Program
- A focus on seniors
- A walking track
- Possibly share programs with other communities
- Wellness classes are provided as a part of community education

### **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committees**

Met with: Jeff Stickle of Parks, Roman Hirniak, Deputy Mayor, Alex Hirniak, Student Liason - Parks Advisory Board, Sue Huston and Bernie Barrish of the Parks Advisory Board, and Joanne Veech, Mayor.

We asked this group to identify what makes Parks and Recreation in Randolph special or what is positive about Parks and Recreation.

- Open space
- Sports and recreation activities
- A lot of variety
- Affordable
- Good schools
- Good High School sports and facilities
- Accessibility
- Sound infrastructure
- Quality of facilities
- Diverse programs (handicapped to seniors)
- Be the best they can be at all levels
- Offers arts and theater
- The parks are close to all of the Township
- They are well spaced and easy access

#### *Vision for the Future*

- A town track
- Flat, open, paved trail
- A place for pick-up ball, or open field
- Modify Heistein Trail to be a loop trail
- Wi-Fi in the parks
- Ninety Acres is developed as a central park
- Lights are upgraded in the fields
- Better restrooms
- More facilities for persons with disabilities

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## Randolph Boards and Committees

Met with: John Ragan and Lou Nisivoccia of the Randolph Economic Development Committee; Matt Tal and Marie Potter of the Randolph Board of Adjustment; Jim Loveys of the Township Council; and Joanne Veech, Mayor.

Facilities they currently use include the trails, walks, playgrounds, the Freedom Festival, open space, Golf Center which is a 9 hole par 3 disk golf course, and the shelters at the sports parks.

What makes the parks and recreation opportunities in the Community special?

- Variety
- Rural character
- Open space
- Clean and well maintained parks
- The events

Vision for the future

- More drinking fountains in the parks
- More artificial turf fields
- More fields for girls' sports
- More first aid measures and emergency opportunities in the parks
- Marketing of the safety of the parks
- More signs in the parks
- Improved emergency vehicle access
- More lifetime sports such as volleyball, shuffle board, bocce, etc.
- A safe walking track
- Age appropriate activities such as bocce and pickle ball
- More social activities
- Outdoor swimming pool
- A concert venue and amphitheater
- Community is safer for bicyclists
- Larger bleachers and seating areas at the sports facilities
- More winter activities
- A bubble for indoor activities and a track
- The Community is known as a "fit" Community
- More coordination with other neighboring communities
- There is more use of the facilities during the daytime, including lunchtime crowds
- Attractive as a gathering place
- Calais to Heistein connection

## Senior's Club

Met with: Barbara Anderson, Loretta White, and Jane Mack of the Senior Club.

*Vision for the Future*

- A sound system in the building
- The group has more volunteers
- The town bus works consistently
- There are more club members
- Seniors get more involved in the Community
- The Seniors keep busy
- There is a level, paved walkway loop trail
- More social activities
- Rebranding of the term "Seniors"
- The Randolph Beach is reorganized and improved
- The Community has kept its historic and rural character

*If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.*



Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

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**CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM  
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT FOCUS GROUP  
RANDOLPH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP, NJ  
PROJECT NO. 15024**

**BY:** Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA, Brandstetter Carroll Inc.



**May 7, 2015**

Seventeen students were asked to join the Consulting Team to discuss their desires for Parks and Recreation in the future. We asked people what they would like to see and how they would like to see the parks improved and gave each student three dots to vote for their top items. The items receiving the most votes include the following:

- More competitions (11)
- More sand volleyball (6)
- Sidewalks and connectivity (5)
- Event board and communications (3)
- Bike lanes (3)
- More and improved turf fields (2)
- Paved bike loops (2)
- Better and more water fountains (2)
- Trail map and signage (1)
- Community gardens (1)
- Large dog park (1)
- Town runs the programs that use the parks (1)
- Outdoor play center (1)
- Pool (1)
- Sprayground (1)
- More events (1)

Other items receiving no dots includes:

- Padded playground surface
- Sand pit for children
- More shade
- More sitting areas
- Adult sports

*If you should disagree with any information contained herein, please kindly notify our office in writing within 10 days of receipt of this memorandum.*

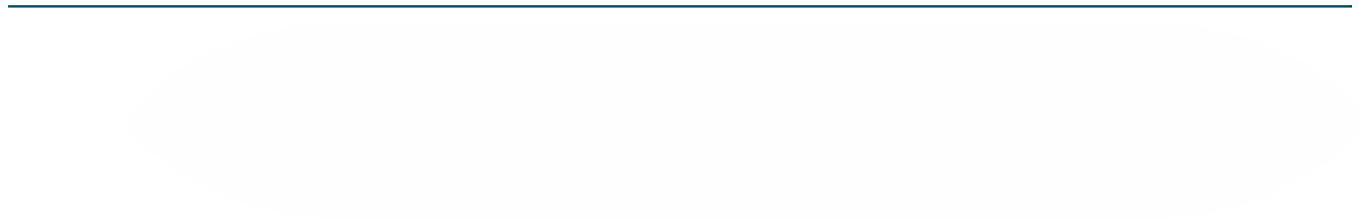
*Patrick D. Hoagland*

Patrick D. Hoagland, ASLA

PDH/meg

cc: Russ Newman, KER





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# APPENDIX D - CORE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

## CORE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a healthy community. As citizens of all ages seek to enrich their lives with productive use of leisure time, the availability of a diverse range of recreational activities becomes increasingly vital. Quality recreational programs also reinforce societal values such as a community's attractiveness to parents and business leaders and civic spirit/pride. The core program concept was developed to provide direction in the planning, scheduling and coordination of community-based recreational activities. Emphasis must be given to the involvement of community representatives, parents, participants and advisory groups in the planning and development of the core program.

The following Core Program Guidelines are divided into two parts. The first section identifies six components, which should be utilized as benchmarks for determining the specific recreational activities conducted at each community center. The latter sections provide an expanded description of each of the broad program categories. They include the formats which might be utilized, identify the primary values served by the activity, and finally list specific examples of the program.

It should be noted that the values served are only the primary values; other important values may be attained depending on the setting, the leader and the participant. In addition, the list of program examples is not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather to serve as a benchmark for cataloging other activities. Finally, in any given setting, the level of Core Program offering may vary in activity type, intensity and scope depending on such factors as size of the building, equipment available and the number of staff.

## Core Program Components

### 1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels. Target groups for programs include:

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| ▪ Preschool             | ▪ Seniors           |
| ▪ Elementary School Age | ▪ Intergenerational |
| ▪ Teens                 | ▪ Multiple Ages     |
| ▪ Adults                | ▪ Special Needs     |

### 2. Administratively Feasible

Activities should be administratively feasible and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements
- Safety
- Cost vs. Benefits
- Specialized Instruction Requirements

### 3. Coordination

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

### 4. Variety of Settings

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Examples include:

- 
- Instructional Classes
  - Progressive Skill Levels
  - Drop-In
  - Special Events
  - Special Interest Clubs
  - Leagues and/or Tournaments
  - Outings and Field Trips

## **5. Constructive Nature**

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

## **6. Diverse Range of Activities**

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Athletics
- Creative Arts
- Games
- Health and Wellness Education
- Outdoor/Nature Education
- Performing Arts
- Education and Seminars
- Special Events

## **Athletics, Health, Wellness, and Aquatics**

**Definition:** Leisure activities which focus on body movement oriented in direction of fitness, skill development, and athletic enjoyment.

### **1. Formats:**

- Seasonal
- Team
- Individual
- Participant & Spectator
- Competitive
- Progressive levels of skill development

### **2. Athletic activities provide the opportunity to:**

- Have fun
- Develop and maintain an effective level of physical fitness
- Utilize a positive outlet for aggressive behavior
- Provide an opportunity to feel connected to and participate with a group (socialization).
- Compete
- Develop sportsmanship and character

### **3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Aerobics
- Movement Fitness
- Badminton
- Flag Football



- 
- Baseball
  - Basketball
  - Bowling
  - Cycling
  - Fencing
  - Fitness Activities
  - Ripped
  - Sculpt/Flex
  - Core and more
  - Boot Camp
  - Body Blast
  - Fitness Equipment Instruction
  - Golf
  - Martial Arts
  - Pilates
  - Racquet Ball
  - Roller Hockey
  - Rope Jumping
  - Skating
  - Soccer
  - Softball
  - Spinning

**4. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Tennis
- Tumbling
- Volleyball
- Walking
- Weight Training
- Yoga
- Equestrian Programs
- Lacrosse
- Pickleball
- Bocce
- Zumba
- Silver Sneakers
- Movement to Music
- Aquatics
  - Lessons
  - Aerobics
  - Swim Team
  - Red Cross Courses

## Creative Arts

**Definition:** Activities that result in the creation of something tangible. The process usually involves artistic or imaginable effort:

**1. Format:**

- Progressive Skill Development
- Individual and/or Group Projects
- Exhibits, Shows, Displays
- Classes and Workshops

**2. Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:**

- Express creativity
- Work with hands
- Develop fine motor skills
- Enhance the appreciation for the arts
- Give personal satisfaction and pride in accomplishment

**3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):**

- Ceramics/Glass
  - Glazing & Staining
  - Greenware
  - Hand Building
  - Raku
  - Stained Glass
  - Wheel (Throwing)

- 
- Crafts
    - Copper Foil
    - Paper Making
    - Decoupage
    - Paper Mache
    - Enameling
    - Plaster Crafts
    - Jewelry Making
    - Plastic Crafts
    - Mobiles
    - Print Making
    - Mosaics
    - Silk Screening
    - Paper Crafts
    - Wood Working
  - Drawing/Painting-Calligraphy
    - Pastels
    - Cartooning
    - Pen & Ink
    - Charcoal
    - Sketching
    - Mixed Media
    - Water Colors
    - Oil
    - Pre-School Drawing
  - Fabric
    - Batik
    - Needle Point
    - Crochet
    - Quilting
    - Knitting
    - Sewing
  - Photography
    - Composition
    - Pinhole Cameras
    - Using 35mm Cameras
    - Digital Workshops
  - Sculpture
    - Casting
    - Plaster
    - Clay
    - Soft (Fabric)
    - Mobiles
    - Wire
    - Paper
  - Weaving
    - Basketry
    - Dyeing
    - On or Off the Loom
    - Spinning

## Games

**Definition:** Activities of play that are governed by specific rules and intended to provide challenges, diversion and enjoyment.

### 1. Formats:

- Active or Semi active Group Games
- Social Games, Mixers, Ice Breakers
- Mental Games, Quizzes, Puzzles, Paper & Pencil Games
- Table and Equipment Games
- Quiet Games

---

## 2. Games provide the opportunity to:

- Develop ability to cooperate effectively with others
- Learn to accept and abide by the rules of the game
- Accept victory and/or defeat in good spirit
- Learn to persevere and keep trying
- Develop good sportsmanship and consideration for the rights of others
- Learn to take turns and accept boundary limits (either in a physical sense, or in terms of personal behavior)

## 3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| ▪ Air Hockey          | ▪ Horse Shoes  |
| ▪ Billiards           | ▪ Low Organized Games (Lead-Up, Relays, Tag, Dodge ball) |
| ▪ Board & Table Games | ▪ Magic Stunts & Tricks                                  |
| ▪ Cards               | ▪ Table Tennis   |
| ▪ Checkers            | ▪ Skittles   |
| ▪ Chess               | ▪ Word Games   |
| ▪ Dominoes            | ▪ World Wide Games                                       |
| ▪ Foosball            |  |

## Health, Wellness and Educational Programs

**Definition:** These programs go beyond the traditional view of recreation and promote the individual's optimal well being physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually.

### 1. Format:

- Testing/Screening
- Instructional Workshops and Classes
- Speakers
- Community Forums
- Partnerships/Programs with Other Agencies

### 2. Health, Wellness and Educational Programs provide opportunities to:

- Enhanced self-esteem
- Extend and continue the learning process
- Create public awareness and understanding
- Allow the individual to feel connected to his/her community

### 3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Informational Referrals | ▪ Kids Computer            |
| ▪ Stress Management       | ▪ Baby Sitting Classes     |
| ▪ Substance Abuse         | ▪ Financial                |
| ▪ CPR & First Aid         | ▪ Computer                 |
| ▪ Parenting Skills        | ▪ Medicare                 |
| ▪ G.E.D. Programs         | ▪ Guide to social security |
| ▪ Smoke Enders            | ▪ Personal Training        |
| ▪ Tutoring                | ▪ Diabetes                 |



- 
- Personal Safety
  - Nutrition & Weight Control
  - Vision Screening
  - Arthritis
  - A fib
  - Heart

## Outdoor Education

**Definition:** Those recreational activities that can best be carried on outdoors and that have, in some way, a direct relationship or dependence on nature or that place the participant in direct contact with the elements.

### 1. Format:

- Individual or Group Activities
- Classes/Workshops
- Teambuilding
- Partnerships and Programs with Other Agencies
- Role Playing
- Outing and Field Trips
- Sensory Awareness Activities

### 2. Outdoor education activities provide the opportunity to:

- Develop an awareness, appreciation and preservation of our natural resources,
- Develop skills for adaptation to vocational or leisure pursuits

### 3. Types of Activities Include (not limited to):

- Bird Feeding & Watching
- Canoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Hiking
- Land/Wildlife Conservation
- Recycling
- Survival Skills
- Camping
- Composting
- Gardening
- Kayaking
- Pet Shows
- Repelling/Climbing
- Weather, Climate

## Performing Arts

**Definition:** The type of activity that allows the participant to use himself/herself as the medium of expression. The "Doing" process is important whether or not an audience is involved.

### 1. Format:

- Progressive skill level development
- Classes and Workshops
- Special Events

### 2. Neighborhood Projects

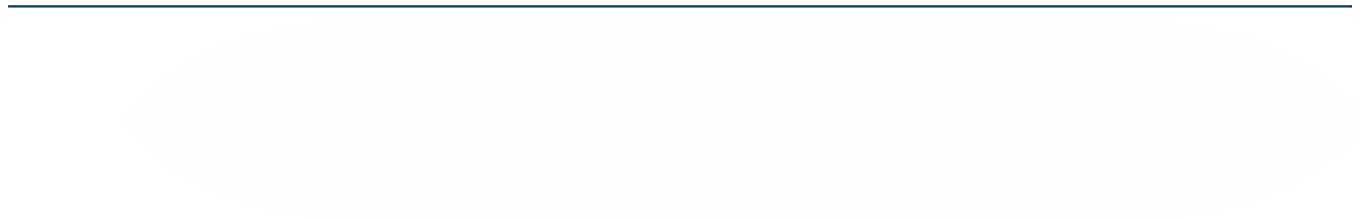
### 3. Creative Arts provide the opportunity to:

- Provide the participant with the opportunity to discover himself/herself as a person, by being creatively involved in learning new skills, exploring and expressing talents
- Allows the participant to create his/her own entertainment
- May be enjoyed by people of all ages
- Serves to develop and enrich cultural appreciation

---

#### 4. Types of Activities:

- Dance
  - Ballet
  - Ballroom Dance
  - Clogging
  - Creative Movement
  - Folk Dance
  - Jazz Dance
  - Modern Dance
  - Square Dance
  - Tap Dance
  - Line Dancing
- Drama
  - Acting
  - Backstage Crafts
  - Games, Charades, Stunts, and Skits
  - Pantomime and Improvisation
  - Poetry Readings
  - Puppetry
  - Storytelling
  - Theater Groups
- Music
  - Choral Groups
  - Guitar
  - Piano
  - Recorder
  - Rhythm Instruments (Bells, triangles, blocks, Drums)
  - Singing
  - Talent/Variety Shows
  - Special Needs Music Program
  - Music Fundamentals





**Findings Report for a Statistically  
Valid Community Interest and  
Opinion Survey**

**Submitted to  
Randolph Township, NJ**

**By  
Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute)**



**725 W. Frontier Circle**

**Olathe, KS 66061**

**(913) 829-1215**

**July 2015**

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## **Contents**

Section 1: Executive Summary .....	Page 1
Section 2: Charts and Graphs .....	Page 6
Section 3: National Benchmarks .....	Page 22
Section 4: GIS Maps.....	Page 28
Section 5: Tabular Data .....	Page 155
<u>Cross-Tabular Data by:</u>	
Section 6: Age and Gender.....	Page 190
Section 7: Household Types.....	Page 306
Section 8: Disability and Location of Residence .....	Page 425
Section 9: Survey Instrument .....	Page 543

# Section 1

## *Executive Summary*

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# Community Interest and Opinion Survey

## Executive Summary Report

### Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute conducted a Parks and Recreation Survey for Randolph Township during the spring of 2015 as one component of this long range plan which will help to establish priorities for future improvements and potential development of parks and recreation facilities and services within the Township. The survey was mailed to a random sample of households in Randolph Township.

