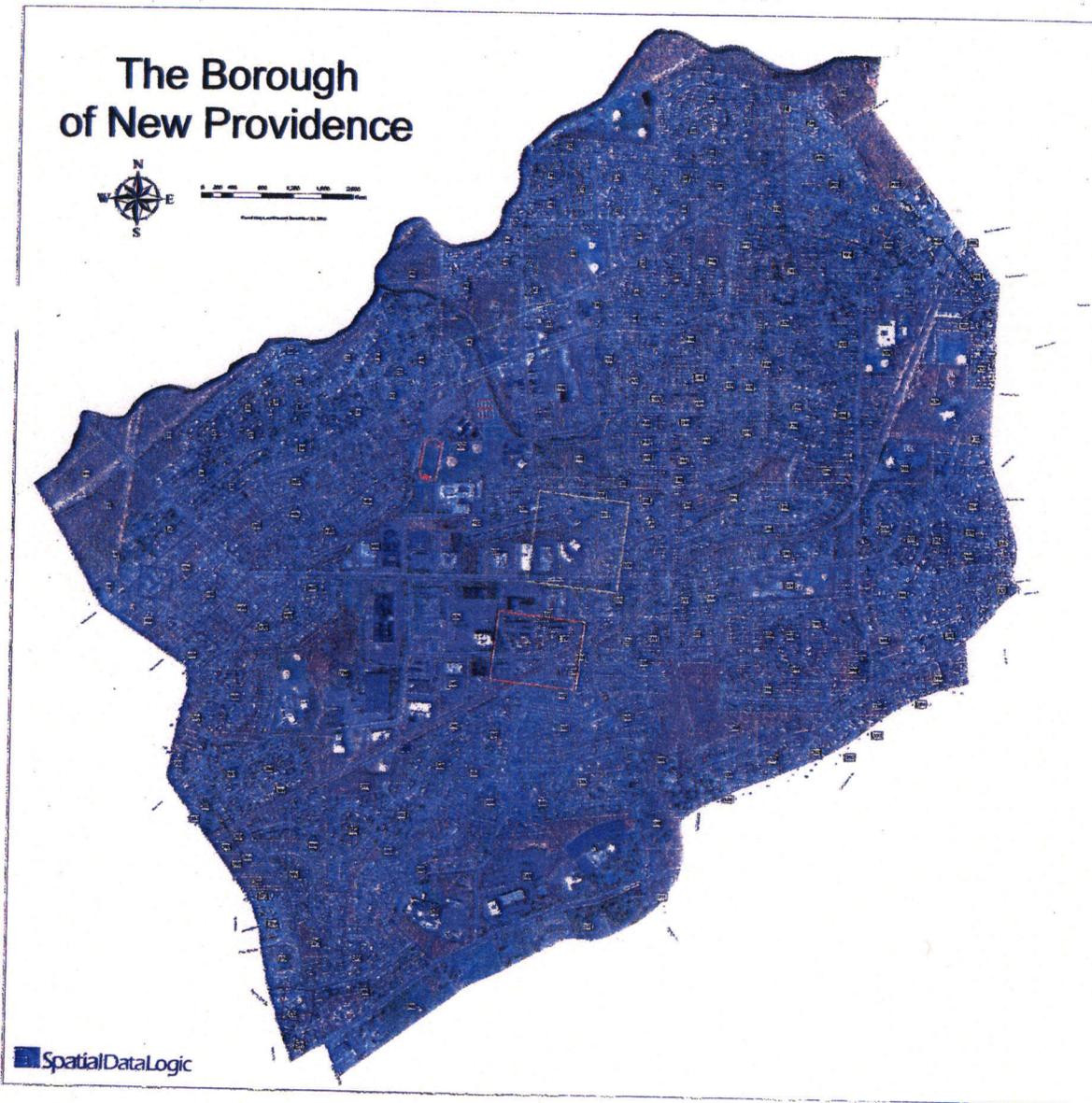


Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Borough of New Providence,
Union County, New Jersey



Submitted
February 8, 2006

Foreword

On February 23, 2004 the Borough of New Providence adopted an ordinance for the creation of an Open Space Trust Fund as the result of a referendum passed in the November 2003 elections. (see **Attachment A**) This referendum levied a property tax of \$0.01/\$100.00 of assessed value for the acquisition of land for open space within the Borough. During the Spring 2004, the leaders of New Providence decided that the residents of New Providence should play an intimate role in the use of the Open Space Trust Fund proceeds and thus the concept of the Open Space Advisory Board took shape.

A call for volunteers went out, many residents responded. Of those, nine were chosen to serve. Each came with a sincere desire to serve their community and each has contributed. The first task selected by the advisory board was the creation of a mission statement:

To advise the Mayor and New Providence Council on the preservation, acquisition and optimal use of open space and open space funds for the benefit of the residents of the Borough of New Providence.

Many meetings and countless hours of walking the community, talking with experts, conferring with local and State officials and searching the internet went into the collection and compilation of the data used by the board for both the public meetings and the creation of this Open Space and Recreational Plan. On behalf of the Open Space Advisory Board, the Open Space and Recreation Plan is respectfully submitted to the New Providence Mayor and Borough Council.

Acknowledgements

This plan was made possible through the efforts of the New Providence Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) and other valuable resources.

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1. Executive Summary

Following passage of a 2003 public referendum authorizing a special open space tax, the Borough created a volunteer citizen committee responsible for recommending uses of the open space tax revenues. After much research and discussion, it was decided that the Borough residents' tax dollars could be most effectively used if the Borough created this Open Space and Recreation Plan so that new and additional avenues of funding could be made available to the Borough.

The purpose of the Borough's open space program is threefold: to address Borough residents' current and future open space and recreation needs, to systematically tie together the disconnected public park resources now in place, and to raise residents' awareness of the outdoor opportunities in their community.

From the outset, the Borough government sought citizen input in the creation of this Plan. Open Space Advisory Board members formulated suitable criteria for open space preservation, walked the sidewalks and studied maps to compile an inventory of existing and potential open space, and held public meetings to seek input from the general public.

The Citizens, Council, Mayor and OSAB have made the following observations about the Borough's current open space resources:

- Most of the Borough's land is either privately owned and fully developed or is publicly owned with facilities and/or parks on it. A few parcels of undeveloped or lightly developed private land still exist.
- Borough residents are not able to fully utilize much of the open space in town. Access to much of the parkland is limited and little public information is available regarding many of the park areas.
- A network of streams coursing through town links neighborhoods, schools, parks, and the central business district and provides an opportunity for recreational travel separate from the busy streets.
- Ball fields are heavily utilized and there is a public desire to increase this resource if possible.

The goals of this Open Space and Recreation plan are:

- Enhance the quality of the community by preserving its current open space
- Potentially acquire new land consistent with the open space tax levy
- Optimizing use of existing space
- Linking parks, neighborhoods, schools and public facilities
- Benefit the regional environment by preserving and protecting the watershed.

The Borough will take the following Open Space-related actions in order to support its Comprehensive Master Plan:

- Adopt the Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Identify undeveloped land with open space and recreation potential
- Work with willing landowners to acquire or otherwise preserve land that improves the community's portfolio of open space resources and/or increases recreational opportunities for borough residents.
- Develop partnerships with other communities and organizations to connect the borough's open space resources with other regional green spaces to achieve an aggregate benefit.

2. Goals and Policies

The principal goals of this Open Space and Recreation Plan are to increase the amount of New Providence's permanently protected open space, to optimize use of existing and future open space, and to improve connectivity between existing and new areas. As these goals are accomplished, Borough residents will enjoy better access to recreational and natural areas, more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, and improved environmental conditions.

Several sources were used for guidance in drafting this plan: the Borough's 2002 Comprehensive Master Plan and 2005 Stormwater Management Plan, Union County's 2001 guidelines for open space acquisition and historic preservation, the State of New Jersey's Development and Redevelopment Plan of 2001, and Borough citizens' wishes as expressed in both the November 2003 referendum that authorized the local Open Space Trust Fund and at the public meetings held to seek citizen input in the development of this plan.

Borough Master Plan

There are several goals relevant to open space in the Borough's 2002 Master Plan. Some were retained from the 1962 and 1977 Master Plans, while others were added in 2002.

Goals set in the 1962 and 1977 Master Plans include:

- The protection and encouragement of stable, safe, and desirable residential neighborhoods served by an adequate system of community facilities.
- The preservation of areas sufficient to serve present and future recreational needs.
- Preserve the existing character and economic balance of the Borough, while at the same time providing for orderly change and redevelopment.

Goals added in the Borough's 2002 Master Plan include:

- Preserve ecologically sensitive open and forested land, natural feature areas, and remaining historic sites and buildings
- Encourage design and development standards that enhance and/or preserve open space, woodland preservation, a pedestrian friendly environment, railway systems, conservation areas, wetlands/meadow area preservation, etc.
- Continue and expand, when opportunities arise, the network of paths and walkways connecting neighborhoods to schools, parks, and the town center.

The 2002 Master Plan's Circulation Plan Element recognizes the need to improve non-vehicular transportation venues by including this goal:

- Continue to expand and/or enhance [the circulation] system incorporating the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists as opportunities arise.

