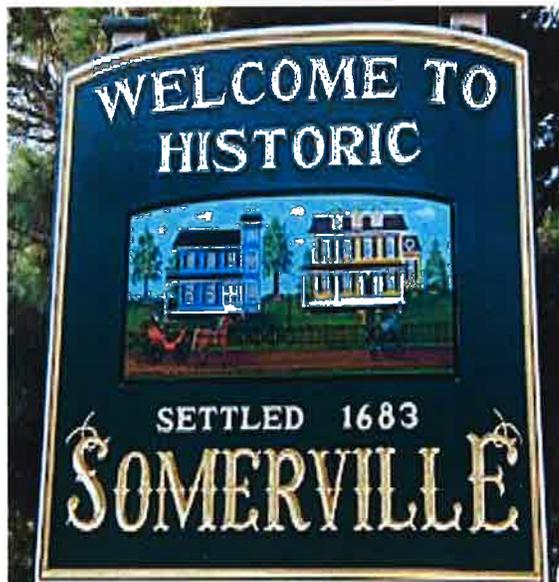


**Somerville Parks and Recreation  
Needs Assessment and Master Plan**

Borough of Somerville



*Prepared by:*

**Environmental Resolutions, Inc.**  
525 Fellowship Road, Suite 300  
Mount Laurel, NJ 08054

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Barbara J. Fegley, AICP, PP  
New Jersey Professional Planner #3259

*Somerville Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and Master Plan*

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## ***I. Purpose and Scope of Work***

Somerville Borough, located in Somerset County, New Jersey is a stable municipality with a 2000 population of 12,434 residents and a land area of approximately 2.1 square miles. A major redevelopment effort is proposed at the former landfill site at the southwestern side of the Borough. The “Transit Village” will include between 750 to 1,200 residential units, offices, restaurants, and a hotel. The project will also include recreational facilities. The focus of this plan is to expand and improve upon existing recreational facilities and resources and identify features for inclusion in future recreational projects at existing sites and at a new facility at the former landfill site.

The purpose of the Somerville Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment and Master Plan is to conduct a broad survey of Somerville residents to determine their park and recreational needs. From the broad survey, a focus group was selected to provide a more in-depth view of their vision for Somerville Parks. The focus group also mapped areas where additional facilities are needed or where there is a need for improvements. The Needs Assessment and Master Plan provides an inventory of existing parkland facilities with the intent of developing a long range plan for improvements. The Somerville Plan will form the basis of a plan for shared use by regional partners and Somerset County Park Commission. Recommendations of the Plan include issues to improve connections and greenway resources along Peter's Brook, Ross Brook and Raritan River and to expand Peter's Brook bank stabilization programs. The Plan discusses the need to connect Somerville pedestrians and cyclists with proposed 206 south, Riverside Drive, and Clarks Woods. And finally, needs for various facilities at the landfill site are discussed including the need for a community center.

## II. *Inventory of Current Park Facilities*

In order to consider future needs and improvements, an inventory of existing facilities is necessary. The following table presents an inventory of open space, parklands and recreational facilities within Somerville Borough. The parks listed in the following table are included in the Park and Recreation Open Space Inventory that provides additional information about each park.

### *Borough Owned or Maintained Park Facilities*

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Size (acres)</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Usage</i>
Baker & Taylor	0.25	Kirby Street	Mini Park
Arthur Chambres	24.84	Southside Avenue, Bridgewater Township	Community Park
Clark's Woods	35.00	Route 202/206, Bridgewater Township	Community Park
Ken Cornell Wheel Park and Firehouse Field	2.0 4.68	Veterans Memorial Drive, Adjacent to Firehouse	Neighborhood Park
Flockhart Park	0.25	Mercer & West Summit Street	Mini Park
Kuglar Park	0.83	Mercer & Green Street	Mini Park
John P. Long Park/ Brookside/Open Space	7.04	Mountain Avenue to Mercer Street	Neighborhood Park
Michael Lepp Park	5.34	Park Avenue	Neighborhood Park
Van derveer Field*	33.00	Union Ave (Route 28)	School Park
Claude Walck Park	13.80	Walnut Street	Neighborhood Park
Carol Pager-Exchange Field	7.79	Green Street	Community Park
Open Space Parkland	7.20	Williams and Grove Streets	Neighborhood Park
WWI Memorial Site and Skate Park	3.20	Corner of Culvert & High Streets	Neighborhood Park
Children's Park	0.15	Davenport Street & West Summit	Mini Park
Peter's Brook Greenway	5.94	Grove & Cliff Streets	Greenway
Elsworth Van Fleet Gardens	3.26	Bridge & Williams Streets	Mini Park
Mastogen Drive Open Space	0.92	Mastogen Drive	Mini Park
Prospect Drive Island	0.20	Island inside Prospect Drive	Mini Park
Borough Property (Unnamed)	6.00	South Bridge Street	Natural Resource Area

**TOTAL ACRES**

**155.01**

**(122.01 Acres without Van derveer Field Acreage)**

\* Board of Education Property

**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Baker &amp; Taylor Book Publishing Site Playground, Kirby Street Park, Maintained by Borough owned by Baker &amp; Taylor</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 1 Lot 4.01</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Kirby Street</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>+/- 0.25 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Play Area</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Swing Set</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Benches</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Observations:**

**The swings and play equipment have no surfacing material beneath them.  
There are no trees to shade playground or sitting areas.**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification**            **Arthur Chambres Park**  
**Block Lot Location**                    **Block 5101 Lots 1, 2**  
**Road Location**                            **Southside Avenue**  
**Park Acreage**                              **24.84 Acres**  
**Owner**                                        **Borough of Somerville**



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	Assorted Playground Equipment and Swings	Good
1	1' to 3'6" Foot Deep Swimming Pool	Excellent
1	Basketball Court (Lighted)	Fair
1	Softball Field (Lighted)	Good
1	Pavilion w/ Roof and Picnic Tables	Good
1	Baseball Pop Warner Practice Field (Lighted)	Fair to Good
1	High, Middle & Immaculata Somerville Baseball	Good
10	Bleachers	Good
1	120 Space Gravel Parking lot, Grated, Telephone Pole Curb	Fair
1	Picnic Area	Good

**Other Information**    **Freshman H.S., S.M. School, Adult M/W Softball  
Sewage Authority traverses parking lot, Little League uses the  
field for Junior and Senior Pony, Pop Warner uses the field for  
practice and games.**

**Observations:**            **Play equipment has mulch beneath it with no edging  
Basketball court is good but erosion from runoff is present on  
sides. Runoff and erosion occurs along roadway, evidence of  
ponding from site's location in the flood zone.**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Clark's Woods</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 402 Lot 3</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Route 202/206</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>35+ Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Oty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Soccer/Multi Use Lacrosse Field 420'x220'</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Storage Building w/ Office and Haul</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Bleachers</b>	<b>Fair</b>

**Other Information:** High and Dry  
 Raritan Valley Country Club Golf Course  
 Pitch and Putt Course  
 Difficult Access  
 Adjacent to Somerville Shopping Center  
 Used by Adult and Youth Soccer Area High School Practice  
 and Games



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification**      **Ken Cornell Wheel Park  
And Firehouse Field**

**Block Lot Location**                **Block 58 Lots 1 and 22**

**Road Location**                        **Veteran’s Memorial Drive  
Adjacent to Firehouse**

**Park Acreage**                            **2.0 Acres Ken Cornell  
4.68 Acres Firehouse Field**

**Owner**                                      **Borough of Somerville**



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	30 Space Paved Dead End Lot w/ HC Spaces	Fair
1	Tennis Court	Good
2	Skate Parks (Lighted), Wood Frame Ramps	Fair to Good
1	Soccer/Football Field 160’x300’	Good
1	Drinking Fountain	Good
1	Pavilion, Frame w/Fabric Cover with Tables	Fair
1	Bike Rack	Good

**Other Information**    **Adding Bike Path with Tunnel to Raritan River behind the  
Firehouse (East Main Street)**

**Observations:**            **Surfacing beneath pavilion poor, drainage issues  
Field not handicapped accessible**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Thomas Flockhart Park</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 144 Lot 1</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Mercer Street and West Summit Street</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>+/- 0.25 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Oty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Monument to Thomas Flockhart, Former Mayor in 1920</b>	<b>Good</b>
	<b>Open Space</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Observations:**      **Site not handicapped accessible**  
**Under Mayor Flockhart's auspices, the lands along Peter's Brook were designated as parklands.**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Kuglar Park Fred "Pop" Kugler Playground</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 145, Lot 1</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Mercer Street and Green Street</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>0.83 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Basketball Courts/Ice Skating Area</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Bench</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Water Fountain</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Monument</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Picnic Tables</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Other Information:** Previously the basketball court was used for ice skating in winter but not now used.

**Observations:** Not truly handicapped accessible. Sidewalk ends, no connection.  
Drains not in lowest area.



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification**      **John P. Long Park  
Brookside/Open Space**

**Block Lot Location**                **Block 143 Lot 3**

**Road Location**                        **Mercer Street**

**Park Acreage**                         **7.04 Acres**

**Owner**                                  **Borough of Somerville**



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
2	Tennis Courts	Poor
1	Small Play Apparatus, 2-5	Good
2	Benches	Fair
2	Square Picnic Tables	Fair
1	Fountain Pool, Draw and Fill	Fair
1	Storage Building for Kids' Arts and Crafts	Fair
1	Security Lights	Fair
1	Drinking Fountain	Fair
1	Swing Set	Fair
	Benches, Community Garden and Bike Path	



**Observations:**      **No handicapped access to park from street or throughout park.**  
                               **No on-site parking.**  
                               **Mulch beneath play area.**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification**            **Michael Lepp Park**

**Block Lot Location**                    **Block 67 Lot 20**

**Road Location**                            **Park Avenue**

**Park Acreage**                             **5.34 Acres**

**Owner**                                       **Borough of Somerville**



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	Jimmy Jones Softball Field w/ Bleachers	Fair
1	Assorted Playground Equipment	Good
1	1' to 3'6" Deep Swimming Pool w/ Bleachers	Good
1	Pool Building/Pump	Good
1	Lighted Basketball Court w/ Bleachers	Fair
1	Restrooms (M/W, w/ Storage)	Good
1	Pavilion, Tented w/ Picnic Tables	Fair
1	Memorial Stone at ball field to Jimmy Jones, Memorial Field, 1977	

**Observations:**            **Park is not ADA accessible.  
An ADA accessible pathway to park, from street, and through  
park would be an asset.**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Van derveer Field</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 83.01 Lot 1</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Union Ave (Route 28)</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>33 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Board of Education</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Paved Parking Lot</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Basketball Court</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Soccer/ Lacross Fields</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Skinned Baseball/Softball Field 90' (Lighted)-Under Construction</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Skinned Baseball/Softball Field 90' (Unlighted)-Under Construction</b>	
<b>1</b>	<b>Youth Multi-Field 120' X 80'-Under Construction</b>	



