
MOORESTOWN TOWNSHIP K.I.D.S. INITIATIVE SUPPORTING REPORT AND FACILITIES OVERVIEW

Prepared by the Moorestown Township Recreation Advisory
Committee's K.I.D.S. Initiative Taskforce



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Presented to Moorestown Township Council August 23, 2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Problem

Moorestown's existing recreation facilities are being overrun and worn down by swelling demand. The "wearing out" of Moorestown's facilities has been decades in the making. There is now a well documented and steady increase in the number of activities within the Township *and* greater participation within each activity. This is attributable to both steady population growth and increased activities. Longstanding programs are seeing surging popularity. Other sports, which did not exist or were of modest interest a generation ago, are now immensely popular. Some programs have stretched to two season and expanded practices, just to remain competitive with other townships and leagues. Difficult economic times over the last fifteen years resulted in under funding of capital improvements for recreation assets.

Estimates are that at least 6,000 young people are affected each year by this problem. The players are in addition to the thousands of parents and coaches who also are affected by these conditions. In particular, the present system simply cannot handle additional events or weather related cancellations. Beyond sports, the programs for seniors and those involving the arts now strain the abilities of existing staff. Simply put, the sheer quantity of participants has overwhelmed the ad hoc solutions that worked in prior years.

The Response

In response to this problem, the Moorestown Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) created a special task force to investigate the problem *and* propose tangible solutions. Following months of investigation, interviews with a wide range of stakeholders, reviewing activity scheduling challenges, site inspections and preliminary costing, the task force developed the K.I.D.S. Initiative. K.I.D.S. stands for Keep Investing in Developing Sports/Recreation. K.I.D.S. proposes a multi-year program to address these issues. It includes a public-private partnership to fund upgrades to infrastructure, improve security and ensure years of "keeping Moorestown first," in the critical areas of youth development. In May 2010, RAC approved the K.I.D.S. Initiative with the goal of presenting it to Township Council for adoption. Numerous clubs and athletic groups support K.I.D.S.

Proposals

Initially, K.I.D.S. requires obtaining feasibility studies and securing costing estimates. Once those studies and formal costing are complete, RAC and the various stakeholders will meet to discuss specific financial obligations necessary to support K.I.D.S. Some of the specifics are site specific, while others (such as security) pertain to all facilities. Some recommendations are very minor, while others call for larger and more sustained capital investments, such as construction of an additional field. There are also proposals to upgrade software and establish a more regular and well published replacement cycle for township assets.

Ultimately, a mix of private and public money to finance a debt service is going to be essential. The good news is that current interest rates should permit the much needed capital investments for approximately \$7.00 more per household. After setting the funding formulas, on-going cooperation

between the Township, recreation programs and the various sports clubs is essential to develop timetables for implementing K.I.D.S.

This report supports K.I.D.S by outlining the extent of the current problems and listing a wide range of issues and facilities that must be addressed. No one club or program can fix these issues – it must be a comprehensive and multi-year solution embraced at the highest level of Township Government and Management. Equally important, there are financing opportunities and competitive issues with other townships that demand that Moorestown act now. All of these points are detailed in this report.

RAC strongly urges Township Council and all citizens to embrace this plan. There is an unprecedented level of cooperation among the many stakeholders to find a comprehensive solution. This problem has been decades in the making and has now reached the breaking point. The conclusion cannot be more dire: the problems identified in this report are at a breaking point and will only get worse if left unaddressed. This report supports that the time to fix this problem is now.

OVERVIEW OF THIS REPORT

This Report is broken into sections. After providing background on this issue, we document the current problems and then outline the potential opportunities to resolve them in the following sections:

- Overview of Moorestown’s Facilities;
- Recreational Programming;
- Utilization of Facilities
- Issues Affecting all Moorestown’s Recreation Assets; and
- Listing of Needs/Opportunities by Location
- Comparatives – What Other Townships are Doing
- K.I.D.S. Recommendations
- Preliminary Funding Model
- Appendixes
 - Existing Municipal Parks, Conservation & Other Township Lands
 - Other Community Facilities, Private and Quasi-Public Open Space.
 - PowerPoint Presentation Task Force Delivered to Township Council on August 23, 2010

The background information and facility specifics are from the Open Space & Recreation Master Plan Element submitted and approved by the Township’s Planning Board in 2009. Other information comes from RAC’s investigation and interviews with players, coaches and affected parents.

It must be noted that this report and all the preliminary assessments are the work of volunteers. No member of the K.I.D.S. Task Force is a paid expert in these areas. This is one of the many reasons that professional engineering, feasibility and costing must be secured before Council can approve financing. To the extent new information becomes available, the Task Force will update this Report.

This Report and the entire K.I.D.S. Initiative would not be possible without the help of the following people: Phil Garwood*, RAC Chair; Barry O'Donnell, RAC Vice Chair; Cyndi Britton, Recording Secretary; Michael Testa, Town Council Liaison; Theresa Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation Department; Scott Cooper*¹; Wendy Dougherty; Joseph Ehrlin; Thomas Miller; Brian Monihan; Keith Omlor*; Al Panzarella*; Kevin O'Sullivan, Board of Education Liaison, Rachel Emerson, RAC Student Member and Jake Der Hagopian, RAC Student Member.

