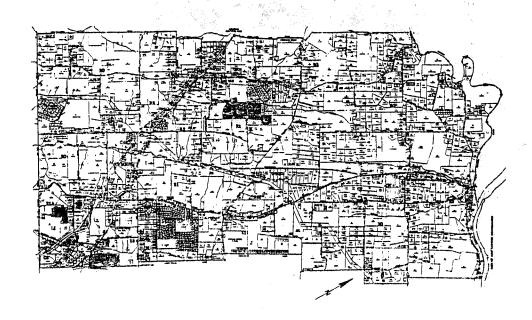
PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP



PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

CONSULTANTS



DePallo Design & Planning Recreation Resource Consultants

ADOPTED OCTOBER 1, 1991

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Acknowledgments

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Park and Recreation Study Committee

Ray Shull, Chairman Gary Fuller Jim Geiger Charles Schweitzer Robert Tait Robert Winters

Consultants

DePallo Design and Planning Recreation Resource Consultants

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. Description of project

This planning study is intended to respond to the existing and future recreation needs of Plumstead Township. Significant data has been collected and analyzed in order to objectively develop a plan which will provide a well balanced set of recreational opportunities for township residents of all age groups. The following are the goals of the plan relating to this study as a planning tool and a guide for mandatory dedication of open space.

a. Goals of the Plan

The goals of this Comprehensive Plan focus on two specific elements: the development of a philosophy for recreation and the implementation strategy through mandatory dedication and township initiative.

- 1). As a primary goal of this plan, a philosophy for recreation has been developed. The individual goals are listed below:
 - To identify community recreational needs and, subsequently, provide an immediate plan for meeting those needs. Of particular concern is the determination of facility needs, acreage requirements and site selection.
 - To identify suitable recreational sites which would not only satisfy the community's recreational needs but also alleviate to the extent possible neighborhood resistance to ultimate locations. Site suitability, environmental concerns, historical factors, and public and private acceptance are crucial elements in site selection.
 - To preserve the rural character of the township and to insure conservation efforts to protect the significant natural open space features which provide passive recreation opportunities to the residents.
 - To extend to the greatest number of people throughout the township, regardless of age, health, sex, race or creed, the most desirable and most varied recreation activities which are practical to originate, conduct and maintain.

- To stimulate in the public an active interest in many opportunities available for healthy, creative and satisfying use of leisure time and to encourage the use of existing leisure-time facilities.
- To encourage volunteerism and to work cooperatively with human service agencies so as to provide an environment that is conducive to wholesome family living and community life.
- To acknowledge existing and potential growth in the township and to subsequently provide an adequate number and appropriate quality of courts and fields to support organized, competitive sporting activities.
- To further develop and establish a formal municipal parks and recreation system which shall be allocated funding to insure the ongoing realization and implementation of the goals and objectives of this study.
- 2). Another goal of this Plan relates to an implementation strategy through provisions for Mandatory Open Space and Recreation Dedication and township initiative. The goals of the plan follow:
 - To evaluate and modify the existing mandatory dedication requirements based on the Municipalities Planning Code as amended by Act 170.
 - To acquire suitable land necessary to provide ample acreage in appropriate locations throughout the township for the efficient distribution of recreation facilities to service the entire community.
 - To develop an equitable "fair-share" formula which shall be applied to development in the township to insure funding of recreation facilities to service the new population.
 - To develop a strategy to aid the construction implementation of recreational facilities identified in the plan.
 - To retain, protect and conserve for township use, significant natural features prior to development.

B. COMMUNITY INVENTORY

1. Structure

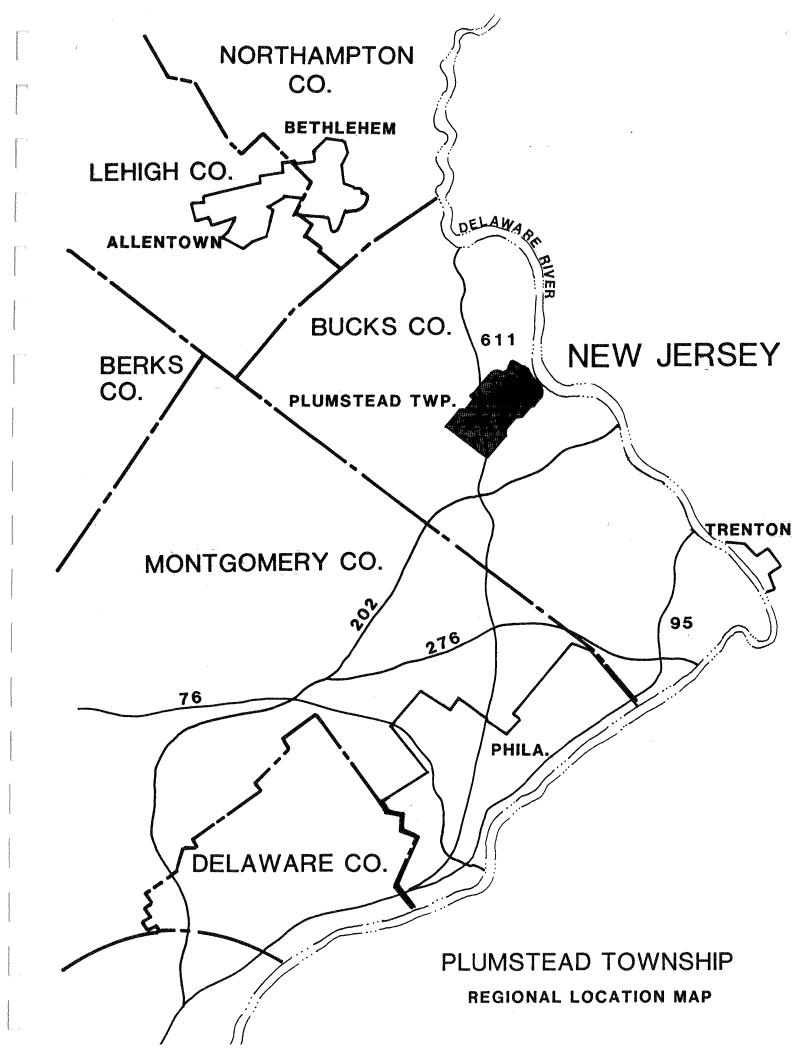
a. Brief History

Plumstead Township, possesses much evidence of the Lenni Lenape Indians which occupied the lands which were explored by Henry C. Mercer and other Archeologists. The Township was named after Frances Plumstead, a London Iron Monger who never came to America. The land was settled primarily by English Quakers and the Plumstead Friends Meeting, founded in 1727 was the Townships first religious establishment. Later settlements were established by German Mennonites, Scottish and Irish. Throughout the 19th Century, Plumstead remained primarily agricultural, with the main industries being Grist Mills. One of the early mills is now the site of Ralph Stover State Park.

Located within the township is a section of the Historic Delaware Canal. This Canal was a focus for industry during the industrial revolution and added greatly to the settlement patterns of the area. Today it presents unique opportunities for recreational and open space use.

Plumstead Township, which occupies approximately twenty-eight (28) square miles, is situated in Central Bucks County bordered to the east by the Delaware River and the Tohickon Creek, to the north by Bedminster Township, to the west by Doylestown, New Britain and Hilltown Townships, and to the south by Buckingham and Solebury Townships. (See Regional Location Map.)

The township is located approximately twenty-five (25) miles from center-city Philadelphia with Route 611 providing direct access into the city. The lands of Plumstead Township are very characteristic of Central Bucks County with gently rolling hills, extensive woodlands and stream valleys, along with numerous farmsteads dotting the landscape. Commercial development follows directly adjacent to Route 611 and Route 313 with high intensity commercial at the intersection.



b. Governmental Organization

Plumstead Township is a community of second class which is subject to the guidelines of the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code. Township matters are generally conducted through the Board of Supervisors of which there are three (3) elected members. Administrative duties are implemented through the township Secretary. The following is a list of additional community agencies which perform township administrative responsibilities.

Department

Reports To

Shade Tree Commission	Schweitzer
Police	Wallis
Water Commission	Wallis
Tax Collector	Board
Historic Commission	Wallis
Roadmaster/Crew	Kiel
Park & Recreation Commission	Schweitzer
Solicitor	Board
Engineer	Schweitzer/Board
Central Bucks School Board	N/A
Secretary-Treasurer	Kiel
Zoning Officer	Schweitzer
Vacancy Board	Board
Code Enforcement Officer	Schweitzer
Fire Marshall	Wallis
Emergency Management	Wallis
Auditors	Board
Planning Commission	Schweitzer
Constable	N/A
Zoning Hearing Board	Schweitzer
Fire Companies	Wallis
Ambulance	Wallis

c. Budget/Tax Structure

1). BUDGET

Plumstead's fiscal budget has increased from \$951,648.50 in 1990 to \$1,126,540.50 in 1991. Presently, the Parks and Recreation Fund has a total of approximately \$18,000. This has been collected from developer's fees and has been frozen and is not available to be utilized for recreation at the present time. Table 1. shows a comparison of the 1990 and 1991 budgets.

Table 1. Operating Budgets

1990 Budget		199	1 Budget				
Total Revenues	\$837,733.52	\$1,012,402.00					
1990 Parks and Recre	eation Fund						
Total Revenues	\$15,000.00	\$	18,000.00				
1990 State Fund							
Total Revenues	\$98,914.98	\$	98,914.98				
1990 GRAND TOTAL \$	951,648.50	\$1,	126,540.50				

2). TAX STRUCTURE

Table 2. outlines Plumstead Township's tax structure. The recently enacted 1% earned income tax has generated more available tax money than originally anticipated. No tax dollars are allocated for parks and recreation expenditures.

Table 2. Township Taxes

1991 Real Estate Tax 13 mils

1991 Earned Income Tax 1%

1991 Real Estate Transfer Tax 13.5 mils

2. Socio-Economic Features

a. Population

Due to increased technology and improved accessibility over the past 50 years metropolitan growth has been characterized by decentralization of urban activities and expansion of development into surrounding areas. Plumstead Township, with its beautiful landscape and easy accessibility, has been subject to this decentralization.

Data collected from the Pennsylvania State Data Center and other sources indicate that growth in the Township is significant. In the past thirty years the population of Plumstead Township has nearly doubled. Recent preliminary estimates of the 1990 census show the population has climbed to 6,186 from 5,153 in 1980 - an increase of 20% in the last ten years.

Table 3. POPULATION GROWTH

1960	1970	1980	1988E	1990P	2000E
3,354	4,682	5,153	5,340	6,186	6,700

^{*} E-Estimates P-Prelim.Census Data

Growth projections for the year 2000 were gathered from the Township Comprehensive Plan. These projections indicate that the population of the township could increase to 6,700 in the next ten years. When we compare this estimate to the number of pending residential land developments, this number may be grossly underestimated. Depending on the residential market conditions, the increase in population could well approach 8,000 or 9,000 people by the year 2000.

The best available data supplied by the Pennsylvania Data Center for 1980 gives a breakdown of the population by race/origin and by age/sex. From Table 4. we see that the racial make-up of the township is over 99% white with very few minorities residing in the township. Although the data is ten years old, knowledgeable sources conclude that the make-up of the community has changed little over that time.

Table 4. Persons by Race/Origin

White	•	٠		•	•	•	•		•		5117
Chinese	.	•							•	•	25
Puerto	R	i	C	a	n					_	5

The same data source has supplied a breakdown of the population by age and sex. Table 5. shows that the majority of the population can be classified as adults with the largest segment of the population being between the ages of 21 to 59. Additional research confirmed this and listed 62% of the population being between the ages of 18 and 65.

Table 5. Persons by Age & Sex

Age	M	F	${f r}$
Under1-5	199	191	390
6-13	344	324	668
14-20	339	344	683
21-34	594	528	1122
35-59	809	777	1586
60and over	316	388	704

b. Employment Data

During 1980 the township-wide per capita income was \$7,750 with the median household income being \$18,868. There were 329 low to moderate income households and 437 very low income households.

c. Housing Data

The following data presents the significant increase in the housing stock of Plumstead Township. Table 6. shows that from 1980 to 1990 the number of housing units increases from 1,907 to an estimated 2,800 - an increase of 893 units or 46%. Although the housing market has slowed appreciably in recent months, the estimated number of new units could greatly exceed the Bucks County Planning Commissions 1990 estimate of 3,200 units by the year 2000.