ETC Institute mailed out a total of 3,000 surveys to a random sample of resident households throughout Randolph Township. The goal was to complete 300 surveys. The total amount of surveys completed was 520. The results for the sample of 520 households have a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/- 4.3%.

This report contains:

- An executive summary of the methodology and major findings
- Charts depicting the overall results of the survey
- National benchmarking comparisons
- GIS Maps
- Tabular data for all questions on the survey
- Cross-tabular analysis
- A copy of the survey instrument

### Major Findings

#### PARK USAGE

- **If Residents Have visited any Randolph Township Parks or Recreation Facilities:**  
Based on the percentage of residents, 71% indicated they had visited *Freedom Park (Millbrook Avenue)* over the past 12 months. Other parks or recreation facilities residents have visited include: Brundage Park (Carrell Road) (63%), trails (45%), and Heinstein Park (Doby/South Roads) (37%).
- **Approximation of Times Residents Have Visited Parks or Recreation Facilities:**  
Based on the percentage of residents who indicated that they had visited any of the parks or facilities operated by Randolph Township, 48% indicated that they have visited the



parks *20 or more visits* over the past 12 months. Other levels of visitation include: 1 to 5 visits (19%), 11 to 19 visits (15%), 6 to 10 visits (14%), and don't know/none (4%).

- **Overall Physical Condition of Parks and Facilities:** Sixty percent (60%) of residents, who have used any of the Randolph Township parks or facilities over the past 12 months, indicated that the overall physical condition was *good*. Other ratings of overall physical condition include: Excellent (31%), fair (8%) and poor (1%).

## PROGRAM USAGE

- **If Residents Have Participated in any Recreational Programs:** Sixty-five percent (65%) of residents indicated that *no*, they have not participated in programs offered by Randolph Township, while 35% indicated they have.
- **Overall Quality of Programs:** Fifty-one percent (51%) of residents indicated that the overall quality of programs their household has participated in is *good*. Other ratings include: Excellent (37%), fair (11%), and poor (1%).

## IMPROVEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Improvements to be Made to Existing Parks:** Based on the percentage of resident households, 35% indicated they would like to see *improve/add restrooms* made as a potential improvement to existing parks in Randolph Township. Other potential improvements residents would like to see made include: Drink fountains (31%), bike trails & bike lanes (28%), and expand trails (26%).
- **Possible Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation Services:** Based on the percentage of respondents who indicated they were either “very supportive” or “supportive” of potential actions Randolph Township could take to improve parks and recreation services, 71% indicated they were supportive of *upgrade older parks and recreation facilities*. Other actions that residents support include: Purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas (66%), develop new recreational trails and connect existing trails (63%), and upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting (59%).
- **Improvement Actions that are Most Important to Resident Households:** Based on the percentage of residents’ top three choices, 32% indicated that *purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas* was an improvement that is most important to their household. Other improvements that are most important include: Upgrade older parks and recreation facilities (26%), develop new recreational trails and connect existing trails (26%), and develop an outdoor aquatic facility (20%).



- **Allocations of Funds for Parks and Recreation Projects:** Based on percentage of residents when asked how they would allocate funding for parks and recreation project in Randolph Township, \$27 would be allocated towards *improve/maintain existing parks*. Other areas residents would allocate funds include: Develop new walking and biking trails (\$17), develop new indoor recreation facility with game courts, fitness areas, and walking track (\$14), develop outdoor facilities for fitness and wellness activities (\$13), develop a community vegetable garden on existing open space or park property (\$10), other (\$10), construct new athletic fields (\$6), and construct new parks (\$3).

## ORGANIZATION USAGE

- **Organizations Resident Households Have Used:** Based on the percentage of residents, 63% indicated they have used *Randolph Parks & Recreation* for parks and recreation programs and facilities. Other organizations residents have used include: Randolph Township schools (41%), Morris County Park Commission (39%), and neighboring/cities/counties/state parks (31%).
- **Organizations Residents Use Most Often:** Based on residents' top two choices, 49% indicated that they use *Randolph Parks & Recreation* the most often for parks and recreation programs and facilities. Other organizations used most often include: Randolph Township schools (20%), YMCA (15%), and Morris County Park Commission (15%).

## FACILITIES

- **If Residents Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities:** Based on the percentage residents who have a need for parks and recreation facilities, 71% or 6,417 households, have a need for *walking and biking trails*. Other facilities residents have a need for include: Large community parks (54% or 4,849 households), natural areas/nature parks (54% or 4,840 households), and paved bike trails (49% or 4,434 households).
- **Parks and Recreation Facilities that are Most Important:** Based on residents' top four choices, 41% indicated that *walking and biking trails* are most important to their household. Other facilities that are most important include: Paved bike trail (22%), large community parks (22%), and natural areas/nature parks (18%).

## PROGRAMS

- **If Residents Have a Need for Sports and Recreation Programs:** Based on the percentage of residents who have a need for recreation programs, 42% or 3,776 households, have a need for *adult fitness and wellness programs*. Other programs residents have a need for include: Concerts (38% or 3,452 households), age 50+ programs (35% or 3,155 households), and adult learning (30% or 2,722 households).





- **Recreation Programs that are Most Important:** Based on residents' top four choices, 29% indicated that *adult fitness and wellness programs* are most important to their household. Other programs that are most important include: Age 50+ programs (24%), concerts (21%), and youth sports programs (21%).
- **Recreation Programs that are Used Most Often:** Based on residents' top four choices, 21% indicated that *youth sports programs* is a program that is used most often. Other programs that are used most often include: Adult fitness and wellness programs (13%), youth summer camp programs (13%), and concerts (12%).

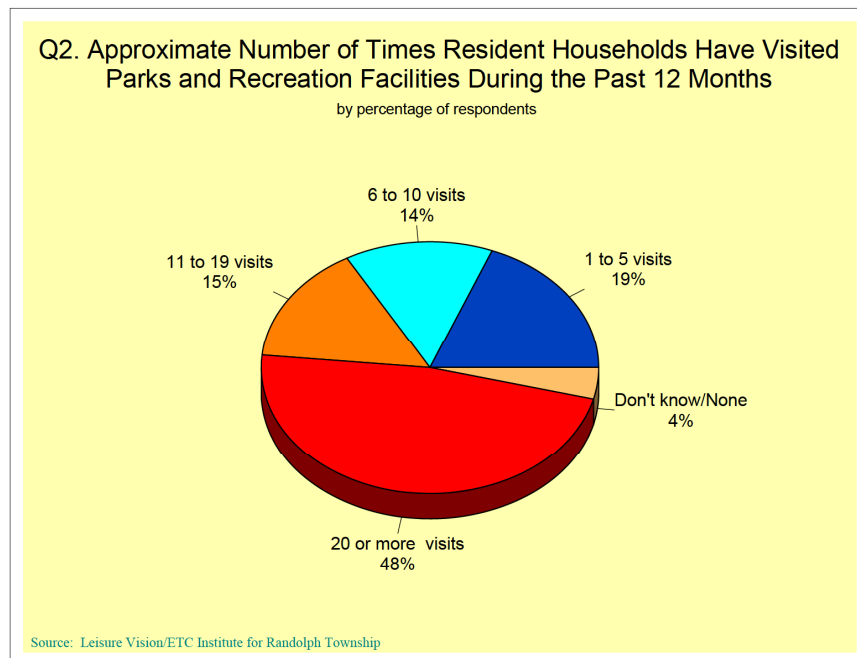
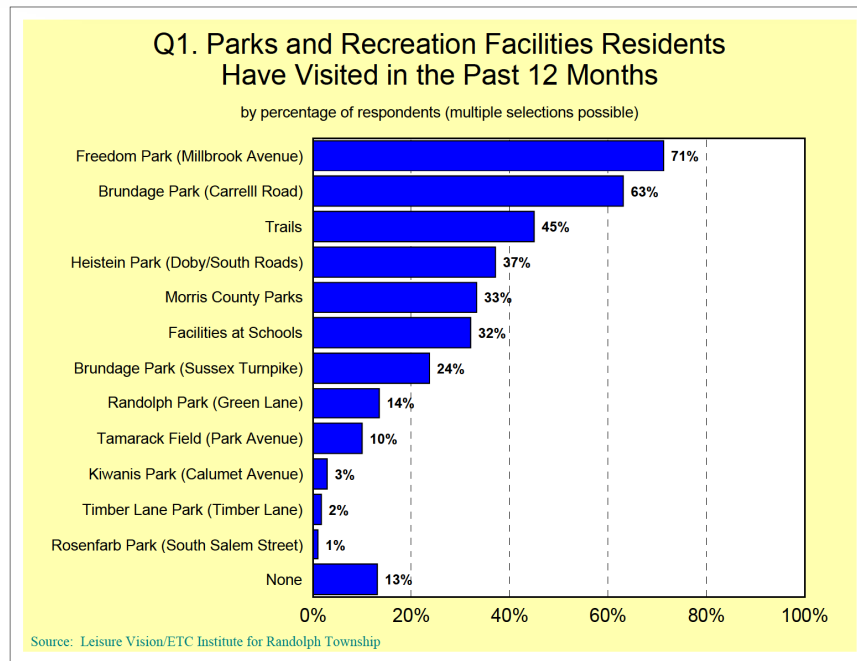
## OTHER FINDINGS

- **Ways Residents Learn about Programs and Activities:** Based on the percentage of resident households, 68% learn about Randolph Township programs and activities by the *Randolph Township Quarterly*. Other ways residents learn about programs and activities include: Newspaper-local (41%), word of mouth (40%), and Randolph Township website (32%).
- **Willing Drive Time to Attend Programs or Use Park and Recreation Facilities:** Forty-five percent (45%) of residents indicated that they were willing to drive 10-15 minutes to attend programs or use park and recreation facilities. Other drive times include: 5-10 minutes (24%), 15-30 minutes (22%), 0-5 minutes (5%), and over 30 minutes (4%).
- **Reasons Preventing Usage:** Based on the percentage of residents, 25% indicated that *I do not know what is being offered* is a reason why they don't use parks, recreation facilities, trails and programs more often. Other reasons preventing usage include: Use private clubs/gyms (23%), program or facility not offered (21%), and use other non-Randolph Township facilities (13%).

## **Section 2**

### ***Charts and Graphs***

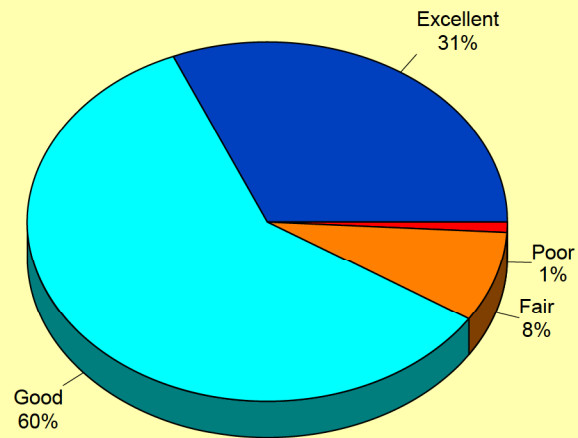
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### Q3. Overall Rating of Physical Condition of Parks and Facilities Resident Households Have Visited

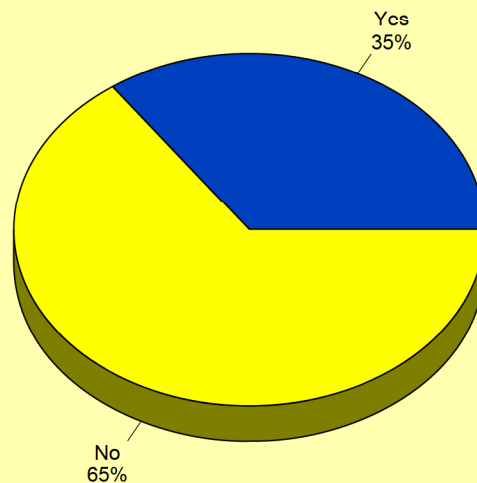
by percentage of respondents who have visited the parks or facilities over the past 12 months (excluding "don't know")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q4. If Residents Have Participated in any Recreational Programs Offered by Randolph Township Over the Past 12 Months

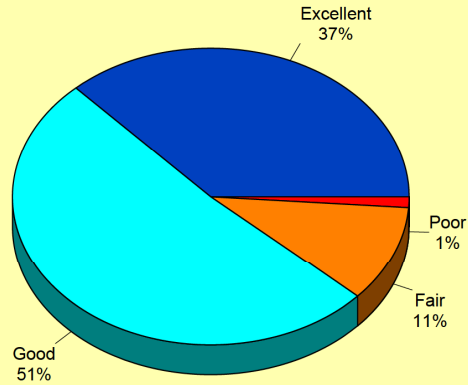
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q5. Overall Rating of Quality of Programs

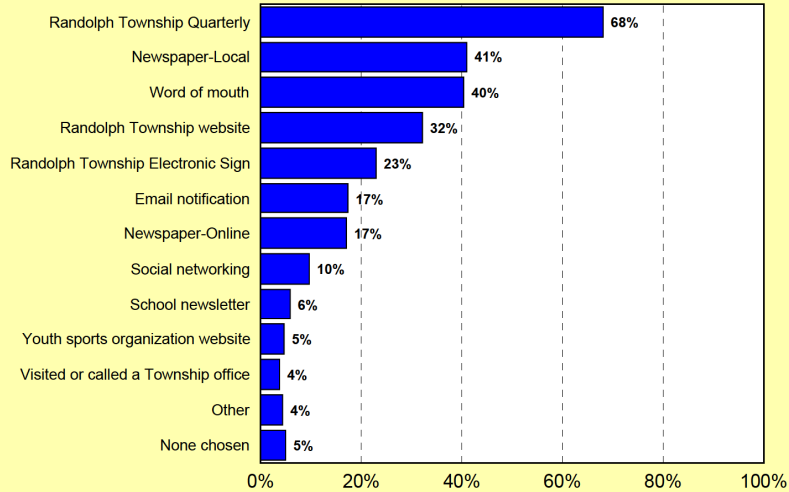
by percentage of respondents who have participated in programs over the past 12 months (excluding "don't know")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q6. Ways Residents Learn about Recreation or Activities Provided by Randolph Township

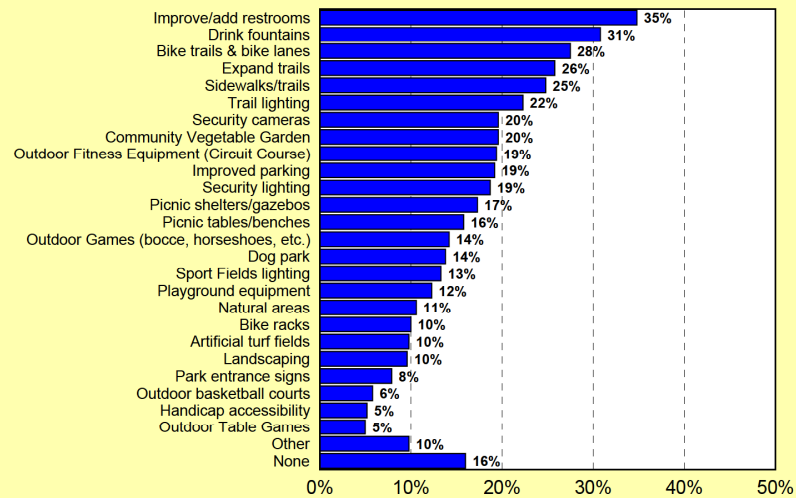
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q7. Improvements Residents Would Like Made to Existing Parks in Randolph Township

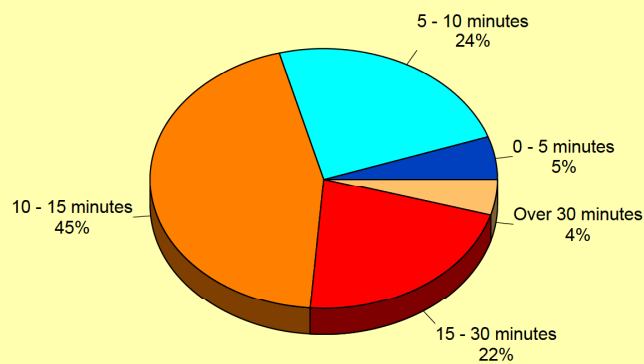
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q8. How Long Residents are Willing to Drive to Attend Programs or Use Park and Recreation Facilities

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know")