OVERVIEW OF MOORESTOWN'S FACILITIES²

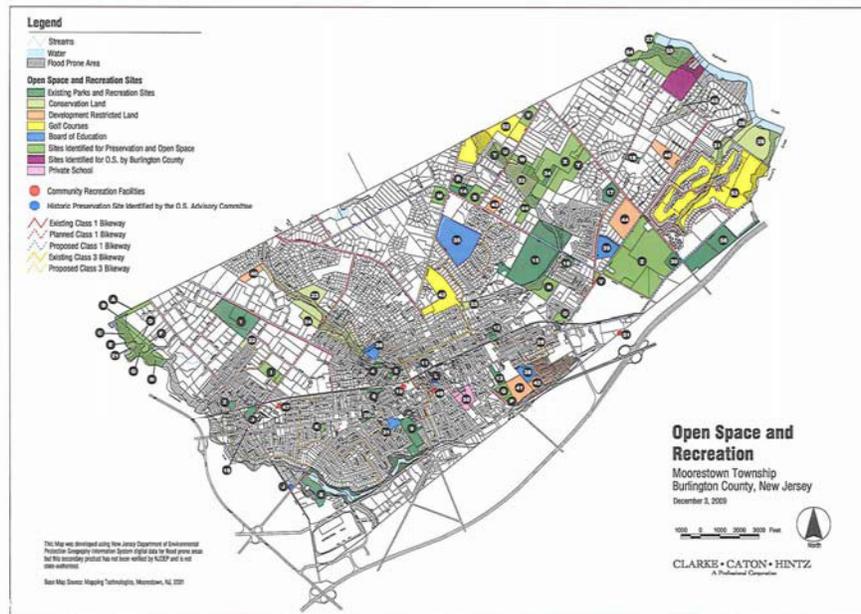
Moorestown has a treasure of parks, opens space, buildings and other assets for recreational use by its citizens. The Township currently owns nearly 667 acres of open space that is intended for recreation and conservation purposes. It also has six buildings, a skate park, playgrounds and other facilities dedicated to recreational activities.

Moorestown Township has a well developed parks and recreation system that provides a strong emphasis on youth sports activities. Township-owned sites that mainly are used for active recreation include the Church Street Recreation Center, Maple Dawson Park/West End Field, Fullerton Memorial Park, New Albany Community Center/Jeff Young Memorial Park, Lenola Road Athletic Fields, Memorial Field, Salem Road Park and Wesley Bishop Park, including the turf field that opened in April 2007. In addition, Strawbridge Lake is used mainly for passive recreation and is the location of well-attended community activities.

Moorestown also runs some program at the New Albany Recreation Center, Township Library, the Board of Education facilities and the Moorestown Community House.

¹*Denotes K.I.D.S. Taskforce Member.

²From The Moorestown Open Space Master Plan



RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

GOVERNANCE

Policy for the Township is set by Township Council with input from the Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC). RAC consists of seven appointed regular members, two high school student representatives, a senior representative, a liaison to the Board of Education and a liaison to the Township Council. RAC meets once per month, at public meetings, September through June.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Moorestown Department of Parks and Recreation administers recreation programs. The Department currently is located at 2 Executive Drive. The Department's dedicated website is www.moorestownrec.com. There are also part-time staff employed by the Department, depending on the season along with a significant number of volunteers. Additionally, staff is responsible for coordinating use of athletic facilities with many of the sports organizations and for maintaining parks and recreational facilities along with the common areas with the Department of Public Works.

The Department's programs emphasize the recreational aspect of each activity and to learn the basic skills of the activity while having fun, and those with more competitive interests are directed to join regional league and club organizations.

Recreation programs also are administered in cooperation with other nonprofit organizations such as the YMCA, the Perkins Art Center and a number of youth sports organizations.

The Department of Parks and Recreation offers a variety of programs for residents of all ages including:

- pre-school,

- youth,
- special needs,
- teens,
- adults and seniors.

The Rec Department's programming includes both sports related and non-sports related activities.

SPORTS RELATED ACTIVITIES

Some of the Department's programs include:

- basketball,
- bowling,
- dance,
- field hockey,
- golf lessons,
- lacrosse,
- swimming,
- soccer,
- tennis, and
- volleyball.

Additionally, the Department provides an open gym, basketball courts, weight room and game room for upper elementary students through high school age after school and weekend evenings on a regular basis.

NON-SPORTS RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Department organizes a summer concert series held at the Perkins Center for the Arts, coordinates an extensive six week summer theatre program for ages 7 through 15, summer recreation program for youth ages 5 through 12 years at five sites throughout the Township, a Counselor In Training summer program (C.I.T), sponsors special events, bus excursions for seniors and co-sponsors events throughout the year including parades and tournaments.