Table 6. Housing Summary

1970	1980	1986	1990E	2000E
1,513	1,907	2,143	2,800	3,200

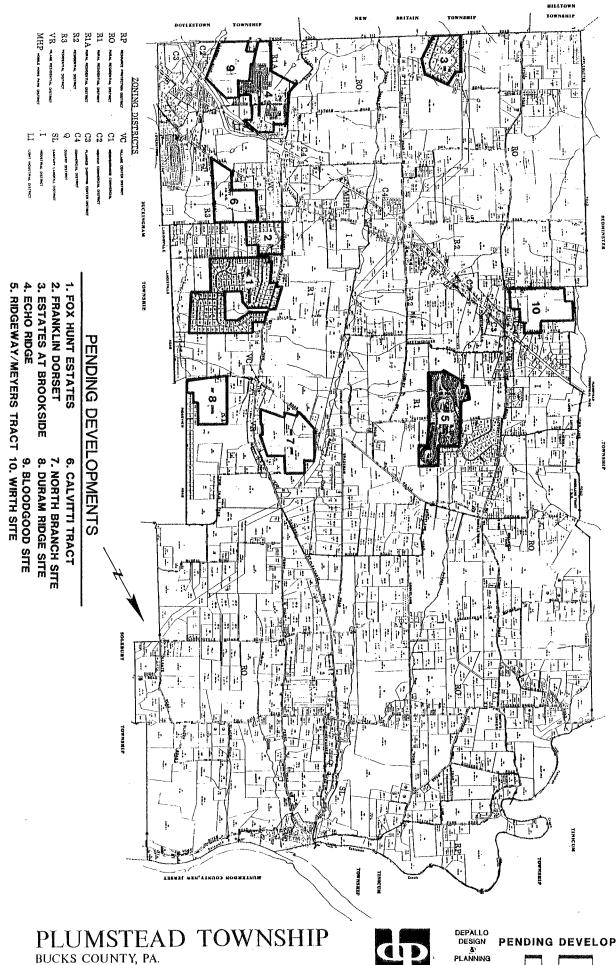
* Estimated

Table 7. shows that the township consists predominately of single family detached units which are owner occupied. It is anticipated that the future housing trends will continue to be consistent with this status.

Table 7 . 1980 Housing Stock

Туре	Number	Share	Bucks Co			
Single Detached	1,348	71.2 %	81.5 %			
Single Attached	21	1.1 %				
Multi-Family 2-4	245	12.9 %	15.9 %			
Multi-Family 5+	238	12.5 %	2.5 %			
Owner	1,440	78.3 %	74.3 %			
Renter	400	21.7 %	25.5 %			

The estimated 1987 median price for a home in Plumstead Township was \$161,000. Attesting to the desirability of residing in Plumstead Township, there are a number of large residential developments under review by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. In all a total of 2014 single family units have recently been approved or are under consideration to be developed in the township (see Pending Development Map). These developments are in various stages of the approval process and are listed below:



BUCKS COUNTY, PA. PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



PENDING DEVELOPMENTS

DEVELOPMENTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- 1. Fox Hunt Estates
 140 Single Family Units
- Franklin Dorset
 Single family Units

DEVELOPMENTS RECENTLY APPROVED

- Estates At Brookside
 Single Family Units
- 4. Echo Ridge 160 Single Family Units
- 5. Ridgeway/Meyers Tract 130 Single Family Units

DEVELOPMENTS PENDING

- 6. Calvitti Tract 362 Mixed Types Units
- 7. North Branch Site 117 Single Family Units
- 8. Durham Ridge Site 84 Single Family Units
- 9. Bloodgood Site 660 Affordable Housing Units
- 10. Wirth Site
 300 Mixed Type Units

Subtotal 2014 units

d. Land Use

Until recently Plumstead's agricultural heritage was the most dominant influence on the land use within the township. But, as can be seen from census data, the impact of development is changing the rural character of the landscape. While the predominant land use throughout the township is still agriculture, the residential uses continue to increase yearly and represent a significant change to the township's framework. This residential development is primarily single family in nature and is located throughout the township.

Commercial development continues to follow the regional highway system and is located adjacent to Route 611 north and south. Some industrial land is located at the intersection of Route 313 and at the northern most portion of Route 611.

Table 8. LAND USE SUMMARY

Land Use	1970 Acres	*	1975 Acres	ફ	1980 Acres	*
Industrial Commercial	228.1 97.3 uc. 11.6	61.7 1.3 1.5 .6 .1	8,740.4 207.7 208.6 123.1 11.6 282.1	60.2 1.4 1.4 .9 .1	271.2 324.1 40.9 333.7	57.3 .8 1.5 1.8 .2
	14,514.9		14,514.9		17,600.0	
ACR:	EAGE IN AC	T 319	2,5	33.9	ACRES	
ACR	EAGE IN AC	T 515	5,1	87.3	ACRES	
			7,7	21.2		

3. Physical Data

a. Neighborhoods & Community Locations

Plumstead Township has developed over the years by the formation of small neighborhood settlements throughout the township. These neighborhood villages are disbursed throughout the township primarily at major intersections and at geographic boundaries. The individual villages all fall under the jurisdiction of the township. A list of the individual villages is included below.

Township Villages:

Plumsteadville
Danboro
Point Pleasant
Gardenville
Wismer
Smith's Corner
Hinkeltown
Fountainville
Groveland
Kepler's Corner

Grier's Corner
Landisville
Dyerstown
Curley Hill
Kendigtown
Carversville
Lower Black Eddy
Melcher's Corner
Devil's Half Acre

b. Zoning

Plumstead Township has recently completed updating of their Zoning Ordinance as of July 1989 (see Zoning Map). The following is a list of zoning districts and permitted uses within each district. Table 9. lists whether a use is Permitted (P), Not Permitted (N), Permitted by Special Exception (S) or Permitted by Conditional Use (C) within each Zoning District.

List of Zoning Districts

- RP Resource Protection District
- RO Rural Residential District
- R1 Rural Residential District
- R1A Rural Residential District
- R2 Residential District
- R3 Residential District
- VR Residential District
- MHP Mobile Home Park District
- VC Village Center District
- C1 Neighborhood Commercial District
- C2 Highway Commercial District
- C3 Planned Shopping Center District
- C4 Commercial District
- Q Quarry District
- SL Sanitary Land Fill District
- I Industrial District
- LI Light Industrial District

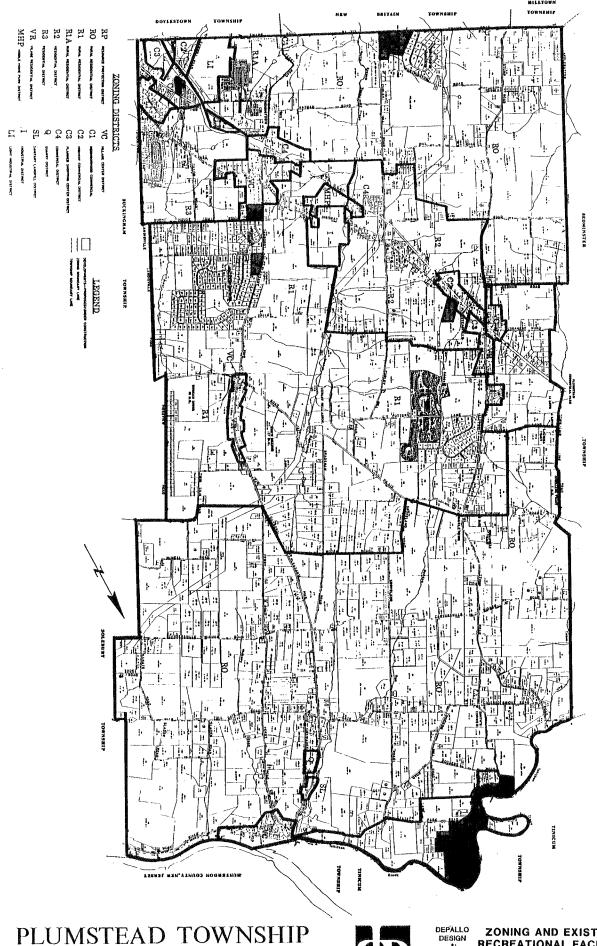
Zoning District Permitted Uses

RP R-0 R-1 R-1A R-2 R-3 M-P VR VC C-1 C-2 C-3 C-4 I LI Q SL

	14	n-O	N- 1	n- in	n-4	n-3	N. L. W.	VIT	,,	٠,	0-2	0-3	0.4	•		w	-
A. Agricultural Uses A1 General Farming A2 Crop Farming A3 Farm Unit A4 Agricultural Retail (accessory) A5 Intensive Agricultural A6 Commercial Forestry A7 Nursery A8 Garden/Horticultural Center A9 Farm Support Facility A10 Kennel-Commercial A11 Riding Academy	σοσοσοσεσοσ		000000222	444444444	######################################	00000000000		2777777877	2222222222	222222222	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N		22222222	222222222	222222222	222222222	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N
B. Residential Uses B1 Detached Dwelling B1a Single Family Semi-Detached (Twin) P1b Two Family Detached (Duplex) B2 Cluster Subdivision B3 Planned Residential Development B4 Mobile Home Park B5 Group Home B6 Life Care Facility B7 Full Care Facility B8 Rooming or Boarding House B9 Residential Conversion B10 Accessory Dwelling B11 Home Occupation a. Professional Office b. Personal Services c. Instructional Services d. Home Crafts e. Trades, Business f. Repair Service g. Family Day Care B12 Bed and Breakfast B13 Accessory Bldg., Structure or Use a. Garage/Off-Street Parking Area b. Storage Shed c. Fence and Walls d. Swimming Pool e. Tennis Court f. Solar Energy Systems g. Wind Energy Systems h. Satellite Antenna i. Amateur Radio Antenna j. Air Conditioner k. Recreational Vehicle Storage l. Garage or Yard Sale	פצצצצצטא פפפנת ששששש בפפנענת שנת במ	ezzzozzooczza reteanaaa eeetecee	פצצטצצאטטצא פפפפפטטטט פפרפרטטטטט	PHNCNNNNNNN *****************************	UZZZZZZZZZ COOOOOOO OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	#ZZZCCZZZZZZ ZZZZZZZ	0.22220222222 2222222 0000000000000000	הטרצצצבצבאטטט טטטטטטטט סטטטטטטטטטטטטטטטטטט	υσυχχχχχχονον ασασσασά αποπονονονοτας	222222222222 2222222 2222222222222				zzzzzzzzzzz zzzzzzzz zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz	22222222222 2222222 222222222222		ממממממממממממממממממממממממממממממממממממממ
* For B2 Cluster Subdivision, Conditions ** For B1 Detached Dwelling Only C. Institutional Uses C1 Place of Worship C2 School C3 Library or Museum C4 Hospital C5 Nursing Home C6 Cemetery C7 Municipal Building C8 Drug and Alcohol Treatment Facility C9 Personal Care Facility	SSSNSSPNS	888C88P	888688458	2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	888088PZ8	22222222	2222222	0000Z00ZZ	220002020	220002020	2200020	220002020	220002020	222002020	222002020		7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7
D1 Recreational Uses D1 Recreational Facility D2 Private Recreational Facility D3 Private Club D4 Community Center D5 Golf Course D6 Private Camp	P C S S S S	P. C & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &	9 PC8882	00222	PCNSSN	0.02222	P C N N	p. C s s z z	5 O U	L CZZZZ	002222	r	6 6 2 2 Z Z	2222	002222		2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
E. Utility, Service and Transportation Uses E1 Utilities (Substation) E2 Emergency Services E3 Terminal E4 Airport E5 Helistop	2 2 Z Z Z	8 8 Z Z Z Z	S S N N N	S S Z Z Z Z Z	\$ \$ X X X	\$ \$ N N N N	\$ \$ N N N	88222	8 8 2 2 2	5 5 N N	8 8 2 2 2	5577	S S N N	s s c s s		\$ \$ N N	8 8 2 2 2

Table 9, cont'd.