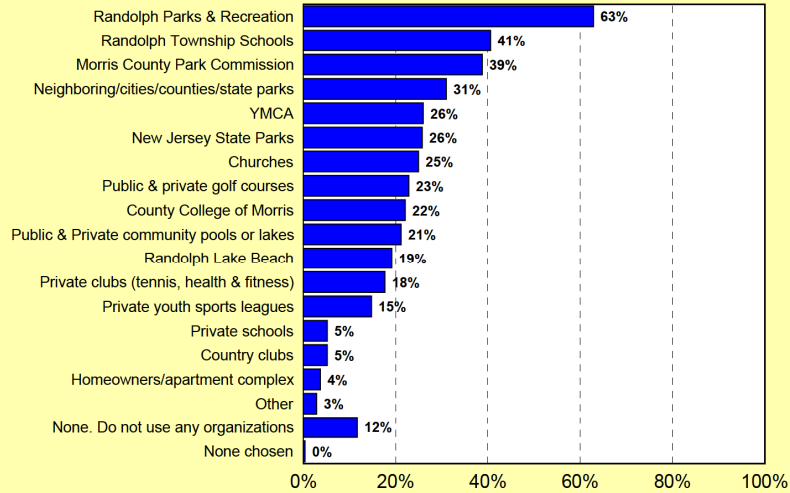


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township



### Q9. Organizations Residents Use for Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities in Any Location

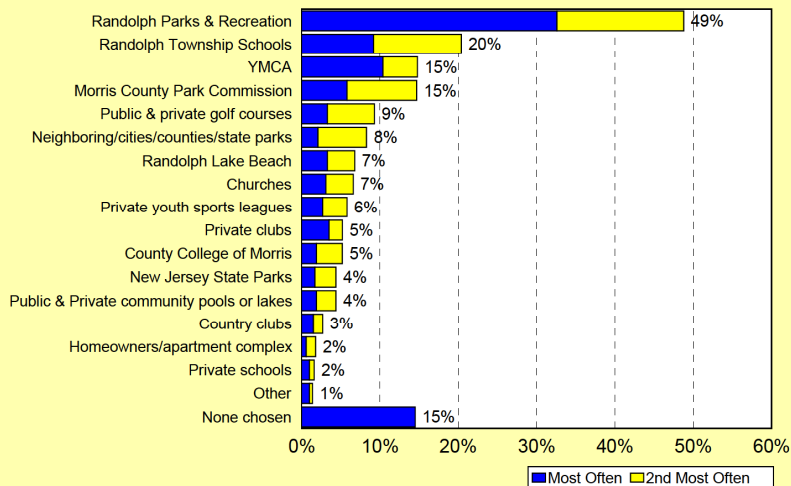
by percentage of respondents (multiple selections possible)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q10. Organizations that Resident Households Use Most Often for Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

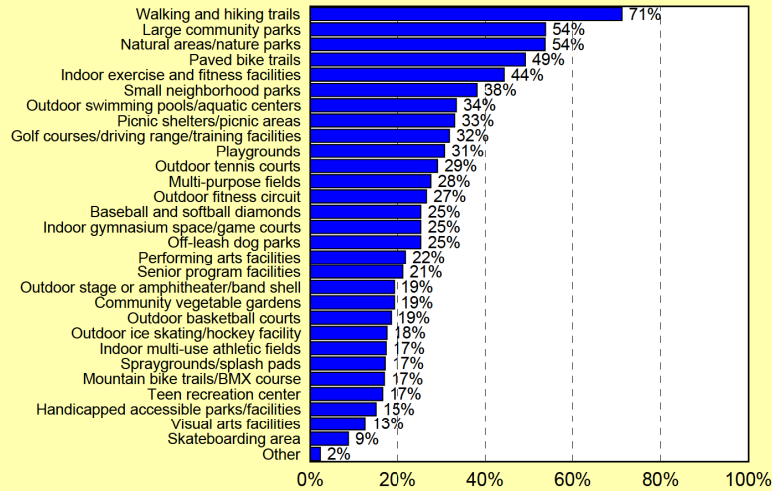
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top two choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q11. Households that Have a Need for Recreation and Parks Facilities

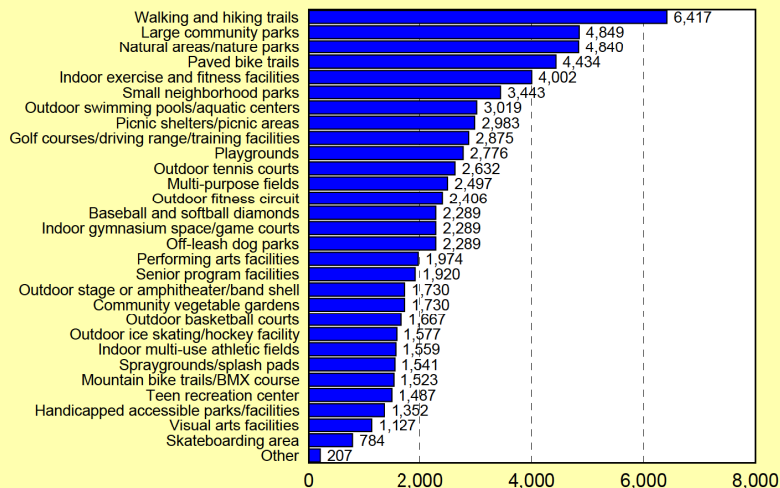
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q11a. Estimated Number of Households for Randolph Township that Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

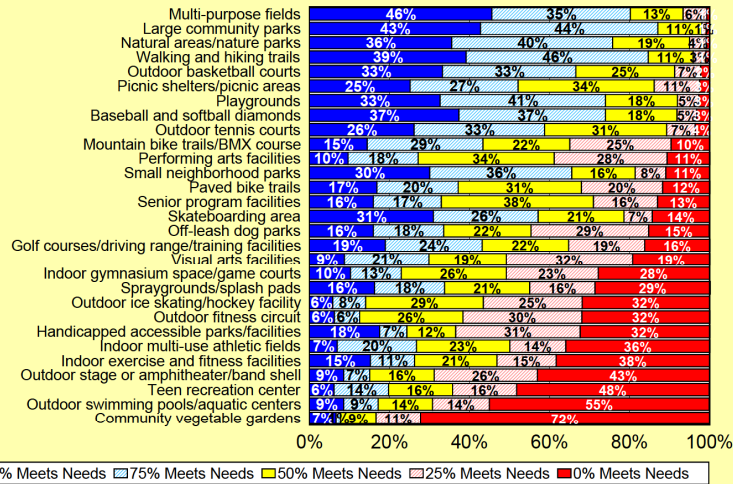
by number of households based on 9,013 households for Randolph Township



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q11b. How Well Parks and Recreation Facilities for Randolph Township Meet the Needs of Households

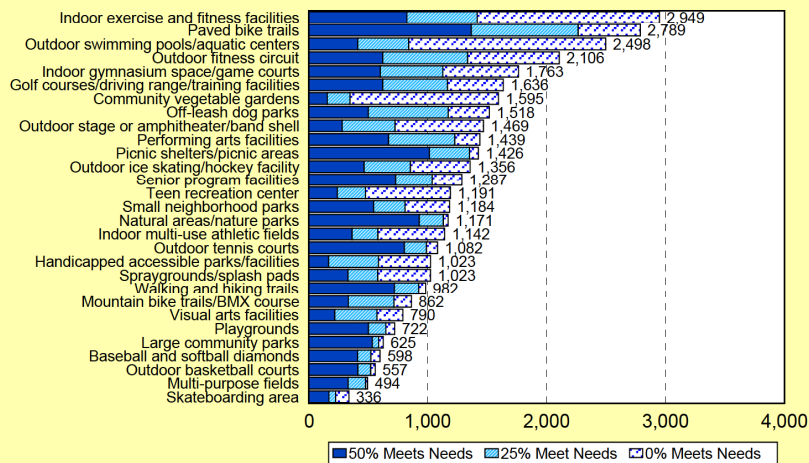
by percentage of households that have a need for facilities (without "don't know")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

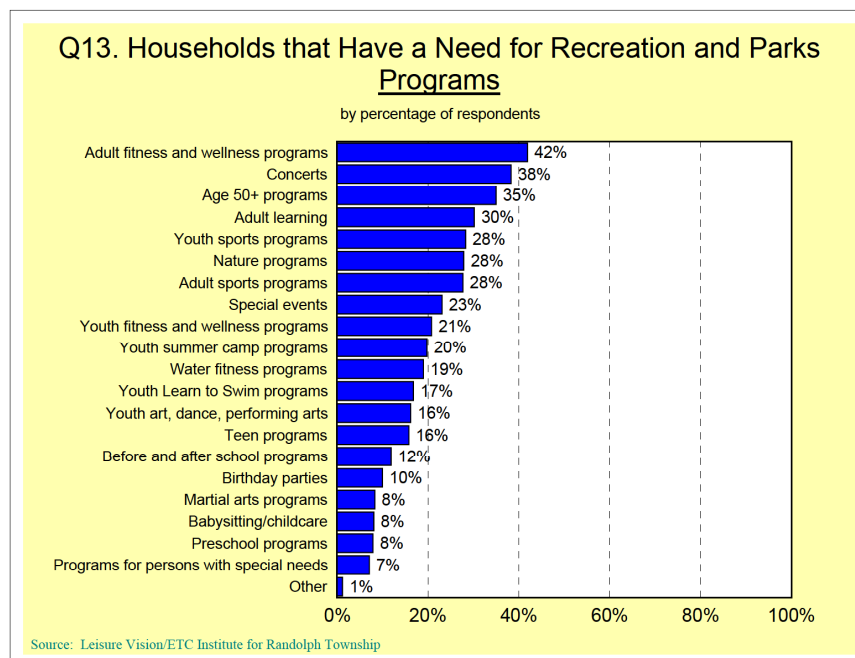
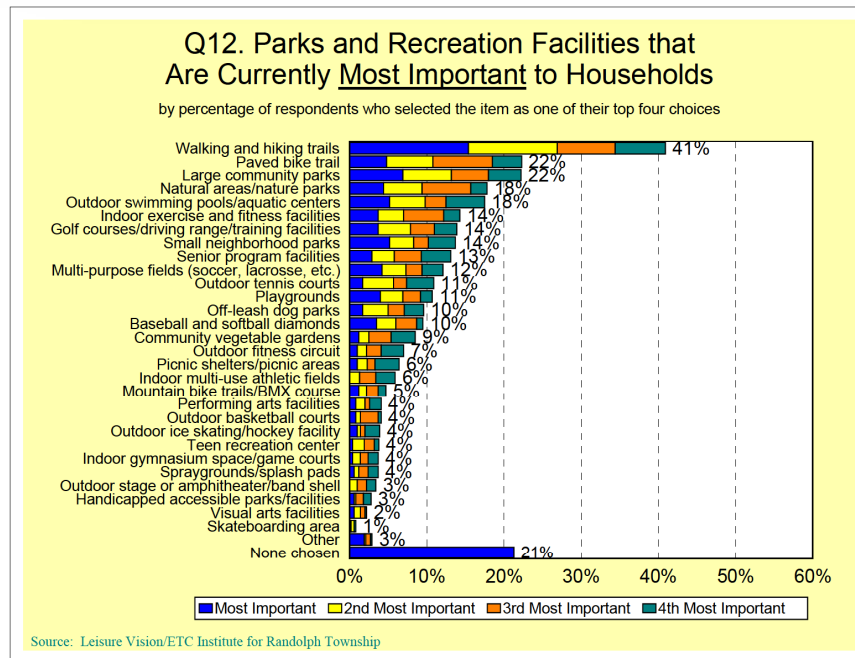
### Q11c. Estimated Number of Households for Randolph Township Whose Needs for Parks and Recreation Facilities Are Only Being 50% Met or Less

by number of households based on 9,013 households for Randolph Township



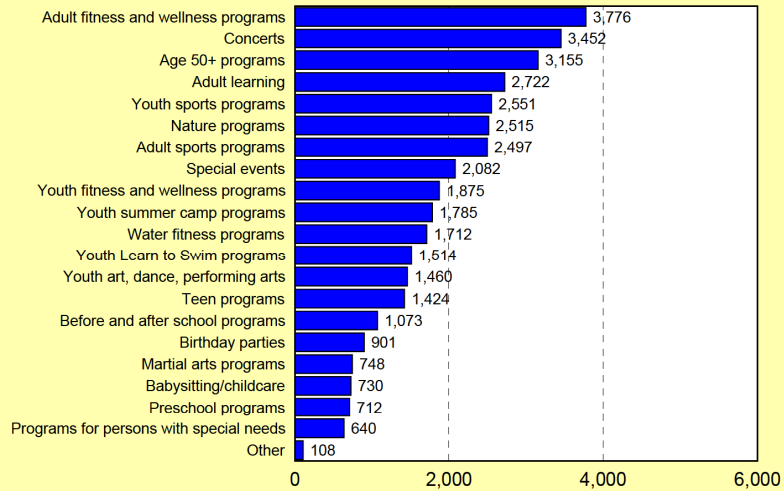
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township





### Q13a. Estimated Number of Households for Randolph Township that Have a Need for Parks and Recreation Programs

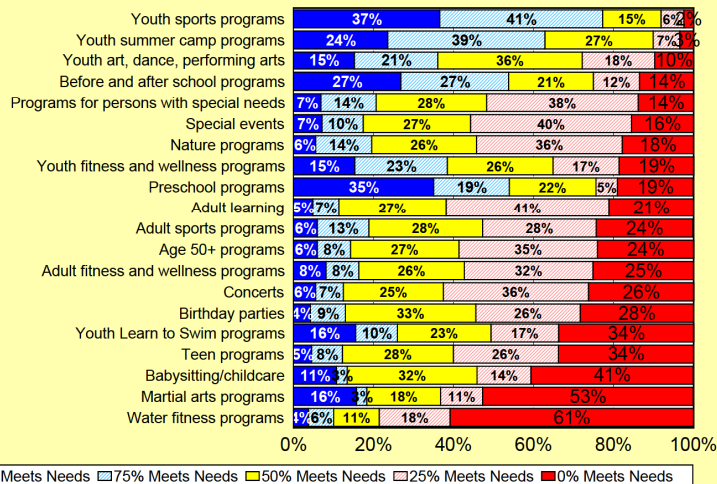
by number of households based on 9,013 households for Randolph Township



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q13b. How Well Parks and Recreation Programs for Randolph Township Meet the Needs of Households

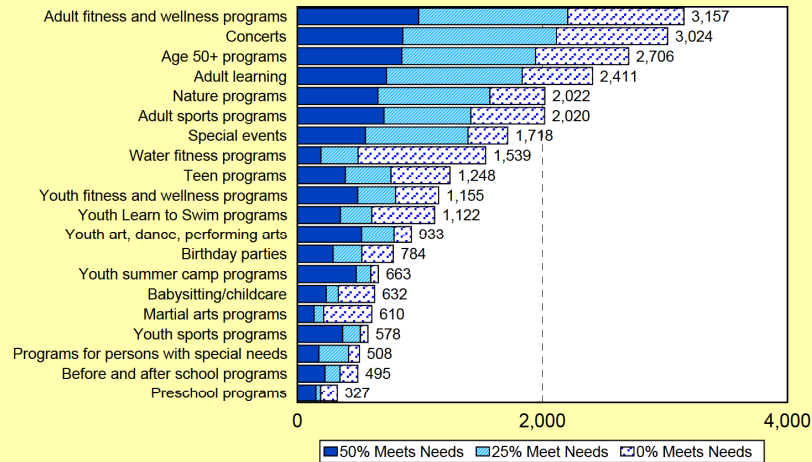
by percentage of households that have a need for programs (without "don't know")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q13c. Estimated Number of Households for Randolph Township Whose Needs for Parks and Recreation Programs Are Only Being 50% Met or Less

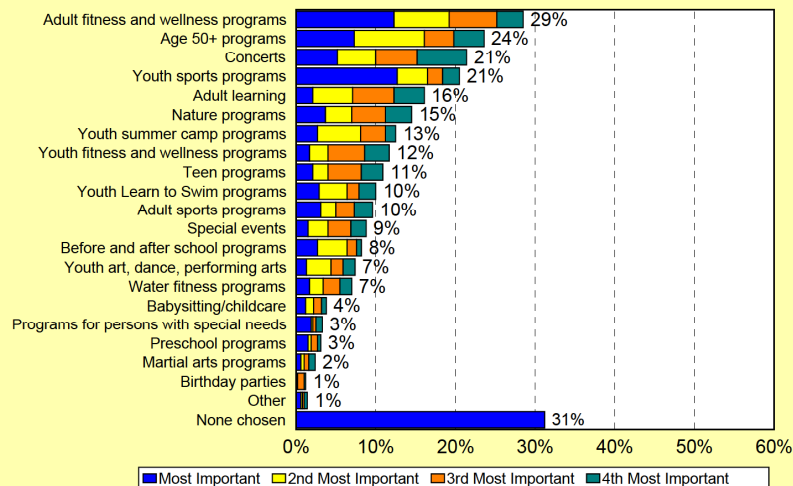
by number of households based on 9,013 households for Randolph Township