The Recreation Department provides or supports the summer concert series and the Summer Children's Theatre Program. The Rec Department also offers art programs. Some of the non-sports programs the Rec Department provides include:

- Adult/Sen. Sit "n" Fit
- Arts & Crafts
- Ballet/Tap

- Ballroom Dancing
- Bowling
- Breakfast with Santa
- Challenge Basketball - Special Needs
- CPR Training
- Creative Movement
- First Aid
- Hip Hop Dance
- Horseback Riding - Special Needs
- Irish Step Dance
- Jazz Dance
- Line Dancing - Seniors
- Music Movement
- Sign Language
- Teen Events
- Theater
- Tumblin' Tots
- Yoga

UTILIZATION OF FACILITIES

The Department's records indicate that the number of participants in the Township's programs have expanded over many years and continues to expand. Significantly, both the number of sports and the number of players within each sport has steadily increased for years. There are many factors that contribute to this use growth. Some include new housing in Moorestown, expanded seasons and practice demands for travel sports, more sports and activities of interest to participants, more participants in each activity.

SCHEDULING FACILITIES

The Department is responsible for allocating field use. This includes executing contracts with outside organizations and collecting rental and usage fees. All fees for use are set by Township Council upon input from RAC and the Department. Prior to the start of the Spring and Fall seasons, the Department meets with club representatives to set the schedules for the following season.

The Department is also responsible for deciding when fields or other facilities must be closed due to safety, weather or other conditions exist. In recent years this has become a much more significant function. Increases awareness of heat and cold related health issues, along with increased protection of fields from use during bad weather, has led to more policing of field use. Closing information is posted

on the Township’s Recreation Department Website, through email and on the websites of some of the clubs that use the Township’s facilities. Software is still needed to modernize this function.

PARTICIPANT NUMBERS

The Recreation Department tracks participation in its programs. Data for 2008-09 shows the following participation, by sport, that the K.I.D.S. initiative covers. This does *not* include other Recreation Department programs that operate at outside facilities or within the Rec Center itself.

One issue RAC noted is that most of the tabulation is still manual and often pulled only from registration and fee records. If data tracking, and ultimately calendaring of activities, is to improve, computer software is essential.

Moorestown Rec Department Utilization Figures 2008-09 (K.I.D.S. Analysis)
(Shaded Areas are Activity Subtotals)

August 16, 2010

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Participants</u> <u>2,008</u>	<u>Participants</u> <u>2,009</u>
Basketball	137	133
Clinic	137	133
Rec	0	0
Field Hockey	324	304
Clinic	64	57
League	260	223
Summer HS Clinic	0	24
Golf Instruction	26	21
Resident	26	21
Non-Resident	0	0
Lacrosse Girls' League	149	129
Soccer (Rec)	594	572

Softball (Rec)	0	0
Men's	0	0
Co-Ed Adult	0	0
Girls	0	0
Track & Field Summer Clinic	67	53
Tennis Lessons	467	438
Volleyball	78	69
Adult	0	0
Clinics	17	69
Teen	61	0
KIDS Affected Sports (Rec Subtotal)	1,842	1,718

ASSOCIATIONS (CLUBS/TRAVEL PROGRAMS)

There are numerous associations and groups that manage their own programs. Many are part of formally organized leagues (often referred to as “travel sports”). Each operates independently of one another and has been free to set and collect the registration fees to support their ongoing activities. Most, if not all, have reinvested significantly into the fields they use in supporting the kids who play on them.

From data they provided to RAC, the following reflects participation in their programs during the past season for each sport.

Moorestown Club Program Participants Self Reported (K.I.D.S. Analysis)	
<u>Club/Program Title</u>	<u>Participants</u>
	<u>2,009</u>
Moorestown Youth Football Association (MYBF)	210
Moorestown Youth Softball Association (MYSA)	450
Moorestown Youth Soccer (MSC - Two Seasons)	800

Moorestown Youth Baseball Federation (MYBF)	800
Moorestown Flag Football	650
Moorestown Field Hockey	320
Moorestown Lacrosse Club (MLC)	500
Moorestown Street Hockey/Roller Hockey Association (MYSA)	220
KIDS Affected Sports (Club Subtotal)	3,950
KIDS Affected Sports Total Participants	5,668

SEASONAL FIELD/FACILITY USEAGE

❑ While not a permanent assignment, facility utilization is generally as follows:

- Baseball Fall (March to November) (Multiple Seasons).
- Basketball (October to March)
- Field Hockey – (September to November)
- Football Flag – (September to November)
- Football Tackle – (September to November)
- Hockey (Roller) – (May to August)
- Hockey (Street) – (December to March)
- Lacrosse – (March to June)
- Soccer – Fall (August to November) and Spring (March to June) (travel only)
- Softball – Fall (August to November) and Spring (March to June)
- Street Hockey/Roller Hockey – Summer and Winter
- Tackle Football – (August to November)

The overlapping use, and the bottleneck for playing time appears in the following scheduling grid.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Baseball												
Basketball												
Field Hockey												
Football Flag												
Football Tackle												
Hockey Roller												
Hockey Street												
Lacrosse												
Soccer												
Softball												

Baseball	Basketball	Field Hockey	Football Flag	Football Tackle	Hockey Roller	Hockey Street	Lacrosse	Soccer	Softball
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ADULT SPORTS PROGRAMS

The foregoing does not reflect programs for adults, including basketball, soccer, softball and volleyball, which are not affiliated with any club.