In the Recreation Plan Element, relevant goals include:

- ...the Borough should take every opportunity to expand the open space/recreation inventory when opportunities arise and within its fiscal capabilities.
- The proposed green links system described herein would have a major recreation function connecting major park areas and school sites. The green links should be designed to accommodate leisure walkers, joggers, and bicyclists.

The Conservation Plan Element of the 2002 Master plan states:

- The tree lined streets, wooded back yards, and wooded stream corridors of the Borough are major elements of the community's character.

The 2002 Master Plan describes the relationship between Borough, County, and State planning policies:

- Recommendations of the...Plan Elements...follow County and State proposals for preserving land along the Passaic River flood plain.

Borough Stormwater Management Policy

In April 2005, the New Providence Borough Engineer completed a state-mandated stormwater management plan. The report acknowledges water quality problems in the Passaic River at the nearest monitoring site, a short distance downstream in Summit. Another issue is described as follows:

- ...the Borough has exhibited severe water quantity problems including flooding, stream bank erosion, and diminished base flow in its streams.

The report reinforces Borough conservation plan policy:

- The preservation of mature trees and forested areas is a goal of the Borough. The Borough is currently in the process of preparing an Open Space and Recreation...Plan. The goal is to preserve vacant land in the Borough from future development.

Recommendations in the Stormwater Management Plan include preserving and increasing vegetative buffers – trees and other plants with deep root systems – along stream banks. The

report also stresses the importance of keeping land free of impervious surfaces in order to allow rainwater to percolate through the soil.

County Policy

Adopted as a county ordinance on 2/15/2001 after passage of a public referendum, the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund authorizes a levy of 1.5 cents per \$100 per annum in real property values for 20 years. The primary reason, listed in the ordinance, for creating the County trust fund is:

...the sprawling population and economic growth in Union County requires a balanced effort to ensure land is available for existing uses and to ensure that future needs are met for recreation to serve Union County residents, to ensure that critical environmental resources are conserved, and to ensure that the County's rich history will be preserved...

Funds can be used for acquiring, developing, or maintaining County lands for recreation or conservation purposes, for acquisition or preservation of historic properties, or for payment of County debt service for any of the above purposes

State Policy

The State of New Jersey, in its Development and Redevelopment Plan of 2001, placed New Providence in area PA-1: the Metropolitan Planning Area. Among the State's goals for communities in this area: revitalize cities and towns, stabilize older suburbs, redesign areas of sprawl, and protect the character of existing stable communities. The State's recreation policy objective in PA-1 recommends maintaining and expanding existing parks and open space resources.

Borough Open Space Trust Fund

Expressing a strong desire to preserve New Providence's remaining privately owned open space, in November 2003 Borough voters passed a referendum creating a trust fund to purchase, lease, or otherwise protect land that has potential open space value.

Privately owned land should have one or more of the following qualities in order to be eligible for open space protection. These criteria were identified by the OSAB and ranked in order of importance by the residents of the Borough during a public meeting. The criteria are:

- Is undeveloped and in its natural state
- Has historical and/or environmental significance
- Preserves and enhances the natural, historic and scenic environment
- Provides residents with easily accessible parks, playgrounds, trails and open space
- Preserves and/or increases connectivity between public open space and public buildings
- Creates or increases connectivity between areas of New Providence via Greenways or walking or biking paths
- Increases the number of the Borough's residential neighborhoods that have open space/parks/playgrounds within easy walking distance
- Is adjacent to or abuts existing open park land or recreational playing fields
- Is a large parcel of undeveloped land
- Could provide space for additional recreational fields or recreational facilities
- Provides a natural buffer between lands of different use

3. Inventory

The land identified during the investigations of the Open Space Advisory Board has been grouped into twelve specific categories. Utilizing both charts and plates the specific landowners, land types and acreage are presented on the following pages. Table 1 presents a summary of the findings. Table 2 provides a detail of the information provided on Table 1. Plates 1-3 provide visual representations of the three major categories of land as identified by the OSAB. These major categories are: Protected public land, unprotected public land, and private land. Many hours were spent by the members of the OSAB walking the entire Borough with tax maps, to verify exactly what was on a piece of land and what value it might have to the Borough as open space or recreational land.

Table 1

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD SUMMARY

Description	Acres	% of NP Total Land*
County Property Parks and Recreation-Green Acres	81.09	3.52%
Borough Property-Recreation-Green Acres	48.90	2.12%
Borough Property-Flood Control- Green Acres	79.39	3.45%
Borough Property-Conservation-Green Acres	14.25	0.62%
County Property-Parks and Recreation	4.06	0.18%
Borough Property - Flood Control	16.59	0.72%
Borough Property - Recreation	9.80	0.43%
Borough Property - Conservation	0.21	0.01%
Board of Education Property	54.52	2.37%
Private Land Used for Public Recreation	25.72	1.12%
Private Recreation Clubs	22.51	0.98%
Private Undeveloped Land	44.12	1.91%
Grand Total Present Open Space	401.16	17.41%
*New Providence Total Acreage = 2304 acres		

TABLE 2

BLOCK	LOT	FACILITY NAME	County Property - Parks and Recreation - Green Acres	Borough Property - Recreational - Green Acres	Borough Property - Flood Control - Green Acres	Borough Property - Conservation - Green Acres	County Property - Parks and Recreation	Borough Property - Flood Control	Borough Property - Recreation	Borough Property - Conservation	Board of Education Property	Private Land Used for Public Recreation	Private Recreation Clubs	Private Undeveloped Land
			ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
10	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK -												
10	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	0.473											
11	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	3.362											
13	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	3.134											
13	13	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	3.221											
14	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	11.1											
14	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	14.87											
14	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK			3.3									
25	23	PASSAIC RIVER PARK												
25	25	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	7.44		8.98									
25	26	PASSAIC RIVER PARK												
35	14	PASSAIC RIVER PARK												
38	12	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	3.16											
41	33	SALT BROOK PARK			3.8									
45	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK			3.66									
45	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	11.11											
45	13	SALT BROOK PARK												
53	4	PUBLIC LIBRARY			5.68									
63	17	ELKWOOD - CLINTON AVE			6.53									
63	22	MADISON AVE			0.798									
76	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	0.7		0.679									
76	35	OAKWOOD PARK												
85	32	PASSAIC RIVER PARK		15.6										
90	14	PASSAIC RIVER PARK			5.782									
92	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK - SHERWOOD DRIVE AND AS	11.1		3.6									
103	25	PASSAIC RIVER PARK - SHERWOOD DRIVE	11.42											
110	14	MADISON-PITNEY AVE			4.132									
121	32	GROVE TERRACE - RECREATION PARK		4.5										
124	2	CLEARWATER PARK - AREA NEXT TO WARREN PARK			12.294									
163	12	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK			1.984									
163	39	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK												
171	13	COMMUNITY POOL - SPRINGFIELD AVENUE		2.31										
201	17	MORRIS AVENUE		14.13										
210	24	MORRIS AVENUE			1.6									
241	49	LIONS PARK - GRANT AVENUE		5.7										
283	41	LENCI TRACT - HICKORY PLACE				12.57								
300	1	LENCI TRACT - JOHNSON DRIVE			8.38									
341	25	WARNER PLACE			2.44									
353	4	WARNER PLACE		6.66										
373	16	BIRD SANCTUARY - UNION AVE				1.677								
14	3	UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS												
25	30	UNION COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS					0.043							4.02
41	36	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												0.45
85	34	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												4.412
136	17	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												0.608
185	7	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												1.49
185	20	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												0.219
210	34	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												0.641
210	35	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												1.307
232	22	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE												1.16

TABLE 2

BLOCK	LOT	FACILITY NAME	County Property - Parks and Recreation - Green Acres	Borough Property - Recreational - Green Acres	Borough Property - Flood Control - Green Acres	Borough Property - Conservation - Green Acres	County Property - Parks and Recreation	Borough Property - Flood Control	Borough Property - Recreation	Borough Property - Conservation	Board of Education Property	Private Land Used for Public Recreation	Private Recreation Clubs	Private Undeveloped Land
			ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES	ACRES
244	7	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE						0.76						
244	26	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE						1.409						
270	31	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE						3.16						
271	42	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE						0.97						
44	7	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE							0.281					
51	1	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE							0.885					
53	25	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE							4.42					
271	46.02	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE							4.413					
239	1	BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE								0.205				
125	10	BOARD OF EDUCATION - SALT BROOK SCHOOL									13.4			
171	38	BOARD OF EDUCATION - HIGH SCHOOL									23.66			
172	1	BOARD OF EDUCATION - HIGH SCHOOL									1.147			
210	25	BOARD OF EDUCATION - ROBERTS SCHOOL									16.316			
171	26	OUR LADY OF PEACE										8.28		
210	20	C.R. BARD										15.99		
220	26	AIRCRAFT										1.45		
123	1	CLEARWATER CLUB CORPORATION											3.77	
124	1	CLEARWATER CLUB CORPORATION											8.74	
250	16	CRESTVIEW CLUB											10	
320	17	LUCENT												5
321	1	LUCENT												9.46
321	2	LUCENT												5.63
321	3	LUCENT												5.04
321	4	LUCENT												2.26
321	5	LUCENT												0.53
382	4	LUCENT												7.84
382	5	LUCENT												4.97
382	6	LUCENT												3.39
TOTALS			81.09	48.90	79.39	14.25	4.06	16.59	9.80	0.21	54.52	25.72	22.51	44.12

