

## SOUTHERN PARK SURVEY REPORT

The **Southern Park Ad-Hoc Committee** conducted a survey of Franklin Township residents to determine the interest for a park in the Franklin Park area of the community. The committee identified three parcels for potential park development including: the **Catalpa Property** on South Middlebush Road; the **Dunn and Gunther Farms** on South Middlebush Road; and a **Franklin Township Board of Education parcel** on Claremont Road which is earmarked for future school development. While the main focus was to gather input from property owners residing in the Franklin Park area the survey was also open to the entire Township in various formats.

A total of 2300 surveys were mailed to residents living within 1000 feet of the three parcels, the survey was available in the Townships 2009 Spring Newsletter and residents could also respond to the survey on the Township website.

- A total of four hundred and seventy-eight (478) surveys were received.
- A total of 228 surveys were returned from residents living within 1000 feet of the identified properties.
- One hundred and ninety-seven (197) responses were received from the online survey.
- Fifty-three (53) residents returned responses to the survey that appeared in the Township Newsletter.

**Franklin Park residents** were generally in favor of park development on Catalpa (56% in favor and 36% opposed) and Dunn and Gunther (54% in favor and 33% opposed). However, the majority of Franklin Park residents were opposed to development on the Claremont parcel (48% opposed and 28% in favor). The majority of recommendations from residents in the Franklin Park area were for passive to moderate park development. The recommendations included: trails for walking, running, and biking; nature trails; tot lots; and picnic areas. However, there was also a wide range of responses for active recreation including areas for: basketball; baseball/softball; bocce, boating; camping; concerts; cricket; a dog park; educational areas; fit trails; football; gardens; grills; historic preservation; hockey; lights; ponds; a pool; putting greens; racquetball; restrooms; a skate park; soccer; and volleyball.

The **online surveys** were generally in favor of park development on each parcel. While there were a wide range of responses, the top responses from the online survey included recommendations for: tot lots; walking paths; tennis; soccer; and cricket.

The **newsletter responses** were inconsistent with the other survey responses with opposition to park development on Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther, and more interest in park development on the Claremont parcel.

### **Based upon the four hundred and seventy-eight (478) surveys received:**

- A total of 236 (49%) supported a park at Catalpa and 155 (32%) were opposed to a park.
- A total of 250 (52%) supported a park at Dunn and Gunther and 144 (30%) opposed park development.
- A total of 175 (37%) supported park development on the Claremont parcel and 154 (32%) opposed development.

**Overall, there was a wide range of comments from residents including:** comments in support of developing a park; comments in favor of leaving the property undeveloped; and comments in favor of historic preservation. Some residents (primarily from Franklin Park) recommended no development in order to: maintain natural areas; to maintain agricultural areas; to prevent an increase in taxes; to prevent additional traffic; and to prevent hang outs and delinquent behavior. However, other residents felt that Franklin Township is lacking facilities that other communities have. Online responses also included recommendations for: a YM/YWCA; more facilities for sports leagues; a teen center in Somerset; a turf field; and a community water park.

When evaluating these properties, the **Southern Park Ad-Hoc Committee** looked at both the positive points and the potential negative issues which may impact park development.

- Park development on the Claremont piece would be contingent upon future school needs and availability of space. As school needs always have priority, an agreement regulating priority access for community activities and maintenance would be required.
- The Dunn and Gunther Farms are located in an historic district, on a scenic byway and on the State and National Registers of Historic Properties. While there is interest in providing for active and passive recreation on the Dunn and Gunther tract, it would be necessary to insure preservation of the historic and agricultural heritage of this property. Preservation will substantially limit the amount of space available for active recreation development.
- The Catalpa property was purchased by the Township for future park and conservation purposes. However, Catalpa has a variety of natural areas that might limit development for active recreation including a wooded tract, a stream and interior wetland areas.

The primary interest of Franklin Park residents within 1000 feet of these properties is for passive to medium activity. However, based on athletic field deficits and demand, additional space is desired for active recreation. While these properties may not meet the overall athletic facility needs of the community, due to natural limitations and preservation goals, park development is recommended at some of these locations to continue to meet the recreational needs of the community.

#### **Claremont Parcel**

Since future access may be limited, park development is not recommended at this time. However, the Township should maintain open communication with the Franklin Township Board of Education regarding the need to preserve as much land as possible on this tract for active recreation for area residents as well as school children. The Township may want to consider a joint project with the Franklin Township Board of Education regarding development of athletic fields for community use, once a school facility is located on this property. An inter-local service agreement for future use of athletic fields on this parcel would be recommended.

#### **Dunn and Gunther Farms**

The Southern Park Ad-Hoc Committee is interested in preserving the historical and agricultural heritage of this property. However, they do see the potential for using a portion of the property for active recreation. When we discussed the property with Tom D'Amico from the Somerset County Planning Board, he felt that our proposal for cricket/soccer fields on the two fields closest to the corner of South Middlebush Rd. and Suydam Rd. did not detract from the integrity of the historic significance of the property. However, he did indicate that the town would still have to apply to the NJDEP, Division of Natural & Historic Resources/Historic Preservation for any projects on the property that were not involved with historic preservation. He also indicated several points of concern in the application including:

1. The need to have support of the Historic Preservation Commission and other Historic Preservation groups that would share interest in the property.
2. The potential need for a professional study indicating the need for more facilities for active recreation.
3. The need to indicate if there are any alternatives.

#### **Catalpa Parcel**

The Catalpa property was purchased by the Township for future park and conservation purposes and should fulfill the goal of a community park. This property has the potential to accommodate one cricket field, and two soccer or softball fields. There appears to also be sufficient space for several court surfaces



		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
BOE 200	22	4	6	7	8	8	9	6	10
BOE 200+	49	13	8	47	28	44	28	20	40
c200	56	7	5	25	17	24	15	11	22
C200+	75	16	4	42	24	37	16	19	31
d200	7	0	0	1	1	2	3	1	3
D200+	19	5	1	6	5	9	4	6	4
subtotal	228	45	24	128	83	124	75	63	110
newsletter	53	3	8	3	42	0	43	27	11
online	197	148	20	105	30	126	26	85	33
Total	478	196	52	236	155	250	144	175	154

**A total of 2300 surveys were mailed to residents that live within 1000 feet of the three parcels in consideration for park development in the Franklin Park area of the community. A total of 228 surveys or (10%) were returned. Fifty-three (53) residents returned responses to the survey in the Township Newsletter. Also, 197 responses were received to the online survey available on the Township website.**

### **Claremont/BOE Responses**

Of the twenty-two (22) responses from residents living within 200 feet of the Claremont/BOE parcel, eight to ten (8-10) residents were opposed to park development on all three of the parcels while six to eight (6-8) residents responded in favor of park development. (Ratio of 2:1 in opposition to park development.)

Approximately 90-98% of the 49 responses from residents living with property located 200(+) to 1000 feet from the Claremont/BOE parcel were in favor of park development on the Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther parcels (ratio of approximately 11:7 in favor of development). Forty (40) responses representing 81% were opposed to park development on the Claremont/BOE parcel which was 200% more than the twenty (20) residents that were in favor of development on that property (ratio of 2:1 in opposition to park development at the Claremont/BOE location).

### **Catalpa Responses**

The majority of the Catalpa area residents were in favor of development on the Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther parcels while they were opposed to development on the Claremont/BOE parcel. Approximately 45% of the respondents within 200 feet were in favor (ratio of 3:1) of park development on the Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther while 30% were opposed to development. Approximately 56% of residents living with property located 200(+) to 1000 feet from the Catalpa property were in favor (ratio of 5:3) of park development on Catalpa and approximately 49% were in favor of development on the Dunn and Gunther property.