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Claude Walck Park</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 92 Lot 22</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Walnut Street (Near S. Capillac Drive)</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>13.8 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	Assorted Playground Equipment	Good
1	1-3' 6" Deep Swimming Pool (Recently Refinished)	Excellent
1	Basketball Court	Fair
2	Restrooms	Fair
1	Picnic Facilities-Scattered benches on Grass	Fair
1	Playground 2-5	Fair
8	Benches	Fair
1	Picnic Pavilion w/ Bathrooms	Excellent
1	Drinking Fountain	Good
1	Swing Set	Good
1	Memorial-Claude Walck-1 <sup>st</sup> Recreation Director	Good

**Observations: Need Pedestrian Crossing for School Children to cross Brook at Young Street.  
Grass is in poor condition.  
Most used pool in the summer.**



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification** Carol Pager Sports Complex – Exchange Field  
**Block Lot Location** Block 108, Lot 14  
**Road Location** Green Street  
**Park Acreage** 7.79 Acres  
**Owner** Borough of Somerville



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	Stone Parking Lot, 40 Spaces	Good
1	Joe Angelo T-Ball Field	Good
1	Building/Concession Stand	Good
2	Restrooms (M/W) and Storage	Good
1	Assorted Playground Equipment	Good
1	Youth Soccer Field (120'x200') K-3	Fair
3	60' Little League Baseball, 60' bases	Excellent
1	Basketball Court	Fair
1	Picnic Grove, 12-15 tables on Grass	Good
1	Gravel Path 8' Wide, Quarry Stone w/ Steel Edging	Good
1	Picnic Grove with 3 Granite Chess Tables	Excellent
8	Bleachers	

**Other Information** Home of Somerville Baseball, Inc.  
 Little League Field Backstop Needs Rebuilding  
 Basketball Court Needs Color Coating  
 No Runoff Area, Backboard Concrete Arch Base  
 Storage for Little League, Pop Warner (Practice in August),  
 and Recreation Department

**Observations:** This is the “Hub” Park for Somerville in the Center of Town. Play area needs handicapped access from Green Street and access pathway. Mulch surfacing, no edging.



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

***Park Information***

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Mastogen Drive Open Space</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 100 Lot 9</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Mastogen Drive</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>0.92 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

***Inventory of Facilities and Conditions***

***Facilities***

***Condition***

**Open Space, No Improvements**

**Fair to Poor**

**Other Information** **Near High School**  
**Future Tennis Courts**  
**Used as cut through by Somerville High School Students at**  
**Lunchtime**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

***Park Information***

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Prospect Drive Island (Bird Sanctuary)</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Island inside Prospect Drive</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Prospect Drive</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>0.20 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

***Inventory of Facilities and Conditions***

***Facilities***

***Condition***

**Select Trees and Shrub Plantings**

**Good**



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Open Space Parkland</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 75 Lot 5</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Williams &amp; Grove Streets</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>7.2 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sliding Board (The Green Monster)</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Picnic Table</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Decorative Fence</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Other Information:** Needs Suspension Bridge Linking Southern Side of Peters Brook and West to Ross Brook



***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

**Park Facility Identification**                      **WWI Memorial Site and Multi-Purpose Court**

**Block Lot Location**                                **Block 71.01 Lot 1  
Block 71 Lot 6**

**Road Location**                                      **Corner of Culver Street and  
High Street  
East Cliff Street**

**Park Acreage**                                        **3.2 Acres**

**Owner**     **Borough of Somerville**



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
1	Flag Pole	Good
1	Paved Road/Multi-Purpose Court	Fair
1	Large Monument with WWI Plaques	Excellent
4	Benches	Good

**Other Information**    **Also used for Used Learn to Bike Ride, Skateboard and Street Hockey**



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Borough Property Unnamed At South Bridge Street &amp; Route 206</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 52 Lot 39</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>South Bridge Street</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>6+ Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gravel Parking Lot, 5-10 cars</b>	<b>Fair</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Canoe Launch (unimproved)</b>	<b>Fair/Poor</b>

**Other Information** Pedestrian Bike Lane by County  
County Owns Other Side of the River  
Future Passive Park with Trails  
Sitting, Picnic Grove  
Needs Signage



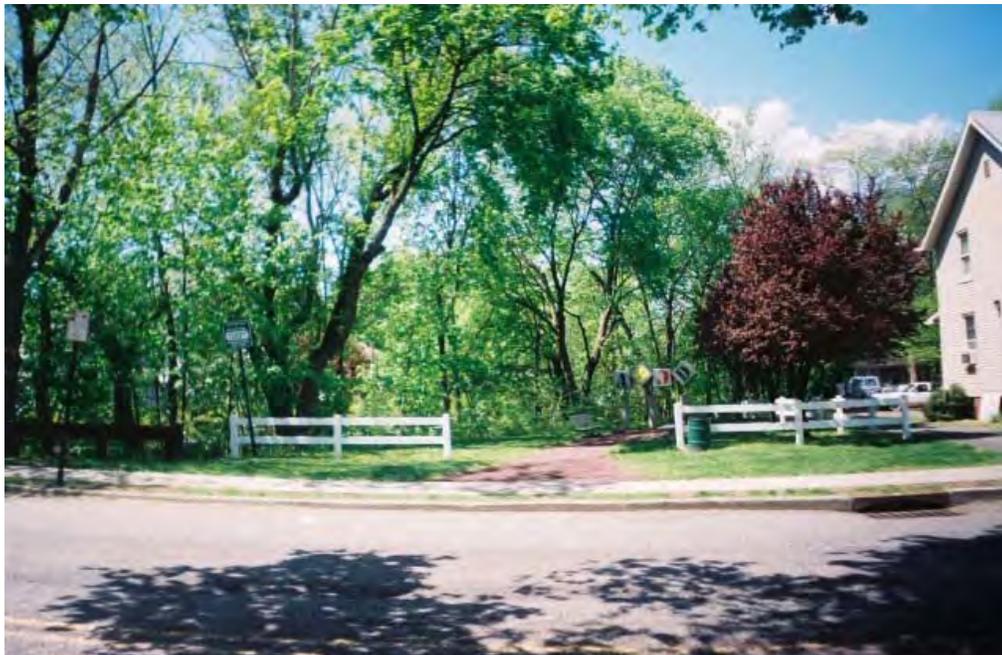
***PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH***

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Children's Park (Pocket Park)</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 144 Lot 9</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Davenport Street and West Summit</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>0.15 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Benches</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Fence</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Sign</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Memorial Art Sculpture (Children's Building Block Four Letters ABCD)</b>	<b>Good</b>



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Peter's Brook Greenway</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Various along the Greenway</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Mountain Avenue to High Street</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>5.94 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>



**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Picnic Grove</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Benches</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gravel Path</b>	<b>Good</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>One mile trail in length from Mountain Avenue to High Street, approximately 8 feet in width</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Other Information** Peters Brook Flows along Entire Distance



**PARK AND RECREATION OPEN SPACE INVENTORY  
SOMERVILLE BOROUGH**

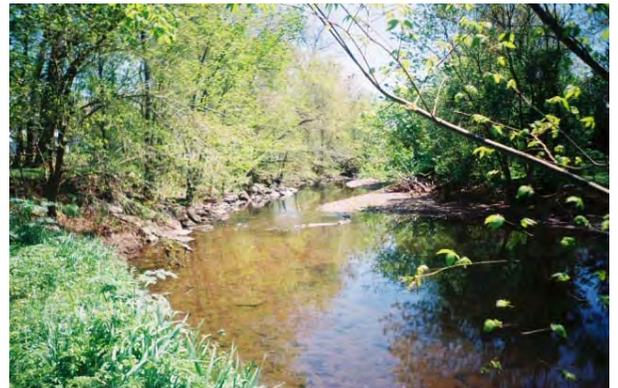
**Park Information**

<b>Park Facility Identification</b>	<b>Elsworth Van Fleet Garden</b>
<b>Block Lot Location</b>	<b>Block 77 Lot 14</b>
<b>Road Location</b>	<b>Bridge and Williams Streets</b>
<b>Park Acreage</b>	<b>3.26 Acres</b>
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Borough of Somerville</b>

**Inventory of Facilities and Conditions**

<b><u>Qty.</u></b>	<b><u>Facilities</u></b>	<b><u>Condition</u></b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Gazebo</b>	<b>Good</b>

**Other Information**    **Wedding Park  
Formal Garden  
Seasonal Plantings**



### **III. Assessment of Lands and Improvements**

#### **A. Introduction**

This section provides an analysis of the adequacy of the current open space and recreation system. It should be noted that the national standards utilized for this report are a general guide. A one size fits all standard is not realistic when taking regional differences and local experiences and expectations into consideration. For example, very few municipalities in New Jersey provide residents with publicly owned golf, swimming pools and ice hockey facilities. Reasons for this might include climate, expense and/or a lack of widespread demand for particular facilities. On the other hand, Somerville has some unique recreational assets including a number of municipal pools, a skate park, and a greenway bikeway/pedestrian path and park network that follows Peter's Brook.

#### **B. National Recreation and Park Association Standard**

One method to assess the amount of parks and recreation areas a community has is through the core system standard. This method was developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The core system standard is used to estimate need based on existing and projected population. The NRPA standards, published in *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines* established by the NRPA provide guidance for developing a core system of public parks for local close to home recreation uses. The standards suggest that neighborhood and community public park and recreation areas be provided to local residents at the ratio of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 people. However, there has been a trend away from such an approach, to increasing community self-direction where the number of acres for park and recreation land is based on what the citizens determine is best for themselves. Applying the rigid standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres/1,000 persons results in a deficit of land (based on the highest acreage of recreational land/1,000 population) for the Borough if Van deerver Field is not included in the acreage of lands. It should be noted that approximately half of the Borough's parklands are in Bridgewater Township (Clark's Woods and Arthur Chambres).

#### **Core System Calculation** **Standard = 6.25 to 10.50 Acres of local park space per 1,000 people**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Calculated Need</b>
1990	11,623	72.64 to 122.04
2000	12,423	77.63 to 130.44
2004	12,434	77.69 to 130.56
2015*	13,546	84.69 to 142.23
2015**	15,414 to 16,534	96.33 to 173.61

\* Population projection from The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc. (NJTPA)

\* Population projection based on NJTPA figures plus units proposed in the Redevelopment Area. Assumes 750-1,200 units with average household size of 2.49 (as per 2000 Census of Population).

Based on the existing 122.33 acres of parkland and the 2015 population projection, the core system standard indicates the Borough is within the mid range of park acreage.

### ***C. Systems Approach***

For over thirty years, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed recommended guidelines and standards for parks, recreation areas and open space. The NRPA has also developed a systems approach to the planning for parks, recreation, open space, and pathways. This approach includes a level of service guideline that is based on needs, facilities and land in order to assist communities in establishing their own recreation, park and open space guidelines. Involvement of the community is the essential aspect of this process. The systems approach emphasizes locally determined values, needs, and expectations that influence the process of developing and applying guidelines. The process is less dependent on previously used formulas and more focused on the process.