The Borough of New Providence

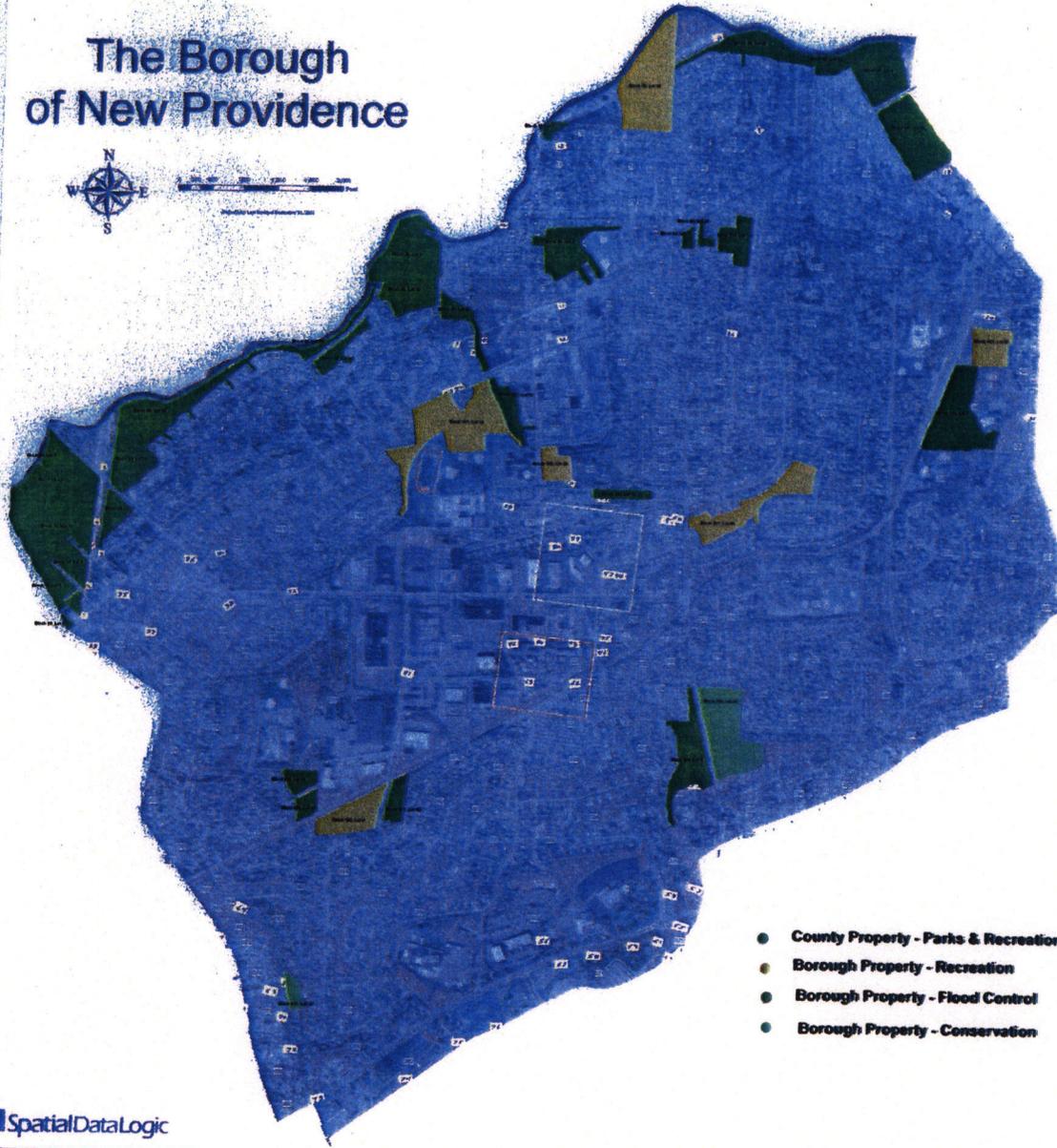
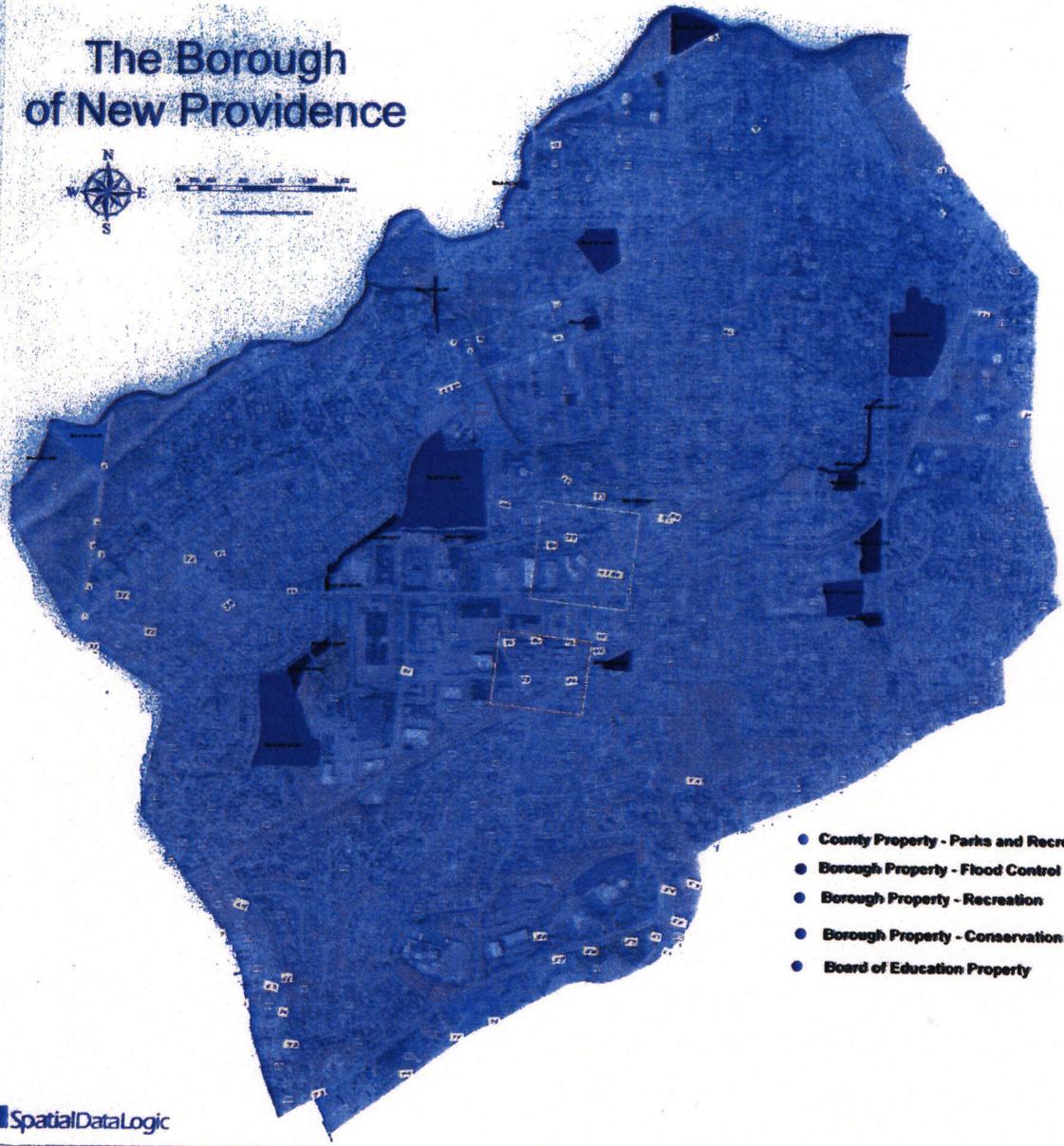


Plate 1: This plate provides a visual overview of both Union County and Borough of New Providence land which is protected under the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program.

The Borough of New Providence



- County Property - Parks and Recreation
- Borough Property - Flood Control
- Borough Property - Recreation
- Borough Property - Conservation
- Board of Education Property

SpatialDataLogic

Plate 2: Public land which is not currently protected by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program