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

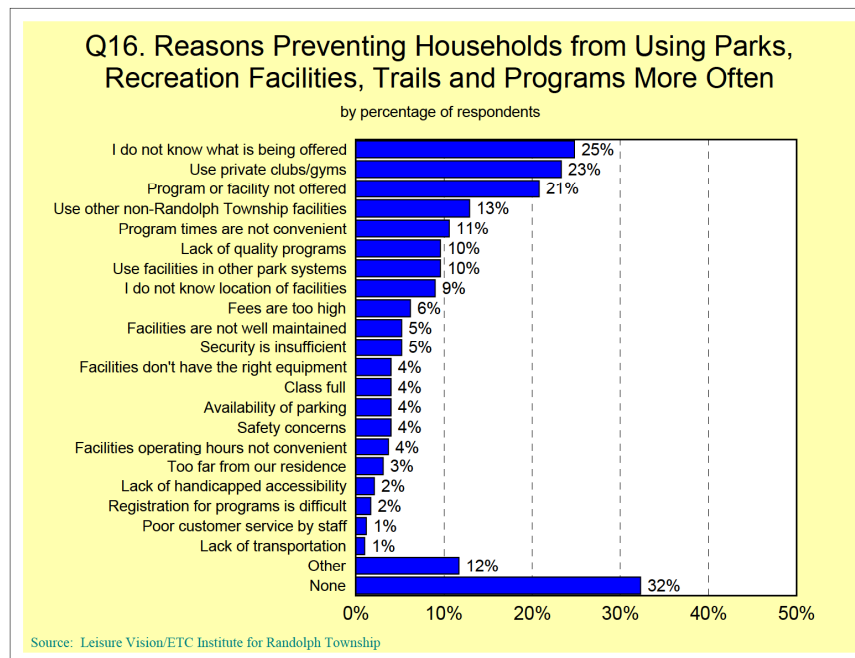
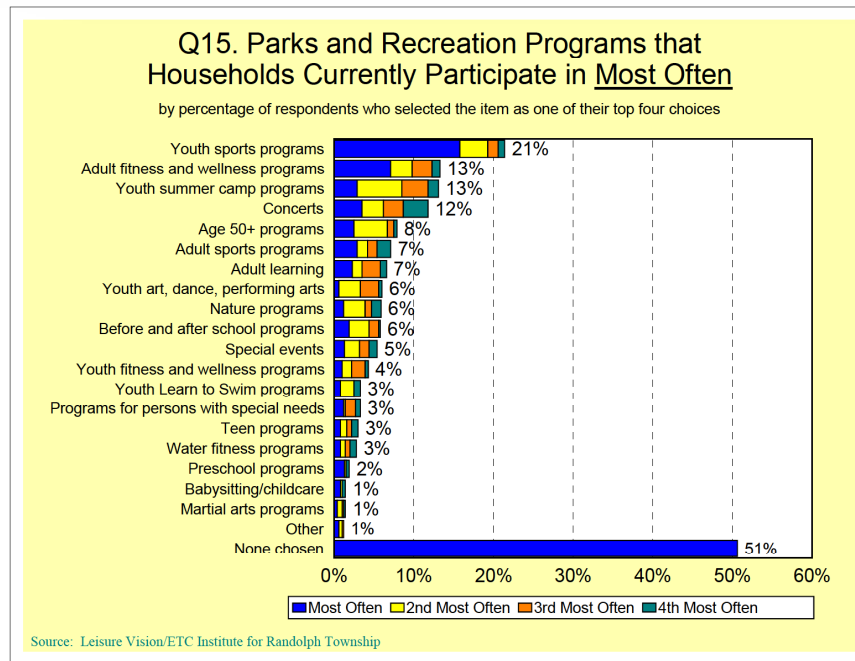
### Q14. Parks and Recreation Programs that Are Currently Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



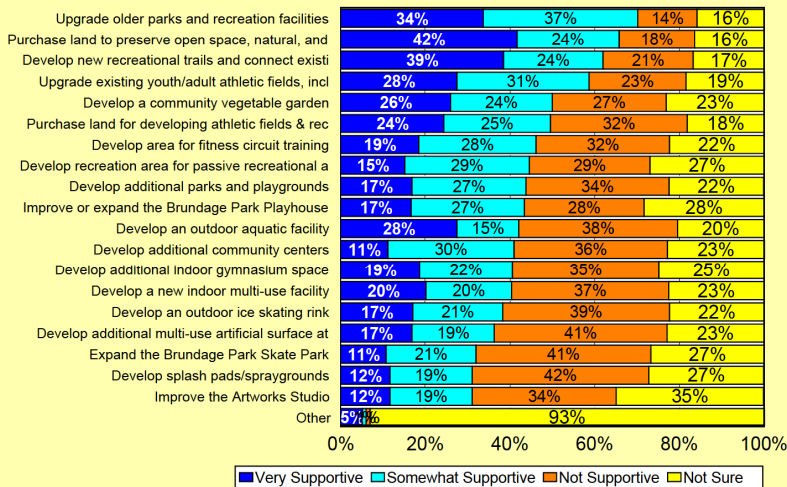
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township





### Q17. Level of Support for Actions that Randolph Township Could Take to Improve Parks and Recreation Services

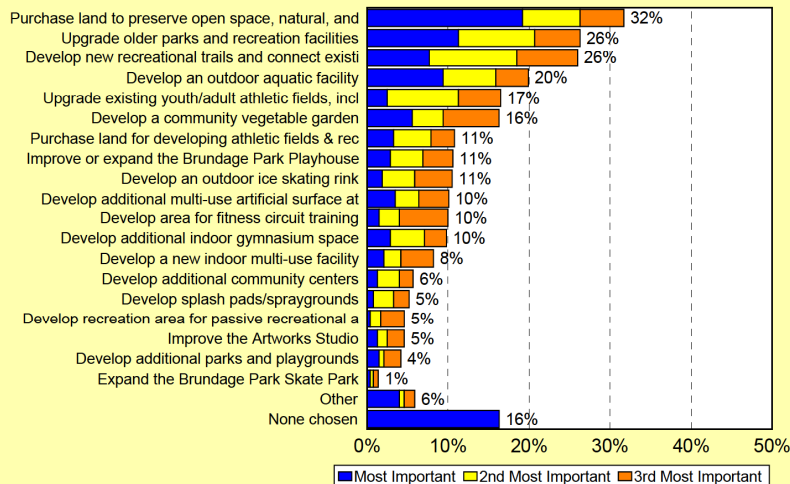
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q18. Actions that are Most Important for Randolph Township to Take to Improve Parks and Recreation Services

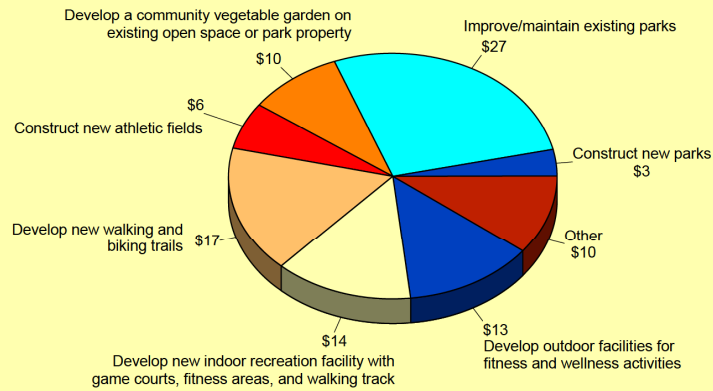
by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q19. Allocation of Funds for Types of Parks and Recreation Projects in Randolph Township

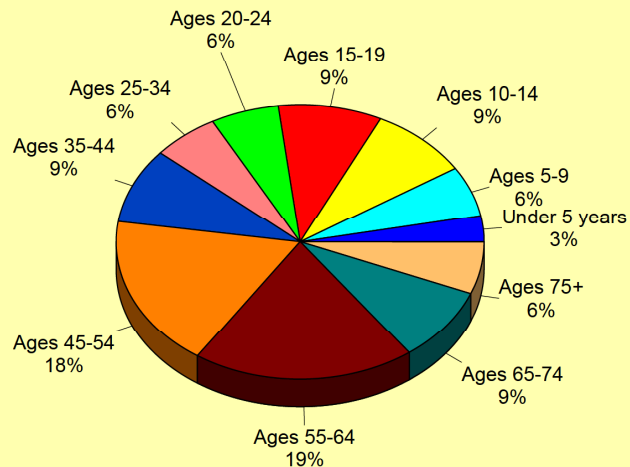
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q20. Demographics: Age of Household Members

by percentage of respondents

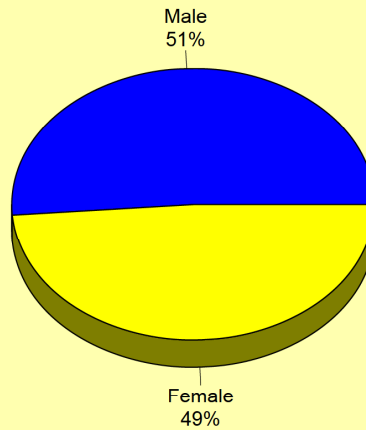


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township



### Q21. Demographics: Gender

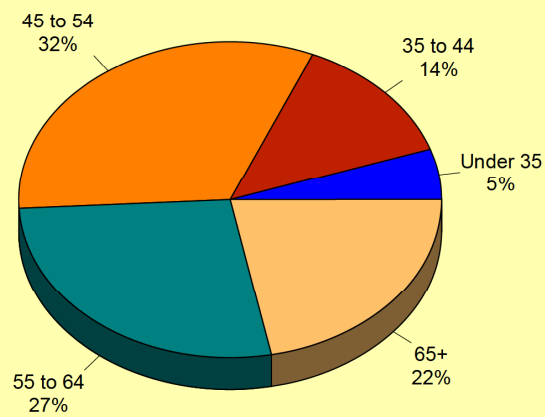
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q22. Demographics: Age of Respondent

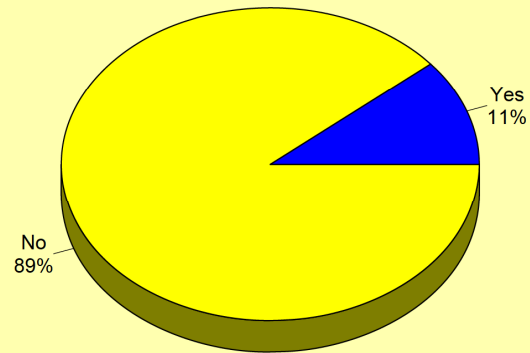
by percentage of respondents (without "not provided")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q23. Demographics: Disabilities

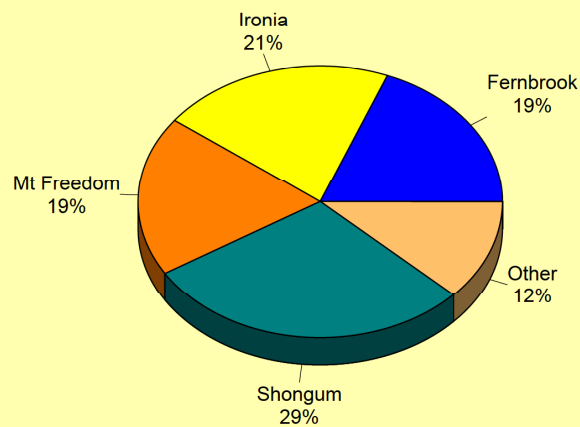
by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

### Q24. Demographics: Where Respondent Lives

by percentage of respondents (excluding "not provided")



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Randolph Township

## **Section 3**

### ***Benchmarks***

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## National Benchmarking

*Since 1998, Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute) has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 45 states across the country.*

The results of these surveys has provided an unparalleled data base of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to “National Averages” and therefore provide a unique tool to “assist organizations in better decision making.”

Communities within the data base include a full-range of municipal and county governments from 20,000 in population through over 1 million in population. They include communities in warm weather climates and cold weather climates, mature communities and some of the fastest growing cities and counties in the country.

*“National Averages” have been developed for numerous strategically important parks and recreation planning and management issues* including: customer satisfaction and usage of parks and programs; methods for receiving marketing information; reasons that prevent members of households from using parks and recreation facilities more often; priority recreation programs, parks, facilities and trails to improve or develop; priority programming spaces to have in planned community centers and aquatic facilities; potential attendance for planned indoor community centers and outdoor aquatic centers; etc.

*To keep the benchmarking data base current with changing trends,* Leisure Vision’s benchmarking data base is updated on an annual basis.

*Results from household responses for Randolph Township were compared to National Benchmarks to gain further strategic information.* A summary of all tabular comparisons are shown on the following page.

**Note: The benchmarking data contained in this report is protected intellectual property. Any reproduction of the benchmarking information in this report by persons or organizations not directly affiliated with Randolph Township is not authorized without written consent from Leisure Vision/ETC Institute.**

Benchmarking for Randolph Township Community Survey			
		National Average	Randolph Township
<b>How would you rate the condition of all the parks/facilities you've visited?</b>			
	Excellent	31%	31%
	Good	54%	60%
	Fair	12%	8%
	Poor	2%	1%
<b>Has your household participated in City/County/Park District recreation programs during the past year?</b>			
	Yes	34%	35%
	No	66%	65%
<b>How would you rate the quality of all the recreation programs you've participated in?</b>			
	Excellent	35%	37%
	Good	53%	51%
	Fair	10%	11%
	Poor	2%	1%
<b>Ways respondents learn about recreation programs and activities</b>			
	Randolph Township Quarterly	54%	68%
	Newspaper-local	39%	41%
	Word of mouth	42%	40%
	Randolph Township website	21%	32%
	Email notification	8%	17%
	Social networking	7%	10%
	School newsletter	16%	6%
	Visited or called a Township office	6%	4%
<b>Organizations used for parks and recreation programs and facilities</b>			
	Randolph Parks & Recreation	48%	63%
	Randolph Township schools	28%	41%
	Neighboring/cities/counties/state parks	24%	31%
	YMCA	16%	26%
	New Jersey State parks	36%	26%
	Churches	30%	25%
	County College of Morris	15%	22%
	Private clubs (tennis, heath & fitness)	22%	18%
	Private youth sports leagues	16%	15%
	Private schools	9%	5%
	Homeowners/apartment complex	12%	4%

Benchmarking for Randolph Township Community Survey			
		National Average	Randolph Township
<b>Recreation programs that respondent households have a need for</b>			
Adult fitness and wellness programs		48%	42%
Age 50+ programs		24%	35%
Adult learning		31%	30%
Youth sports programs		27%	28%
Nature programs		32%	28%
Adult sports programs		23%	28%
Special events		40%	23%
Youth fitness and wellness programs		19%	21%
Youth summer camp programs		20%	20%
Water fitness programs		30%	19%
Youth Learn to Swim programs		25%	17%
Youth art, dance, performing arts		18%	16%
Teen programs		16%	16%
Before and after school programs		15%	12%
Birthday parties		17%	10%
Martial arts programs		15%	8%
Preschool programs		15%	8%
Programs for persons with special needs		12%	7%
<b>Recreation programs that are the most important to respondent households</b>			
Adult fitness and wellness programs		30%	29%
Age 50+ programs		14%	24%
Youth sports programs		15%	21%
Adult learning		14%	16%
Nature programs		13%	15%
Youth summer camp programs		9%	13%
Youth fitness and wellness programs		7%	12%
Teen programs		7%	11%
Youth Learn to Swim programs		14%	10%
Adult sports programs		10%	10%
Special events		20%	9%
Before and after school programs		7%	8%
Youth art, dance, performing arts		6%	7%
Water fitness programs		14%	7%
Programs for persons with special needs		4%	3%
Preschool programs		7%	3%
Martial arts programs		4%	2%
Birthday parties		4%	1%
<b>Recreation programs that respondent households currently participate in most often</b>			
Youth sports programs		12%	21%
Adult fitness and wellness programs		13%	13%
Youth summer camp programs		5%	13%
Age 50+ programs		5%	8%
Adult sports programs		4%	7%
Youth art, dance, performing arts		3%	6%
Nature programs		5%	6%
Before and after school programs		3%	6%
Special events		14%	5%
Youth fitness and wellness programs		3%	4%
Youth Learn to Swim programs		6%	3%
Programs for persons with special needs		1%	3%
Teen programs		2%	3%
Water fitness programs		5%	3%
Preschool programs		3%	2%
Martial arts programs		1%	1%