	RP	R-O	R-1	R~1A	R-2	R-3	мнр	VR	VC	C-1	C-2	с-з	C-4	I	LI	Q	SL
F.Office Uses																	
F1 Medical Office F2 Veterinary Office	N S	N S	N N	N	N N	N	N N	N	p S	s	P S	p S	p S	P S	P S	N N	N N
F3 Office	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	ĕ	p	P	p	P	N	N
F4 Business Park	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	С	С	N	N
G. Commercial & Consumer Service Uses																	
G1 Commercial School	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	s	P	N	N	s	S	N	N
G2 Day-Care Center G3 Retail Store	N	N N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	S	S	N N	S	S N	S N	N N	N
G4 Adult Commercial	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N.,	S	N	N	N
G5 Village Oriented Shop	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	p	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
G6 Service Business	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Р	Р	Р	N	Р	N	N	N	N
G7 Financial Establishment	N	N.	N	N	N	N	N	N	p	p	P	N	p p	N	N	N	N
G8 Funeral Home or Mortuary G9 Eating Place	N N	N N	N N	N N	N	N N	N	N N	S	S	P	N N	P	N	N	N	N
G9 Eating Place G10 Drive-ins & Other Eating	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	þ	N	N	N	N	N	N
G11 Tavern	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	s	s	s	N	s	Ŋ,	N	N	N
G12 Repair Shop	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	s	s	P	N	N	P	P	N	N
G13 Indoor Entertainment	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	S	N	N	S	P	N	N
G14 Theater G15 Indoor Athletic Club	N	N	N	N N	N	N	N N	N	N	N	s s	N	N S	N	P	N	N
G16 Amusement Halls and Arcade	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	N	N	N	N	N	N
G17 Outdoor Entertainment	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	s	N	N	p	N	N	N
G18 Outdoor Motion Picture	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	N	N	þ	N	N	N
G19 Laundry	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	S	N	S	N	N	N	N
G20 Motel-Hotel	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	s	s	N	S	S	P	N	N
G21 (Reserved) G22 (Reserved)																	
G23 Service Station/Car Wash Facility	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ρ	. N	p	s	N	N	N
G24 Motor Vehicle Sales	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	N	N	P	N	N	N
G25 Motor Vehicle Repair	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	N	ρ	N	Р	Р	N	N	N
G26 Automotive Accessories	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ν	N	N	Р	Ņ	N	Þ	N	N	N
G27 Heavy Equipment & Farm Equipment									_		_			_			
Sales and Repair G28 Shopping Center	N N	N	N N	N N	N	N	N	N	S	N N	P	N	N	P.	N	N	N
G29 Miniwarehouses	N	N	N	N-	N	N	N	Ni.	N	N	N	N	N	S	N S	N	N
G30 Owelling in Combination	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ρ	s	N	Ñ	N	N	Ň	N	N
G31 Nonresidential Conversion	N	N	N	N	Н	N	N	N	Ρ	N	N	N	N	Р	N	N	N
H.Industrial Uses												٠					
														_	_		
H1 Manufacturing H2 Research	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	P	N	N
H2 Research H3 Wholesale, Storage, Warehousing	N N	N	N N	N N	N	N	N N	N	N	N N	N S	N N	N N	p	P	N N	N N
H4 Printing	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N.	þ	è	Ň	N
H5 Contracting	N	N	Ŋ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	N	N	Ρ	N	N	N
H6 Truck Terminal	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	N	N	C	N	Ν	N
H7 Crafts	N	N	N	N	N.	Ŋ	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	Р	N	N
H8 Lumber Yard H9 Mill	N N	N	N N	N N	N	N N	N	N N	N N	N N	N N	N	N	þ	N N	N N	N N
H10 Fuel Storage	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ċ	N	N	N
H11 Junk Yard	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	C	N	N	N
H12 Extractive Operation	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ρ	N
H13 Asphalt Plant	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N N	N N	Р	N
H14 Ready Mix Concrete Plant H15 Industrial Park	N	N N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N N	N	N N	N	S	Р	N	N
H16 Resource Recovery Facility	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Č	N	N	Ċ
H17 Solid Waste Landfill	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ň	N	N	s
H18 Flex Space	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	ρ	P	N	N
I. General Accessory Uses & Structures																	
•													_				_
I1 Nonresidential Accessory Building	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	þ	P	Р	S	Р	Р	N	N	S
I2 Outside Storage or Display	N N	N M	N	N	N M	N N	N	N	N S	p S	P S	S S.	P S	P S	N S	N	S S
I3 Temporary Structure I4 Temporary Community Event	N	N N	N N	N	N	N	N	N	S	S	S	S.	S	Ŋ	N	N	N
IS Oil & Gas Drilling	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ŋ	N	N	N	s	N	N	N
16 Wind Energy Conversion System	N	N	N	И	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	s	s	N	N
I7 Air Landing Field	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Ç	N	N	N
I8 Towers, Masts, Etc.	N	N	N	N M	N	N	N	N	N P	N	S	S P	N	S	S	N P	N P
I9 Off-Street Parking I10 Signs	N N	N	N N	N	N	N N	N	N N	Р	P	P	P	P	P	P	Р	P
·					, •	•••			,		•						



PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP

BUCKS COUNTY, PA. PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



A) PLANNING

ZONING AND EXISTING RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

c. Natural Features

An analysis was conducted to present the important natural features existing through the township and to present them to identify their locations and potential impacts on recreational sites. (See Suitability Map.)

1). Slopes

Throughout most of the township, slope of the land is gentle in nature. Steeper slopes ranging from 8% to 25% and over have been identified adjacent to the Tohickon Creek and the Delaware River. Some minor steep slopes exist in the southern and western portion of the township. Slope categories have been broken down into segments relating to suitability for recreation development. Generally slopes have been mapped as follows: 0% -8%, 8% - 14%, 15% - 25%, 25% and over.

2). Surface Water and Drainage Basins

Plumstead Township possesses six major drainage channels within its boundaries:

- North Branch of the Neshaminy Creek
- Tohickon Creek
- Cabin Run
- Pine Run
- Deer Run
- Geddes Run

In addition to these major drainage areas, smaller drainage channels are located in the Township. The basins are delineated by ridge lines and generally a northeast southwest direction.

3). Soils

Soils were investigated utilizing the U.S. Soil Conservation Service Data on specific soils in the SCS publication Soil Survey of Bucks County. Implications for recreation development tend to focus on alluvial soils, flood plain areas, high water tables, and shallow depth to bedrock. These limiting soils are mapped on the Suitability Map.

According to the collected data, flood-prone alluvial soils are found in areas along the Neshaminy Creek, the west and north branches of Neshaminy Creek and their tributary streams. These and other flood prone areas, including the flood plains of the North Branch Neshaminy Creek, Pine Run, Geddes Run, Cabin Run, Hickory Creek, Tohickon Creek, the Delaware River and tributaries have been identified and mapped.

Almost all of the low lying areas of Plumstead Township are characterized by soils that have a shallow depth to the seasonally high water table. Generally, these soils result in poor conditions for building construction and on-lot septic systems.

Some soils in the Township exhibit shallow depths to bedrock. Most of these soils are located along the ridge lines adjacent to the Tohickon Creek and in the southern portion of the township along the ridges of Pine Run.

4). Woodlands

The vast majority of the township's woodlands have been cleared for agricultural use or to construct development. The remaining wooded areas are generally located on the steep slopes along the Tohickon Creek, Geddes Run, and the Delaware River. Smaller areas of woodlands are found at scattered locations throughout the township.

d. Utilities

Two (2) extensive utility easements are located within the township. Both are owned and maintained by the Philadelphia Electric Company and include the Point Pleasant Pumping Station and Pipeline, and PECO overhead electrical right-of-way. (See Suitability Map.)

C. RECREATION AND PARK SERVICES INVENTORY

1. Goals & Objectives

Presently, the newly formed Park and Recreation Commission of Plumstead Township is in charge of recreational activities throughout the township. The following are the goals and objectives of the Commission.

- The Commission's initial goal is the development and adoption of this Comprehensive Plan and its components.
- The development of organizational by-laws and specific duties and responsibilities of its members.
- The development of a Department of Recreation to develop, administer, program, maintain, and budget recreation facilities.
- Another goal is for the Commission to become an integral part of the township-wide planning activities and to incorporate recreation planning into the system.

2. Existing Programs

The lack of facilities and programs in Plumstead Township has caused the residents to seek organized recreation outside of the township. For example, youth baseball and soccer is accommodated outside of the township with approximately 439 participants in the Buckingham Athletic Association. Residents also compete in programs sponsored by Bedminster Township, the Doylestown Athletic Association and the Pinehickon Athletic Association.

a. Public

There are no township public recreation programs offered to the residents of Plumstead Township. Programs are available outside of the township by athletic associations in Bedminster, Buckingham, Doylestown and Pinehickon.

b. Schools

Plumstead Township is part of the Central Bucks School System. Located in the Township is the Gayman Elementary School and located outside of the Township in Doylestown and Buckingham is Central Bucks West High School and Central Bucks East High School.

c. Quasi-Public

There are no programs offered within the township, but, the YMCA in Doylestown offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities including: swimming, arts and crafts, exercise programs, instructional programs, day camps, and the like for all ages. New programming information is presented every six weeks throughout the year. A program brochure is available from the Central Bucks Family YMCA, 2500 Lower State Road, Doylestown, PA 18901, 215-348-8131. P.O.C. Eugene Smith, Gen. Dir.

d. Private Commercial

The only private commercial recreation related programs within the township are offered through the Nautilus Facility which provides weight training and exercise programs.

3. Areas & Facilities

- a. Public, Quasi-Public, Private
 - Ralph Stover State Park (+/- 30 acres)
 6 Cabins
 Picnic Area
 Kyaking/Whitewater Boating
 - Delaware Canal Water Access Fishing Hiking
 - Ockinickon Boy Scout Camp (120 acres) Campground Swimming Pool Hiking
 - Danboro Church Fields Softball Field Volleyball Court
 - Fishing/Boating/Tubing on the Delaware River
 - Hinkletown Fields 2 Private Softball Fields
 - Demuz Field
 1 Private Softball Field

b. Schools

- Gayman Elementary School 1 60 ft. ballfield Playground

c. Extra-Municipal

- Municipal Park Land 5 Acres, Open Space
- d. Day Care Centers
 Christ Community Church
 Curiosity Shop

e. Existing Acquisitions and Development Programs

As stated previously, Plumstead Township is under significant development pressure. As development approvals are being granted, lands proposed for recreation have been aggressively acquired. During the course of this study, one developer presented plans for 4 development sites and their associated active and passive recreation amenities. The following is a list of the developments, proposed township open space dedication and the proposed recreation facilities for each:

Myer's Tract (Approved)

Total Site Area: 59.3 ac Open Space 50.9 %

Activities Proposed: Passive Recreation Areas

Combined Use Active Play Area

Parking for 40-60 cars

- Ridgeway Tract

Total Site Area: 73.7 ac Open Space: 53.4 %

Activities Proposed: Passive Recreation Areas

Undeveloped Open Space

Unstructured Open Play Fields

- Durham Ridge Tract

Total Site Area : 83 ac Open Space : 51.2 %

Activities Proposed: Nature Area/ Picnic Area

Fishing Pond

Parking for 20 cars

- North Branch Tract

Total Site Area : 125.5 ac Open Space : 50 %

Activities Proposed: Organized ball fields

Fishing Pond

Pedestrian/Bike Trail

Nature Area

Parking for 100 cars

- Echo Ridge

Total Site Area : 160.0 ac Open Space : 50 %

Activities Proposed: Passive Open Space

f. Open Space Conservation Areas

Presently, the township owns no open space conservation areas. The township is actively attempting to acquire significant amounts of open space as each development is proposed. The township is recommending the use of cluster development to preserve a minimum of 50% open space. Upon approval of the individual developments the township is requiring dedication of the open space land as part of the development process.

4. Financing

In the past, and to date, township recreation has had no Capital Budget nor Operating Budget to offer facilities or programs to the residents. Fees for recreation related activities have come from mandatory dedication and fees in lieu of only recently. These funds may be used for capital improvements only. As of this date approximately \$18,000 exists in the recreation fund.

5. Personnel

The township is staffed by a full-time secretary and part-time clerical help. This staff handles all administrative duties at the direction of the Board of Supervisors and various committees including the Park and Recreation Board. The Public Works Department consists of a Supervisor, two full-time and one part-time employee.

6. Administration

Administration of the Park and Recreation activities is handled by the Park and Recreation Committee which meets monthly to address various issues mostly relating to preparation of this study and potential acquisition of land through the mandatory dedication provisions.

This five member board is appointed by the Supervisors for a year-to-year voluntary period.

7. Maintenance

Maintenance relating to the limited recreation facilities in the township is accomplished by the Road Department which includes a Supervisor, two full-time and one part-time employees.

The Township owns some maintenance equipment which includes a tractor, loader, mowers, ditch digger, and a boom truck.

D. COMMUNITY SURVEY

In October 1990, a six (6) page recreation needs assessment survey was mailed to 700 township residents who were selected at random from the local tax records. Members of every third household were asked to respond to questions regarding their household's leisure activity and facility preferences.

The initial first mailing yielded 298 usable surveys which resulted in a 43% response rate. Of the 298 returned surveys, 129 households (43%) had children under 18 years of age.

A second mailing was distributed to 350 households in December. Another 80 usable surveys were returned for a second mailing response rate of 23%. A total of 1287 residents were represented by this survey.

Favorite adult activities included home improvements, hiking, swimming, aerobics, and picnicking. Children were found to participate frequently in biking, swimming, hiking, picnicking, and arts and crafts. Future facility preferences include a nature center, playgrounds, bike trails, picnic areas and open park space.

The "typical" respondent was 35-40 years old, had lived in the township 6-10 years and had an average household income of \$40,000-\$59,999. A detailed copy of the survey results and a sample survey are included in the appendix.

- E. ANALYSIS & EVALUATION OF MUNICIPAL RECREATION SERVICE
- 1. Analysis & Evaluation of Components
 - a. Community Inventory

The natural and man-made features of Plumstead Township lend themselves to the development of a wide variety of active and passive recreational opportunities. The gentle slopes, good soils, and cleared land which is easily accessible offer ample and diverse sites for active recreation development. The significant woodlands, linear water-oriented features, and unique ecosystems can afford significant development of conservation and open space related uses. The historic Delaware Canal (approximately 1.5 miles) offers a unique recreational opportunity for the township. Even the linear orientation of the PECO utility easements, are aligned to present interesting opportunities for the development of a unique pedestrian trail system.

Presently, these natural features exist in abundance; but, with the increasing developmental impact, the opportunities for incorporation of a well developed recreation and open space plan are rapidly becoming limited. Along with development comes an increased road network and associated traffic, more restricted utility easements, and most significantly, the consumption of available open space land.