The Borough of New Providence

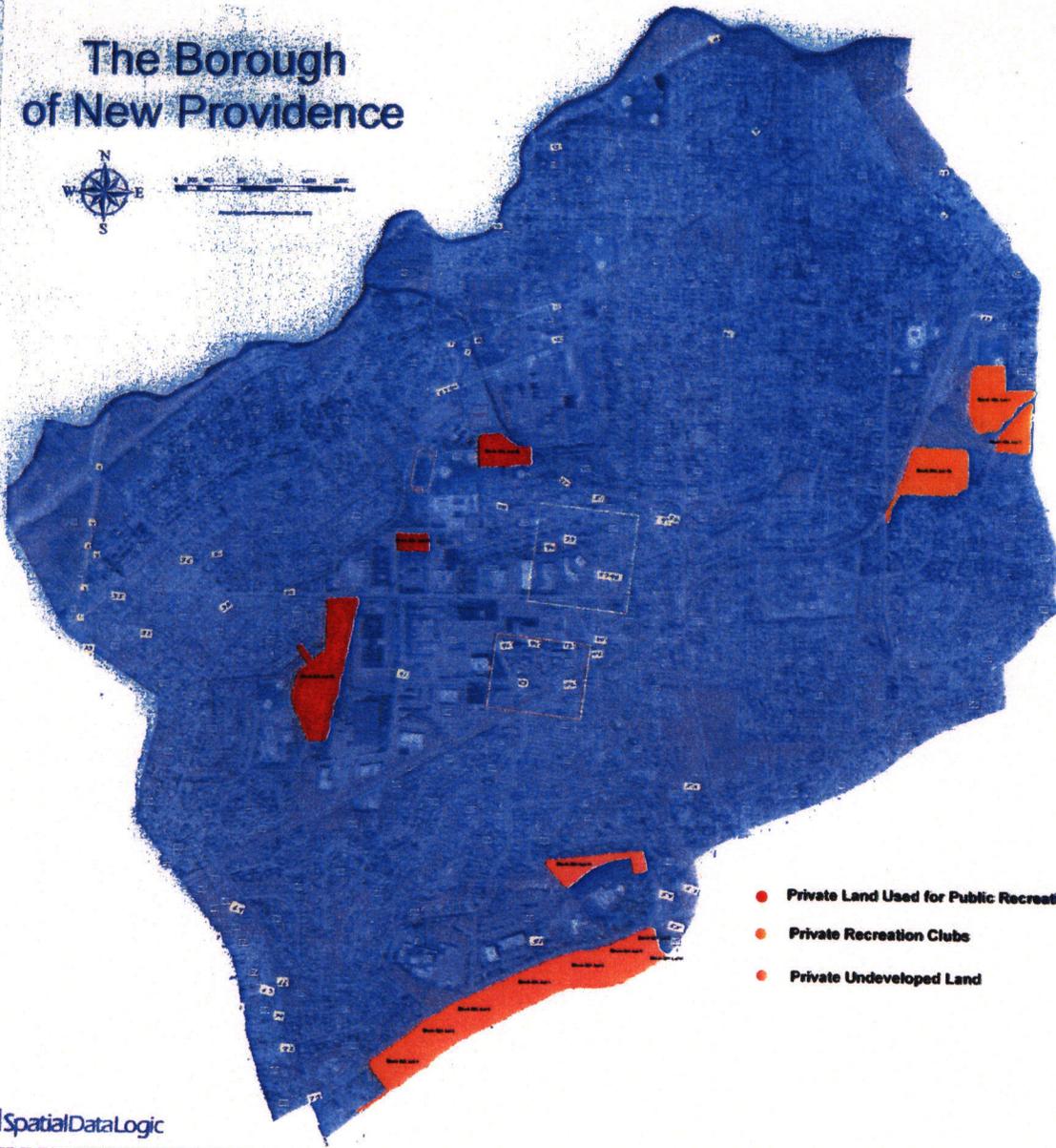


Plate 3: Privately owned land used for public recreation, privately owned recreation clubs and privately owned undeveloped land.

4. Needs Analysis

Development has significantly changed the look of New Jersey's suburban landscape. This plan recognizes that the transformation of the suburban landscape was certainly advantageous for both the private and public sections of the vast majority of communities. Increased financial resources allowed local community governments to provide new and expanded services for their residents as well as the residents of surrounding communities. The Borough of New Providence has evolved while striving to maintain its character, values, privacy, convenience and beauty.

This plan recognizes that business and commuter convenience play a significant role in attracting new residents to the community. The plan also recognizes that a balance must be achieved between the desire to maintain the serene beauty of tree-lined streets and open parks with the need to attract new residents and businesses for continued fiscal viability.

Of available open space identified in the previous section a portion of this land is wetlands and flood plains. In fact, of the 403 acres identified, 96 acres or approximately 24% fall into this category. Another 54 acres or 13% belongs to the New Providence Board of Education. A portion of the remaining 253 acres is land that in its current topographical configuration is unsuitable for use other than hiking.

In January of 2004, the Recreation Master Planning Committee (RMPC) was established by Mayor Al Morgan and the Borough Council to provide a review of the Recreation Plan Element (**Attachment B**) contained in the Comprehensive Master Plan of the Borough of New Providence, completed in March of 2003. Borough Council outlined goals and objectives as a guideline for the RMPC (**Attachment C**), and the main goal was stated as: to develop a comprehensive long-range plan evaluating current and future facilities to meet the demands of a reasonably balanced recreational program. A major concern of the community has been identified as the condition of our town (both Borough and Board of Education) playing fields. As the provision and/or acquisition of additional land for new fields may not be feasible, a plan for improvement of our fields was identified as the first priority of the RMPC. A report on fields is in a preliminary draft phase.

The borough has the following inventory of fields. (**Attachment D**) Since 1980 increased field usage can be attributed to the phenomenal growth of participation in: (A) organized recreational and competitive sports in the elementary levels; (B) high school sports; (C) marching band and flags programs (D) adult athletic activities. An overriding reason for this growth has been the increase in female participation in athletics, partially as a result of Title IX.

In addition, the demographics of New Providence have changed. While the town population has remained relatively stable over the past twenty years, the school population has shown a significant increase. Specifically, US Census shows the population of New Providence to be 12,426 in 1980; 11,439 in 1990; and 11,907 in 2000. New Providence School population trends from 1990 to 2004 show a significant increase from 775 to 1207 at the K to 6 level; from 184 to 339 at the middle school level; and from 402 to 625 at the high school level.

The increased participation levels as well as the changing demographics have led to field overuse. Efforts to coordinate and schedule fields have been difficult. The most problematic area of concern is at the high school. In the fall, 8 to 9 high school field teams (football and soccer), as well as the high school color guard and marching band attempt to utilize 4 field areas. In the spring 10 to 12 high school field teams (lacrosse, baseball, soccer, and track) attempt to utilize 4 fields. Many high school events have to be moved to private fields or off campus sites to help alleviate the problem.

As a result of constant usage, there has been substantial stress to all town (Borough and Board of Education) fields. The provision/acquisition of additional fields would help in the establishment of a sustained and systematic program of rest, rehabilitation, and protection of already existing fields. However, as the acquisition of additional land for fields may not be feasible, the RPMC is in the process of devising a plan for enhancing existing field usage that may include the installation of synthetic turf and other major field improvements and/or reconfigurations.

The increase in the utilization of fields for recreation and athletic pursuits is a positive change for the community. At the present time due to demand and field limitations the town (Borough and Board of Education) cannot fully accommodate the needs of all outdoor activities. The challenge is to develop a plan to meet the demands of the town for current and future recreational needs.

During a public meetings it was apparent that residents of the Borough felt a major priority of the Open Space Advisory Board should be the preservation of existing open spaces within the community. An article in the Independent Press illustrates this desire. (see **Attachment E**).

The Open Space Advisory Board realized that to recommend any property to the Borough Council for acquisition it was necessary to have a set of criteria to evaluate the property against. The OSAB developed the following set. The criteria are listed in order of importance. It was further decided that a weighted measure would be necessary to better assess the merits of any particular piece of property.

Open Space Criteria:

- Is undeveloped and in its natural state
- Has historical and/or environmental significance
- Preserves and enhances the natural, historic and scenic environment
- Provides residents with easily accessible parks, playgrounds, trails and open space
- Preserves and/or increases connectivity between public open space and public buildings
- Creates or increases connectivity between areas of New Providence via Greenways or walking or biking paths
- Increases the number of the Borough's residential neighborhoods that have open space/parks/playgrounds within easy walking distance
- Is adjacent to or abuts existing open park land or recreational playing fields
- Is a large parcel of undeveloped land
- Could provide space for additional recreational fields or recreational facilities
- Provides a natural buffer between lands of different use

5. Resource Assessment

The Physical Landscape

New Providence is a small town in northwest Union County. Settled as a farming village before the American Revolution, it has evolved into a suburban bedroom community with a substantial commercial district, in need of rejuvenation, in its center. The branches and forks of the Salt Brook make their way downhill from the Second Watchung Mountain, join together near the center of town then flow into the Passaic River.

Being situated on the West Side of the Second Watchung Mountain Range with the crest of this ridge a short distance from the Borough's southeast boundary and the Passaic River forming the northwest boundary. The sloping land has had creek beds carved into it over the course of time. Most of these tributaries of the Passaic are forks and branches of the Salt Brook, one of the signature natural and historic features of the community.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, nearly all of New Providence's land area lies in the recharge zone of the Buried Valley Aquifer, an array of underground sand and gravel deposits that serve as a major source of drinking water for over 30 communities in Union, Morris, Essex, and Somerset counties.

To the knowledge of the authors New Providence is not presently habitat for any identified endangered species. There are wetlands within the Borough, some of which are listed in the Green Acres ROSI as flood control tracts in the Passaic River flood plain. The flood control lands are largely pristine wooded natural areas and comprise a sizable percentage of the existing Green Acres ROSI. They provide the most obvious and productive areas for habitat preservation in the community. Several of these areas border existing athletic fields, providing a convenient proximity of recreational opportunities and natural areas.

Connecting Neighborhoods, Open Spaces, Commercial and Civic Areas

A cursory evaluation of the Salt Brook's natural tributary "paths" reveals the significant potential for a connecting network of walkways and bikeways for New Providence. All these paths lead to the Passaic River, where planning by the Garden State Greenways (GSG) project is currently underway for the creation of the regional Passaic River Trail. One of the Salt Brook forks has been identified by GSG as a "connector" between Passaic Valley parklands and the massive natural areas in the nearby Watchung Reservation.