ISSUES AFFECTING ALL MOORESTOWN’S RECREATION ASSETS

Certain issues affect all the Township’s facilities. In order to avoid repetition in each section of this document, we note that the Township needs a comprehensive plan to address the following topics, as may be tailored to each facility:

- ❑ Security (both for visitors and property during hours of non-use). There are currently many gaps in security concerning Township property. There are also areas that could use further security to deter improper behavior. We cite for example that restroom facilities near WB South Field have a camera warning sign, but no cameras near the doors to the restrooms. There is a general lack of fencing at facilities sufficient to stop unauthorized access and/or vandalism.
- ❑ Lighting (where applicable for use and/or safety). We recommend a comprehensive plan to address lighting. This includes examining whether existing lights can be replaced with more energy efficient fixtures and whether grants may exist to subsidize such conversions.
 - We also need to review policies related to when lights can be on, who has control over them and whether a centralized “on/off” switch is now possible. One of the issues that came up during our investigations was whether more programs could use WB if lights on the turf and upper field did not have to turn off at 10:30 p.m.
 - We need to further explore whether technology can now be used to better monitor who is using (and in turn paying for) lights on Township Fields.
 - There should also be further study into whether certain unlit Township fields might be appropriate for lights. This must include resident input.
- ❑ Scheduling Software. The Township must invest in a scheduling and facility utilization program. One of the most difficult issues with rotating fields and setting

fees is that the Township does not track on computer use patterns. There is similarly no centralized roster of use by Club, outside group or Rec Department. Absent such data, it is very difficult to plan for field use, rotation, rest or long-term repairs. Such software would aid the Rec Department and Township Council in setting policies going forward.

- ❑ Formal maintenance/oversight rotation plan. There needs to be a comprehensive plan for rotation of capital assets *before* they reach the end of their safe life cycle.
 - Allowing the Township to plan for replacement of equipment and fixtures over a multi year plan is essential.
 - We note that the Township must adopt a plan – and advertise it to residents – as to when various assets will be repaired, upgraded or removed.
 - There are still too many examples of policy appearing to be “do nothing until it becomes unsafe.” We heard many concerns in preparing this document from residents who felt the Township’s policy is to do nothing, wait for a safety violation and then close the facility. A long-term “useful lifespan and rotation policy” would go a long way to reducing cost and resident concerns.
- ❑ Outsource maintenance. We also recommend further study whether some or all maintenance functions should be outsourced. We perceive significant economic advantages to this allocation of work, but further study is required.
- ❑ Advertising. One of the most controversial topics RAC encountered was the issue of whether to sell advertising on fields. This included both signage and naming right issues. This topic is very divisive, with sound arguments made on all sides.
 - The Task Force heard requests to ban all advertising for aesthetic reasons to open auction of a limited or open-ended number of signs.
 - Those in favoring advertising stress that other townships allow it and that it is critical to raising much needed funds.
 - Within the larger debate, there is an issue of who keeps the money from advertising. One school said the Township; the other said the Clubs should keep it, but possibly pay more for use.
- ❑ Whatever the answer – a comprehensive answer that is fair to all sports must be set.
- ❑ RAC currently examines this issue. But the concern raised by many clubs is that the current policy must be revisited if they are going to have to pay more money for K.I.D.S.

LISTING OF NEEDS/OPPORTUNITIES BY LOCATION

FULLERTON PARK

Fullerton Memorial Park is the location of a playground notable for the intensive community involvement in its design and construction.

Overview

- 1 baseball field
- Playground/Park
- 2 Tennis courts
- Basketball
- Bathrooms

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Park has been subject to vandalism in the recent past
- Existing playground to be removed in 2010
- Fence, walkway issues
- Overgrowth of trees/landscaping
- Park used as dog park. Dog droppings found in numerous spots
- Basketball court needs repair (cracks) and worn nets
- Corner of tennis courts is in need of repair.

Opportunities

- A small plot of ground exists behind the bathroom building could potentially be utilized for recreation activities.

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Install new play equipment and site improvements
 - \$175,000 already approved in 2010 capital budget
 - Friends of Fullerton involved in design and selection of equipment
 - General maintenance, such as walkway repair.
-

Risks to enhancements

Stakeholders may have concerns related to the design and layout of new play equipment.

JEFF YOUNG PARK

Overview

- 2 softball fields
- Small hockey rink
- Playground/Park
- Lighted Basketball Court
- Lighted Tennis Courts
- Lighted fields
- Used for Rec Soccer

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Overgrowth, leaves, debris
- No irrigation
- Drainage issues by player benches and on fields
- Limited on-site parking
- Port-a-potties are used for restroom facilities
- Dugouts are dirt
- Fence, walkway issues
- Hockey rink is in need of repair and painting

Opportunities

- Proposed enhancements (near term)
- Risks to enhancements

LENOLA ROAD FIELDS

Overview

- 2 baseball fields
- Small play area

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Limited parking
- Porta potty utilized for restrooms
- Backs up to railroad tracks – potential safety issues due to lack of a fence

Opportunities

- Improved parking

MAPLE DAWSON PARK/WEST END PARK

Overview

- Playground
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball courts
- Lighted
- Small building with bathrooms and an office.