### **Dunn and Gunther Responses**

Of the seven (7) responses from residents within 200 feet of the Dunn and Gunther Farm, three (3) were opposed to park development on this property while one (1) was in favor. Residents were also opposed to development on the other parcels.

Nineteen (19) responses were received from the residents with property located 200(+) to 1000 feet from the Dunn and Gunther Farm. Six to nine (6-9) were in favor of park development while four to five (4-5) were opposed to development.

## Newsletter Responses

The majority of the fifty-three (53) responses were opposed to park development on the Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther, while twenty-seven (27) responses were received in favor of development on the Claremont/BOE parcel.

## Online Responses

One hundred and ninety-seven (197) online responses were received. One hundred and twenty-six (126) responses were in favor of development on Dunn and Gunther, one hundred and five (105) for Catalpa and eighty-five (85) for Claremont/BOE. The responses in favor of park development outnumber the responses opposed to development by 300%.

## Review

A total of four hundred and seventy-eight (478) surveys were received. Residents in the Franklin Park area favored park development on Catalpa (56% Yes and 36% No) and Dunn and Gunther (54% Yes and 33% No). The majority of Franklin Park residents were opposed to development on the Claremont parcel (48% No and 28% Yes). The recommendations from residents in the Franklin Park area in support of park development were generally for passive to moderate park development. The recommendations included: trails for walking, running, and biking; nature trails; tot lots; and picnic area. However, there were a wide range of responses for active recreation including: basketball, baseball/softball, bocce, boating, camping, concert area, cricket, dog park, education area, fit trails, football, gardens, grills, historic preservation, hockey, lights, ponds, pool, putting greens, racquetball, restrooms, skate park, soccer, and volleyball.

The newsletter responses appear inconsistent with the other responses.

While there was a wide range of responses from the online survey as well, the top responses from the online survey included recommendations for: tot lots, walking paths, tennis, soccer and cricket.

Of the total four hundred and seventy-eight (478) surveys received, 196 (41%) were in favor of park development and 52 (10%) were opposed to park development. A total of 236 (49%) supported a park at Catalpa and 155 (32%) opposed a park. A total of 250 (52%) supported a park at Dunn and Gunther and 144 (30%) opposed development. A total of 175 (37%) supported park development on the Claremont parcel and 154 (32%) opposed development.

There were a wide range of comments in support of developing a park, leaving the property undeveloped and maintaining historic preservation. Some residents (primarily Franklin Park residents) recommended no development in order to maintain natural areas, to maintain agricultural areas, to prevent an increase in taxes, to prevent additional traffic, and to prevent hang outs conducive to delinquent behavior. However, other residents felt that Franklin was lacking facilities that other communities had. Online responses also included recommendations for a YM/YWCA, more facilities for sports leagues, a teen center in Somerset, a turf field, and a community water park.

## Newsletter

	# of surveys	Interested in having park in community		Catalpa Site	Catalpa Site	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Claremont Rd.	Claremont Rd.
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
newsletter	53	3	8	3	42	0	43	27	11

**Fifty-three (53) surveys were received from the Newsletter.**

- Forty-two (42) people did not want park development on Catalpa
- Forty-three (43) people did not want park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Twenty-seven (27) people were in favor of park development on Claremont/BOE and 11 people did not want park development

### Comments

- Three (3) people were in favor of active recreation on Catalpa
- Two (2) people were in favor of community gardens on Dunn and Gunther
- The remainder felt that nothing should be done, left as farming or natural, no active recreation, no lights, no traffic, no increase in taxes

### Other Newsletter Comments

- No access roads
- No new taxes

### Claremont Road /BOE

	# of surveys	Interested in having park in community		Catalpa Site		Dunn& Gunther Farm		Claremont Rd.	
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
<b>BOE 200</b>	22	4	6	7	8	8	9	6	10
<b>BOE 500</b>	49	12	8	47	28	44	28	20	40

### Twenty-two (22) surveys were received from residents within 200 feet of the Claremont Road/BOE parcel

In each case more people were opposed to park development on each of the parcels

- Eight or 35% responses were **opposed to park** development on Catalpa
- Seven or 31% responses were in favor of park development on Catalpa
- Nine or 41% responses were **opposed to park** development on Dunn and Gunther
- Eight or 36% responses were in favor of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Ten or 45% responses were **opposed to park** development on the **Claremont Road/BOE parcel**
- Six or 27% responses were in favor of park development on the **Claremont Road/BOE parcel**

### Comments for Catalpa

- Five (5) recommendations for walking paths and fitness trails
- Four or less (4 <) recommendations for baseball, basketball, bike path, bocce, cricket, dog park, garden, nature trails, nothing, open field, picnic areas, pond, putting green, tennis, tot lot, bird boxes

### Comments for Dunn and Gunther

- Eight (8) recommendations for walking
- Seven (7) recommendations for running

- Five or less (5 <) for baseball, basketball, bike path, bocce, dog park, fit trails, nature trails, nothing, picnic areas, pond, putting green, tot lot

### Comments for Claremont/BOE

- Seven (7) people recommended no improvements
- Three or less (3 <) recommended baseball, basketball, cricket, fit trails, meditation/rest areas, nature trails, putting green, tot lot, volleyball, walking

### Other Claremont/BOE 200 Comments

- The whole country is running at a deficit. This is not the time to spend but to tighten belts
- Park should have a place to exercise, run and stay fit. It should also have activity play grounds for children
- Model after Colonial Park and include baseball diamond
- Part of the reason why I moved here is that there were still untouched/undeveloped properties nearby
- Recreation Facilities are needed in this heavily populated area (Any of the 3 choices would be welcome)
- Due to increase in gang activities, there are problems with arson and drug vandalism. There has been an increase in traffic and residential congestion and high taxes/bad economy. You should focus on cutting expenses. It's harder and harder to control adolescent/teens hanging out - these are too close to residential developments.
- Maintain Catalpa and Dunn/Gunther trees, as passive open space. Claremont is a central location for a new park.
- Too much traffic and congestion in this area already. No need to add more
- Any park development anywhere in OUR Township is happily welcomed!!!

**Forty-nine (49) surveys were received from residents within 500 feet of the Claremont Road/BOE parcel**  
 More Residents within 500 feet of **the Claremont Road/BOE parcel** were in favor of park development on Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther then those opposed to park development.

- Twenty-eight or 57% responses were opposed to park development on **Catalpa**
- Forty-seven or **96% responses were in favor** of park development on **Catalpa**
- Twenty-eight or 57% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Forty-four or **90% responses were in favor** of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Forty or **82% responses were opposed** to park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Twenty or 41% responses were in favor of park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Seventeen or 36% responses were opposed to park development on Catalpa
- **Twenty-five or 51% responses were in favor** of park development on Catalpa
- Fifteen or 31% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther
- **Twenty-four or 49% responses were in favor** of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- **Twenty-two or 45% responses were opposed** to park development on **Claremont Road/BOE parcel**
- Eleven or 22% responses were in favor of park development on **Claremont Road/BOE parcel**

### Comments for Catalpa

- Seventeen (17) people recommended walking paths
- Twelve (12) recommendations for bike paths

- Ten (10) recommendations for nature trails
- Nine (9) recommended a tot lot
- Six to eight (6-8) recommendations for basketball, baseball, fitness trails, picnic area, soccer and tennis
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, concert area, dog park, education area, gardens, historic, horseshoes, nothing, pond, pool, putting green, restrooms, running track, skate park, soccer, softball, volleyball, water fountain.

