

Borough of Haddonfield



Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Haddonfield, New Jersey

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Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan

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Dedication



Mountwell Woods

- The members of the Borough Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Committee would like to thank all the organizations and individuals who assisted in the completion of this plan. The input received through the public forums and other documents supplied by numerous interested parties provided the committee with an invaluable resource.
- The Committee would also like to thank the Commissioners, Borough Planning Board and Borough Administrative offices for all their assistance and support.



Little League Baseball Complex

Introduction

Introduction

- The development of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the Borough of Haddonfield involves an independent assessment of the existing recreational resources for their ability to provide active and passive recreation opportunities for the residents of the community. An overview of the conditions of Open Space areas within the Borough will be conducted and the existing parks will be evaluated for the condition of the facilities and the ability to meet the recreation demand and needs. The input from various organizations which represent and sponsor recreation programs will participate in the planning effort with previous information and assessments conducted by the Borough in the past years included as a valuable resource.
- Once the background material is gathered and compared to acceptable standards, alternatives will be provided and recommendations made as part of the planning process. Ultimately, the Master Plan will provide the residents of Haddonfield with a plan for the future development of recreation and conservation of open spaces while being flexible enough to adapt to changing needs and desires of the borough.
- *From the “Open Space Inventory and Recommendations” as developed by the Haddonfield Environmental Commission, dated September 17, 1999.

Introduction



Haddonfield Library

Background

- The Borough of Haddonfield is a suburban community located in Camden County that is bordered by the Cooper River along its eastern boundary and the towns of Lawnside, Barrington, Haddon Heights, Audubon and Haddon Township along the western border. The area along the Cooper River provides the Borough with most of the open space within the Borough and is contiguous at its northern perimeter with the Camden County Cooper River Park system. Roughly 10% of the total land area of the Borough is undeveloped wooded area either in local or county ownership.* Some of these open space areas are accessible and used for recreational purposes while other areas, though undisturbed, are usually found within associated flood prone areas.
- The 2000 U. S. Census indicates that the Borough has a population of 11,659 residents of which 3,343 or 28.50% are listed as under the age of eighteen (18). The Borough being well established has not seen substantial increases in population over the years but has experienced an increase in need to provide recreational opportunities for an increasing number of younger aged residents.

Goals and Objectives



Centennial Park Playing Field

Goals and Objectives

- The purpose and intent of developing a Parks, Recreation and Open Space element to the Borough's Master Plan is to assess the conditions of the existing parks and open space and to develop a plan for the future of these areas within the Borough. The active recreation areas will be addressed from both the present recreation uses and general condition of the facilities. The open space areas will be reviewed with regard to their overall condition and those areas that are presently used for passive recreation will be studied for the effect of those uses on the natural systems.
- The Master Plan overall should provide a general assessment of the present Parks, Recreation and Open Space, compare these facilities to recommended standards for recreation and open space and develop strategies that will serve as a guide for the Borough in the future. The plan will attempt to address as many aspects of the Borough's present and projected needs for Recreation and Open Space while providing realistic recommendations for improvement and compatibility of use.
- The plan, to be effective, must establish goals and objectives that can be addressed throughout the planning process. In comprehensive planning these goals and objectives provide a framework and guidance for the decision making process that will follow.
- Many of the goals are purposely broad and will take a number of years to effectively be addressed, although some of the objectives may be capable of being implemented in a shorter period of time. The following goals are delineated with a listing of objectives that can provide effective action for each specific goal.



Crows Woods Sports Complex

Goals and Objectives (cont.)

GOAL

- Determine the condition of existing facilities within the Borough that are currently used for active and passive recreation.

OBJECTIVE

- Assess the existing facilities within each park and recreation area.
- Evaluate each facility for general longevity, condition and the potential to renovate or rehabilitate in order to meet current standards or to generally improve the facility.

GOAL

- Analyze the existing parks and open space system for its ability to be responsive to the changing needs of the Boroughs residents and to assess feasibility, timing and capability of future additions and developments.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess each facility for its ability to meet current accessibility standards (ADA) and provide recommendations.
- Review facilities ability to serve various functions for both recreational and educational purposes.
- Assess the potential for multiple uses of some limited facilities and the designation of other facilities that serve can the needs of the entire community.

GOAL

- Analyze the existing Open Spaces within the Borough for the potential they may have both short and long term.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the present open space areas throughout the Borough from an ecological standpoint to determine both the present condition of these areas and identification of any unique characteristics that may provide educational or conservation opportunities.
- Assess the ability of the Boroughs open spaces to support present passive recreation uses and identification of any possible additional recreational opportunities.
- Identification of potentially sensitive areas within present open spaces, including wetlands, excessive slopes and dense or rare habitats that will allow for an effective evaluation and programming of potential uses.

GOAL

- Determine the potential of providing connections between various areas within the Borough through parks and open space areas.

OBJECTIVES

- Assess the general condition of various open space parcels.
- Assess the ability to provide meaningful trail connections that can be created without excessive disturbance of the existing vegetation.
- Assess the potential future users of various connections and the development of identification signage.

Recreation Assessment

Assessment

- Crucial to the development of an effective planning document is the identification of the existing parklands throughout the Borough as they relate to standards of recreation and as a means of determining needs. The following outlines are general definitions of recreational facilities and standards for assessing quantities of facilities based upon population. This background information will be incorporated into the planning assessment for the Borough and be used to gauge current and future needs:
- Regional Open Space
Lands primarily acquired by the Borough through purchase or dedication that become permanent public Open Space. These lands have no definitive size or location and may have limited access due to the nature of the topography and vegetation. Areas of Evans Pond, Mountwell Woods and Crows Woods would all fall within this designation.
- Regional Parks
Lands owned by the County and managed by the Camden County Parks Department. Regional parks serve a larger population area than the Borough and can be comprised of both passive and active recreation as well as open spaces. The Cooper River Park runs along the border of the Borough from Grove Avenue to Kings Highway and at Hopkins Pond.



Mountwell Woods



Crows Woods Playing Fields

Recreation Assessment



Mountwell Park playground



Scout Field

Assessment

- Community Parks

These parks are generally a minimum of 20 contiguous acres in size, excluding greenbelts and linear type trails that are designed to serve the entire Borough and are specific to towns of 10,000 persons or more.

The Crows Woods Recreation Complex fits this definition with facilities that are Borough wide in scope and the ability to serve the needs of a broad range of the local residents. The Community Garden and walking trail serve passive recreation needs, while the playing field areas meet the needs of sports organizations within town.

The Little League Fields and Centennial Field and Court Complex also fit within this category although the lack of sufficient parking at the later limits its ability to serve the entire community.