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Old lighting. One pole needs to be removed
- Electrical issues

Opportunities

- Has potential to develop into marquee public tennis facility
- West End Park could be enhanced softball facility

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- None in Phase I. Longer term, the issue with the lights and tennis courts must be addressed.
- Redo West End Field, replace fencing

Risks to enhancements

None observed at this time

MEMORIAL PARK/FIELDS

Overview

- 5 baseball fields (no lights)
- 3 soccer fields (no lights)
- 1 softball field at Memorial shared with baseball (no lights)
- 1 running track
- No Playground
- Concession building and bathrooms
- Paved Parking lot (in bad shape)
- Also used as Rec field hockey site for OLGC

Current Site Issues

- No lights
- No security
- Port o Pottys
- No field or park signage
- Fence and curbing around track in bad shape
- Weeds
- Site needs pruning/trimming of trees
- Parking lot in bad shape, no lines for parking
- Not enough garbage/recycling containers
- Drainage around dugouts
- Dugouts are dirt
- Wooden kick wall is in need of repair and painting.
- Lack of irrigation.

Opportunities

- Signage directing people to fields and bathrooms;
- Painted lines in parking lot could increase parking capacity;
- Lighting could increase field utilization;
- Small plot of ground near little league field could be utilized as a potential practice site;
- Outfield of little league field could be utilized during off-season months.

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Replace fencing

Risks to enhancements

None noted at this time.

CHURCH STREET RECREATION CENTER

Overview

- Indoor basketball court
- 2nd floor storage
- 3rd floor available
- Basement gym
- Bathrooms

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Old building. HVAC and window issues
- Dirty and not well maintained
- Basketball floor is in poor condition
- Current layout not conducive to current township recreational needs
- Age of building makes it difficult to be ADA compliant
- No Wi-Fi

Opportunities

- A new or sufficiently improved rec center would help seniors, teens and others who want to gather for programs unrelated to outdoor sports

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- None at this time. Rec Center improvements are tied to Town Hall project.

Risks to enhancements

NEW ALBANY ROAD RECREATION CENTER

Overview

- Kitchen
- Games/meeting area
- Bathrooms
- Patio

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Parking lot small and unsightly
- Old building. HVAC issues
- Dirty and not well maintained
- Building has been subject to vandalism in the past
- No AV capabilities
- No Wi-Fi

Opportunities

- None at this time.

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- See above

Risks to enhancements

PRYOR PARK

Overview

- Relatively new facility
- Paved Parking lot
- 2 baseball fields (1 lighted)
- 2 soccer fields (1 lighted)
- Playground
- Concession building and bathrooms
- Additional space available for expansion

Current Site Issues

- Lights not on all fields
- No security
- Playground is covered in weeds
- Concession building has missing shingles
- Benches need repair
- Baseball material left in the parking lot
- Nets on soccer goals are routinely missing and do not appear supported by the Township at all
- Current lighted lower field (used for soccer practice) is in need of repair, mostly due to over utilization

Opportunities

- Potential for additional fields near sewer plant
- Add lighting to lengthen use of fields

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Baseball requesting to install turf on infields
- Baseball also requesting lighting on upper bb field, at their expense.

Risks to enhancements

- None noted

STRAWBRIDGE LAKE PARK

Overview

Strawbridge Lake is used mainly for passive recreation and is the location of well-attended community activities.

- Playground

Current Site Issues

- None noted

WESLEY BISHOP – MAIN SITE

Overview

- 3 large fields (upper, lower and main turf field)
- 1 baseball field

Current Site Issues

- No security
- Upper and lower fields in bad shape
- No irrigation
- Unpaved parking lot/parking lot irregular
- Port-o-Potties and storage sheds in middle of site
- Parking lot creates safety issues
- Drainage issues especially from new ADA ramp
- Scoreboard does not function. Bird nest in back
- ADA ramp has created water damage to turf field due to bad grading
- Heavy underbrush between fields and playground
- Playground is covered in weeds
- Baseball material left in the parking lot
- Park used as dog park. Dog poop found in numerous spots

Opportunities

- As noted in next section of this report, Wesley Bishop is the keystone to solving many of the issues RAC uncovered in forming K.I.D.S. A comprehensive capital investment to build a second turf field is a key opportunity for this facility.
- Space may allow for the installation of a small dog park somewhere around Wesley Bishop Park

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Install a 2nd turf field
- Pave parking lots
- Install concession stand with bathrooms;
- Install storage building that can also serve as a wall for use by lacrosse and soccer;
- Install fencing around new turf field – new fencing should restrict utilization to permit holders;
- Install large benches for home team usage;
- Replace the scoreboard on current turf field;
- Add scoreboards to new turf field;
- Add security features

Risks to enhancements

- Need to solve for scheduling issues that will arise due to demand to utilize the turf fields;
- More unauthorized utilization of turf fields and surrounding fields will probably occur – will likely draw people from outside of the township to use our fields.

WESLEY BISHOP – HOCKEY RINKS/SKATE PARK/PLAYGROUND

Overview

- 2 outdoor hockey rinks
- 1 skate park
- Entire site is lighted
- Paved Parking lots
- Playground
- Concession building and bathrooms
- Some security on concession building

Current Site Issues

- Limited security. Building has cameras, but operational ability uncertain; cameras do not face areas where vandalism or other mischief likely to occur
- Site needs to be cleaned up/powerwashed
- Playground is covered in weeds
- Concession building has missing shingles
- Benches need repair
- Baseball material left in the parking lot
- Concession building has foundation, roof, and lighting issues

Opportunities

- Skate park has been a source of expense and vandalism. Limit use of this facility or create a new use for this space.