The lack of recreation facilities throughout the township must be looked upon as an urgent and important need to be addressed. The absence of township-owned open space magnifies the importance of the acquisition and development of recreation facilities and programs.

b. Standards (NRPA)

Comparing the National Recreation and Park Administration Standards to the available facilities and programs in Plumstead Township clearly shows the underdeveloped status of recreation in the township. The following Tables 10. and 11. compare the NRPA Standards for facilities and programs with existing recreation in Plumstead Township.

According to the National Recreation and Parks
Association Standards, guidelines are presented to
suggest a park system based on population and service
areas. A prototypical park system should have recreational
opportunities which include Local Space (mini park,
neighborhood park and community park), Regional Space (metro
park, reserve), and Unique Spaces (linear park, special
use, conservancy). Parks in this classification system
being considered for Plumstead Township are Neighborhood
Parks/Playgrounds, Community Park, and Linear Park
Systems. These are described as follows:

Neighborhood Parks/Playgrounds - are areas for intense recreational activities such as field and court games, crafts, playground apparatus, picnicking, skating and wading pools, etc. The population service area is a 1/2 to 1 mile radius and would serve up to 5,000 people. The desirable size is 5 to 20 acres. This type of park is suited for intense development and may be developed as a school-park facility.

Community Park — is an area of diverse environmental quality. It may include intense recreational facilities such as athletic complexes and large swimming pools. The park may be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation such as walking, viewing, picnicking, sunbathing, etc. The park can be a combination of passive and active recreational facilities. Approximately 25% of the land may be permanently preserved natural features. The service area radius is recommended at 1 to 3 miles. The desired size is greater than 25 acres. The park should include natural features such as water bodies and is suited for areas of intense development. The park should be easily accessible to the community served.

Linear Park Systems - are areas developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel such as hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, canoeing, horseback riding, jogging, etc. The trail should be of sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use. This type of park is associated with built or natural corridors such as rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, streams, and should link other components of a recreation system such as other park areas, trails, schools, commercial areas, libraries, etc. The Delaware Canal presents the township with a unique opportunity to develop a linear system along the river in conjunction with a regional path system.

The NRPA Standards emphasize that these are strictly guidelines and that there is room for modification to these standards in the development of a park and recreation system. (See Appendix for NRPA Standards Chart)

Table 10. NRPA Standards

		Existing Facility		commended cility	
	Component Facility	Ex. Pop. 6,000	1990 6,000	1995 8,000	2000 10,000
<u>A.</u>	Local Space			•	•
1.	Mini-Park	none	1.5-3ac	2-4ac	2.5-5ac
*2.	Neighborhood Park	none	6-12ac	8-16ac	10-20ac
*3.	Community Park	none	30-48ac	40-64ac	50-80ac
В.	Regional Space				
1.	Regional/Metro Park	Peace Valley	30-60ac	40-80ac	50-100ac
2.	Regional Park Reserve	Nockimixo State Par		varies	varies
<u>c.</u>	Unique Spaces				
*1.	Linear Park	Del. Cana	.1		
2.	Special Use	Ockanicko Boy Scout Camp			
3.	Conservancy	Delaware River			

^{*} Recommended component to proposed Plumstead Township Park System.

Table 11. NRPA Standards for Selected Activities

		Existing Facility	Recommended Facility		
	Selected Component Facility	Ex. Pop. 6,000	1990 6,000	1995 8,000	2000
1.	Basketball 1/5000 pop.	1(0)	1(4)	1(6)	2 (8)
2.	Tennis 1/2000 pop.	3 (0)	3 (4)	4(8)	5(12)
3.	Little League 1/5000 pop.	1(0)	1(1)	1(1)	2(2)
4.	Soccer 1/10,000 pop.	-(0)	-(1)	-(2)	1(3)
5.	Running Track 1/20000 pop.	-(0)	-(0)	-(0)	-(1)
6.	Softball 1/5,000 pop.	1(0)	1(1)	2(2)	2(3)
7.	Swimming 1/20,000 pop.	-(0)	-(0)	-(0)	-(1)
9.	Trails 1/Region	-(0)	1(1)	1(2)	1(3)

NOTE: As stated the NRPA Standards are to be utilized as a guideline for recreation planning. Specific to Plumstead Township, it is recommended that appropriate standards be more accurately stated. These recommended facilities are identified in () on the above chart.

2. Analysis of Long-term & Short Term Goals

a. Goals & Objectives

Through this Comprehensive Plan, the recently formulated Recreation Committee is establishing a distinct set of goals and objectives as follows:

- Creation and adoption of the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan
- Establishment of Recreation Committee bylaws, duties and responsibilities
- Development of a Department of Recreation
- Become an integral part of Township planning

b. Programs

The township offers little in the way of recreational programs for the community. Little league baseball, youth soccer league, and other like competitive sports are available only through neighboring communities. The Central Bucks School District makes some programs available to the students in the form of physical education and arts & crafts, but for the most part these programs are located well outside of the township boundaries.

Recreational opportunities for adults are also limited within the township. No public playing fields nor courts exist in the township and the few existing fields are privately owned and not available to everyone. Opportunities for outdoor sports such as fishing, hunting, boating, and the like are better accommodated in the township.

It is the goal of this plan to aid in the development of active and passive recreational programs for localized participation so that residents of all ages shall have these opportunities available to them within the township.

c. Areas & Facilities

Public recreation areas & facilities are very limited in the township. No true public facilities exist to date, and only the Ralph Stover State Park (30 acres) and the Ockinickon Boy Scout Camp (120 acres) encompass any significant amount of land. The township is actively

attempting to acquire land through the development process and will likely see some land become available for recreational use in the near future.

This plan intends to foster the development of a park system with a number of areas and facilities disbursed throughout the township so that access to recreation is provided for all within a reasonable distance.

d. Finance

To date, the township has a balance of about \$18,000 on account for recreation development which was obtained through developer's contributions. Recreation related activities in the township receive money from few other sources. A RIRA Grant of \$7,500.00 was utilized to finance this report. Other monies may be available through similar grant programs.

It is a goal of this plan to establish an implementation strategy to finance the development of a Recreation System with facilities, programs, and an administrative structure.

e. Personnel

The lack of recreational facilities and programs in the township has not warranted the hiring of any personnel to administer recreational activities in the township. Any of these duties are now handled by the Supervisors, Secretary, and the Recreation Board.

It is the goal of this plan to formulate recommendations which may include the utilization of volunteers, as well as full-time and/or part-time personnel to aid in the development and implementation of a Recreation System.

f. Administration

Administrative need for recreational related activities are limited in scope at this time. The Park and Recreation Committee is beginning to assume more responsibility for planning the future development of recreation in the township. This board consists of six (6) members who meet once a month to discuss related items including preparation of this report, review of land developments, and general planning for future recreation.

This plan intends to further define administrative duties and recommend the distribution of responsibilities whether by the recreation committee, volunteers, and/or future staff personnel.

g. Maintenance

Again, the lack of recreational facilities has not created the need to formally structure a maintenance program for recreational uses. The township Road Department has the man-power and general equipment to complete the minimal required operations.

This report intends to aid the township in the development of maintenance needs to be associated with the proposed recreation facilities, areas and programs outlined as part of the plan.

F. RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. Goals & Objectives

The previously stated Comprehensive Plan goals can be utilized to formulate definitive goals and detailed objectives for the future development and operation of a municipal parks and recreation department.

Agency goals could be expanded to include, but not be limited to, the following objectives:

- a. A first priority should be the adoption of the Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan so it may be utilized as an outline guide.
- b. Develop a philosophy of leisure service which includes:
 - Providing active and passive recreational opportunities within the Township for all citizens.
 - Protecting and preserving significant open space and natural features within the Township.
- c. Encourage better public participation and understanding of parks and recreation opportunities by:
 - Announcing recreational-related activities during monthly supervisor's meetings.
 - Publishing recreation-related announcements in the Civic Association Newsletter.
 - Advertising recreation-related activities in local papers.
 - Developing a rapport with recreation-related agencies outside of the Township.
- d. Establish parks and recreation policies to serve as management guidelines to include:
 - Owning and managing recreation facilities, areas, and open space lands by the Township.
 - Establishing responsibilities by athletic associations to implement and administer their programs.

- Applying user fees for programs and activities to aid in the cost of development and maintenance of facilities and areas.
- e. Provide outdoor facilities within each service area which are within walking, biking, or short driving distance from the local user including:
 - Eight (8) neighborhood service areas each containing a neighborhood park except for one (1) service area to be developed as a community park.
 - Developing a linear trail/nature system which shall be located throughout the Township interconnecting significant recreation and open space amenities.
- f. Focus on the acquisition of open space for both conservation and recreation purposes by:
 - Accepting all possible open space dedication through the land development process.
 - Seek land donations from owners to protect and conserve sensitive open space, eg. floodplains, wetlands, easements, etc.

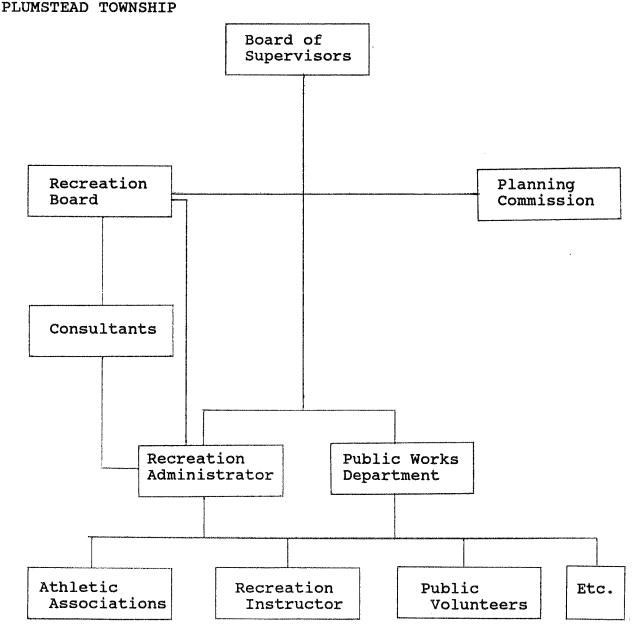
2. Administration

The current Park and Recreation Advisory Board, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, can continue with the planning process of laying the foundation for future leisure opportunities in the township. The following are recommendations relating to fulfilling this work:

- a. Publicize and expand the Park and Recreation Board meetings to include additional public input at their regularly scheduled meetings to gain citizen input relating to:
 - The planning and development of recreational facilities and open space preservation.
 - The review of land development plans and their relationship to recreation and open space preservation.
 - The needs of athletic associations in the pursuit of their specific recreational goals.
- b. Review the administrative policies and budgets of other municipal park and recreation departments in Pennsylvania to determine their adaptability to Plumstead Township by:

- Utilizing the <u>DCA Budget and Salary Survey</u> as a guideline to establishing budgets, etc.
- c. Clearly define the role of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board as a recreation/community service department with full authority for management and planning of recreation facilities until additional staff may be hired.
- d. Identify the administrative structure or combination of structures, which would best meet the personnel program, planning, and maintenance needs of the township such as:

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



3. Personnel

The recruitment, training and supervision of parks and recreation employees are important factors in the success of any municipal recreation program. Careful consideration should be given to the level, or category, of employees prior to their hiring and detailed job descriptions should be prepared well in advance of actual recruiting of both employees and volunteers.

To guide the township, the PA Dept. of Community Affairs Bureau of Recreation and Conservation has prepared the following document: "Hiring Municipal Recreation and Park Personnel", January 1991. (A copy of this report shall be kept on file with the Township)

Plumstead Township's immediate goal could be to develop a part-time recreation administrator job description, including title, duties and responsibilities, job requirements, skills needed, educational requirements and any other related factors. A selection and screening process should be agreed upon, interviewing methods confirmed, and a formula for hiring the best qualified applicant should be developed and implemented.

As the part-time administrator's need to delegate job responsibilities grows, a part-time secretary might be added, as well as part-time program leaders. After 2-3 years, consideration may be given to having a full-time administrator. Again, as the need arises after 3-5 years, a supervisory position can be added also the use of volunteers should be considered in many aspects of the recreation program.

Most municipal parks and recreation departments hire employees that fall into one of three categories: Administrative, Supervisory, and Leadership. When preparing job descriptions, their distinct duties can be considered.

- a. Administrator primarily responsible for the planning and implementation of the local park and recreation program while meeting the needs of the community; titles include "director", "superintendent", "manager", "commissioner":
 - 1). Supervises the acquisition, development, maintenance of facilities.
 - 2). Planning and organizing community programs.
 - 3). Establish and maintain professional relationships with community groups, residents, developers, and elected and appointed officials.