Systems planning responds to the missions and objectives of the park and recreation commission, based on on-going assessments of the leisure needs and interests of the community. Within the systems approach, a level of service standard is determined. The level of service is a quantification of the park and recreation philosophy and policy of a community. The approach is determined by the customer rather than an arbitrary standard. This approach can be used to determine the type of park or park classifications, recreation activities for each park, and open space size standards. The recreation activity menu is developed from a list of activities, programs and facilities that are used in a community or are needed to satisfy current needs, as determined through market surveys. Needs are converted to facilities which are converted into spatial requirements. The level of service is then calculated based on the present supply of the recreation activity choices, the expressed demand for the choices, and the minimum population service requirements. The level of service for each individual park and the entire park and recreation system is then determined. The level of service reflects the minimum amount of park land and recreation facilities needed to meet the recreation demand as determined by the needs assessment.

The surveys and workshops conducted as part of this study function as a type of systems approach. A random survey of 800 residents was conducted. Users were asked to rate existing facilities and provide recommendations for future improvements and amenities. From the 184 responses to that survey, a focus group provided further comments on their visual preferences for various amenities and completed a mapping exercise to suggest specific recommendations for improvements and additional facilities needed. The results of these exercises provide the basis for this needs assessment.

### ***D. Facilities Assessment***

The general condition of Somerville's parks is good and the Borough has a number of facilities that are unique for a community of its size. The Borough maintains three pools, a skate park, and a bicycle/pedestrian network that parallels Peter's Brook from the northwest corner to the southwest. An additional park system is situated along Ross Brook and a canoe launch is provided at the Raritan River.

The following chart identifies national standards of facility type, the number of facilities of each type recommended per 1,000 residents and the actual number Somerville provides. There are a number of recent trends for which widely accepted municipal standards have not yet been established. These include facilities where dogs and their owners can interact in an access controlled facility. Another trend is a growing interest in skate parks, which provide obstacles and ramps that are commonly used in conjunction with bicycles, in-line rollerblades, and skateboards. While there is no recognized standard for this, as previously mentioned, Somerville is unique in that it provides these facilities for residents.

<i>Facility Type</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Recommended Minimum</i>	<i>Number Provided</i>	<i>Location</i>
Full Basketball Courts	1 per 5,000	3	1 2 1 1 1 1	Arthur Chambres Park Kuglar Park Michael Lepp-Lighted Van derveer Field Claude Walck Carol Pager
Official Baseball (350' Min. Outfield)	1 per 5,000 1 per 30,000 lighted	3 1	1 1	Arthur Chambres Park Van derveer-Unlighted Van derveer Field
Little League	1 per 5,000 1 per 30,000 lighted	3 1	1 4	Arthur Chambres Park Carol Pager
Football Fields w/ Uprights	1 per 20,000	1	2	Firehouse Field
Multi Purpose Court	1 per 10,000	2	1	Van derveer Field
¼ Mile Running Track	1 per 20,000	1	1	Brooks Field (Board of Education)
Youth Soccer Facilities	1 per 10,000	2	1 3 1 1	Clark's Woods Van derveer Field Carol Pager Firehouse Field
General Softball	1 per 5,000	4	1 1 1	Arthur Chambres Park-Lighted Michael Lepp Park Van Derveer Field
Tennis	1 per 2,000	9	2 1	John Long Park Ken Cornell
Volley Ball	1 per 5,000	4	0	
Practice Tennis Wall	1 per 22,000	1	1	Ken Cornell
Horseshoe Pits	1 per 15,000	1	0	
Shuffleboard Courts	1 per 20,000	1	0	

***E. Characteristics of Population***

Trends in age should also be considered in providing recreational facilities to groups of all ages, now and into the future. These numbers are provided for planning purposes and to show that in Somerville, demographic characteristics of age have not substantially changed between 1990 and 2000.

***Population Trends  
Somerville Borough, NJ***

	<b>1990</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>%</b>
Under 5	740	6.4%	869	6.9%
5-17	1,477	12.7%	1,849	14.8%
19-20	421	3.6%	444	3.6%
21-24	821	7.1%	680	5.5%
25-44	4,219	36.3%	4,447	35.8%
45-54	1,050	9.0%	1,445	11.6%
55-59	594	5.1%	522	4.2%
60-64	591	5.1%	429	3.4%
65-74	974	8.4%	874	7.0%
75-84	568	4.9%	635	5.2%
85+	177	1.5%	229	1.8%
Under 18	2,217	19.1%	2,725	21.9%
65 and Over	1,719	14.8%	1,738	13.9%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>11,632</b>		<b>12,423</b>	

#### ***IV. Survey of Community to Determine Recreation Needs***

A Park and Recreation Survey was developed in conjunction with the Somerville Recreation Commission. Surveys were mailed to 800 random households in 2005 and completed surveys were received by the Recreation Commission in 2005 and 2006. A blank copy of the survey follows on pages 27 and 28. The survey indicated that Somerville Parks and Recreation Commission was conducting a comprehensive needs assessment of facilities and programs as well as developing a master plan for parks acquisition and development. Somerville residents were requested to complete the survey and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope. An incentive of movie passes and dinner for two at a local restaurant was provided for residents to respond to the survey. There were 184 responds received by the Recreation Commission.

Summaries are contained on pages 29 to 30 and 32 to 38. The results of the survey indicated that the majority of the respondents were located in the neighborhood north of East Main Street and east of North Bridge Street (41%). Residents west of Bridge Street and north of West Main (23%) and south of West Main (21%) comprised the second and third groups of respondents. Fifteen percent of the respondents were from the area south of East Main Street and east of South Bridge Street.

Eighty-two percent of the respondents were from owner occupied units and twenty-seven percent were adults age 55-69. Sixty-eight percent of the respondents said they had not participated in Somerville Recreation Programs in the last year. Of the thirty-two percent who had participated in programs, fifty-three had participated in youth programs. Though most residents had not participated in a recreation program, seventy-seven percent had visited a Somerville Park in the past year. The most frequently visited parks were Walck Park (19%), Van Fleet Gardens (17%), Exchange Field/Carol Pager Field (15%), John Long Park (12%), Firehouse Field and Kuglar Park (10% each), Chambres Park and Lepp Park (8% each) and Clarks Woods (1%).

Responses to the question about taxes and value of their tax dollars to facilities and programs indicated that the tax bill for recreation was just about right (65%), not enough (30%) or too much (5%). Thirty-three percent of the respondents indicated that the facilities and programs were an excellent value. Thirty-five percent indicated it was a good value and six percent responded that it was only an inadequate value. Twenty-six percent indicated they did not know enough to answer the question.

Seventy-four percent of respondents indicated that Somerville's parks are excellent, good or adequate in comparison to neighboring communities. Only 9% indicated they were inadequate or poor in comparison.

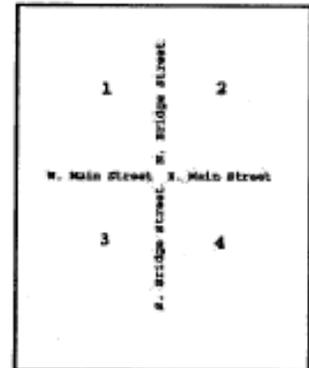
The questionnaire asked if the needs of Somerville residents with disabilities were addressed. Eighty-eight percent indicated they didn't have enough experience to answer while 6% responded yes and 6% responded no.

**Somerville Recreation Commission**  
**PO Box 399, 25 West End Avenue, Somerville, NJ 08876**

**PLEASE HELP US TO BETTER SERVE YOU!**

- Somerville Parks & Recreation is undertaking a comprehensive needs assessment of facilities and programs as well as developing a master plan for parks acquisition and development.
- In order to accomplish this most effectively, your input is needed. Your household was randomly chosen to participate in this survey. The survey group includes 800 households throughout Somerville, therefore your response is very important.
- Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. When you are finished, place it in the self-addressed stamped envelope and drop it in the mail.
- *As a special incentive, those returning surveys will be entered into a drawing for a \$100 gift certificate for Main Street Bistro in Somerville and four movie tickets to Manville Cinema.*
- Thank you for helping to make Somerville a better place to live.

**SOMERVILLE BOROUGH PARKS & RECREATION SURVEY**  
**SOMERVILLE, NJ - SOMERSET COUNTY**



1. Using East and West Main Street and North and South Bridge Street to divide the town, where is your household located (please circle section) on the grid to right?
2. How would you best describe your housing type?
  - Owner occupied home
  - Renter occupied home
  - Owner occupied multi-family
  - Renter occupied multi-family
3. How many individuals live in your household according to the following age-groups?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Infants/Toddlers (0-2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Preschool (3-5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Children (6-12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Teens (13-19)
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adults (20-35)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (36-54)
<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (55-69)	<input type="checkbox"/> Adults (70 & over)
4. Have you or members of your household participated in any Somerville Recreation Programs in the last year?
  - Yes  No
5. If yes (to question 4), please check and circle the appropriate program(s).
  - Youth Programs (Swimming Lessons, Soccer, Chess Club, Trips other \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Special Programs (Mommy & Me, Fencing, Summer Reading, other \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Adult Programs (Volleyball, Softball, Trips, other \_\_\_\_\_)
  - Miscellaneous (Free sports equipment rental, tent rental, Van Fleet Garden photos, other \_\_\_\_\_)
6. Have you or members of your household used or visited a Somerville Park over the past year?
  - Yes  No
7. If yes (to question 6), please check all park(s) utilized
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Clarks Woods (Rt. 202-203)	<input type="checkbox"/> Walck Park (Walnut Street)
<input type="checkbox"/> John Long Park (Mercer Street)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kuglar Park (Green/Mercer Street)
<input type="checkbox"/> Lepp Park (Park Avenue)	<input type="checkbox"/> Exchange Field/Carol Payer Park (Green St)
<input type="checkbox"/> Van Fleet Gardens (Bridge/Green Sts)	<input type="checkbox"/> Chambres Park (Southside Avenue)
<input type="checkbox"/> Firehouse Field (Main/Veterans Memorial)	
8. In 2005 the Recreation Department received a total of \$26.42 in taxes from your household. Do you think this portion of your total tax bill was:
  - Too Much  Just Right  Not Enough

9. Considering your contribution in tax dollars, versus facilities and programs that are offered, which of the following best describe your feelings and opinions about parks and recreation in Somerville.

- It's an excellent value     It's a good value     It's an inadequate value  
 Don't know enough about the department to answer

10. How would you compare Somerville's existing parks to those of our neighboring communities?

- Excellent                       Good                       Adequate  
 Inadequate                       Poor                       Unaware

11. Do you believe that the recreational needs of Somerville's residents with disabilities are being addressed?

- Yes                       No                       I don't have enough experience to answer.

12. Do you believe Somerville needs more indoor recreational facilities?

- Yes                       No

If yes, what type: \_\_\_\_\_

13. Should Somerville conduct a feasibility study to consider the development of a new community center to provide more recreational and social opportunities for Somerville residents?

- Yes                       No

14. Do you believe Somerville needs more outdoor recreation facilities?

- Yes                       No

If yes, what type: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you believe that Somerville should attempt to purchase additional parkland?

- Yes                       No

16. Over the next five years, do you believe your interest in recreational opportunities will:

- Increase                       Decrease                       Remain the same

17. What ONE improvement would you MOST like to see in the park system?

\_\_\_\_\_

18. Would you be willing to participate in a more focused and technical workshop dealing with the future of parks and recreation programs and facilities in Somerville Borough?