- Public Neighborhood Parks

These parks are generally a minimum of one acre in size and are designed to serve the needs of a defined area or neighborhood. The standard for population would be in the 1,000 people range. In general these parks have limited recreation, usually including a playground area and some sort of court or informal field area.

The Mountwell Park area along Reilywood Avenue fits this definition as does the Green Acres Ballfield and to a limited extent the Elm Avenue Basketball Court.

Recreation Assessment



Elizabeth Haddon School

- School Related Recreational Facilities

In general, School related recreational facilities are not included in community wide assessments due to the restricted nature of their use and liability. The Borough has established a cooperative effort with the local school district that allows for some cross use of facilities during peak periods, such as, spring and fall sports seasons. In particular the Scout and Radnor Field areas fit within this category. Neither is directly adjacent to a school property and to the casual observer each would appear to be a Community Park but both primarily serve the needs of the school district, with some sports associations sharing time.

Private Recreational Facilities

The borough is fortunate to have a number of private recreation facilities available to it's residents. Although these are not included in any count of public parks, it is acknowledged that there are additional swimming pools, tennis, basketball, and volleyball courts and other facilities available through various clubs and other private organizations.

Recreation Overview



Green Acres Field

Recreation & Parks Overview

- The Borough of Haddonfield has experienced, as most communities have in the last years, an explosion of need for active recreation areas. The Borough has jointly worked with the local School District to maximize the quantity and use of the active parklands and playing fields within the town. Toward this end the Borough has studied the needs and provided some level of assessment in consultation with the local sports group. In particular, the Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment (July, 2001) and the Recreation Needs Assessment (October 2002) as prepared Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc., provides some insight into the present condition of the Borough's playing fields and some determinations of possible future directions.
- The following is a brief summary of those findings which are relevant to the present planning process:
- Promote innovative field scheduling that allows for the incorporation of a restorative turf management program.
- Explore feasibility of providing additional lighting at Crows Woods to provide additional evening time recreation opportunity and enable alternate field use in the promotion of a turf management program.
- Provide additional parking at Crows Woods.
- Upgrade restroom facilities at Centennial Field.
- Provide equipment storage facility at Centennial Field.
- Eliminate the tennis courts at Radnor Field. Reconfigure facility to permit baseball diamond for senior baseball.
- Install a soccer field at Mountwell Park.
- Install a practice field for squirt soccer at Green Acres Field.
- Explore feasibility of entering into an agreement with Christ the King Parochial School that would enable soccer use of the existing field in exchange for installation of, or funding of, various facility upgrades.
- Re-evaluate use of the park area at Elm and Estaugh Avenues where current two (2) basketball backboards are located on a deteriorating paved surface. Consider development of a tot lot or neighborhood park.

Recreation Overview (cont.)



Centennial Field Area

Within the Assessment were some general observations and wishes from various groups that should be noted:

Haddonfield Soccer Club (830 boys and girls participating in 2004):

- Apparent Problems & Wishes:
 - Needs additional fields and improved fields at various locations
 - More Lighted Fields at Crows Woods
 - Turf Management programs at Crows Woods
 - Level and Fill areas in Crows Woods
 - Concerns about the condition of turf at some parks

Bulldog Football (approximately 171 players, 64 cheerleaders in 2004):

- Apparent Problems (Centennial Park):
 - Too Much Traffic / Not Enough Parking
 - Inadequate size (5 teams, 1 field)
 - Poor Condition / Lack of irrigation
 - Inadequate Restroom and Storage Facilities
 - No lighting off the field
 - Poor condition of seating and Park Ave area adjacent to field
- Wishes:
 - Installation of Scoreboard
 - Concession Stand
 - Permanent Storage Building
 - Flagpole

Recreation Overview (cont.)



Crows Woods Playing Fields

Pigtail Softball (approximately 250 girls in 2002):

- Apparent Problems:
 - Fields are not properly groomed

Haddonfield Little League / Babe Ruth Baseball (540 children in 2004)

- Apparent Problems:
 - No safe practice fields
 - Scheduling issues for Babe Ruth Baseball
- Wishes:
 - A Senior Field with Lights
 - Lights at Little League Complex
 - Batting Cage for the Senior League
 - New Building at Little League Complex

Recreation Program (Programs for all residents year round)

- Apparent Problems:
 - All park facilities are overused at times.
 - Unauthorized use of facilities on Sundays
 - Scheduling difficulties
 - Lighting spillage at Crows Woods fields.
- Wishes:
 - Desire to create additional field areas.

Recreation Overview (cont.)



Crows Woods Facilities Building



Scout Field

- Although some of these issues and concerns have been addressed in the last few years, including the addition of irrigation system at Centennial Park and the study of effective reorganization of the fields at Radnor Field Complex, other issues will need to be viewed as part of the broader Recreation and Parks portion of this Master Plan. The need for additional field space, improvement of utilization and playing surfaces, and issues such as lighting and parking will need to be effectively addressed.
- The following inventory of facilities is a listing of all the active recreation sites and facilities that presently exist within Borough and School District owned property. This listing includes the local public school sites but for the purposes of analysis will concentrate of the active recreation areas owned and managed by the Borough. Some idea as to the present condition of various facilities will be provided. The following facilities are included:

- | <u>Borough Facilities</u> | <u>School Owned Facilities</u> |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Crows Woods Recreation Complex | • Radnor Fields |
| • Centennial Park (Field and Courts) | • Central and Middle Schools |
| • Little League Complex | • High School Field |
| • Mountwell Park and Playground | • Scout Field |
| • Elm Avenue Court | • Elizabeth Haddon School Fields |
| • Green Acres Field | • Tatem School Fields |
| • Wheeler Park | |

Facilities Inventory

Type of Facility	Recommended Quantity (NRPA)	Borough Parks	School District Facilities	Total
• Basketball	3	2	3	5
• Tennis Courts	6	5	2	7
• Volleyball	3	0	0	0
• Baseball	5	3	2	5
• Softball	3	3	2	5
• Football	2	1	1	2
• Soccer	3	3	1	4
• Multi-purpose	2	2	2	4
• Hiking /Walking Trails	1	2	0	2
• Running Track	1	0	1	1

Crows Woods Recreation Area



Crows Woods Recreation Complex

- The Crows Woods Recreation Complex encompasses a large (66 acre) area that is used for a number of passive recreation opportunities including, the local Community Gardens and Crows Woods Nature Area.* This complex also services the needs of local athletic organizations and active recreation with the following:

Existing Facilities

Three (3) Multipurpose Field areas
Three (3) Softball diamonds with outfield overplay
One (1) larger Multipurpose field with Sports Lighting
Paved Walking Trail (0.8 miles) around perimeter of fields
A Clubhouse Building with restrooms, concession area and storage

A Community Garden area

Parking:

75 stone parking spaces in center area
20 stone parking spaces by Restroom
12 stone parking spaces by Nature Area
40 spaces at the Plays and Players facility adjacent to the restroom.