Even though many of the Borough's parklands are adjacent to streambeds, development of a network of paths connecting all desirable local destinations is not immediately achievable due to the existence of developed private property immediately adjacent to the stream beds.

The major manmade feature with potential for use as a pedestrian pathway is the New Jersey Transit train line that traverses the center of the Borough from the southwest to the northeast,

parallel to the Passaic River and the Watchung ridge. The line borders several areas already included in the Borough Green Acres inventory, is within walking distance of several others, and is also close to areas identified in the Open Space and Recreation Plan's list of privately owned vacant land with open space potential.

Using land next to the train line as a pathway has several obstacles both from a safety and physical point of view, private ownership of land, and the existence of wetlands abutting the line.

The areas of privately owned undeveloped land included in the inventory have considerable potential for the creation of both active and passive recreational uses. The fact that these areas are dispersed throughout the Borough enables the creation of "neighborhood hubs". Activities such as soccer, softball and other sports greatly enrich the communities in which they occur and the fact that there is a potential for connectors between these hubs greatly enhances the ability for passive recreation as well.

Parcels of land worthy of consideration for protection may be located next to existing parks or in neighborhoods without nearby public land. The Borough will be seeking to preserve land suitable for playing fields as well as areas supporting the 2002 Master Plan's goals of creating pedestrian-friendly pathways and conserving natural areas.

New Providence's stream corridors provide an outstanding opportunity to develop greenways – pathways that draw pedestrians and bicyclists away from vehicular traffic, through the natural beauty found in many areas of town, and toward playing fields, schools, train stations, and businesses in the center of town.

Protecting Greenways will have the additional benefit of improving the water quality. The Borough's water utility has pumping stations a short distance downstream, so improving land use along these streams will also help protect what comes out of the community's faucets.

The creation of paths along the Borough's streambeds should be viewed as a double-edged sword. On the positive side, frequent use by residents would allow for ongoing monitoring of streams for signs of erosion, clogging, stagnation or pollution. Early detection of degradation of the tributaries and their banks would make remediation of problems more immediate and less costly to resolve. On the negative side, without strict guidelines for use of these paths, human activity could cause many of the problems noted above.

The benefits of watershed protection will be experienced far outside New Providence's boundaries. Many other communities draw their drinking water from the Passaic River basin downstream from New Providence. More over, much of northern New Jersey's wildlife depends on clean Passaic River water.

The Passaic is an under utilized recreation resource. The 'Blueway' described below refers to the river as a place for boating. Using the Borough's new river access point in Oakwood Park, residents with canoes, rafts or other kinds of watercraft have the opportunity to experience the surprising natural beauty present along the northwest border of town. With the development

of the greenway system described here, more residents will discover and enjoy this local treasure.

The following is an outline of the Borough's proposed greenway network. Major destinations and publicly owned lands along each streambed are identified. Picture 5 shows the location of each Greenway.

1) West Brook Greenway – connects:

Madison-Pitney Green Acres tract
Madison Avenue Green Acres tract
Elkwood-Clinton Green Acres tract
'Town Center': Veterans Park, Central Business District, Borough Hall, Memorial Library,
Lincoln Field, Community Pool, High School
Passaic River Greenway/Blueway

2) Salt Brook Greenway – connects:

New Providence Train Station
Grove Terrace Field
Clearwater Park
Clearwater and Crestview Clubs
Salt Brook School
South Fork-Salt Brook confluence tract
Lions Park
1st Street-Salt Brook-Central Branch confluence tract
Town Center
Salt Brook Park
Passaic River Greenway/Blueway

3) South Fork Greenway – connects:

Garden State Greenways connector to Watchung Reservation
Maple-Fellsway flood control tract
Hillview Field
Maple-Central flood control tract
South Fork-Salt Brook confluence tract
Lions Park
Town Center
Salt Brook Park
Passaic River Greenway/Blueway

4) Central Branch Greenway – connects:

Lenci Green Acres tracts

South Street-Woodland Road tract
Murray Hill Train station
South Street Office and Residential District
Town Center
Salt Brook Park
Passaic River Greenway/Blueway

5) West Branch Greenway – connects:

Union Avenue Bird Sanctuary Green Acres tract
Warner Place Field
Morris Avenue Green Acres tracts
Roberts School
Shelley Drive Green Acres tract
Valentine-Radcliff flood control tract
Town Center
Salt Brook Park
Passaic River Greenway/Blueway

6) Passaic River Greenway/Blueway – connects:

Borough-owned Green Acres tracts
County-owned Passaic River Park Green Acres tracts
Public Park Right-of-Way north of the east section of Charnwood Road
Oakwood Park
Present and future trails and river access points in Berkeley Heights, Summit, the Chathams,
and communities further upstream and downstream

Plate 4 provides a visual representation of the information above.

The Borough of New Providence



0 200 400 600 800 1000 2000 Feet

www.spatialdatalogic.com

Passaic River Blueway

West Brook Greenway

Passaic River Blueway

Salt Brook Greenway

Salt Brook Greenway

West Branch Greenway

South Fork Greenway

Central Branch Greenway

 SpatialDataLogic

Plate 4: Potential Greenways and Blueways within the Borough of New Providence.

6. Action Plan

The Open Space Advisory Board recognizes that it was created to provide the Borough Council with recommendations on land for acquisition. While investigating such land within the Borough the OSAB became familiar with the community, its surrounding communities, how the available land is situated, topography of the land and its restrictions. The OSAB also became aware of other facets of Open Space beyond just the land. Funding being one of the most important, which is why this Open Space and Recreational Plan was developed. The members of the OSAB understand the complexities of funding and the restrictions each source places on property acquired with those funds. This expertise could be a valuable ongoing resource for the Borough Council. It is hoped that the OSAB will become a permanent, voluntary citizen committee whose counsel will be sought for years to come.

Within One Year:

Adopt the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) as an amendment to the Borough of New Providence's Comprehensive Master Plan.

Submit the OSRP to Green Acres to enter the State's Planning Incentive Program.

Identify potential sites for new recreation facilities.

Review and prioritize properties meeting the OSRP's criteria for acquisition or protection. Visit the properties and decide which one(s) to submit for county and state preservation funding.

Pursue other funding partners, including Union County, land trust organizations, and historical societies.

Prepare applications for the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Examine existing rights of way and easements on properties throughout the Borough.

Within Three Years

Contact private recreation facilities and commercial landowners to discuss the placement of conservation easements on open portions of their property.

Work with willing landowners to acquire or otherwise protect private land adjacent to the Passaic River and the forks and branches of Salt Brook to protect these waterways from non-point source pollution.

Work with willing landowners to acquire or otherwise protect other land in areas in the Borough that are important to the water supply.

Work with willing landowners to acquire land for active and/or passive recreation.

Enact or enhance existing critical area ordinances to protect, at a minimum, flood plains and wetlands, stream corridors, steep slopes, and groundwater recharge areas.

Work with neighboring municipalities to coordinate and enhance the above ordinances.

Within Five Years

Discuss preservation priorities and other work being done by nonprofits in the area to form partnerships.

Develop contacts in neighboring municipalities to collaborate in the creation of a regional greenway.

Develop a formal network of trails along the Passaic River and the forks and branches of the Salt Brook that will provide walking, jogging, and/or bicycling routes between residential neighborhoods, public parks, and the Town Center.

Develop educational materials that will inform residents of the Borough's natural resources and recreation opportunities.

Work with the New Providence Historical Society and other organizations to pursue the listing of historic sites in New Providence on the state and national registers of historic places.

Develop a regular process that contacts landowners of properties with open space or recreation potential to purchase a property before it goes on the open market.

Review the OSRP annually to update the properties and information, and submit the update to Green Acres.

7. General Open Space Map/Picture

Plate 5 displays the existing and potential open space and recreational land of the Borough of New Providence. This exhibit includes privately owned land that is either currently being used by the residents of the community as recreational or open space as well as privately owned land that has potential to the community. An overlay of the potential Greenways and Blueways is shown on Plate 6.