- Yes                       No

If you answered yes, please print your name, address and phone number or call Frank Quinn at the Somerville Recreation Department to be included in future meetings (908) 704-6985.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Phone Number)

19. Please provide any other suggestions that might help us improve the parks and recreation programs in Somerville.



8. In 2005 the Recreation Department received a total of \$26.42 from your household. Do you think this portion of your tax bill was:
- 5% Too Much                      65% Just Right                      30% Not Enough
9. Considering your contribution in tax dollars, versus facilities and programs that are offered, which of the following best describes your feeling and opinions about park and recreation in Somerville?
- 33% It's an excellent value      35% It's a good value      6% It's an inadequate value  
26% Don't know enough about the department to answer
10. How would you compare Somerville's existing parks to those of our neighboring communities?
- 15% Excellent                      39% Good                      20% Adequate  
6% Inadequate                      3% Poor                      17% Unaware
11. Do you believe that the recreational needs of Somerville's Residents with disabilities are being addressed?
- 6% Yes                      6% No                      88% I don't have enough experience to answer
12. Do you believe Somerville needs more indoor recreational facilities?
- 58% Yes                      42% No
- If yes, what type?      Youth Center, Fitness, Full Size Pool, Basketball
13. Should Somerville conduct a feasibility study to consider the development of a new community center to provide more recreational and social opportunities for Somerville Residents?
- 71% Yes                      29% No
14. Do you believe Somerville needs more outdoor recreation facilities?
- 39% Yes                      66% No
- If yes, what type?      Trails, Athletic Fields
15. Do you believe Somerville should purchase additional parkland?
- 46% Yes                      54% No
16. Over the next 5 years, do you believe your interest in recreational opportunities will:
- 45% Increase                      10% Decrease                      45% Remain the Same

The majority of residents (71%) indicated that Somerville should conduct a feasibility study to consider the development of a new community center to provide more recreational and social opportunities. Sixty-six percent responded that no more outdoor recreational facilities were needed and 54% indicated Somerville should not purchase additional parklands. An equal percentage (45%) of the respondents indicated that they believed their interest in recreation will increase or remain the same. Ten percent believed it would decrease.

There was a wide variety of responses to the Question #17 that asked, “What one improvement would you most like to see in the park system?” There were a number of responses relating to pools, trails, lighting and indoor facilities. The complete listing of responses is included on pages 32 to 34.

Question #19 on the initial survey requested other suggestions that might help Somerville improve the parks and recreation programs. Again, there was a comprehensive list of suggestions ranging from providing flyers to inform residents of programs to providing adequate facilities for younger children, older residents and teens. There were also a number of comments praising the Commission for all the programs and facilities that are offered. A complete listing of the suggestions is shown on pages 35 to 37.

Question #18 asked “Would you be willing to participate in a more focused and technical workshop dealing with the future of parks and recreation programs and facilities in Somerville Borough?” Forty-two respondents answered yes and a Phase II Priority Listing of Survey Data form (pages 39 to 40) was mailed out on March 28, 2006 with the results of the first survey. The Phase II survey requested the respondent to rank from 1 to 10 a list of 44 park or recreation area features. Eleven surveys were returned. Seven of the respondents ranked ten selected facilities as their numbers 1 to 10. The other four respondents ranked all the facilities from 1 to 10 by their priority. Of the respondents who ranked only their top 10 features, the most frequently identified item on the list was park beautification. More expanded trails and nature trails were the second most identified. Access to the Raritan River, town festivals, parent child programs, indoor recreation, multi-use recreation center, paved walking/biking trails, outdoor amphitheater, park shelters, and full depth community pool were the third most identified features ranked.

Of the respondents who ranked all the facilities, outdoor amphitheater, access to the Raritan River and basketball ranked as the most important. Expanded use of Peter’s Brook, sand volleyball courts and tennis courts ranked in the next most important grouping and more/expanded trails, teen programs, cultural events, field turf and more picnic facilities ranked in the next most important grouping.

17. What ONE improvement would you MOST like to see in the park system?

- Fill in empty patches with grass
- Maintain ball fields better
- A deeper pool outdoors or indoor community pool
- Better pools
- Lighting
- Large park with running trail (like Nomahegan Park in Cranford)
- Brook walk is great. Could Somerville group with Doris Duke Estates somehow (to help with funding, etc)
- Clean permanent bathroom facilities, clean usable water fountains, pre-school jungle gym
- More mulch under play areas
- The greenway trail should be regraded after a washout. The brook should be monitored for refuse from both sides, people on the cliff side dump and people on the trail side litter.
- Different Playground Mulch. Current Mulch is dirty.
- Connect to county's Raritan River green belt
- Trips
- Cleaner Grounds
- Fields with straight lines measured correctly
- Safer areas to walk
- More tennis courts
- Community wooden play set
- Cleanliness
- Dog walking area & dog playground
- Family oriented large space
- Rather than looking at new facilities, money should be spent on maintaining existing facilities and parks
- Prune and trim plants/shrubs at Van Fleet Garden
- More pool time, more weeks, more hours daily and weekends
- A safe park system with complete facilities
- More improvement for teens and senior citizens – like indoor walks, handball, table tennis, more activities centered around young families and children – the basketball courts are usually crowded. Maybe indoor teen activities (regulated) would be a healthy alternative. Chess tables at the parks. Thank you for making Somerville a nice place to live.
- Maintain Baseball fields
- No dog poop on park lawns
- Better and deeper mulch around playground equipment
- Dog park
- More gardens/landscaping
- The rivers/streams refuse removed regularly and maintained garbage free
- The playground mulch is filthy and ruins clothes

- Plant more trees. Use less or no pesticides on the grounds
- Monitored indoor winter sports facility
- No additional improvements needed
- Walking trails are turning to mud pits because they aren't maintained
- Continued coordination with schools to utilize indoor space
- Indoor swim lessons
- Parks should be kept clean, litter bugs should be fined and dog walkers forced to clean up after the dogs
- Better playground equipment
- Better lights
- Spruce them up
- More activities for teens
- Upgrade the baseball and soccer fields. They are currently embarrassing
- The creation of a woodland bird and wildlife refuge and habitat with low environmental impact path trails throughout, a place of refuge from the stress, noise, and bustle of everyday life. This park could easily be carved out of the former landfill site. The site is already home to numerous species of animals and many species of birds not commonly seen in backyards. The land already belongs to Somerville and does not need to be purchased. A possible source of income could be having the site purchased by the nature conservatory.
- Restrooms
- Paving the greenway bike/walk trail
- Cleaner parks that are safe for athletes and young children
- More secure fencing around children playgrounds
- Walking trails
- Fields open for use more often
- A central recreational facility
- Paved path for wheelchairs
- Overhauls
- Cleaner newer equipment
- Pools open later more often during the summer months
- Repair Peter's Brook Greenway
- Increase communication. People are not always aware of the services offered by the Somerville Parks and Recreation
- The playgrounds are always dirty, the playground equipment needs to be hosed off/cleaned more often
- Better kept fields
- More paved bike paths/lanes
- A shade park in land on southside tracks or in back of building way back where hardly anybody ever parks
- Environmental Programs for children
- A swim center
- More trees, picnic areas
- More activities for young children and teenagers

- Tennis clinics
- Black top paths recently developed, the gravel is messy because it is often wet or flooded, I love our parks
- More basketball courts available
- Tennis courts need work
- Activities for seniors
- More tables, benches, grills
- Lights in park
- Place an indoor arena at Clarks Woods
- Have the pools open until 7 pm so working parents can take their kids
- Indoor pool – children’s swimming program
- Evening/night availability
- Drainage to parks flood easily – better parking facilities
- A deeper community pool would be great
- More paths along water, boat access on Raritan River
- More park benches
- A lot more activities for kids
- Bike path
- Night activities during summer months, lighted fields
- Walking path – mile markers and physical fitness stops along the way
- Information about programs sent to new families
- More for teens
- Better lighting at night
- The park on Kirby Avenue needs to be maintained better at times
- Cleaner
- More benches
- More family activities
- Better access to Raritan River
- Supervision
- Longer Paths
- A tennis court
- Municipal swimming pool
- Town pool with baby pool, snack bar, similar to Warrentonville Pool
- Larger playground with climbers, swings, etc, like Bridgewater has next to police station
- Community Center
- Summer day camp/activities
- Safe parks – well lit and patrolled
- More widespread publishing of park info and programs
- New fields for programs
- Walck Park needs improved playground surface
- Better drainage
- Let the public know more about what is offered to various age groups
- Clean the park road in winter

18. Would you be willing to participate in a more focused and technical workshop dealing with the future of parks and recreation programs and facilities in Somerville Borough?

42 People Indicated Yes. A Follow-Up Survey and Invitation to the Workshop were Mailed out and 11 responses were obtained.

19. Please provide any other suggestions that might help us improve the parks and recreation programs in Somerville.

- Open toddler pool longer, additional staff, morning hours
- Mailings to households about programs and facilities
- Additional facilities and programs for children under 6
- When Baker & Taylor site is built on, a park should be included – new large and state of the art
- All existing parks need to be better maintained, trash, bottles, and debris are all common
- My child participated in the past, thank you do a great job, helps this diverse community succeed, great for the kids, keep up the good work!
- Love the new walking paths that runs through Somerville, must be maintained and kept safe for all that use them
- Gym or place to exercise is needed, there are none in Somerville. I would consider attending. I think having parks in the community really makes a difference. People enjoy them, they keep the land from being overdeveloped, and it creates a nice community feel.
- When you compare our facilities to other communities I just want to say thank you for doing your best with what we have. Lets start by putting pressure on our local and county officials to do something on the landfill for our recreational needs.
- Some place to knit, crochet, and cross stitch
- Improve professionalism of the young staff running the programs, instructors are great with kids but seemed disorganized compared to a commercial facility such as the little gym
- Put a small walking bridge at the end of East Young Street to be able to cross the creek into the park
- More cultural activities – plays, shows, concerts, etc.
- Be involved with the landfill development
- More nature trails, behind the monument at Lepp Park off High Street. I think the blacktop should be removed and replaced with a stone walkway or something other than asphalt. Plant more flowers and have nature walks along the brook
- The skate park should be free to residents
- I love the parks and this town for my family. I feel they are adequate and I commend the department on a job well done maintaining them. If there are needs not being met in the community I would be open to hearing what they are.