### **Comments for Dunn & Gunther**

- Fifteen (15) recommended a tot lot
- Twenty-one (21) people recommended walking paths
- Eleven (11) recommendations for bike paths
- Six to nine (6-9) recommendations for basketball, dog park, garden, nothing, picnic area
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, bocce, community center, cricket, frisbee golf, nature trails, pond, putting green, restrooms, running track, skate park, soccer, softball, volleyball
- Three or less (3 <) people recommended adult athletic fields, basketball, bike paths, bocce, dog park, education about nature and farming, frisbee, garden, open field, pond, restrooms, running track, skate park, soccer, tennis

### **Comments for Claremont/BOE**

- Six to eight (6-8) recommendations for walking paths, basketball, and a tot lot
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, bike path, dog park, fit trails, hockey, lights, nature trails, nothing, picnic areas, pond, putting green, restrooms, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, water fountain

### **Other Claremont/BOE 500 Comments**

- If you can, do a sidewalk around Claremont Rd. so people won't walk on the road.
- Just keep any new park "low-key." We don't need a major tourist attraction
- Adding a park at Dunn & Gunther would only make the traffic intersection with South Middlebush worse
- Bike and walking paths
- Really would like a path to walk, roller blade, skate, and bike
- Keep the open space "open." We do not need additional parks. The current ones are underutilized and we do not have the money to pay for upkeep
- Spot lights for specific days and times of the week would give New York City commuters and late workers an opportunity to enjoy the parks
- We have an issue with gangs in this area. It is hard enough keeping them from gathering on our private property - we have police surveillance- which we pay additional for Society Hill Association. Vandalism is a reality
- Beekman Road needs speed bumps installed to reduce speeding. A traffic light should be put up at the corner of Beekman & S. Middlebush roads.
- Keep the open space; don't destroy the nature
- Some sort of a fitness center for children (low-cost) and transportation
- Parks attract riff-raff. Keep it the way it is!
- More resources are needed for Parks and Recreation
- How I wish we had this before - a nice place to live. Anyway, my children would like to live here and for the next generation. God bless on you all undertakings, I can't wait!!!

- Place to relax and rest
- There is already enough traffic on South Middlebush Rd. and the parks would only add more
- IN GENERAL I THINK PARKS SHOULD BE FUN FOR BOTH KIDS AND ADULTS. They should not ground only for children
- As a graduate of Cook College at Rutgers University, I would like to bring some of those agricultural/farm activities to the locals of Franklin Township. I would be interested in participating on a planning or events committee. I am also very interested in developing a dog park that I can easily walk to from my home
- This township needs turf fields for soccer, football, and lacrosse

## Catalpa

	# of surveys	Interested in having park in community	Not Interested in having park in community	Catalpa Site	Catalpa Site	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Claremont Rd.	Claremont Rd.
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
c200	56	7	5	25	17	24	15	11	22
c500	75	16	4	42	24	37	16	19	31

### Fifty-six (56) surveys were received from residents within 200 feet of the Catalpa parcel

More Residents within 200 feet of Catalpa were in favor of park development on Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther than those opposed to park development.

- Seventeen or 30% responses were opposed to park development on **Catalpa**
- Twenty-five or **45% responses were in favor** of park development on **Catalpa**
- Fifteen or 27% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Twenty-four or **43% responses were in favor** of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Twenty-two or **39% responses were opposed** to park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Eleven or 20% responses were in favor of park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel

## Comments for Catalpa

- Fifteen (15) recommended a tot lot
- Seventeen (17) people recommended walking paths
- Six to nine (6-9) recommendations for bike paths, nature trails, nothing, picnic area, running track
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, basketball, bocce, camping, cricket, education area, fit trail, hockey, lights, meditation area, pond, putting green, restrooms, skate park, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball
- Twelve (12) recommendations for active sports

## Comments for Dunn and Gunther

- Nine (9) recommended a tot lot
- Ten (10) people recommended walking paths
- Nine (9) people recommended doing nothing
- Seven (7) people recommended tennis
- Six (6) people recommended picnic areas

- Four or less (4 <) people recommended baseball, basketball, bike paths, bocce, cricket, concert area, dog park, education area, garden, historic preservation, nature trails, putting green, doing nothing, restrooms, running track, skate park, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, water fountain
- Eight (8) recommendations for active sports

### Comments for Claremont/BOE

- Eight (8) people recommended a tot lot
- Seven (7) people recommended walking paths
- Three or less (3 <) people recommended adult athletic fields, basketball, bike paths, bocce, dog park, education about nature and farming, frisbee, garden, open field, pond, restrooms, running track, skate park, soccer, tennis
- Seven (7) recommendations for active sports

### Other Catalpa 200 Comments

- No parks off Vliet Rd.; existing problems w/drugs area in the site
- Nature (walking paths); police patrol
- Taxes increased, government spending is out of control.
- There are plenty of parks
- The park should not be too close to school or residential community
- Please leave the park properties as natural as possible
- For all the open space that Franklin Township has it is quite underutilized. There should be more hiking and other recreational activities organized to take advantage of all our open space. There isn't even a 4H club in Franklin Township. There absolutely should be one
- Our senior population and all other adults have no place to go on a Sunday afternoon, a building to house a dance house, a small dance floor, where we can spend a few hours on a Sunday afternoon either dancing or relaxing. There or so much we are missing that other community have
- Would like it to be similar to Sourland Mountain Preserve in Hillsborough
- This is great idea for future development of our township!
- Hopefully the speed limits for South Middlebush Rd. will change. Cars drive too fast.
- If we can have all three parks great, if our taxes will rise one park will do
- Maintain farming on all 3 locations.
- From a traffic safety standpoint, Catalpa seems to be the only piece of property that makes sense for a public area.
- We need more recreational area for children to play without adding hangout spots for derelicts to get into trouble
- Walking paths, biking, skating (ice) ring, children would enjoy a fountain they could play on similar to the ones found in amusement park

### Seventy-five (75) surveys were received from residents within 500 feet of the Catalpa parcel

More Residents within 500 feet of Catalpa were in favor of park development on Catalpa and Dunn and Gunther then those opposed to park development.

- Twenty-four or 32% responses were opposed to park development on **Catalpa**
- Forty-two or **56% responses were in favor** of park development on **Catalpa**
- Sixteen or 21% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Thirty-seven or **49% responses were in favor** of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Thirty-one or **41% responses were opposed** to park development on the Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Nineteen or 25% responses were in favor of park development on the Claremont Road/BOE parcel

## **Comments for Catalpa**

- Thirty (30) recommendations for walking trails
- Twenty-three (23) recommendations for a tot lot
- Eighteen (18) recommendations for bike paths
- Thirteen (13) recommendations for picnic areas
- Ten (10) recommendations for no development
- Six to nine (6-9) recommendations for basketball, dog park, garden, nature trails, pond, tennis
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, camping, card tables, concert area, cricket, fit trails, open fields, petting zoo, restrooms, running trail, soccer, softball, stage, tai chi area
- Nineteen (19) recommendations for active sports

## **Comments for Dunn and Gunther**

- Twenty-one (21) recommendations for walking trails
- Fifteen (15) recommendations for a tot lot
- Eleven (11) recommendations for bike paths
- Six to nine (6-9) recommendations for basketball, dog park, garden, nothing, picnic area
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, bocce, community center, cricket, fit trail, natural trail, open fields, pond, putting green, restrooms, running trails, skate park, soccer, softball, volleyball
- Nineteen (19) recommendations for active sports