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Rinks 1 and 2 – clean, reseal and repaint both rinks.

Risks to enhancements

- None noted at this time.

WESLEY BISHOP SOFTBALL/FLAG FOOTBALL

Overview

- 2 softball fields (Both lighted)
- Batting cages
- Also used for Flag Football

Current Site Issues

- Parking lot not paved
- No bathrooms (Port-o-Potties)
- No security
- Grass areas in very poor condition due to over utilization by flag football.
- Significant drainage issues due to field pitch.

- Dirt bench areas contribute to field problems, especially during poor weather;
- Site subject to vandalism due to lack of fencing.
- No irrigation

Opportunities

- Potential for increased utilization by adding additional fields.

Proposed enhancements (near term)

- Irrigation system
- Enhance site by installing turf on one field
- Add 3rd field
- Install temporary outfield fencing
- Pave parking lot
- Fence field to prohibit vehicle traffic;
- Complete drainage repairs
- Installation of scoreboards.

Risks to enhancements

- None noted

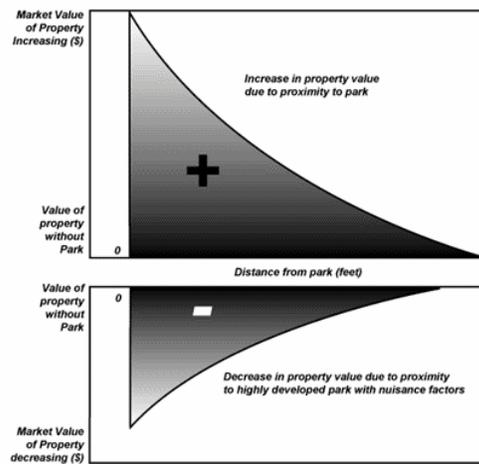
COMPARATIVES – WHAT OTHER TOWNSHIPS ARE DOING

One of the most pressing issues RAC uncovered is that other townships have addressed similar facility demands much better than Moorestown. In a number of local areas – many of which field teams competitive to Moorestown – there are state of the art facilities. Baseball and expanded turf fields at other area locations put Moorestown at a further disadvantage.

The fact that neighboring areas have better facilities impacts both Moorestown’s programs, but also affects property values. Studies we reviewed from Penn State University and the National Park Service suggest a direct correlation between a municipalities recreation facilities and home values. See http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About_Us/benefits.php and <http://www.nps.gov/pwso/rtca/propval.htm#real>

Figure 1-1: Net Effects Curve for Property Value Increases Due to Proximity to Parks

The upper graph shows the increase in property values due to proximity to a park. Below that is the



See http://www.gocolumbiamo.com/ParksandRec/About_Us/benefits.php.

In addition, the absence of two turf fields, especially side-by-side, impacts Moorestown’s ability to compete for regional tournaments. Such tournaments would provide additional revenue to the township and boost concession sales for club events.

In the appendix to this report we show photographic evidence of the types of facilities that other areas have built.



Example: Cherry Hill, New Jersey

K.I.D.S. RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of these findings, the K.I.D.S. Initiative recommends the following projects for funding through a bond or other debt instrument. As noted throughout, the precise order of these projects cannot be set until costing and feasibility studies are concluded. Equally important, and even assuming funding, the construction calendar cannot be set until a comprehensive plan can be set with the Clubs to minimize disruption to schedules and league competitions.

Phase I

- ❑ Build a second turf field at Wesley Bishop (recommending on current lower fields). A second turf field is essential to reducing damage to grass fields, lessening weather related cancellations and building a true recreation center. There is no doubt that the most coveted asset among recreation sports programs and clubs is time on the turf field. The demand for that field, and its consistent playing condition make it the marquee facility in Moorestown. The current field cannot support the demand.

Building a second field adjacent to the current field will alleviate much of the current problems and allow Moorestown to bid for hosting outside tournaments. Moorestown is well behind other townships in this regard. As a result, Moorestown losses out on valuable township.

- ❑ Irrigate and improve Drainage at Wesley Bishop South Field (Softball/Flag Football). Current flag football and softball usage of the South Field at Wesley Bishop is harming the fields, with no real chance for recovery. The key issue on that field is the lack of irrigation. A capital investment in irrigation equipment, and dedicated budgeting for annual water usage, is essential.
- ❑ Secure funding for park improvements. The consensus is that most residents do not like the “bare metal” parks that are seemingly popular with many local governments. There appears a willingness of residents to invest in better park equipment, above an amount that the Township initially invests. For this private-public model to work, the

Township must commit to a cycle of predictably replacing worn out equipment and provide sufficient notice to residence of that schedule.

The current situation with Zelly Park is an oft cited example about how residents did not know about safety-related issues until the park had to be closed. A comprehensive program that identifies the life span of equipment, notifies the public and provides an opportunity for input on new purchases is essential.