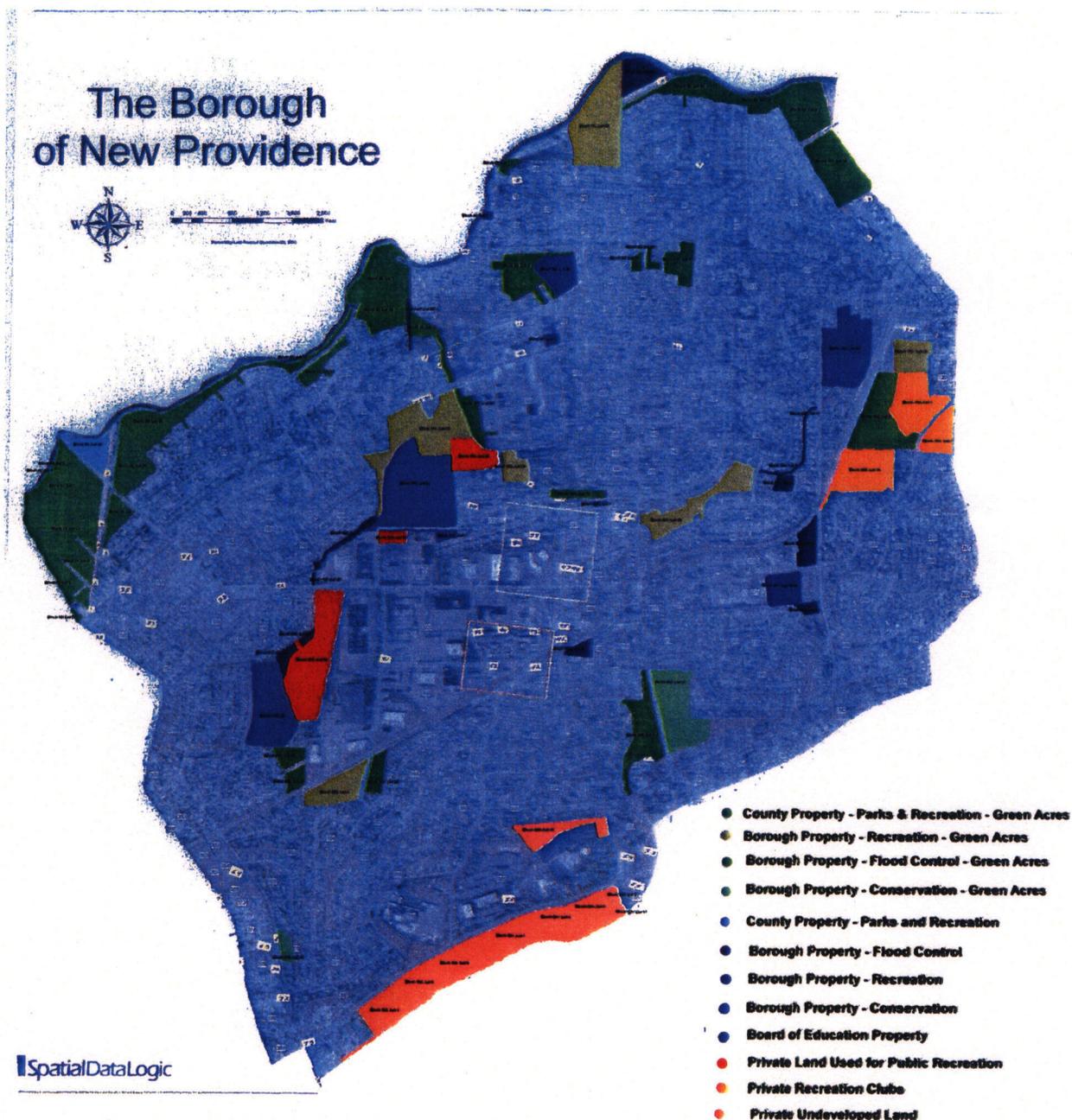


Plate 5: Current publicly owned open space and recreational land, privately owned recreational land and privately owned undeveloped land.

8. Additional Parcel Data Requirements

This section provides documentation on existing conditions within the Borough of New Providence. **Attachment J** is a copy of the Recreational Open Space Inventory (ROSI) on file with New Jersey Department of Environment Protection, Green Acres Program. Along with the ROSI the Borough of New Providence tax maps were used to verify properties that were currently considered to be encumbered by the restrictions of the Green Acres Program.

The Greenways and Blueways shown on Plates 4 and 6 were developed along the existing streambeds and drainage right-of-ways of the Passaic River tributaries which flow through the Borough. While there are some portions of these Greenways that are not exposed, the course of the stream bed provides a pleasant, meandering path and if developed could provide safe, convenient connections between many of the existing recreational and commercial areas of the town.

9. Public Participation

The Borough of New Providence understood the importance of providing an Open Space Plan that incorporated the needs, views and input of the residents of the community. Residents have agreed to fund open space preservation through a self-imposed property tax.

The first step toward meeting this aspect of the plan was the formation of the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB). This committee is composed of nine private citizens, one borough employee, and one Borough Council liaison. The resident members were selected from over 40 interested citizens that responded to a call for volunteers, which was published in the local newspaper. The OSAB has been asked to develop an Open Space and Recreation Plan to be submitted to the Borough Council for approval, adoption and submission to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program. It meets once a month and has documented minutes and council feedback via the Borough Council liaison member.

Members of the OSAB held joint meetings with the Recreation Master Plan Committee, another of the Borough's voluntary advisory committees. These joint meetings were used to exchange information regarding the goals and objectives of each group, current open space inventories, needs assessments and other pertinent information.

The initial public meeting was held on April 25, 2005, this was a regular public meeting with the Mayor and Council. A second public meeting was held on June 22, 2005. Provided are a copy of the agenda (see **Attachment F**), a copy of the minutes (see **Attachment G**), a copy of the survey which was a part of the meeting (see **Attachment H**) and a copy of the survey results (see **Attachment I**).

The Borough has established a web site for soliciting resident feedback and for the posting of information on a variety of issues that impact the residents of New Providence. The OSAB intends to provide an electronic copy of the Open Space and Recreation Plan to the Borough for consideration for inclusion on this site. Residents should have opportunities to review and comment on the contents of this Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Adoption of this plan as a part of the Borough Comprehensive Master Plan requires both Planning Board and Town Council approval.

ATTACHMENT A

BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE

ORDINANCE 2004-01

"AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE, UNION COUNTY, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND"

WHEREAS, in a non-binding referendum during November 2003, the voters of New Providence overwhelmingly approved the creation of a trust fund for the acquisition of open space within the Borough.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND

- A. Fund for Open Space Acquisition. There is hereby established a reserve in the General Capital Fund which shall be known and designated as the "Reserve for Open Space Acquisition". A special bank account shall be opened and maintained for this purpose. Funds from the Reserve for Open space Acquisition may, as directed by the Mayor and Borough Council, be utilized to acquire by gift, purchase or by eminent domain proceedings pursuant to N.J.S. 20:3-1 et seq., easements, vacant land, as well as land which has improvements upon it at the time of acquisition, where the principal purpose of the acquisition is to preserve open space. In the event that the Mayor and Borough Council shall find it appropriate to apportion the cost of acquisition between open space and improvements, it may do so and

charge the Reserve for that portion of the acquisition price which is attributable to the open space spaces, and the Borough's capital account shall be charged for the portion of the acquisition that it determines shall be attributed to improvements.

- B. **Funding of the Reserve for Open Space Acquisition.** The reserve for Open Space Acquisition shall be funded through the dedication to the fund of an amount of one (\$.01) cents per one hundred (\$100.00) dollars of assessed valuation of each annual tax levy commencing with the year 2004. The Reserve shall also be permitted to accept donations and testamentary bequests. The funds accumulated within the Reserve may be utilized for the acquisition of land or development rights in land or as a down payment for the issuance of bonds for the same purpose at the discretion of the Mayor and Borough Council. Any and all interest accruing shall be placed into the Open Space Trust Fund.
- C. **Sale of Property.** No property acquired with these funds from the Reserve for Open Space Acquisition shall be leased or sold, unless action has been authorized by the Mayor and Borough Council and by referendum in the manner prescribed by law. The deed for any property acquisition with funds from the Reserve for Open Space Acquisition shall contain the specific notation reflecting that the property was acquired with funds from the Reserve for Open Space Acquisition.

D. Review. In the event that no property is acquired under this section for a period of five (5) consecutive years, then the Mayor and Borough Council shall review its' activities and issue a report with recommendations and conclusions concerning the Reserve for Open Space Acquisition.

2. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

Introduced: February 02, 2004

Adopted: February 23, 2004

BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE
COUNTY OF UNION
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

By: _____

Allen Morgan, Mayor

Attest:

Wendi B. Barry
Borough Clerk

Attachment B

RECREATION PLAN ELEMENT

(Page 26 of the Borough's Master Plan, last revised March 4, 2003)

The Borough possesses a variety of facilities serving the recreational needs of its residents. Efforts should continue to tie together major facilities into a comprehensive system of park and conservation areas. Many sites are located along publicly owned stream corridors. These green links do provide a potential for a bicycle and pathway system providing recreational opportunities in themselves as well as providing neighborhood access to major recreational sites.

The Recreational Plan Element shows the location of public sites. This plan shows all publicly owned land (Borough, County and Board of Education). The plan does not specifically target any specific property for acquisition. This plan does however, reaffirm a long-standing objective to acquire access along stream corridors to create green links discussed above.

New Providence should continue planning and coordination liaison with Summit and Berkeley Heights for combined facilities.

A major objective of the Recreation Plan is to maintain existing sites through a scheduled improvement plan. Of equal importance, this plan recommends the Borough should take every opportunity to expand the open space/recreation inventory when opportunities arise and within its fiscal capabilities.

Continuation of the long-range program of capital improvements is recommended for recreation facilities in the Borough. These consist of four types:

1. **New Park Areas:** No specific park expansion plan is offered. Continued monitoring of facilities and consultation with Boards and Commissions is recommended. Further and as stated above, the Borough within its fiscal capabilities should take every opportunity to expand its open space/recreation inventory.
2. **Existing Park Areas:** The Borough is finalizing its recreation and open space inventory in consultation with NJDEP. The attached plan shows designation of each site.
3. The proposed green links system described herein would have a major recreational function connecting major park areas and school sites. The green links should be designed to accommodate leisure walkers, joggers and bicyclists.
4. Recreation facilities at all schools serve an important function as neighborhood community recreation areas. Upgrading of playfields should continue, along with replacement of equipment.