- 4). Recruit, select, train and supervise all departmental employees.
- 5). Evaluate program effectiveness, personnel performance, and overall department operations.
- 6). Preparation and justification of operating budget and capital improvements.
- 7). Implementing a risk management plan for all programs and facilities.
- 8). Attend professional development conferences, workshops and seminars.
- b. Supervisor usually assigned to a specific component of the recreation program; "program supervisor", "summer program supervisor", "athletic supervisor", "youth activity supervisor", "recreation supervisor"; typically responsible for the coordination, management, planning and supervision of facilities, personnel, and finances under their jurisdiction.
- c. Leader/Instructor considered a specialist in a certain area or activity and directly responsible for the organization and content of their specific activity; "Sports Instructor", "Playground Leader", "Aerobic Instructor", "Crafts Instructor", "Pre-School Instructor", etc.; usually not involved in actual management functions.
- d. It is recommended that the Township pursue meeting their personnel needs as follows:
 - Volunteerism the primary source of personnel needs with one volunteer contact person reporting to the Recreation Board.
 - Part-time Administrator when appropriate hiring a part-time administrator reporting to the Recreation Board.
 - Leader/Instructor when appropriate hiring part time instructors for specific tasks or programs such as summer day camp, instructional camps, etc.

4. Financing

Many opportunities are available for creative financing of municipal parks and recreation services. The Township shall utilize as many sources of funding as possible to implement their program. Traditional funding sources may include:

- a. User program fees and charges for participating residents and non-residents
- b. Property/general taxes/bonds
- c. Special park district taxes
- d. Fees in lieu of facilities/mandatory dedication
- e. Federal and state assistance
- f. Grants/qift programs
- q. Trust funds
- h. Fund raising
- i. Concession/leases income
- j. Dedicated millage

The community recreation survey results show support from the residents for establishing user fees and charges, floating a bond specifically for the development of parks and recreation opportunities, and allocating one (1) mil of the local taxes to support recreation activities. A combination of these funding possibilities, managed efficiently and effectively, could lead to the successful implementation of Plumstead Township's first recreation and parks program.

Additional recommendations for consideration include:

a. Request copies of other local operating and capital budgets from parks and recreation departments and develop a tentative budget for both immediate needs (one year) and future planning (one to five years).

The PA Dept. of Community Affairs Bureau of Recreation and Conservation has prepared the "1990 Budget and Salary Survey Report for Municipal Recreation and Park Departments". (A copy of this document shall be kept on file with the Township.)

- b. Review other municipal fee schedules, YMCA rates, and other private or volunteer organization, business, or agency fees and charges; decide if your programs will break-even or return a profit to the township general fund.
- c. Outline and adopt a fee ordinance for future recreation programs which supports the goal of a break-even or for-profit bottom line.
- d. Prepare for a possible bond referendum by identifying and estimating the cost of specific development or acquisition projects.
- e. Constantly be aware of grants or aid from other public and private sources which may support a one-time program or project or supplement development plans. Examples of these grants include:
 - PA Council of the Arts
 - DCA Recreation Improvements Rehabilitation Act (RIRA)
 - Bucks County Open Space Acquisition Program
 - Heritage Corridor Canal Commission

5. Program (Short & Long Term Priorities)

In order to meet the goal of providing a variety of wholesome programs to meet the needs of all residents regardless of their age, ability or economic status, careful planning must take place prior to recreation programs. Identifying those programs which are successful in other communities is a good start, combined with public input from the survey results, and feasibility of actual program implementation.

Program planners should keep in mind what is "in" this year and what successful program may be "out" next year and cause a financial loss. Researching current trends and seeking input from your target group of participants is important.

a. Short Term Program

The first priority in developing Plumstead's short-term recreation program is to categorize the types of activities needed to satisfy most segments of the community. These programs should be conveniently located, diverse, flexible, and dynamic, and, most importantly, be advertised to all residents.

In addition to deciding what to offer, a location must be found, a time scheduled, supplies purchased, instructors hired, registrations taken, and fees paid. Immediate steps should be taken to plan are possible programs.

Examples of program categories would be:

By Function

Organized/Supervised
Free Play/Self-directed
Educational
Related Human Services

By Program Focus

Arts/Culture Sports/Athletics Outdoor Recreation Seasonal Special Events Trips

b. Long Term Program

With all the planning in place, long-term recommendations would include the expansion of program offerings and evaluation of past programs. The evaluation process allows for the detection of problems should any arise, determination of whether the program should run again, and a measurement of effectiveness and meeting program goals.

c. Recommendations

The information contained below defines, by examples, the recommended program types into four (4) distinct groups: Organized/Supervised, Free-Play/Self-Directed, Educational Programs and Special Events. Included under each program group are recommended activities.

The following recreation programs have been identified based on research relating to successful programs offered in adjacent communities, programs identified in the survey results as most desirable, and by discussion and review amongst the Recreation Committee, concerned citizens and project consultants.

These recommended programs are identified as being the highest priority to be developed over the next five (5) years. Long range programs shall continue to be developed as the Township Recreation System expands, the population increases, and new demands are identified.

- 1). Organized /Supervised Programs: summer day camp; playground programs; after-school programs; sports leagues, clinics, tournaments, camps; crafts classes; dancing classes; theater groups; fitness classes; trips; community celebrations; special events; concerts; special interest/hobby clubs; senior citizen clubs; pre-school/day care program; teen activities; outdoor adventure programs; various short seminars on topics of interest.
 - a. Recommended Youth Programs: arts and crafts, softball, baseball, soccer
 - b. Recommended Adult Programs: aerobics, arts and crafts
- 2). Free-Play/Self-Directed Programs: Opportunities for walking, running, biking, and hiking alone or in groups; operation of open areas for fishing, swimming, sunning, picnicking, and "pick-up", impromptu games.
 - a. Recommended Youth Programs: biking, swimming, hiking, picnicking, fishing, tennis
 - Recommended Adult Programs: hiking, swimming, picnicking, biking, fishing

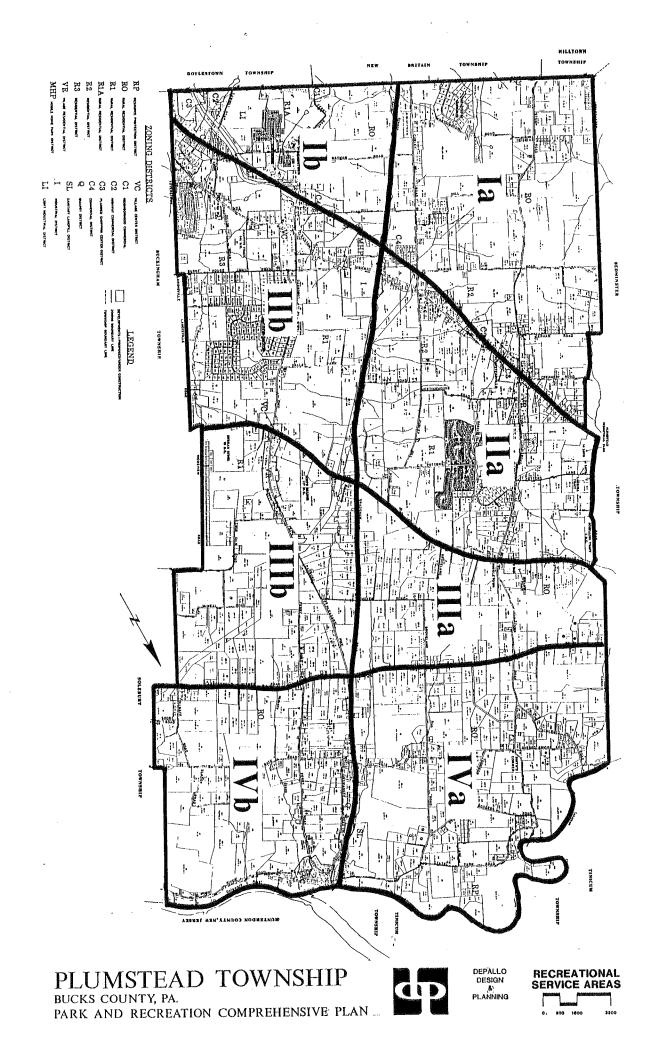
- 3). Educational Programs: "How to" programs that focus on learning a new skill or activity rather than the fitness or social aspect of participating in a program; also, educating the public of the importance of leisure in their life.
 - a. Recommended Youth Programs: arts and crafts, nature study
 - Recommended Adult Programs: home improvements, photography, arts and crafts, nature study
- 4). Many communities include special events in addition to the traditional recreation-related programs. Plumstead Township intends to initiate special events to include:
 - a. Plumstead Community Day: a festival open to the entire community with games, food, exhibits, etc. offered once a year.
 - b. First Park Dedication: a dedication ceremony open to the township at the occasion of the opening of Plumstead's first park/playground facility.
 - c. Plumstead Race: a township-sponsored jogging event possibly to earn funds for park development.

6. Areas & Facilities (5 Year Capitol Improvements)

To develop a meaningful and site specific survey of recreational wants and needs, the survey information was tabulated into four geographic areas. To better accommodate the township-wide recreational opportunities for the user groups, eight neighborhood service areas were created. These service areas are delineated on the Recreation Service Area Map and are located as follows:

- IA. North West of Route 611
- IB. South West of Route 611
- IIA. North East of Route 611/West of Durham Road
- IIB. South East of Route 611/West of Durham Road
- IIIA. North East of Durham Road/West of Carversville Road
- IIIB. South East of Durham Road/West of Carversville Road
- IVA. North East of Carversville Road to the River
- IVB. South East of Carversville Road to the River

The following is a list and description of recommended areas and facilities to be developed in each of the neighborhood service areas. The plan includes Neighborhood Parks, a Community Park, and an Open Space Conservation and Trail System.



a. Neighborhood Parks

The Neighborhood Park is intended to be a primary source of recreation opportunities located within each of the eight (8) service areas. Each Neighborhood Park should be a minimum of five (5) acres, accessible to the residents and include the following types of facilities:

- 1). Open Play Fields to accommodate unstructured sports such as football, baseball, softball, soccer and free play.
- 2). A set of tennis and/or basketball courts located in at least four of the service areas appropriately distributed.
- 3). Picnic facilities including a pavilion, picnic tables, barbecue pits, toilet facilities, etc.
- 4). Playground equipment suitable for tots through teens with sitting areas for parents.
- 5). A parking area with gravel or asphalt paving with a minimum of 20 spaces.

b. Community Park

Located within one (1) of the service areas, it is recommended that a Community Park/Center be constructed. This park should be a minimum of twenty-five (25) acres with expansion potential. Recommended improvements to be included in this park are as follows:

- 1). Open play fields with structured sports fields suitable for league play (eg. soccer league, little league baseball, etc.)
- 2). Community Center Building with multi-purpose rooms, gymnasium, swimming pool and lockers, and a library, etc. (Township is attempting to acquire a parcel of land with a structure suitable for rehabilitation. This specific element represents a long-term project possibly beyond this five year plan.)
- 3). Tennis courts and basketball courts
- 4). Picnic facilities
- 5). A walking/jogging/biking trail constructed of mulch, gravel, or asphalt, a minimum of one (1) mile in length with fitness stations interspersed along the route.

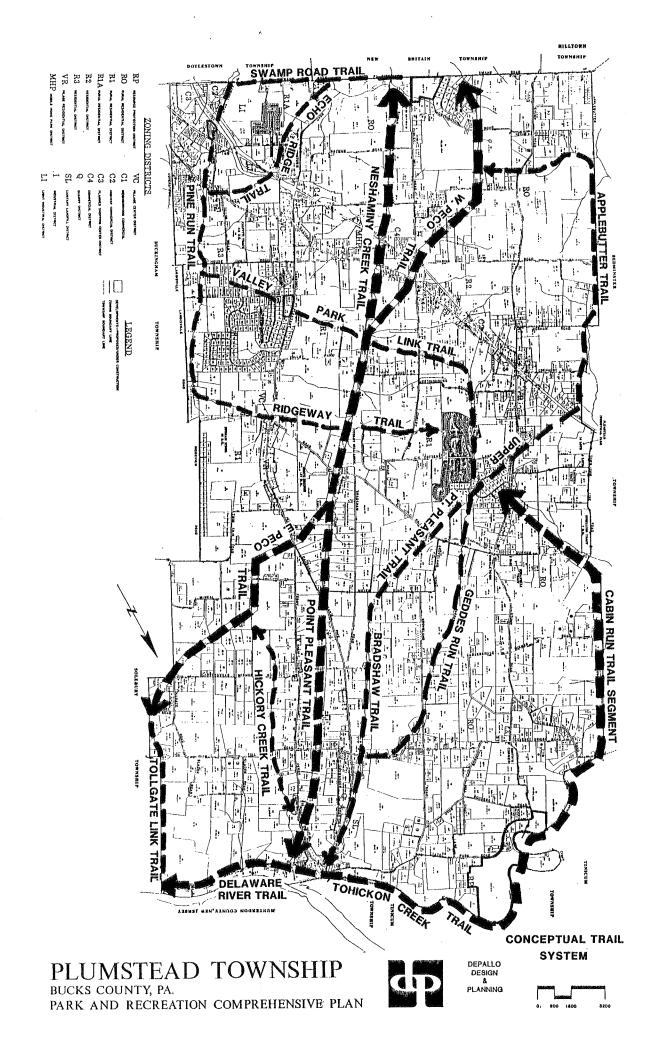
6). A parking area with gravel or asphalt paving with a minimum of fifty (50) spaces and overflow parking for one hundred (100).