- Temporary Outfield Fences for Softball. Softball needs outfield fences for its tournaments. In order to allow rotating use between softball and flag football, these outfield fences must be removable.
- Turf Infields for Baseball. The MYBF has indicated that it wants to substantially improve its fields and will contribute to the cost. The current request is to provide turf infields to avoid much of the wear on the fields.
- Turf Infields for Softball. The MYSA has indicated that it wants to substantially improve its fields and will contribute to the cost. The current request is to provide turf infields to avoid much of the wear on the fields.
- Scoreboards. for Wesley Bishop Main and Wesley Bishop South (Softball/Flag Football).
- Fencing for Wesley Bishop South (Softball/Flag Football) to avoid driving on field and inflicting additional vandalism.
- Trails upgrades to existing trails.
- Installation of cameras at key facilities and high vandalism areas.
- Renovations to Street/Roller Hockey Rinks. These facilities are in need of resurfacing and repair/paint to the playing walls.
- Overhaul West End Field.
- Scheduling Software. As this report makes clear, data on use patterns is still ad hoc and too often estimated. The Township must invest in a scheduling and utilization software package that will allow staff to better monitor and evaluate use. By having better and quicker access to data, the Township can better anticipate use and future need. It is also an essential tool to being able to rent the fields and other facilities during non-use periods.
- Paving Wesley Bishop Parking Lots and Improved Walkways. The current gravel lot at Wesley Bishop should be paved and improvements made to the paths adjacent to the fields.

Phase II

- Recreation Buildings. Many of the Rec programs do not involve field use. The current facilities are in need of repair for both senior and teen programs. RAC has suggested addressing this as a Phase II issue because many of these issues may be included in the Town Hall project.

In addition, there are many complex issues related to the use of the New Albany and Main Recreation Building. The stairs at the main building present issues for seniors.

- Improved Restrooms, Concessions and Storage Facilities. Site inspections revealed that most outdoor facilities still rely on portable restroom facilities and/or sub-standard concession stands. While not a recommended top priority, RAC views the lack of a central structure at Wesley Bishop as a missed opportunity for visitors and concession sales. Ideally, a building between the current turf field and the lower fields would help as a coordinating and tournament center. If properly constructed, it might also help with future video/TV access for coaches and/or the media.
- Better signage at existing facilities. All facilities still lack sufficient directional signage, especially at Memorial and Wesley Bishop. RAC recommends improved signage for fields.
- Repairs to the Skate Park.
- Replace Fencing around main soccer field at Memorial Field.
- Repair existing buildings. Many of the buildings surveyed are suffering from lack of maintenance. This includes paint, splitting wood and moisture damage. The township's prior investment in these permanent structures is at risk. As with the parks, a predictable table for repairs and maintenance is essential.
- Pryor Park. Additional lighting.

PRELIMINARY FUNDING MODEL

The total cost to complete Phases I and II projects currently is estimated to be \$2 M. If the Township gets the proposed interest rate and, subject to expected club contributions in the proposed private-public partnership, the cost is an estimated \$7.00 - \$10.00 per household to fix these problems.

As noted above, these figures are subject to verification by an outside financial review and validation.

APPENDICES

PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

As noted above, the Township currently owns nearly 667 acres of open space that is intended for recreation and conservation purposes.

Table IV-1 from the Township Master Plan below lists these municipally owned sites and provides a general description of the recreational facilities or other uses present at the park.

Table IV-2 from the Township Master Plan identifies other types of open space not owned by the municipality such as land deed restricted from further development or for agricultural use and land for recreation-oriented community facilities. These include Board of Education facilities, golf courses and non-profit recreation associations that provide opportunities for Moorestown residents. These two tables identify existing resources.

TABLE IV- 1. EXISTING MUNICIPAL PARKS, CONSERVATION & OTHER TOWNSHIP LANDS

Ownership	Map No.	Name of Site	Acres	Facilities/Character
Township Parks and Recreation Facilities	1	Wesley Bishop Park	58.00	Field Sports, Conservation ⁽³⁾
	2	Lenola Road Athletic Fields	3.14	Field Sports
	3	New Albany Com. Ctr./ Jeff Young Memorial Park	9.10	Indoor Meeting Space, Field Sports, Courts
	4	Maple Dawson Park/ West End Field	4.33	Courts, Playground, Field Sports
	5	Yancy-Adams Park	0.52	Passive Recreation
	6	Locust Street Park	4.50	Passive Recreation
	7	Perkins Memorial & Grounds	4.61	Arts Center, Passive Recreation, Community Gardens

Ownership	Map No.	Name of Site	Acres	Facilities/Character
	8	Strawbridge Lake Park	103.07	Passive Recreation, Playground
	9	Memorial Field	26.00	Field Sports, Track
	10	Church St. Recreation Cen.	0.50	Indoor Recreation
Township Parks and Recreation Facilities	11	Beech Street Park	0.75	Passive Recreation, Playground
	12	Fullerton Memorial Park	3.50	Courts, Field Sports, Playground
	13	Stokes Hill	10.46	Sledding, Passive Recreation
	14	Wigmore Acres	12.10	Passive Recreation
	15	Swede Run Fields	129.61	Passive Recreation, Agriculture
	16	Maybury Tract	10.50	Affordable Housing Site ⁽³⁾
	17	Salem Road Park	14.27	Field Sports, Tot Lot
	18	McElwee Rd. Open Space	5.00	Passive Recreation
	19	Camden Avenue Pocket	0.32	Passive Recreation
	20	LeDuc Pocket Park	0.90	Passive Recreation
Subtotal Acres			401.18	
Conservation and other Township Lands	21	N. Lenola Road	5.19	Pennsauken Greenway
	22	Red Leaf Road	3.67	Conservation
	23	Pompeston Creek Park	77.25	Pompeston Greenway ⁽¹⁾
	24	Fisher Tract	10.00	Pompeston Greenway ⁽¹⁾