- Summertime classes in arts and crafts for children (I watched Mr. Lepp assemble the contents of model kits). I would be willing to subscribe to a periodical stating rules and regulations and allowable activities, scheduled activities, etc. at the park (recreation programs). Are residents of adjoining communities using Borough Parks and the limited parking?
- Picnic tables in the parks as well as around Borough Hall
- Instead of mulch groundcover in play areas, there is a new better alternative made of shredded tired rubber. I've seen it in a few playgrounds; it's inexpensive, clean, and safer for the kids. It also requires much less maintenance
- Update the YMCA and lower the cost
- Have the Mercer Street pool open in the AM in the summer when there is shade, instead of in the afternoon only.
- The mulch used in the playgrounds is an inferior type. Many times when new mulch is put down it is mixed with mud. The mulch should be deeper than it is. There are state standards which should be followed.
- Unless you participate in a sport in the previous season, it is difficult to get the info in the next season's signups. At the middle school level, information is not brought home with the kids as the literature is "optional" to pick up
- I do not know what the recreation needs are. I like the bike and walking paths and passive use of what can be spared
- I tried to enroll my 5 year old in gymnastics. There were only 10 slots – extremely inadequate. Why bother to offer anything at all? Before you invest in new facilities make sure you have enough staff to support the programs. Cheap, yes, but what does an inexpensive program do that is only available to some children.
- A park should also have a picnic area where families can go to gather and have picnics during the holidays
- More improvements regarding teens and senior citizens like indoor walks, handball, table tennis, most activities center around young children and families, the basketball courts are usually crowded. Maybe indoor teen activities (regulated) chess tables at parks, thank you for making Somerville a nice place to live.
- Do more than just cut the grass, other towns have very nice facilities, why can't Somerville?
- This is just a note to the recreation department: we have lived in Somerville 41 years, all of those we have utilized the parks and recreation system due to raising 6 very active children. We thoroughly enjoyed what was available to use. Just this past summer we watched our 3 year old grandson, and remembering how great Walck Park was, we took him there a few mornings for arts and crafts. The young counselors were very wonderful and very attentive. He loved going. Also the pool was so clean and the area very nice. So I am applauding the upkeep and care Somerville recreation takes in their grounds, thank you.
- Since my family is grown, we don't make use of the programs anymore. But when my children were school age through and beyond high school, I thought the programs were excellent. My children were always active in the programs. I have excellent praise for Somerville recreation

- Provide information (brochures, flyers, etc) to households via mail. Organize park events to the community.
- I love the new hiking and bike path, we use it a lot. We also use the pools in the summer. They could be upgraded though. However, the maintenance of the playgrounds is not good. These need to be mulched with clean material for both safety and hygiene.
- Perhaps a yearly calendar of events mailed out to residents with info on what, where, how much, etc.
- Extend the series of summer concerts. Afternoon/daylight programs for seniors, more trips for seniors.
- More youth programs with focus on teaching i.e. soccer, baseball
- Don't raise taxes anymore
- More information mailed out to residents of Somerville about the programs available especially for first time parents entering new programs that are offered
- The area located near the Raritan River could be better used. The woods could be cut back and paths could be installed for walkways, same as Duke Island.
- More publicity about what is available to what age groups and where
- I have tried in the past to make suggestions and it's too much of a fight. The town should have the landfill developer donate significant acreage for outdoor recreation and a new community center and have them pay for all of it. Newer jungle gyms with shredded rubber beds
- Our park system is vastly underutilized. I live across from Exchange Field (still don't know who Carol Pager was) and at least 70% of the park is unused. If its not organized sports, kids do not participate. They are at home playing video games or on the computer. A community center would be a waste as it would turn into a hangout with some people intimidated by others. During little league and Pop Warner there needs to be more police presence. It is most annoying when you close my street for that community event.
- I think Mr. Quinn is doing an excellent job with all types of recreation for both children and adults.
- Both my son and daughter spent many happy times at the parks and at the Saturday arts and crafts activity. We've been away from this for awhile but do not notice a lack of activity and use of the parks outside of regularly scheduled activities (i.e. little league). When the babies visited we head down to Exchange Field
- My wife and I are handicapped so do not any longer use the recreational system
- Use the county open space tax if possible
- Open pools for longer season and longer hours
- I run/walk the greenway along Peter's Brook. Over the last 2 years I have noticed a problem of non point pollution. The number of bicycles along the banks as well as well as the bottom of the brook is alarming. The refuse/litter in the scrub on the banks and in the water is an insult to the munificent nature and to the taxpayers. In the almost daily trudge I have seen snapping turtles, a number of mature and active herons, what must have been a white crane or large bird of some sort, snakes, ducks, and an array of birds. This is a very good sign about

biodiversity but the brook could be a lot cleaner. The ground is very littered during sports season. A lot of detritus after games and practices (team litter patrols)

- I have spoken to Mr. Quinn several times about purchasing a memorial tree for a loved one but each time Mr. Quinn was to get back to me with a time to plant the tree, where, etc, I haven't heard a thing. Why offer a program if it is impossible to carry out?
- Excellent programs, nicely priced. Could you possibly add a trip to NY Museum of Natural History?
- Adult outdoor pool
- As a mother of young children I wasn't aware of all the recreational activities available. It would be nice to receive a mailing with all of the activities offered. I have had little luck calling the recreational department. (MAJ - called and spoke with her, apologized for lack of return call, answered questions, seemed positive)
- I have often thought enlarging one of the pools to include cabanas or changing space and bathrooms and making pool deeper would be an asset. However I don't know if that is feasible. I would like to see lights (even solar generated) on green ways path.
- More senior recreation programs
- Maybe some traveling teams so Somerville kids can play for Somerville and not for other towns.
- The grant received by Ridewise should be used to enhance transportation, not a hiking or biking trail. There is a need for public transportation to and from work school or shopping. This is not a municipal matter but I thought I would put it on the table for what its worth
- We would not mind doubling the tax dollars to provide a community center with a pool. One thing the pool could offer is free lifeguard training if the participants agree to donate certain number of hours life guarding the pool. The lessons would pay for themselves in that way. Also, a chess club would be an inexpensive alternative to children and teens not interested in athletics.
- Utilize the Somerville schools for more programs, nights and weekends.



## Somerville Recreation Commission

PO 399 • 25 West End Ave • Somerville, NJ 08876

(908) 704-6985

Commissioners: Chairman Ron Thornburg, Vice Chairman Rich Repole, Ken Cornell, Albert Jay, Gina Petrone,  
Charles Windus, Mike Zniandz. Alternates: Jon Roethlis, Carlos Sanchez. Council Liaison Jane Kobuta  
Director Frank J. Quinn, Assistant Director Molly A. James

March 28, 2006

Dear Somerville Recreation Survey Participant,

Thank you for your response to our Master Plan and Needs Assessment Survey. Enclosed please find preliminary data figures from survey with additional sheets highlighting the responses of "one improvement and other suggestions" for your review.

The winner of our incentive drawing for returning the survey was Ms. Lin Niyi.

Our next focus will be to bring together as many as possible who responded that they would be willing to participate in a more focused and technical workshop dealing with the future of the Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

In preparation for that anticipated three hour workshop I would ask that you rank the separate enclosed list from 1-10 with one being highest priority and returning it to us by April 21, 2006.

If you have any questions, please call me at 704-6985. Again, thank you for your comments and suggestions.

Yours in Recreation,



Frank J. Quinn



# Somerville Recreation Commission

PO 399 • 25 West End Ave • Somerville, NJ 08876

(908) 704-6985

Commissioners: Chairman Ron Thornburg, Vice Chairman Rich Repole, Ken Cornell, Albert Joy, Gina Petrone, Charles Windus, Mike Zolanz. Alternates: Jon Roethke, Carlos Sanchez, Council Liaison Jane Kubala  
Director Frank J. Quinn, Assistant Director Molly A. James

## SRC Master Plan & Needs Assessment Phase II Priority Listing of Survey Data

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please rank list below from 1-10 with 1 being the highest ranking and return to Recreation by April 21, 2006.

- |                               |                                     |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ Cultural Events         | _____ New Playground Equipment      |
| _____ Town Festivals          | _____ Indoor Recreation             |
| _____ Special Olympics        | _____ Multi use Recreation Center   |
| _____ Senior Programs         | _____ Skate Park                    |
| _____ Expanded Trip Programs  | _____ Open Space                    |
| _____ Soccer Fields           | _____ Nature Parks                  |
| _____ Softball Fields         | _____ Paved Walking/Bike Trails     |
| _____ Lighted Fields          | _____ Outdoor Amphitheater          |
| _____ Field Turf Field        | _____ Picnic Shelters               |
| _____ Park Beautification     | _____ Ice Rink                      |
| _____ More picnic areas       | _____ Sand Volleyball Courts        |
| _____ More/expanded trails    | _____ Tennis Courts                 |
| _____ Access to Raritan River | _____ Full Depth Community Pool     |
| _____ Land Acquisition        | _____ Youth Water Spray Park        |
| _____ Miniture Golf Course    | _____ Camp Sites                    |
| _____ Lighted Athletic Fields | _____ Picnic Shelters               |
| _____ Memorial Tree planting  | _____ Dog Park                      |
| _____ Formal Gardens          | _____ Expanded use of Peter's Brook |
| _____ More benches in parks   | _____ Environmental Programs        |
| _____ Lacrosse fields         | _____ Basketball                    |
| _____ More restrooms in park  | _____ Other                         |
| _____ Parent Child Prgraoms   | _____                               |
| _____ Teen Programs           | _____                               |
| _____ Young Adult Programs    | _____                               |

## ***V. Planning and Design Workshop Results***

### ***A. Planning and Design Workshop***

Following the survey discussed in section IV, Somerville Recreation Commission hosted a park system planning/design workshop on July 22, 2006 to solicit detailed information from participating residents. The invitation to that workshop is included on page 42. The workshop consisted of three exercises. First, there was a presentation aimed at introducing participants to general park design strategies, which helped participants visualize possibilities and prepare for the other two exercises. Second, a photographic survey of various park images from Somerville and other areas throughout the region were presented to the participants. Participants were requested to rank their preferences to the photographs from 0 to 10. A rating of 0 meant it was undesirable or they would not like to see it in a Somerville Park and a rating of 10 meant it was a desirable feature that they would like included in their park or recreation areas. The results of the photo survey were used as a tool to help establish a unifying theme and vision for Somerville's park system. Third, participants reviewed maps of the park system in small workgroups and located areas where there are opportunities for improvements based the knowledge gained from the first two exercises. The results of the initial survey, the Phase II survey, the photo survey, and the mapping exercise contribute to the formulation of this plan and to develop an action plan to guide future park improvements.

At the workshop, Mayor Brian Gallagher spoke and thanked everyone for attending and supporting the recreational movements that are underway in Somerville. He explained the goals of the session and the recreational vision of Somerville.

Thomas Czerniecki, consultant for Environmental Resolutions, Inc. requested that attendees provide self-introductions and explain their involvement and interest in Somerville recreation. Each of the 24 attendees responded. Frank Quinn, Recreation Director, then presented a summary of the results of the initial questionnaire that was mailed out in 2005. A summary of the 186 responses to various questions was provided. Barbara Fegley, from Environmental Resolutions, Inc. then presented the Somerville Parks and Recreation inventory that was completed. She provided a photo tour of the parks and identified significant features at each.

Mr. Czerniecki then explained various types of planning strategies and park designs in preparation for the photo survey. Participants were instructed to have fun with the photos and rankings, to not consider cost in their preferences, and remember that the goal is for long term planning. Preferences were to be based on individual responses to the photos not considering cost. Participants were reminded to consider taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves. The process of building important and significant recreational aspects of Somerville will take awhile, so long term planning is very important.



## Somerville Recreation Commission

PO 399 • 25 West End Ave • Somerville, NJ 08876

(908) 704-6985

Commissioners: Chairman Rich Repole, Vice Chairman Ken Cornell, Albert Jay, Gina Patrone, Charles Windus, Mike Zoladz. Alternates: Jon Roethke, Carlos Sanchez. Council Liaison Jane Kobuta  
Director Frank J. Quinn, Assistant Director Molly A. James

June 28, 2006

Dear

RE: Somerville Recreation Survey Participants

I am writing to ask once more for your support in the final phase of our Master Plan Needs Assessment for Parks and Recreation.