Condition and Assessment

- From the Recreation Needs Assessment of October 2002*, two (2) specific recommendations were made regarding the Crows Woods Fields:
 - Explore the feasibility of providing additional lighting at Crows Woods to provide additional evening recreation opportunity and enable alternate field use in the promotion of turf management program.
 - Provide additional parking at Crows Woods.
 - There was some discussion of creating a new stone parking area on the section adjacent to the Community Garden. Clearly the usage for sports also requires more parking. The area to be constructed will provide for 33 vehicles with _____ spaces designated by bumper stops, including two (2) handicapped spaces on concrete.
- The present lighted area services only one soccer field area and comment has been made regarding the expansion of playing fields and lighting.
- The present drainage on the property is surface grading to grassed swales could be modified with the installation of inlets and piping that could reduce the out of play areas and allow further use.
- Current standards for parking are 35 spaces per playing field area. Therefore, with the current four (4) field areas at the park a minimum of 140 spaces would be recommended. Presently there are approximately 107.
- As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Centennial Park



Centennial Park (Field and Tennis Court Complex)

- The Centennial Field and Tennis Court Complex located at Park Place and Lincoln Avenues contains the following facilities*:

Existing Facilities:

- Centennial Field:
 - One (1) Football Field with Sports Lighting
 - Two (2) Baseball backstops with outfield overplay
 - Small paved parking for six (6) vehicles
- Centennial Court Complex
 - Five (5) Tennis Courts
 - One (1) Basketball Court
 - A one story building with restrooms.

Condition and Assessment:

- As part of the Park Improvements Assessment and recommendations from Borough Administration the following items were noted:
- “This field is primarily used from August through November for Midget football but also serves as spring practice fields for Little League baseball teams and for some adult Rugby play. The impacted area is along Park Lane, a residential street.”
- “The Football League installed the lighting of the field and upgraded the playing field surface and added irrigation. The Borough shared some of those expenses...”
- “The major continuing problem with the upper field relates to safe access from Park Lane down a relatively steep hill to the field and providing spectator areas. Currently, there are two areas where landscape ties are embedded in the hill. These serve as both steps and seating. Today’s regulations require different configurations for steps versus seating as well as railings.”
- “Further, the large trees at the crest of the hill have produced significant surface roots that have become tripping hazards to the hundreds of people who must walk over them to get to the field.”
- This park lacks the parking necessary to support the intensity of uses. A football field type facility should have a minimum of 40 parking spaces.
- It is understood the field area is used primarily for football in the fall season and therefore needs to be reconditioned. The turf appeared in need of some attention.

Centennial Park



- The upper field area does not provide for direct ADA accessibility and it is acknowledge that there was a proposal to remove the existing ties and re-grade the hillside to lessen the slope. It would be recommended to review possible options that could provide ample seating and make the entire facility handicapped accessible. The bituminous walkway found at the end of the parking area at Park Place could be redesigned to provide an accessible slope or possibly access could be provided from the Lincoln Avenue area.
- The present lighting system serves only the needs of football.
- Two other points were raised as part of the Needs Assessment of 2002:
 - Upgrade restroom facilities
 - Provide equipment storage facility / Concession
- The lower area Tennis Courts and Basketball Court appear to be in generally good condition and it is understood that the additional tennis court was recently added.
- The existing restroom storage building does not meet accessibility guidelines and is in need of renovation.
- The present walkway from Lakeview Avenue at Spruce Street is in need of renovation.
- As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Little League Fields



Little League Fields

- The Little League fields are located at the terminus of Prospect Road at Roberts Avenue. This area is adjacent to the Cooper River and Ellis Street and is a single use area.

Existing Facilities: The following facilities were listed on the Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity*:

Three (3) baseball diamonds: one (1) upper field;
two (2) lower fields

A Batting Cage

Concessions stand of brick construction

Separate multi-use brick building housing restrooms

Upper and lower field stone parking facilities for the accommodation of respectively twenty-five (25) and twenty-nine (29) vehicles as delineated by concrete wheel stops

Condition and Assessment:

- The field are well established, irrigated and well maintained.
- The Haddonfield Little League requested lights for the Little League Complex.
- The vehicular entrance from Prospect Road should meet the standard width of 24 feet for safe two way ingress and egress.
- Questions regarding ADA accessible parking areas and walkways should be addressed.

* As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Green Acres Park



Green Acres Recreation

- The Green Acres recreation area is located at the terminus of Woodland Avenue. This area has a single open play area with some parking access off West Mt. Vernon Avenue:

Existing Facilities

One open play area (90' wide by 260' long).
Informal stone parking area (35' wide)

Condition and Assessment

- From the Recreation Needs Assessment of October 2002*:
A multi-purpose area without delineated fields or equipment and is appropriate for soccer use. There is no provision for off street parking.
- From the September 30, 2003 Memo from Richard Schwab, Borough Administrator to the Borough Commissioners.
- Items of concern:
 - “... rainwater does not drain very quickly toward the PATCO ditch, where it is supposed to go...”
 - “A broken sidewalk leads to the park from the Mt. Vernon end.”
 - “The turf is in poor condition and is one of the remaining non irrigated playing fields.”

Planned Improvements:

- Expand and re-align the stone parking lot while re-constructing it for a better base, setting bumper stops to designate the 27 parking slots including two (2) handicapped spaces on concrete
- Replace the old sidewalk with a new concrete walk that connects the Mt. Vernon entrance with the Woodland entrance.
- Remove some of the trees near the Woodland end to permit a more soccer field area and do appropriate turf re-building.
- Plant new trees, bushes and shrubs.
- Some of the improvements listed above have been installed this past years but the field still appears in need of re-grading in areas and the parking needs to be realigned. The present configuration of the parking is not within acceptable design standards nor does it meet accessibility guidelines. There was water sitting along the edge of the present parking that should be regarded.
- The vehicular entrance from Mt. Vernon Avenue should be expanded to meet standard width of 24 feet for safe two way ingress and egress.
- There were a number of dead trees at the site that need to be removed.

* As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Mountwell Park



Mountwell Park Recreation Area

- The Mountwell Park recreation area is adjacent to Reillywood Avenue. This area has a mix of old outdated facilities, such as the swings and newer recently installed tot lot play equipment. Overall this area has:

Existing Facilities

- One Multistation Tot Lot Play Area (Fenced in)
- One Sandbox Play Area (Fenced in)
- One open area with backstop (approximate area: 110' to tree line, 180' to fence along street side – left field line, 200' to fence into park – right field line).