Ownership	Map No.	Name of Site	Acres	Facilities/Character
	25	Stokes Woods	2.50	Swede Run Greenway
	26	Tiver Avenue	1.63	Conservation
	27	Creek Road	7.00	Rancocas Greenway
	28	Little Woods	11.00	Rancocas Greenway
	29	Twp. Landfill Parcel ⁽²⁾	64.00	Leaf Composting
	30	Nagel Tract – Hartford Rd.	12.50	Affordable Housing Site ⁽³⁾
	31	S. Stevens-Halbe Preserve	17.30	Passive Recreation
	32	Esther Yanai Preserve	34.50	Passive Recreation
	33	M & L Winner Fields	13.70	Passive Recreation
	34	Test Open Space	5.00	Passive Recreation
Subtotal Acres			265.24	
Total Municipal Open Space			666.42 acres	

- (1) Includes a playing field and other active recreation, but the site is predominantly for passive recreation and conservation.
- (2) Proposed location for boat ramp for high school rowing activities; otherwise not proposed for recreational activities or restriction to open space use.
- (3) At Wesley Bishop Park, a portion in the eastern corner may be used for affordable housing. For the Maybury and Nagle tracts, the land is to be used for open space only in the event that the land is not required for affordable housing purposes.

Greenways are primarily for conservation purposes, but may have passive recreation in the form of trails.

TABLE IV-2. OTHER COMMUNITY FACILITIES, PRIVATE AND QUASI-PUBLIC OPEN SPACE.

Ownership	Map No.	Name of Site	Acres	Facilities/Character
Board of Education Facilities	35	Moorestown HS/Allen Middle School	79.32	Stadium, baseball, field sports, tennis, gym
	36	Baker Elementary	8.81	Playground, gym
	37	Roberts Elementary	8.09	Playground, gym
	38	South Valley Elementary	13.42	Playground, gym
	39	Upper Elementary	22.66	Playground, field sports, gym
	Board of Education Subtotal			132.30
Development Restricted Properties	40	Moorestown West	13.25	Conservation Easement
	41	Hill House	27.00	Conservation Easement
	42	South Valley Woods	43.98	NJ Natural Lands Trust (42.20 acres) Township Owned (1.78ac.)
	43	Stowe Farm	10.78	Agricultural Easement
	44	Moorestown Farms/Moriuchi	30.00	Agricultural Easement
	45	Kendle's Run/Giffen	19.25	Conservation Easement
	46	Borton Landing Road	21.02	Restricted Development
	Development Restricted Properties Subtotal			165.28
Community Facilities	47	Sunnybrook Swim Club	3.70	Pool, court games, playground

	48	Moorestown Field Club Golf Course	56.00	Private 9 hole course and tennis
	49	Community House	2.30	Pool, meeting rooms
	50	Moorestown Friends School	20.37	Field sports, tennis, gym
	51	YMCA	10.00	Pool, gym
	52	Willowbrook Golf Course	54.00	Public 18 hole course
	53	Laurel Creek Country Club	194.70	Private 18 hole course, full service clubhouse
	Community Facilities Subtotal		341.07	
Burlington County	54	Camishion	7.12	Conservation
	55	Boundary Creek	68.65	Conservation
	56	Community Agricultural Center	67.40	Farm Market, Community Gardens
	Burlington County Subtotal		143.17	
Total Other Open Space/Facilities			781.82 acres	
Total Municipal Open Space			666.42 acres	
Total Open Space & Community Facilities			1,448.24 acres	

K.I.D.S. POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO TOWNSHIP COUNCIL ON AUGUST 23, 2010

Appendix to KIDS Report

**Moorestown Township
Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)
K.I.D.S. Taskforce**

Report and Request for Support to
Moorestown Township Council
For K.I.D.S Initiative

*Prepared by Scott Cooper and Al Panzarella
Task Force Members*

For Council Meeting August 23, 2010



The complex block contains a title slide for a presentation. At the top, it says 'Appendix to KIDS Report' in a cursive font. Below that is the title 'Moorestown Township Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC) K.I.D.S. Taskforce' in a bold, teal font. Underneath the title is the subtitle 'Report and Request for Support to Moorestown Township Council For K.I.D.S Initiative' in a smaller teal font. Below the subtitle is the text 'Prepared by Scott Cooper and Al Panzarella Task Force Members' in an italicized teal font. At the bottom of the text area is 'For Council Meeting August 23, 2010' in an italicized teal font. On the left side of the slide is a map titled 'Open Space and Recreation' showing various parks and recreational areas in Moorestown Township. At the bottom of the slide is a collage of four images: a group of children in white uniforms, a dog, a person in a uniform, and a house.

Full Slide Presentation Attached.