Open Space Conservation and Trail System

Based on the survey results and the understanding of the environmental consciousness of the residents, it is recommended that a linear trail system be established to accommodate the entire township. It is recommended that the township begin to formulate policy decisions which will aid in acquiring, conserving, and/or developing easements for the protection of streams, flood plains, wetlands, utility easements and other unique features in an effort to prepare land parcelization necessary to create a trail system.

This trail system should link together significant spaces and features of the township and blend them into the overall recreation plan. Specifically desirable is the potential for river access to accommodate fishing and boating activities on the Delaware River, linking of the individual neighborhood and community parks, and the connection of other interrelated sites.

The Conceptual Trail System Map suggests opportunities for the development of a trail system including major and minor trails which interconnects the entire township. As a goal or target the township should strive to develop a five mile trail system within the next five years as a component of this plan.



d. Cost Estimate: Five Year Development Plan

The following is a preliminary cost estimate for the acquisition, development, operations and maintenance of the facilities identified above.

Acquisition:

2.	Neighborhood Parks (7) Community Parks (1) Linear Trail System (20')	25AC	x \$5000/AC	= \$175,000 = \$125,000 = \$100,000
	Subtotal			\$400,000

Construction:

1. 2. 3.	Neighborhood Parks (7) Community Park (1)* Linear Trail System (5 miles) Subtotal	X	\$ 75,000/EA \$350,000/EA \$ 25,000/MI	COMMISSION OF THE PERSON OF TH	\$525,000 \$350,000 \$125,000
Ope:	rations/Maintenance (\$30,	000	/year average):	\$	150,000

TOTAL \$1,550,000

^{*} Does not include Community Center Building.

7. Inter-governmental Cooperation

Whenever possible, a local recreation department should reach out to the government agencies for advice, technical assistance, joint funding, and co-sponsorship of activities. Suggested contacts include:

a. Local and regional schools.

Central Bucks School District P.O.C. - Bob Winters, 215-345-1400

b. Adjoining recreation boards, commissions, departments.

Buckingham Township
P.O.C. - Beverly Curtin, Twp. Manager, 215-794-8834

Doylestown Township

P.O.C. - Thomas Cockely, Chairman Park and Rec. Board 215-348-9915

New Britain Township

P.O.C. - Robert C. Bender, Twp. Manager, 215-822-1391

c. County and state parks and recreation agencies, departments.

Boyscouts

P.O.C. - David E. Hasel, Council Exec. 215-348-9436

Bucks Co. Conservancy

P.O.C. - Clifford C. David, Jr., Exec. Dir. 215-345-7020

Bureau of State Parks

P.O.C. - William Forrey, Director 717-787-6640

Delaware Canal State Park

P.O.C. - Ken Lewis, Superintendent 215-982-5560

Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Commission

P.O.C. - Willis Rivinus 215-297-5409 e. Federal agencies.

National Park Service P.O.C. - 215-597-8787

This agency already utilizes tax dollars and rather than duplicating the provision of services, it is possible to work together in the organization and operation of programs and facilities.

8. Maintenance

a. Present needs include identifying the existing equipment and manpower available for maintenance of open space and parks. Use this information to determine general maintenance needs and objectives so that the scope, frequency, and cost estimates of seasonal and year-round maintenance services can be decided.

Review of the Bucks County Parks and Recreation Department maintenance budget, as well as smaller Township budgets, will reveal realistic cost estimates that can serve as a guide to preparing an initial maintenance plan.

- b. Future needs can be identified utilizing the information and estimates gathered while preparing for indoor and outdoor facility maintenance. Board members and/or employees can work together to:
 - 1). Explore the option of performing all duties in-house or contracting out services.
 - 2). Develop a written routine maintenance plan to include standards, frequency, procedures, materials, tasks, and personnel.
 - 3). Develop a plan for non-routine maintenance (repairs, special events)
 - 4). Design a preventative maintenance program.
 - 5). Design work order forms.
 - 6). Consider future, maintenance tasks when designing/constructing parks and facilities.
 - 7). Evaluate maintenance plan, staff, and equipment and modify and upgrade as necessary.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

G. PARK-SCHOOL CONCEPT

There are two schools located within the township: the Gayman Elementary School and the Plumstead Christian School. The Gaymen Elementary school provides the students with a small playground on school grounds. The Plumstead Christian School provides its students with one baseball field and a gymnasium. Located outside of the township are numerous elementary and high schools within the Bucks County School Districts, and numerous colleges such as Bucks County Community College and Delaware Valley College.

To fulfill the recreational needs identified in this study, it is strongly recommended that the township and its residents develop a relationship to utilize the facilities and programs existing at the surrounding educational institutions. For example, swimming was identified by the residents as a desirable activity. Rather than having the township construct a swimming pool, coordination with the schools may permit pool use by township residents during designated periods.

Also, aerobics, arts and crafts, nature studies, and home improvements were identified as desirable educational programs. To accommodate these desired programs, the township may develop the activities while utilizing the School District classrooms as the meeting locations.

Just as the Township may take advantage of facilities and programs offered by the schools, the development of township-owned facilities may be made available to the school as well. For example, special recreation programs, such as school fairs or picnics, may be sponsored by schools and held at a township neighborhood or community park.

As each cooperative effort is developed, a "memorandum of understanding" between the township and the school should be executed defining the roles and responsibilities of one to the other in any cooperative effort.

PLUMSTEAD PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

H. Conservation and Open Space

Presently, the township officials are actively pursuing the acquisition of all potential open space opportunities through the land development process. It is recommended that the township aggressively continue this policy and expand its goals to seek funding to acquire land and easements to implement the development of the neighborhood parks, community park, and trail system. Where feasible and opportunistic, the township should attempt to acquire and conserve significant natural features areas such as woodlands, wetlands, flood plains, and the like to be set aside in conservancy for the future education and enjoyment of the township residents.

The Township should invite the Bucks County Conservancy to participate in the planning and development of nature study areas and open space preservation areas. Also, the Township should seek advise and assistance from the Conservancy in the development and administration of nature study educational programs as requested by township residents.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP PARK AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

I. MANDATORY DEDICATION

1. Existing Provisions

Currently Plumstead Township has not adopted an mandatory dedication ordinance which complies with the Pennsylvania Municipal Planning Code Act 170 of 1989. The township has actively pursued land acquisition for open space use by encouraging cluster development and acquiring the rights to the common open space which generally totals 50% of the development site. The acquisition of this land includes all types of land including wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, woodlands, retention basins, and other associated unique features. Some funds are received through developer contribution which are allocated throughout the township in a discretionary manner.

2. Recommendations

It is of utmost importance that Plumstead Township develops and adopts an ordinance which complies with the Municipalities Planning Code, and permits them to acquire the much needed land and money to satisfy the increasing recreational needs of the community. The following recommendations create a framework and set parameters for the drafting of the mandatory dedication ordinance.

- a. Who should be subject to the ordinance?
 - 1). All residential subdivisions or land developments of two or more dwelling units.
 - 2). All non-residential subdivisions or land developments.
- b. What should the township require from the developer to satisfy the ordinance ?
 - 1). The dedication of open space as a condition for final plan approval.

Or, negotiate one or more or a combination of the following items:

- 2). The construction of recreational facilities by the developer.
- 3). The payment of fees-in-lieu of dedicated land.

- 4). The private reservation of lands.
- c. How are the standards structured for establishing the requirements for developer's contributions under the ordinance ?

NOTE: NRPA Standards indicate 10 AC/1000 people or 60 AC/6000 people. Plumstead proposes approximately 75 AC to be developed under this plan.

1). Dedication of Land:

- Residential Projects may be structured to require a percentage of the total site area to be dedicated (eg. Single Family Units = 5% 10%; Multi-Family Units = 10% 20%); or may require a percentage of land based on number of units (eg. 1 acre per 10 units).
- Non-Residential Projects may be structured to require a percentage of the total site area to be dedicated as with residential projects; or may require a land equivalent of building area to be dedicated (eg. 4,000 sf of land per 1,000 sf of gross building area).

2). Fees-In-Lieu:

- Ordinances may base fees on a formula which equates required dedicated recreation land to prevailing land values with appropriate other factors. An example of this type of formula follows:

Sample Equation: What is the fee for a residential development of 50 units on 100 acres when 8% of the land is required for mandatory dedication?

Required Unit Development Average
Rec. Area X Density X Cost Factor X Lot Price = Fee

8 ac. X .5 X 50% X \$20,000 = \$40,000.00

- 3). Construction of Recreation Facilities:
 - If the developer and the township agree that the developer will be permitted to construct recreation facilities instead of donating land or contributing fees, the contractor may be required to provide materials and labor equal to a comparable cost for the corresponding fees.
- d. What are the standards for land to be dedicated for recreation purposes ?
 - 1). The land should not include steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, nor other sensitive lands unless specifically desired by the township to fulfill a recreational demand (eg. nature area, ski slope, etc).
- e. What is the township's responsibility to enforce the ordinance?
 - 1). The township must have a formally adopted recreation plan and the mandatory dedication provisions must be in accordance with the principal and standards of the plan.
 - 2). The lands and/or fees are to be used only for the purpose of providing park and recreational facilities for the users.
 - 3). The municipality must deposit the fees into a separate interest-bearing account identifying the specific park or recreation purpose for its use.
 - 4). The township should include the Park and Recreation Board or professional planning staff in the plan review process at the early stages of the permit process to insure compliance with the objectives of the recreation plan.

APPENDIX

- NRPA Standards
 Survey
 Needs Assessment



Park and open space standards address community-wide spatial requirements based on the kinds of park and recreation areas. It addresses function, design intended, use resource characpolicies set forth in the land-use plan. A generic classification has been developed for specific teristics, and preferred location.

traditional resources, there are a host of special-purpose park and recreation resources, such as theme parks, historic parks, battlefield parks, waterfront parks, riverwalk parks, athletic parks, The classification system presented in this section uses the terminology most commonly found within the park and recreation profession in the United States in 1982. In addition to aquatic parks, and cultural parks, and living history communities.

park and recreation needs. Other lands and special purpose resources extend beyond the basic Because of this potential diversity, it is important in developing the community park and recreation space standard that recognition be given first to the provision of space for basic minimum acreage to enhance and diversity the opportunities available to the community.

required to make a special facility meaningful) or the attraction capability of a particular recreaquires that classifications be based on people-oriented factors (such as the number of people broad functional categories as the basis for definition. The identification of responsibility reof classification efforts are agency-oriented and, therefore, include physical descriptions and The basic element of the planning function is the classification of areas. The vast majority tion experience or physical resource. This size of a specific area or facility has only limited relationship to the service radii from which patronage is drawn.

quality or uniqueness of design and development. Furthermore, attendance is influenced by the tudes, and quality of maintenance. In essence, a recreation facility should be designed and protype and variety of programs offered and the operational factors of leadership, employee atti-The attraction capability of any particular area or facility is dramatically affected by the grammed to serve the particular needs of a defined segment of the population.

These segments may be identified by age or special interests, or combinations thereof. It tions are based on primary intent and service of a particular area and may have to be adjusted should be noted that all park areas or facilities will tend to attract variable publics. Classificawhen actual use is evaluated.

that influence the availability of resource patterns and opportunities to provide these unique Geographic location, demographics, economic base, and history are important variables special purpose opportunities. Clearly, these are important, but should not outweigh the primary need to meet the basic needs of all citizens.

of different types of parks. In too many instances, communities have "met the standard" in terms of acreage, but have met it through the provision of a single large park. In other words, The important point to be considered, however, is that the agency should have a number the number of areas was totally inappropriate.

control of county, state, and federal government agencies, other units of government (schools), As well, not all the parks may be under the jurisdiction of a single agency. Parks under the and private interests must also be considered.

Classification System for Parks and Open Space

This classification system is intended to serve as a guide to planning—not as an absolute blueprint. Sometimes more than one component may occur within the same site (but not on the same parcel of land), particularly with respect to special uses within a regional park. Planners of park and recreation systems should be careful to provide adequate land for each functional component when this occurs.

NRPA suggests that a park system, at a minimum, be composed of a "core" system of parklands, with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1,000 population. The size and amount of "adjunct" parklands will vary from community to community, but *must* be taken into account when considering a total, well-rounded system of parks and recreation areas.

COMPONENT	USE	SERVICE AREA	DESIRABLE SIZE	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	DESIRABLE SITE CHARACTERISTICS
A. LOCAL/CLO	SE-TO-HOME SPACE				
Mini-Park	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.	Less than ¼-mile radius.	1 acre or less	0.25 to 0.5A	Within neighbor- hoods and in close proximity to apart- ment complexes, townhouse develop- ment or housing for the elderly.
Neighborhood Park/Playground	Area for intense rec- reational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground appa- ratus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).	15+ acres	1.0 to 2.0A	Suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood population—geographically centered with safe walking and bike access. May be developed as a schoolpark facility.
Community Park	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking, May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and com-	Several neighborhoods. 1 to 2 mile radius.	25+ acres	5.0 to 8.0A	May include natural features, such as water bodies, and areas suited for intense development. Easily accessible to neighborhood served.

munity need.