Condition and Assessment

- From the Recreation Needs Assessment of October 2002*, and a Memo dated September 30, 2003, the following recommendations were made regarding Mountwell Park:
 - Remove the old swings (and foundations)
 - Remove the dead tree in the field area.
 - Regrade and revitalize the existing open turf area to serve as a “squirts” soccer, small team football or little league practice facility.
 - Additional landscaping to provide some separation between the field area and the tot lot.
- This park serves mostly as a neighborhood park. Although adjacent to the former Mountwell Pool area which now serves as a public works area for the Borough, this upper portion along Reillywood is used primarily by families with small children. It is understood that the tot lot play area was revitalized as a joint effort between the Borough and local community groups.
- The existing park has only provision for on street parking.
- With the local use of the tot lot, it seems that many people walk but for organized sport use of the field area the street can accommodate a minimum number of cars.
- The present play area has no handicapped accessible walkways to the various play equipment.
- Even with modification and re-grading the field area has only minimal dimensions and can serve only as a practice facility.

* As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Elm Avenue & Wheeler Park



Elm Avenue Area

- The area along Elm Avenue at the intersection of Estaugh Avenue is adjacent to a Borough pumping station.

Existing Facilities

The following facilities were listed on the Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity*:

One (1) basketball court which is in substandard condition owing to court surface deterioration

Condition and Assessment

- The single basketball court does not seem to meet any standards for size and has significant cracks and decomposition.
- As noted in the summary to the Recreation Needs Assessment of October 2002 summary section:
- "Re-evaluate use of the park area at Elm and Estaugh Avenue where currently two (2) basketball backboards are located on a deteriorating paved surface. Consider development of a tot lot or neighborhood park."
- The redesign and planning of this site should assess the needs of the surrounding neighborhood. This area would be classified as a neighborhood park, similar to the Mountwell Park, and there is no off street parking available. The possible uses of this sized area could be a small playground with passive seating, picnic tables and landscaping.

Wheeler Park

- Wheeler Park is a linear tract which runs along the southwestern edge of the High Speedline from Upland Way to Lafayette Avenue along S. Atlantic Avenue and a portion from Upland Way south.
- There does not seem to be any programmed recreation in this area, but the open lawn areas alternating with the shaded groves seem to provide some opportunity for gatherings.
- Overall the area appears well maintained and can provide some informal pedestrian access from this area of the Borough to the nearby Crows Woods Recreation and Nature Area.
- As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Passive Recreation and Conservation



- Passive Recreation
- Throughout the Borough there are some smaller parcels that serve as passive recreation that are dedicated and have seating areas associated with them.
 - Tatem Garden: Located at the corner of Kings Highway and Evergreen Lane this passive garden has been dedicated as open space within the Borough.
 - Nicholson Park (Library Entrance Area): This triangular piece of land located between Tanner Street and Haddon Avenue presently has an Eagle Fountain at the corner and a sitting area closer to the library entrance area.
- Conservation Areas
- The Borough has also secured a number of Conservation Easements for properties that assures that these properties will not be developed.
 - Burger property: 250 Kings Highway East
 - Kane property : 8 Kings Highway West
 - Eisenberg property: West End Avenue, Block 94, Lot 16
- Open Space Areas
- The Borough has some random parcels that are dedicated as open space but are too small to function as usable spaces. One of these areas is Block 135, lot 6, located adjacent to the Camden County Parks Evans Pond area along the Kresson Road spur of Potter Street.

School District Facilities



School District Facilities

- The Haddonfield Board of Education and the Borough proper have developed a system of shared utilization of limited active recreation facilities throughout the town. Some facilities have been jointly developed; some areas are used regularly by both the schools and the local sports organizations, while others are shared on a somewhat seasonal basis. This arrangement provides the residents of Haddonfield with the maximum utilization of its available active recreation resources.
- The development of a Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan for the local municipality usually does not include privately held or school district owned facilities within an assessment of the existing recreation facilities due to issues of ownership and possible restriction of use.
- This Master Plan will include a discussion of the various School District facilities for the purpose of providing an overview of the Borough with some emphasis on the two (2) stand alone recreation playing field areas; Scout Field and Radnor Field. These facilities are unique in not being associated directly or contiguous to any actual schools.



School District Facilities

- **Existing Facilities***

- J. F. Tatem School

- Tot Lots (2 areas)
 - Basketball Court Area
 - Multi-purpose Field

- Elizabeth Haddon School

- Tot Lots (3 areas)
 - Basketball Court Area (2 courts)
 - Multi-purpose Field

- Central and Middle Schools

- Tot Lot
 - Multi-purpose Field

- Haddonfield Memorial High School

- Football Stadium with perimeter track
 - Practice field area



* As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.

Scout Field

School District Facilities

Scout Field

- The Scout Field complex is located on Center Street between Reillywood and Upland Way across from the entrance to the Borough's Public Works facility. The fields are bounded by the PATCO High Speedline train tracks, Mountwell Park and residents.

Existing Facilities

The following facilities were listed on the Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity*:

- One (1) softball diamond with backstop
- One (1) soccer field
- One (1) batting cage facility
- Restroom and storage building
- Two (2) handicapped accessible off street parking spaces

- * As delineated in Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity and Recreation Needs Assessment prepared for the Borough of Haddonfield and dated July 2001.



Scout Field



Condition and Assessment:

- This field area consists of a Soccer field in the center and a Softball skinned infield in the southern corner with outfield overplay. The field appears to be in good condition with well maintained turf.
- This complex has two (2) accessible parking spaces and the Public Works drive across Center Street provides some safe parking on what is actually School District property.
- There have been suggestions to modify the existing facilities in conjunction with Radnor Field as follows:

Convert current softball field into a skin Babe Ruth / High School diamond.” This recommendation would increase the baselines from the present 60 feet to 90 feet and increase the infield area accordingly. The proposed change would serve the needs of both the High School and the Haddonfield Babe Ruth League for a senior sized baseball field area. The dimensions down the Right and Left field lines would need to be checked against standards for the recommended level of play and a determination made as to additional fencing and/or possible reorientation.

Radnor Field Complex



School District Facilities

Radnor Field Complex

- The Radnor Field complex is located along Farwood Road with vehicle access from the Radnor Road cul-de-sac. This is within walking distance of the High School and serves the needs for mostly baseball, softball and girls soccer at this time.