## **Comments for Claremont/BOE**

- Fifteen (15) recommendations for walking trails
- Eleven (11) recommendations for a tot lot
- Six to seven (6-7) recommendations for basketball, nothing, running, tennis,
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for baseball, athletic fields, bike path, concert area, cricket, dog park, fit trails, garden, grills, nature trails, open fields, petting zoo, picnic area, pond, pool, restrooms, skate park, soccer, softball
- Fourteen (14) recommendations for active sports

## **Other Catalpa 500 Comments**

- A walking track on South Middlebush Rd. and bike trails
- We don't need a park built on this end of the township if it's going to bring bad elements - drugs, alcohol, hangouts
- Need a recreational club for Franklin Township with indoor activities
- Fix what you have. "First" help the kids in the Somerset section, fix the ball fields
- Good idea. Franklin could use a local park
- Keep the parks nature themed. Enough recreation parks exist. We don't want to attract gangs.
- I'd like to see wooded areas preserved. I'd also like to see less garbage on the streets (Old Vliet & Butler)
- Make sure adequate parking is provided, community park in North Brunswick is great
- Closed in picnic area/cabin by reservation only with small access fee of \$15-25
- Information signs about wildlife or history, either by Township or volunteer group, that are both informative and interesting
- Fix up the other existing parks - tour the parks; look at the condition of what is already existing; look at the deterioration; and improve the grounds, baseball courts, fields etc.

- Please contact us for any other meetings or events on this project Catalpa- we are concerned about losing our quiet peaceful neighborhood and concerned about increase in traffic
- It is good to see that finally something recreational will be available in this part of the township
- We need a place for children to safely play and adults to be outdoors (walking & jogging). Create a family environment.
- I believe you should be honest with the people and let them know ahead of time if there would be a tax increase as these are troubled times.
- Splash Pond Water Park

**Dunn & Gunther**

	# of surveys	Interested in having park in community		Catalpa Site		Dunn& Gunther Farm		Claremont Rd.	
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no
<b>d200</b>	7			1	1	2	3	1	3
<b>d500</b>	19	5	1	6	5	9	4	6	4

**Seven (7) surveys were received from residents within 200 feet of the Dunn & Gunther parcel**

More Residents within 200 feet of Dunn & Gunther were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther and on the Claremont/BOE parcels then those in favor of park development.

- One or 14% responses were opposed to park development on Catalpa
- One or 14% responses were in favor of park development on Catalpa
- Three or **43% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther**
- Two or 29% responses were in favor of park development on **Dunn and Gunther**
- Three or **43% responses were opposed** to park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- One or 14% responses were in favor of park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel

**Catalpa**

- One (1) recommendation for tennis and baseball

**Dunn & Gunther**

- Two (2) responses recommending running track, basketball, play ground, swimming pool, tennis, walking path, skateboard ramps, basketball courts, biking path

**Claremont**

- One (1) response recommending running track, basketball, play ground, swimming pool, tennis

**Other Dunn & Gunther 200 Comments**

- None

**Nineteen (19) surveys were received from residents within 500 feet of the Dunn & Gunther parcel**

More Residents within 500 feet of Dunn & Gunther were in favor of park development on all three parcels then those opposed to park development. Most were in favor of development on Dunn and Gunther.

- Five or 26% responses were opposed to park development on Catalpa
- Six or **32% responses were in favor** of park development on Catalpa

- Four or 21% responses were opposed to park development on **Dunn and Gunther**
- Nine or **47% responses were in favor** of park development on **Dunn and Gunther**
- Four or 21% responses were opposed to park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Six or **32% responses were in favor** of park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel

**Catalpa**

- Seven (7) recommendations for Tennis
- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for soccer, tot lot, basketball, jogging biking, picnic area, boating, volleyball, fit trail, baseball, soccer, softball, walking paths, restrooms, picnic area, track, racquetball, swimming.
- Eight (8) recommendations for active sports

**Dunn & Gunther**

- Six to seven (6-7) recommendations for tennis, tot lot and basketball
- Four or less (4 <) recommendations for jogging/ running trails, soccer field, bicycle trails, leave as preserved farmland and open space, swimming pool, skate park, solar panel farm or wind mill farm, sand volleyball court, softball field, soccer field, walking path, restroom facilities, picnic tables, racquetball, baseball
- Seven (7) recommendations for active sports

**Claremont**

- Five or less (5 <) recommendations for open space, farmland, school, tennis courts, tot lot, basketball court, jogging, bike trail, picnic area, basketball area, rest rooms, science museum like the Monmouth science, softball field, soccer field, walking/jogging path, restroom facilities, picnic tables
- Four (4) recommendations for active sports

**Other Dunn & Gunther 500 Comments**

- Keep Franklin historical. Respect farmers; only few left
- Other communities have pools complete with swim teams and lessons. I would love to see Franklin put in a pool complete with full recreation area.
- No development on DUNN&GUNTHER - will increase traffic on the historic Suydam Rd.
- No baseball or soccer fields. Why aren't you putting up solar panels or wind farms for township
- I would like to see a museum dedicated to local history
- Dunn & Gunther farm would be very inappropriate and inconvenient because of the traffic problems it would create at the South Middlebush Road / Suydam intersection.

**On-line Survey**

	# of surveys	Interested in having park in community	Not Interested in having park in community	Catalpa Site	Catalpa Site	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Dunn& Gunther Farm	Claremont Rd.	Claremont Rd.
		yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no

online	197	148	20	105	30	126	26	85	33
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**One Hundred and ninety-seven (197) residents responded to the online survey**

**One hundred and forty-eight (148) or 75% were in favor of park development and they are listed in order of preference**

- Twenty (20) or 10% of the residents were opposed to park development
- Twenty-six or 13% responses were opposed to park development on Dunn and Gunther
- One hundred and Twenty-six or **64% responses were in favor** of park development on Dunn and Gunther
- Thirty or 15% responses were opposed to park development on Catalpa
- One hundred and five or **53% responses were in favor** of park development on Catalpa
- Thirty-three or 17% responses were opposed to park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel
- Eighty-five or **43% responses were in favor** of park development on Claremont Road/BOE parcel

**Catalpa**

- Thirty-eight (38) recommendations for tot lot
- Twenty-eight (28) recommendations for walking
- Twenty-eight (28) recommendations for tennis
- Thirty-three (33) recommendations for soccer
- Twenty-one (21) recommendations for cricket
- Ten to nineteen (10-19) recommendations for athletic fields, baseball, basketball, bike paths, nature trails, open fields, picnic areas, running track
- Nine or fewer (9 <) recommendations for bocce, camping, concert area, dog park, education area, fit trails, football, gardens, grills, historic preservation, hockey, lights, pond, pool, putting green, restrooms, skate park, softball, volleyball, water fountains.
- Eighty-one (81) recommendation for sports

**Dunn & Gunther**

- Thirty-six (36) recommendations for soccer
- Thirty-three (33) recommendations for cricket
- Thirty (30) recommendations for tot lot
- Twenty-seven (27) recommendations for walking
- Twenty-four (24) recommendations for tennis
- Ten to nineteen (10-19) recommendations for baseball, basketball, bike path, picnic area
- Nine or fewer (9 <) recommendations for athletic fields, camping, dog park, education area, fit trails, football, gardens, grills, historic pre, hockey, lights, nature trails, nothing, open field, pond, pool, putting green, restrooms, running trail, skate park, softball, volleyball, water fountains softball, volleyball, water fountains.
- Eighty-eight (88) recommendation for sports

**Claremont/BOE**

- Thirty (30) recommendations for tot lot
- Twenty-one (21) recommendations for soccer
- Ten to sixteen (10-16) recommendations for baseball, cricket, nothing, picnic area, tennis, walking
- Nine or fewer (9 <) recommendations for basketball, bike path, bocce, camping, concert area, dog park, education area, fit trails, football, gardens, grills, historic preservation, lights, nature trails, open field, pond, restrooms, running trail, skate park, softball, volleyball, walking, water fountain.