Benchmarking for Randolph Township Community Survey			
		National Average	Randolph Township
<b>Parks and recreation facilities that respondent households have a need for</b>			
Walking and hiking trails		69%	71%
Large community parks		55%	54%
Natural areas/nature parks		50%	54%
Indoor exercise and fitness facilities		47%	44%
Small neighborhood parks		60%	38%
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers		44%	34%
Picnic shelters/picnic areas		53%	33%
Golf courses/driving range/training facilities		30%	32%
Playground		43%	31%
Outdoor tennis courts		26%	29%
Baseball and softball diamonds		15%	25%
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts		27%	25%
Off-leash dog parks		27%	25%
Performing arts facilities		37%	22%
Senior program facilities		22%	21%
Outdoor stage or amphitheater/band shell		34%	19%
Community vegetable gardens		33%	19%
Outdoor basketball courts		24%	19%
Outdoor ice skating/hockey facility		26%	18%
Indoor multi-use athletic fields		27%	17%
Spraygrounds/splash pads		25%	17%
Mountain bike trails/BMX course		22%	17%
Teen recreation center		19%	17%
Skateboarding area		13%	9%
<b>Most Important Parks and Recreation Facilities to Respondent Households</b>			
Walking and hiking trails		42%	41%
Large community parks		19%	22%
Natural areas/nature parks		17%	18%
Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers		18%	18%
Indoor exercise and fitness facilities		20%	14%
Golf courses/driving range/training facilities		12%	14%
Small neighborhood parks		28%	14%
Senior program facilities		9%	13%
Outdoor tennis courts		7%	11%
Playgrounds		19%	11%
Off-leash dog parks		12%	10%
Baseball and softball diamonds		4%	10%
Community vegetable gardens		8%	9%
Picnic shelters/picnic areas		17%	6%
Indoor multi-use athletic fields		4%	6%
Mountain bike trails/BMX course		6%	5%
Performing arts facilities		12%	4%
Outdoor basketball courts		5%	4%
Outdoor ice skating/hockey facility		5%	4%
Teen recreation center		5%	4%
Indoor gymnasium space/game courts		7%	4%
Spraygrounds/splash pads		7%	4%
Outdoor stage or amphitheater/band shell		8%	3%
Skateboarding area		3%	1%

Benchmarking for Randolph Township Community Survey			
		National Average	Randolph Township
<b>Reasons that Prevent Respondent Households From Using Programs or Facilities More Often</b>			
I do not know what is being offered		22%	25%
Program or facility not offered		14%	21%
Use other non-Randolph Township facilities		15%	13%
Program times are not convenient		16%	11%
Lack of quality programs		8%	10%
Use facilities in other park systems		9%	10%
I do not know location of facilities		12%	9%
Fees are too high		13%	6%
Facilities are not well maintained		6%	5%
Security is insufficient		7%	5%
Facilities don't have the right equipment		7%	4%
Class full		5%	4%
Availability of parking		5%	4%
Facilities operating hours not convenient		7%	4%
Too far from our residence		12%	3%
Lack of handicapped accessibility		3%	2%
Registration for programs is difficult		3%	2%
Poor customer service by staff		3%	1%
Lack of transportation		3%	1%
<b>Potential improvements to the park respondents visit most often</b>			
Improve/add restrooms		43%	35%
Drink fountains		34%	31%
Sidewalks/trails		19%	25%
Trail lighting		23%	22%
Improved parking		17%	19%
Picnic shelters/gazebos		23%	17%
Picnic tables/benches		27%	16%
Sport fields lighting		12%	13%
Playground equipment		20%	12%
Bike racks		11%	10%
Artificial turf fields		13%	10%
Landscaping		15%	10%
Park entrance signs		8%	8%
Outdoor basketball courts		10%	6%
Handicap accessibility		14%	5%
<b>Allocation of \$100 for Potential Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Open Space</b>			
Develop a community vegetable garden		14%	10%
Improve/maintain existing parks		31%	27%
Develop new walking and biking trails		19%	17%
Construct new athletic fields		8%	6%
Other		6%	3%

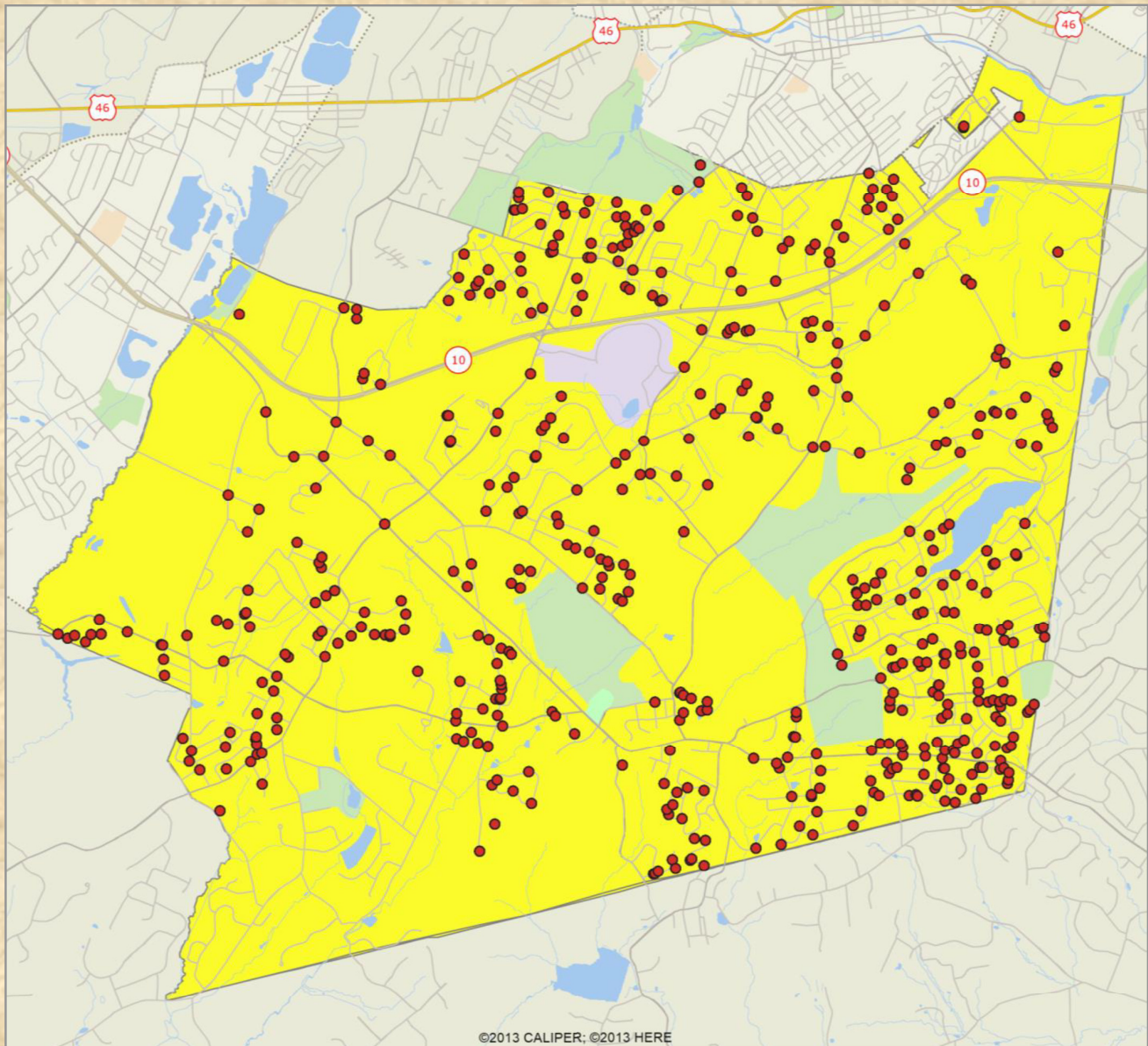
## **Section 4**

### ***GIS Maps***

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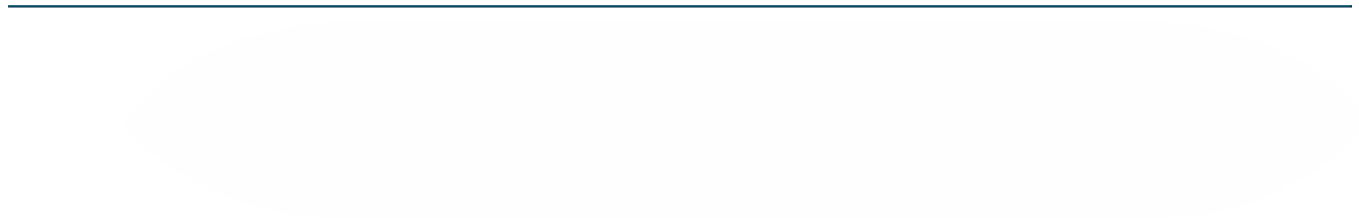
# Location of Survey Responses



## 2015 City of Randolph NJ Community Survey

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Page 29



## APPENDIX F - QUALITATIVE PARKS ASSESSMENT FORMS

### QUALITATIVE SITE ASSESSMENT RANDOLPH TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Facility Name: Heistein Park \_\_\_\_\_ Acres  
 Location: Doby/South Roads  
 Park Type: Community Year \_\_\_\_\_  
 General Comments \_\_\_\_\_ Constructed: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Renovated: \_\_\_\_\_

PARKS	Num	Size	Condition Level			Priority			Comments
			Good	Fair	Poor	H	M	L	
<b>STRUCTURES</b>									
Restrooms	1			✓					
ADA									
Shelter 1									
Shelter 2									
Shelter 3									
Gazebo									
Concession Building	1			✓					
Other									
<b>MOVEMENT SYSTEMS</b>									
Walkways					✓				Many amenities not ADA accessible
Paved Trails	0.5		✓						
Unpaved Trails									
Roads	✓		✓						
Parking	190			✓					Some areas need paving/repaving
ADA Parking	✓		✓						
Curbs	✓			✓					
Other									
<b>ACTIVITY AREAS</b>									
Playgrounds	1		✓						Small
Surfacing			✓						Wood chip
ADA Access									Minimal
Edging	✓			✓					Fencing/none
Diamonds	4		✓						
Large									
Small	4								
Backstop & Fencing	✓		✓						
Infields	✓		✓						
Lighting	✓		✓						
Dugouts	✓			✓					Fenced/screened
Accessible Walkways									None
Spectator Areas									
Rectangle Fields									
Large	5			✓					Drainage improvements
Small	1			✓					
Spectator Areas	✓			✓					
Lighting	2			✓					2 fields, needs replacement
Tennis courts									
Volleyball courts									
Basketball courts									
Other									
<b>MISC. AMENITIES</b>									
Lighting									
Benches	✓		✓						Along pond trail
Picnic tables									
Grills									
Vegetation									
Lawn									
Irrigation									
Signage									
Fences									
Trash Receptacles	✓		✓						
Drinking fountains	✓			✓					
Bike racks									
<b>GEN. OBSERVATIONS</b>									



---

Security									
Maintenance									
Access-Barrier Free									
Use level									
Natural Areas									
Environment									
Drainage									
Other									
<b>TOTAL</b>									
<b>Workshops, Focus Group &amp; Stakeholder Comments</b>									

---

## APPENDIX G - PUBLIC COMMENTS

### **Brundage Park Playhouse and the Randolph Parks and Recreation Master Plan Public Meeting on March 17, 2015**

*A public workshop will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17 at the Community Center for you to provide input regarding how you would like to improve your parks, recreation, and leisure opportunities.*

As the Randolph Township Parks and Recreation Department is preparing a master plan to improve the parks and recreation system throughout Randolph, Brundage Park Playhouse wanted our patrons and supporters to know how you can help improve our Randolph community theater.

Some of you may not know that Brundage Park Playhouse falls under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation department and is therefore, eligible for some of the upgrades being considered in the planning meeting. As a source of revenue for the township, the playhouse should be included in any decision affecting Randolph's parks, recreation and leisure opportunities.

When you review the workshop survey, you may notice there is no specific mention of Brundage Park Playhouse (an unintentional oversight by the third party company who prepared the survey). Please write in the name of *Brundage Park Playhouse* under "Other" when responding to the survey as we have several projects we would love to have completed to improve our little theater in the park.

**Improvement Project 1.** A permanent dressing room facility connected to the theater to replace a badly deteriorated two-room trailer with no toilet facilities in the winter (water is turned off to prevent pipes from freezing as the plumbing is outside the trailer). Performers need to cross from the trailer into the theater via an open walkway that is exposed to extreme weather conditions all year long.

**Improvement Project 2.** Relocate the softball field electrical equipment room from our backstage area to a separate outside area to give the theater more room on stage for musicians and performers.

**Improvement Project 3.** Complete refurbishment of the theater seating area (new seats, carpeting, railings, etc.) to make the theater ADA accessible.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey to let the township know how you feel about our community theater. Complete the Survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/RandolphParks](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RandolphParks). Share your ideas and vote in instant polls at [BuildingCommunityThroughParks.MindMixer.com](http://BuildingCommunityThroughParks.MindMixer.com). Thank you!

**History:**

1979: High School Auditorium

1982: BPP Facilities in old resort.

**Functions:**

Playhouse: 6 to 8 productions/year

Performing arts programs: summer/winter camps

Self-supporting

**Facilities:**

Theater (30'X100'): Converted dining facility, 1982

Not ADA accessible

Seating: Used, Refurbished 1998

*102 Here*

Lighting/sound booth

Railing

Addition 2007

Electric sub-station; hazard (?)

Dressing Rooms (10'X36') 1996/97

Used, single wide trailer

Separated from theater by 5'

Lean-to cover, 2003. Not weatherproof

Deteriorating: walls, floor & doors

Toilet unusable in winter

Bungalows (4)

**Needs:**

1. Dream: New 100 to 150 seat, purpose-built theater!
2. Public awareness and visibility, incl. Township officials
3. Attached dressing rooms with all-season toilet facility
4. Theater renovation: seats, railings, carpet, painting
5. Enlarge sound/lighting booth
6. Entrance weatherproof vestibule
7. Security lighting
8. Evaluate/relocate Electric sub-station

**Remarks:**

Cost estimates: new vs renovate

M&O base of P&R: Add new facilities or renovate old?



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**April 21, 2015**

**Artworks Studio/Brandsetter Carroll, Inc.**

**Randolph Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

**Present: Kelly Varga, Director Artworks Studio**

**Stakeholders/Instructors:** Laurel Clark, Leah Tomaino, Debbie Sasaki, Kim Lane, Mona Salminen, Lori Quann, Karen Brown

**Brief History of Organization:**

Began in basement of private residence, then in coordination with Rec Dept moved to VFW Building and eventually current building at 502 Millbrook Ave (which is the past library/teen center). Holding our 13<sup>th</sup> annual Student Art Show on May 8.

**Number of Participants, etc:**

3 regular sessions (Fall, Winter, Spring) offering fine art instruction to ages Pre-k through Adult, number of students per session range from 150-300. Growth peaked prior to current Directors tenure, possibly early 2000's. Summer camp enrollment was 128 in 2014. Average number of students per year = 800. Currently 6 instructors running classes, 8 instructors overall (including workshops). Staff also includes assistants for each class.

**Trends:** declining enrollment due to demographics and in keeping with overall rec program trends. Also may be due to change in staff (Retirement of long-term Director, hiring of new Director and new instructors).

**Pressures:** Getting the word out / visibility – currently relying on Community Pass and can't get to 'new' customers. Once students sign up for a class, they are very likely to sign up again – some classes have 100% returning students.

Other challenges: new school end time/ full day kindergarten, competition from neighboring studios. Poor but convenient programs being offered at school directly after school by independent companies. – District will not allow us to communicate with students through district email or flyer distribution in schools.

Instructors must be dedicated to studio – put in many hours above and beyond paid hours.

**Facility:** 502 Millbrook Avenue. Very old building. Recently installed new windows, new porch. Assessment of building needed to determine greatest need: floors, gutters, possibly roof, definitely needs painting and/or new trim. Lack of Internet is a major problem; it is a severe disadvantage to other programs. Very hard to handle things administratively without computer or Internet on location; also Internet is used as a teaching tool – visuals must be brought in from library/sought in books, or printed at home. Better equipment needed to be competitive and offer fine art instruction – including easels, better brushes, KILN for ceramics, lighting, printing supplies, etc.

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**Successes and failures:** Enrollment down, have offered new classes and workshops that have been well received; however most township residents do not know what we offer. Started a facebook page, which is a great way to show artwork & make announcements. Changing slowly to offer new classes, to re-energize the studio. Brought in Rising Stars (special needs) classes, which have been very well received.