Existing Facilities

The following facilities were listed on the Inventory of Existing Recreation Opportunity*:

- One (1) regulation size High School baseball field (Russ Spicer Field)
- One (1) baseball diamond with backstop
- One (1) softball field
- One (1) batting cage facility
- One (1) soccer field (overlay)
- One (1) basketball court (uneven surface)
- Two (2) tennis courts (uneven surface)
- Brick restroom and equipment storage building

Parking areas to accommodate twenty-five (25) vehicles with grass spaces and seventeen (17) vehicles in stoned spaces as delineated by concrete wheel stops

Radnor Field Complex



- **Condition and Assessment:**
- There have been past studies conducted for renovations at the Radnor Complex. The following are some excerpts of possible improvement programs:
- Widen the existing field and add an additional soccer field in the location of the current tennis / basketball courts.
- The current softball field could be repaired for use and an additional softball field could be added to the back corner of the new soccer field
- An assessment of the pavement conditions of the existing tennis court area dated 8/9/01 by Remington and Vernick Engineers revealed that the courts had a number of conditions that "...severely limits the recreational use of the facility..." The cost of complete reconstruction of these facilities and the need for additional playing field areas within the Borough provides some possible direction for the future.
- The High School baseball field (Russ Spicer Field) is well established, irrigated and well maintained.
- Questions regarding ADA accessible parking areas and walkways should be addressed as part of any proposed renovations to the Complex.

Radnor Field Complex



Radnor Field Complex (cont):

- Possible changes to Radnor Complex could include:
 - Remove the existing tennis / basketball courts
 - Re-grade the area along Farwood Road to add an irrigated level playing field in this area.
 - Adding drainage from upper field areas to lower field*
 - Remove existing blacktop path through the center of the complex
 - Add softball diamond and dugouts to the back corner of the newly graded area along Farwood Ave.
 - Convert existing lower Baseball / Softball diamond to a grass infield
 - Renovate the existing softball infield and backstop by Wayne Avenue
 - Add shrubs to minimize the visibility of the current and new fencing
- These possible changes to the complex attempt to address a number of issues faced by both the School District and the Borough Recreation Organizations. The Haddonfield Little League / Babe Ruth Baseball organization, as part of the Recreation Needs Assessment of 2002, requested a Senior League Field. At the present time it is understood that the Russ Spicer field is the only fenced in regulation sized senior baseball field available within the Borough. The summary of the Needs Assessment of October 2002 recommended the elimination of the tennis courts at Radnor Field and the reconfiguration to permit a baseball diamond.
- The High School baseball field (Russ Spicer Field) is well established, irrigated and well maintained.
- Questions regarding ADA accessible parking areas and walkways should be addressed as part of any proposed renovations to the Complex.
- *It appears that at the present time the storm water runs down the existing paved walkway/ swale in the outfield areas of Spicer and the softball fields. There were wet areas associated with these swales and the overall site drainage will need to be addressed as part of any improvements to the lower field areas with possibly piping and inlets.

Facilities Summary



Radnor Field Complex

- The development of any improvements attempt to address a number of issues facing both the School District and the Borough Recreation Organizations.
 - Any changes in the fields at the Radnor Field Complex and Scout Field will need to be coordinated to achieve the needs of all organizations involved without losing valuable playing space.
 - The Haddonfield Little League / Babe Ruth Baseball organization, as part of the Recreation Needs Assessment of 2002 had requested a Senior League Field. Although no location for this field has been determined, the possible changes to the two (2) complexes would allow for this need.
 - The summary of the Needs Assessment of October 2002 recommended the elimination of the tennis courts at Radnor Field and the reconfiguration to permit a baseball diamond. There has been consideration of the possibility of a soccer field where the present tennis and basketball courts are located.
 - Further investigation is needed of all alternatives and other possible solutions such as a synthetic turf field, but the need to maximize usable field playing area within the Borough and School District properties has been evident for some time.

Open Space Overview



Mountwell Woods

Open Space Overview

- The Borough of Haddonfield has many open space parcels that have been in the possession of the municipality for a number of years. This legacy of open space allows Haddonfield the advantage of having relatively large areas of undisturbed open space within the Borough. Most of the open space is located along the eastern portion of the borough and is an extension of the County parklands of the Cooper River Park system. These areas provide a needed buffer to the stream bank areas and fall within flood plains and flood zones. Much of these areas are presently inaccessible although some display evidence of small informal walking trails.
- In September of 1999 the Haddonfield Environmental Commission developed a document entitled: Open Space Inventory and Recommendations. This report was the first attempt by a local appointed body to document and inventory open space within the Borough. One significant statement made in the opening paragraph of section II, The Open Space Inventory was: "The undeveloped lands in the Borough and county's ownership are more expansive and fall mainly along the Cooper River and in the Mountwell Park / Crows Woods area. These lands cover 182.40 acres (9.9%)." P.3. The Borough is fortunate to have close to 10% of its total land area in open space but as the Inventory goes on to state:" However, as the Borough Commissioners are too well aware, there are more groups interested in using the Borough's open space for active and passive recreation than there is available space." P.4.

The Section III Recommendations: of the report sought to establish criteria for open space enhancement and acquisition. The following is a paraphrasing of that list:

- Environmental Significance and / or Uniqueness
- Connection to areas that are a priority for the state and county open space planners
- Feasibility of obtaining funding for improvements or acquisition
- Time sensitivity/ Areas of intense development pressure
- Connection to projects underway such as the County's Watchable Wildlife project

Open Space Overview



Mountwell Woods

The Specific Recommendations of the report included:

- Creation of a Park, Greenway and Nature Area for the “Birdwood Trail” that Encompasses the Dinosaur Monument. This recommendation involved the creation of a borough-long greenway along presently mostly public lands that run along the Copper River corridor of the Borough. The general Greenway would encompass portions of Crows Woods Nature area, Crows Woods Recreation area, Mountwell Park and associated forest, the Little League Complex, Evans Pond, Hopkins Pond and the area adjacent to the former Sewage Treatment Plant (in the Maple Avenue area) that is part of the County Park System associated with Cooper River Park. The Environmental Commission envisioned this trail as an educational opportunity within the Borough, in particular its relationship to the site where the Dinosaur fossil was found and the location of an old mill site in the Hopkins Pond area. This proposed trail could also serve as an alternative transportation link between various parts of the Borough, for example an eventual linkage of the Little League Complex on Kresson Road with the Crows Woods Complex off Upland Way.
- Preservation of environmentally important properties in private hands.
- These recommendations are in keeping with the Borough’s 1991 Master Plan Re-examination Report that listed a number of goals and objectives to be pursued by the Borough, including: the retention and acquisition of open space, the development of a pedestrian and bicycle trail along the Cooper River from Crows Woods to Evans Ponds and the encouragement of safe pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle traffic.
- The development of this Borough wide Open Space evaluation and accompanying recommendations will attempt to incorporate the ideas raised in the 1999 Open Space Inventory and Recommendations while updating the information available and addressing recent concerns regarding the extent of passive recreational usage of open space areas within the Borough.



Evans Pond Area

Ecological Assessment

Ecological Assessment

- On July 29, 2004 a member of Schoor DePalma's Ecological Department and the Landscape Architect for the Master Plan visited the County Park area, Mountwell Park, the Point area, and Crows Woods Nature Area to perform a general habitat assessment and review the overall ecological condition of each area.