TOTAL CLOSE-TO-HOME SPACE = 6.25-10.5 A/1,000

B. REGIONAL SPACE:

Regional/Metro-	
notions Park	

Area of natural or ornamental quality for outdoor recreation, such as picnicking, boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and trail uses; may include play areas. Several communities, 1 hour driving time.

200+ acres

5.0 to 10.0A

Contiguous to or encompassing natural resources.

Regional Park Reserve

Area of natural quality for natureoriented outdoor recreation, such as viewing, and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation. swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management, with less than 20% used for recreation development.

Several communities.

1 hour driving time.

1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.

Variable

Diverse or unique natural resources, such as lakes, streams, marshes, flora, faune, topography.

TOTAL REGIONAL SPACE = 15-20 A/1,000

C. SPACE THAT MAY BE LOCAL OR REGIONAL AND IS UNIQUE TO EACH COMMUNITY:

Linear Park

Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas.

(NOTE: any included for any of above components may occur in the "linear park.")

No applicable standard.

Sufficient width to protect the resource and provide maximum use.

Variable

Built or natural corridors, such as utility rights-of-way, bluff lines, vegetation patterns, and roads, that link other components of the recreation system or community facilities, such as school, libraries, commercial areas, and other park areas.

Special Use

Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities. such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, or downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain, and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers. boulevards, parkways.

No applicable standard.

Variable depending on desired size.

Variable

Within communities.

Conservancy

Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.

No applicable standard.

Sufficient to protect the resource.

Variable

Variable, depending on the resource being protected.

Suggested Facility Development Standards

Appendix A

	8					Standards	ested Facility
*							
	ACTIVITY/ FACILITY	RECOMMENDED SPACE REQUIREMENTS	RECOMMENDED SIZE AND DIMENSIONS	RECOMMENDED ORIENTATION	NO. OF UNITS PER POPULATION	SERVICE RADIUS	LOCATION NOTES
	Badmieten	1620 sq. ft.	Singles ~ 17' x 44' Doubles ~ 20' x 44' with 5' unobstructed area on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	%-% mile	Usually in school, reation center, or difacility. Safe walkin or bike access.
3	Baskerhall 1. Youth 2. High School 3. Collegists	2400-3036 sq. ft. 5040-7280 sq. ft. 5600-7980 sq. ft.	46'-50' x 84' 50' x 84' 50 x 94' with 5' unobstructed space on all sides	Long axis north-south	1 per 5000	¼-% mile	Same as badminton Outdoor courts in neighborhood and o munity parks, plus active recreation are in other park settine
	Handhell (3-4 wall)	800 sq. fs. for 4-wall, 1000 for 3-wall	20" x 40" — Minimum of 10" to rear of 3-wall court. Minimum 20" overhead clearance.	Long axis north-south, Front wall at north end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minute travel time	4-wall usually indoc as part of multi-pur facility. 3-wall usua outdoor in park or school setting.
	ice Hockey	22,000 sq. it. including support area.	Rink 85" x 200" (minimum 85" x 185"). Additional 5000 sq. ft. support area.	Long axis north-south if outdoor	Indoor—1 per 100,000. Outdoor—depends on climate.	%-1 hour travel time	Climate important consideration affect no. of units. Best as part of multi-purporfacility.
ÿ	Tonnis	Minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. single court. (2 acres for complex.)	36" x 78", 12" clearance on both sides; 21" clearance on both ends,	Long axis north-south.	1 court per 2000.	%-% mule	Best in batteries of Located in neighbor hood/community pro- or adjacent to school site.
	Volleybell	Minimum of 4,000 sq. ft.	30" x 60". Minimum 6" clearance on all sides.	Long axis north-south	1 court per 5000.	%-% mile	Same as other court activities (e.g., bad- minton, basketball,
	Seerball 1. Official 2. Little League	3.0-3.85 A minimum 1.2 A minimum	Baselines—90' Pitching distance— 60 %' Foul lines—min. 320' Canter field—400'+ Baselines—60' Pitching distance—46'	Locate home plate so pitcher throwing across sun and better not facing it. Line from home plate through pitcher's mound run east-north-east.	1 per 5000 Lighted1 per 30,000	%-% mule	Part of neighborhoo complex, Lighted fields part of com- munity complex,
			Foul lines—200' Canter field—200'- 250'				
	Field Hockey	Minimum 1.5A	180" x 300" with a minimum of 10" clearance on all sides.	Fall season—long axis northwest to southeast. For longer periods, north to south.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of base ball, football, soccer complex in communication park or adjacent to high school.
	Footbell	Minimum 1.5A	160" x 360" with a minimum of 6" clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel	Same as field hocke
	Soccer	1.7 to 2.1A	196' to 225' x 330' to 360' with a 10' mine- mum clearance on all sides.	Same as field hockey,	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles	Number of units de- pends on popularity Youth soccer on sm er fields adjacent to schools or neighbor- hood narks.

,	, , , , , ,	INJES.		,		er fields adjacent to schools or neighbor- hnod parks,
Gotf Orlving Range	13.5A for minimum of 25 tees	900" x 690" wide. Add 12" width for each additional tee,	Long axis south-west- northeast with golfer driving toward north- east.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of polf course complex. As a separate unit, may be privately operated.
X-Mile Running Track	4.3A	Overall width-276' length-600,02' Track width for 8 to 4 lanes is 32'.	Long axis in sector from north to south to north-wast-south-east with finish line at northerly end.	1 per 20,000	15-30 minutes travel time	Usually part of high school, or in community part complex in combination with football, soccer, ste.
Softbell	1.5 to 2.9A	Baselines—60' Pitching distance—46' min. 40'—women. Fast pitch field radius from plate—225' between foul lines. Slow pitch—275' (men) 250' (women)	Same as baseball.	1 per 5,000 (if also used for youth baseball)	X-% mile	Slight difference in dimensions for 18" slow pitch. May also be used for youth baseball.
Multiple Recreation Court (backsthell, volloyball, tennia)	9,840 sq. ft.	120° x 80°	Long exis of courts with primary use is north-south.	1 per 10,000	1-2 miles.	
Trails	N/A	Well defined head maximum 10' width, maximum 10' width, maximum average grade 5%, not to exceed 15%. Capacity rural trails—40 hikers/day/mile. Urban trails—90 hikers/day/mile.	N/A	1 system per region	N/A	r
Archary Range	Minimum 0.65A	300' length x minimum 10' wide between tar- gets, Roped clear space on sides of range mini- mum of 30', clear space behind targets minimum of 90' x 45' with bunker,	Archer facing north + or - 45°.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/ metro park complex.
Combination Skeet and Trap Field (8 station)	Minimum 30A	All walks and structures occur within an area approximately 100° wide by 115' deep. Minimum cleared area as contained within two superimposed segments with 100-yard radii (4 acres). Shot-fall danger zone is contained within two superimposed segments with 300-yard radii (36 acres).	Center line of length runs northeast-south- west with shooter facing northeast.	1 per 50,000	30 minutes travel time	Part of a regional/ metro park complex.
Golf 1. Par 3 (18-Hole)	◆ 50-60A	Average length-vary 600-2700 yards	Majority of holes on north-south axis.	- Sala rege	% to 1 hour travel time	9-hole course can accommodate 350
2. 9-hole standard 3. 18-hole standard	Minimum 50A Minimum 110A	Average length2250 yards Average length6500 yards		• 1/25,000 • 1/50,000		people/dey. 9 18-hole course can accommodate 500-560 people a day. 560 people or district in community or district park, but should not be
Swimming Paols	Varies on size of pool and amenities, Usually % to 2A site,	Teaching—minimum of 25 yards x 45' even depth of 3 to 4 feet. Competitive—minimum of 25m x 15m, Minimum of 27 square feet of water surface per swimer. Ratios of 2:1 deck vs. water.	None-although care must be taken in siting of lifeguard stations in relation to afternoon sun.	1 per 20,000 (Pools should accom- modate 3 to 5% of total population at a time,)	15 to 30 minutes travel time	over 20 miles from impulation center. Phols for general community use should be intended for teaching, competitive, and recretional purposes with secommodate 1m and 1m diving boards. Located in community pers or school site.
Boach Areas	N/A	Beach area should have 50 sq. ft, of land and 50 sq. ft, of water per user. Turnover rate is 3. There should be 3-4A supporting land per A of beach.	N/A	N/A	N/A	Should have sand bot- tren with slope a mea- mum of 5% (flat preferable). Bosting areas completely seg- regated from assimming areas.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP

Board of Supervisors: James S. Kiel, Jr., Chairman Charles A. Schweitzer, Vice Chairman Michael J. Wallis

5186 Stump Road Box 387 Plumsteadville, PA 18949 (215) 766-8914

October 1990

Dear Township Resident:

As you are probably aware, our Township was the recipient this spring of a Recreational Improvement and Rehabilitation Act (RIRA) grant, through the Pennsylvania Department of Community Affairs, which will enable us to develop a municipal Park and Recreation plan.

We have retained the services of DePallo Design and Planning of Conshohocken to work with our five-member Park and Recreation Board and representatives of DCA and Temple University to draft such a plan. A key element in drawing up this document is finding out what our residents want in the way of recreation programs and facilities, and exploring a variety of funding opportunities.

Approximately seven hundred households have been randomly selected to answer the enclosed questionnaire which will give us an idea as to how we can best proceed with some direly needed areas and programs. At this time we do not own or operate any local, active recreation sites.

We are asking that you take a few minutes of your time to complete the questionnaire and indicate the leisure programs and facilities which would best serve the needs of your household and should honestly be considered for future Township development or implementation.

Thank you for taking the time to help us. All responses are strictly confidential. We request that the questionnaire be returned in the enclosed, stamped envelope by November 5, 1990.

Sincerely,

THE PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

/kc

Enclosure

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

RECREATION ACTIVITIES

In order to plan for public programs and facilities that will best serve all members of your household, we need to identify your present level of participation in a variety of recreation activities.

First, check how often the <u>adults</u> in your home usually participate in each activity. Second, check how often the <u>children</u> living in your home participate in these activities. If it is a seasonal activity (i.e., skiing), respond as if the activity was in-season.

Activity							wice a week ses each month ally throughout the year					
	Very Frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Infrequently	Never	v	Very Frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Infrequently	Never	
Acrobics/Exercise												
Arts & Crafts												
Baschall												
Basketball												
Bicycling												
Boating												
Camping												
Canocing/Kayaking												
Concerts												
Dancing			<u> </u>									
Fishing												
Football							COLLEGE					
Golf												
Hiking/Walking												
Hockey - Field												
Hockey - Ice												
Hockey - Street		П										

Activity	Adult Children Under 18 Frequency of participation Frequency of participation									
	Very Frequently	Frequently	Sometimes	Infrequently	Never	Very	Frequently	Sometimes	infrequently	Never
Home Improvements Horseback Riding Hot Air Ballooning Hunting Nature Study Photography Picnicking Racquetball/Squash Rugby Running/Jogging Skateboarding Skating - Ice Skating - Roller Skiing Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Volleyball Other:										
Using the times below, pgrams. #1 - Monday - Friday m		entify wl	nen your	family		ole to pa		in recre	eational	pro-

Using the times below, please identify when your family would be available to participate in recreation grams.

#1 - Monday - Friday mornings #4 - Weekend mornings

#2 - Monday - Friday afternoons #5 - Weekend afternoons

#3 - Monday - Friday evenings #6 - Weekend evenings

ADULTS CHILDREN UNDER 18

First Choice: # _____ First Choice: # _____ Second Choice: # _____ Third Choice: # ______ Third Choice: # _____ Third Choice: # ______ Third Choice: # _______ Third Choice: # _______ Third Choice: # ______ Third Choice: # _______ Third Choice: # ________ Third Choice: # ________ Third Choice: # ________ Third Choice: # ________ Third Choice:

RECREATION FACILITIES

Future development of municipal recreation facilities depends upon the needs and preferences of community residents. The decision to own or operate these facilities and/or encourage private or commercial sponsorship will be made upon review of your responses and suggestions. Please use the list below to indicate when the members of your household would prefer the development of each facility.