**Recreation Dept:** Have been very supportive of Artworks Studio, Staff, and all related concerns. Director of studio Kelly Varga works well with Recreation Dept staff, from Director to Asst Director, support staff, purchasing, maintenance, etc. ~ all who enthusiastically support our program.

**What can be improved with this relationship:** Allow Director K.V. to have more autonomy and not rely on the support staff as much (especially Stacey Hemmes who has tirelessly administered registrations, etc and fielded non-stop calls from Artworks). This is already set in motion by Russ Newman, who set up a community pass account for K.V., plans are in place for K.V. to pull reports, send out necessary communication, etc.

**2025:** Artworks Studio is having their 23<sup>rd</sup> annual student art show. It is a bustling, vibrant crowd. Invites were designed and printed at the studio because there is Internet, a computer, printer and a reliable phone line. Floors have been in for 10 years, but they are still strong. The outdoor lighting goes on automatically at dusk. The lower level of the building has been converted into a ceramics studio with a kiln, wheels and studio space, a change that brought new vitality to the program. There are new easels, a printing press, new lighting, a projector to use in the studio classroom and a sound system. The summer programs are going strong and utilize the outdoor workspace that includes 12 stand up easels and an outdoor sink. Outdoor sculptures and installations made by Artworks Studio students can be seen around town. A new kiosk in town has flyers announcing the many workshops and classes offered at Artworks Studio. There are events held regularly at the studio, the lights are on at night, the parking lot is full on weekends. Every kid in town has attended a birthday party at the studio. The facebook page has 1500 followers and contains images of the artistic creations of our many students. Friends of Artworks Studio is enjoying it's 10<sup>th</sup> year and has brought our visual arts community together for many events in Randolph and Morris County, including our own Freedom Festival where our students walk in the parade and have a booth at the festival. Artworks Studio has repeatedly won the "Best in Arts" award from Morris County Arts Association in Morristown. Artworks students participate regularly in Morristown Art walk, Lantern Festivals in Morristown and have started their own well-attended traditions in Randolph, including a pumpkin glow. Bus trips to Museums in NYC are popular studio offerings. There are programs offered to our seniors, and the Rising Stars program for special needs students is still running.

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## COMMENTS/CONCERNS REGARDING RANDOLPH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

From: Laurel Clark, stakeholder, Artworks Studio Instructor

4/12/15

As a longtime employee of Artworks Studio, I have a vested interest and concerns in the future of Artworks Studio.

### CONCERNS:

1. Facility concerns: It is absolutely necessary for a comprehensive evaluation of the structural integrity of the building generated by a Structural Engineer and a Building Inspector including the review of an antiquated septic system. It is impossible to go forward with any program development when we don't know what this very old building can handle.
2. Not having a long-term plan for the development of the program has been a hindrance to building a foundation and consistency of programming.
3. Having no control over budgeting, saving and funding long-term goals.
4. The septic system has disallowed our ability to add more slop sinks and/or washer and dryer for cleaning smocks, a hygienic necessity especially during head lice, flu and virus outbreaks. Nor can new programs that require water be offered.
5. No internet service and inconsistent cell and landline phone service. An absolute necessity to ensure the safety of the children and staff. A donation of a Dell computer and printer had to be turned down.
6. This is a fine arts program and classes require quality materials to yield quality experiences and results. The restrictions and confinements faced when working with the unyielding system of ordering supplies from a state vendor as required by the state is unrealistic in an art program and detrimental to its vision.
7. The lack of a committee/board of trustees that ensures the implementation of the total vision of the program. It is vital to have an attentive eye on the needs of the community, a strong plan for short, mid and long term goals and consistent support from different community professionals to build a program of permanence rather than rely on the very few which has created a reactive mode of operation rather than a proactive one.



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## COMMENTS:

Although Artworks Studio has been a strong income-generating program for Randolph, it has always relied on the volunteerism of the employees and the unrealistic stipend of Program Director to promote and strengthen the program.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to have a sense of stability and support when not even facility issues are addressed proactively, ie/ broken exterior cement stair not repaired until it completely broke off while a parent was walking down it. Budget for replacing broken windows was approved years ago and yet not implemented until 2014. General maintenance not addressed unless there is a failure, ie/ gutters not cleaned leading to roof failure and dead branches falling on people entering building. Poor exterior lighting has yet to be rectified after years of complaint. The replaced roadside sign has the wrong name and does not represent Artworks Studio.

It is my belief that if the proactive plan for this past transitional year, as laid out by exiting Program Director, had been implemented, we would not have the drop in enrollment that we are now experiencing. The program has been deeply hurt and is struggling because there just aren't enough eyes and hours paying attention to what is needed.

As an instructor at Artworks for nearly 10 years I am very proud of my fellow professionals, feeling confident that we all have Artworks Studio's best interests at heart and are willing to do whatever it takes to ensure it's success. However with a "spread thin" central office and many deferred decisions, I feel I am not only seeing more cracks in the building but in the program as well.

1. Most important function of Parks and Rec:  
To provide the facilities, space and programs for Randolph Township residents to be able to pursue activities that improve their quality of life. Recreation activities specifically allow residents to pursue interests in a community setting – enriching their own lives and that of the entire community.
2. OUTDOOR: ARTWORKS: continued maintenance to the sidewalks, steps. Exterior of Artworks Studio in dire need of wood trim replacement, roof, and doors. Top priority: gutters.
3. INDOOR: Artworks Studio: In need of new flooring asap. INTERNET access and phone system is crucial to running a successful program. Emphasis for maintaining this program should be continued funding to enable the maintenance of the physical structure, replacing equipment as necessary, and hopefully building on the program with added studio features and supplies.
4. Programs: Artworks Studio offers classes from pre-k through adult, fall, winter and spring sessions, summer camp, workshops, classes for special needs children. Taught by professional artists. With continued funding, the studio will be able to continue offering these programs and expand upon them as demand dictates. Program was set to expand b4 recession, demographic changes, changes at studio. We want to be poised to expand when the timing is right.
5. Important issues facing parks and rec: communication, visibility of programs, competition from private sector
6. Principal sources of revenue: Artworks Studio has been self-sustaining
7. 2025: Artworks Studio: Building is maintained, program is popular – lights are ON and door opening and closing am-pm , weekday and weekend, and equipment and supplies are sufficient and improved upon, ceramics studio, Artworks Studio program is integrated into the other community offerings, the visual arts are thriving and apparent to visitors and residents of Randolph Township, community programs offered by Artworks Studio reach beyond the walls of the studio

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## Randolph Football

### 1) Brief History of Your Organization

Program started 1962 –

Equipment Updated, Snack Bar Growing (serve more people)

Facilities need some upgrading – field turf – speakers – announcer booth

### 2) Number of Participants, Demographics, Growth History, Trends

#### a. Participants

i. 2001: -

ii. 2005: -

iii. 2009: - 431

iv. 2010: - 413

v. 2011: - 392

vi. 2012: - 386

vii. 2013: - 388

viii. 2014: - 299

ix. 2015:

b. **Teams** – Flag Program as well as teams – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade

c. **Trends** – Upgrading of Equipment, Coaches Training (USA Football)  
Rutgers Clinic- Safety Training - Making the game safer

3) **Pressures Relating to Football** – Concussions, Parents(play time) etc,

4) **Facilities-Available** – Snack Bar, Conference Room Above Snack Bar, Rest Rooms,  
Pavilion (eating area)

5) **Successes** – Veteran Coaching Staffs (non-dads), Certified Coaches (USA Football),  
Players continuing to play at High School

6) **Failures** – Nothing is Failing-we continue to try and make things better

7) **Funding** – Town, Booster Club

8) **What is working?** – Organization of coaches, Snack Bar, Communication with  
Recreation Department, Communication with Cheerleaders

9) **What is not working?** - Sound System Needs Improvement, Parking lot traffic

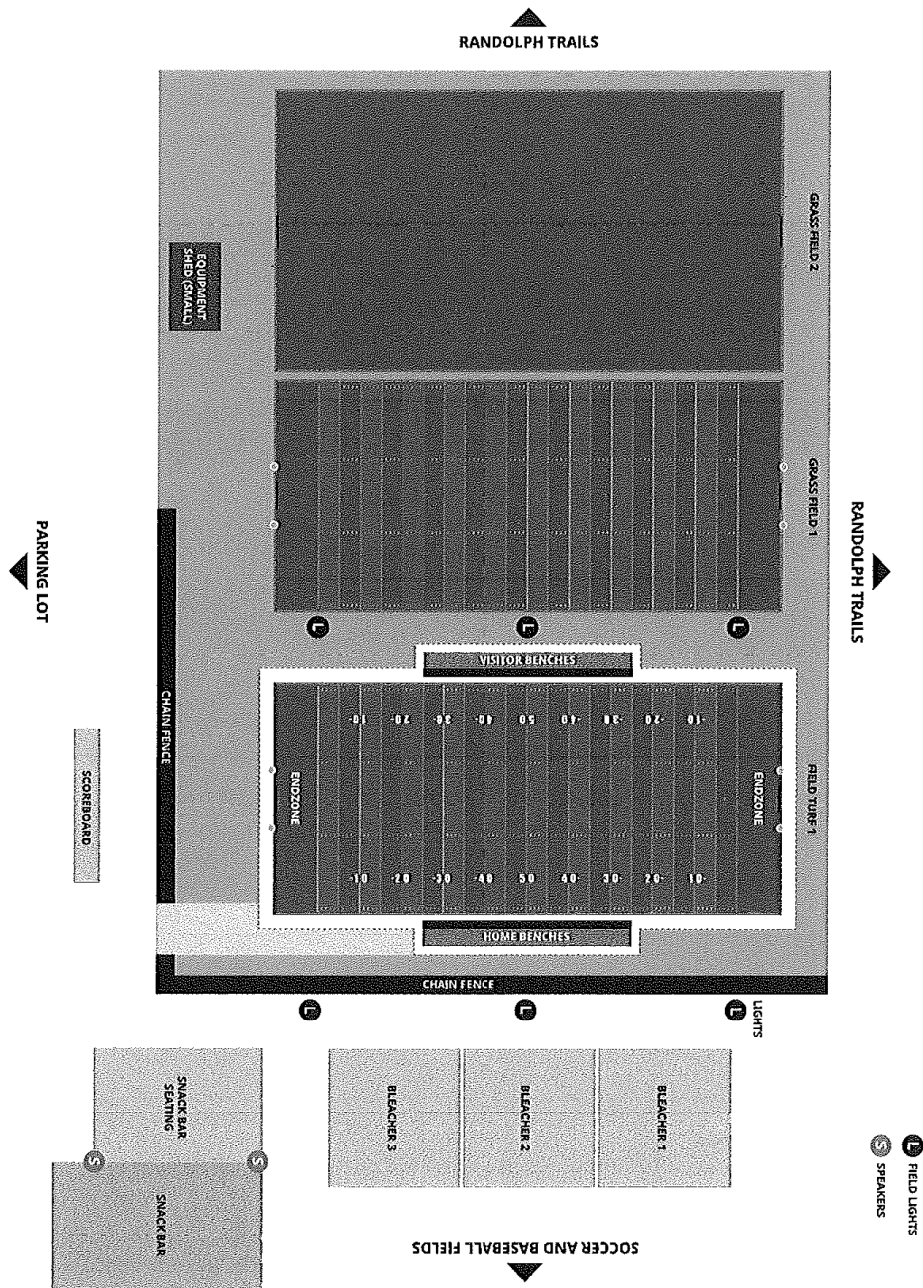
10) **Relationship with Rec Department** – Outstanding

11) **Pretend it is 2025 and you are extremely pleased with what your organization and the Rec Department have accomplished over the past 10 years. What has happened to result in this success? What does your organizational landscape look like? What is your vision for your organization and the Rec services in Randolph?**

Three turf fields at Freedom with Announcer booth between field 1 and 2, updated sound system, our continued outstanding relationship with the recreation department, continued coaching trainings and communication with parents. Continuing the trend of trainings towards a safer game.



**Randolph Sport Fields**  
**Freedom Park - Football Facilities**  
 Current Structure - March 2015



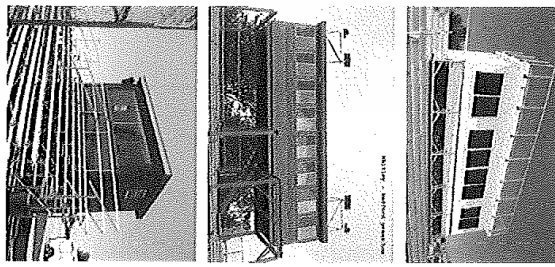


## Randolph Sport Fields Freedom Park - Football Facilities

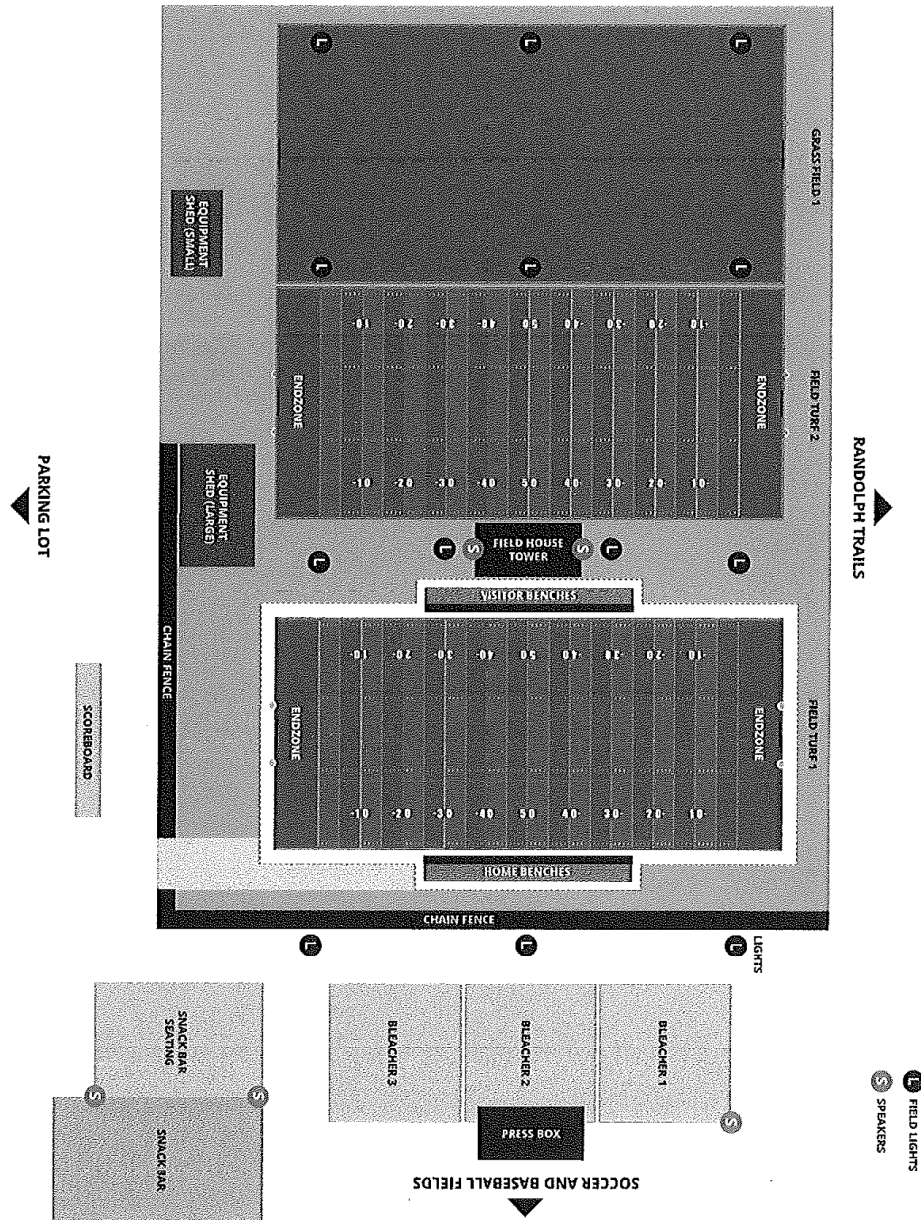
Proposed Structure - March 2015

- NEW FIELD TURF FOR FIELD 1
- SECONDARY FIELD TURF FOR FIELD 2
- NEW SOUND SYSTEM AT FIELD HOUSE
- TOWER BETWEEN FIELD 1 AND 2
- PRESS BOX ON BLEACHERS
- LIGHTING FOR FIELD 3
- SHEDS FOR EQUIPMENT

### TOWER/PRESS BOX EXAMPLES



RANDOLPH TRAILS



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## **RANDOLPH RECREATIONAL SOCCER**

Submitted by: Eric Weiss  
917-817-9498  
[esweiss@gmail.com](mailto:esweiss@gmail.com)

### **Brief history of your organization:**

Randolph Recreational Soccer (Rec Soccer) has existed in town for several decades. It runs from September through early November and allows kids from first grade through High School to play soccer in a town league against other kids in town. This league accepts everyone that signs up. There are no tryouts or cuts. Please note that this is separate from Randolph Soccer Club (RSC), which operates a series of travel teams, composed of players from Randolph and other towns.