County Parklands including Hopkins and Evans Pond Area

- The Camden County Park system has a large area of parklands along the northern and eastern portions of the Borough. Parts of these lands are considered to be within the Cooper River Park system and comprise an area from roughly Grove Street and the area along Coles Mill Road and Hopkins Lane. The other areas include the Hopkins Pond area (Hopkins Lane to Kings Highway) and the Evans Pond area (Kings Highway to Ellis Street). In total these areas comprise about 105 acres of Open Space. Some of these areas are accessible with walking trails but for the most part they are stable wooded parcels along the Cooper River.
- The Pond areas can be divided into two communities, an upland hardwood forest and a forested wetland, with American beech occupying the slopes and sweetgum and red maple in the wetlands. Slippery elm (*Ulmus rubra*) and black willow (*Salix nigra*) are also found in the wetland as understory inhabitants, as were northern arrow-wood and sweet pepperbush. Closer to the river's edge where the overstory is interrupted and more light penetrates to ground level more ground cover species such as jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) are present.
- The smaller sizes of the trees here compared to Mountwell Park lead to the conclusion that this area was disturbed more recently than Mountwell, but the presence of American beech indicates that major disturbance last occurred quite some time ago. A rudimentary trail running parallel to the river along the wetland/upland boundary is present, but the park does not appear to be heavily utilized by humans. A significant number of Norway Maple saplings are located throughout the upland and wetland/upland boundary, and the purple loosestrife found along the river is also a troublesome invasive species.

Former Sewage Treatment Plant (Maple Avenue Area)

- Within and surrounded by the County parklands is an area at the terminus of Beechwood, Maple and Narberth Avenues. This 3.25 acre parcel of open space formerly housed the municipal sewage treatment facility that was removed. This is part of the proposed Dinosaur area and associated with the proposed educational trails related to archeology.

Ecological Assessment (cont.)



Mountwell Woods

Linear Open Space, Potter Street to Reillywood

- This linear piece of Open Space runs from Potter Street to the intersection of Reillywood and Spruce Streets and comprises around 13.5 acres of wooded and undergrowth area. Some portions of this area have severe slopes and wetland conditions. At the present this area is not accessible and any planning would need to be sensitive to the existing conditions. This would be the area that provided connection between the Little League Complex and Mountwell Woods proper.

Mountwell Woods

- Mountwell woods is the area from the public works yard adjacent to the Cooper River to the Speedline tracks and has two primary communities, an upland hardwood forest and a forested wetland. The upland forest is found primarily along the slope banks and ravines, and is predominated by an overstory of red oak (*Quercus rubra*), tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), and chestnuts (*Carya spp.*). Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) is the main understory species, but is limited to scattered individuals. Ground cover is sparse as several inches of leaf litter cover the ground. The lack of a true understory and groundcover combined with the size and composition of the overstory indicates that this is a mature upland forest. The wetland forest, located at the foot of the slopes and ravines, consists of sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) in the overstory, with sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*) and northern arrow-wood (*Viburnum dentatum*) forming a moderately dense understory. This community is typical of wetland and floodplain communities throughout the state.
- Undisturbed for quite some time. The slopes and ravines are occupied by trees of considerable girth, indicating soil stability. Little evidence of human use in the undisturbed areas was observed. It should be noted that Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), an invader species, is starting to colonize the fringes of the upland where the forest meets Center Street and that there was some instance of invasive ivy and barberry species in the Reillywood and Chestnut Street areas of the open space.

Ecological Assessment (cont.)

The Point

- Located at the northern portion of Crows Wood Park, The Point is a 2.6 acre parcel that was previously cleared area between the community garden and the steeply sloping banks of the Cooper River floodplain. The upper plateau area of about 1.25 acres is evidenced by the early successional “waste place” species that currently occupy the site, including garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), common reed (*Phragmites vulgaris*), goldenrods (*Solidago spp.*), and asters. Mulch piles are also located on the site.
- This community composition can be found on any newly disturbed area, and is the first stage in the chain of succession. If left undisturbed the surrounding woodlands will seed the site, and additional pioneer species such as sumac (*Rhus sp.*) will appear in the understory.
- The area along the banks of the Cooper River appears to be composed of somewhat more stable plantings but there were no significant species to be found in these areas.

Crows Wood

- The forested portions of Crows Wood can be divided into three distinct communities; an oak – beech upland, an oak-sassafras upland, and a bottomland hardwood swamp. The oak- beech upland is located in the vicinity of the power substation along the Speedline tracks and the adjacent ravines, which consists of American beech, white oak (*Quercus alba*), and chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*) in the overstory, with a very sparse understory and patches of clubmoss (*Lycopodium sp.*) in the ground cover. The oak-sassafras upland found in the middle portion of the site is dominated by red oak and sassafras in the overstory, mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*) in the understory, and New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*) in the ground cover. Scattered white pine (*Pinus strobus*) was also found throughout the site.
- The bottomland hardwoods are found along the lower portions adjacent to the Cooper River and are dominated by red maple and pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) in the overstory, northern arrow-wood and sweet pepperbush in the understory, and cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*) as part of the ground cover. This area appears to be within the Floodplain for the river and experience seasonal flooding as would be expected.
- An extensive dirt trail network crisscrosses the uplands, and a path skirts along the edge of the wetlands in certain areas. While it appears that the paths are well used, the vegetation to the sides of the trails seems to be in good shape, and significant disturbance of sensitive species such as the ferns and mountain laurel was not seen and mostly these plants are healthy throughout the site. One of the streams that transect the site appeared silty during the site investigation, but this could be due to a combination of causes, including the rains of the previous days as well as sedimentation from traffic along the banks.



Summary

- An overview of the open space areas within the Borough reveals relatively large areas of healthy mature woods and understory plants. There were areas within these open spaces that have evidence of use, both past and present, but there was no significant degradation or destruction of habitat indicated. Some areas of the open spaces are relatively inaccessible at this time of year due to excessive undergrowth but the areas seen, and in particular the lower areas along streams and drainage swales appeared stable.
- Steadily increased usage of these natural areas could and will eventually reach a point where degradation of the understory and edges will occur. Once critical levels of foot traffic cause compaction of the soils and trail widths are expanded, there will be potential for a overall loss of ecological quality. Efforts should be made to provide residents of the Borough with the best quality natural experience while providing effective stewardship of these natural resources for future generations.
- Few animals were observed on all of the sites during the course of the investigation when the temperatures were in the low 90's/high 80's during the afternoon. Most common suburban wildlife limits their activities during the mid-day, so a lack of observations is not unusual. An additional influencing factor may be the amount of human activity on the sites. Higher levels of wildlife activity would be anticipated in Mountwell Park and Evans Pond as they are lightly used (if used at all) when compared to The Point and Crows Wood, both of which see significant human activity.