	Immediately	i - 5 years	6 - 10 years	after 10 years	Never		Immediately	1 - 5 years	6 - 10 years	after 10 years	Never
ATV Trails (All-Terrain Vehicles)						Outdoor Volleybail					
Baseball Fields						Picnic Areas					
Basketball Courts						Playgrounds					
Bicycle Trails						Pool - Indoor					
Boat Launch						Pool - Outdoor					
Football Fields						Rugby Fields					
Community Center						Skateboard Facility					-
Golf Course						Skating Rink - Ice					
Jogging/Walking Trails						Skating Rink - Roller					
Library						Soccer Fields					
Meeting Rooms						Softball Fields					
Nature Center/Trails						Tennis Courts					
Open/Passive Park Space						Other:					
Outdoor Stage						Other:					
public parks		eation	facilit	ies you	priv	currently uses <u>outside</u> of rate health club/gym	Plums	stead T	'ownsh	.ip.	
YMCA/YWO				40400AMMashn		ool facilities					
private swim				Martine	-	er:					
private tennis	club			AUDITION CONTRACT	oth	er:					
Indicate with an "X" th			ation	organiz	-	ur family currently belo	ongs to	:			
girl scouts/bo	y scou	ts			oth	er:					

COMMUNITY RESIDENT OPINIONS

We also would like your opinions as they relate to future municipal parks and recreation development. Please check the response that best describes your feelings about each statement.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	Plumstead Township needs additional, outdoor recreation facilities such as parks, playgrounds and athletic fields.		-			
	We would like some of the future outdoor facilities, such as tennis courts and athletic fields, to have night lighting for evening play.					,
3.	This household would prefer to have a small 2-5 acre neighborhood park with a playground and basketball or tennis courts nearby.					
4.	We would prefer to drive to a local, large multi- purpose recreation facility of at least 20 acres.					
5.	Plumstead Township needs indoor recreation facilities.					
6.	Members of my family would like to participate in more instructional sports programs (i.e., clinics, seminars).					
7.	Members of my family would like to participate in more competitive sports leagues and team activities.					
8.	We would like to participate in organized recreation classes to learn new skills (i.e., dance, crafts, martial arts).					
9.	We would like to participate in open gym/drop-in activities when they fit into our schedule (i.e, open volleyball, basketball, running, swimming).					
10.	Adults in our household would support a local bond issue allocating funds for acquisition and development of open park space.					
11.	We would support a tax levy of 1 mill (\$23 per \$100,000. of assessed property value) that would go directly to the operation of recreation programs and park facilities in our township.					
12.	Additional funding should come from user/visitor fees and charges for recreation programs and facilities.					

INFORMATION

To	wnship. All informa	tion is strictly confidential.	ic statistical allarysis (of recreation needs in Plumstead	
1.		ou lived in Plumstead Townsh	nip?	•	
	Less than 1 year	6 - 10 years		16 - 20 years	
	1 - 5 years	11 - 15 years		more than 20 years	
2.	Does anyone in you	our household have special new who are mentally handicapp	eeds and would benef ped or physically disal	fit from programs and facilities bled? YES NO	
3.	Using the map be	low, please identify the neigh	borhood you live in ((check one)	
1				II East of 611/West of Durham Rd	
			IV.	III East of Durham Rd/West of Carversville Rd	i
				IV East of Carversville Rd	
4.	Please identify th	e age and sex of all househol		Sex	
Ad	Age	Male Female Youth #	Age	le Female	
Ad	dult # 2	Youth #	*2		
Ad	iult # 3	Youth #	3		
Ad	iult # 4	Youth #			
5.	What is your app	proximate <u>annual</u> household	income:		
	under \$20,000	\$40,000 - \$59,0	000	\$80,000 - \$99,999	
	\$20,000 - \$39,999	\$60,000 - \$79,9	999	over \$100,000	

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR TIME COMPLETING THIS QUESTIONNAIRE!

Please use the space below to make any additional comments or suggestions.

PLUMSTEAD TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

In October of 1990, the attached six-page recreation needs assessment was mailed to 700 Plumstead Township residents who were selected at random from the local tax records. Members of every third household were asked to respond to questions regarding their leisure activity and facility preferences. Completed surveys were returned by mail to the Township Municipal Building and all results were tabulated and analyzed by Temple University faculty and staff.

The collection of survey data was conducted in an unbiased manner and was not impacted by any local special interest groups. The results yielded information that can be utilized by the Township Board of Supervisors, Planning and Zoning Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, local developers, and community members in the acquisition, development, and administration of active and passive recreation facilities.

The initial first mailing yielded 298 usable surveys. An additional 18 surveys could not be utilized due to incomplete answers or missing information. This yielded a 43% response rate. Of the 298 returned surveys, 129 households (43%) had children under 18 years of age.

A second mailing of 350 surveys was mailed out in December and 85 responses were returned. 80 were usable, for a second mailing response rate of 23%. Further analysis shows that 913 adults and 374 children were represented in the entire survey.

SURVEY RESULTS

RECREATION ACTIVITIES - ADULT Frequency Levels

- 5 = Very Frequently 4 = Frequently
- 3 = Sometimes
- 2 = Infrequently 1 = Never

Activity	<u> </u>	<u>Rank</u>				
	5	4	3	2	1	
Home Improvements	30% 21	34% 29	21% 30	5% 12	10% 8	1 2
Hiking	13	29 27	28	14	18	2 3
Swimming Picnicking	15 15	21	32	20	12	. 4
Aerobics	14	21	22	18	25	5
Relobics	7.4	21.	22	10		Ť
Biking	10	19	29	23	19	6
Photography	9	18	31	20	22	7
Arts & Crafts	7	16	23	30	24	8
Fishing	13	14	19	20	34	9
Nature Study	6	12	27	28	27	10
Boating	6	14	22	24	34	11
Dancing	3	10	22	30	35	12
Camping	5	. 8	12	31	44	13
Running	10	9	16	15	50	14
Concerts	3	9	31	33	27	15
m	1.0	4.4	11	13	55	16
Tennis	10	11 7	18	17	51	17
Softball	7		12	17	54	18
Volleyball	7	10	20	14	54 54	19
Skiing	3 5	9	14	19	54	20
Ice Skating	5	8	14	19	54	2.0
Hunting	6	7	9	9	69	21
Basketball	2	6	14	15	63	22
Horseback Riding	7	5	10	18	60	23
Baseball	2	7	14	19	58	24
Golf	4	7	8	15	66	25
Football	4	5	10	10	71	26
Canoeing	i	2	15	25	57	27
Roller Skating	ī	4	6	21	68	28
Racquetball	2	5	3	18	72	29
Soccer	2	3	4	13	78	30
Chroat Hagirar	3	1	2	3	91	31
Street Hockey		2	5	5	87	32
Skateboarding	1	2	2	3	92	33
Field Hockey	1	1	1	3 7	90	34
Ice Hockey	1		2	4	92	35
Rugby	1	1		4 6	92	36
Hot Air Ballooning	j 1	1	0	О	74	20

SURVEY RESULTS RECREATION ACTIVITIES - YOUTH

Frequency Level

5 = Very Frequently

4 = Frequently

3 = Sometimes

2 = Infrequently

1 = Never

<u>Activity</u>	<u> </u>	Frequency of Participation			<u>Rank</u>	
	5	4	3	2	1	
Biking	35%	24%	24%	7%	10%	1
Swimming	27	26	23	11	13	2
Hiking	21	24	31	14	10	3
Picnicking	14	19	41	14	12	. 3 4
Arts & Crafts	10	20	29	20	21	5
ALCS & CLUICS	10	20	23	20	21	3
Fishing	15	14	20	32	19	6
Nature Study	5	16	30	28	21	7
Aerobics	3	27	38	12	20	8
Softball	8	18	18	27	29	9
Baseball	8	15	26	14	37	10
	•					_ •
Soccer	12	15	13	18	42	11
Boating	10	8	18	25	39	12
Tennis	16	5	15	13	51	13
Volleyball	11	11	16	16	46	14
Skiing	3	17	26	6	48	15
				•		
Roller Skating	6	8	20	31	35	16
Camping	4	11	19	33	33	17
Running	11	6	21	13	49	18
Ice Skating	6	7	28	16	43	19
Football	11	5	22	13	49	20
10000011		3	22	1.7	4.0	20
Basketball	7	5	23	26	39	21
Dancing	8	11	11	24	46	22
Concerts	6	4	22	26	42	23
Skate Boarding	10	7	13	15	55	24
Photography	3	5	23	24	45	25
	_	•		- `	• •	
Horseback Ridin	ig 3	6	15	18	58	26
Field Hockey	10	2	8	3	77	27
Canoeing	1	3	13	23	60	28
Home Improvemen	it 2	0	8	18	72	29
Ice Hockey	3	5	3	10	79	30
		_	-		, -	
Street Hockey	5	2	7	3	83	31
Hunting	3.	3	5	8	81	32
Racquetball	3	2	4	11	80	33
Golf	2	3	7	8	80	34
Rugby	2	7	2	7	82	35
Hot Air Balloon		ó	2	3	93	36
HOC MAL DULLOUI	. <i>&</i>	J	<i>د</i> ے	.	<i>)</i>	20

SURVEY RESULTS FACILITY PREFERENCES

Ranking

5 = Immediate Development 4 = Develop in 1-5 years 3 = Develop in 6-10 years 2 = Develop after 10 years

1 = Never Develop

Facility	<pre>% Frequency of Response</pre>					<u>Rank</u>
	5	4	3	2	1	
Nature Center	39%	28%	17%	5%	11%	1
Playgrounds	39	23	18	10	12	2
Bike Trails	42	22	9	11	18	3
Open Park Space	44	14	6	8	30	4
Picnic Areas	37	22	12	12	17	5
Jogging Trails	41	18	3	5	33	6
Community Center	31	18	15	10	26	7
Basketball Courts	22	26	19	15	13	8
Softball Fields	26	23	16	8	27	9
Baseball Fields	27	23	11	9	30	10
Pool - Indoor	17	17	24	14	28	11
Boat Launch	18	20	19	15	28	12
Library	29	15	7	7	42	13
Volleyball Area	22	21	13	6	38	14
Tennis	25	14	12	9	38	15
Golf	19	20	16	10	35	16
Soccer	16	19	17	7	41	17
Meeting Rooms	17	17	11	9	46	18
Pool - Outdoor	17	17	8	10	48	19
Football Fields	16	14	15	13	42	20
Outdoor Stage	15	12	17	10	46	21
Ice Skating Rink	10	15	15	7	53	22
Roller Skating Rink	9	16	15	11	49	23
Skateboard Facility	8	7	13	12	60	24
ATV Trails	6	9	7	9	68	25
Rugby Field	4	7	12	7	70	26

SURVEY RESULTS RECREATION PROGRAM TIMES FOR PARTICIPATION

<u>Time</u>		s-Choi		Youth-Choices			
	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	
Mon-Fri Morning	16%	12%	24%	40%	18%	21%	
Mon-Fri Afternoon	11%	17%	15%	15%	11%	15% 	
Mon-Fri Evening	28%	21%	23%	10%	18%	18%	
Weekend Morning	22%	19%	7%	19%	24%	17%	
Weekend Afternoon	20%	21%	18%	12%	22%	14%	
Weekend Evening	3%	10%	13%	4%	8%	15%	

The above information can be utilized in the program planning phase to serve as a guide to participant availability.

SURVEY RESULTS CURRENT RECREATION FACILITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Residents were asked to identify the recreation facilities currently used by their household members OUTSIDE of Plumstead Township.

84% of the residents use public parks
74% of the residents use school facilities
70% of the residents belong to a private health club
70% of the residents belong to a private tennis club
64% of the residents belong to a private swim club
59% use YMCA/YWCA facilities

Family members also belong to a variety of local recreation organizations.

75% belonged to athletic organizations
68% belonged to boy or girl scouts
65% participated in school clubs/sports

SURVEY RESULTS COMMUNITY RESIDENT OPINIONS

Frequency Levels
5 = Strongly Agree
4 = Agree
3 = Neutral

2 = Disagree 1 = Strongly Disagree

Statement	ક	Response	Freque	ency		Support?
Appendication of the control of the	5	4	3	2	1	
Need additional outdoor facilities	47%	24%	10%	11%	8%	Yés
Would like some night lighting for evening play	30%	18%	21%	17%	14%	Yes
Prefer small, 2-5 acre nearby parks	28%	17%	25%	15%	15%	Yes
Prefer large multi purpose facility	12%	24%	36%	16%	12%	Yes
Need some indoor rec facilities	17%	25%	23%	18%	17%	Yes
Want instructional sports programs	7%	12%	37%	26%	14%	No
Would like more competitive sports	10%	13%	33%	21%	23%	No
Want organized rec classes	13%	35%	31%	10%	11%	Yes
Prefer an open, drop-in gym time	20%	40%	21%	10%	9%	Yes
Would support bond issue for open park space	15%	34%	20%	7%	24%	Yes
Would support 1 mil tax levy for progra and facilities		33%	16%	11%	26%	Yes
Additional funding should come from user fees/charges	33%	41%	13%	1%	12%	Yes

SURVEY RESULTS - DEMOGRAPHICS

Length of time in Township Less than 1 Year 2% 1 - 5 Years	11 - 15 Years
Section of Township Residing In Section I	(See Survey Map) Section III
<u>Disabled Household Member</u> Yes3%	No97%
Average Adult Age 18 - 25 Years old 6% 26 - 35 Years old22% 36 - 45 Years old34%	46 - 55 Years old23% 56 - 65 Years old10% Over 655%
Average Youth Age 0 - 4 Years old	9 - 12 Years old37% 13 - 17 Years old24%
Gender Adult Males48% Adult Females52%	Youth Males51% Youth Females49%
Annual Household Income Under \$20,000	\$60,000 - \$79,99920% \$80,000 - \$99,999 4% Over \$100,00014%