In the original survey you expressed your willingness to participate in a more focused and technical workshop dealing with the future of Parks and Recreation.

The date chosen for this final workshop will be Saturday, July 22, 2006, 11:30-2:30pm at Main Street Bistro, 18 West Main Street. Lunch will be provided as a thank you for sharing your time and talent.

The workshop will consist of three exercises. First, there will be a presentation aimed at introducing participants to general park design strategies. Second, participants will take part in a photographic survey of various park images from Somerville and throughout the region. Third, participants will review maps of the parkland in small work groups attempting to locate opportunities for improvement.

The results of these three exercises by you will help establish a unifying theme and vision for Somerville's park system and Recreation programs.

Please call the Recreation office (908-704-6985) by July 19, 2006 to let us know if you will or will not attend in order to confirm luncheon count.

Yours in Recreation,

Frank J. Quinn  
Director

C.c. Mayor Gallagher & Council  
Commission

Mr. Czerniecki explained that successful studies done on parks and recreation areas found that the areas needed to be fun, affordable, real, comfortable, present a good image, and be safe, have some type of greenery, be walkable, have parking and sitting places, be aesthetically pleasing, historic, close to home, connected with something else, and sociable. These were the common aspects of the most popular recreational places. A number of photos depicting these qualities were presented with explanations. At this point the photo survey was conducted. Participants were presented with powerpoint photos of 89 park features to rate based on their visual preferences. At the end of the photo survey, participants were divided into seven groups. Each group had an aerial photograph of Somerville with existing and potential parks and recreation areas identified. Participants were instructed to draw on the maps and locate areas where certain facilities were needed or wanted. Participants were to label areas if they thought there were features missing or lacking facilities or where safety or other improvements were needed. Participants were given an unlimited time for this activity and some groups spent between 30 minutes to one hour with this exercise. After the last group was finished, the workshop was completed.

Results from the initial survey, the photo survey, and the mapping exercise will form the basis of the needs assessment, in conjunction with a comparison of park features and facilities evaluated against national standards. Results from the workshop are discussed in the following section.

### ***B. Visual Workshop Results***

The results of the photo survey workshop are presented on the following pages. The photos of various park and recreation features were presented to workshop participants in a random order. To present preferences in a logical manner, like facilities are presented on individual pages so, for instance, Images 1, 3, 5 and 69 portrayed various parking areas. Image 1 is on-street parking, Image 3 is unscreened parking, Image 5 is screened parking and Image 69 is screened parking at a roadway edge with pedestrian access. A preference to a particular type of street parking can then be summarized by the average of respondents on each feature. The averaged preference for the group is shown below the photo. Again, a ranking of 0 is least desirable and a ranking of 10 is most desirable.

#### ***Parking Areas***

Workshop participants preferred screened parking along a roadway edge with pedestrian access (6.9) to other parking situations, however, there was not that wide of a difference among this type of parking and screened (6.4) or unscreened (6.0) parking.

#### ***Eating Areas***

Informal picnic groves (7.7) were the preferred method of providing eating areas. This is the type of grove found at Carol Pager. Movable tables (4.5) and hardscaped eating areas (5.4) were not well received by participants.

# Somerville Parks Workshop Photo Survey Results

## Parking Areas

Image 1: Parking on Street



3.4

Image 3: Unscreened



6.0

Image 5: Screened



6.4

Image 69: Screen Parking at  
Road Edge – Pedestrian  
Accessible



6.9

## Eating Areas

Image 16: Hardscaped



5.4

Image 17: Picnic Grove



7.7

Image 22: Movable Tables



4.5

### ***Benches***

The workshop group preferred benches arranged in small sitting areas (7.8) to the other two methods shown in the photos: formally organized (4.8) or general movable seating areas (4.8).

### ***Shelters***

Traditional shelters (7.5) were selected as the preferred construction over basic general design (6.1), contemporary design (6.0) or whimsical design (1.6).

### ***Sitting Areas***

Two sitting areas overlooking water features were presented and both ranked almost equally high with 8.0 and 7.9 out of 10. Since Somerville has waterways along many of its parks, providing sitting areas should be a high priority for additional features.

### ***Basketball***

Four types of basketball facilities were presented. Half basketball courts (5.8), full basketball courts (6.6), night basketball (7.0), kid scaled basketball courts (5,7) and compact and flexible neighborhood multi-use facilities (6.9). Somerville currently appears to have an adequate number of courts based on national standards.

### ***Amphitheater***

Small scale amphitheaters (7.8) were preferred by the group over mid sized amphitheaters (6.4) or large scale amphitheaters (5.0).

### ***Lighting***

The group overwhelmingly preferred traditional lighting-solar powered (9.0) over traditional lighting (6.7), standard lighting (3.9) or contemporary lighting (3.8).

### ***Dog Park***

A number of respondents to the original survey suggested a need for a dog park. The focus group selected a preference for an open dog park (6.5) over an enclosed wooded park (5.6).

### ***Canoe/Water Access***

One image with two photos was presented with canoe/water access and the preference average ranked 8.1 for this park feature. The Borough has an unnamed park at South Bridge Street and Route 206 at the Raritan River that contains a stone parking lot and unimproved canoe launch. With this degree of interest, consideration should be given to perhaps make the launch more accessible since at the time of the inventory the path was overgrown.

## Benches

Image 19: Benches Arranged in Small Sitting Areas



7.8

Image 26: Formally Organized



4.8

Image 32: General Seating – Movable



4.8

# Shelters

Image 20: Contemporary Shelters



6.0

Image 29: Traditional Shelters



7.5

Image 39: Whimsical Design



1.6

Image 52: Basic General Design



6.1

## Sitting Areas

Image 38: Natural Vista - Overlook



8.0

Image 43: Sitting Areas along Water's Edge



7.9

# Basketball

Image 24: Half Basketball Courts



5.8

Image 51: Full Basketball Courts



6.6

Image 27: Basketball Night



7.0

Image 25: Kid Scaled Basketball Courts



5.7

Image 28: Compact & Flexible Neighborhood Multi-Use Facilities



6.9

# Amphitheater

Image 55: Mid Size Amphitheater



6.4

Image 63: Large Scale Amphitheater



5.0

Image 11: Small Scale Amphitheaters



7.8

# Lighting

Image 85: Traditional Lighting – Solar Powered



9.0

Image 86: Standard Lighting



3.9

Image 87: Contemporary Lighting



3.8

Image 88: Traditional Lighting



6.7

# Architectural Themes

Image 79



3.8

Image 80



4.4

Image 81



6.1

Image 82



3.4

Image 83



3.9

## Dog Park

Image 76: Enclosed Wooded Areas



5.6

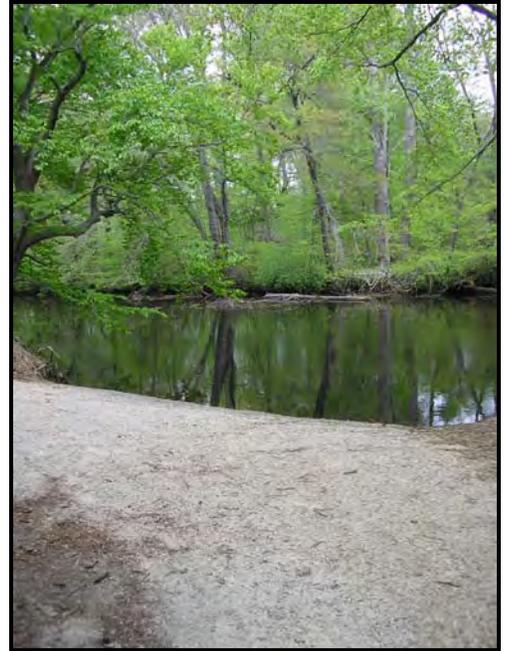
Image 67: Open Areas



6.5

## Canoe/Water

Image 77: Canoe/Water Access



8.1

### ***Community Center***

Images of three community centers also ranked high with an average score of 8.5. A community center was identified by numerous respondents to the initial survey as a needed facility and several maps in the focus group identified this as a missing feature in the park system.

### ***Existing Parks***

Photos of five existing parks were presented with the resulting scores: Mastegen Drive Open Space (0.8), Michael Lepp (3.8), Claude Walck (6.0), John P. Long (4.0), and Baker and Taylor (3.0).

### ***Games/Courts***

Two images were presented, one of miscellaneous courts (6.7) and one of built in board games (7.2).

### ***Community Identity***

This photo contained three images of themes or colors to present a community identity. The preference ranking of the image was 7.1.

### ***Specialty Features***

Five images were presented with specialty type features: tricycle track (4.5), memorial area (6.3), tennis courts (7.0), roller hockey (6.5), and community greenhouse/gardens (6.6).

### ***Playground***

Images of various playgrounds were presented with a range of preferences: No buffering with security fencing (3.1), buffered with decorative fence (7.8), age specific play areas (6.8), scattered play equipment-here and there (5.1), age appropriate swings (7.9) and really large scale playgrounds (4.5).

### ***Landscape Design***

A clear preference in landscape design was also identified. Informal Interior Landscape design ranked 2.4 while informal trees and similar design ranked 8.3 and 8.1. Highly formal interior landscaping ranked 5.6.

### ***Hike/Bike***

Developed hiking/biking trails (8.7), river trails (8.5) and paved and landscaped walking areas (8.1) all received high preference scores so it is fortunate that Somerville has such amenities. The Borough should be conscious to expand upon these facilities. Undeveloped nature hiking trails (5.9) ranked low in comparison.

# Community Center

Image 84



8.5

## Existing Parks

Image 12: Mastogen Drive Open Space



0.8

Image 35: Michael Lepp Park



3.8

Image 50: Claude Walck Park



6.0

Image 61: John P. Long Park



4.0

Image 89: Baker & Taylor Playground



3.0

## Games/Courts

Image 2: Miscellaneous Courts



6.7

Image 7: Built-in-Boards



7.2

## Community Identity

Image 8: Colors and Themes



7.1

# Specialty

Image 9: Tricycle Track



4.5

Image 15: Memorial Areas



6.3

Image 31: Tennis Courts



7.0

Image 33: Roller Hockey



6.5

Image 59: Community Greenhouse/ Gardens



6.6

# Playground

Image 10: No Buffering with Security Fence



3.1

Image 14: Buffered with Decorative Fence



7.8

Image 21: Age Specific Play Areas



6.8

Image 23: Scattered Play Equipment – Here and There



5.1

Image 36: Age Appropriate Swings



7.9

Image 49: Really Large Scale Playgrounds



4.5

# Landscape Designs

Image 34: Highly Formal Interior Landscape



5.6

Image 41: Informal Tree Organization



8.3

Image 42: Informal Interior Landscape



2.4

Image 45: Landscaped Designs



8.1

Image 58: Formal tree Organization



7.0

## Hike/Bike

Image 37: Developed Hiking/Biking Trails



8.7

Image 54: River Trails



8.5

Image 64: Undeveloped Natural Hiking Trails



5.9

Image 4: Paved and Landscaped Walking Areas



8.1

### ***Mixed Recreation with Other Uses***

One image was shown in this use that included a semi-open covered structure next to dining and shopping. This image received a preference rating of 8.5.