Ecological Assessment (cont.)



Crows Woods

Recommendations



Tatem Gardens

General

- The Borough has developed an effective Parks and Open Space system over the years, utilizing and conserving numerous parcels for the benefit of the residents. The Borough has parks that fit within all of the categories recommended -- from Public Neighborhood Parks to Regional Open Space. Although some of these areas are in need of reassessment, planning and/or improvement, in general based upon National Parks and Recreation Association standards there is a sufficient quantity and distribution of facilities. Every community has unique needs and greater demand for differing resources, but the Borough has tried to maintain a diversity of parks and recreation opportunities for the benefit of the residents.
- Based upon its total population, the Borough in combination with the School District meets most of the general standards for recreational courts and fields. In some cases, including soccer, softball, and hiking/walking trails, the Borough has more local facilities than usually deemed sufficient for a community of its size. Although the Boroughs' facilities alone do not meet the standard requirements, they do provide a significant portion of the overall facilities available.
- With respect to open space, one acre of recreation and open space per 1,000 residents is cited as the standard by the National Parks and Recreation Association for communities such as Haddonfield. The Borough has approximately 10,000 inhabitants; therefore a total of 100 acres of open space would be recommended. As noted in the "Open Space Inventory and Recommendations" of 1999, the Borough consists of a gross area of 1,805.2 acres, approximately 10% of which, some 182 acres, consists of undeveloped lands. The Borough thus has a more than adequate amount of preserved open space within its borders.

Recommendations



Evans Pond

General (cont.)

- However, in order to serve the future needs of its residents, the Borough, which is an established and intensely developed community, should actively seek opportunities to expand its parks and open spaces, to develop conservation easements and to increase access to neighboring parks and open spaces.
- Attempts should be made in the future to reduce the intensity of use in park areas that are located within neighborhoods that lack necessary support facilities, such as ample parking and ADA accessibility. The reduction in traffic and noise should be encouraged. Improvements to parks that are compatible with the general character of the area in which the parks are located, however, should be encouraged.
- All uses that are incompatible and potentially destructive to parks and open spaces should be prohibited. Examples of incompatible usage would be mountain biking, off-leash animal recreation, off trail games and organized activities in wooded open space areas that potentially disturb the existing vegetative growth.
- All capital improvement projects shall be designed to minimize any detrimental impact on adjacent properties.

Recommendations



Mountwell Playground Area

Parks and Recreation

- The Borough, local sports organizations and the School District are presently utilizing all the playing field areas available throughout the Borough, and there is no feasible ability to add any additional playing field areas in the present or foreseeable future. An increasing demand for active recreation facilities within the Borough has put a strain on most of the park areas that have playing fields.
- In order to meet these increasing demands on the existing facilities, the Borough should explore the possibility of creating a multipurpose general field area with synthetic turf and lighting for evening use. Although requiring a major expenditure of funding, such a facility would alleviate the strain on various playing fields, allow for greater flexibility in scheduling and provide the opportunity of employing better turf management practices (including field rotation and rejuvenation) at existing facilities throughout the community. A feasibility study should be conducted that evaluates various facilities with respect to their ability to support such a synthetic turf field. Such a study should consider, among other factors, soils, subsurface drainage, accessibility and potential costs. Consideration should also be given to whether reprogramming the existing Borough facilities could alleviate the need to develop a synthetic field.
- It is critical that the Borough and School District work together to adopt the best time and turf management practices (including field rotation and rejuvenation) based upon all of the available resources for active recreation in the Borough. There is an identified need for greater flexibility in programming in order to address the demands on all of the fields. Additionally, the Borough should explore the possibility of utilizing or sharing playing field areas in neighboring communities. Many of the surrounding municipalities face similar demands as the Borough and the ability to work with these other towns to jointly resolve recreation issues should be determined.

Recommendations



Crows Woods Playing Fields

- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Health and Safety Improvements**
- Efforts to correct issues relating to health and safety at the various parks throughout the Borough should be given priority in any future Capital Improvement programming.
- **Centennial Park**
- Provide safe access and seating to field area from adjacent streets. Re-grade the sloped area adjacent to the upper playing field and remove the existing timber seating area. Provision for an ADA accessible walk and seating areas should be included. These improvements would be needed if this field is to continue to be used for organized games.
- Improve the existing facilities building adjacent to the tennis courts in the lower area of the park and provide for ADA accessibility.
- **Green Acres Field:**
- Although drainage problems near Woodland Avenue have been addressed, the parking area, ADA accessible walkways, re-grading and landscaping of the playing field area need to be completed.
- **Crows Woods:**
- The access drive and parking area associated with the Community Garden and Point areas require improvements.
- The current pavilion in the Crows Woods nature area was inspected and deemed unsafe.
- **Mountwell Park:**
- Due to a combination of factors, the abandoned pool area located adjacent to the Public Works yard does not have any effective practical re-use at this time. The limitations of access and visibility, provisions for parking and the location of a major Borough water main and storm drainage in and around the pool area present a number of potential problems and limitations. The Borough should study the best methods of stabilizing this area and returning it to a naturalized state.

Recommendations



Little League Complex

- **Parks and Recreation**
- **General Neighborhood Park Improvements**
- **Mountwell Park:**
- The playing field area of Mountwell Park was designed to be reoriented and improved and the present backstop, swing frame and dead tree need to be removed.
- **Elm Avenue:**
- The existing deteriorating paved court area needs to be removed and a neighborhood tot lot and seating area should be developed.
- **Improvements to Other Sports Complexes**
- **Little League Complex**
- A concept plan has been developed for the construction of restroom and meeting facilities for the lower field area at the complex. This building will need associated utilities and accessible walkways.
- Because of the demands on this complex, consideration should be given to lighting a field area. It is recommended that the lower field adjacent to Ellis Avenue be considered for the sports lighting and that any proposal for lighting include glare control to minimize light spillage.
- **Crows Woods**
- Consideration should be given to the installation of additional sports lighting with glare control shielding to limit off site glare, and the installation of storm drainage to fill in existing swale areas and create expanded field areas.

Recommendations



Radnor Field Complex

Parks and Recreation

- **Crows Woods**
- Consideration should be given to the installation of additional sports lighting with glare control shielding to limit off site glare, and the installation of storm drainage to fill in existing swale areas and create expanded field areas.
- **Radnor Field Complex**
- The basketball court and tennis courts need to be removed or replaced, and drainage improvements are required. Due the location of the facility and the lack of parking, it is not desirable to develop this complex in ways which would result in more intensive usage.
- **Scout Field**
- At the present time there is no identified need to change or modify the existing facilities at Scout Field. Any potential changes to the ball field area would only be conducted in conjunction with the creation of additional facilities elsewhere in the Borough.
- **Centennial Park**
- There was a need identified by local sports organizations to construct a concession building if this field is to continue to be used for game purposes.