- Fifty-eight (58) recommendation for sports

## Other Online Comments

- Cricket
- I think a litter team for the Township needs to be put together. I live on Canal Rd. and the litter that is strewn there and South Middlebush is just reprehensible.
- This is very necessary. There is no decent public park in the southern part of Franklin
- We already have plenty of parks in Franklin Township and Somerset County. This is not the time to be spending money on things that aren't absolutely necessary!
- Recreation areas should be safe, well lighted, and maintained
- Leave this property for school and athletic fields
- What Somerset/Franklin really needs YMCA/YWCA or a community
- It really nice to see the Township growing, facilitating and helping the community and the children
- The Township as all Townships develops to a point of congestion so it is imperative that we preserve open space and areas where others can see what was and have an appreciation for the beauty of each site. These are living outdoor museums of buildings and grounds or preserved forests for future generations
- Please leave the Dunn and Gunther property as is.
- We need to provide more outdoor recreation areas for the children of the township. With the growth we've seen, we have more children now than before
- We need all types of sporting fields, soccer, football and baseball. Field for men's baseball, softball fields for men and women adult leagues, boys baseball, and girls softball fields. As vice president for one of the Township little leagues I see what the surrounding towns do for the children in there community. There is a park in Hillsborough called AVM park the ball fields there are ideal for what our Township needs for baseball and softball needs and they are lighted. Thanks for taking the time to read my suggestions
- For the 5th best place to live in the United States, it is hard to believe when I look around at the playing fields available to my children to utilize. The soccer fields at Sampson G are in poor condition. Rarely is the grass even cut before the game. My kids play travel soccer and when we travel to the other Township I am jealous of the facilities available to them. I look at the amount of money I pay yearly in taxes and I look at the playing fields my kids use and it is, to say the least, depressing. It's a wonder we don't have more turned ankles with the condition of the available fields. The ratio of fields to teams with the number of kids in the travel soccer program alone (not to mention recreation) is no where near what it should be
- Build a teen center on this side of Franklin. There is no place for the kids to hang out and be safe
- Has the committee looked into other properties in the southern part of the township which could be used for active recreation?
- I would rather see an alternative school more than anything! We have many serious issues in our schools where an alternative school would solve a lot of them
- An annual fee for park usage (small) for special events and occasions. The park should provide for the arts in the park and leisure activities
- I would love to have park close to our home! I think Catalpa is closest for me (we live in Kingston)
- This is long overdue; most parks in town are in disrepair. Look to South Brunswick to see how township parks should look- especially for baseball fields. Their fields put ours to shame.
- The town needs soccer fields, and preferably a turf field
- At any of the parks, it would be wonderful to have a paved bike path a large wooden structure play ground... maybe even some water (a pond or fountain)

- Thompson Park in Colts Neck is great mix of nature (horse stable, hiking) and sports (soccer, etc.) fields. It provides a use for almost all who love some aspect of being outdoors, rather than limiting functionality to "conservation"
- I would not want to spoil "nature" but, it would also be nice to have more gathering places. Family's could go and have picnics and enjoy the scenery. We also could use places where people could enjoy sports. Baseball, basketball, tennis
- I would like to have a small water park with sprinkler systems, picnic area, and playground all in the same area. This would make for a nice low-cost / no-cost summer activity for families. East Brunswick has much large scale water park "Crystal Springs" that charges a fee, but a small enough version for low-cost or no-cost would be nice in Franklin.
- Please put the old Pleasant Plains school house (that's at the municipal center) on this spot. It is very close to historical location. Maybe even turn it into a small museum. Also call this park Pleasant Plains Park.
- These parks should not become hot spots for teenage kids to get into unwanted activities. Please add sufficient budget for security and watch groups
- All of these areas are already heavy traffic areas. If you put in a park the traffic would be intolerable.
- I heard rumors that there are going to be soccer fields created on one of these properties. Being a soccer coach myself, I know the noise and traffic this means. I would hate to see Catalpa used for this as there are neighborhoods in that location. The traffic and noise would wreck the nature trail. I can't imagine Bunker Hill Golf Course would like that either.
- There are not enough little league baseball fields in town for our kids to practice on or play games. We have about 16 teams that would be able to play on these fields. Now they are playing on 2 fields and have to practice on whatever piece of grass we can find. The 2 fields we have now are for games only and no practice. The reason I said little league baseball fields is that we have fields in town but they are softball fields - no pitching mounds.
- With the increase in condo, townhome, and apartment living in the twp I think there is a need for a community garden program in Franklin, I'm sure this would be a very popular program. Residents are charged a minimal fee for a plot of land approximately 10x10 ft. Lawrence Township runs a successful program every year that is run by the recreation committee. They plow the area once in the spring and provide a water truck so that residents can water in times of drought. The residents do the rest and its all at very little cost to the twp. I think this would be a great program which would allow residents to come together, grow some of their own food, save some money, share and have fun. You might want to contact Lawrence Township to get the details on how they run their program if you are interested.
- Thousands of children live in this area, but because of travel time to other locations they do not get an opportunity to participate in any recreational activity; this causes children to miss out on healthy and max productivity of their lives.

**Attachment B**  
**Stoofhoff Gunther Farmstead**  
**Franklin Township, Somerset County**

History

The Stoothoff/Gunther/Suydam farmstead

- Is linked to an original Dutch settler families in Franklin
- Is one of earliest buildings in the township, with the original dwelling built in the 1740s
- Retains several noteworthy farm outbuildings
- Has been continuously farmed for more than 270 years
- Presents an opportunity for insight into 20<sup>th</sup> century farming
- Is part of a scenic view shed
- Has been well documented
- Preservation is in keeping with the goals of the Franklin Township Master Plan
- Was analyzed in an Historic Structures Report as the basis of a Preservation Plan

Site Description

The Stoothoff/Sudam/Gunther farmstead is a contributing property within the Six Mile Run Historic District (SMRHD) listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places, located on South Middlebush Road, a designated Scenic Corridor. The Township owns the property and while the master plan gives agricultural heritage priority, no specific plans have been made.

The Stoothoff/Suydam/Gunther farm was built by one of Franklin Township's founding families in 1741 and property is still farmed today. Located on Block 36, Lots 11.01 and 11.02, the site is well documented. The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of 1940 includes photographs, architectural drawings and 7 pages of history and description. In these records, the farmstead is known as the Cornelius Stoothoff house and it is noted that the condition at that time was original and well maintained.

Proposed Use

- Honor Franklin’s agricultural heritage.
  - Continue tenant farming with periodic on-site visits by schoolchildren to see how farming is done today and learn about Franklin’s agricultural heritage.
  - Establish agriculture and food-based programs such as community gardens, Edible Garden program, colonial gardening and cooking,
  - Display and interpret farm equipment, farmstead culture in Franklin, role of women on farms and in Franklin, etc.
  - Recognize the unique opportunity this farm represents to allow the public to interactively experience farming on the local level. It should be noted that:
    - Franklin has a number of farms protected under the farmland preservation program, but these are not open to the public
    - Meadows Foundation properties, which are open to the public, such as the Hageman Farm, still have historic farm features, but the intended use is not for farming, but for cultural programming.