### **Number of participants, demographics, growth history and trends:**

Between 1000-1100 kids participated in the Rec Soccer program each of the last few years. In 2014, the program had 1083 kids on 71 teams in 11 divisions. The program is open to kids in 1<sup>st</sup> grade through school. The program averaged a little over 100 participants from each grade level (1-8) and additional 100 high school students. There were 71 head coaches, at least 71 assistant coaches and 13+ league Administrators/Coordinators. We also employ approximately 20+ kids as referees.

The participation level has generally increased over the years. Soccer appears to be going through a growth phase and participation appears to have increase by about 25 kids each year. Because of different school class size, other sports and activities, the participation level for individual divisions will fluctuate, but the overall figure continues to increase and would expect it will remain above 1050 (or even 1100) for the next several years.

### **Pressures as relating to the service that you offer:**

Easily the largest issue is field availability. The 71 teams must share fields with RSC (the travel arm of soccer), which further limits field use for both organizations. Intertwined with the field availability is the town rule that lights can only be used for games. This eliminates the ability to provide practice time to teams during weekdays after mid -September. Because the main goal of Rec Soccer is to teach the game of soccer to the various players, limiting practices has a very detrimental effect. Teams last year were only able to assemble one or two times per week.

The limited fields is exacerbated when there is rain. There is little to no room in the schedule for make up games. Last year, the field crowding issue/rain outs resulted in several games in all divisions being cancelled. These were games that were rained out and could not be made up because of the lack of fields. In order to make up games, teams played on Sundays and we extended the season an extra week. This still did not allow for all games to be made up.



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The lightening and field issues are continuously questioned by parents who want explanations as to why they exist and why it cannot be changed. Additional Pressures come from parents complaining about the referees and why the town cannot hire professional referees.

**List of the facilities your organization currently uses. And your assessment of the adequacy of those facilities.**

Usage by Rec Soccer is as follows:

Division	School Grade	Facilities
Micro 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Brundage Carrol (Preserve)
Micro 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Fernbrook School
C League	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Brundage Sussex (Alternate days) Heisteins (Baseball Fields)
B League	5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Heisteins
A League	7 <sup>th</sup> and 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Heisteins
High School League	High School	Heisteins

The issues with the current facilities are minor, it is more a matter of adding additional facilities. Additional fields with lights would be the number one priority.

Parking is an issue at all facilities. The lots are undersized when a full slate of games are being played at each location. This includes Brundage Carrol, Brundage Sussex and Heisteins.

#### **How are you funded?**

The program is funded by registration fees.

#### **What is working and what is not?**

As a general rule the program appears to run quite well. After the field issues, the lack of volunteerism for coaches causes the next biggest issue. From what I can tell this appears to be consistent across all programs. Many people complain that they cannot coach because they do not get home in time. Additional fields/lights may allow some of the divisions to start practices/games a little later (6:30 instead of 6:00). Some other method of obtaining volunteers should be investigated. (Discount for coaches kids? Designated parking? ???)

One other issue I have seen in soccer as well as other sports is coaches who are not very good. Either they do not know the sport well, simply do not coach (view themselves as baby sitters) or play favoritism when assigning playing time and field

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positions. A system that allows/assists for the coaches to be trained in the rules of the game as well as clear rules and enforcement of equal playing time and alternating positions would work to improve all programs.

**Your relationship with the Randolph Parks and Recreation Department and how it could be improved.**

The main contact is Jeanne Montemarano, who has been quite helpful in all aspects. The biggest improvement would be in allowing either coaches or coordinators access to a Master Field Schedule. This would allow coaches with conflicts or rainouts to see where/when the next available field exists and request/reserve that spot.

**Pretend it is 2025 and you are extremely pleased with what your organization and the Randolph Parks and Recreation Department have accomplished over the last ten years. What has happened to result in this success? What does your organizational landscape look like? What is your vision for your organization and the parks and recreation services in Randolph?**

Overall improvement would come from additional fields, (turf?), lighting, more practice time, access to field reservations by select personnel, a system to increase volunteerism, and training of the coaches.

Other ideas:

Turf fields, possibly covered fields – either via the solar collector method used at the County College of Morris or perhaps an inflatable dome used by many sport teams. Possible meeting places for teams/coaches near the fields.

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## **Randolph Soccer Club**

Tammy McConnell-President ([tammy13@optonline.net](mailto:tammy13@optonline.net))

Mike Gentile-Travel Director ([Michael.Gentile@ricoh-usa.com](mailto:Michael.Gentile@ricoh-usa.com))

Rick Carlin-Training Director/Field Scheduler ([rick.carlin@intel.com](mailto:rick.carlin@intel.com))

History: Randolph Soccer Club was founded in 1971 to enhance soccer opportunities for Randolph youth. In 1999, Randolph Soccer Club formally became an Affiliated Association with Randolph Township, per the guidelines established by Randolph's Parks Department and Recreation Committee. This change was made to further enhance RSC's ability to design and manage traveling soccer programs to meet the diverse needs of our participants. RSC has continued as an Affiliated Association to this day, operating as a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers committed to the promotion of youth soccer in Randolph.

RSC Facts: For the past several years, RSC has fielded over 20 travel soccer teams annually for the U8-U14 ages. These teams play a fall and spring season, as is the norm for youth soccer in New Jersey. RSC also has fielded 4-5 high school aged teams that play a spring season for the past several years. In recent years, there have been around 470 players participating in RSC programs annually.

Pressures: The main challenges to RSC's mission come from the significant growth in Morris County of for-profit competing soccer clubs luring local players away to their organizations and from field access limitations.

Facilities: RSC relies on using Randolph Township fields for all training and games. Teams train twice a week for an hour and a half fall and spring. In the fall, RSC currently has access to field space at Brundage Park (next to the playground), Brundage-Sussex, and at Freedom Park (upper field and the turf after 8pm on weeknights when football finishes) for training and Sunday games. Heistein Park is only available for games Sundays and possibly Saturday afternoons in the fall. In the spring, RSC currently has access to field space at Heistein, Brundage-Sussex, and Freedom Park (upper and the turf weeknights after 8pm when boy's lacrosse finishes) for training and Sunday games. Since we are an Affiliated Association with Randolph Township, Randolph's Board of Education has chosen to treat RSC as it would any other external entity looking to rent Randolph school district facilities; so RSC doesn't have access to BOE controlled fields in town at a cost that would work with the club's budget. Currently, there are no small-sided turf field options in Randolph (whether a separate small-sided field or small sided lines on the existing turf field at Freedom Park). The only lighted small-sided field is at Brundage-Sussex, where the age/quality of the lighting makes playing a game challenging.



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Funding: RSC activities are funded by club fees collected from players, as well as proceeds from an annual Memorial Day tournament hosted in Randolph.

Relationship with Randolph Parks & Recreation Department: RSC's relationship with Randolph's Parks Department has been a solid one over the years. Russ and his team are responsive to RSC inquiries. Their support for RSC's Memorial Day Tournament over the years has been terrific. Our challenges tend to be less with personnel and more with some specific Parks & Recreation policies or ordinances. In particular, the Parks department policy (in place for a number of years) to limit the use of lights at Heistein Park to games only creates scheduling challenges for RSC's program at times. The township ordinance (in place for a number of years) limiting Heistein field use to four nights per week also creates scheduling challenges for RSC.

Ten years from now, in a perfect world, what has RSC accomplished in conjunction with Randolph's Parks & Recreation Department: RSC would have access to multiple turf fields (some small-sided and some full-sided) with lights in Randolph for use for training and games in the fall and spring.

Parks Master Plan

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&f=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAACv/ltfHZuFTKEgwF...>

### **Parks Master Plan**

Craig Garretson [craig\_garretson@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:32 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Hi Russ,

Overall I'm pleased with our parks and recreation, and the quality and quantity of our parks were a big reason for our moving to Randolph five years ago. However, I do have some suggestions.

Speaking as a parent of a 9-year-old girl in the softball program, I would like to see some improvements to the Freedom Park softball field. Lights would be great. I hate having to end games at dusk while the lights are blazing on the other fields around us. Also, the backstop behind the plate is too far back, and the pitching rubbers aren't removable. Older girls can't use the mound from longer distance without landing on a closer rubber. If you really want to get crazy, why not a scoreboard, or restroom facilities?

At Brundage Park, the field in the back left corner (I don't remember which number it is, but if your back is to the playground, it is the far left corner) needs another section or two of fence. If you've ever watched 9-year-old girls play softball on this field, many throws to first base wind up getting past the fielder and disappear into the poison ivy or roll down the hill. There's a fence, but it needs to be another 10 feet or so longer.

Dave Karp said he's seen fields that have electrical outlets right on the mound, so you can plug in a pitching machine. This would be a great feature for us to have.

Thanks, Craig

1 of 1

3/17/2015 6:22 PM

Meeting about Master Plan for Parks/Recreation/Artworks

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&r=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/ttHZAuFTKEgwF...>

### Meeting about Master Plan for Parks/Recreation/Artworks

Kovacs, Steven [steven.kovacs@novartis.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:53 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Cc: jackovacs@optonline.net; sjkovacs@optonline.net

Dear Mr. Newman-

I write on behalf of our family, which includes 4 children between the ages of 3 ½ and 9 ½ years. We have specifically enjoyed several parks, the trail system, and the Artworks Studio during our 13 years in Randolph. Our two major concerns are the parking and field conditions at Tamarack and the continued funding and support for Artworks.

I coached t-ball last year and intend to do it again this spring. Parking at Tamarack is inadequate and the field conditions are not on par with the other fields available at the other parks within Randolph. It would not be unreasonable to argue that the field conditions (Fields 1, 2, and 3) at Tamarack are borderline unsafe. We would also like to see some of the brush and smaller trees that are adjacent to Fields 2 and 3 thinned and cut back. This would allow more safe locations for parents to watch as well as help mitigate the insect and tick burden for players, coaches, and spectators at those two fields.

With regard to the Artworks Studio, we have had three of four children enrolled in classes there for more than 6 years now and expect our youngest son to begin classes in the fall. We have been very pleased with what these classes offer them. We remain staunch advocates for not only *maintaining* the program but actually *growing* arts-related programs in the future. Slowly but surely, schools have been de-emphasizing and, in some cases, eliminating arts-related programs to the detriment of all students. I encourage you to watch the 19-minute TED talk entitled "How Schools Kill Creativity" by Sir Ken Robinson at this link: [http://www.ted.com/talks/ken\\_robinson\\_says\\_schools\\_kill\\_creativity](http://www.ted.com/talks/ken_robinson_says_schools_kill_creativity). He highlights what a global problem this is. Randolph Township has an opportunity to mitigate the de-emphasis and elimination of the arts by sustaining programs such as the Artworks Studio. Failing to continue to fund and support Artworks would be an unfortunate contribution to the killing of our young people's creativity, about which Sir Ken Robinson warned us 9 years ago. Nothing has gotten better since then. Let's not participate in the demise of the Arts but rather fight to keep it a part of what our Township offers its young people, whatever it takes.

Respectfully yours,  
Steven J. Kovacs  
126 Shady Lane

1 of 2

3/17/2015 6:22 PM



Meeting about Master Plan for Parks/Recreation/Artworks

Dr. Steven J. Kovacs  
Director, Translational Medicine  
Novartis Institutes for Biomedical Research  
One Health Plaza  
Bldg 438 Room 2418  
East Hanover, NJ 07936 USA  
Telephone: 862.778.0469  
Fax: 973.781.2077

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&r=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/lfHZuFTKEgwF...>

Master Plan for Parks & Rec.

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAACv/hfHZuFTKEgwF...>

### **Master Plan for Parks & Rec.**

Suzanne Stokes [suzysouthroad@yahoo.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 4:04 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Mr. Newman~

I might not be able to attend the meeting for the discussion of Master Plan for our town's park and recreation, so here are some of my ideas.

I am a 60 yr. old Randolph Citizen and have lived in this town for over 20 years.

I request that we keep the costs down and I am a little surprised that we need an consultant of which I assume we are paying \$\$\$ for the services!!

WHAT IS THE BUDGET FOR THIS PLAN ?????

My husband and I feel that it is most important just to keep the parks & recreation SAFE and MAINTAINED.

Keep the open spaces simple and free of junky cheap ideas....just keep it natural.

We use the walking paths around Heistein Pond.....we like the CLEAN NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

PLEASE DO NOT CREATE UNNECESSARY COSTLY PROGRAMS OR IDEAS FOR OUR PARKS.

Several years ago, I took an adult class at the Randolph Art Studio and it was costly and crowded. I was very disappointed. It was so unorganized and a big waste of my time and money. I thought there was going to be some instruction and it was an art class but it was more like a project that you worked on....everything was broken and messy. So unorganized! I did not learn a thing. It was dirty. Teacher lacked interest.

It would be nice if there were some daytime classes held in the Community Center for adults....Art Classes?...Bridge Classes?...Dancing Lessons?.....there are a lot of SENIORS in this town. What is offered for them??

Thanks for listening....Suzanne Stokes 862-397-4088

1 of 1

3/12/2015 11:54 AM

**Re: Parks and Rec Master Plan Input**

Liz Clogher [lizclogher@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 11:47 AM

**To:** Newman, Russ

Our pleasure Russ. Be advised that school district is also having budget meeting tonight so there is a difficulty for parents to be in both places at once. Will complete survey online. Thank you for the transparency into the process and for proactively soliciting feedback.

Liz

On Mar 17, 2015, at 11:15 AM, "Newman, Russ" <[rnewman@RANDOLPHNJ.ORG](mailto:rnewman@RANDOLPHNJ.ORG)> wrote:

Thank you for your feedback. As a reminder, we are having a public meeting tonight at 7pm at the Community Center on Calais Road.

Please also feel free to fill out a survey at:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/RandolphParks](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RandolphParks)

And follow:

[BuildingCommunityThroughParks.Mindmixer.com](http://BuildingCommunityThroughParks.Mindmixer.com) for updated information on the Parks Master Plan process.

**Russ Newman**

*Director of Parks, Recreation  
and Community Services*

973-989-7081 (office)

973-989-7096 (fax)

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**From:** Liz Clogher [lizclogher@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:45 PM

**To:** Newman, Russ

**Subject:** Parks and Rec Master Plan Input

Hi Mr. Newman,

My husband and I put together a few thoughts regarding the Parks and Rec Master Plan. Thank you for soliciting feedback. We will let you know if we think of anything more. Feel free to reach out of you have any questions.

Liz Clogher and Marc Laqui  
4 Marre Drive



Randolph Parks

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/lHfHZuFTKEgwF...>

**Randolph Parks**

Gail Filiberto [gailfiliberto@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 1:13 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Randolph needs a swimming pool. If that is not possible, the town should install sprinklers and wading pools for pre-schoolers. Many other towns have new playgrounds set around a sprinkler area for water play in the summer. Check out Ponderosa Park in Scotch Plains, NJ.

Also, benches are needed at fields and playgrounds and along the walking trail.  
Thank you.

Sent from my iPad

1 of 1

3/17/2015 1:15 PM

## **Parks Master Plan**

Norma Jacobs [normajacobs1@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 12:18 PM

**To:** Newman, Russ

*As a 41 year resident of Randolph Township, I know how important our parks are. I have enjoyed the beauty that our town parks offer to all of our residents. In the Master Plan I would love to endorse having a community garden. It is a place where people from a variety of backgrounds can meet and and share a sense of community with one another. It is a great stress reducer and something that all generations can benefit from. Some studies have shown that gardening also promotes better eating habits for both adults and children. Thank you for asking the public for their feelings on our Parks master Plan:)* Warm Regards, Norma Jacobs

Pickleball...