Recommendations



Crows Woods

Open Space

- The Open Space areas throughout the Borough provide for a significant greenbelt along the northern and eastern perimeter of the Borough. Portions of this open space are within the Camden County Park system while other areas are Borough controlled. Some of these Open Space areas are accessible to the general public with developed trails and points of entry, while others areas are relatively inaccessible with little evidence of disturbance. At present, most of these areas are ecologically sound. Because they represent invaluable, non-replaceable resources, the Borough should make a concerted effort to protect, conserve and preserve these areas. Healthy forests should be maintained, waterways protected, invasive plant species eliminated and the Borough should carefully monitor the uses of these areas to prevent any future degradation.
- Based upon input received from the Borough Environmental Commission, it was agreed that the use of the undeveloped area of Crows Woods as an off-leash dog recreational facility is inconsistent with the protection, conservation and preservation of this area, and should be prohibited. Use of the trails in Crows Woods for walking, including walking with leashed dogs, however, should be encouraged by the Borough. This activity serves social and recreational purposes and does not potentially compromise the environmental integrity of the area. The Borough and the Environmental Commission should work with all community groups interested in using Crows Woods for social, educational and recreational activities to protect, conserve, preserve and maintain the area.
- It is recognized that an off leash dog activity has occurred for many years and has been officially permitted by Ordinance for the past four years in the wooded portion of Crows Woods. It is acknowledged that a sufficient constituency of Haddonfield residents enjoys this activity and desires an appropriate space for it to occur. Should the Borough consider an appropriate location for this type of facility in the future, it should be an area devoted exclusively for this activity to minimize safety, liability, environmental and design concerns. The designated area should be of sufficient size that can satisfy the needs of the potential users without adversely affecting other recreational opportunities.
- The Borough, together with organizations interested in off-leash dog recreational activity, should seek to work with the County and neighboring communities to find an effective regional solution to this need.

Recommendations



Mountwell Woods

Trails and Linkages

- The Borough should consider the costs and benefits of the development of a trail system which would provide safe pedestrian linkages between recreation areas as diverse as Crows Woods Recreation Complex, Scout Field, the Little League Complex, Haddonfield High School and the County Park system. Such a trail could follow the Cooper River through various county parklands and public open spaces and connect all of the Borough facilities listed above. The feasibility study of this trail system will need to identify and address the crossing of major roadways, such as Kings Highway and Ellis Street, and any potential environmental concerns relating to wetlands and flood plains in these areas.
- The neighboring communities and County are currently engaged in similar projects and the Borough should consider making connections to those systems. In addition to serving recreational needs, such a trail system within the Borough, and possibly beyond the borders, would have the beneficial effect of reducing the increased dependence upon automobiles to access recreation and park areas.
- The possible development of a Hadrosaurus Interpretive Trail within the County Parklands and the former borough sewage treatment site is in keeping with the intent of the Master Plan. The feasibility study for this trail has been completed in conjunction with the Environmental Commission.

Action Plan



Green Acres Field

- The parks and open space improvements recommended in this plan represent significant public investments that exceed the ability of the Borough to accomplish in any one year. Therefore, these improvements must be thoughtfully planned, programmed, and executed over a series of years and/or when resources are available. The Action Plan seeks to organize and prioritize these recommendations into a multi-year improvement plan to guide the Borough Commissioners in the allocation of limited resources. These priorities could be changed within the planning cycle based upon availability of funding. Three priorities are recommended:
- **Immediate Actions:** This category includes 1) improvements immediately warranted due to hazardous health or safety issues, 2) improvements that are very low cost or for which funding is currently allocated, and 3) activities, such as planning or design, that must be completed before improvements can be undertaken in later phases. This category may also include the completion of work or improvements already initiated or needed to increase the functionality of an existing facility. It is anticipated that these activities would be initiated within 1-2 years of adoption of the plan.
- **Mid-Term Actions:** This category would include improvements or activities that would be completed within 2-5 years of the plan and may include improvements that are planned or designed in the Immediate Action phase. It is further anticipated that improvements within this category would provide the broadest possible public benefit.
- **Long-Term Actions:** Recommendations assigned to this category are anticipated to be initiated within 5+ years of the adoption of the plan and may include improvements that are high cost and/or for which significant planning, design, and advance preparation work is required. Long-Term Actions may also include improvements which are not feasible or desirable prior a Mid-Term Action.

Action Plan



Mountwell Playground

- **Action Plan (cont.)**
- **Recommended Immediate Actions**
- Centennial Park: ADA improvements of existing facilities building in lower area adjacent to tennis courts.
- Green Acres Field: completion of parking area, ADA-accessibility improvements and re-grading of playing fields.
- Mountwell Park: reorientation and improvements of playing field and removal of backstop, swing frame, and dead tree.
- Crows Woods: Determination of the safety of the existing pavilion structure and possible removal and replacement.
- Mountwell Open Space: Study of the stabilization and re-naturalization of the pool area
- Feasibility study of the possible planning and design of a synthetic turf field facility within the Borough.
- The Borough, together with organizations interested in off-leash dog recreational activity, should seek to work with the County and neighboring communities to find an effective regional solution to this need.
- Linked Trail System: Initiation of a feasibility study by Environmental Commission.
- Overall Open Space: pursue measures related to the protection, restoration, monitoring and maintenance of all Borough Open Spaces, to be coordinated by the Environmental Commission.

Action Plan



Crows Woods

- **Action Plan (cont.)**
- **Recommended Mid-Term Actions**
- Centennial Park: re-grading of sloped area adjacent to playing fields in upper area and removal of timber seating areas. These improvements and provision of accessible walks and seating areas should be installed if this area continues to be used for organized games.
- Creation of a multipurpose general playing field synthetic turf area with lighting
- Crows Woods: improvements to access drive and parking area associated with community gardens.
- Elm Park: removal of deteriorated paved court and construction of new tot lot.
- Hadrosaurus Interpretive Trail: development of phase I of the trail by the County
- Centennial Park: installation of seasonal concession building (if necessary).
- Linked Trail System: development of initial phases recommended in feasibility study.
- Little League Complex: new (lower fields) restroom and meeting facilities.
- Crows Woods: installation of additional sports field lighting.
- Little League Complex: installation of sports field lighting.
- **Recommended Long-Term Actions**
- Linked Trail System: completion of final phases recommended in feasibility study
- Hadrosaurus Interpretive Trail: development of phase II of the trail by the County