### ***Art***

Two images of various art incorporated into park and recreation areas were shown. Art structures within park settings received a score of 6.8 and amenities in parks reflecting local arts received a 5.6.

### ***Equestrian***

Low impact equestrian educational/instructional (3.9) and open riding areas and trails (3.2) ranked low in the Somerville survey.

### ***Restrooms***

One of the highest ratings was for public amenities-restrooms within park facilities (9.0).

### ***Golf***

Four images were shown with golf and putting greens. The preference scores rated highest (7.0) for municipal putting course to 5.5 for scattered putting greens and public par 3 pitch/putt and 5.1 for public executive par 3 course.

### ***Fields***

General ball fields scored 7.3 with large active recreational spaces within larger parks and regional moderate/high use fields each receiving an averaged preference score of 6.6. Synthetic fields (5.8) and low impact informal fields (5.4) received a neutral scoring.

### ***Water Park***

Moderate scale spray parks and small scale spray parks received similar scores of 7.0 and 6.9 while lazy rivers and water parks received similarly lower scores (5.5) and (4.9).

### ***Farmer's Market***

Another high scoring amenity was Seasonal/Occasional Farmers Market (9.0). The image of a permanent Farmer's Market was rated 7.2.

### ***Town Common***

Similar scores were received for a general use town commons (7.9) and an interior space town green (7.6).

### ***Velodrome***

Three images of a public/private velodrome received a preference rating of 5.7.

## Mixed Recreation w/ Other Uses

Image 44: Access to Dining, Shopping, etc.



8.5

# Art

Image 46: Art



6.8

Image 18: Amenities Reflecting Local Arts



5.6

## Equestrian

Image 47: Low Impact Educational/Instructional



3.9

Image 57: Open Riding Areas and Trails



3.2

## Restrooms

Image 48: Public Amenities - Restrooms



9.0

# Golf

Image 30: Scattered Putting Greens



5.5

Image 53: Public Executive Par 3 Course



5.1

Image 40: Municipal Putting Course



7.0

Image 71: Public Par 3 Pitch/Putt



5.5

## Fields

Image 56: Regional  
Moderate/High Use Fields



6.6

Image 13: Synthetic Athletic Fields



5.8

Image 66: Large Active Recreational  
Spaces within Larger Park



6.3

Image 68: General Ball Fields



7.3

Image 70: Low Impact Informal Fields



5.4

## Water Park

Image 60: Moderate Scale Spray Parks



7.0

Image 74: Lazy River



5.5

Image 72: Water Park



4.9

Image 78: Small Scale Spray Parks



6.9

## Farmer's Market

Image 62: Permanent Farmers Market



7.2

Image 75: Seasonal/Occasional Farmers Market



9.0

## Town Common

Image 65: General Use Town Commons



7.9

Image 6: Interior Space Town Green



7.6

# Velodrome

Image 73: Public/Private Velodrome



5.7

***C. Design Workshop Results***

The results and reduced copies of the suggestions from the seven groups are provided pages 77 to 90.

## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### GROUP ONE

#### General

- Small Café Kiosks in Parks w/ movable seating, which will supply jobs for teens
- Break up natural plantings with seating areas all along the brook
- Young adult/adult size pool (year round) and a special warm pool for seniors
- Decorative fencing around playgrounds if fencing is needed
- More flower patches in all park areas
- Designated wildlife areas for birds/nesting boxes
- Ice skating loop/pathway

#### Clark Woods

- Walking path loop
- Dog Park
- Bridge over Rt. 202
- Playground

#### Somerville Middle School

- Shared Amphitheater

#### John P. Long Park

- Pedestrian bridge over brook

#### Mastogen Open Space

- Picnic area for high school (tables/trees/covered area)

#### Carol Pager

- New bathroom/picnic facility

#### Claude Walck Park

- Pedestrian Access from Young St.
- Safe access to wade in the water
- Small food place instead of Wendy's

#### Michael Lepp Park

- Indoor pool
- Formal benches along the brook

#### Arthur Chambres Field

- Pond with paddle boats
- Water access (fishing shack)

#### Public Library

- Movable seating and tables

#### Riverside Park (County Park)

- Picnic areas
- Water access
- Pedestrian Bridge over Rt. 206

#### Proposed Park (near landfill)

- Seasonal Market
- Community center with pool
- Outdoor Ice Rink



## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### GROUP TWO

#### General

- Better maintenance
- Water fountains

#### Clark Woods

- Connection access to other system
- Fields

#### John P. Long Park

- Gazebo and sitting area
- Full size outdoor pool
- Upgrade playground for safety and more use
- Fence around fountain
- Pool is ugly
- Have multiple age uses

#### Arthur Chambres Field

- Water access for canoes
- Use for fields

#### Michael Lepp Park

- Screening from road needed

#### Open space Parkland

- Picnic tables

#### Claude Walck Park

- Upgrade pavilion

#### Elsworth Van Fleet

- Footbridge and park across from garden

#### Carol Pager

- Community center with full depth pool

#### Children's Park

- Improve safety and environment

#### Kuglar Park

- Benches/shelter

#### Proposed park

- Soccer fields
- Connection bridge over Urban Drive
- Temporary farmers market
- Dining town green



## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### **GROUP THREE**

#### General

- Gateway over RR
- Community Center
- Lawn green commons
- Peter's Brook-stock with fish for fishing along Brook

#### Riverside Park (County Park)

- Golf Course

#### Clark Woods

- Ice Skating rink
- Pick up field

#### Somerville High School

- Turf

#### Open space parkland

- Fishing area

#### Borough Landfill/Proposed Park

- Large amphitheater for outdoor concerts
- Farmers' market/flea market
- Art shows

#### Arthur Chambres Field

- Community center
- Olympic sized pool
- Gateway over RR

#### Baker & Taylor Playground

- Outdoor lawn bowling

#### Ken Cornell Wheel Park

- Fishing all along brook



**Legend**

- Borough School
- Borough Park Land / Recreation Area
- Borough Owned
- Future Parks
- County Parks
- NJ State Owned Open Space
- Borough Boundary

Needs Assessment and Facility Master Plan  
 Master Planning Services  
 Somerset County, New Jersey

**GROUP THREE**

Revision No. 1 - February 7/18/06

*Celtic way - the Creek Community Center Lower Community*

## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### **GROUP FOUR**

#### State Owned Open Space

- Picnic tables/shelter

#### Proposed Park

- Picnic area
- 3 hole golf

#### Open Space Parkland

- Community center

#### Arthur Chambres

- Walking path
- Riverview benches

#### Peters Brook Greenway

- Lights at night

#### Carol Pager

- Shelters

#### Mastogen Open Space

- Playground/parks

#### Clark Woods

- Pedestrian walkway over 202/206
- Hiking/Biking trail



Needs Assessment and Facility Master Plan  
 Master Planning Services  
 Borough of West Jersey  
 Somerset County, New Jersey

Revision No. 1 - Revised 7/18/06

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, INC.  
 1000 ROUTE 100  
 SUITE 200  
 WEST JERSEY, NJ 08058  
 TEL: 908.261.1000  
 FAX: 908.261.1001  
 WWW.ERINC.COM

## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### **GROUP FIVE**

#### General

- Community recreation center w/ adult & senior services

#### Clark Woods

- Velodrome
- Pedestrian Crossing over 202/206

#### Baker & Taylor Playground

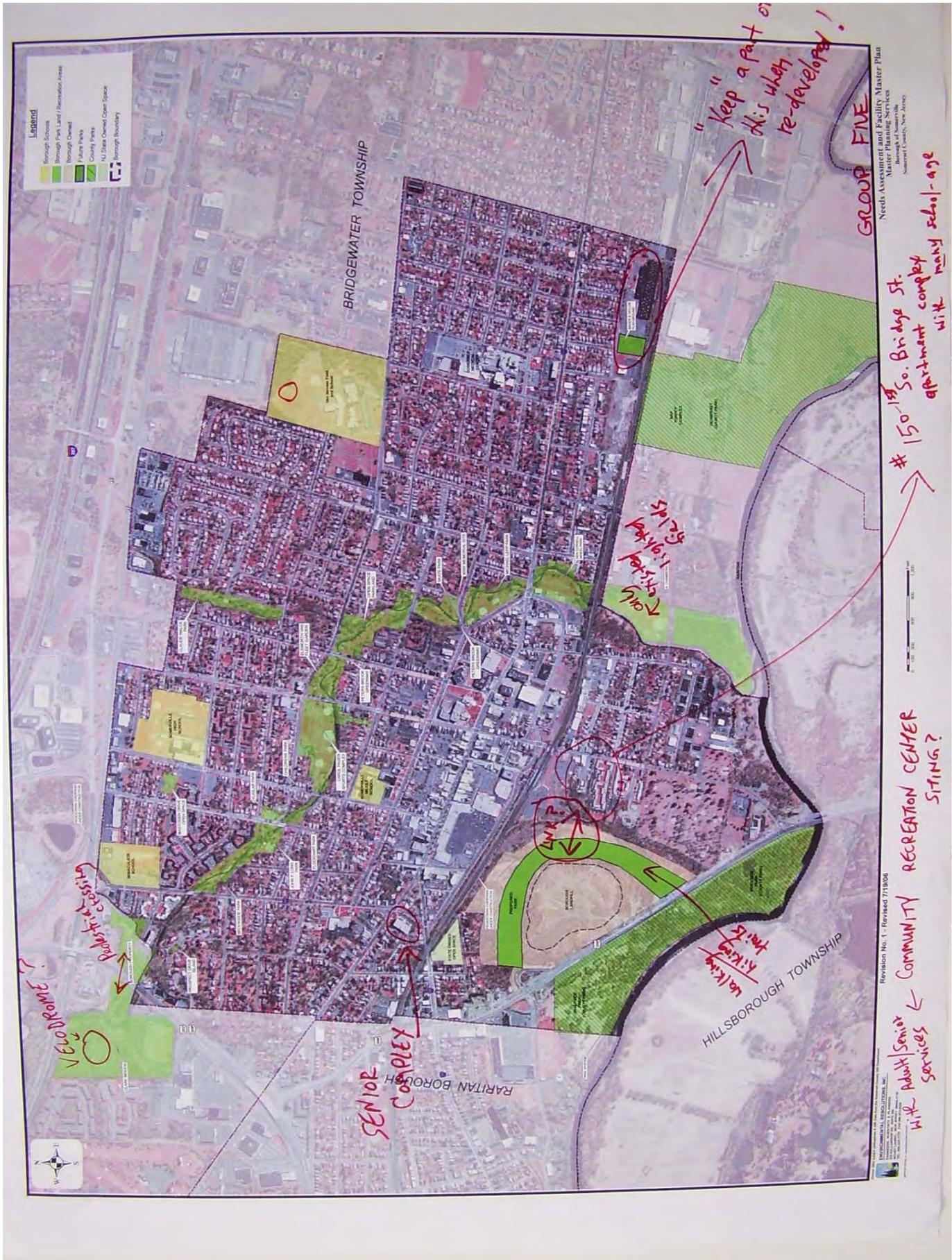
- Keep a part of this park when site is redeveloped

#### Arthur Chambres

- Only existed lighted fields

#### Proposed Park

- Walking/hiking trails
- Pedestrian bridge from park to South Bridge Street apartment complex for school age children



**Legend**

- Borough Schools
- Borough Park / Leaf / Recreation Areas
- Borough Open
- County Parks
- County Parks
- NJ State Owned Open Space
- Borough Boundary

Needs Assessment and Facility Master Plan  
 Master Plan for Recreation  
 Borough of Bridgewater  
 Somerset County, New Jersey

**GROUP FIVE**

"Keep a part of this when re-develop!"