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&ItemID=IPM.Note&id=RegAAAAACv/ltfHZuFTKEgwF...>
**Pickleball...**

Gregory Ferdinand [gregory.ferdinand@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 13, 2015 3:35 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Cc: Gregory Ferdinand [gregory.ferdinand@gmail.com]

Russ,

Thank you very much for taking the time to speak with me. Pickleball is a sport's activity that is gaining in popularity throughout the country. My purpose in contacting you is to see if it is possible to include Pickleball in the recreational activities offered by Randolph Township. Prior to engaging in a discussion however, I believe it would be best to spend some time familiarizing you with the sport. To that end, I have provided a link to several videos for your consideration. If after viewing them you are inclined to proceed further, I would like to invite you to visit the West Morris YMCA and see the game played live. Several Randolph residents participate in the YMCA's program and are interested in pursuing it as a township sponsored activity. If you have any questions concerning the above, please feel free to contact me. My home telephone number is 973-361-2602. In advance, thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Gregory Ferdinand  
10 Chelsea Drive

[http://www.usapa.org/whatis\\_pball/video\\_promo.html](http://www.usapa.org/whatis_pball/video_promo.html)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgljuzMdSh0>

1 of 1

3/17/2015 3:02 PM



### Parks/Rec Master Plan Responses

Rick Gangi [rickgangi@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 11:06 AM

To: Newman, Russ

1. What parks and recreation facilities and programs do you currently use?

Brundage, Brundage/Sussex, Freedom Softball, Heistein soccer, Fernbrook gym, Ironia gym, Randolph Beach

2. What do you like about your Randolph Parks?

The abundance of land dedicated to our community's recreational activity.

3. What issues or concerns do you have or what is missing from your parks and recreation system? How can the system be improved?

-every section of Freedom Park is lighted... EXCEPT for the softball field, a horrible oversight.

- Soccer programs are given priority on the Brundage softball fields, putting the softball program for both rec and travel at a major disadvantage, creating dwindling participation.

- install lighting on Brundage preserve and move soccer training there, freeing up the softball fields to encourage better participation.

- install lighting at Freedom softball field. This, coupled with Brundage, would create vastly improved field availability, and the prospect of hosting more softball tournaments.

- more restrooms in closer proximity to the softball fields at Brundage.

4. Imagine it is the year 2025. You are very pleased with the improvements that have been made to your park and recreation system since the Master Plan was completed. What has happened to make the parks more successful and enjoyable? How have the recreation and leisure opportunities changed?

The recreation department improved their accessibility to the town residents, making communication better, improving their online interface, as well as residents' ability to easily and seamlessly reserve field time. Field assignments were more closely aligned with the sports for which the respective fields were designed. The rec department also upgraded their field grooming equipment at the softball fields, making them the most well-cared for fields in the county, maybe the state.

Thank you for including input from residents.

Regards,

Rick Gangi  
3 Spring Brook Dr  
Randolph, NJ  
973-886-7796

Sent from my iPhone

(no subject)

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAAAcV/hfHZuFTKEgwF...>

**(no subject)**

Joanb1021@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 10:08 AM

To: Newman, Russ

Cc: Veech, Joanne

I HAVE BEEN A RESIDENT OF RANDOLPH FOR 40 YEARS AND THE SPOT THAT WE ENJOYED THE MOST AND A PLACE TO MEET PEOPLE AND KIDS TO INTERACT WITH THEIR PEERS WAS RANDOLPH LAKE.

IT IS SPRING FED AND CLEAN. MUCH HAS BEEN ADDED SINCE OUR FIRST TRIP BUT I THINK THAT THIS IS A PRIZE POSSESSION AND SHOULD BE KEPT AS SUCH.....CAN THE BEACH BE EXPANDED?

JOAN BREMBS

1 of 1

3/17/2015 10:14 AM



ideas for how to improve town Parks + Recreation

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&ItemID=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/lHfHZuFTKEgwF...>

## ideas for how to improve town Parks + Recreation

Cheryl Thomas [tcthomas@me.com]

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 8:24 PM

To: Veech, Joanne

Cc: Newman, Russ; Mountain, Stephen

Good Evening Mayor Veech,

I am responding to your request for ideas for the improvement of Randolph Parks + Recreation. We live in the Ironia section of town, off of Park Ave., and I would like to put in a request to the town, to investigate the cost and feasibility of adding bike trails down Park Ave. This would help connect neighborhoods on James St. to Kirkbride, Calais Road, Budd Street, etc. in a sense creating a stronger, more connected community, with accessible trails for everyone, by walking out of their houses. This is an extremely busy traffic road, which is very often used by bikers. It is a shame that the amazing trail system put in place by Roxbury is so close, yet it cannot be accessed by anyone on this side of town safely (other than the trail on Pleasant Hill, which is inaccessible to most of Park Ave. residents). These bike trails could be augmented by the following recommendations:

- to connect a trailhead off of Park Ave. (either thru the MUA fields between Pleasant Hill Drive & Kirkbride Drive), to the Roxbury trails at Horseshoe
- to connect a trailhead to the Roxbury trails under the powerlines between Kirkbride and James St.

Please advise on how I can help with this project, to *Help make Park Avenue SAFER!* And in fact, I believe that it should be a primary intent to try to first improve the ability for Randolph residents to be able to move safely around town, so that they can actually get to a park from any part of town, without having to drive there.

On a personal note, I have two children, and we have enjoyed walking "the loop" around our small Kirkbride Drive neighborhood. Over the years, the kids always wanted to continue on, to walk to other neighborhoods, or to take their bikes to visit friends, but I tell them we can't go on the "busy road" because there are no sidewalks or bike paths there, (like the one on Calais Road). Although we love the town parks, it's quite a hassle to hurl the family bikes onto bike racks, and trek over to a local park, when sometimes you just want to take 15 minutes, and walk outside your own house. This connection of the two neighborhoods between James St. and Kirkbride would be a nice start to making Park Ave. safer, one neighborhood at a time. The broader benefit is that it helps promote more active lifestyles in the community - people get to walk more and exercise more, which helps address the obesity issues we face.

The ultimate vision would be to have every Randolph resident have access to the county parks and trails from their homes. Right now, most residents of the Park Ave. section cannot safely access any trails or parks by foot or bike. I would hope that you would strongly consider this case, especially since cars on Park Ave. speed so fast, that it makes it one of the most dangerous roads in town. Yet, we watch joggers and bikers on the road daily, some of them kids, with such a strong desire to be outside walking, running or on their bikes that they take the risk.

ideas for how to improve town Parks + Recreation

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ac=Item&Item=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/hfHZuFTKEgwF...>

Thank you for your consideration. Perhaps there are some state grants to assist in this matter? Please contact me so that I know how I can help in this effort.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Thomas  
4 Kirkbride Drive  
Randolph, NJ 07869  
973.252.6280  
[tcthomas@mac.com](mailto:tcthomas@mac.com)

## Survey Answers

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/lHfHZuFTKEgwF...>

**Survey Answers**

Jessica M [jessicamagss@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 16, 2015 10:01 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Please see below for survey answers.

1. Brundage Playhouse classes, girls basketball clinic (K-1st), girls fall soccer, girls t-ball, Little Styx
2. Parks are clean, easily accessible, parking is sufficient in most locations, bathrooms are usually open
3. Missing :  
town pool  
soccer for Kindergartens (boys and girls)  
spring soccer for girls (1st grade and up)  
kids events are limited ( add more events like gingerbread house and pumpkin painting, especially during school closings)  
no summer sports for kids entering Kindergarten ( only option is tennis)

**Issues:**

Not allowing girls to participate in opening day t-ball parade  
Not having tentative schedules in place for girls t-ball or softball, (obviously weather is a factor, but it makes it almost impossible to volunteer or to plan ahead)

Thank you

1 of 1

3/17/2015 10:21 AM

Parks and Rec Master Plan Input

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae={item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/ltfHZuFTKEgwF...>

### **Parks and Rec Master Plan Input**

Liz Clogher [lizclogher@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:45 PM

To: Newman, Russ

Hi Mr. Newman,

My husband and I put together a few thoughts regarding the Parks and Rec Master Plan. Thank you for soliciting feedback. We will let you know if we think of anything more. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Liz Clogher and Marc Laqui  
4 Marre Drive

#### **1. What parks and recreation facilities and programs do you currently use?**

1. Baseball, Soccer, Basketball, Football programs and Tri-Harder Triathlon
2. Our Children Frequent the following venues: Heistein Park (baseball fields and soccer fields), and cages
3. Freedom Park (football field) and Baseball Field
4. Brundage (soccer fields)
5. Tamarack and School Baseball Fields
6. gymnasiums for basketball (shongum, ironia and fernbrook)

#### **2. What do you like about Randolph parks?**

1. most are clean and generally well maintained
2. availability of snack bar at freedom, freedom baseball, and heisteins
3. Jeanne Montemarano -- she's the best

#### **1. What issues or concerns do you have or what is missing from our parks and recreation system?**

1. Not all venues provide easy access for elderly and handicapped.
2. need more batting cages
3. Seating for spectators (let alone players) not available at all fields - baseball and soccer and football
4. Location of Medical Equipment and Defibrillators not obvious at all park areas
5. Water fountains are limited in terms of availability
6. bathrooms (non-porta potty kind) are limited in availability, sometimes even the port-a-potties are missing.
7. not all sports fields have fully functional score boards or even score boards at all

1 of 2

3/17/2015 10:22 AM



8. parking is extremely limited at Freedom during football games
9. ironia baseball field takes on a lot of water and is cut off by lacrosse field
10. we are missing a community swimming pool -- great that we have two lakes, but we are losing a lot of revenue, local sales and jobs to Chester area pool on North Rd. and Streeter Pool and Stardust
11. concerned about the material used to create turf field in light of scientific evidence indicating that some cancer causing and lead agents may impact children:
  1. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2015/03/15/artificial-turf-health-safety-studies/24727111/>
  2. <http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fields-649157-rubber-turf.html>
12. missing lights at some baseball fields at Heisteins and dugouts at Heisteins 1B
13. missing lights at additional grass football fields at Freedom Park
14. pitching mound at 2b needs to be fixed
15. need more shade trees near soccer fields

1. How can the system be improved?

1. add an outdoor community pool and swim team.
2. add indoor sports dedicated venue (so we don't have to pay for Indoor Sports Pavilion, Kozak, Ballplayers Edge, etc. for tunnel rentals for off season baseball and soccer training)
3. allow residents to subscribe to text alerts when fields are closed instead of having to call hotline or rely on coach to provide an email.

1. Imagine it is the year 2025. You are very pleased with the improvements that have been made to our parks and recreation system since the master plan was completed. What has happened to make the parks more successful and enjoyable? How have the recreation and leisure opportunities changed?

1. I hope that it will create a greater sense of community and provide for more places for people to convene and hang out, socialize, etc.
2. a healthier community, but 10 years from now, my kids will be too old to enjoy most of the feature improvements that I wish existed now.
3. hopefully the value of our home increases in accordance with the improvement to parks and rec areas
- 4.

## Parks and Rec Master Plan Input

Liz Clogher [lizclogher@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2015 10:45 PM

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## Parks and Rec Master Plan Input

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&r=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/ltfHZuFTKEgwF...>

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Parks

<http://mail.rando.phnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&Item=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/ltfHZuFTKEgwF...>**Parks****Regina Rider [rmrider@optonline.net]****Sent:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 12:53 PM**To:** Newman, Russ

Hello,

I have lived in Randolph for over 20 years, and the best thing about Randolph are the many parks and trails. In the summer, I run the trails from Hidden Valley, up to Freedom Park, crossing Millbrook Road, and then over to Brundage Park. I also love to hike in the woods. I love that the parks are close to nature, and even the developed areas (such as playing fields) are surrounded by trees and trails.

My concern is that the trails remain in tact (other than grooming). I am VERY concern about over-development. I would not want to see the trails paved! I think we have more than enough playing fields for sports.

I wish Randolph was safer for biking or walking. For example, I see students walk to the County College of Morris for classes and there is no area for pedestrians to walking safely. I use to run the roads, but now it is just too dangerous. I would love to see more bike lanes or designated shoulders on main roads so people can walk.

Thank you for your time.

Regina Rider

Regina Rider, DTR  
Nutritional Counselor  
rmrider@optonline.net  
(973) 219-1624

<http://cp.mcafee.com>

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LEPz3OrafnKnhd7bbfe3HLcIcZDBHEShhlKyDOEuvkzaT0QSyrhdTVeZXTLuzXCXCOdHYza6NAXyundNLz93UwGGQWmfB3-1FJseWr9Ibr4HgS-rNU d

1 of 1

3/17/2015 10:27 AM



Randolph Trails

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&t=IPM.Note&id=RgAAAAACv/lffHZuFTKEgwF...>

**Randolph Trails**

Marvin Shuman [barbmarv@optonline.net]

**Sent:** Friday, March 13, 2015 8:36 PM

**To:** Newman, Russ

Thank you for the opportunity to comment about the Randolph Trails. We are seniors who enjoy the trails. However, it would be helpful (and safer), for those of a certain age, for more of the trails to be paved - for example, the section from Freedom Park to the Municipal Building. Thanks.

Marvin and Barbara Shuman  
20 Forrest Rd.

Sent from my iPhone

1 of 1

3/17/2015 10:27 AM

FW: Community Garden

<http://mail.randolphnj.org/owa/?ae=Item&Item=IPM.Note&id=BgAAAAACv/lrHZuFTKEgwF...>

**FW: Community Garden**

Hemmes, Stacey  
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 12:42 PM  
To: Newman, Russ

Stacey Hemmes  
Randolph Township  
Recreation and Community Services Department  
502 Millbrook Ave.  
Randolph, NJ 07869  
973-989-7081  
Fax # 973-989-7096

From: Recreation  
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 11:48 AM  
To: Hemmes, Stacey  
Subject: FW: Community Garden

From: Laura Lee  
Sent: Friday, March 06, 2015 11:48:27 AM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
To: Recreation  
Subject: Community Garden

I will not be able to attend the next meeting, but am very much in favor of the idea of a community garden for our town.

Please let me know more details about this possible plan.

Thanks,  
Laura Lee  
Sent from my iPhone

Dear Parks & Rec,

I LOVE Artworks

studio because

they give me ideas

to draw & make! I

love all the creative  
projects that I make!

I would love it if

they keep the building  
in good shape. Also, I

would like it if they had  
birthday parties available.  
For grown ups, they could  
have wine & painting parties.



Thank you!

Tharen Dell Aglio

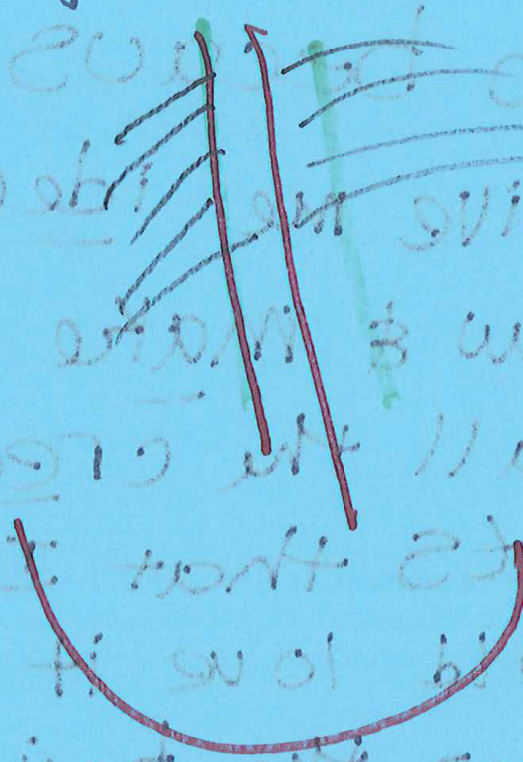
Handa dell@gmail.com

4 years at Artworks!

love

MISS

Debbie!!





March 12

Dear Park & Rec,

My daughter loves  
Art Works Studio because  
it allows her to be  
creative & learn new  
techniques

We would love it if  
AWS had a kitchen and better  
advanced student supplies!

Kyle Gehan [Kyle.Gehan@verizon.net](mailto:Kyle.Gehan@verizon.net)

Dear Park and Rec, <sup>March 12, 2015</sup>

I like Artworks Studio  
because it allows our  
children to be creative.  
I would love it if  
they had other creative  
options and summer  
classes. We love Artworks  
Studio! Thank you.

The Calderone Family  
K.R.C. 729@aol



Dear Parks + Rec -

We ♥ Artworks Rec.

my son is having a chance  
to explore art & learn  
grow his creativity.

I would like if Artworks  
offered ceramics / pottery.

Sincerely,

Ellyn Corsaro  
(Mam of 4yr. old  
art student)

I love Artworks because

I love the teachers  
and learning new  
things about artists.

It would be great to  
have Birthday parties here  
and some extra one-off  
workshops on weekends!

Thanks!



Mar 16

Dear Parks + Rec,

I Love art works studio because they teach you to draw and paint great things. I also love it because all the teachers and Assistants are so friendly.

I believe you should clean up the building because ~~I~~ I love coming here and I would love to continue coming.



Sincerely,  
Vanessa  
Baron

Dear Parks and Rec,

I love Artworks Studio  
because we love to learn  
about Artists.

I would love it if they had  
birthday parties and workshops.

Thank You,  
Carol & Ethan Braun

IPBRAUN@AOL.COM.