### Goal

To stabilize the farmhouse with a preservation treatment approach and to assess feasibility of proposed use as honoring the agricultural heritage of Franklin Township.

### PART 1

Anticipated funding from the 2009 Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant

- Develop a stabilization plan and prepare documents to support stabilization.
- Act as stabilization project manager using qualified contractors.
- A stabilization plan may include projects listed in Attachment A

### PART 2

Anticipated funding from the 2009 Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund Historic Site Management Grants in the range \$50,000

- Prepare an update to the June 2004 Cornelius Stoothoff House Historic Structures Report as well as develop a Preservation Plan and feasibility study
- Documents to be prepared and suggested supporting procedures are listed in Attachment B and/or C

## Attachment A Stoofhoff Gunther Farmstead

Proposed stabilization procedures to be supported by the 2009 Somerset County Historic Preservation Grant

- Perform termite inspection providing necessary prevention and remove vermin.
- Perform inspection of structural framing; complete probes to determine extent of structural deterioration and propose mitigation.
- Repair urgent structural issues.
- Repair gutters and drainage system. Regrade at base of building to keep water from infiltrating building and foundation.
- Remove vegetation growth around building.
- Conduct mortar analysis at foundation as support for repointing.
- Repoint foundation; spot repoint at interior as necessary.
- Conduct professional inspection with mortar analysis of chimneys as support for repairs.
- Repoint and rebuilt existing chimneys as required based on professional inspection.
- Repair/replace deteriorated wood trim and repaint.
- Repair and repaint exterior doors insuring exterior can be secured.
- Install ventilation system on a thermostat.
- Inspect lightning protection system; upgrade as necessary.
- Install new exterior lighting system.
- Secure/fence off outbuildings for security purposes.
- Other necessary emergency remediation determined by site visit

## Attachment B Stoofoff Gunther Farmstead

Documentation to be developed with the 2009 New Jersey Historic Trust Grant

- Update June 2004 Cornelius Stoothoff House Historic Structures Report prepared Ford Farewell Mills and Gatch, Architects, LLC for Franklin Township as required. Revised cost estimates should be included.
- Prepare Preservation Plan

Possible supporting procedures in plan preparation and/or implementation:

- Perform inspection of structural framing; complete probes to determine extent of structural deterioration and propose mitigation.
- Conduct archaeological testing to determine presence of early porches, stoops, or wings.
- Conduct in-depth historic/structural evaluation of outbuildings.
- Conduct probes of exterior siding to check framing for damage and report findings.
- Conduct a property survey to check for the presence of hazardous materials.
- Perform Level I environmental property survey.
- Set up maintenance and monitoring plan.

## Attachment C Stoofhoff Gunther Farmstead

Report to be developed with the 2009 New Jersey Historic Trust Grant

- Conduct market/feasibility study for proposed use: to honor Franklin's agricultural heritage.  
To be addressed:
  - Will the community support an active agricultural heritage site for locals and heritage tourists?
  - Identify models for sustainability and recommend most appropriate model
  - Identify activists who would steward such an organization
  - Explore level of community support and programs of priority interest
  - Recommend specific use of farmhouse from options such as resident caretaker or nonprofit office space.

November 24, 2008

To: Kenneth W. Daly  
Township Manager

From: Alice M. Osipowitz  
Director of Parks & Recreation

Re: Benchmark Survey

I have attached a copy of a Benchmark Survey conducted by the firm of Brandstetter Carroll, Inc. for Middletown Township. I have also prepared an analysis of the data comparing Franklin to the other communities. The report shows that Franklin is spending less per capita than most of the communities surveyed with fewer fulltime staff than the majority. The report also shows that while Franklin has an abundance of open space in the community, Franklin falls short on the amount of developed parkland per resident ranking 8 out of the 16 communities surveyed. While we seem to have an average number of athletic fields, the number of residents per field is higher than most other communities, which would tend to result in more wear and tear from overuse. Also, the Recreation Department has often expressed concern over the lack of quality athletic field space with respect to undersized fields, drainage issues and minimal maintenance.

**Budget Comparison**

Franklin has the lowest spending per capita of \$12 per person with a total budget of \$711,000. This includes 25% in revenue and 75% in the allocated municipal budget. If you doubled the budget to include park maintenance estimated at an additional \$700,000, the per capita spending would be \$25 per person. The median per capita spending for the communities surveyed is \$47 per person and the average is \$46 per person.

**Table I  
Budget Comparisons sorted by expenditure per person**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ Expenditure per person</b>	<b>General Fund % of Budget</b>	<b>User fees/rentals % of budget</b>	<b>Grants % of budget</b>
Franklin	57,000	\$711,000	12	70	25	5
South Brunswick	45,000	\$700,000	16	90		7
Piscataway	53,000	\$953,577	18	98		2
Howell Twp.	52,000	\$1,102,302	21	99		1
Laurence Twp.	30,000	\$660,000	22	100		
Sparta	20,000	\$650,804	33	100		
Middletown	69,000	\$2,284,175	33	63	37	
Montgomery	23,000	\$1,075,497	47	100		
Summit	21,000	\$1,009,193	48	100		
Old Bridge	65,000	\$3,305,462	51	81	15	2
Marlboro	37,000	\$2,270,750	61	28	72	2
Freehold Township	35,619	\$2,247,316	63	47	53	
Princeton	24,489	\$1,726,633	71	61	34	1
Wayne	50,000	\$3,800,000	76	100	100	
Holmdel	17,244	\$1,359,000	79	37	63	
Randolph	25,000	\$2,156,471	86	60	40	
Millburn	19,765				75	
Average	37,889	\$1,625,761	46	77	51	3
Median	35,619	\$1,230,651	47	86	47	2

### Staff Comparisons

At the time of the survey, Franklin was serving a population of 57,000 residents with 4 full-time Recreation Administrative staff, which was recently increased to 5 fulltime staff with the addition of the FYI

Delinquency Prevention Coordinator. This was more than, Lawrence Township with a population of 30,000 and 3 fulltime staff. It was equal to Summit with a population of 20,000 and 4 fulltime staff and Howell with a population of 52,000 and 4 fulltime staff. Eleven other communities have smaller populations than Franklin and more fulltime staff than Franklin. Middletown with a population of 69,000 has 15 Fulltime staff and Old Bridge with a population of 65,000 has 16 fulltime staff. The median number of fulltime staff is 6 and the average is 7. For administration of Recreation Programs, Franklin has approximately .08 staff per 1000 residents in comparison to the average of .39 per 1000 and the median of .29 per 1000.

Staff comparisons also indicated that Franklin has approximately 2.91 Park & Rec Fulltime, Part-time and Seasonal Employees per 1000 residents as compared to the average of 4.8 and the median of 4.7. When comparing just full-time Park Maintenance and the full-time Recreation Administration Staff combined, Franklin has approximately .19 employees per 1000 residents as compared to the average of .53/1000 and the median of .46/1000.