**BOROUGH OF NEW PROVIDENCE
RECREATION MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE**

Goal:

Develop a comprehensive long-range plan evaluating current and future facilities to meet the demands of a reasonably balanced recreational program.

Background:

The Comprehensive Master Plan of the Borough was updated in 2002 with final revisions completed on March 4, 2003.

An observation in the Plan states: *The amount and distribution of land for recreational use is generally fixed due to the developed condition of the Borough. Stream corridor acquisitions, identified in the Borough Plans over the past 25 years, have not been fully realized.*

The Master Plan further lists in the overall Statement of Objectives: *Because of very limited available land, existing recreational areas will be required to serve the needs of the projected population.*

One of the five goals outlined in the Master Plan calls for: *The preservation of areas sufficient to serve present and future recreational needs.*

According to the Borough's Recreation Director, the number of programs offered and the number of participants continue to grow at record levels. There is considerable demand for additional programs.

The Mayor and Borough Council created the Recreation Master Plan Committee to provide a comprehensive review as a continuation of the Recreation Plan Element (copy attached) contained in the Master Plan.

Resources Available to Assist Committee:

- **Staff:**
 - Recreation Director – Norman Samodovitz
 - Borough Engineer – Herb Lauterwald
 - Borough Planning Consultant – John Chadwick
 - Director of Public Works – James Johnston
 - Borough Attorney – Carl Woodward
 - Borough Administrator/Treasurer – Ken DeRoberts
 - Deputy Borough Administrator – Wendi Barry
 - Tax Assessor – Pat Spychala
 - Public Information Officer – Cindy Reis

- **Boards/Commissions:**
 - Recreation Commission
 - Planning Board
 - Open Space Advisory Board

- **Non-Borough Agencies:**
 - New Providence School District
 - Union County Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Office of Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund

- **Citizen Communication:**
 - Borough's website
 - Borough's newsletter
 - Surveys
 - Newspaper articles

- **Financial:**
 - Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
 - Borough of New Providence Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund
 - Green Acres Grant and Loan programs
 - Studies
 - Acquisition/development of recreation facilities
 - Other grant programs
 - Federal
 - State
 - Private
 - Borough Funding

Key Objectives:

Short-term Planning: (completed by December 31, 2004)

- Evaluate usage of all existing facilities
 - Borough owned
 - School owned
- Ascertain the types of programs needing additional facility usage
- Determine adequacy of existing facilities to incrementally accommodate additional programs
- Evaluate expansion potential at all existing Borough and School owned facilities **requiring only minor modifications** (i.e. minor permitting required; costs under \$100,000) that can be accomplished within 6 months

Long Range Planning: (6 year plan)

- Provide recommendations to better utilize existing facilities
- Prepare capital improvement plan to maintain integrity of existing facilities
- Develop long range plan for "resting" all field-sport facilities
- Study and evaluate connection between major facilities to park and conservation areas ('Green Links'):
 - Bicycle pathways
 - Nature trails
- Evaluate expansion potential at all existing Borough and School owned facilities **requiring major modifications** (i.e. environmental remediation; permitting required; costs over \$100,000)
 - Including acquisition possibilities of adjacent land
 - Identify key environmental issues that must be remediated
 - Additional programs that can be accommodated
 - Provide rough cost estimates and timetable
- Evaluate inventory of all County, Borough and School owned vacant land for suitability for development into recreational facilities
 - Including acquisition possibilities of adjacent land
 - Identify key environmental issues that must be remediated
 - Additional programs that can be accommodated
 - Provide rough cost estimates and timetable

Tasks:

- Organize RMPC into one or more sub-committees to analyze and review various elements of Key Objectives
- Hold meetings of the RMPC and/or subcommittees as necessary
- Prepare and distribute final Draft Report to:
 - Mayor and Council
 - Planning Board
 - Recreation Commission
- Conduct one or more public hearing(s) on final Draft Report
- Issue Final Report by December 31, 2005

Attachment D

EXISTING FIELDS INVENTORY

FIELD NAME	OWNER	SITE FACILITIES
OAKWOOD PARK	Borough	2 Softball/Jr Diamonds 1 Football/Soccer Field Micro Soccer Fields 1 Basketball Court 2 Ice Skating Ponds 1 Playground Area 1 Picnic Area 3 Horseshoe Pits 1 Bocce Court 1 Canoe Launch Nature Trail/Wooded Area 2 Bathroom Facilities
LINCOLN FIELD	Borough	2 Jr Baseball Diamonds 1 Soccer Field Micro Soccer Fields 1 Basketball Court Swing Set
GROVE FIELD	Borough	1 Softball/Jr Diamond 1 Youth Soccer Field Dog Park
HILLVIEW	Borough	2 Jr Baseball Diamonds 1 Soccer Field
LIONS PARK	Borough	1 Jr Baseball Diamond 1 Basketball Court 1 Playground Area 1 Bathroom Facility
WARNER PLACE	Borough	1 Youth Soccer Field

FIELD NAME	OWNER	SITE FACILITIES
HIGH SCHOOL		
- Leider Field	Board of Ed	1 Football/Soccer/LAX Field 1 Track & Field Facility 1 Snack Shack 1 Bathroom Facility
- West Field	Board of Ed	1 Athletic Practice Field Football Soccer Band Physical Education Summer Camp
- Baseball/Softball/ Soccer Complex	Board of Ed	2 Baseball Diamonds 1 Softball Diamond 1 Soccer Field & Practice Area
ROBERTS SCHOOL	Board of Ed	2 Softball/Jr Diamonds 1 Soccer Field
SALT BROOK SCHOOL	Board of Ed	2 Softball/Jr Diamonds
AIRCAST Licensed for use to BOE and NPSC	Private	Football Practice or LaCrosse Practice
C.R. BARD Licensed exclusively for use to NPSC	Private	1 Soccer Field
OUR LADY OF PEACE Licensed for use to NPSC	Private	1 Youth Soccer/ LaCrosse Field



Enjoying the festivities at the recent luncheon hosted by its volunteers were guests who included Beverly Kacz-Pugano of Berkeley Heights. For a full page of photos take on You in today's issue of the Herald-Dispatch.

Restock shelves Memorial Library

his requirements to earn Eagle Scout rank, the project seemed to close a chapter on an earlier Eagle commitment to the library.

"Last May or June," says Colleen Byrne, the New Providence head reference librarian, "library director James Keebler and I were approached by Eagle Scout Kevin Lucid, who eventually boxed books and put them down in the basement in anticipation of construction in that area -- more than 100 boxes of books."

"So when the construction was finished, it was a natural follow-up for another Eagle to bring the books up and place them on the shelves."

Ms. Byrne, who says she "can't say enough good things about the Boy Scouts," attended the Eagle fly-up ceremony last year for Kevin Lucid, the Boy Scout who had originally taken the books down to the basement before construction began.

"This weekend we have another Eagle Scout project coming up," says the reference librarian.

In this case, CJ Rauch's Eagle project will extend six feet onto seven existing free-standing double-sided bookshelves and restocking books with what the library calls "breathing room."

All this work is ahead of the library's new wing grand opening

and exterior lighting.

Other planned improvements at Salt Brook School include replacement of exterior and interior doors and frames, urnals and all corridor lighting. Wood floors in the gym

and exterior lighting.

Officials will purchase a new school bus and replace an existing bus and dump truck. Also, the district's wide-area computer network will be upgraded.

Residents prefer undeveloped land

Focus of committee on open space

By MIKE NEAVILL

NEW PROVIDENCE — Given a wide choice of priorities for the borough's purchase of open space, residents who attended last week's public forum settled on preserving undeveloped land in its natural state.

Sponsored by the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB), the forum was held to brief residents on the group's progress to date and to solicit input on future plans.

More than 50 people gathered at the Municipal Center to hear chairman Paul Jeffrey and his fellow board members as they outlined the group's mission and objectives.

Formed last fall, the OSAB has the mission of advising the mayor and Borough Council on preservation, acquisition and optimal use of open space for the benefit and enjoyment of borough residents.

The purchase of open space is funded through property tax payments at the rate of one cent per \$100 of assessed value. The measure was overwhelmingly approved by a voter referendum in November 2003 and enacted into law in February 2004.

In addition to undeveloped land in its natural state, residents at last week's meeting expressed a strong preference for land purchases that would preserve, create or increase connectivity between areas of the

borough via greenways or walking and biking paths. Also a popular idea was land purchase that would preserve or enhance the natural, historic and scenic environment of the borough.

"It's extraordinary how much you have accomplished in such a short time," Mayor Al Morgan told the board. He added that by year's end the open space fund will have about \$300,000.

John Fairbairn, a member of the board, said there is still a great deal of work to be done, including the completion of a written draft that would ultimately be adopted by Borough Council as an amendment to the borough's master plan. The group will also look for additional sources of funding like Green Acres, he added.

Councilwoman Julia Mac Dermott, who is the liaison to the OSAB, said that other towns had hired experts at great expense to do the same work that was completed by local citizens at no charge.

"They are all volunteers, and have done an enormous job while saving our community thousands of dollars," she said.

In addition to Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Fairbairn, open space board members include Maria Di Marc, Jeff Grob, Maxine Hirsch, Caryn Hughes, Vic Moschella, Robert Kadri and Matt Wilson.