# 150-151 So. Bridge St. apartment complex with many school-age

only 100-150 sq ft

walking trails

senior complex

recreation center sitting?

with adult senior services

Revision No. 1 - Revised 7/18/06

## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### **GROUP SIX**

#### General

- Plant native plants and cattails along Peters Brook for positive environmental impact and improvement of wildlife habitat, i.e. fish, birds, butterflies, etc.
- Keep Peters Brook clean
- Solar lighting to walking trails along Peters Brook
- No more highly lit fields
- Solar lighting only

#### Proposed Park

- Community center and pool
- Farmers market
- Park with trails

#### Arthur Chambres

- Basketball courts
- Extend walking trail from Peters Brook Greenway to park

#### Baker & Taylor Playground

- Small garden and child's playground

#### Clarks Woods/Borough Property

- Pool and recreation center
- Pitch & putt
- Pedestrian walk over 202/206

#### Mastogen Open Space

- Develop park space/pocket park
- Perimeter enclosure gates
- Gardens

#### Claude Walck Park

- Better parking
- Fix basketball courts



## Somerville Parks Workshop- Group Suggestions

### **GROUP SEVEN**

#### General

- Park Ranger
- Clean/safe dawn to dusk restrooms across town
- Peter's Brook flooding concern

#### Carol Pager

- Facilities
- Picnic grove

#### Mastogen open space

- Community center

#### Clark woods/borough property

- Walking bridge over 202/206

#### Proposed Park

- Access over Bridge Street



**Legend**

- Borough Schools
- Borough Park Land / Recreation Areas
- Borough Owned
- County Parks
- County Parks
- NJ State Owned Open Space
- Borough Boundary

**GROUP SEVEN**

Needs Assessment and Facility Master Plan  
 Municipal Office  
 Municipality of Somerset  
 Somerset County, New Jersey

**CLEAN/SAFE - DAWN TO DUSK RESTROOMS**

**CROSS TRAINING**

**PARK RANGER**

Revision No. 1 - Revised 7/18/05

BARONCORPITAL REALTY, INC.  
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## ***VI. Recommendations***

Following is a summary of the most frequently suggested amenities, the most important features, and the highest ranking images and recommendations from the visual and mapping workshop. These should receive the highest consideration for future Somerville park amenities.

### ***1. Create Pedestrian Links - Build Upon Existing Bike Lane and Path Network***

Pedestrian and bicycle routes should continue to be important features and be maintained and expanded, as feasible to provide comfortable access to commercial areas, parks and residences. In the visual survey, developed hiking/biking trails, river trails and paved and landscaped walking areas all ranked highly.

### ***2. Provide Passive Sitting Areas Overlooking Waterways***

Overlooks and sitting areas ranked high in the visual workshop and these can be provided at potentially lower cost than many other amenities that ranked high. The Borough should explore opportunities to enhance and protect buffers along the waterways while providing scenic overlooks.

### ***3. Provide Solar Lighting in Parks and Greenways***

Both the list of suggestions for parks and the visual survey indicated that lighting, specifically solar lighting was an important feature to be added to parks and Greenways.

### ***4. Provide Canoe/Water Access***

The visual survey ranked high in photos with canoe and water access. It is recommended that the Raritan River canoe access trail be considered for improvements to make the river more accessible.

### ***5. Provide ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Accessible Facilities***

An important aspect of recreation facility planning is accommodating the needs of the disabled. In the survey, 88% of respondents indicated that they did not have enough experience to know whether the needs of residents with disabilities were met. Observations indicated that many parks did not provide for designated handicapped parking spaces with curb cuts and paved pathways to existing and proposed facilities. Play areas did not contain ADA accessible features with safety areas surrounding the equipment. Picnic areas and benches should also accommodate the disabled. It is recommended that a survey be conducted to determine deficiencies with ADA access in all Somerville parks. An item

mentioned by numerous respondents was to provide better mulch at greater depths in the play areas. ADA compliance would likely correct these deficiencies.

**6. *Provide Deeper Pools and Indoor Facilities***

Many respondents indicated that the pools needed to be deeper and an indoor facility was needed. Longer pool hours and swimming programs and lessons were also recommended.

**7. *Provide Natural Plantings Adjacent to Waterways to Protect them from Erosion and Provide Wildlife Habitat***

Part of this study was to look at erosion issues along the Borough waterways. At each park, the conditions of Ross Brook and Peter's Brook were observed. Observations indicated that erosion issues were not limited to spots or portions along the waterway, rather nearly the entire lengths of the waterways had erosion issues. Corrective actions should involve natural stabilization, however, the magnitude of this is great and costs will be extensive. It is recommended that the Borough continue to provide natural edges along streams instead of mowing to the edge and pursue programs and grants to provide stabilization in areas most susceptible to erosion.

**8. *Provide more Landscaping and Trees***

Respondents to the initial survey indicated they wanted more trees and landscaping. In the workshop, respondents preferred informal plantings and more open planting to informal interior landscaping/natural plantings and highly formal gardens.

**9. *Provide Restrooms***

In both the initial survey and in the visual workshop, providing restrooms and public amenities ranked very high in importance to respondents.

**10. *Provide Seasonal/Occasional Farmer's Market***

The photo with a Seasonal/Occasional Farmer's Market ranked an average of 9.0 out of 10 indicating this is something the Borough should pursue. Some respondents suggested the Proposed Park at the landfill for the market location.

**11. *Provide Pedestrian Connections***

In the workshop and the initial survey, providing pedestrian connections to various parks was frequently mentioned and drawn on the mapping exercise. Connections were identified for a pedestrian connection over the brook for John P. Long Park; a connection at Riverside Park (County Park) over Route 206; a

pedestrian walkway over Routes 202/206 to Clark Woods; a connection to the proposed park over Urban Drive and/or South Bridge Street; and a gateway under the railroad to Chambres Field;

**12. *Provide a Community Center***

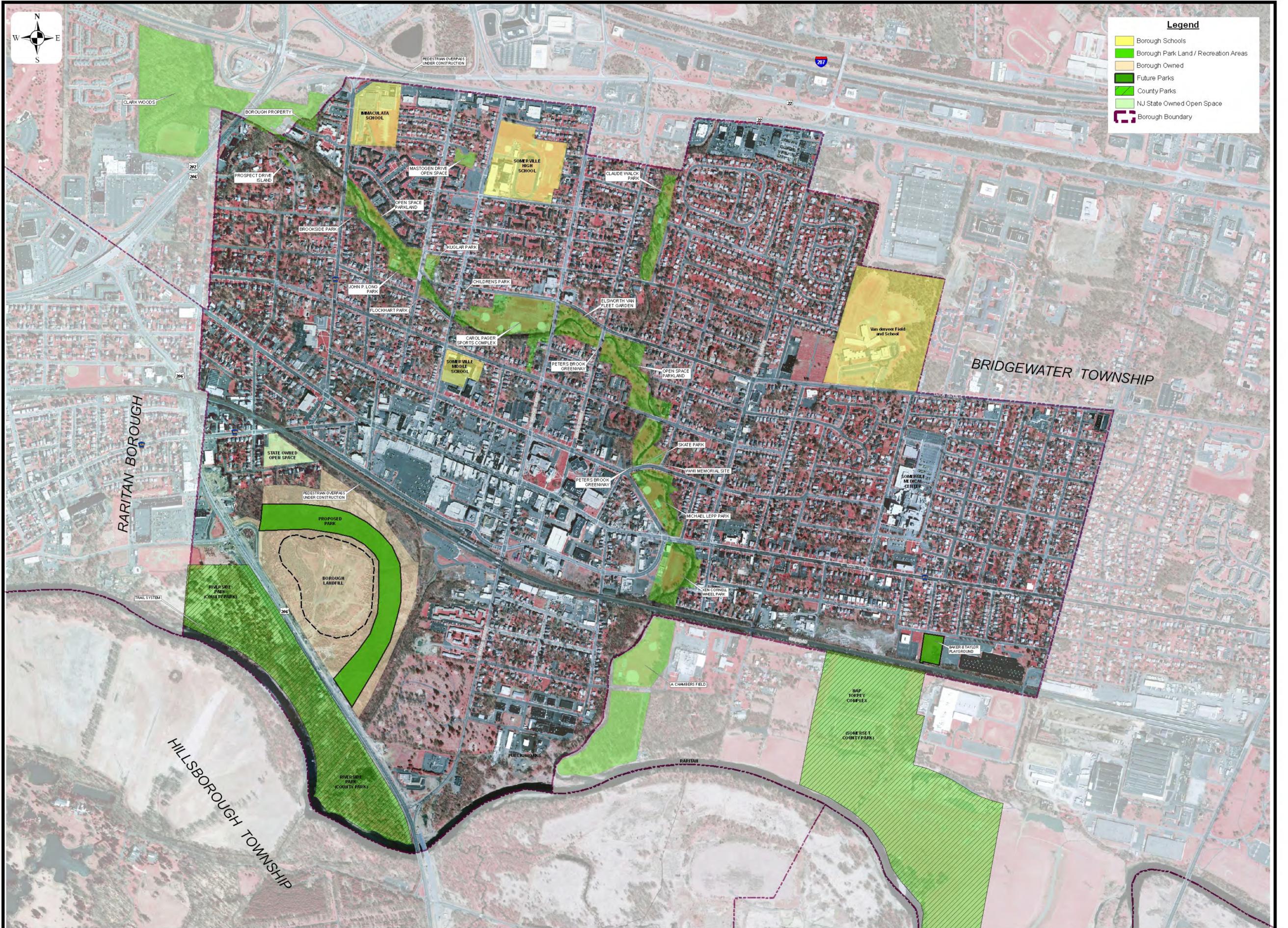
Numerous respondents indicated the need for a community center. The center could contain the indoor pool facility that was also frequently requested and an activity center for seniors. The proposed park at the landfill site was frequently identified as the site for the center.

**13. *Redevelop Parks to Meet Needs of Changing Demographics & Trends***

The Borough should take advantage of grant programs to add amenities and redevelop existing parks, where needed. The Borough is encouraged to study the feasibility and demand for the improvements and amenities identified. Particular age groups were identified as needing more facilities and activities, including children, teens and seniors.

**14. *Provide More Information on Parks and Events***

Several respondents indicated that the Borough should provide a yearly calendar or mailing to households to keep them informed of various events occurring, lesson and workshops.



**Legend**

- Borough Schools
- Borough Park Land / Recreation Areas
- Borough Owned
- Future Parks
- County Parks
- NJ State Owned Open Space
- Borough Boundary