**Table II  
Staff Comparisons sorted by # of Fulltime Recreation Staff**

Town	Population	Budget	Fulltime Maintenance	Fulltime Rec	Part-time	Seasonal	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000	9	3	0	60	
Franklin	57,000	711,000	7	4	2	150	
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	11	4	1	75	
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302	10	4	0	150	
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	6	5	3	134	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	5	5	3	100	
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	4	5	2	92	
Sparta	20,000	650,804	6	5	2	2	
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	27	6	6	75	
Freehold Township	35,619	2,247,316	24	6		225	
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	0	7	3	98	
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	9	8	3	200	
South Brunswick	45,000	700,000	10	8	10	35	
Millburn	19,765	0	1	8	172	4	
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	18	11	2	327	
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	20	15	19	300	
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	13	16	6	175	
Median	35,619	1,230,651	8.5	6	3	100	
Average	37,889	1,530,128	11	7	13	130	

### Active Parkland Comparison

While Franklin has an abundance of open space this section also reflects a shortage of active park acres. Out of 16 community's in the comparison, Franklin ranks # 8 when comparing the number of citizens/active department developed parkland. The lower the number in column E the more developed/active parkland per

resident. While Franklin appears to have the average amount of active parkland, Franklins acreage is based on the Recreation and Open Space Inventory which includes 10 acres of historic properties, 95 acres of the Bunkerhill Environmental Center, Inman Park which is only developed on half of the property or 25 acres and Middlebush Park which is only developed on 1/3 of the property leaving 50 acres undeveloped. This would reduce Franklin’s active parkland to approximately 120 acres instead of 307. (Franklin’s total acres were updated here from the Brandstetter Report increasing Total Park Acres Including Township, County and State to 7963 and the Total of Acres of Active Parkland to 307.)

<b>Table III</b>				
<b>Active Township Owned Active Parkland Comparisons</b>				
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Town</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Total Park Acres including Township, County and State</b>	<b>Total Acres of Township Active Parkland</b>	<b>Citizens/acre of Active Parkland</b>
				<b>B/D</b>
Holmdel	17,244	882	427	40
Middletown	69,029	6212	847	81
South Brunswick	45,000	900	400	112
Montgomery	23,000	2985	202	113
Wayne	50,000	2412	416	120
Marlboro	37,000	1402	268	138
Piscataway	53,000	1368	288	184
Sparta	20,000	208	108	185
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>7963</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>185</b>
Laurence Twp.	30,000	911	148	203
Millburn	19,765	93	93	212
Randolph	25,000	110	110	227
Old Bridge	65,000	4687	162	288
Princeton	24,489	1282	82	298
Freehold Twp	35,619	1709	46.42	767
Summit	21,000	163	24	875
Median	35,619	1368	162	203
Average	37,009	1670	245	252

**RECREATON AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY**

The following is a list the Developed Parkland in Franklin Township as it appears on the NJDEP Recreation and Open Space Inventory.

**DEVELOPED AND PARTIALLY DEVELOPED LANDS HELD FOR RECREATION AND CONSERVATION PURPOSES**

<b>Table IV</b>					
<b>KEY</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>LOT</b>	<b>ACRES</b>

	LOCATION				
A.	Leupp Lane, Somerset	Inman	362	1	51.60
B.	Castleton Ave., Somerset	Castleton	383	43.03	7.55
C.	Mark St. & Matilda,	Naaman Williams	150	2.01,2.02,7-18 ,26.01	16.68
D.	Matilda Ave	Williams Pk	151	1,2, 35-41	.53
E.	Emerson Rd., Somerset	Rutgers Heights	391	30	2.00
F.	Easton Ave, Somerset	Meadows	259	85-87	7.25
G.	Fifteenth St., Somerset	Dunham Lebed	425.02	18.01	2.17
H.	Pine Grove Ave, Somerset	Consovoy	242 245	2.01 1.01	6.22
I.	Wheeler Pl., Somerset	Bascom	94	7-17	2.86
J.	Nassau Ave, Somerset	Nassau	471	1-17	2.20
K.	Market Street, E. Millstone (leased from NJ State)	East Millstone	60	23,24,25	.50
L.	DeLar Pkwy. Beekman La., Franklin Park	DeLar Park	34.05	16.06,49.00	7.60
M.	Bunker Hill Rd., Griggstown	Bunker Hill Envir. Center	11.01	2.01	95.63
N.	Carmen St., Somerset,	F.T. Little League (FTLL)	277.00	9.00- 13.01,15	1.36
O.	Lander St., Somerset	FTLL	278.00	1.00, 2-12	3.09
P.	Lander St., Somerset	FTLL	281.00	1.00, 2-12.	3.17
Q.	Dekalb St., Somerset	FTLL	282.00	5.00, 6-7	.82
R.	Madison Ave, S. Bound Brook	SBB Little League (SBLL)	546.00	1.00, 2-44	3.11
S.	Madison Ave, S. Bound Brook	SBLL	549.00	1.00, 2-44	2.84
T.	Dellwood	<u>Dunham Lebed</u>	425.02	19-21, 28&29	.27
U.	Hamilton St.	Tulipwood	347	8	3
V.	Laurel Ave.	Kingston School	5.01	141	5.09
W.	DeMott Lane	Middlebush Park	417.01 417.02	22.01 11.54	82.39
<b><u>TOTAL OF ACRES</u></b>					307.93

### Athletic Field Comparison

In the Benchmark study Franklin reported access to 20 soccer fields as indicated below. However, after further review and discussion with the Franklin Soccer Club there are only 3 regulation soccer fields that they have access to including one at Sampson G. Smith and 2 at Middlebush Park. The following two pages show comparisons of athletic fields with four charts sorted by the type of field including soccer fields, softball fields, football fields and lacrosse fields. Table six for soccer and table seven for softball show the number of fields and the number of residents per field. Table six for soccer is based on having 20 soccer fields, however when considering the Franklin Soccer Club concern that all 20 fields are not regulation size, you can increase the number of residents per field by 150 for each field less than 20. For comparison sake with 20 fields Franklin has 2850 residents per field, at 10 fields Franklin has 5700 residents per field\*. Technically, soccer only has 10

game fields at SGS with one regulation game field. The soccer fields at SGS are just used for soccer games and are overused to the point of field deterioration.

With respect to softball/baseball fields Franklin’s response of 8 fields was based on the softball fields that the Recreation Department has access to in peak season. You could add the 5 fields from the Franklin Township Little League Property and the 2 fields from the South Bound Brook Little League increasing Franklins total to 15\*\*. This would bring Franklin within the Median/Average for the number of softball/baseball fields, however, Franklin would still have more users per field then 14 of the other communities.

Franklins Pop Warner Football Program has been fortunate to have been able to use the FHS/FMS Football game field and practice fields for over 30 years. Unfortunately, the Pop Warner and FHS programs have grown in size and the fields are overused. Also, there is potential for the development of a Middle School program next year. The football stadium has been used for games and the practice fields are almost all dirt.

	Soccer Fields	Softball	Football
SGS	1 regulation 9 junior game fields	0	0
FMS	3 fields used for school activities have not been accessible	0	1 regulation field & several worn out practice fields
FHS	have not been accessible	0	0
Franklin Park School	1 not accessible	0	0
Middlebush Park	2 regulation 1+ junior	0	0
Inman	1 undersized 2 shared use practice only	1 adult 1 adult short right field	0
Dunham	1 regulation	1 youth	0
Castleton	Softball outfield/ shared use practice only	1 youth	0
Consovoy	Softball outfield/ shared use practice only	1 adult short left field	0
Williams	Softball outfield/ shared use practice only	1 adult	0
Delar	Softball outfield/ shared use practice only	1 adult	0
Bascum	Softball outfield/ shared use practice only	1 youth	0
	20	8	1

Town	Population	Budget	Soccer		Softball/baseball		Football	Lacrosse
			Fields	Residents/field	Fields	Residents/field		
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302						
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	<b>20</b>	<b>862</b>	10	1724		2
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	<b>16</b>	<b>1313</b>	11	1909	1	16
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	<b>15</b>	<b>1667</b>	24	1042	3	
Laurence Twp	30,000	660,000	<b>16</b>	<b>1875</b>	11	2727	2	
Millburn	19,765		<b>10</b>	<b>1977</b>	10	1977	2	
Sparta	20,000	650,804	<b>9</b>	<b>2222</b>	16	1250	3	
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	<b>21</b>	<b>2381</b>	22	2273	3	

Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	<b>10</b>	<b>2449</b>	14	1749	1	
So. Brunswick	45,000	700,000	<b>18</b>	<b>2500</b>	36	1250	1	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	<b>9</b>	<b>2556</b>	6	3833	1	1
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	<b>14</b>	<b>2643</b>	10	3700	1	
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	<b>20</b>	<b>2650</b>	23	2304	1	
Franklin* or	57,000	711,000	<b>20</b>	<b>2850</b>	8	7125	1	
Franklin*	57,000	711,000	<b>10</b>	<b>5700</b>	15	3800	1	
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	<b>20</b>	<b>3250</b>	35	1857	6	1
Freehold Twp	35,619	2,247,316	<b>7</b>	<b>5088</b>	17	2095	3	3
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	<b>13</b>	<b>5308</b>	63	1095	2	
Median	35,619	1,230,651	<b>16</b>	<b>2599</b>	15	2369	2	5
Average	37,889	1,625,671	<b>15</b>	<b>2474</b>	20	1943	2	3

**Table VII Softball/baseball Field Comparison**  
**Access to Softball/Baseball Fields Sorted by Residents/Softball/Baseball Field**

Town	Population	Budget	Soccer		Softball/baseball		Football	Lacrosse
			Fields	Residents/field	Fields	Residents/field		
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302						
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	15	1667	<b>24</b>	<b>1042</b>	3	
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	13	5308	<b>63</b>	<b>1095</b>	2	
Sparta	20,000	650,804	9	2222	<b>16</b>	<b>1250</b>	3	
So. Brunswick	45,000	700,000	18	2500	<b>36</b>	<b>1250</b>	1	
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	20	862	<b>10</b>	<b>1724</b>		2
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	10	2449	<b>14</b>	<b>1749</b>	1	
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	20	3250	<b>35</b>	<b>1857</b>	6	1
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	16	1313	<b>10</b>	<b>1909</b>	1	16
Millburn	19,765		20	1977	<b>10</b>	<b>1977</b>	2	
Freehold Twp	35,619	2,247,316	7	5088	<b>17</b>	<b>2095</b>	3	3
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	21	2381	<b>22</b>	<b>2273</b>	3	
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	20	2650	<b>23</b>	<b>2304</b>	1	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000	16	1875	<b>10</b>	<b>2727</b>	2	
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	14	2643	<b>10</b>	<b>3700</b>	1	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	9	2556	<b>6</b>	<b>3833</b>	1	1
Franklin** or	57,000	711,000	20	2850	<b>8</b>	<b>7125</b>	1	
Franklin**	57,000	711,000	10	5700	<b>15</b>	<b>3800</b>	1	
Median	35,619	1,230,651	16	2599	<b>15</b>	<b>2369</b>	2	5
Average	37,889	1,625,671	15	2474	<b>20</b>	<b>1943</b>	2	3

**Table VIII**  
**Football Field Comparison**

Town	Population	Budget	Soccer	Softball/baseball	Football	Lacrosse
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302				
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	862	1724		2
South Brunswick	45,000	700,000	2500	1250	<b>1</b>	
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	2449	1749	<b>1</b>	
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	1313	1909	<b>1</b>	16
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	2650	2304	<b>1</b>	
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	2643	3700	<b>1</b>	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	2556	3833	<b>1</b>	1
Franklin	57,000	711,000	2850	7125	<b>1</b>	

Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	5308	1095	2	
Millburn	19,765		1977	1977	2	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000	1875	2727	2	
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	1667	1042	3	
Sparta	20,000	650,804	2222	1250	3	
Freehold Township	35,619	2,247,316	5088	2095	3	3
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	2381	2273	3	
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	3250	1857	6	1
Median	35,619	1,230,651	2599	2369	2	5
Average	37,889	1,625,671	2474	1943	2	3

**Table IX  
Lacrosse Field Comparison**

Town	Population	Budget	Soccer	Softball/baseball	Football	Lacrosse
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302				
South Brunswick	45,000	700,000	2500	1250	1	
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	2449	1749	1	
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	2650	2304	1	
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	2643	3700	1	
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	5308	1095	2	
Millburn	19,765		1977	1977	2	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000	1875	2727	2	
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	1667	1042	3	
Sparta	20,000	650,804	2222	1250	3	
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	2381	2273	3	
<b>Franklin</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>711,000</b>	<b>2850</b>	<b>7125</b>	<b>1</b>	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	2556	3833	1	<b>1</b>
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	3250	1857	6	<b>1</b>
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	1313	1909	1	<b>16</b>
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	862	1724		<b>2</b>
Freehold Township	35,619	2,247,316	5088	2095	3	<b>3</b>
Median	35,619	1,230,651	2599	2369	2	<b>5</b>
Average	37,889	1,625,671	2474	1943	2	<b>3</b>

### Outdoor Aquatic Facilities

Eight of the seventeen communities indicated having an aquatic facility. Franklin's pool primarily serves the children that attend the Williams Park Day Camp. The Williams pool is 4 times larger than Freeholds and three to six times smaller than the remainder of the communities that responded to the survey.

Town	Population	Budget	Sq. ft. of water surface
Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	
Millburn	19,765		10060

Sparta	20,000	650,804	
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633	16200
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000	6550
Freehold Township	35,619	2,247,316	400
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	6500
South Brunswick	45,000	700,000	
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000	16000
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302	
Piscataway	53,000	953,577	
Franklin	57,000	711,000	1800
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	7000
Median	35,619	1,230,651	6775
Average	37,889	1,625,671	8064

### **Indoor Facility Access**

It is very difficult to compare community centers in the different Towns. The Towns with a gymnasium are indicative of an active as opposed to a passive facility. Seven of the communities indicated having a center with a gymnasium. Ten communities indicated having a center with space for senior citizens. South Brunswick has a Rec Center and a separate Senior Center. Marlboro has one center with a gymnasium and separate meeting space for seniors. Old Bridge has a senior center, a community center without a gym, an ice rink, a center with a gymnasium and a center used for residents with disabilities. Middletown has 2 centers with a gymnasium, a cultural arts center and a senior center.

<b>Town</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b># of Centers</b>	<b>Gym in center</b>	<b>Senior Areas in center</b>	<b>Access to School Gym</b>

Holmdel	17,244	1,359,000	1		1	2
Millburn	19,765		2			
Sparta	20,000	650,804	1			4
Summit	21,000	1,009,193	1	1	1	5
Montgomery	23,000	1,075,497	1	1	1	5
Princeton	24,489	1,726,633				2
Randolph	25,000	2,156,471	1		1	8
West Deptford	26,000		1	4	1	
Laurence Twp.	30,000	660,000				3
Freehold Township	35,619	2,247,316	1		1	5
Marlboro	37,000	2,270,750	1	1	1	9
South Brunswick	45,000	700,000	1	1	1	6
Wayne	50,000	3,800,000				4
Howell Twp.	52,000	1,102,302				
Piscataway	53,000	953,577				7
Franklin	57,000	711,000	1		1	8
Old Bridge	65,000	3,305,462	4	1	1	8
Middletown	69,000	2,284,175	3	2	1	4
Median	35,619	1,230,651	1	1	1	5
Average	37,889	1,625,671	1.46	1.2	.9	5.3