Attachment F

AGENDA Open Public Meeting June 22, 2005

- ◆ Opening remarks by Paul Jeffrey, Board Chairman
- ◆ Introduction and Opening Remarks by Mayor Al Morgan
- ◆ Paul Jeffrey: Definition: What is Open Space?
 1. Steps the Board has taken.
 2. Caryn Hughes - Sought out experts to increase knowledge about Open Space Planning. Introduction: Eileen Swan of Garden State Greenways of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation - Overview
 3. Jeff Grob - Establishment of Mission and Objectives and Definition of Open Space as it applied to New Providence
 4. Matthew Wilson - Confirmation of current inventory
 5. John Fairbairn - Forward Planning:
 - a) Completion of New Providence Open Space & Recreation Plan for Mayor and Council Approval.
 - b) Draft of Open Space Plan presented to Planning Board and Planning Board Attorney
 - c) Draft of Open Space Plan presented to Mayor and Council
 - d) Borough Attorney to review Final Draft
 - e) Final Draft presented to Mayor and Council
 - f) Adoption of Open Space Plan as Amendment to Master Plan by Mayor and council
 - g) Submission of Open Space Plan to State
 - h) Continue to Understand and Seek Sources of Funding
 - i) Recommendations for the use of the Open Space Fund.
- ◆ Public Input - voting by residents
- ◆ Paul Jeffrey: Questions and Answers
- ◆ Adjournment



Borough of New Providence, N.J.

360 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, New Jersey 07974

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 22, 2005
No. 01

PRESENT: Mayor Allen Morgan
Councilwoman Julia MacDermott

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Maxine Hirsch	John Fairbairn
Maria Di Mare	Matthew Wilson
Caryn Hughes	Victor Moschella
Julia MacDermott	Robert Kadri
Jeff Grob	Paul Jeffrey

Mark Demareski, Assistant Borough Engineer

ABSENT: Ken DeRoberts, Borough Administrator
Carl Woodward, Esq. Borough Attorney

1. OSAB Public Meeting to was held on Wednesday, June 22 between 8 PM and 10 PM in the Council Chambers. This meeting was presented to the residents so that they could provide input to the OSAB.
2. Advertising of the Public Meeting was made: Lions Club Board, Independent Press, New Providence Website and TV 35.
3. Contacts to the Recreation Commission and Planning Committee, Historical Society, Historical Preservation Committee, Economic Development Committee, Master Plan

Committee, Downtown Development Committee, Senior Citizens Group were also made.

4. Hand outs made at the door to the Council Chambers consisted of:
 - Open Public Meeting Agenda
 - Definition of Open Space / Mission / Objectives
 - Listing of the New Providence Advisory Board Members
 - Survey Sheet to be filled out
 - Five (5) stickems to be used to cast votes on the ten (10) Objectives
5. Residents were asked to sign in at the door: Number of residents **Totaled 37** (see Original Sign In Sheet)
6. Summary of Open Public Meeting:
 - Opening remarks were made by Paul Jeffery, the Board Chairman.
 - Mayor Allen Morgan then summarized the reason for the Open Space Advisory Board that were appointed by the Mayor and Council.
 - Paul Jeffery briefly described the progress made by the OSAB.
 - Eileen Swam of the Garden State Greenways of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation gave a brief overview of why it is important for Boroughs like New Providence to be actively trying to preserve Open Space.
 - Jeff Grob then described the Definition of Open Space, the Mission and the Objectives that the OSAB has established.
 - Matthew Wilson then presented to the residents the Inventory of Open Space that has been taken. This consisted of the Borough and County Owned Properties inventory of Green Acres and Non Green Acres, vacant properties from the Tax Office and areas walked by the OSAB members that could be acquired. **Grand Total of Open Space is 530 Acres** that is **23%** of the Borough of New Providence. This number will be adjusted as the areas are closely analyzed and ranked by the OSAB. Other possibilities are still being considered.
 - John Fairbairn then presented a summary of what the OSAB will be doing next.
 - Public Input was then addressed:
 - Peter Iosso and Robert Keating made comments concerning Open Space.
 - Residents were then advised to use their five (5) stickems to be used to cast votes on the ten (10) Objectives.

	DOTS
1. Is Undeveloped and in its natural state	55
2. Has historical and/or environmental significance	17
3. Preserves and enhances the natural, historic and scenic environment of New Providence	22
4. Provides residents with easily accessible parks, playgrounds, trails and open space	12
5. Preserves creates and/or increases connectivity between areas of New Providence via greenways or walking or biking paths	37
6. Increases the number of the Borough's residential neighborhoods that have open space/parks/playgrounds within easy walking distance	9
7. Is adjacent to existing open park land or recreational playing fields	15
8. Is large parcel either singularly or in aggregate	1
9. Could provide space for additional recreation playing fields or	10

recreational facilities

10. Provides a natural buffer between lands of different use

5

File kept of voting results: Total 183

- The meeting was then adjourned and open discussion with the resident began.
- 7. Survey results received from residents Total 27. These are to be review by the OSAB.

Mission of the Open Space Advisory Board:

To advise New Providence Council on the preservation, acquisition and optimal use of open space and open space funds for the benefit of the residents of the Borough of New Providence

Attachment H

Open Space Advisory Board, New Providence, New Jersey

Survey

To better assist the Board, please complete and return to a member of the Board.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

1. How do you wish to use your Open Space Dollars? Rank your preference numerically. (eg 1 is your first preference, 2 is your second preference, etc.)

- a. Greenways which connect open spaces throughout the municipality for, walking paths and/or biking paths.
- b. Undisturbed natural areas: woods, meadows, wetlands.
- c. Playing fields, e.g. soccer, baseball, football.
- d. Other. Please explain. _____

2. Can you advise the Board of any property which may be considered for open space? If yes, where is this property located?

3. May we contact you? yes no

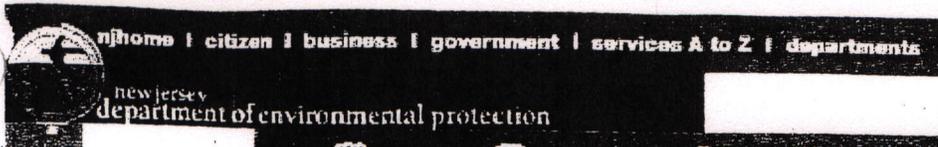
4. Any additional comments?

Attachment I

Ranking of preferences numerically with number of votes received

How do you wish to use your Open Space Dollars?	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
Greenways which connect open spaces throughout the Municipality for, walking paths and/or biking paths.	7	16	5	0
Undisturbed natural areas: woods, meadows, wetlands	12	5	8	0
Playing fields, e.g. soccer, baseball, football	5	5	5	0
Others:	0	0	0	3

Attachment J



new jersey
department of environmental protection



Green Acres Program

[njdep home](#) | [ga home](#) | [green acres links](#)

Open Space Database

Facility Name: If followed by - DIV = parcel was entirely diverted; if followed by - P/DIV = parcel was partially diverted; and if followed by - COMP = parcel was a compensation piece for previous diversion.

Interest: ET/FE - Entire Taking/Fee Simple; PT/FE - Partial Taking/Fee Simple; LEASE - Leased Land; ET/CE - Entire Taking/Conservation Easement; PT/CE - Partial Taking/Conservation Easement

Type: M - Municipal; C - County; N - Non Profit

Funded?: Y - Park received Green Acres funding; N - Park did not receive Green Acres funding

County: UNION

Municipality: NEW PROVIDENCE BORO

Block	Lot	Facility Name	Interest	Type	Funded?
10	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
10	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
103	25	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
11	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
110	14	MADISON-PITNEY AVE	ET/FE	M	N
121	32	GROVE TERRACE	ET/FE	M	N
124	2	CLEARWATER PARK	ET/FE	M	Y
13	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
13	13	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
14	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
14	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	M	N
14	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
163	12	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	ET/FE	M	Y
163	39	VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK	ET/FE	M	Y
171	13	COMMUNITY POOL	ET/FE	M	Y
201	17	MORRIS AVENUE	ET/FE	M	N
210	24	MORRIS AVENUE	ET/FE	M	N
241	49	LIONS PARK	ET/FE	M	N
25	23	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	M	N
25	25	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
25	26	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
283	41	LENCI TRACT	ET/FE	M	Y
300	1	LENCI TRACT	ET/FE	M	Y
341	25	WARNER PLACE	ET/FE	M	N
35	14	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
353	4	WARNER PLACE	ET/FE	M	N
373	16	BIRD SANTUARY	ET/FE	M	N
38	12	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	M	N

41	33	SALT BROOK PARK	ET/FE	M	N
45	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
45	13	SALT BROOK PARK	ET/FE	M	N
45	2	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
53	4	PUBLIC LIBRARY	PT/FE	M	N
63	17	ELKWOOD - CLINTON AVE	ET/FE	M	N
63	22	MADISON AVE	ET/FE	M	N
76	1	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y
76	35	OAKWOOD PARK	PT/FE	M	N
85	32	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	M	N
90	14	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	M	N
92	6	PASSAIC RIVER PARK	ET/FE	C	Y

The above information is the Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) on file with Green Acres. Please note that Green Acres relies on the accuracy of the information provided to us by the Local Unit(s) in maintaining the accuracy of our database. Since it is the responsibility of the Local Unit(s) to ensure compliance with Green Acres rules, it is strongly recommended that you confirm this information with the Local Unit(s).

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